

Portfolio Reports

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: September 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Francois Hattingh

Still waiting for feedback from Merafong still nothing is done about this list.

➤ **New build houses and old houses been built on.**

*18,20,24 Denneweg, Fochville all been built on.

*93 Olienhout, Fochville building new garage

*House in vleiground in Olienhout, Fochville

*Corner of Ouhout and Olienhout, Fochville (Building)

*37 Wattel street, Fochville (Building)

*42 Keurboom, Fochville

*Cnr of Keurboom and Stinkhout, Fochville

*10 Tamboti street, Fochville

*11 Kiaat street, Fochville

*12 Dahlia Street, Fochville

* 11 Keurboom, Fochville

*5 Annemoon street, Fochville

*10 Malva Street, Fochville

*19 Disa laan, Fochville

*Villa Yvonne Complex Malva/Jacaranda, Fochville

*Across Froneman 8C Fochville

*Elmweg next to nr 9 Fochville

*Elmweg across nr 4 Fochville

* Annemoon 45 Fochville

*11 Jacaranda Street, Fochville

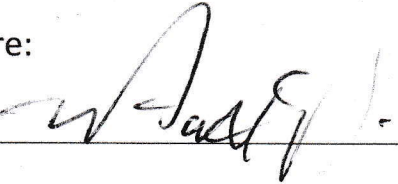
*Olienhout street net to Civic Centre

*Cnr Jacaranda and Peperkorrel street, Fochville

*65 Keurboom, Focville

* Cansa building, Pepperkorrel, Fochville

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Ady', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

03rd September 2024

WARD 14

REPORT 2024-09-03

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY:

Trip to Morocco: a 13 person delegation of the municipality to go to Morocco to explore a partnership between the municipality and a solar solution company. The community in ward 14 is worried what the cost of such a trip will be and the effect it will have on our already extremely weakened financials.

Poppelier / Peper Karrel Boxes tampered with:

This need to be reconsidered since we don't have money to pay Rand water and Eskom. There is also not enough money for basic service deliveries.

Another question is why 13 people? It sounds more like a holiday than a business trip.

There are many companies in South Africa that can do the same work. We would recommend keeping the money in South Africa and giving South Africans an opportunity to do business and create jobs

WATER

Water Supply was interrupted for maintenance. Ward 14 ran out of water for 2 days.

Water in a tanker was provided at the old age home. Sadly the rest of ward 14 didn't receive any help.

- Difficult to maintain personal hygiene
- We need water for cleaning and cooking
- Stress anxiety
- With no water we are unable to care for wounds or manage medical conditions
- No water decreases the quality of life

Engela van der Merwe

Engela van der Merwe

Monthly Report for - September

Portfolio - Roads, storm water & Public works.

Member - SIMON MATLALA.

The purpose of this report is to make sure that the people get their services delivered to them by the municipality.

1. Olienhout street very bad needs attention.
2. Sycamor no 25.23.21.7 very bad needs attention.
3. Corner Olienhout avenue nr 77 big potholes needs to be attended to.
4. Ouhout Street needs to be attended to.
5. Lelie Avenue very bad needs attention.
6. Dalia street very bad needs attention.
7. Aster street very bad needs a attention.

Please we need assistance with this potholes on our street it's a serious problem, needs to be addressed.

Signature.

SIMON MATLALA.

3-Sep-24

PORTFOLIO : PUBLIC SAFETY, WARD 14, FOCHVILLE.
MONTH : Aug-24
MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO : JC VAN DER MERWE

1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES :

ELECTRICAL FAULT AT " ANNEMOON / STINKHOUT FROM THE 31 st JULY TILL THE 2nd OF AUG 24.

ONLY 1.5 HOURS LOAD ROTATION WHERE PATROLLERS AND SECURITY COMPANIES DO EXTRA PARTOLS FOR THE WHOLE MONTH.

