



SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

**INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING**
Wednesday, 24 February 2021
at 14:00

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IHS04/02/2021

SEWENDE LAAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR : INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Council's approval for the utilization of the portion of land for development of TRA to relocate community of Sewende Laan and community currently located in the designated road servitude adjacent the current Nekkies interchange area.

BACKGROUND

In February 2016 Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters and the Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu signed an agreement to transfer 72 hectares of land from SANRAL to the Housing Development Agency (HDA) for the development of Integrated Human Settlement project. The land, previously reserved for the extension of a national road passing near Knysna is partially occupied by a number of informal settlement dwellers. SANRAL has volunteered to assist with the relocation and resettlement of the informal settlements near the exchange to a Municipal designated Temporary Relocation Area facility. This commitment has previously been alluded to by the Municipality in 2018 already; However the proposed relocation has not materialized to date due to the following limitations and challenges:

1. The relocation to the newly identified TRA location was supposed to include some of the informal settlements outside the road servitude area owned by SANRAL;
2. The process was supposed to be initiated on the basis of an enumeration and profiling exercises that was supposed to result in an appropriate database;
3. The targeted TRA area was identified on the edges of Nekkies West during 2018 and confirmed to SANRA. The identified site has unfortunately been since fully invaded and there is technically no area readily available in the immediate area for such a facility;
4. KM' Infrastructural Services Directorate upon identification of the TRA and enumeration exercises/database being established for both sets of informal settlement dwellers, was supposed to do an assessment of the bulk services required for the development of the TRA. However due to the enumeration and profiling exercises not being realized in addition to the targeted area for the TRA being invaded, this has severely compromised its ability to undertake such a critical exercise. In addition to the above, the community residing adjacent to the said land parcel invaded the portion of land with Municipality responding and successfully protecting the portion of land.

DISCUSSION

It is with this background that the community insists that the land should be utilized for their families and permission be granted to access the land. Currently the focus is on the backyard dwellers and the shortage of land for relocation purposes. The area was previously invaded and the community was evicted as they were starting to invade the land. Given the increasing densities, this has now resulted in the need to prioritize this development. In view of the aforesaid, it has therefore become necessary that the Municipality seek an alternative piece of land to relocate the current dwellers along the Sewende Laan informal settlement and the

land in question be made available. As a result, negotiations ensued between the Municipality and surrounding community took place with the community demanding that: -

- The land portion must be left for utilization by backyarders living in their area.
- Municipality should grant permission for use of the parcel of land and allow families to build informal units utilizing own material.
- In the case of land not owned by the Knysna Municipality, negotiations to be facilitated by Knysna Municipality.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding to implement enumeration and profiling as well as capital funds for development of TRA facilities has to be derived from the WC DoHS. Formal application for pilot TRAs including the Sewende Laan area have unfortunately not been committed to. This project therefore cannot at this stage be sourced from Municipal funds but from Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG), which is already heavily committed and constrained by active projects.

This area is not covered by current engineering infrastructure, however there is water close to the area wherein a water stand pipe and 5 chemical toilets can be provided as follows:

Stand pipe: R200,000.00 once off

Chemical toilets: R1,250.00 per month (R15,000/annum)

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The implementation of this project is guided by the following legislation:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- Municipal Finance Management Act
- Public Finance Management Act
- Municipal Systems Act
- Municipal Structures Act
- SPLUMA Act 16 of 2013

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

- [a] That the report regarding the Sewende Laan Informal Settlement, be noted;
- [b] That the Acting Municipal Manager be allowed to negotiate with SANRAL to facilitate a Memorandum of understanding between the two entities;
- [c] That on signing of a Memorandum of understanding between SANRAL and Council, access to the land be granted for Sewende Laan and the communities across the interchange;
- [d] That a meeting be scheduled with the community to convey Council Resolution and the results of engagement with SANRAL;
- [e] That the community members provide their own material; and
- [f] That an Interim basic services be investigated and provided.

File Number : 9/1/2/15

Execution : Acting Director : Integrated Human Settlements

8. CLOSURE