

Portfolio Reports

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: November 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

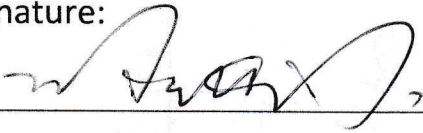
*Olienhout street net to Civic Centre

*Cnr Jacaranda and Peperkorrel street, Fochville

*65 Keurboom, Focville

* Cansa building, Pepperkorrel, Fochville

Signature:

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

Date:

05th of November 2024

WARD 14

REPORT

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY:

Street lights burning in Losberg Ave during the day

Street light on the C/O N12 and R500 is not fixed yet. After months of reporting. It is a great concern as it is a high risk area for highjacks.

Financial Stability: Merafong to improve their billing and revenue collection to ensure financial sustainability.

To meet the needs of our residents we need to improve electricity supply. With all the new development the supply as it is now is not enough and will cause major problems in the future.

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Water

Aging and damaged pipes should be replaced

Merafong Water Crisis a big problem.

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Engela van der Merwe

Monthly Report for October

Portfolio Roads, storm water and public works.

Member SIMON MATLALA.

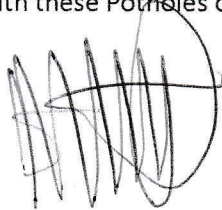
The purpose of this report is to make sure that the people get their services delivered to them by the municipality.

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.
4. Ouhout street needs to be attended.
5. Lelielaan very bad needs attention.
6. Dalia street very bad needs attention.
7. Aster street very bad needs attention.

Please we need assistance with these Potholes on our streets it's a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

Signature.

SIMON MATLALA.



* Keurboom 28 (4) potholes!

5-Nov-24

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

- 1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES :
SEVERAL OUTAGES DUE TO VERIOUS REASONS AS " EKSOM MAINTENANCE " AND " STORMS WE EXPERIENCED BY FALLING TREES / ELECTRICAL POLES AND TREE BRANCHES.
- 2.) BURGLARIES :
NONE REPORTED IN OUR AREA ON GROUPS.
- 3.) C.P.F.
CPF HAVE A NEW EXCO WITH MR. WILLIE MALAN AS NEW " CHAIR PERSON " ALREADY NUMUROUS SUCCESSES WERE MADE BY THE CPF THAT'S AGAIN ACTIVE.
- 4.) ACCIDENTS :
2 CACCIDENTS AT THE ENTERANCE OF THE R500 / MOMENTOS SIDE. 2 FATALITIES.
- 5.) MISSING PERSONS :
2 CASES CBEEN REPORTED.
IN 30 MIN TIMES, BOTH PERSONS WERE FOUND UNHARMED.
BOTH WERE SCHOOL CHILDREN.
SCHOOL / PARENTS HANDLES IT WITH THE HELP OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONS.
- 6.) SPEED HUMBS :
WERE PAINTED BY COMMUNITY GROUPS IN SEVERAL AREAS, AND ONGOING.
- 7.) POTHOLES :
BIG REPORTED POTHOLES WERE REPAIRED BY COUNCIL.
- 8.) ADDITIONAL :
NO FEEDBACK RECEIVED ON OLD MATTERS THAT'S NOT RESOLVED .



JC VD MERWE
0828008668

WARD 14 COMMITTEE REPORT: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

05 November 2024

Status Quo is in the order of the day.

1. Hennie's Restaurant finally opened with a good staff compliment. All is not from Fochville as al the right expertise was not locally available.
2. Local Businesses are struggling.
3. New premises is being constructed Keurboom In under a cloud of controversy.
4. Communication channels to Merafong is not working properly. During the water crisis Merafong did respond extremely slowly, reference numbers was not supplied.
 - Emails goes unanswered
 - Request for information is ignored.
 - PAIA request is ignored
 - Meeting request is ignored.
 - Cabedocs became available but huge billing inaccuracies resulting is power cuts incorrectly and very arrogant attitudes from Merafong in resolving this. On more than one occasion Merafong come short with business customers where Merafong have in correct information, the sheriff being summonsed to seize property just to find out Merafong have in correct information to the tune of millions.
5. 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. Water became a nightmare with Merafong and Randwater blatantly spread lies about the true nature of the problem and residents are being misused to as 3rd parties to resolve Randwater and Merafong issues.

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.

There is no business trust, no credibility in Merafong and its Council and the whole economic environment is detrimental for any economic growth.

Any attempt to contact council, the MM is fruitless endeavors.

Yours truly,



Jaco van der Merwe
LED: Ward 14 portfolio

Prepared by JP van der Merwe
Ward Committee member
083 494 1949 kumratau@gmail.com

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH: November 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Heidi Hattingh

Still waiting for feedback from Merafong

Rubbish dumped all over ward 14.

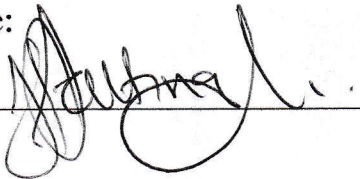
Dustbin diggers continue to contribute to existing problem.