2.) BURGLARIES :

NO BURGULARIES BEEN REPORTED ON GROUPS THAT I COULD TELL IN WARD 14, ONLY YELLOW ELECTRICAL BOXES IN " PEPPERKORREL AND POPULIER BEEN VANDELIZED.

3.) C.P.F.

CPF HAD THERE SECTOR 1 AND SECTOR 2 EXCO MEETINGS.
GREATER EXCO WILL BE ELECTED THE NINTH OF SEPTEMBER.
CPF WILL THEN BE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN AS BEFORE, AFTER 3 YEARS OF ABSENCE.

AFRIFORUM PATROLLERS AND SECURITY COMPANIES STILL ASSISTING SAPS WHERE POSSIBLE.

4.) SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES :

NONE REPORTED.

5.) HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE :

SEVERAL PLACES FIRES WAS SET ALIGHT ALL OVER THE WHOLE OF MERAFOONG AGAIN.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY , FRIENDS AND PERSONAL WITH THE LOSS OF ONE OF THEIR WORKERS IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

NOTICE RECEIVED FROM WEST RAND THAT THERE IS A BAN ON " ALL OPEN FIRE'S "

6.) ADDITIONAL :

OPENING OF THE " PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL " CANT BE CONFIRMED BY ME, AS I WAS NOT IN TOWN ON THE 31st AND BY THE TIME OF MY REPORT ITS BEEN CLOSED AS PER NOTICE.

SECTION 80 REPORT ON " PUBLIC SAFETY " WAS OBTAINED AND ATTACHED.

NONE OF ANY POINTS IN OUR MONTHLY REPORTS BEEN NOTICED, OR ANYTHING NEARBY IN THE REPORT BEEN MENTIONED.


JC VD MERWE
0828008668

WARD 14 COMMITTEE REPORT: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

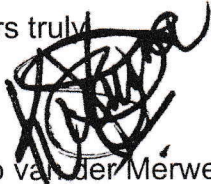
03 September 2024

Status Quo is in the order of the day.

1. Hennie's Restaurant is opening is postponed due to their liquor license issue.
2. Local Businesses are struggling.
3. Communication channels to Merafong is not working. I.E.
<https://x.com/merafongled>
Emails goes unanswered
Request for information is ignored.
PAIA request is ignored
Meeting request is ignored.
Cabedocs unavailable adding onto the issue of resident not having access to their accounts with Merafong.
4. Ward 14 is struggling with basic service that place an extreme limit on LED development. Big issues are water and electricity. Albeit electricity is better due to warmer weather.

By compiling and analyzing these various sources of data and information, it is my humble opinion that Fochville economics is in a downward spiral with no prospects for any sustainable new developments, LED project or any growth in the foreseeable future.

Yours truly



Jaco van der Merwe
LED: Ward 14 portfolio

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH: September 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Heidi Hattingh

Still waiting for feedback from Merafong

Rubbish dumped all over ward 14 .

Dustbin diggers continue to contribute to existing problem.

Trees that need to be cut in Ward 14 Keurboom, coner of Ebbehout and Kiaat Stinkhout.

Only on address on the list were attended to conder of Annemoon and Kiepersol grass was cut but not very needly.

Some addresses where rubbish was observed:

- ✓ All the fields in Tamboti street Fochville need to be cut.
- ✓ All the fields in Bloekom street Fochville need to be cut.
- ✓ Palm 9 Sidewalk grass needs to be cut.
- ✓ Building rubble in field in Dahlia Street.
- ✓ All open field in ward 14 need to be clean.
- ✓ Annemoon 5 Fochville, on sidewalk a lot of gardens and building rubbish
- ✓ Malva street Fochville, a lot of rubbish
- ✓ Kiepersol 40 Fochville, a lot of building rubbish
- ✓ The field to town Losberg and Olienhout Fochville, a lot of rubbish
- ✓ Kiaat 11, 5 and 9 Fochville a lot of rubbish and building rubbish
- ✓ Veld opposite Olienhout 1, Fochville, a lot of rubbish both sides of road,
- ✓ Veld oppisit Karee 14,18,20 Fochville, a lot of rubbish
- ✓ Corner of Ouhout/Waterberry ,Fochville, a lot of rubbish
- ✓ Sidewalk corner of Olienhout and Ouhout, Fochville, a lot of rubbish.
- ✓ Dustbin diggers was caught with 2 dustbins that was stolen and one dustbin was claimed by owner. (Losberg)
- ✓ Froneman Fochville all the open fields in the street grass needs to be cut
- ✓ Corner of Olienhout and Foreman Fochville field needs to be cut.

