

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
PLAN (IDP) REVIEW AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR 2026/27 DURING
APRIL 2026**

#1

From: Laetitia Pieterse

Sent: Thursday, 02 April 2026 12:35

Subject: ward 7

I reject the previous IDP for Ward 7 as it did not follow the correct rules as the ward councillor and allays are corrupt and not putting Ward first as far as priorities are concerned. Kusweg not a priority and sewerage and drain water should top our list.

Tish Pieterse

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year.

The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

2

From: Wayne Jackson

Sent: Thursday, 02 April 2026 18:03

**Subject: WARD 10 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND PROPOSED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
(IDP 2026/2027) FOR REVIEW**

PDF document



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2 April 2026

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Integration of Local Surveillance Networks and Wildlife Co-existence into the DMP
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FORMAL SUBMISSION: WARD 10 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND PROPOSED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT (IDP 2026/2027) FOR REVIEW

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This submission provides empirical evidence to support a realignment of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget. Based on a comprehensive socio-economic study of Ward 10 conducted in March 2026, there is a documented disparity in infrastructure and service delivery across the seven local areas. I request that the Integrated Development Plan IDP Review move beyond "general maintenance" and address specific infrastructure deficits identified in Betty's Bay and surrounding areas.

2. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE WARD 10 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

My recent analysis highlights the following priorities that must be reflected in the final IDP:

- 2.1. Infrastructure Equity: Current infrastructure spending does not align with the living standards and taxpayer contributions across all seven sectors of the Ward.
- 2.2. Safety and Surveillance: The community currently maintains over 140+ cameras and extensive radio networks. The IDP must reflect a formal partnership or resource allocation to integrate these community-funded assets into the municipal Disaster Management and safety framework.
- 2.3. Proximity Principle: I advocate for the "Proximity Principle" of governance, ensuring that the budget generated by Ward 10 residents is tangibly reinvested into local road maintenance, drainage, and utility stability.

3. SPECIFIC PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

I propose the following additions to the 2026/2027 Top Layer SDBIP (KPIs):

- 3.1. KPI - Road Infrastructure: Allocation of a specific, ring-fenced maintenance budget for gravel road stabilization in Betty's Bay to prevent seasonal erosion.
- 3.2. KPI - Community Safety: Formalize a "Co-existence Model" for wildlife management (specifically baboon tracking technology) as a line item, moving away from reactive, confrontational methods.

3.3. **KPI - Youth Development:** Provide support for initiatives like "Sea Watch" under local economic development (LED) to facilitate maritime career pathways for Ward 10 school leavers and job seekers.

4. MODELS LIKE SEA WATCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Draft Budget currently lacks specific programs for local youth. We recommend that the municipality support the mid-2026 launch of the "Sea Watch" seminars. This project requires minimal capital but offers high-impact socio-economic returns by connecting local talent with the maritime industry. It includes the Alumni process and effect.

5. VITAL INITIATIVE

This is a vital initiative in my opinion. Gathering empirical data to highlight the stark socio-economic contrasts within Ward 10 is one of the most effective ways to drive equitable IDP spending. When one stands before the council, hard numbers make it impossible to ignore the gap between basic survival needs in disadvantaged spaces and the pursuit of comfort in affluent suburbs.

Please note that while this data model is heavily informed by historical Overstrand municipal census trends and regional economic profiles, real-time 2026 household-level surveys are required for absolute precision. However, this matrix represents a highly accurate socio-economic proxy of Ward 10 to establish my argument.

6. THE WARD 10 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY DATA MODEL

This table is formatted for direct use in your Council presentation visually to demonstrate the disparity between the affluent coastal villages and the working-class and still disadvantaged local communities.

Survey Metric	Rooiels / Pringle Bay / Sunny Seas	Betty's Bay / Silversands	Mooiuitsig / Overhills
Est. Average Income (Monthly)	R35,000 - R80,000+	R25,000 - R60,000+	R3,500 - R8,000
People Under One Roof	1 to 3 (Many retirees/empty nesters)	2 to 4	4 to 7+ (High density, extended families)
Average Living Space	150m ² - 400m ² + (Freestanding)	120m ² - 300m ² + (Freestanding)	30m ² - 60m ² (RDP, Wendy houses, informal)
Municipal Water Services	In-home piped water	In-home piped water	Shared communal taps or basic yard taps in informal sections
Sewage Infrastructure	Conservancy tanks / Septic	Conservancy tanks / Septic	Ablution blocks / Chemical toilets / Basic infrastructure
Electricity Infrastructure	Formal grid, high solar/inverter adoption	Formal grid, high solar/inverter adoption	Prepaid formal, some illegal connections or overloaded grids
Breadwinner Job Profile	Professionals, Business Owners, Retirees	Mid-level Management, Remote workers, Retirees	Domestic workers, Gardeners, Retail staff, Construction, and municipal labourers
Average Children per Home	0 to 2	1 to 2	3 to 4+
Transport Dynamics	Own private vehicles (SUV/Sedan)	Own private vehicles	Walking, Minibus taxis, and occasional bicycles
>1 Vehicle in Household?	Highly likely (80%+)	Likely (60%+)	Highly unlikely (<5%)
Financial Safety Nets	Comprehensive Medical Aid, Life Insurance, High savings	Standard Medical Aid, Retirement annuities	No Medical Aid (State-dependent), Burial societies, Zero savings
Spare Time Management	Leisure (Dining, hiking, travel, hobbies)	Leisure, DIY, community groups	Chores, community/church, limited by financial constraints

Survey Metric	Rooiels / Pringle Bay / Sunny Seas	Betty's Bay / Silversands	Mooiuitsig / Overhills
Influence on Council	High: Well-organized ratepayer associations, legal leverage	High: Active civic groups, high-rate contributions	Low: Fragmented representation, often utilized only for voting blocks

7. IDP PRIORITY ASSESSMENT AND JUSTIFICATION

To define and defend the order of preference for the Ward 10 IDP, prioritizing structural equity over aesthetic or luxury municipal services.

A municipality's primary constitutional mandate is the provision of basic life-sustaining services. The data above clearly outlines a "Tale of Two Wards." On one side of the ward, households have built-in resilience (private solar, water tanks, medical aid). On the other side, households in Mooiuitsig and Overhills rely entirely on the municipality for their basic dignity and survival.

8. PROPOSED IDP PRIORITIES IN ORDER

8.1. Dignity Infrastructure (Overhills and Mooiuitsig):

Action: Capital Expenditure (Capex) must first be directed to upgrading communal ablution facilities, formalizing sewage connections, and ensuring reliable, direct water access to all dwellings.

Why: A community cannot focus on upliftment, education, or safety when basic sanitation is failing.

8.2. High-Density Area Safety and Lighting (Mooiuitsig & Overhills):

Action: Installation of high-mast lighting and formalized pedestrian walkways.

Why: The transport dynamic shows a reliance on walking and taxis. Poor lighting in high-density areas directly correlates with violent crime.

8.3. Basic Public Amenities (Ward-wide, Focus on Disadvantaged Areas):

Action: Funding functional public spaces like the Mooiuitsig sports grounds before upgrading already functional play parks or aesthetic infrastructure in the wealthier bays.

8.4. Aesthetic and Luxury Requests (Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay):

Action: Requests for beautification, specialized environmental interventions (beyond basic maintenance), or upgraded paving should be deprioritized or co-funded by ratepayer associations until priorities 1 and 2 are fully realized.

9. HOUSEHOLD STRAIN AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT LIKELIHOOD IN THE OVERSTRAND

Assessing the reality of single/dual-income households and job prospects for local youth.

In areas like Overhills and Mooiuitsig, households frequently rely on a single income or piecemeal work (e.g., domestic work two days a week, gardening, seasonal construction). Because the affluent and tourism markets highly inflate the cost of living in the Overstrand, "making ends meet" is virtually impossible for these families. The lack of savings and medical aid means a single crisis (illness, broken appliance) destroys financial stability. Conversely, dual-income households in Betty's Bay or Pringle Bay are generally building wealth; they are not just surviving.

Likelihood of Youth Employment in Overstrand: Currently, the likelihood of a school-leaver from Mooiuitsig or Overhills securing meaningful, upwardly mobile employment within the Overstrand is minimal; the prospect, therefore bleak.

9.1. The local economy is heavily skewed towards:

Retail and Hospitality: Often seasonal, low-paying, and offering little career progression.

Domestic/Manual Labor: Perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Municipal Work: Highly competitive and limited.

Unless young adults have the capital to start a business or the funds to study in Cape Town, they are trapped in a geographic bottleneck.

9.2. "Out-of-the-box" Youth Employment and Vocational Solutions

Identifying alternative, high-value employment avenues for young adults in Ward 10 that bypass the local economic bottlenecks. To break the cycle, we cannot keep training local youth for an oversaturated local hospitality market. We need to look outward and utilize the natural local geography and global industries.

9.2.1. The Maritime and Seafarer Industry: We live on the coast, yet very few local youths from disadvantaged areas see the ocean as a career path. The global shipping, cruise line, and commercial fishing industries are constantly looking for trained deckhands, stewards, and technical staff.

Action: Develop local, multi-phase vocational seminars to guide matriculants through acquiring their seafarer qualifications, STCW certificates, and basic maritime safety training. This would give them international earning capacity, which they can send back home, bypassing the stagnant local job market entirely.

9.2.2. Specialized Eco-Rangers and Conservation Techs: Rather than standard physical security or basic municipal clearing jobs, youth can be trained in tech-driven conservation.

Action: Train young adults in drone piloting, advanced camera network monitoring (navigating systems like NAVIC for anti-poaching purposes and neighbourhood safety), and biological tracking (like managing Baboon Location Trackers). This transitions them from manual labourers to specialized tech-operators.

9.2.3. Remote Digital Micro-Tasking: The Overstrand has decent infrastructure. With the provision of a secure, Wi-Fi-enabled community hub, youth can be trained to participate in the global digital economy.

Action: Training in remote data entry, AI training (image annotation), and virtual assistance. This requires only a laptop and internet connection, completely removing the geographic barrier of living in a small coastal town.

9.2.4. Renewable Energy Technicians: The wealthy areas of Ward 10 are rapidly moving off-grid.

Action: Facilitate apprenticeships for youth from Overhills and Mooiuitsig to become certified solar installers and inverter maintenance technicians. This would bridge the gap between the affluent areas' need for services and the poorer areas' need for high-paying skills.

10. THE MISSING MIDDLE

To drive home my point in Council, may I highlight the "Missing Middle" and the "Engine of Equity"? The current financial reality of Ward 10 is that a small fraction of households carries the entire fiscal burden, which creates a fragile system.

Here is the statistical breakdown of the "Pot", who fills it, who uses it, and why empowering the "users" to become "contributors" is the only way to ensure the long-term survival of the Overstrand.

10.1. The Revenue "Pot": Who Fills It?

Based on the latest Overstrand Municipal Budget (2025/2026) and SARS 2025 Tax Statistics, the financial contributions are heavily concentrated:

The 12.5% Rule: Nationally, and reflected locally in Ward 10, approximately 12.5% of individuals (those in the Pringle Bay, Rooiels, and Betty's Bay brackets) contribute nearly 60% of Personal Income Tax (PIT).

The Municipal Rates Engine: In the Overstrand, Property rates and Service charges (electricity, water, and sewerage) account for the vast majority of the municipality's R2.015 billion in operating revenue.

The Zero-Rate Threshold: The municipality has a policy where residential properties valued below R350,000 (increased from R300,000 in 2024/25) pay zero property rates. This effectively means households in Mooiuitsig and Overhills are largely exempt from rates, while the "fortunate" areas carry 100% of the property tax burden.

The Indigent Subsidy: Registered indigent households receive free basic services (6kl of water, 50kWh of electricity, and free refuse/sewerage). This is funded by the "surplus" generated from the higher-capacity charges paid by the wealthier coastal villages.

10.2. The Service "Pot": Who Uses It?

While the affluent areas provide the funding, the expenditure must be viewed through two different lenses:

Maintenance vs. Transformation: The wealthy areas use the "Pot" for maintenance (fixing existing roads, clearing existing drains).

The Essential Pull: Previously disadvantaged areas like Mooiuitsig and Overhills require capital transformation. They are the primary beneficiaries of the R 245.8 million Capital Budget, which is targeted at electrification of low-cost housing, new water pipelines, and communal sanitation.

The Fiscal Imbalance: Currently, the "users" of new capital infrastructure in Ward 10 are predominantly from poorer areas, while the "contributors" are the coastal residents.

11. The "Contributor Gap" Matrix

Area Type	SARS Status (Income Tax)	Municipal Status (Rates)	Net Role in "The Pot"
Pringle Bay / Rooiels	High contributors	100% Payers (High value)	Net Providers
Betty's Bay / Sunny Seas	Mid-high contributors	100% Payers (Mid-high value)	Net Providers
Mooiuitsig / Overhills	Below tax threshold	Exempt (<R35 k valuation)	Net Recipients

12. ARGUMENT AND CASE FOR EMPOWERMENT

I stress a move and pivot from "charity" to "economic sustainability."

The Argument: We currently have a lopsided bucket. We have 20% of our residents filling the bucket, and 80% needing to draw from it. This is not a sustainable model for the Overstrand.

If we continue to spend the IDP budget on 'luxury' requests from the 20% who pay, we are simply polishing the brass on a sinking ship. Our priority must be to empower the 80% to become contributors.

12.1. Economic Transition: By prioritizing Mooiuitsig and Overhills for infrastructure and vocational training (like the Sea Watch maritime initiative), we are moving households from 'Indigent Status' to 'Ratepayer Status.'

12.2. Broadening the Base: Every child from Overhills and Mooiuitsig who gets a job in the maritime industry or as a solar technician is a future taxpayer. They stop drawing from the social grant pot and start contributing to the municipal service pot.

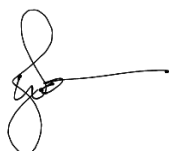
12.3. Self-Interest for the Wealthy: To the residents of Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay, I say this: The best way to protect your property value and keep your rates from skyrocketing is to ensure that your neighbours in Mooiuitsig and Overhills have the tools to join the formal economy. A broader tax base means a lower individual burden for everyone.

5. CONCLUSION

We don't just want to 'uplift' the poor; we want to recruit them for integration into the productive economy of the Overstrand. We need to invest in the people of Mooiuitsig and Overhills today so that they can help us pay for the roads of tomorrow. This ideology may be adapted for all areas of Overstrand.

I request that the Council consider these findings during the workshop on May 27, 2026.

Kind regards



Wayne

For Info

Executive Mayor

Att: Cllr Archie Klaas
mayor@overstrand.gov.za

MM

Att: Dr. Dean O'Neill
mm@overstrand.gov.za

Ward 10 Councillor

Att: Cllr Theresa Els
tels@overstrand.gov.za

BBRA

Att: Amund Beneke
amundpaul@gmail.com

BBNW

Att: Bennie Sheppard
bennie@noscotek.co.za

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Management Committee and Councillor Els for their outstanding dedication to serving our community. Please find attached my submission submitted prior to the upcoming roadshow. These are my considered reflections for your review.

I believe this document will be most effectively understood when reviewed in its entirety by the relevant stakeholders.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission. Your input has been forwarded to the relevant Ward Councillor for possible consideration by the ward committee during the next IDP cycle.

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From: Brian Paxton

Sent: Monday, 06 April 2026 13:03

Subject: Overstrand Integrated Development Plan

The Overstrand Municipality has advertised that you will shortly be presenting the latest version of your draft Integrated Development Plan to the denizens of the municipality.