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

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

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

Signature:



Date:

05th of November 2024

MONTHLY REPORT – WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: November 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit the **Revenue Management Report for the quarter ending September 2024** to the ward committee for information.

Background

In terms of the provisions of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) as stipulated under, it lays the groundwork for credit control and debt collection policies. It emphasizes the importance of municipalities collecting all revenue owed to them.

The MFMA, further in of Section 62(f)(iii), mandates that municipalities must establish and enforce a credit control and debt collection through a council approved Policy. The Accounting Officer must submit financial reports to council on a monthly basis. The report informs council on the steps taken to collect revenue due to council in accordance with the Credit Control and Debt Collection policy.

Discussion

Attached is a copy of the SECTION 80 credit control report ending 30 September 2024, the first quarter report of the 2024/0225 financial year.

Billing and Collection

The results for the Quarter 1 report must be evaluated against the budgeted revenue figures. During the budget consultation process the revenue collection figures was estimated at 65% and later adjusted to 60%. The inputs from the ward were that the figure is unrealistic based on the history and the total amount of bridged pre-paid meters as well as the collection rate of below 10% in most township areas, with no clear plans to address the situation. All inputs from the ward and general public during the meeting was ignored with the final approval of the budget.

According to the section 80 report, the collection rate for quarter 1 was 42%, clearly indicating that council is failing to collect revenue due to it.

The report is however contradicting as it is later stated that the collection rate for the quarter was 47.24% of the billing. The difference between 42% and 47% is not explained. It is assumed that it relates to "Other" revenue.

Table A3 of the report details the collection rate per areas of Merafong and the trend of single digit collection rates in township areas continues, despite the so-called "rand for a rand" or Nngwe ka Nngwe incentive scheme initiated and proudly displayed on council website by the Executive Mayor.

It was yet again clearly indicated during the budget consultation process that this scheme is not well thought through as a strategy and is deemed to fail, which it has. The question is however, who is held accountable for the dismal failures of council.

Pay points

The cash collection at some pay points makes no sense and it is costing council more to operate the pay point than the actual cash collected. An example is the R18 166 and R14 710 collected at the Wedela and Khutsong South pay points respectively for three months with no collection at Kokosi Ext 1 pay point at all. It is clear that the municipality is not applying their minds with revenue collection, despite highly paid officials responsible for the function. The municipal manager has also appointed a number of service providers, some of which the need is highly questionable and costly and clearly not yielding any results.

No mention is made of the chaos with the new billing system, procured at an exorbitant cost and not able to do the basics correct.

The challenges with the billing system were acknowledged in the previous 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.

There can be no reliance on the billing figures quoted in the report. Incorrect billing and monthly accounts are still continuing despite promises by the municipal manager that a detailed audit will be undertaken and the discrepancies will be corrected. It is now almost 11 months later and still the incorrect billing and accounts continue.

Credit Control and Debt Management

It is indicated that 21468 prepaid meters out of a total population of 31553 pre-paid meters were non purchasing meters in the last 90 days. These meters are suspected to have been tampered and a report of such meters has been provided to the electrical department for further investigation.

This matter is well known for years and over years it has been reported to the electricity department, with no response. The number is increasing monthly and despite the situation, no action is taken by the administration or council to ensure that the relevant departments are capacitated, has a budget to replace faulty meters and offenders of the By-laws are charged in accordance with the applicable legislation, this despite the establishment of a dedicated By-law enforcement section managed by a dedicated manager.

The detail of the non- purchasing meters per area, are indicated in table A5.

Disconnection Handover Analysis

A total of 357 final disconnection notices with a total value of R35,9 million were issued and executed, recovering a total of R14,1 million. This is a step in the right direction but yet again, the worse paying areas are excluded from any credit control actions. The detail is indicated in table A7 of the report and it is clear that the majority of the actions were undertaken in Carletonville, Oberholzer and Fochville, the best paying areas in Merafong.

Credit control is supposed to be implemented in accordance with Council policy in **ALL** areas of Merafong and it is not understood how council can allow the discriminatory implementation of a council policy. The responsible department must be held accountable for the defiance of council policy.

Debtor Age analysis

The Municipality's debtor's book at the end of September 2024 and quarter 1 was a total of R6 200 billion and is presented in table A8 per area and table A9 per customers group or Category, of the report.

The situation is deteriorating on a monthly basis without any indication on strategies to address the situation. The Financial Recovery Plan unfortunately is not yielding results and is internally focussed rather than focussed on financial recovery.

Staff and Councillors debt

According to the report, the municipality is currently owed a total of **R4,069,535**, by its own staff and councillors. This is totally unacceptable and no indication is given on what credit control measures are implemented against these defaulters. The same credit control measure implemented in Carletonville, Oberholzer and Fochville is applicable to staff and councillors in terms of the policy. This is a clear indication on how the policy is implemented in a discriminatory manner. How can the cash strapped public be expected to pay for services, if highly paid officials and councillors are not paying for services?