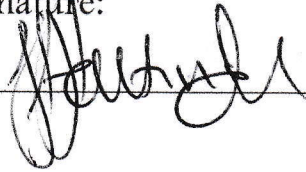
- ✓ Kiepersol Fochville open fields needs to be cut resident are complaining of snakes in the long grass.
- ✓ Civic Centre at main gate field needs to be cut.
- ✓ Elmweg Fochville grass is growing in the street need to be cut.
- ✓ Jacaranda Fochville open fields grass needs to be cut.

Recommendation – Olienhout vlei area needs a TLB to clear road and sidewalks.

A lot of complaints was received about areas not been maintained.

Keurboom Lane, Ebbehout Road, Olienhout Avenue, Disa Avenue, Sycamore and Ouhout street where visibility is a concern for motorist. In Kiepersol the grass is growing in the street, in Losberg the grass is so long it is a fire danger.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. H. H.', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

03rd September 2024

MONTHLY REPORT – WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: September 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit the **Credit Control Report** to the ward committee for information.

Background

In terms of the provisions of the MFMA, the Accounting Officer must submit financial reports to council on a monthly basis. The credit control report informs council on the steps taken to collect revenue due to council in accordance with the Revenue budget and Credit control policy.

Discussion

Attached is a copy of the SECTION 80 credit control report ending 31 July 2024.

The report, in general is sub-standard and the language and sentence construction is poor. The author of the report must be capacitated by council to undergo the necessary report writing course.

The report refers to Key Performance Indicators which is clearly not aligned to the Key Performance Indicators in the approved SDBIP. It is assumed that the author refers to some key challenges experienced by the section, rather than KPI'S.

The challenges with the billing system are acknowledged in the report but no cause or any corrective measures and time frames are mentioned, indicating that the section has no clear plan of action to instruct the service provider (CCG) to rectify such. It seems that management is relying on the service provider to identify and correct challenges with the system, which was supposed to have the necessary functionalities in the first place. It is clear that insufficient training was provided with the implementation of the system.

The same is applicable to the property rates and discrepancies between the system and the valuation roll. It is just stated that the challenges should be addressed. There is no indication on what has been done and still needs to be done. The report lacks any management information and consists of vague statements without any substance or plan of action.

It is further stated that an investigation was done into tampering of meters but no detail is provided or any plan of action and program to systematically address the problem, of which the municipality has all the data for years and has even reported on it. It is not clear what investigation was done. Currently it seems that 21459 meters are bridged which is a clear indication of the reason for electricity losses of 88.12% reported in the section 71 report.

The author expresses the hope that the TID electricity prepaid meter update process and blitz facilitation program can achieve the objective, which is not stated and makes no sense. What is required is a clear plan of action and not "hope".

The report does not indicate any services disconnections conducted on defaulters. In the past figures of more than 1000 were monthly reported. It seems that no final notices or disconnections were undertaken for the month. It is further indicated that 85 Business accounts and 447 Domestic accounts "have been **received** from Merafong" for handover analysis. It seems that this paragraph is a copy and paste exercise from some other service provider's report.

It is still noted that only accounts in the suburbs are mentioned, a clear indication that the credit control policy is implemented in selective areas and not in townships, where the payment figures are the lowest. Council should address this matter if it is serious about turning Merafong around.

The report also highlights challenges with the implementation of the financial system. It is clear that insufficient training is part of the problem.