Sadly many of the residents of Hermanus, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay will not be impressed as your plan completely ignores their most pressing issue: the deprivation and destruction caused by the baboon troops that run riot in these areas.

In Betty's Bay for instance, where I have a house, most home owners have experienced raids terrorising children and women; huddled indoors in the hot weather when they would prefer to be picnicking and playing outdoors; spent hours cleaning up after breaks ins; spent tens of thousands of Rands each on repairing damage and baboon proofing their buildings; watched the rateable values of their properties decline as estate agents warn prospective buyers to look elsewhere; and witnessed residents selling up and moving elsewhere. The baboon monitors as currently constituted are totally ineffectual.

Until the baboon troops have either been eliminated or permanently excluded from the urban areas, an integrated development plan, no matter how professionally produced, is quite simply a complete waste of resources paid from the rates imposed on these long suffering Overstrand residents who expect much better from their municipality.

Municipality response:

The Overstrand Municipality acknowledges the ongoing concerns regarding the financial sustainability of baboon management and appreciates constructive proposals aimed at improving long-term solutions. It is, however, important to emphasise that baboon management within the Overstrand cannot be viewed purely as an “urban nuisance” issue or as an isolated service benefiting only certain residential areas. The management of baboons forms part of a far broader environmental management and biodiversity conservation responsibility that directly affects the ecological integrity, tourism economy, public safety, and conservation reputation enjoyed by all making use of the natural beauty and environment of the Overstrand as a whole.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons, that is indigenous wildlife and form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand. Their management therefore cannot be separated from broader biodiversity management responsibilities. The management of baboons does not occur in isolation from these broader conservation functions and forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

Urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active management interventions, conflict between humans and baboons escalates rapidly, often resulting in increased aggression and habituation; property damage; threats to public safety; road accidents; injury or death of baboons; illegal feeding or persecution of wildlife; and significant reputational damage to the Municipality and the region. Baboon monitoring therefore serves not only to protect residents and property owners, but also to reduce harm to the baboons themselves and to minimise the need for more invasive management interventions.

While municipalities may not have an explicitly defined constitutional mandate for baboon management, local government nevertheless carries environmental management responsibilities in terms of the;

1. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa - Section 24 of the Constitution states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures. This section creates a constitutional obligation for organs of state, including

municipalities, to participate in environmental protection and sustainable ecological management.

2. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) - Section 152(1)(d) identifies one of the objectives of local government as to promote a safe and healthy environment. Schedule 4B and 5B of Municipal Competencies, are municipal planning; public nuisances; refuse removal and waste management; municipal public spaces; and local amenities. All these directly influence wildlife interactions and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
3. Municipal Public Nuisance and Public Safety Responsibilities where municipalities have obligations relating to public safety; municipal by-law enforcement; nuisance management; waste management; and environmental health, because in practice, unmanaged human-wildlife conflict may create safety risks; traffic hazards; property damage; aggressive wildlife interactions; and public health concerns. Municipal intervention therefore often arises from the practical need to manage these impacts or risks within urban-edge environments.

In reality, municipalities situated within biodiversity sensitive areas are often required to respond operationally to environmental management challenges that directly affect residents, tourism, infrastructure, public safety, and conservation areas. The Overstrand Municipality's involvement in baboon management has therefore evolved as part of its broader environmental management mandate and responsibility to balance biodiversity conservation with community wellbeing.

The Overstrand economy is strongly linked to its natural environment, biodiversity assets, and eco-tourism appeal. The region's wildlife and natural landscapes contribute substantially to tourism, property values, and local economic activity. Responsible wildlife management is therefore not only an environmental issue, but also an economic and social sustainability issue.

The practical reality is that municipalities are often required to respond to issues that materially affect their communities, infrastructure, environment, and local economies, even where the primary legislative mandate may rest with another sphere of government. Abalone poaching and drug enforcement, for example relate primarily to criminal enforcement support functions, whereas baboon management relates more specifically to environmental management, biodiversity conservation, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation within an urban-edge environment. In both cases, however, municipalities become involved because the consequences of inaction have direct local impacts on residents, municipal operations, tourism, safety, and the broader socio-environmental wellbeing of the area. It can therefore reasonably be argued that municipalities already utilise ratepayer funded resources to support a variety of cross-cutting issues that extend

beyond narrowly defined constitutional functions where such matters materially affect the local community and municipal area.

In conclusion, the municipality acknowledges the financial pressures associated with baboon management and supports continued engagement regarding more sustainable and equitable funding and operational models. However, it must be recognised that baboon management within the Overstrand is not merely a localised urban service affecting a limited number of residents. It forms part of a broader integrated biodiversity and environmental management responsibility aimed at protecting ecological systems, reducing human-wildlife conflict, safeguarding public safety, supporting tourism, and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Overstrand.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme. The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

4

From: Masibongwe Sihlahla

Sent: Tuesday, 07 April 2026 16:05

Subject: Comments on IDP & Budget

See my below comments.

Proposed 8,5% electricity tariffs too much for already struggling people especially the poor of the poorest .

ON must re look at this proposal.

*Urgent allocation of funding towards Sophumelela/ Amakhosikazi corridors
People from this area suffering for 25 years sewage spillage and stormwater

Municipality response:

Covered as part of the maintenance programme for storm water.

* Masiphumelele Swartdam Road must be designed as Service plots section as municipality kept people temporarily and now fails to move them.

*Deal with wetlands Marikana and surroundings.

Municipality response:

Noted – comment not clear as there are no wetlands in the area.

*Renew all ward 12 Streets.

Municipality response:

Incorporated in the MIG and reseal programme.

*Schulphoek Road piece of land for Youth centre and Multi-purpose.

Municipality response:

The Infrastructure Services Directorate is currently busy with the environmental process on Schulphoek, and the request will be taken into account during the town planning process. The proposal / request can also be formally submitted during the comment period of the environmental process.

*Formalise the Tennis Court section in corner of Sisulu and Jikeleza street.

Municipality response:

U SHAPED Container designed facility which will have two change rooms for HOME and AWAY TEAM, currently the court is forever occupied by different codes depending on who came first e.g. Basketball, Netball and soccer. On the U shaped facility we have hoped to have other sections used for storage of goods during events and an office for our new athletic club, however funding has been the challenge to deliver on the objectives of this facility. And the facility needs to be fenced properly to avoid illegal activities. The facility needs resurfacing, new lines and poles to allow basket ball matches to be played because Basketball is growing in this community.

*RDP Centre must be used for social benefit and for use by public for government services that is home affairs sassa and others.

Municipality response:

The RDP centre is currently used for social benefit, although the lease is still on a month-to-month basis. The RDP organisation who is currently making use of the facility also has a women weaving group that works there. This provides these women with work and an income. The RDP used to also run a soup kitchen, the absence of this has left a big gap in the food safety network of Zwelihle.

The RDP centre can do with a bit of an upgrade to increase its useability. Unsure if the RDP centre would be able to accommodate either Home Affairs or SASSA. Home Affairs, SASSA, Dept of Labour etc. are regular visitors to the Overstrand through the Thusong and Thusong Ambassadors Program. There are extension plans in place for the Thusong in Hawston. These departments should ideally be provided with space in the Thusong centre. However, it is ultimately up to these departments to decide which building / or facility would be suitable for them and whether they have the funds to staff and equip a new office.

Any decision should be based on an **area specific need** such as a soup kitchen, youth café / training, and resource centre, and a **municipal specific need** such as SASSA, Home Affairs, etc. which is a general need by most communities in the Overstrand.

*Youth based internships lobby provincial government to allocate funding for youth empowerment in Overstrand.

Municipality response:

We are not aware of any funding available from Province to municipalities for youth projects. There are however numerous internship opportunities available from provincial departments and other government entities. Current youth empowerment programmes that the municipality takes part in funded by government: EPWP, NARYSEC, Yeboneers, and Chrysalis. The Department of Agriculture also has youth empowerment projects. This week (11 May 2026) the socio-economic services (SES) section in the municipality sent 22 youth learnerships opportunities to the youth desk that is available for youth from the Western Cape. The youth desk will distribute these, and we will do this on a weekly basis.

*Avail temporarily accommodation for Youth programs in interim.

Municipality response:

For facilities that could be used for youth for programs, property administration at the Municipality should be consulted. From the SES side, we have the Thusong Centre that can be used and the Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) that has also been used for youth programmes. However, it's believed that the MPC is being taken back by the National Department of Public Works and that the municipality is not able to use it anymore after June 2026.

5

From: NonHelena Smit

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 11:24

Subject: RE: Objection to Kus Road Project, Sandbaai

I am writing to formally reiterate my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

I have previously raised concerns, and it is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans
4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. No environmental impact assessment presented
6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition
8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
9. Potential long-term financial implications
10. The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

1. Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.
2. Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.
3. A transparent and inclusive public participation process.
4. Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I will also be attending the IDP meeting to seek further clarity and accountability.

I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year.

The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

6

From: Michael Evans

Date: Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 11:49 AM

Subject: Kusweg Project Sandbaai

I am writing to formally reiterate my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

It is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding, despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following;

1. Lack of meaningful public participation.
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available, clear and detailed project plans, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact and intent of the project.
4. No environmental impact assessment presented and given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
5. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition.
6. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
7. Potential long-term financial implications.

The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities, such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request;

1. Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.
2. Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets and supporting documentation.
3. A transparent and inclusive public participation process.
4. Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current residents, but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community. Should this project get pushed through, I will have no option but to vote for another political party in the upcoming elections.

I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

7

From: Ilse Maree

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 13:03

Subject: OBJECTION - KUSWEG PROJECT IN SANDBAAI!

I am writing to formally reiterate my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

I have previously raised concerns, and it is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans
4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. No environmental impact assessment presented
6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition
8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.

9. Potential long-term financial implications
10. The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

- Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.
- Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.
- A transparent and inclusive public participation process.
- Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I will also be attending the IDP meeting to seek further clarity and accountability. I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

We do not live in a dictatorship of the DA in the Western Cape, as far as I know. As always we are grateful for service delivery that works properly and for the hard work of the people in this area delivering those services.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

8

From: Cheryl Gordon

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 13:32

Subject: Fwd: RESOUNDING OBJECTION TO SANDBAAI KUSWEG PROJECT

I, CHERYL GORDON, [REDACTED], SANDBAAI, cannot express myself strongly enough in my OBJECTION to this budget spend. This Councillor operated without public participation as is required by LAW. Communication with a tight knit core group of "friends" is NOT and I repeat NOT public participation.

She's currently under investigation and this is for sound reason.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

9

From: Pierre Hofmeyr / Maria Hofmeyer

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 15:01

Subject: **OBJECTION RE PROPOSED KUSWEG PROJECT IN SANDBAAI**

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

It is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation.
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans.
4. No clear detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. No environmental impact assessment presented.
6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition.
8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
9. Potential long-term financial implications.

The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years, raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

- *Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.*

- *A transparent and inclusive public participation process.*
- *Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.*

This matter affects not only current residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I will also be attending the IDP meeting to seek further clarity and accountability. I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

N.B. The way in which this matter is handled, will decide which party I shall vote for.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

10

From: Alan Morrison

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 15:31

Subject: IDP

I am writing to formally reiterate my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai (Ward 7)

I have previously raised concerns, and it is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans
4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.

5. No environmental impact assessment presented 6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.

7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition 8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.

9. Potential long-term financial implications The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.

Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.

A transparent and inclusive public participation process.

Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I will also be attending the IDP meeting to seek further clarity and accountability.

I require that this objection be formally recorded and acknowledged.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#11

From: Susan Prinsloo

Sent: Wednesday, 15 April 2026 09:32

Subject: Kusweg project Sandbaai

I am writing to formally reiterate my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

I have previously raised concerns, and it is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans
4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. No environmental impact assessment presented
6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition
8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
9. Potential long-term financial implications

The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 12 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.

Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.

A transparent and inclusive public participation process.

Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I will also be attending the IDP meeting to seek further clarity and accountability.

I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

This push through is going to cost you my vote NO MORE DA VOTING FOR me
Sandbaai Resident

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#12

From: Stephan Coetzer

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 12:26:29 PM

Subject: Feedback 2026/27 IDP

Regarding the 2026/27 IDP draft dated 31 March 2026, I would like to submit the following comments and concerns:

Municipality response in blue text.

1. **Abbreviations.** Please include the following abbreviations in the document:

- FLISP (Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme)
- PSHDA (Priority Human Settlements Development Areas)

Response: Included in Final IDP review and amendment of 2026/27.

2. **Water**

- Water losses (non-revenue water) are not reflected or addressed. An enclosed article published in the *Daily Maverick* highlights concerns around waste management.

Response: The extensive water pipe replacement program is one of the main interventions to reduce water losses. Others include pressure management and water meter replacement.

- How much additional water can realistically be extracted from the aquifer? It is clearly not an unlimited resource.

Response: The OM wellfields are licensed for abstraction volumes linked to the sustainable yields of the aquifer. Continuous monitoring is done to ensure that all the parameters are met, and frequent detailed reporting is done to DWS and the Hermanus Monitoring Committee. Abstraction is currently not at the licensed limits and therefore additional boreholes are planned.

- Desalination is an expensive and energy-intensive option, with environmental concerns relating to brine discharge.

Response: OM investigated several bulk water augmentation options including transfer from the Palmiet River, transfer from Theewaterskloof Dam, wastewater

re-use, seawater desalination, and a combination of the latter two. Seawater desalination proved to be the most feasible option after considering all aspects. The energy requirements are considered, including the addition of renewable energy, and all the environmental requirements are being addressed.

- No consideration appears to have been given to the treatment and reuse of sewage water for potable household use.

Response: Refer to response to 3rd bullet above.

3. **Waste Disposal and Sewage –**

- The Integrated Waste Management Plan does not appear to consider alternative disposal methods, such as incineration.

Response:

The comment raised re incineration is correct, the current IWMP did not consider incineration as a waste disposal option.

The current Regional Landfill site at Karwyderskraal has about 50 years of site life remaining.

The site is looking at alternative ways to increase the diversion on organic waste for the site and to that end they are increasing the composting area to handle the expected additional organic material as well the installation of a trommel screen to remove most of the organic fraction out of the black bag waste stream.

Note that the next IWMP will be developed during the 2026/2027 financial year and there will be a public consultation phase included.

- What is the remaining capacity of the existing sewage treatment works in Hermanus, and how many additional households can it still accommodate?

Response:

The Hermanus WWTW has adequate capacity in the short term. The upgrade of the plant is included in the draft 5-year Capital Budget and is also taken into account with the Schulphoek development.

4. **Environmental Management and Growth**

Population growth, arguably the greatest long-term pressure on the environment, is not adequately addressed. The extent of future development should be guided by the carrying capacity of available natural and municipal resources, including water, land, electricity, sewage infrastructure, and waste management.

Response: The various master plans for the services are reviewed periodically in accordance with the SDF and upgrade requirements are addressed in the budget as far as possible.

5. **Municipal Debt Write-Offs**

I am concerned about the amount of debt written off annually.

Response: Only IDP related responses will be provided here. Refer to the separate Council item on the Budget for budget responses.

6. Rates and Service Increases

Municipal service charges and property rates continue to increase each year at levels well above the official inflation rate, often by more than double. This is not financially sustainable in the long term. The Municipality should prioritise measures to contain expenditure within its available income, as households are expected to do.

Response: Only IDP related responses will be provided here. Refer to the separate Council item on the Budget for budget responses.

Overall Concern

My overarching concern is that the Municipality appears to be allowing ongoing expansion and development without adequately considering the limitations of water supply, sewage treatment, waste disposal, and electricity infrastructure.