Creditors

Although the report does not indicate the nett effect on creditors, the report is proof of the dismal financial position of council due to the failure of the administration to effectively implement council policies through proper systems and procedures as well as the failure of council to ensure effective oversight and to hold those responsible, accountable.

The result is the inability of the municipality to fulfil its financial obligations as well as its Constitutional obligations to render services to the community and the inability to pay its creditors such as Rand Water and Eskom, which has a detrimental effect on the community, suffering with uncontrolled water and power outages and the total collapse of municipal services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cognizance be taken of the September 2024 and quarter 1 Revenue Management Report and the concern that credit control is not done in all areas and wards of the municipality.
2. That cognizance be taken that the reported billing figures cannot be regarded as correct since the ongoing billing challenges and incorrect accounts received by consumers.
3. That cognizance be taken of the poor collection figures and 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.

4. That cognizance be taken of the 21468 non- purchasing pre-paid electricity meters and the concern that there is no plan of action to address this serious problem and no steps are taken to hold those responsible accountable.
5. That cognizance be taken that the quality of the report has significantly improved since the previous report.

SIGNATURE: *Original Signed*
CWA NIEUWOUDT
DATE: 04 November 2024

ITEM: PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN

1. PURPOSE

To submit to the Committee to note the progress report on the implementation of the financial recovery Plan for month of September 2024 reported in October 2024.

2. BACKGROUND

The municipality is required, in terms of Section 146(1)(c) of the MFMA, to report monthly to the MEC for Finance on the implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan.

3. DISCUSSION

The municipality has prepared Progress report on the implementation of FRP as attached annexure (A).

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IMPLICATIONS

All respective departments are fully accountable and responsible for their Sections and processes for full implementation.

5. RECOMMENDED

That the Council Committee note the progress report on implementation of the financial recovery plan as per attached Annexure (A) for month of September 2024 as reported in October 2024.

Condensed Report: Health and Social Development Report

5 November 2024 - Compiled: Abraham Brits

Health and Social Issues from the Municipality's Water Supply Failure

Affected Areas: The recent water shortage affects elderly citizens in the SAVF Retirement Village along Amarilla Avenue, as well as residents in Ward 14, specifically Bloekom, Tambotie, and Denne Streets, all due to the municipality's failure to pay its account to Rand Water Board. This impacts not only health but also raises continuous concerns about the municipality's account accuracy, adding stress to residents.

Health Implications:

1. **Hygiene and Sanitation:** Elderly residents, vulnerable to infections, face heightened risks due to unsanitary conditions resulting from the lack of water for bathing, cleaning, and flushing toilets. These conditions can lead to life-threatening illnesses like influenza and diarrhoea.
2. **Dehydration Risks:** Older adults are especially prone to dehydration, risking complications such as urinary tract infections, kidney stones, and in severe cases, hospitalization or death.
3. **Impact on Medical Care:** Regular medical routines are hindered, as medications and chronic conditions like diabetes require proper hydration, complicating care and putting residents at risk.

Social Implications:

1. **Loss of Dignity and Mental Health:** The inability to maintain hygiene affects residents' dignity, leading to mental distress, frustration, and potentially depression. The stress of ongoing billing inaccuracies further erodes trust in local governance.
2. **Strain on Caregivers:** Staff are stretched thin without adequate resources to maintain sanitation and attend to residents, risking burnout and lowering care quality.
3. **Community Impact:** Family members and nearby community members express anxiety and frustration over the unsafe conditions, which may spread illness and lead to social unrest.

Positive Development: In positive news, the local swimming pool has reopened, providing a recreational outlet for the community. However, there is a need for caution among young visitors regarding alcohol use at the facility to maintain a safe environment.

Recommendations:

1. **Immediate Water Restoration:** The municipality should urgently settle its water bill and provide water tankers as an interim solution for the affected areas.
2. **Contingency Planning:** Developing an emergency plan for water provision in care facilities is essential, prioritizing vulnerable groups.
3. **Improving Communication and Accountability:** Establish clear communication channels between stakeholders and implement audits to prevent future disruptions.
4. **Support for Care Facilities:** Providing resources to maintain hygiene and care standards in such crises is critical for residents' welfare.

Conclusion: This water crisis not only endangers the elderly but also violates their rights and dignity. Immediate municipal action is necessary to address the current emergency and establish measures to prevent recurrence, ensuring the well-being of the elderly and other residents in Fochville's vulnerable areas.

Monthly Report – November 2024

Portfolio – Corporate Services

Member – Nadine Boucher

- Health & Safety still a concern
- Rand Water – No further feedback was received re the possible further water restrictions as a result of the account in arrears(Ongoing issues water on/off)
- 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 – some are receiving correct accounts, some are not, getting the errors adjusted accordingly is very difficult for residents and time consuming
- Library – No feedback re maintenance/upgrades/books



Jacoba van den Berg

November 2024

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. Leah reported back on the 26th of September that they are waiting for the 25mm hdpe pipe to be connected from the 75mm pipe exposed to the squash club with a meter. Has not been fixed yet. Looking at putting a JoJo tank up in the mean time.

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.