The "Recommendations" of the report to the section 80 committee is a clear indication that the author does not understand that the report is submitted to council. The recommendations are administrative and is actually an indictment on the administration to recommend to the employer that the administration must do their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cognizance be taken of the July 2024 credit control report and the concern that credit control is not done in all areas and wards of the municipality.
2. That cognizance be taken that no credit control is implemented in the worse paying areas of Merafong City which is a clear indication of the selective implementation of council policies.
3. That cognizance be taken of the 21459 non purchasing pre-paid electricity meters and the concern that there is no plan of action to address this serious problem.
4. That cognizance be taken of the sub-standard report from management to the section 80 committee and that officials be capacitated for the positions and responsibilities assigned to them.
5. That this concern be escalated by the ward councilor through the relevant structures of council and that a feedback report be submitted to the ward committee.

SIGNATURE: *Original Signed*

CWA NIEUWOUDT

DATE: 29 August 2024

MONTHLY REPORT – WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: September 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit a broad overview of the July 2024 Section 71 of the MFMA report on the implementation of the Budget and the financial situation of the municipality.

In terms of Section 71(d) of the MFMA, the accounting officer of a municipality must by no later than 10 working days after the end of each month submit to the mayor of the municipality, and the relevant National and Provincial Treasury, a statement in the prescribed format on the state of the municipality's budget reflecting certain particulars for that month for the financial year up to the end of that month.

Discussion

The MFMA stipulates as follows regarding reporting monthly on a budget performance:

71. (1) The accounting officer of a municipality must by no later than 10 working days after the end of each

month submit to the mayor of the municipality and the relevant Provincial treasury a statement in the

prescribed format on the state of the municipality's budget reflecting the following particulars for that

month and for the financial year up to the end of that month:

- (a) actual revenue, per revenue source;
- (b) actual borrowings;
- (c) actual expenditure, per vote;
- (d) actual capital expenditure, per vote;
- (e) the amount of any allocations received;
- (f) actual expenditure on those allocations, excluding expenditure on— (i) its share of the local

government equitable share; and (ii) allocations exempted by the annual Division of Revenue Act from

compliance with this paragraph; and

(g) when necessary, an explanation of—

(i) any material variances from the municipality’s projected revenue by source, and from the

municipality’s expenditure projections per vote;

(ii) any material variances from the service delivery and budget implementation plan; and

(iii) any remedial or corrective steps taken or to be taken to ensure that projected revenue and

expenditure remain within the municipality’s approved budget.

It should be noted that being the first report of the 2024/2025 financial year, it is not possible to determine any trends. The section 71 report is **attached** for members assessment and inputs to be provided by the ward councilor.

Summary

The following table is an extract from the report.

Operating Revenue by Source

Description	Adjusted Budget Amount	July Actual	YTD Revenue	%YTD Revenue
Operating Revenue	R 2 639 887 870.74	296 016 381	296 016 381	11.21%
TOTAL Revenue	R 2 639 887 870.74	296 016 381	296 016 381	11.21

The pro-rata % for month 1 is 8.33% therefore the Revenue reported is above the budget estimate for the month, according to the report. The table however refers in column 2 to 'Adjusted budget amount' which is incorrect seeing that this report reflects on month 1 of the approved budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The correctness of the report and lack of attention to detail, as previously reported, remains a concern and compromises the credibility of the report.

4.2 Operating Expenditure by Type

Operating Expenditure	Original Budget Amount	July Actual	YTD Expenditure	%YTD Expenditure
Operating Expenditure	R 2 598 892 120.00	156 023 187	156 023 187	6.00%
TOTAL REVENUE	R 2 598 892 120.00	156 023 187	156 023 187	6.00%

The pro-rata % for month 1 is 8.33%, therefore the expenditure reported is below the budget estimate for the month. The copy and paste error in the report referring to "Total Revenue" should be noted and corrected.