Municipal response:

The Municipality does long term planning for all towns and services. The foundation is the Spatial Development Framework (SDF). The SDF defines spatially how every town will densify, develop and expand. Following from the SDF, each of the main services (water, sewerage, electricity and waste management) has a master plan for at least the next 20 years. In addition, some services also have additional statutory required planning documents, for example the Water Services Development Plan (required by the Department of Water and Sanitation) and the Integrated Waste Management Plan (required by the Department of Environmental Affairs).

#13

From: Hugo Potgieter

Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 08:08

Subject: Fwd: Formal Objection to misaligned Ward 7 IDP priorities and the Sandbaai Kus Road upgrade.

Below is my objection to the ward 7 priorities, which was not agreed upon.

More than 70 percent of Sandbaai residents indicated that sewer and stormwater issues flooding peoples homes, were far more critical than kus road beautification.

Last night the executive mayor indicated that "a compromise was reached", with whom was such a compromise reached? Definitely not the residents.

The ward 7 system is severely compromised, and alleged criminal charges has been laid at SAPS for amongs other public assault.

The ward councillor is not acting in good faith and disregards the real pressing needs of the community. That is completely unacceptable.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year.. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#14

From: Melinda Stoddart, Principal Hermanus Country Kids

Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 17:13

Subject: RESPONSE TO PETITION LETTER HERMANUS COUNTRY KIDS

Please find below previous correspondence relating to the urgent need of ECD Centres to be placed on the next IDP.

We see it has not been included on the attached IDP.

We would appreciate any feedback at your earliest convenience.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

After careful consideration the ward 13 committee agrees that there is a need for an ECD centre in Onrus-Vermont at an appropriately determined space. To that end it has been added to the Ward 13 priorities in the 2026/27 final IDP review and amendment.

With regard to land availability in Onrus/Vermont for ECD's, the Property Management Division has indicated that an application for Erf 2549, which is Provincial property, has been submitted to the province for consideration. The application relates to the use of the erf for Community Purposes, and the Municipality is currently awaiting Provincial approval.

Should the Provincial erf be transferred to the Municipality, a public participation process will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate use of the erf.

#15

From: Johan van Schalkwyk

Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2026 17:05

Subject: Comment/advise on IDP wrt baboon management budget

Hiermee kommentaar en voorstel oor bg.

PDF document

Proposal: Sustainable Alternatives for Baboon Monitoring in Overstrand Municipality

Addressed to the Municipal Manager, Overstrand Municipality

Introduction

Baboon monitoring within Overstrand Municipality has become a significant concern due to rising annual costs, now exceeding R30 million. This proposal outlines alternative approaches to managing baboon monitoring in a way that ensures both financial sustainability and legislative compliance.

Current Challenges

The current cost of the baboon monitoring project is unsustainable and places severe strain on municipal resources. Importantly, baboon management is not defined as a core function of municipalities under relevant legislation, meaning the use of municipal rates and taxes for this purpose is not justified.

Equity Concerns

Funding baboon management from general municipal revenue places an unequal burden on all residents, even those in areas not affected by baboon activity. This approach disproportionately impacts poorer communities, which contribute to funding despite receiving little to no benefit.

Property Owner Responsibility

It is recommended that property owners in affected areas take greater responsibility for mitigating baboon-related issues. This can include installing deterrent measures such as baboon-proof bins, electric fencing, and secure waste management systems.

Alternative Funding Sources

To reduce reliance on municipal rates, the Municipality should seek funding support from the Overberg District Municipality and the Western Cape Provincial Government. These entities have broader mandates and resources that can be leveraged to address the issue more equitably.

Local Management Options

Affected communities should be empowered to manage baboon monitoring independently. This could be achieved by establishing a non-profit company dedicated to baboon management, allowing for focused and transparent operations. Additionally, leveraging Special Rating Areas (SRAs), such as the Hermanus Public Protection initiative, would enable affected property owners to contribute directly to funding and managing the process locally.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In summary, it is proposed that Overstrand Municipality:

- Refrain from funding baboon monitoring exclusively through municipal rates and taxes.
- Engage district and provincial authorities for alternative funding.
- Encourage affected property owners to implement practical deterrent measures.
- Support local management initiatives through non-profit companies and SRAs.

These steps will help ensure baboon management is both sustainable and equitable, relieving the financial burden on the municipality and its residents. We recommend convening a stakeholder meeting to discuss implementation and next steps.

Municipality response:

The Overstrand Municipality acknowledges the ongoing concerns regarding the financial sustainability of baboon management and appreciates constructive proposals aimed at improving long-term solutions. It is, however, important to emphasise that baboon management within the Overstrand cannot be viewed purely as an “urban nuisance” issue or as an isolated service benefiting only certain residential areas. The management of baboons forms part of a far broader environmental management and biodiversity conservation responsibility that directly affects the ecological integrity, tourism economy, public safety, and conservation reputation enjoyed by all making use of the natural beauty and environment of the Overstrand as a whole.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons, that is indigenous wildlife and form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand. Their management therefore cannot be separated from broader biodiversity management responsibilities. The management of baboons does not occur in isolation from these broader conservation functions and forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

Urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active management interventions, conflict between humans and baboons escalates rapidly, often resulting in increased aggression and habituation; property damage; threats to public safety; road accidents; injury or death of baboons; illegal feeding or persecution of wildlife; and significant reputational damage to the Municipality and the region. Baboon monitoring therefore serves not only to protect residents and property owners, but also to reduce harm to the baboons themselves and to minimise the need for more invasive management interventions.

While municipalities may not have an explicitly defined constitutional mandate for baboon management, local government nevertheless carries environmental management responsibilities in terms of the;

1. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa - Section 24 of the Constitution states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures. This

section creates a constitutional obligation for organs of state, including municipalities, to participate in environmental protection and sustainable ecological management.

2. National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) - Section 152(1)(d) identifies one of the objectives of local government as to promote a safe and healthy environment. Schedule 4B and 5B of Municipal Competencies, are municipal planning; public nuisances; refuse removal and waste management; municipal public spaces; and local amenities. All these directly influence wildlife interactions and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
3. Municipal Public Nuisance and Public Safety Responsibilities where municipalities have obligations relating to public safety; municipal by-law enforcement; nuisance management; waste management; and environmental health, because in practice, unmanaged human-wildlife conflict may create safety risks; traffic hazards; property damage; aggressive wildlife interactions; and public health concerns. Municipal intervention therefore often arises from the practical need to manage these impacts or risks within urban-edge environments.

In reality, municipalities situated within biodiversity sensitive areas are often required to respond operationally to environmental management challenges that directly affect residents, tourism, infrastructure, public safety, and conservation areas. The Overstrand Municipality's involvement in baboon management has therefore evolved as part of its broader environmental management mandate and responsibility to balance biodiversity conservation with community wellbeing.

The Overstrand economy is strongly linked to its natural environment, biodiversity assets, and eco-tourism appeal. The region's wildlife and natural landscapes contribute substantially to tourism, property values, and local economic activity. Responsible wildlife management is therefore not only an environmental issue, but also an economic and social sustainability issue.

The practical reality is that municipalities are often required to respond to issues that materially affect their communities, infrastructure, environment, and local economies, even where the primary legislative mandate may rest with another sphere of government. Abalone poaching and drug enforcement, for example relate primarily to criminal enforcement support functions, whereas baboon management relates more specifically to environmental management, biodiversity conservation, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation within an urban-edge environment. In both cases, however, municipalities become involved because the consequences of inaction have direct local impacts on residents, municipal operations, tourism, safety, and the broader socio-environmental wellbeing of the area. It can therefore reasonably be argued that municipalities already utilise ratepayer funded resources to support a variety of cross-cutting issues that extend

beyond narrowly defined constitutional functions where such matters materially affect the local community and municipal area.

In conclusion, the municipality acknowledges the financial pressures associated with baboon management and supports continued engagement regarding more sustainable and equitable funding and operational models. However, it must be recognised that baboon management within the Overstrand is not merely a localised urban service affecting a limited number of residents. It forms part of a broader integrated biodiversity and environmental management responsibility aimed at protecting ecological systems, reducing human-wildlife conflict, safeguarding public safety, supporting tourism, and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Overstrand.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme. The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

16

From: Rita Louw

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 10:08

Subject: Vroeë kinderontwikkeling in Onrus en Vermont

Ek skryf hiermee om sterk te motiveer vir die insluiting van Vroeë Kinderontwikkeling (VKO)-sentrums in Onrus, Vermont en Hermanus as 'n prioriteit in die Overstrand Munisipaliteit se Geïntegreerde Ontwikkelingsplan (GOP) vir 2026/2027.

Ons gemeenskap ervaar tans 'n beduidende tekort aan VKO-fasiliteite. Hierdie gebrek aan toegang is nie bloot 'n ongerief nie—dit het ernstige gevolge vir jong kinders, gesinne en die breër gemeenskap. Vroeë kinderontwikkeling speel 'n deurslaggewende rol in die voorbereiding van kinders vir formele skoolonderrig, ondersteun van kognitiewe en sosiale ontwikkeling, en lê die grondslag vir toekomstige leervermoë van kinders.

Sonder voldoende VKO-sentrums in Onrus en Hermanus:

- Het baie kinders nie toegang tot noodsaaklike vroeë leergeleenthede nie

- Word skoolgereedheid, veral vir Graad R, negatief beïnvloed
- Word ouers en versorgers onder groot druk geplaas om veilige en betroubare kindersorg te vind
- Word ekonomiese deelname belemmer, aangesien gesinne sukkel om werk en kindersorg te balanseer.

Belegging in VKO word wyd erken as een van die mees effektiewe maniere om langtermyn opvoedkundige uitkomst te ondersteun, ongelykheid te verminder en gemeenskappe te versterk. Dit is daarom van kardinale belang dat voldoende infrastruktuur en ondersteuning vir VKO-sentrums binne die munisipaliteit se beplanningsprosesse geprioritiseer word.

Ek doen 'n dringende beroep op die Overstrand Munisipaliteit om die noodsaaklikheid van addisionele VKO-fasiliteite in Onrus en Hermanus te erken en die nodige hulpbronne toe te ken om hierdie tekort in die komende GOP aan te spreek.

Ek is ouma van 2 kleuters onder 3 jaar en 'n getroue belastingbetaler van die munisipaliteit. Hier waar ek bly in Vermont is GEEN kleuterskool nie, wat dit baie moeilik maak met die kleintjies. Hulle moet dorp toe gery word elke dag, wat bydra tot die verkeersprobleem in breër Hermanus.

Dankie dat u hierdie belangrike saak oorweeg. Ek vertrou dat die munisipaliteit betekenisvolle stappe sal neem om te verseker dat die behoeftes van ons jongste burgers nie oor die hoof gesien word nie.

Response:

Thank you for your submission.

The Special Project Officer in the Socio-Economic Services Section at the Municipality supports the request for the prioritisation of ECD facilities as a priority for Onrus and Hermanus.

However, it should be noted that there is a general shortage of ECD facilities across the Overstrand, whether registered or not, as well as Grade R facilities.

Also, Hermanus (Ward 3) and Onrus (Ward 13) are in different Wards, and whilst there are a few ECD facilities in Hermanus (although not enough), there are not any that we know of in Onrus. Based on the 2026 population figures for Overstrand, the **0–4-year-old** population for **Onrus and Vermont** is estimated to be **320 children**. Hermanus on the other hand has 235 children aged 0-4 years.

Early Childhood Development services are considered by many as an essential service for children and plays a vital role in the development of children and their scholastic trajectory.

After careful consideration the ward 13 committee agrees that there is a need for an ECD centre in Onrus-Vermont at an appropriately determined space. To that end it has been added to the Ward 13 priorities in the 2026/27 final IDP review and amendment.

With regard to land availability in Onrus/Vermont for ECD's, the Property Management Division has indicated that an application for Erf 2549, which is Provincial property, has been submitted to the province for consideration. The application relates to the use of the erf for Community Purposes, and the Municipality is currently awaiting Provincial approval.

Should the Provincial erf be transferred to the Municipality, a public participation process will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate use of the erf.

#17

From: Roy Hubbard

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 10:37

Subject: Comments on the IDP 2026 document and meeting held 16 April 2026.

To whom it may concern.

It must be stressed, that the **public participation meeting held on the 16 April 2026**, was not a good reflection on the Overstrand Municipality (OM) listing to the general public (Rate payers) of the OM IDP document.

Questions asked, were not properly responded too and people were cut short on asking their questions, with little outlining their concerns.

The meeting was poorly handled, and OM officials were not accommodating and unprofessional.

That being said, in the IDP, the section on page 61 addressing the Public Participation Policy, should be adhered too and entrenched in such meeting held by the OM.

A Public Participation Policy with the following objectives was adopted by the Overstrand Council in September 2016:

- a) to promote the values of good governance and human rights;
- b) to establish appropriate mechanisms, processes and procedures for public participation in the municipal affairs;
- c) to acknowledge the fundamental right of all people to participate in the governance system;
- d) to promote direct and indirect platforms of participation;
- e) to provide, clear, sufficient and timeous information concerning community participation to communities.

I also stressed, that expecting the General Public (Rate Payers) to work through all of the documents (over 1000 pages) released for comment in one month is of a concern. OM should understand that the General Public (Ratepayers) are not all accountants, financial advisers or have experience in the field of service delivery and is expected to submit meaningful comments on time (less that one month). Notifications are not sent timeously and platforms such as ColLab is not utilized to its full potential. One has to scrounge around on social media to find out what is going on within the OM and what needs to be commented on.

Municipality response:

For ease of reference, a special tab titled “Documents Open for Public Comment” was activated on the municipal website on 31 March 2026, the same day the drafts were tabled in Council. The municipality also issued press releases on 1, 7, and 14 April 2026, which included links to the draft documents open for public comment.

The following document has reference:

- Overstrand Draft IDP review 2026-27 - 31 March 2026.pdf

My question to the OM in the meeting was not answered and thus sending it here again for record. On page 64, the following Table is presented:

Table below indicates the vacancies within the municipality as at end **January 2026**:

Per Post Level		
Post level	Filled	Vacant
MM &MSA section 57 & 56	3	4
Middle management (T14-T19)	738	15
Admin Officers (T4-T13)	57	138
General Workers (T3)	253	36
Total	1051	193
		Vacant posts not evaluated January 2026
Community Services		5
Corporate Services		2
Financial Services		1
Infrastructure Services		7
Municipal Manager		1
Municipal Public Safety Services		1
Planning & Development		5
Total vacant posts not evaluated at the end of January 2026		22
Total vacant posts end of January 2026		215
Per Functional Level		
Functional area	Filled	Vacant
Municipal Manager	23	15
Corporate Services	75	11
Financial Services	106	35
Community Services	327	44
Municipal Public Safety Services	160	28

My questions is as follows:

Can the OM please clarify the concern of a heavy top management? In the table, it is noted, that the ration of Middle management to actual workers are as follows:

Top and Middle management: 741 (filed posts)

General workers and admin: 310 (filed posts)

From the total filled posts 1051, the OM is heavily skewed. It is a ration of 2 Managers (70.5%) to 1 General worker. This is a concern as we need workers, not managers.

It is also a concern, that the paying rate payers, do not have any influence on what is reported on.

Municipality response:

The figures for Middle Management and Administrative Officers were accidentally swapped but were corrected in the final IDP review and amendment document. The

corrected figures do not indicate a top-heavy management structure. Thank you for highlighting the error.

