



FEEDBACK REPORT

Ward 2 Committee Meeting – 16 February 2017

Background

Section 152 of the Constitution places the participation of communities at the centre of service delivery and other matters of Local Government.

The Municipal Structures Act of 1998 and the Municipal Systems Act of 2000 provides the legislative framework for the establishment of Ward Committee.

The objective of a Ward Committee is to enhance participatory democracy in local government.

A Ward Committee:-

- is an advisory body without any executive powers;
- is independent;
- is a representative structure of the ward;
- is impartial and performs its functions without fear, favour or prejudice;
- is not politically oriented;
- is an integrative umbrella body responsible for coordination of ward developmental initiatives.

The Ward 2 Forum (W2F) is represented on the statutory Ward Committee as sectoral representative for the members of the W2F civic organisation. The Ward Committee comprises 10 nominated individual members representing both geographic and sectoral communities within the Ward 2 area. The committee meets monthly under the chairmanship of the Ward Councillor.

The 2nd formal monthly meeting was held on the 16 February 2017. The inaugural meeting for the current committee was held on the 6th December 2016.

Items dealt with and discussed at the Meeting:

1. Chairman's Announcements

- Feedback concerning the meetings the TWKM held with representatives of the communities in Bereaville, Voorstekraal & Genadendal in respect of the recent "Housing Demonstrations" in Greyton.
- Further feedback to the communities by TWKM will be held on the 2nd Mar'17.
- Executive Mayor issued a press release about the protect action in Greyton.

W2F Comment: *The point was raised by the W2F expressing concern about the escalating tendency by the groups in the Ward to protest & demonstrate their frustration. It was again highlighted that the W2F team had, on several occasion over the past few years, raised this matter with TWKM as an identified area of concern and potential issue that would lead to violent protests if not dealt with timeously. It was also highlighted that several deputations had been sent to the then municipal manager in respect of these concerns.*

Further to the above the W2F pointed out that the issued press release referred to by the chairman varies greatly from the original document issued on the 10th Feb'17 and that the Afrikaans version varies completely from the English version posted on the TWKM official website. 9 x variations of which 1 is fundamental.

The W2F also raised the issue of communication and asked why the Ward Committee had not been privy to discussions held by the municipality and the protesters. A total lack of transparency and sharing of information between TWK & the Ward Committee as is the understanding between the 2 entities in terms of the National Constitution & more specifically the Municipal Structures Act. It is felt that the press release was not sufficient communication.

Chairperson asked for the matter of housing issue to be discussed after the Ward Committee meeting as that would give the Town Manager an opportunity to inform the committee of what has transpired.

W2F Comment: *The W2F expressed concern about this as it meant that the discussion would not be recorded and would be off the record.*

The W2F also posed the question as to what had given rise to the recent protests and to why the situation had been left for so long when it was clear (for the last few years) that the housing issue had remained unresolved. Especially in respect of the housing allocation of RDP houses. PR Councillor Caroline Woods then answered that TWKM had done its best in an attempt to alleviate and resolve the challenge by placing the housing need on the IDP for the last 2 IDP cycles.

W2F Comment: *This comment will be followed up by the W2F in the next Ward Committee meeting especially in light of the ANC walkout at the last full TWKM Council meeting of 23 Feb'17*

2. Ward Committee Operational Plan

After enquiries about the operational functionality of the Ward Committee by the W2F it was confirmed by the chairman that sub-committees with specific portfolios will be established within the committee structure. These sub-committees will work toward specific objectives. Ward Committee members will be required to serve on these committees from time to time, as nominated.

Whilst the Vision & Mission for the Ward Committee is still to be advised the required feedback meetings of the sectoral representatives needs to continue. I have nominated that the W2F public feedback meeting will be held between the 7th & 14th March'17. The W2F also nominated the following dates for the remainder of the year – quarterly meetings will be held as per the following:

2nd Quarter – 29 May'17

3rd Quarter – 28 Aug'17

4th Quarter – 21 Sept'17

W2F Comment: *Greyton Council representative did not attend the meeting and have, as yet, not submitted their meeting dates.*

3. Community Work Programme (CWP)

It was resolved at the meeting that a Ward Committee member should be nominated to represent the Ward 2 on the Local CWP Reference Committee. The purpose of the representation on the Local CWP is to ensure:

- more local individuals are employed under the CWP
- that funding received for the CWP is utilised in full

Nominees are Ms Virginia Jansen as rep. and Derek Crabtree as secundi.

W2F Comment: *Cllr Woods was not happy that both the nominated representatives are from Greyton, and intimated that the other areas would be neglected and not properly represented.*

4. Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Town Manager, Jeremy Prins explained the purpose of the SLA's using previous years as an example to illustrate the purpose & objective of the project. He also reiterated that he sees the SLA system as an aid that would help him to maximise the local authority to implement service delivery effectively.

He requests the Ward Committee members to submit points which they felt would be able to assist in establishing the proposed SLA's for him to comply with.

W2F Comment: *Not much time was provided to give adequate thought to this. DC requests that the committee be allowed to submit the proposed points for the SLA's via email. The list of W2F proposals hereto attached as [Annexure "A"](#).*

Meeting Adjourned.

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Ward 2 Forum Team



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