The correctness of the report and lack of attention to detail, as previously reported, remains a concern and compromises the credibility of the report.

STAFF OVERTIME Summary: Overtime Trading Services

Month	Projected	July Actual	Percentage
July 2024	R2 211 250.25	R2 315 525.61	104.72%
Total	R2 211 250.25	R2 315 525.61	104.72

The over-spending on overtime for the first month of the financial year should be a concern to council. Overtime should be strictly monitored and managers should be held accountable for overspending without justification.

Table C1 Monthly Budget Statement Summary

According to the breakdown of financial performance report it seems that there is a problem with the correct allocation of revenue, seeing that there is a 34% under performance in Property rates, 1% on service charges but an over-performance of 130% on " Other Own Revenue "

This points to a system error that should be corrected. It is therefore not possible to assess the budget performance at this stage.

The low expenditure reported can be contributed to being the first month of the year.

This also applies to the capital expenditure.

Table C3 Financial Performance (Revenue and Expenditure by Municipal vote)

As in the case above, it seems that the allocation of revenue by vote is incorrect **E.g.**

Vote 1 Municipal Manager reflects	104207.2%
Vote 2 Finance	42.5%
Vote 3 Community and Social Services	93.9%
Vote 4 Sport and Recreation	- 123.1%

A similar trend is noted in the Expenditure by Vote breakdown.

This points to a system error that should be corrected. It is therefore not possible to assess the budget performance at this stage.

DEBTORS COLLECTION

Consumer debtors have increased due to continued non -payment culture.

CONSUMER DEBTORS R5 807 288.00

The above figure remains a serious concern seeing that the municipality has appointed service providers to assist in this regard. It is clear that the culture of non-payment continues unabated in Merafong and that service providers and the municipality fail to execute their mandate. The performance of service providers must be assessed by council and non-performance should be addressed. It is clear that the so-called incentive scheme to write off debt on a Rand for a Rand basis has dismally failed.

The payment figure is reported as 51,46%, against a budgeted figure of 60%, which is doubtful seeing that the billing challenges still remains and it is not possible to determine the actual payment figure if the billing system is compromised.

For the past few months, the municipality was unable to timeously do billing and distribute consumer accounts. Since the implementation of the new financial system, the timeous issuing of accounts and correct billing has been a serious issue. Never in the past has the consumers experienced such chaos. The council is also not communicating to consumers on the actual cause of the problem and timelines for correction.

The challenge of selective credit control and the failure to address the bridged pre-paid electricity meters and theft is the main reason for the poor collection rates. There is no political will to address this major problem. This matter will be discussed in more detail under the separate credit control report.

CREDITORS AGE ANALYSIS

According to the report, Merafong Creditors as of 31 July 2024 amounted to

R2 007 019 317.32

Creditors not paid within 30 days as at 31 July 2024:

Number	SUPPLIER NAME	DESCRIPTION/ NATURE OF SERVICE	TOTAL
1	ESKOM	ELECTRICITY BULK PURCHASES	R951 383 358.24
2	RAND WATER	WATER BULK PURCHASES	R1 055 635 959.08
		TOTAL	R 2 007 019 317.32

This report is not a true reflection of the creditors situation as it only reflects on the Bulk services. The status of other creditors (service providers) is not reported in the report. It is a known fact that council is owing service providers millions of rands. The detailed creditors report should be reflected to enable council to assess the real

financial situation of the institution. Council is not in a position to honour its contractual obligations but continues to appoint new service providers. This would have been regarded as reckless trading in the private sector. As per definition, reckless trading occurs when a company continues to trade despite being insolvent or being on the brink of insolvency. There is no indication on how council intends to address the situation.

AUDIT FINDINGS

The report indicates that, *'The Municipality received a Disclaimer audit opinion from Auditor General during the 2023/2024 financial year. An audit action plan is currently being addressed by all departments and also external third parties assisting the municipality'*

The above statement is factually incorrect seeing that the audit process for the 2023/2024 financial year ending 30 June 2024, has not even been concluded.