I also raised a point, that all relevant concerns should be capture from all rate payers, documented with the relevant response from the OM, be captured and released to all rate payers. The response received, is not acceptable, that only if you send in your questions or concerns, the individual will get the response. What about all the others present in the meeting and submitting concerns, do not get any feedback from OM. This is a major concern, as questions not answered correctly or poorly in the meeting, goes unanswered.

I also raised this concern at the meeting with **Ald. Elnora Gillion**, who took down my contact details and said she would follow up as well. To date, I still have not response or even acknowledgement from her.

I have also raised the **Cost of Supply (COS)** issue and was hoping that the relevant documentation would be found on the **OM website**, with little success. I also asked **Dr Rabie** for the document awhile back, and as of today, still do not locate or have received the document to peruse. It would be nice to see how the basic charges and the cost of connection was calculated and addressed.

Municipality response

Link for the CoS attached

<https://www.overstrand.gov.za/?s=cost&type=docman>

Can OM please enlighten me on the **new substation mentioned on page 337**, why does it take three years to build such a substation? This is not cost effective, as all the components need for the substation, would have to be procured upfront, not over three years.

NAME	ADDRESS	WARD	PROPERTY NO.	OWNER	LOT	VALUATION	VALUATION	VALUATION	VALUATION	VALUATION
Hermanus	Hermanus	Ward 03	NEW STILL STREET 66KV 11KV SUBSTATION	G Lotter	EL27/28/ 29	10 000 000	10 000 000	10 000 000	10 000 000	10 000 000

Municipality response:

The capital burden of the Substation on the budget is significant. If grant funding is obtained, it is also usually scheduled over multiple years. The construction schedule is adjusted accordingly, taking into consideration that there is long lead time material that could take up to 18 months for delivery.

Hope to hear a positive response from the OM, addressing all the concerns raised in the meeting and in this mail.

Awaiting your response in anticipation.

#18

From: Pat Redford

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 16:37

Subject: Comments on Draft Budget 2026 2027 and IDP 2026 2027

PDF document

21st April 2026

Attention:

R. Louw, Overstrand

rlouw@overstrand.gov.za

Chairperson, Finance Portfolio Committee, Overstrand

swilliams@overstrand.gov.za

Cc:

Municipal Manager Dean O'Neil, Overstrand

mm@overstrand.gov.za

Good Afternoon,

Draft Budget 2026/2027

Comment from Pat Redford regarding Overstrand Baboon Management (Draft Budget 2026/2027)

- 1) During the Ward 3,7 and 13 combined Public Ward meeting held 15th April 2026, the following question was posed to the Municipal Manager:

“What performance measurables have been used to determine the current/projected amounts allocated/to be allocated to the Overstrand Municipality run Baboon Management Program (OBMP), given the current chaotic status and failure of the program.”

It was mentioned by MM during his presentation at Kleinmond and Hermanus public meetings, that an amount of **R10million would be allocated from OM** funds for the project for 2026/2027.

This does not appear in the draft budget, only a brief mention in the IDP relating to the **previous 2025/2026 spend of R10million** (ref. page 135 Chapter 4 Objectives Item 3)

This seems unsatisfactorily. (MM stated the program is ‘still being adjusted’), however given the period is well over 1 year in practice under OM it is surprising he still could not clearly define the measurables.

The Mayor added that it has been difficult to accommodate all opinions in the communities affected or unaffected by baboons.

- 2) When a municipality puts out a tender for external service providers there are criteria required to justify the process. These include, amongst other items:
 - Required deliverables
 - KPI implementation
 - Affordability
 - Value for money
 - Delegated oversight authority
 - Terms of reference
 - Evaluation procedures

Given the above criteria, it is concerning that few criteria have been applied to date, during OM's 'self-appointed' BMP since January 2025 when the previous SP was not re-appointed.

The previous tender demanded specific, very detailed monthly reports, indicating success or failure of targeted KPI's, etc.

OM has not, to date issued any such reports since they took over the BMP early 2025. We are now witnessing numerous failures 15months later.

The MM response indicates a lack of justification and oversight, with zero criteria fulfilled.

Why would these fundamental criteria not be transparently applied during the budget/IDP phase?

- 3) Ref. Figure 5, page 55 National Allocations 2nd last line item: Provincial: "Baboon Management R1 000 000.00 (R1mil). **Please indicate what exactly this is for?** Is this the allocation for 3 new vehicles or something else? In other areas of the Budget, several million is allocated to new vehicles **so it would be helpful to know which vehicles will be used solely for BMP?**
- 4) Ref. Finance Portfolio Committee Agenda March 2026 Annexure A, 3.3 "not enough rangers, not enough vehicles ..." disregards the reality that the modus operandi of the Project Manager and team is the **cause of the escalation in incidents**, rather than indicating a cheaper alternative/ success of the program. It does not make sense to extend the existing failed program by adding more staff, more vehicles, more fuel, more overtime, more uniforms and equipment.
- 5) Numerous members of the public have reported repetitive incidents of non-compliance (by laws and applicable Acts, lack of oversight, wasteful expenditure, lack of consequence management, ignoring cost containment measures re: unbridled overtime costs, abuse of equipment, monitors and project managers' breaching of Protocols and Guidelines associated with the OBMP) drawing this to the attention of several senior officials. **Rational legitimate written responses still absent**, the silence is deafening.
- 6) To the extent that the series of non-compliance issues remain the elephant in the Environmental /Administration's Room, the public most affected, along with the baboons face yet another 'budget year' of non-compliance, irrational spend, unbridled overtime (ref. Finance Portfolio Committee Agenda March 2026 Annexure A, 3.3 "not enough rangers, not enough vehicles, shortage of vehicles, etc") **lack of oversight and wasteful expenditure of our rates and taxes. How will OM correct this madaministration?**
- 7) Ordinary ratepayers expect their voices to be heard and for our public servants in office at OM to apply their minds to:
 - ACTUAL DELIVERABLES
 - AUTHENTIC OVERSIGHT
 - ANALYSIS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE PROGRAM

In the continued ABSENCE of authentic verifiable monthly reports, **how is it possible for OM to justify further spend on this project without a proper transparent evaluation of the previous year.**

- 8) Facts: More baboons have died that ever before, significant escalation of urban invasions, unbridled overtime expense, wasteful expenditure due to poor organisation of on duty

times/reporting to duty vs availability of transport, excessive days off sick, poor discipline, rude behaviour towards members of the public, cruelty to baboons, feeding baboons, etc.

- 9) Recent incidents of abusive use of equipment and high-risk shooting incidents in public areas, illustrate, by photographs and video evidence, that the situation is out of control. **When will the OM identify this as wasteful expenditure, given salaries are being paid yet the services are not being rendered reliably.**

IDP 2026/2027:

- 10) Ref. IDP page 135, Chapter 4 Strategic Directives: second paragraph from top of page “In terms of the Compactum ...”: second and third last paragraphs indicate they **have been deleted**:

“the assignment from the Western Cape Provincial Government provides the Overstrand Municipality with a Constitutional mandate to implement the BMP”

“This plan has subsequently lapsed”

It is not unreasonable to expect the public to be advised of what the current status is, regarding the mandate and Compactum. It remains a long-standing mantra of OM that wildlife management is not a municipal mandate, so **on what basis is the current BMP run by OM itself, funded apparently by OM itself, compliant in terms of the MFMA and other applicable Acts? Is the Compactum extended or invalid?**

Conclusion:

A number of **less costly, calmer approaches** are likely to render greater benefit to the OM, its community and the baboons. Shooting wildlife is not a calm alternative.

UNBRIDLED UNJUSTIFIED VIOLENCE and excessive spend is not a good basis from which to determine further spend.

My comment is intended to receive proper substantiated response from OM, in addition to draw attention to the disregard by authorities to justify a previously budgeted amount, now to be repeated, in spite of the fact that

- a) this is not a municipal mandate
- b) the current OM-run BMP is a clear failure in every aspect.
- c) the clear lack of performance measurables and non-compliance with the OMBMP documents and MFMA.
- d) distinct lack of accountability and oversight

I would appreciate a detailed response to the concerns expressed above and your acknowledgement of receipt of my correspondence.

Sincerely

P. Redford

patred@iafrica.com

Municipality response:

Thank you for your detailed submission and for raising your concerns regarding the Overstrand Baboon Management Programme (OBMP) and the associated budget allocations reflected in the draft 2026/2027 IDP.

1.The Municipality acknowledges the concerns expressed regarding programme performance, budget transparency, reporting mechanisms, and measurable outcomes associated with the current baboon management approach.

Baboon management within the Overstrand Municipality remains a complex and evolving function, particularly due to the increasing human–baboon interface across several towns within the municipal area. The current management approach has been implemented within a challenging operational environment characterised by increasing habituation of baboons to urban areas, differing stakeholder expectations, legal constraints, resource limitations, and ongoing uncertainty regarding mandates and responsibilities between various authorities and role-players.

With regard to the proposed budget allocation, it should be noted that the draft IDP and budget process remains subject to refinement, adjustment, and Council approval. As indicated during the public participation meetings, aspects of the programme and associated operational structure are currently under review and may therefore not yet be fully reflected in the draft documentation.

2. The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding measurable deliverables, KPIs, reporting structures, and oversight mechanisms. These concerns are recognised as important considerations moving forward, particularly in light of the planned review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will provide an opportunity to:

- Reassess the effectiveness of current management interventions;
- Review existing governance and oversight structures;
- Consider measurable performance indicators and reporting frameworks;
- Evaluate affordability and long-term sustainability;
- Incorporate updated scientific research and specialist input; and
- Ensure a broader and more structured public participation process.

It is important to note that wildlife management, particularly involving highly adaptable species such as Chacma baboon, does not always produce immediate or linear outcomes, and management success is influenced by numerous external variables

including waste management compliance, urban design, public behaviour, habitat availability, and continued access to anthropogenic food sources.

3. The R1 mil is funded by the Provincial Government of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: Biodiversity and Coastal Management (DEADP), to fund the Baboon Management Programme in the Overstrand, in this case, two operational vehicles.

4. The allocation of additional operational resources to the Baboon Management Programme should not merely be viewed as an expansion of staffing, vehicles, or equipment, but rather as part of a broader long-term investment in building local operational capacity and institutional knowledge within the Overstrand Municipality.

A significant concern previously raised by many members of the affected communities related to the extensive reliance on external service providers operating from outside of the Overstrand area, often resulting in limited local accountability, reduced continuity, and minimal long-term skills transfer to local residents. One of the key objectives of the Municipality's current approach has therefore been the gradual development, training, and upskilling of local staff and communities.

This approach aims to:

- Create local employment opportunities and skills development;
- Build institutional continuity and operational knowledge within the Municipality;
- Improve familiarity with local troop dynamics, geography, and community-specific challenges;
- Reduce long-term dependence on external contractors; and
- Promote greater local accountability and responsiveness.

The operational requirements of baboon management are resource intensive by nature, particularly within geographically large urban-edge areas where multiple baboon troops require daily monitoring and intervention over extended distances and difficult terrain. Adequate staffing levels, suitable vehicles, equipment, communication systems, and ongoing training are therefore necessary components of maintaining a functional and responsive programme.

Importantly, the expansion of operational resources should not be interpreted in isolation as an indication of programme failure, but rather as part of the evolving process of establishing a sustainable, municipality-led management structure capable of adapting to increasingly complex human–wildlife challenges.

At the same time, the Municipality acknowledges the importance of continuously evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, and appropriateness of management interventions. For this reason, the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management

Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year will include consideration of operational models, staffing structures, training standards, measurable performance indicators, and community feedback to ensure that future management approaches remain evidence-based, accountable, and financially sustainable.

5. It should be noted that all formally reported incidents and complaints received by the Municipality are assessed and investigated to the extent possible based on the information and evidence provided. Where sufficient supporting evidence is submitted and misconduct or non-compliance is identified, such matters are dealt with in accordance with the Municipality's applicable disciplinary procedures, policies, contractual obligations, and relevant legislative frameworks.

The Municipality does not condone misconduct, abuse of equipment, non-compliance with approved protocols, or wasteful expenditure, and remains committed to ensuring accountability and appropriate oversight within the programme.

At the same time, due consideration must also be given to the operational realities and complexities associated with managing human-wildlife conflict in challenging urban-edge environments, where staff are often required to make operational decisions under pressured and unpredictable circumstances.

6. The references made to resource shortages within committee reports should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of maladministration or wasteful expenditure, but rather as an indication of the operational pressures and increasing demands currently experienced by the programme.

Furthermore, the Municipality is subject to strict financial controls, internal oversight mechanisms, audit processes, procurement procedures, and labour regulations. Allegations relating to misconduct, abuse of resources, or non-compliance are investigated where sufficient evidence is provided, and matters are addressed in accordance with applicable disciplinary and administrative procedures where warranted.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing views within communities regarding appropriate baboon management approaches. While public input remains important and valued, it is equally important that discussions remain constructive, factual, and mindful of the complexities associated with wildlife management and municipal governance.

7. As previously indicated, the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational

structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme.

The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

8. Baboon rangers and operational staff work under exceptionally challenging conditions, often within high-conflict environments that require long hours, difficult terrain, exposure to public criticism from multiple perspectives, and the daily management of unpredictable wildlife behaviour at the human–wildlife interface. The role is physically and emotionally demanding and frequently undertaken under significant pressure.

9. While the Municipality does not condone misconduct, cruelty to animals, feeding of baboons, poor discipline, or inappropriate behaviour towards members of the public, allegations of this nature are investigated where sufficient evidence is provided, and addressed through the appropriate internal procedures where warranted.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that those not directly involved in the day-to-day operational realities of baboon management may not fully appreciate the complexity, constraints, and challenges faced by field staff on a daily basis. Constructive engagement and evidence-based feedback remain important, but should also be balanced, fair, and mindful of the difficult circumstances under which operational teams are required to perform their duties.

10. The Compactum referred to in the IDP documentation was concluded between the Overstrand Municipality, CapeNature and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in terms of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, primarily to provide a cooperative framework to avoid intergovernmental disputes relating to baboon management within the Overstrand Municipal Area.

The Compactum itself was not intended to permanently assign or transfer an exclusive constitutional wildlife management mandate to the Municipality, but rather to facilitate cooperation, coordinated planning, implementation responsibilities, and financial contributions between the parties.

The Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP), developed through the Baboon Management Joint Task Team established under the Compactum, included implementation periods and operational arrangements that required periodic review and extension.

The current implementation arrangements and assignment associated with the SBMP have been extended until June 2026 to allow for the continued implementation of the programme and the completion of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan.

The Municipality's involvement in baboon management therefore remains based on cooperative governance principles, intergovernmental agreement, and the practical need to manage human–wildlife conflict within the urban interface, together with the associated public safety, environmental management, waste management, and community wellbeing considerations.

Conclusion:

It is important that the management of human–wildlife conflict, particularly involving highly adaptable species such as the Chacma baboon, be considered within the context of established scientific research, adaptive management principles, operational realities, and peer-reviewed conservation approaches, together with the lived experiences and concerns of affected communities.

Globally and locally, peer-reviewed research consistently recognises that no single intervention provides a complete solution to urban baboon management. Successful programmes generally require a combination of:

- Waste management control;
- Urban and land-use management;
- Public participation and behavioural change;
- Baboon-proof infrastructure;
- Monitoring and aversion techniques;
- Ongoing scientific review and adaptive management.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan itself was developed through an intergovernmental process involving the Overstrand Municipality, CapeNature and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning specifically to address the increasing human–baboon interface within the Overstrand urban areas. The stated purpose of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan is the sustainable management of local baboon populations by keeping baboons out of urban areas.