This section 71 report is for the month of July 2024. How can it be reported that there was an audit opinion for the period ending 30 June 2024? At 31 July 2024, the date of this report, the Annual Financial Statements have not even been finalised yet.

The correctness of the report and lack of attention to detail, as previously reported, remains a concern and compromises the credibility of the report.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

It is reported that Fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R16 890 134.37 were incurred. It is assumed that it was for the 2023/24 financial year. There is no indication whether this expenditure was condoned by council and whether MPACT has investigated the matter and reported their findings to council. As this is public funds, these findings should be reported to council and the public, through council reports. It is understood that some of this expenditure is unavoidable, such as interest paid on creditors, but others should be investigated and the culprits be held accountable if no justification can be provided.

The report also has two paragraphs to indicate fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the month of the report, but appears to be blank.

Distribution Losses.

Electricity Losses

The report indicates that electricity losses DECREASED from 65.05% to **88.12%** for Month 01. This is a **staggering increase of 23.07%** in losses for the month of the report. The actual financial loss is not indicated in the report. It is quite shocking that a financial report is submitted with such glaring mistakes.

Water Losses

The report indicates Water Losses of 47.81% with a monetary value of R 14 016 772.98 for the month.

There is no indication in the report on what corrective steps are been taken to address these staggering losses. It is such a bad situation that council must immediately institute an investigation into this matter. It should be clarified whether this is a metering issue, incorrect billing or actual theft in the case of electricity and failing infrastructure in the case of water losses. Without analysing the cause, corrective measures cannot be taken.

It is clear from this report that the municipality is dysfunctional and regressing at an alarming rate.

The ward committee has since its establishment made comments and recommendations to assist in this regard. During the IDP and Budget consultation process clear and tangible inputs were made to address the situation. Without a clear Financial Recovery plan, which should start with the implementation of the credit control policy and action against theft of electricity, this municipality will not improve and the state of total collapse will continue.

Recommendations

1. That the summary of the financial position of Council in accordance with the section 71 report of July 2024 be noted with concern.
2. That it be noted that despite monthly reports from the ward committee submitted through the office of the Speaker, no feedback or response has ever been received. This behavior makes a mockery of the ward committee system.
3. That the ward committee be provided with the credit control plan and dates when the program of correction of bridged meters will commence in ward 14, to enable the ward committee to effectively communicate with the residents, in support of the program.
4. That the challenges with the billing system and implementation of the financial system be noted with concern and that the necessary corrective measures be implemented, with clear time lines.
5. That written feedback be obtained from the ward councilor.

SIGNATURE: *Original Signed*

CWA NIEUWOUDT

DATE:28/08/2024

Report: Health and Social Development Report – 3 September 2024

The Impact of Municipal Billing Errors on Fochville Residents

Prepared by: Abraham Brits

1. Introduction

This report aims to highlight the ongoing issues related to municipal billing errors within the Merafong Municipality, particularly affecting the residents of Fochville. Despite repeated attempts to resolve these discrepancies through official channels, the lack of effective action from the municipality has resulted in significant stress and financial strain on residents.

2. Background

In November 2023, the Merafong Municipality transitioned to a new service provider, leading to the suspension of municipal billing for several months. During this period, I continued to assist thirty-two households and businesses by providing meter readings and advising on average payments based on typical usage. However, when billing resumed, numerous errors were identified, leading to incorrect charges that have yet to be rectified.

3. Current Challenges

Despite my best efforts to address these issues by contacting municipal officials and providing detailed reports, the problems persist. The following challenges are of particular concern:

- **Incorrect Meter Readings:** Water meter readings have been mistakenly logged as electricity readings, leading to exorbitant and inaccurate charges. For example, one account was charged R289,872.66 for electricity that was never consumed.
- **Risk of Disconnection:** Residents face the real risk of having their electricity disconnected due to these errors, despite making regular payments based on correct readings.
- **Accrued Interest on Incorrect Amounts:** Interest continues to accumulate on erroneous charges, exacerbating the financial burden on residents. One account has already seen interest charges of R2,645.09.
- **Lack of Access to Support:** Given the distance between Fochville and Carletonville, many residents are unable to visit municipal offices in person. Even those who do attempt to resolve their issues are met with long waits and little hope of resolution.