The Municipality notes the suggestion that “calmer” and less resource-intensive approaches may yield improved outcomes. Such alternatives, including habitat-based interventions, improved waste management systems, public behavioural changes, and preventative urban design measures, form part of broader international best-practice

approaches and will be further considered during the forthcoming review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan.

At the same time, it must be recognised that aversion-based management tools, including non-lethal deterrence measures implemented under permit conditions and Standard Operating Procedures, are widely utilised internationally in urban wildlife management where animals have become habituated to human-derived food sources and urban environments. The objective of these interventions is not violence, but rather behavioural modification aimed at reducing urban incursions, limiting human–wildlife conflict, and improving long-term outcomes for both people and baboons.

With regard to concerns surrounding oversight, accountability, expenditure, and measurable performance indicators, the Municipality has already indicated that these aspects will form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process will include consideration of:

- Operational structures and governance;
- Monitoring and reporting frameworks;
- Performance indicators and evaluation criteria;
- Scientific input and updated research;
- Financial sustainability; and
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes.

It is further important to clarify that the Municipality's involvement in baboon management is based on cooperative governance arrangements concluded between the relevant authorities in order to address the practical realities of managing baboon-related conflict within the urban interface. This includes broader municipal responsibilities linked to public safety, waste management, environmental management, infrastructure protection, and community wellbeing.

The Municipality remains committed to constructive engagement, evidence-based decision-making, and the ongoing refinement of management approaches in line with available scientific information, operational experience, and stakeholder input.

#19

From: Bianca Brandt, GP Care Hermanus, From Country Kids Hermanus (School)

Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 04:53

Subject: Motivation letter for school/ECD centre in Hermanus

I am a GP doctor in Hermanus, and I have a 5year old son attending Grade RR but we have heard that unfortunately his school cannot stay open and will have to close down.

Other schools in the area have a very long waiting list and other private schools are simply out of our budget. It has become a very real threat that he will be without a school and his education will be interrupted. We are very stressed financially and emotionally and worried about our child's future. His name is James Dippenaar.

There is already a serious shortage of ECD facilities in our community. This is not just an inconvenience — it directly impacts our children's right to early education, school readiness, and the ability of families to work and support their households.

Without sufficient ECD centres:

- Many children are left without access to foundational learning
- Grade R readiness is compromised
- Parents are placed under immense pressure with no childcare options
- Our community's future development is at risk

ECD is not a luxury — it is a critical investment in our children's future and our community's wellbeing.

Please can we stand together to ensure our children are not overlooked.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

The Special Project Officer in the Socio-Economic Services Section at the Municipality supports the request for the prioritisation of ECD facilities as a priority for Onrus and Hermanus.

However, it should be noted that there is a general shortage of ECD facilities across the Overstrand, whether registered or not, as well as Grade R facilities.

Also, Hermanus (Ward 3) and Onrus (Ward 13) are in different Wards, and whilst there are a few ECD facilities in Hermanus (although not enough), there are not any that we know of in Onrus. Based on the 2026 population figures for Overstrand, the **0–4-year-old** population for **Onrus and Vermont** is estimated to be **320 children**. Hermanus on the other hand has 235 children aged 0-4 years.

Early Childhood Development services are considered by many as an essential service for children and plays a vital role in the development of children and their scholastic trajectory.

After careful consideration the ward 13 committee agrees that there is a need for an ECD centre in Onrus-Vermont at an appropriately determined space. To that end it has been added to the Ward 13 priorities in the 2026/27 final IDP review and amendment.

With regard to land availability in Onrus/Vermont for ECD's, the Property Management Division has indicated that an application for Erf 2549, which is Provincial property, has been submitted to the province for consideration. The application relates to the use of the erf for Community Purposes, and the Municipality is currently awaiting Provincial approval.

Should the Provincial erf be transferred to the Municipality, a public participation process will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate use of the erf.

#20

From: Mike-Lynn Coetzee

Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 06:46

Subject: Support for Prioritising ECD Centres in Onrus and Hermanus (IDP 2026/2027)

I am writing as a concerned parent and community member to strongly support the inclusion and prioritisation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the Onrus and Hermanus areas within the Overstrand Municipality's 2026/2027 Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

There is a clear and growing shortage of ECD facilities in our community. This shortage is not merely inconvenient — it has real and lasting consequences for our children, families, and the broader community. Access to quality early childhood education is foundational to school readiness, cognitive development, and long-term academic success.

Without sufficient ECD centres:

- Many children are unable to access essential early learning opportunities
- School readiness, particularly for Grade R, is compromised
- Parents face significant challenges balancing work and childcare
- Economic participation and community wellbeing are negatively affected.

ECD is a critical investment, not an optional service. Prioritising the development and support of ECD centres will directly contribute to stronger educational outcomes, more stable households, and a more resilient community.

I respectfully urge the municipality to recognise this need as a priority and to allocate the necessary planning, resources, and support to expand access to ECD facilities in Onrus and Hermanus.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you are doing to support our community.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

The Special Project Officer in the Socio-Economic Services Section at the Municipality supports the request for the prioritisation of ECD facilities as a priority for Onrus and Hermanus.

However, it should be noted that there is a general shortage of ECD facilities across the Overstrand, whether registered or not, as well as Grade R facilities.

Also, Hermanus (Ward 3) and Onrus (Ward 13) are in different Wards, and whilst there are a few ECD facilities in Hermanus (although not enough), there are not any that we know of in Onrus. Based on the 2026 population figures for Overstrand, the **0–4-year-old** population for **Onrus and Vermont** is estimated to be **320 children**. Hermanus on the other hand has 235 children aged 0-4 years.

Early Childhood Development services are considered by many as an essential service for children and plays a vital role in the development of children and their scholastic trajectory.

After careful consideration the ward 13 committee agrees that there is a need for an ECD centre in Onrus-Vermont at an appropriately determined space. To that end it has been added to the Ward 13 priorities in the 2026/27 final IDP review and amendment.

With regard to land availability in Onrus/Vermont for ECD's, the Property Management Division has indicated that an application for Erf 2549, which is Provincial property, has been submitted to the province for consideration. The application relates to the use of the erf for Community Purposes, and the Municipality is currently awaiting Provincial approval.

Should the Provincial erf be transferred to the Municipality, a public participation process will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate use of the erf.

#21

From: A M VAN ELLEWEE

Collab - 3032303 - **2026/2027 Budget & relating issues**

It is once again with great concern that we as Overstrand ratepayers experience the urgency of OM to push through an exorbitant budget!

We have excellent leaders in the different ratepayers associations, especially in Kleinbaai, who put in so much time and effort to be involved and act as the 'go between' OM and ratepayers! To be pushed aside and not given a proper chance to ask questions and receive answers during the road show on 16 April 2026, is totally unacceptable!

A major issue of concern is Erf 210 and the future plans for subsidised housing! How on earth can this expansion be given the slightest consideration by OM? You are planning to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs! If this stupid idea is tolerated any further, how does OM foresee the influence that it will have on **REAL** ratepayers and the value of their properties? It is a well known fact that everywhere these structures are built and allowed, it very soon becomes a major problem for the public that uses the roads! First best thing, they block off roads and burn tyres for the slightest issue they do not agree with and do NOT PAY FOR! The beautiful R43 between Stanford and Gansbaai has already been damaged on more than one occasion! The more low cost housing is supplied, the more the demand becomes! The lack of job opportunities is already a major issue everywhere! Botriver, Knoflokskraal and Grabouw on the N2 are typical examples of the modus operandi of people in these situations, costing the economy enormous amounts of money and inconvenience!

Municipality response:

As stated in the draft IDP, additional land will have to be identified for future human settlement extension in the Gansbaai area. This would not only include various housing options but also economic, social and educational facilities as well as any other related land uses that may be required. To date, no specific location has been designated. Commencement of investigations is contingent upon directives regarding land identification through the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) process. Subsequent to this, all pertinent planning policies, legislation and applicable environmental legislation will be rigorously adhered to throughout the due process.

Tarif increases above the inflation rate is also not a wise decision! At present people in general and especially pensioners struggle to make ends meet! The way this increase is being pushed through, is already causing unaffordable tariff increases and in the very near future, even more so! Why could OM, like Drakenstein Municipality, not have contacted Nersa to turn down the exorbitant increase in the supply of electricity?

According to the IDP OM has a list of 5 goals to ascertain good participation. Unfortunately, these goals are not practised by OM, with the result that you miss to reach 90% of the public! Kleinbaai Ratepayers Association requested that public participation should be in place before the IDP is approved. The leader of the meeting on 16 April 2026, did not even bother to acknowledge the suggestion!

Re the Cost of Supply: the Kleinbaai Ratepayers Association drew the meeting's attention to the fact that the COS was never approved by the public. Participation was still on the way when OM pushed through the document to reach Nersa's deadline! OM is bullying ratepayers by saying that COS is in the past and ratepayers must live with it!

Municipality response: It is a statutory requirement of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) that electricity tariffs must be based on a credible Cost of Supply study (COS). NERSA's regulations and requirements are very specific on the contents of a COS study and the methodology to be used to determine the COS. The Overstrand Municipality's COS study complied with all the legal requirements, it was endorsed by the Municipal Council and accepted by NERSA. Although the Municipality presented the COS study to the public at various public meetings, there is no requirement for the COS study to be approved by the public.

Public participation is regarded as important by OM, but at the same time ward committee meetings are reduced to 5 per year - in fact it comes down to only 3 meetings, as 2 are on site meetings! This does not leave the impression that public participation is important at all!

Municipality response: Thus far in the current financial year (2025/26), an average of eight (8) ward committee meetings per ward — whether ordinary meetings, public meetings, or site visits — have already been held. Therefore, your statement that only five meetings are held per ward per annum is incorrect.

Also note that the Overstrand Municipality consists of 14 wards. This means that, to date, a total of 112 ward committee meetings has been conducted across the municipality during the current financial year.

The OM and its employees are there to serve the ratepayers of Overstrand and not the other way around!

#22

From: Melanie Voges**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 April 2026 17:08**Subject:** Concerns re Early Childhood Development in the Overstrand area

I am currently in the process of planning a relocation from Stellenbosch to Onrus River and, as part of this transition, have been researching Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility options within the Hermanus and greater Overstrand area.

It has become increasingly apparent that there is a significant shortage of ECD facilities available to accommodate the growing number of young children in these communities. The limited availability of placements is deeply concerning, particularly for families like mine who are seeking to settle in the area and secure early educational opportunities for our children.

Given the ongoing semigration into the Overstrand region, it appears that both housing and educational infrastructure are under considerable strain. Rental properties are scarce and increasingly expensive, and similarly, access to suitable ECD centres is extremely limited.

I would like to understand what measures, if any, the municipality is currently implementing or planning to address this shortage. Specifically:

- Are there any upcoming developments or provisions being made for additional ECD facilities in Hermanus and Onrus?
- Is this issue being addressed within the current or upcoming Integrated Development Plan (IDP)?
- How can concerned residents and prospective residents engage with or support initiatives aimed at improving access to early childhood education in the area?

Access to quality early childhood education is fundamental to community development, and it is essential that adequate provision is made to meet the needs of a growing population.

I would appreciate any insight you can provide on this matter and look forward to your response.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

The Special Project Officer in the Socio-Economic Services Section at the Municipality

supports the request for the prioritisation of ECD facilities as a priority for Onrus and Hermanus.

However, it should be noted that there is a general shortage of ECD facilities across the Overstrand, whether registered or not, as well as Grade R facilities.

Also, Hermanus (Ward 3) and Onrus (Ward 13) are in different Wards, and whilst there are a few ECD facilities in Hermanus (although not enough), there are not any that we know of in Onrus. Based on the 2026 population figures for Overstrand, the **0–4-year-old** population for **Onrus and Vermont** is estimated to be **320 children**. Hermanus on the other hand has 235 children aged 0-4 years.

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After careful consideration the ward 13 committee agrees that there is a need for an ECD centre in Onrus-Vermont at an appropriately determined space. To that end it has been added to the Ward 13 priorities in the 2026/27 final IDP review and amendment.

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Should the Provincial erf be transferred to the Municipality, a public participation process will need to be undertaken to determine the most appropriate use of the erf.

#23

From: Anja Van Dyk

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 13:15

Subject: ECD centre application Onrus

Good morning,

I hope you are well, my name is Anja Van Dyk and I would like to express my interest in your ECD centres! I have experience in both mainstream and special education. I have work with all different ages. Currently I am teaching abroad but I look forward to returning home. I am fully bilingual (Afrikaans and English)

Please see a short summary of my unique skills {full cv attached}

Mainstream education:

- Gr4 - Gr7 - full classroom, multiple subjects

LSEN education:

- Gr 4- Gr 7 Mathematics and Afrikaans
- Resource class - Gr R - Gr 4 Autism, CP, ADHD, ADD, down syndrome and multiple other different abilities.

Core skills:

- Differentiation
- Classroom management
- Delivering the curriculum in a fun yet inclusive manner.
- Daily teaching admin.
- Adaptable and reliable.

I have a passion for identifying learning barriers, adapting curriculum content, and creating inclusive learning environments where all learners can thrive.

I am fluent in both Afrikaans and English, which enables me to communicate effectively with learners, parents, and colleagues in diverse educational settings.

I will be returning to South Africa in June 2026 and will be settled and based in Hermanus. I am eager to continue my teaching career in a school where I can contribute positively to both mainstream and special needs education.

Municipality response:

Thank you for considering the Overstrand as a possible employee.

Unfortunately, the Overstrand Municipality does not operate any ECD centres. We do have some buildings that are leased by Non-Profit Organisations (NPO's) and operated as ECD centres. These organisations are completely independent from the municipality.

That being said, your expertise will benefit our young learners in the Overstrand, of whom many do not have access to remedial services.

Please consider sending your CV to the following organisations.

Enlighten Education Trust

They provide educational support to less privileged schools, in the Hermanus area. They have also been appointed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to provide support to ECD's from Hermanus to Rooi Els.

The contact person there is Rodney Nissen who the program manager:
rodney@enlighten.org.za / user17@enlighten.org.za
 Their webpage for more info: <https://enlighten.org.za/>

Food 4 Thought

They have also been appointed by DBE to assist ECD's. They cover the areas from Stanford to Buffeljagsbaai.

The contact person there is Maryanne Ward: food4thoughtstanford@gmail.com
 Their webpage for more info: <https://food4thought.org.za/>

Babbel en Krabbel

Is one of the biggest ECD's in Hermanus and one of few with Grade R. They are one of the main feeder schools for Hermanus Primary and they are also known as Hermanus Pre-Primary School.

The principal of the school is Lorna Such, her email is: lornasuch@hermanus.co.za.
 Alternative emails: Sheraleen Corbet-Meyer, Office: info@hermanuspreprim.co.za; and
 Rozanne Yeoman, Office: office@hermanuspreprim.co.za
 Their webpage for more info: <https://hermanuspreprim.co.za/>

Overstrand Learning Hub

This is a tertiary educational institution in Hermanus. They also have a course in BEd in Foundation Phase Teaching; Higher Certificate in Pre-School Education; and Post Graduate Certificate in Education, under the leadership of Dr Nicolene Rousseau. Your knowledge and background could be a valuable contribution to ECD teachers studying towards these qualifications. You can contact Dr Rousseau at: nicoline@thelearninghub.co.za
 Their webpage for more info: <https://thelearninghub.co.za/>

All the best with finding a place to work with children in the Overstrand.

#24

From: Pat Redford

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 13:36

Subject: Comment on Budget and IDP re Waste

PDF document

22nd April 2026

Attention:

CFO, Overstrand Municipality

cfo@overstrand.gov.za

cc:

R. Louw, Overstrand

rlouw@overstrand.gov.za

Comment on Overstrand Municipality Draft Budget/IDP 2026/2027

Refuse Management/Waste Management:

The increase of 5% proposed for Waste Management:

Given the dramatic increase in population during the past 5 years, it is reasonable to expect the collection of waste is simultaneously escalated to match the demand. Whilst the OM population estimate suggests only around 134 000, the more likely figure would be around 170 000, in addition to hundreds of thousands of regular visitors to the area weekly and seasonally.

Escalating littering on the sidewalks of the R43 and numerous main roads in and around Zwehlile/Sandbaai and other high-density areas, suggests regular waste management is not keeping up with demand.

The proposed increase of 5% does not seem to match the spend required to maintain a better level of litter management. Whilst weekly refuse collection requires fuel spend (escalating rapidly at present) and costly refuse trucks, **litter management remains a more 'labour' related cost.**

Worker qualifications are not a significant requirement for litter management teams. EPWP workers occasionally attend to clearing of sidewalks and gutters/drains in more affluent areas, however there is a distinct disregard for litter management in the areas mentioned above.

R43 is the main entrance way into the main town of Hermanus, yet it has become a disgraceful indicator that waste management is not happening at all on the R43, in spite of numerous appeals on the Collab app, to councillors and deputy Mayor during the past few months.

- 1) **Please explain what measures have been put in place to facilitate a REGULAR SCHEDULED ROUTINE LITTER MANAGEMENT plan to keep our R43 and other high-density areas free of litter.**
- 2) **I note there have been no COS studies regarding Waste Management. I note the drop of R2.2million budget despite the rising fuel costs anticipated. This does not make sense. Please justify?**

3) Would OM consider increasing EPWP workers to a more relevant number, to alleviate the shortfall, provide employment of locals and fully utilise the grant options from Province and Government?

Your response to the above would be appreciated.

Irrespective of the suggestion that the R43 is a 'provincial road' it remains a fact that littering on this stretch is escalating and needs to be properly addressed, whether it is funded indirectly by EPWP grant or by OM itself, it cannot be ignored.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and comment.

I look forward to your written response.

Regards

P. Redford

Ratepayer, Overstrand for 25 years+

Resident Chanteclair, Overstrand.

Patred@iafrica.com

Municipality response in blue text:

Thank you for your submission.

- 1) Please explain what measures have been put in place to facilitate a REGULAR SCHEDULED ROUTINE LITTER MANAGEMENT plan to keep our R43 and other high-density areas free of litter.

Response:

As explained on numerous occasions the R43 road cleaning is a provincial function, we do however do ad-hoc cleaning of that area.

There are also private cleanups of the R43 road reserve and surrounding areas and when they do take place the Waste Department does assist with the collection and disposal of the collected waste.

The additional EPWP workers referred in our answer to question 3 will assist in improving the area cleaning in other areas mentioned.

- 2) I note there have been no COS studies regarding Waste Management. I note the drop of R2.2million budget despite the rising fuel costs anticipated. This does not make sense. Please justify?

Response:

There has been an increase in the budgeted operational costs for the 2026/27 financial year. The reason for the R2,2 million drop reflected in the budget presented is as a result of the high bad debt write off in the 2025/26 financial year which have inflated the 2025/26 costs.

- 3) Would OM consider increasing EPWP workers to a more relevant number, to alleviate the shortfall, provide employment of locals and fully utilise the grant options from Province and Government?

Response:

With the 2026/27 budget there has been a reallocation of some of the waste related costs to increase the EPWP allocation for the 2026/27 budget, so there will be more EPWP's available in this budget compared to the current budget.

#25

From: Venessa Groenewald

Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 14:13

Subject: Navraag

Dit is met misnoe dat ek hierdie skrywe aan u rig.

Ek is een van die ontevrede inwoner van Buffeljagsbaai, met die huidige stand van sake.

Dit beloop nou al die hoeveelste jaar dat Buffeljagsbaai geensins in die IDP begroting verskyn nie. Ek sal graag wil verneem wat die rede tot hierdie besluit is, en ek is seker daar is nog baie van ons inwoners in Buffeljagsbaai, wat nie tevrede is met hierdie besluit nie. Ons as inwoners bly altyd aan die agterend wanneer daar besluite geneem word oor die welstand van dorpe, hoekom weet ons nie.

Indien moontlik kan u asb net vir ons verduidelik wat aangaan, ander dorpe floreer, maar Buffeljagsbaai bly net daar waar ons is, agtergeblewe.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

With the exception of electricity provision, which is an ESKOM responsibility, the Municipality do render municipal services in Buffeljagsbaai in the form of refuse removal, water and sanitation provision.

Buffeljagsbaai forms part of Ward 11 in the Overstrand Municipality, and the revised Ward 11 priorities include the needs of the Buffeljagsbaai community. Housing has been identified as Priority 3 for the community in the revised Ward 11 priority list contained in the draft 2026/27 IDP review and amendment.

The Municipality has submitted an application to the Provincial Department of Infrastructure for pre-planning funding and is currently awaiting a decision. Provision for pre-planning funding has been included in the draft 2026/2027 budget and is also reflected in the five-year housing plan contained in the draft IDP. However, funding can only be secured once pre-planning approval has been granted by the Provincial Department. This process has been communicated to the community on several occasions.

In terms of the Constitution, housing provision is a concurrent National and Provincial government mandate, with the Municipality acting only as the implementing agent once provincial funding approval has been obtained.

#26

From: Riaan Jacobs

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 12:10

Subject: Kleinbaai Rate payers Association comments on Draft IDP 2026 2027

**KLEINBAAI BELASTING BETALERS
VEREENIGING (KBBV)**

**KLEINBAAI RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION
(KRA)**

EMAIL: kbbv001@gmail.com

**Municipal Manager and relevant Officials
Overstrand Munisipaliteit**

Verw: KBBV01526

28 April 2026

Subject: Comments and Objection Regarding the 2026/27 Draft IDP

The following comments are submitted in response to the Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and associated budget documentation currently released for public review by Overstrand Municipality.

These submissions are made in the interests of constructive public participation, transparent governance, and sound long-term planning for the communities of Ward 14 and the broader municipal area.

While the effort to invite public comment is acknowledged, serious concerns remain regarding the quality, accessibility, internal consistency, and practical reviewability of the documentation provided. The volume of material, limited timeframes for comment, and lack of clear alignment between certain planning instruments create unnecessary obstacles to meaningful public participation.

Particular attention is drawn to matters relating to spatial planning, infrastructure capacity, tariff increases, document quality, and the apparent inconsistencies between the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), prior IDPs, GIS information, and current proposals affecting areas such as Gansbaai and Erf 210.

These comments are therefore submitted in the hope that the Draft IDP can be strengthened before final adoption through improved transparency, clearer

communication, fuller justification of proposals, and genuine engagement with the affected public.

The intention of this submission is not merely to object, but to encourage a more credible, lawful, and sustainable planning process that reflects the interests of all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft budget.

See attached **KRA summary comment on the Draft IDP for 2026/27 and comments from Jonathan Richards & Deidre Prout and A M Van Ellewee**

Yours faithfully,



Riaan Jacobs
Vice Chairman
Kleinbaai Rate Payers Association

Attachments

Annexure 1: SDF and IDP Misalignment with Regard to Zoning and Development

Annexure 2 Ward 14 priorities progress 2017 to 2026 - errors and non-compliance

Annexures:

Annexure 1: SDF and IDP Misalignment with Regard to Zoning and Development

SDF and IDP comments re Erf 210 – April 2026

Reference is made to the Overstrand Municipality **Spatial Development Framework (SDF), May 2020**, specifically the provisions relating to Gansbaai.

Relevant SDF Extracts

5.4.2.2 Key Strategic Land Use Proposals

i. Industrial

Industrial development should be concentrated within the existing industrial area near the R43 on the south-eastern edge of the CBD. Smaller-scale industrial development is provided for on the western edge of the settlement, and future development should be confined to these designated areas.

ii. Commercial

The Gansbaai CBD functions as the central node for De Kelders, Franskraal and Birkenhead. Development along the R43 corridor should be encouraged and contained along this axis, and confined to the central portion of Gansbaai.

iii. New Urban Development

No new development areas are proposed for Gansbaai. To accommodate housing demand, densification should be encouraged in accordance with the OGMS.

iv. Sensitive Development Areas

The unique sense of place should be maintained through implementation of draft EMOZ and HPOZ regulations. Areas identified for environmental and heritage sensitivity should be protected as far as possible in their natural state. Limited development may be considered only where aligned with those regulations.

The overall conclusion of the SDF is clear: **Gansbaai should be protected in terms of its heritage and environmental resources, with only restricted and carefully considered development permitted.**

Comment

In line with the above, there were **no Gansbaai expansion plans** in the **2020/21 IDP**.

However, under Chapter 7 (Social Housing), several Gansbaai sites were identified as **Restructuring Zones**. The IDP states:

“As a result of the housing backlog it was resolved with the community that some portions be removed as restructuring zones and be developed as subsidized housing for beneficiaries.”

The IDP further records that Sites 1, 2 and 5 (Mount Pleasant and Zwelihle) were successfully removed as restructuring zones and would be developed for subsidized housing.

To date, **Erf 2430** and **Erf 210** in Gansbaai have been earmarked by Overstrand Municipality as restructuring zones, and this status appears to remain in place into **2026**.

This creates a serious planning inconsistency, because the SDF identifies **Erf 210** as a **Municipal Conservation Area**, with an **Ecological Corridor** passing through it. In addition, the municipal GIS reportedly identifies **Erf 210** as an **Undetermined Zone**.

Concern Raised

There appears to be a material misalignment between the municipality’s own planning instruments:

- The **SDF** promotes conservation and restricted development.

- The **IDP** and related housing planning identify the same land for restructuring or possible development purposes.
- The **GIS zoning records** indicate undetermined status.

These conflicting designations create uncertainty for the public and undermine confidence in strategic planning.

Request

The KBRPA requests that Overstrand Municipality urgently clarify:

The current official status of **Erf 210**.

1. Whether it is conservation land, restructuring land, or earmarked for housing development.
2. How the IDP aligns with the adopted SDF.
3. Whether any rezoning, amendment, or environmental process has been initiated.
4. Why contradictory classifications remain unresolved in 2026.

Relevant Definitions and Further Concern Regarding Erf 210

For clarity, the following housing programme definitions are relevant:

- **RDP Housing (Reconstruction and Development Programme):** Generally intended for households earning less than **R3,500 per month**.
- **Subsidised Housing:** For households with gross monthly income below **R3,500**, qualifying for a housing subsidy/grant (historically around **R160,573**, subject to change).
- **Social Housing:** Intended for households earning approximately **R1,850 to R22,000 gross per month**, depending on programme thresholds.
- **Restructuring Zones:** Geographic areas designated specifically for the delivery of social housing.

The purpose of social housing is stated to advance:

- **Spatial transformation** – locating lower-income households closer to economic opportunities.
- **Social transformation** – encouraging mixed communities.
- **Economic transformation** – improving access to jobs and stimulating economic activity through housing development.

Concern Regarding Erf 210

Based on the cited SDF extracts, **Erf 210 is not identified as a Restructuring Zone.** Only **Erf 2430** appears to be shown for that purpose.

In the **2022/23 IDP**, the position reportedly remained unchanged:

- No new development areas for Gansbaai
- Erf 210 shown as a **Sensitive Development Area**
- Subject to **HPOZ** and **EMOZ** protections

The same position reportedly continued in subsequent years.

Sudden Change in Draft 2025/26 IDP

In the **Draft 2025/26 IDP**, Chapter 4 reportedly introduced a major change without clearly flagging it for public attention or consultation. It inserted wording stating that **Erf 210**:

“would also be the future extension area for both Blompark and Masakhane.”

It further stated that planning funding would be applied for during the **2025/2026 financial year**.

After public objection, the wording regarding future extension was reportedly removed. However, funding for planning of Erf 210 allegedly remained in the **Overstrand Housing Strategy: Five-Year Program**.

Draft 2026/27 IDP Position

The **Draft 2026/27 IDP** reportedly states for Masakhane:

“Investigations for the identification of suitable land will commence during the 2026/2027 financial year.”

At the same time:

- **Erf 210** has disappeared from the Five-Year Housing Programme.
- A new line item appears for **Gansbaai Future Extension** with **R500,000 in 2027/28**.
- No funding is clearly shown for the investigations said to commence in **2026/27**.

Key Issues Raised

This sequence creates concern regarding transparency, planning consistency, and public participation:

1. Was Erf 210 quietly introduced as a development site without proper consultation?
2. Why was the wording removed after objection, but planning funding retained?
3. Has the project simply been renamed “Gansbaai Future Extension”?
4. Why does the IDP mention investigations in 2026/27 without corresponding visible budget allocations?
5. How does any future extension align with the SDF policy of no new development areas and environmental sensitivity protections?

Request to Overstrand Municipality

The public requires a clear explanation of:

- The current planning status of **Erf 210**
- Whether it remains under consideration for housing or future extension
- The meaning of “Gansbaai Future Extension”
- Where the related budget allocations appear
- How these proposals align with the adopted SDF and prior IDPs
- What formal public participation process will be followed before any decision is taken

The changing references across annual IDPs risk creating the perception that significant land-use proposals are being advanced incrementally without transparent disclosure.

1.4 Key Statutory Requirements

The SDF states that its implementation and monitoring framework should clearly indicate **how the plans** — including content, vision, goals, objectives, development proposals, procedures, and timeframes — will be **regularly communicated to the public**.

This is an important statutory principle. In public forums it is frequently asked how residents, and particularly new entrants to an area, are expected to know what developments are planned and what future land-use changes may affect them. From the wording above, it is clear that the responsibility rests with Overstrand Municipality to keep the public informed on an ongoing basis. The key requirement is not occasional communication, but **regular communication**.

Overstrand Municipality is therefore requested to provide a synopsis of how it has communicated these matters to the public, including:

- Notices regarding planned land-use changes and future development areas
- Public information sessions and meetings
- Updates to residents regarding amendments to the SDF, IDP, and housing strategies
- Communication specifically relating to Erf 210 and surrounding areas
- Measures taken to ensure new residents are informed of existing plans

Conclusion

There appears to be ongoing inconsistency between:

- The **SDF**
- The various **IDPs since 2019**
- The municipal **GIS records**

This is particularly evident regarding the zoning status of Erf 210 and the apparent plans associated with the property.

Erf 210 appears once again as a potential housing site, yet the intended form of housing remains unclear. Whether the proposal relates to **RDP housing, social housing, subsidised housing**, or another form of development has not been transparently communicated.

The stated municipal objective of promoting mixed race and mixed-income communities through spatial transformation is a matter requiring careful and transparent engagement with the public. Any such planning must be clearly explained, openly debated, and properly consulted upon.

Request for Immediate Public Participation

Overstrand Municipality is hereby requested to undertake an intensive and meaningful public participation process on this topic.