4. Response from the Municipality

The response from the Municipal Manager, Mr. Dumisani Mabuza, acknowledged the challenges associated with the migration to a new billing system but offered no concrete solutions. Residents were advised to visit the Revenue Section at Finance

for assistance, an option that is not feasible for many due to distance and the lack of available appointments.

5. Impact on Residents

The ongoing billing errors have placed significant stress on residents, many of whom are struggling to manage the financial implications of these incorrect charges. The fear of disconnection, combined with the frustration of dealing with an unresponsive municipal system, has led to a loss of trust in the municipality's ability to manage its responsibilities effectively.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Immediate action is needed to address the ongoing billing errors and provide relief to the affected residents. The following steps are recommended:

- **Deployment of Support Staff:** The municipality should urgently deploy staff to Fochville to assist residents in resolving billing issues.
- **Correction of Errors:** A dedicated team should be established to review and correct the erroneous meter readings and associated charges.
- **Suspension of Disconnections:** All disconnections related to disputed charges should be suspended until the errors are rectified.
- **Transparent Communication:** The municipality should provide clear and regular updates to residents on the steps being taken to resolve these issues.

7. Final Appeal

I urge the municipality to take these recommendations seriously and act swiftly to alleviate the stress and financial burden on Fochville residents. The continued inaction and lack of accountability are unacceptable and must be addressed to restore trust in local governance.

Submitted by:

Abraham Brits
5 Bloekom Street
Fochville, Merafong Municipal Area
079 650 1866

(no subject)

1 message

Heidi hattingh <fahhattingh@gmail.com>
To: Heidi hattingh <fahhattingh@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 10:05 AM

Health and Sosial report – September 2024
Compiled by Abraham Brits

Report: The importance of a public swimming pool in Fochville and the need for immediate maintenance and staffing
Introduction

A public swimming pool is more than just a recreational facility; it is a vital community resource that contributes significantly to the well-being of the local population, especially children. In Fochville, the public pool located within the Merafong Municipality has fallen into disrepair, with inadequate maintenance and neglected facilities. This report highlights the critical role a well-maintained public pool plays in the community, the urgent need for repairs, and the potential benefits of proper staffing, including job creation.

The Role of a Public Swimming Pool in Community Well-being

1. Health and Fitness: Public swimming pools provide an accessible venue for physical activity, promoting health and fitness among residents. Regular swimming helps combat childhood obesity, improves cardiovascular health, and enhances overall physical fitness. For many children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, the public pool may be their only opportunity to engage in such activities.

2. Social Interaction and Community Cohesion: A public pool serves as a gathering place where people from diverse backgrounds can interact in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. This fosters social cohesion and improves race relations by providing a neutral space where children and adults of various races and cultures can connect, build friendships, and learn from one another.

3. Child Development: Swimming is a life skill that not only enhances physical abilities but also builds confidence, discipline, and resilience in children. A well-maintained pool offers a safe environment for children to learn to swim, participate in swimming lessons, and engage in water-based activities that contribute to their development.

The Need for Maintenance and Facility Upgrades

1. Current State of Disrepair: The current condition of the Fochville public pool is concerning. The lack of regular cleaning, uncut lawns, untrimmed trees, and broken facilities such as toilets create an unsafe and unwelcoming environment for users. This neglect not only deters residents from using the pool but also poses health risks, particularly to children.

2. Urgent Repairs and Upgrades: To restore the pool to a functional and attractive state, immediate repairs are necessary. This includes regular cleaning of the pool, lawn maintenance, tree trimming, and fixing broken toilets and other facilities. A well-maintained pool is essential for ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all users.

The Importance of Proper Staffing

1. Pool Keeper and Lifeguard: An effectively managed public pool requires the appointment of a dedicated pool keeper responsible for daily maintenance and upkeep. Additionally, the presence of a qualified lifeguard is crucial for ensuring the safety of swimmers, particularly children. This not only makes the pool a safer place but also reassures parents that their children are in a secure environment.

2. Job Creation: The employment of a pool keeper and lifeguard will contribute to job creation within the community. These roles provide opportunities for local residents to gain employment, thereby supporting the local economy and improving the standard of living for those hired.

Conclusion

The public swimming pool in Fochville is a valuable community asset that has the potential to enhance the well-being of residents, promote healthy lifestyles, and improve social cohesion, particularly among children of different races and backgrounds. However, the current state of neglect and disrepair has diminished its value and utility. Immediate action is needed to repair and maintain the pool, upgrade the facilities, and appoint proper staff. By doing so, the Merafong Municipality will not only restore a vital community resource but also contribute to job creation and the overall improvement of race relations and social interaction within the community.

Monthly Report – September 2024

Portfolio – Corporate Services

Member – Nadine Bouwer

- Health & Safety still a concern – We are approaching rain season, so the concern is even higher especially at the rate that we have electricity issues, the lack of PPE, proper equipment etc, I sincerely hope that this can be addressed and seen too as in general we are not well prepared – we have contactors at the moment with electricity however that can change very quickly and we do rely heavily on Municipality workers in general who do not have the means to perform many of their tasks – still no feedback and it is rumored that vehicles of water & electric team do not have fuel at times to attend to call outs by community
- Residents very anxious re financial/billing system that is still not operational – Reports that it would have/should have been up and running at the end of March 2024 – No other feedback re this – still not working as it should
- Library – No feedback re maintenance/upgrades/books
- Call centre is not functional – not sure if it is due to lack of communication & or training

End

Jacoba van den Berg

September '24

Sport

Some areas do have electricity.

There are some areas that still do not have electricity at the stadium.

Bathrooms are still a huge concern.

The stadium has an issue with water, they did ask the municipality to fix the problem. No feedback on the water issues.

Security is still an issue with the fence that is still down at the back, this causes issues with people that are not supposed to be there.

There is a lot of illegal dumping happening around the sports ground. (not inside it but all around it)

Library

Visited the library 31/07/2024.

There are two permanent workers in the library.

For the past 3 years there has been no new books that came into the library.

The WIFI is currently with GBN company, it is uncapped but there is a lot of issue when there are windy days.

The library does special programs for the kids every month where they go and visits schools, the municipality provided transport for these days.

Bathrooms are still a huge issue as they do not look good in the bathrooms.

Building is an issue. There are leaks when it rains, they had to through away a lot of books that got rotten due to the water damage.

The inside does not look good where the water is leaking, and this is an issue. It all comes back to maintenance.

Load shedding / load reduction is an issue as there is no electricity for them to work. There is solar light that was installed but it is not working, if there is no electricity, they can not work. It is dark inside the library.

They need bigger space for the library as the space is too small for everything section to accommodate students and readers.

There is no stationery for the underprivileged kids that come to the library to do some research.

The workers did go on a course to assist brail readers, there is a shortage of that. They are still waiting for the brail equipment to come. There is a need for brail equipment. The movement is slow on this.

System is good when it is not offline.

The system is user-friendly.

Telephones are new and the public can phone the library if needed.

The staff is not trained for fire, there is no one on the staff trained for health and safety.

The shelves are all outdated and broken.

There are currently four computer stations for the public to use. The computers are outdated software. There might also be a problem that the new software will not work on the computers as the computers are seven years old. The monitors are also still small monitors.

There is no space to archive old books in Fochville. A possibility is to move the old books to offices that are not being used and put security measures in place.

The short is that the library needs to be revamp and updated with books, computers and the newest systems for the public.