This should include a public education campaign explaining:

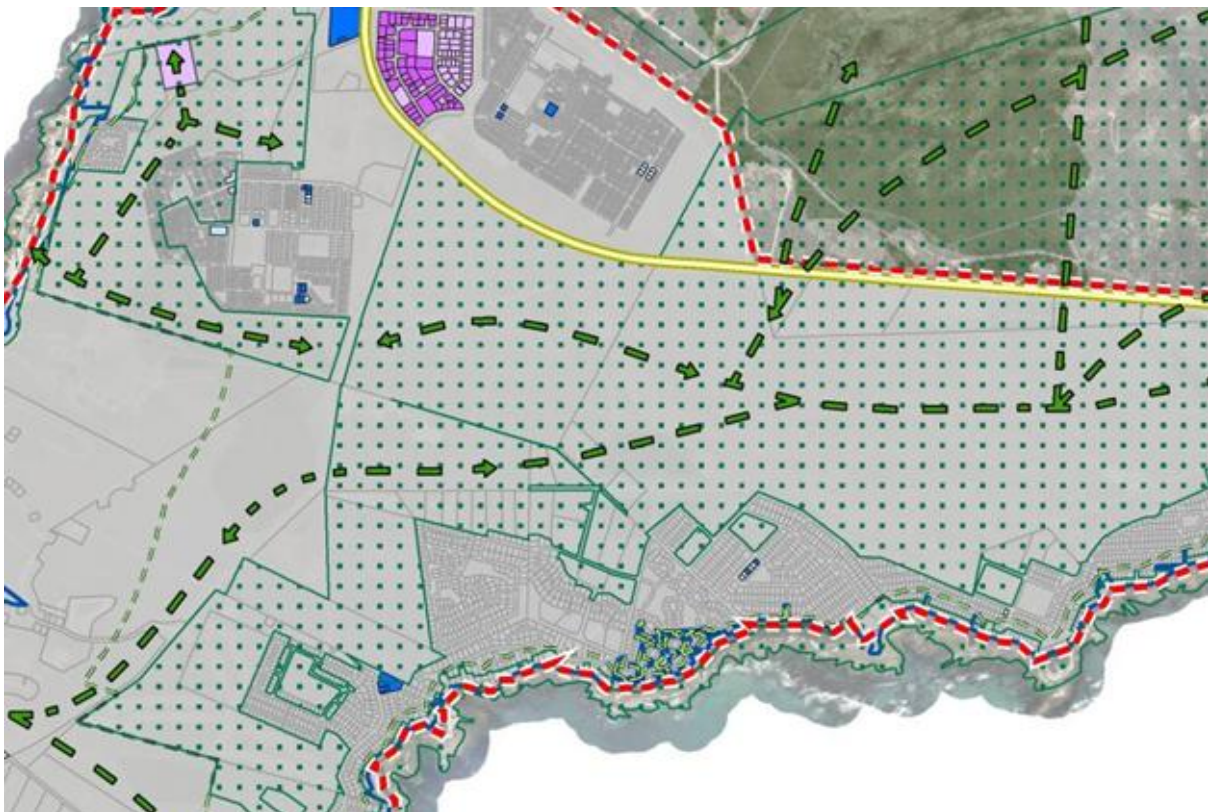
- The municipality's various planning instruments (SDF, IDP, Housing Strategy, GIS)
- The current status of Erf 210
- The differences between housing categories such as RDP, Social Housing, Subsidised Housing, and Restructuring Zones

- What residents can realistically expect from any future development
- Infrastructure, traffic, environmental, and social impacts of each housing model

Only through clear communication and genuine engagement can public confidence in the planning process be restored.

Municipality response:

The statement of the Kleinbaai Ratepayers Association in their letter dated 28 April 2026 pertaining to inconsistencies with the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), Integrated Development Framework (IDP) and Overstrand Municipal Growth Management Strategy



(OMGMS) is not correct. Reason being the SDF of 2006 & 2020 and the 2010 OMGMS earmark the remainder of Erf 210 for urban development purposes whilst also flagging the environmental sensitivities and the need for the provision of ecological corridors etc. Urban development purposes cover the full spectrum of urban development as well as all related housing options.

SDF 2020 – Gansbaai van Dyksbaai section, P224 (Indicating Gansbaai Erf 210 as Urban extension area, sensitive development area with provision of ecological corridors similar to the 2006 SDF and OMGMS attached)

The notion in the SDF of 2020 pertaining to no new development areas relates to the fact that as per the status quo report and the SDF, the urban edge has not been extended to include new development areas. In fact, a portion of land north of the R43 was excluded from the urban edge. Further the SDF quantifies the aforesaid by the statement that densification should be encouraged in accordance with the SDF to accommodate housing demand (SDF 2020, Key Land Use Proposals P221, paragraph 5.10.23 (iii)).

Further to be noted that the SDF and OMGMS does not confer development / zoning rights on a particular land unit. Thus the SDF and zoning maps will not necessary be consistent. The SDF and OMGMS is a forward planning document with the spatial planning vision for the municipal area opposed to zoning (with reference to the GIS zoning information) that confer development rights. I.e. to unlock the long-term planning vision for Erf 210, Gansbaai there will still be a planning application with public participation required. This will include applications in terms of Environmental and Heritage Legislation, if required.

Pertaining to housing provision it is to be noted that housing is a concurrent National and Provincial mandate in terms of The Constitution, with the municipality only an implementing agent following provincial funding approval. To obtain said funding to commence with the planning of such projects (i.e. appointment of consultants pertaining to engineering, planning, environmental, heritage and related consultants to conduct the relevant specialist studies) and submission of applications, these projects need to incorporate within the Municipal IDP. Thus, the future development of the said areas will be still subject to detailed application including public participation processed in terms of the legislative requirements (i.e. Planning By-Law, MSA, Nema etc).

Lastly pertaining to public participation, the SDF's of 2006 & 2020, OMGMS 2010 was subject to public participation in the media, via ward committee and public open days which in case of Gansbaai and Stanford had not been well attended.

The municipality is currently in the process to review the SDF, which will be subject to public participation and open days in the respective towns in the first quarter of 2027.

With regards to erf 210, Gansbaai

As stated in the draft IDP, additional land will have to be identified for future human settlement extension in the Gansbaai area. This would not only include various housing options but also economic, social and educational facilities as well as any other related land uses that may be required. To date, no specific location has been designated. Commencement of investigations is contingent upon directives regarding land identification through the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) process. Subsequent

to this, all pertinent planning policies, legislation and applicable environmental legislation will be rigorously adhered to throughout the due process.

Annexure 2

Ward 14 priorities progress 2017 to 2026 - errors and non-compliance

Priorities 2017 AS ADOPTED FOR THE 2022 TO 2026/7 CYCLE	Priorities 2026/27	
CCTV Cameras Many areas	CCTV Cameras, (Communal Sportsgrounds S4S), Safety Plan: Protection Services	
Testing Facility/Drivers License/Learners License	Testing Facility/ Drivers License/ Learners License & 3 staff members (in progress) - Completion of the vehicle testing centre	
Replacement/ refurbishment of vehicles/ plant equipment	Replacement/ refurbishment of vehicles/ plant equipment)	
Early Childhood Development facilities (Kleine Gansies etc)	Early Childhood Development facilities (Kleine Gansies etc)	
Roads Roads (Deteriorating road infrastructure)	I. Roads II. Roads (Deteriorating Road infrastructure) (all areas)	
Development of additional parking areas Kleinbaai	Development of additional parking areas	
Kleinbaai Slipway Boardwalk Kleinbaai Public Launching Site (Upgrading of Kleinbaai harbour)	I. Kleinbaai Public Launching Site (Upgrading of Kleinbaai harbour) II. Kleinbaai Slipway Boardwalk/ Road rehabilitation	
Upgrade Tidal pool area	Upgrade Tidal pool area. New Coastal Walkway from Kleinbaai Harbor to the end of the tidal pool - grass embankment	
Extension of sewerage reticulation (MIG)	Sewer Network Extension Extension of sewerage reticulation (MIG)	
Electricity (Upgrading of existing infrastructure)	Electricity (Upgrading of existing infrastructure) I. Electricity upgrade of Bulk II. Streetlights (all areas) III. Electricity: Network upgrade Birkenhead Smallholdings IV. Refurbishment of existing bulk infrastructure De Kelders Gansbaai	
Housing	Housing (IRDP & FLISP)	

Priorities 2017 AS ADOPTED FOR THE 2022 TO 2026/7 CYCLE	Priorities 2026/27	
Fencing of Municipal Offices		
Tertiary Education – Skills Development		
Safety Fencing (Municipal Offices/Library)		
Stormwater (Ad Hoc)		
Upgrading of tidal pool NOTE: not tidal pool area		
Expand clinic facility/ day hospital		
Rehabilitation Centre for homeless persons – Fully staffed and equipped)		
Upgrading/ beautification Entrance Kleinbaai		
Stormwater (Ad Hoc)		
Sport & recreation – skateboard park		
Tertiary Education – Skills Development		
Upgrade of municipal works yard		
Surfacing of gravel access road to landfill site		
Upgrade of Provincial Tar Road (R43) (between Hermanus & Gansbaai)		
	Extension of Blompark Community Hall	
	Blompark: Taxi Rank – Informal Business Hub	
	Danger Point Lighthouse: Development of tourism	
	Renewable energy (Solar Farm)	
	Construction of new sidewalks and street names	
	Expansion of existing cemetery	
	Bulk Water supply	
	Blompark Wheelie bins (100) for new houses in housing development	
	Traffic Calming	
	Change position of fencing - Caravan Park and Blompark Sportsgrounds	
	Gansbaai: Fencing of Farmers' Market	
	Blompark: Sportsground Pavilion / spectator seating	

In 2017 there were 25 identified priorities. These were carried over intact to the new 5 year cycle started in 2022.

Of these 11 are still on the list, i.e. incomplete after 10 years. Is there any point in keeping them as priorities?

Another 14 have disappeared, i.e. dropped or not shown as complete by means of strike through on the list.

Twelve new projects have appeared on the list. This can only happen by a justified urgent exchange with an existing project

It can be concluded that OM has lost control of the list management.

There were many requests for correction of the list during ward committee meetings. It can be concluded that this public participation effort was totally ignored.

It is thus requested that:

- The list be urgently reworked and subjected to public participation before approval of the IDP
- That the lists of the other wards be subjected to a similar evaluation.

Municipality response:

Throughout the five-year IDP cycle, ward priorities are reviewed annually by the ward committee and submitted to the public for comment. During these annual reviews, amendments to priorities may be proposed, as reflected in the list cited above. Where a priority is no longer considered a need, it may be replaced with another priority, which is also evident from the list referenced above. In addition, ward committees are encouraged during the annual review process to apply the guiding principles outlined below.

Some ward priorities fall outside the municipality's mandate and are the responsibility of national or provincial government. As a result, these needs may not be funded within the five-year IDP cycle. However, if such needs persist beyond the cycle, they should be retained in the IDP. This is important because if a ward need is not included in the IDP, it cannot be considered for funding—regardless of whether it falls under municipal, provincial, or national mandate.

Municipal Guiding principles for the priorities:

- I. Continuation of the methodology followed since 2017 for the IDP review process. - Confirmed
- II. Ward Committees to review and reprioritise their priorities.

III. Priority list should not increase. As priorities are addressed during the 5 year IDP cycle, the priority list should decrease. Not followed. There are now 10 priorities that did not exist in 2022. And also 6 from 2022 that have disappeared from the 2026/7 list. And the list has increased by 2.

IV. In reviewing this current needs list- If need already addressed or is no longer relevant use the strike through function, don't delete from list. None from 2022 are struck through, thus no progress shown.

We want to show progress over the 5 year IDP period.

V. Apply principle of substitution. Can substitute an urgent priority with an existing priority on the list. Urgent means – a need that arose to mitigate an existing service delivery challenge. Not substantiated

Underline the need to be replaced and then state the urgent need. Not evident

Comments from Jonathan Richards & Deidre Prout

Hi Chris,

Thank you for sharing the detailed documentation and follow-up.

I have reviewed the material carefully, including the issues raised regarding Erf 210, the IDP process, and the broader planning context.

From my side, I do not support the proposed expansion in its current form.

My position is based on concerns relating to process, planning alignment, and governance within the applicable municipal and administrative framework.

In particular:

- **Public Participation:** In terms of the Municipal Systems Act, municipalities are required to ensure meaningful and accessible public participation. Based on the information available, there are reasonable concerns that the level and effectiveness of participation may not meet this standard, particularly regarding communication reach and representation.
- **Process and Administrative Fairness:** While the IDP process is ongoing, decisions taken without sufficient clarity and engagement may become susceptible to review under the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act if adopted in their current form.
- **Clarity on Erf 210:** There appears to be insufficient publicly available detail regarding the intended use, zoning, and planning rationale for Erf 210. Proper disclosure is required to determine whether it aligns with current planning frameworks and whether it represents a continuation or modification of prior proposals.

• **Infrastructure and Capacity Constraints:** The municipality has acknowledged infrastructure limitations. Proceeding with expansion in the absence of clearly demonstrated capacity raises concerns regarding planning rationality and long-term sustainability.

• **Planning and Economic Alignment:** Development of this nature should be supported by clear alignment between infrastructure, service delivery capacity, and sustainable community outcomes. At present, that alignment is not sufficiently evident.

Based on the above, I believe it is reasonable to request:

- Full disclosure of planning, zoning, and infrastructure considerations relating to Erf 210
- Clear confirmation of alignment with the current IDP and Spatial Development Framework
- Strengthened and broader public participation before final adoption of relevant elements
- Further justification of how the proposal is supported from a planning and sustainability perspective

One point on which I would appreciate clarity from your side: it is not entirely clear from the process outlined whether individual property owners are expected to submit formal objections directly to Overstrand Municipality, or whether representation via organised bodies such as KBBV is considered sufficient within the public participation framework.

I will continue to follow developments and engage constructively, but I believe these matters should be addressed before any progression of the proposal.

#27

From: Pete Oxford

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 10:33

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. Page 136. In the *"NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT: Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges. Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves*

or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management."

This whole section has been struck through. Why? Where is the onus on residents to live the "lifestyle choice" as directed by the OM, including adherence to the waste management bylaws? This is ominous.

2. The note Page 137. *"In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay For all areas, plans are being put in place to acquire more staff, tools and training, post June 2026. More tools and staff will assist in improvement in keeping the baboons out of the urban area for more extended periods of time."*

The methodology used in Pringle Bay has caused MASSIVE public division. It should NOT be replicated in Betty's Bay. It is common knowledge that there is an extremely toxic rhetoric circulating in Pringle Bay due to the actions of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers baboon management partnership. Does OM intend to keep funding this program as is, while increasing pressure, thereby increasing the negative consequences, leading to complete anarchy? The community does not want it. It is ineffective and causes MORE problems. Even in Gary Beukman's OWN words the situation is getting worse. There are more house entries (increasing), more baboon deaths, more public division. Both 'anti' and 'pro' baboon lobbies AGREE. Therefore the methods employed by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers are not working. In the two years of their operation so far there should naturally be a trend to show improvement, not a worsening. There is an overwhelming community sense of a bloody-minded resistance on their part to ignore the actual evidence of their actions on the ground. I speak from a vast, in-depth knowledge base and as a resident of Betty's Bay.

Gary's chasing of baboons causes the troop to split, resulting in a very random occurrence in the urban area, leading to heightened community frustrations. We do NOT accept our rate-payers funds being used to cause further problems for our community. The methods used are not working and cannot be considered a justified expense.

Regarding 'more staff'. Every Thursday there are twice the number of OM monitors on duty in Betty's Bay and beyond. Thursdays are most usually the WORST days for baboon incursions and house entries. This is direct evidence that the request for 'more staff' does not result in better 'management'.

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This whole section has been struck through. A thorough 'review' of the current management plan MUST include input from those Betty's Bay residents invested in a knowledge-based understanding of the Betty's Bay and Silversands troops. This 'review' cannot be conducted from within the OM only, who are operating with complete impunity, ignoring a large swath of Betty's Bay resident's evidence as to the folly of the plan. There has so far, NOT been a 'public participation process', as stated that there will be in the IDP. This is none transparent. How can the IDP state there will be such a process if the closing date for public comment is tomorrow but it has not yet occurred?

4. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? What are the KPI's? How is 'success' measured to justify more funds and an increase in 'tools', which include paintball guns (thereby leading to an increase in baboon 'problems'/incursions? What argument is being told by Beukman/de Villiers to their superiors to justify this? Why has the enormous amount of knowledge-based community evidence by residents from Betty's Bay been COMPLETELY IGNORED? Why does the OM IDP not consider it valid to hear 'both sides'?

If this Beukman/de Villiers funding, to increase aggression against baboons, is granted, the result will be massive community divide, akin to Pringle Bay. A result to be avoided at all costs by any governing body.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including

paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town's Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme. The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide

greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

#28

From: J Hansen

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 11:24

Subject: 2026/7 OM IDP budget

I am a resident in Betty's Bay and strongly object to the failing baboon management in our area. It is overseen by managers who are rarely here and do not see the daily chaos they are creating by aggressively chasing baboons into town. There is a noticeable downhill trajectory since Gary Beukman started his adaptive management plan. He claims baboons will eventually learn to fear his toolbox and untrained monitors. We have seen this fail before, paying heavily for his previous employer's failing management.

There is no oversight of his programme. I believe that he is actively dividing the community to gain support to keep his job. He and his team, with no experience in primate behaviour, are asking for more of our money.

My family and I say no to the environmental department's programme for baboons in this budget.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term "adaptive management" refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management

interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme. The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

Your comments have been noted.

#29

From: Sandy Immelman

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 12:30

Subject: Draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

It is with great concern that I have become aware that OM is proposing that "necessary management tools" - akin to those being used (unsuccessfully) in Pringle Bay - be used on baboons in Betty's Bay.

We have seen what a negative impact this has had on the baboons as well as the residents in Pringle Bay and I most strongly object to this happening.

A thorough 'review' of the current management plan and the proposed adjustments must include input from those Betty's Bay residents with an understanding of our Betty's Bay and Silversands troops.

Please note that I am opposed to the amendments suggested, as well the additional money that this is indicated to require, in the draft and would appreciate written acknowledgement that this has been received.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

Baboons are widely recognised as one of the most adaptable and opportunistic wildlife species, which makes their management particularly complex across the world. Within the Overstrand Municipality, the approach to baboon management has developed progressively over many years in response to growing human–wildlife interactions.

Conflicts between people and baboons in areas such as Hermanus, Voëlklip, Onrus and Betty's Bay have been documented since at least the late 1980s. During this earlier period, responses were largely reactive in nature, with interventions implemented on an ad hoc basis by the Municipality and CapeNature, depending on specific incidents as they arose.

As urban development expanded along the Overstrand coastline, the frequency and intensity of baboon incursions into residential areas increased. In response, the Municipality began introducing more structured management measures in the early 2000s. These included the deployment of baboon monitors, improvements in waste management practices, and initiatives aimed at raising public awareness around responsible behaviour in baboon-affected areas.

From approximately 2017 onwards, baboon management shifted towards a more coordinated and strategic framework. This included the development of formal management plans and operational protocols, the appointment of contracted service providers to assist with monitoring, and closer alignment with provincial strategies and environmental legislation governing biodiversity conservation.

Although baboon management is not a new function within the Overstrand, it has become increasingly demanding. A range of factors have contributed to this, including rising baboon numbers, particularly in areas adjacent to the urban edge, legal constraints around the use of deterrent measures, and growing habituation of certain troops to food sourced from human environments. Additional pressures stem from inadequate waste

management practices, the absence of baboon-proof infrastructure (such as bins and residential properties), and behaviours by residents, businesses, and landowners that unintentionally attract baboons.

These conditions have had significant consequences for both the baboons and the community. For baboons, increased reliance on anthropogenic food sources has negatively affected their health and behaviour, while exposure to risks such as vehicle collisions, attacks by dogs, and illegal killing (including poisoning and shooting) has further compromised their welfare. For residents, frequent incursions have resulted in property damage, affecting roofs, gutters, windows, and solar installations, as well as increased conflict with pets and growing divisions within communities regarding appropriate management responses.

The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) was developed in 2019 following a formal Compactum Agreement between the Overstrand Municipality, CapeNature, and the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP). This plan, which has since been extended to June 2026, aims to ensure the long-term, sustainable management of baboon populations, with a key objective being to reduce their presence within urban areas.

At its core, the challenge arises from the fact that baboons and humans compete for the same productive, low-lying landscapes, areas that have largely been transformed into urban settlements. This overlap has resulted in negative outcomes for both species, including escalating management costs, declining baboon welfare, increasingly negative public perceptions, and heightened social tensions within affected communities.

To date, effective management has also been constrained by factors such as unclear institutional mandates, ongoing legal challenges, external pressures from advocacy groups, and limited financial resources. In light of these challenges, it is essential that the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan undergoes a comprehensive review.

The revision process, scheduled to commence in the 2026/2027 financial year, will incorporate updated scientific research, best practice approaches, and specialist input. Importantly, it will also include a public participation process. The revised plan will further introduce detailed, area-specific action plans tailored to individual towns and baboon troops, ensuring a balanced approach that considers the wellbeing of both baboons and people, while addressing the broader social, economic, and environmental realities of managed coexistence.

#30

From: Lucille Van Jaarsveldt**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 April 2026 12:51**Subject:** Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

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The methodology used in Pringle Bay has caused MASSIVE public division. It should NOT be replicated in Betty's Bay. It is common knowledge that there is an extremely toxic rhetoric circulating in Pringle Bay due to the actions of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers baboon management partnership. Does OM intend to keep funding this program as is, while increasing pressure, thereby increasing the negative consequences, leading to complete anarchy? The community does not want it. It is ineffective and causes MORE problems. Even in Gary Beukman's OWN words the situation is getting worse. There are more house entries (increasing), more baboon deaths, more public division. Both 'anti' and 'pro' baboon lobbies AGREE. Therefore the methods employed by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers are not working. In the two years of their operation so far there should naturally be a trend to show improvement, not a worsening. There is an overwhelming community sense of a bloody-minded resistance on their part to ignore

the actual evidence of their actions on the ground. I speak from a vast, in-depth knowledge base and as a resident of Betty's Bay.

Gary's chasing of baboons causes the troop to split, resulting in a very random occurrence in the urban area, leading to heightened community frustrations. We do NOT accept our rate-payers funds being used to cause further problems for our community. The methods used are not working and cannot be considered a justified expense.

Regarding 'more staff'. Every Thursday there are twice the number of OM monitors on duty in Betty's Bay and beyond. Thursdays are most usually the WORST days for baboon incursions and house entries. This is direct evidence that the request for 'more staff' does not result in better 'management'.

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4. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? What are the KPI's? How is 'success' measured to justify more funds and an increase in 'tools', which include paintball guns (thereby leading to an increase in baboon 'problems'/incursions? What argument is being told by Beukman/de Villiers to their superiors to justify this? Why has the enormous amount of knowledge-based community evidence by residents from Betty's Bay been COMPLETELY IGNORED? Why does the OM IDP not consider it valid to hear 'both sides'?

If this Beukman/de Villiers funding, to increase aggression against baboons, is granted, the result will be massive community divide, akin to Pringle Bay. A result to be avoided at all costs by any governing body.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations

of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance. The current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is specifically intended to assess the effectiveness of existing management approaches, operational structures, reporting mechanisms, governance processes, budget allocations, and measurable outcomes associated with the programme. The review will further include specialist input, updated scientific information, and a structured public participation process, which will provide greater clarity on programme performance, successes, challenges, and future requirements moving forward.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town’s Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#31

From: Sunel V

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 12:57

Subject: Comments on Draft 2026/7 OM IDP Budget – Baboon Management (Betty's Bay)

I am writing to formally express my strong objection to the proposed approach to baboon management for Betty's Bay as outlined in the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget.

Based on both the information presented and the observed outcomes in Pringle Bay, the proposed expansion of funding, staffing, and the use of tools such as paintball guns does not represent an evidence-based or effective strategy.

On the contrary, there is substantial on-the-ground evidence that these methods have contributed to increased instability within baboon troops, higher rates of house incursions, and growing conflict within communities.

The assertion that adopting the same methods used in Pringle Bay will improve outcomes in Betty's Bay is not supported by results.

Current conditions in Pringle Bay—characterised by increased troop fragmentation, elevated stress behaviours in baboons, more frequent incursions, and significant public division—indicate that this model is not achieving its intended objectives.

Key concerns:

- **Lack of scientific grounding:** The methods being implemented appear to rely on reactive deterrence rather than established ecological and behavioural management principles.
- **Counterproductive outcomes:** Chasing and aggressive deterrence disrupt troop cohesion, which is known to increase unpredictable movement patterns and urban incursions - ***this almost guaranteed if baboons do not have adequate time to forage in peace.***
- **Escalation of conflict:** Increased use of force-based tools risks worsening both animal welfare outcomes and community tensions.
- **Absence of measurable success metrics:** There is no clear framework outlining how “success” is defined, tracked, or evaluated in relation to increased funding and resources.
- **Disregard for community input:** A significant body of informed, experience-based feedback from Betty's Bay residents appears to have been overlooked.

In addition, I request clarity on compliance and oversight:

- What verifiable proof is there that monitors have been adequately trained and are consistently operating in accordance with CapeNature's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), particularly regarding the use of paintball markers or any other deterrent tools?
- What monitoring, reporting, and accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure these SOPs are followed in practice?

Furthermore, the framing of baboon presence as a “lifestyle choice” for residents is concerning. While living near natural areas does require responsible waste management and preventative measures, this does not justify the implementation of ineffective or potentially harmful management strategies.

Before any increase in funding or expansion of current methods is approved, I strongly recommend:

1. A transparent, independent review of the current baboon management approach and its outcomes.
2. Inclusion of residents with demonstrated, long-term experience and knowledge of local troop behaviour in the review process.
3. Clear definition of KPIs and accountability measures tied to any proposed budget increases.

4. Consideration of alternative, science-based strategies focused on habitat management, waste control, and non-invasive behavioural interventions.

At present, the proposed plan risks replicating a model that has already demonstrated significant shortcomings, with potentially severe consequences for both the baboon population and the Betty's Bay community.

I request written acknowledgement of these concerns and clarification on how community input will be meaningfully incorporated before final decisions are made.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#32

From: Heleen Mills

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:07

Subject: Bettys bay baboons

Good day, I am a permanent resident of Bettys bay and a Homeowner and is totally against the new baboon management policy. The chasing up mountains, shooting of paintball guns and aggressive tactics are not working, only making matters far worse. The troop split, scatter in all directions. Monitors cannot keep up. There are many more house invasions lately because no warning of lone baboons moving through. They have also started to get on roofs much more lately since the shooting started. They are not left in peace to forage so are actively looking for high energy food which lead to house invasions. If you want to spend money in a helpful way spend it on educating people, making sure they have baboon proof bins and covered compost heaps and also ensure that guesthouse owners or managers inform their guests about proper protocols regarding these matters. We really don't appreciate or want the management plan that is implemented at this stage. We all know that we live in a biosphere alongside wildlife. The onus is on humans to act better. I have never had any problems with the baboons even though they visit my yard often enough. They forage and move through. I really is not difficult.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#33

From: Snare Slayers**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:11**Subject:** Concern Regarding Evidence and Approach – Baboon Management (Draft 2026/7 IDP)

I would like to raise a focused concern regarding the scientific basis being used to justify the proposed baboon management approach for Betty's Bay.

The methods being promoted—particularly the use of paintball markers and fear-based deterrence—are being presented as “science-based.”

However, the research often cited in support of these methods is not robust: it lacks independent peer review and carries clear conflicts of interest. This does not meet a credible standard for evidence-based policy.

More importantly, there is strong, real-world evidence that contradicts this approach. The CT2 troop in Cape Town and the Seaforth troop in Simon's Town were both managed successfully for extended periods **without** the use of pain-aversion or fear-based tools. These approaches resulted in calmer troops, more predictable behaviour, and effective reduction of time spent in urban areas.

By contrast, the current model—based on chasing and repeated deterrence—appears to:

- Increase stress and disrupt natural foraging behaviour
- Drive more opportunistic and aggressive incursions
- Fragment troops and create instability.

This raises a fundamental concern: **a scientific approach requires adaptation when outcomes do not align with expectations.**

Continuing to apply the same methods despite clear evidence of failure—and ignoring more successful alternatives—does not reflect a scientific process.

Academic qualifications alone are not a substitute for evidence-based decision-making. The current trajectory suggests a reliance on a fixed method rather than an adaptive, outcome-driven approach.

I strongly urge the municipality to:

- Reassess the evidence being used to justify current methods
- Consider proven, local alternatives such as those applied to CT2 and Seaforth

- Ensure that future decisions are guided by measurable outcomes, not assumptions.

We would like to understand what process the municipality is following to evaluate whether current methods are delivering the intended results, and how alternative, locally proven approaches are being assessed within that process.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#34

From: Johan & Hettie Visser

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:24

Subject: Insette oor voorgestelde bobbejaanbestuur – Betty's Bay (Konsep IDP 2026/7)

Ek wil graag my kommer uitspreek oor die rigting wat voorgestel word vir bobbejaanbestuur in Bettiesbaai.

Wat vir my uitstaan, is dat daar sterk gesteun word op 'n enkele benadering wat as “wetenskaplik” voorgelê word, terwyl daar duidelike voorbeelde in die Wes-Kaap is waar 'n ander, diervriendelike metode beter resultate gelewer het.

Die CT2-troep in Kaapstad en die Seaforth-troep in Simonstad is vir lang tydperke suksesvol bestuur sonder die gebruik van vergewere of soortgelyke afskrikmiddels.

Hierdie troppe was merkbaar rustiger en makliker om te bestuur.

In Betty's Bay en Pringle Bay sien ons egter die teenoorgestelde tendens. Waar bobbejane konstant gejaag of afgeskrik word, raak hul gedrag meer onvoorspelbaar.

Hulle spandeer minder tyd om natuurlik kos te soek en begin dan logieserwys staatmaak op vinnige, hoë-energie kosbronne in die dorp. Dit skep 'n siklus van meer indringings en groter konflik.

Ek is ook ongemaklik met die vlak van hardhandigheid wat met hierdie metode gepaard gaan.

Deurlopende blootstelling aan vrees- en pyngbaseerde afskrikmiddels plaas diere onder konstante stres, en dit behoort ernstig oorweeg te word of dit regverdigbaar is—veral as daar reeds plaaslike voorbeelde van meer effektiewe en minder skadelike bestuur bestaan.

Verder laat dit vrae ontstaan oor hoe besluite geneem word.

'n Titel of graad behoort nie die enigste maatstaf te wees nie.

'n Werkbare benadering behoort gemeet te word aan werklike uitkomst, en waar ander metodes beter werk, behoort dit ernstig oorweeg te word.

Ek hoop dat hierdie punte in ag geneem sal word wanneer finale besluite geneem word.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions,

environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#35

From: Linda McDermott

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:38

Subject: IDP Draft Budget

It has come to my attention that OM proposes to increase the budget for baboon management in Betty's Bay, with the inclusion of paint ball guns and more monitors.

I absolutely and totally disagree with this.

The increased aggression with the baboon management style under Gary Beukman does not work. There have been more house incursions, the troop has been totally split up and does not move as a troop anymore and this has caused huge stress in the troop. Because the troop is so spread out, we do not get ample warning when they are in our area. It is also very cruel. And all this because of Gary's intransigence and not being able to see that maybe he is wrong.

This practice employed by Gary in Pringle Bay has proved to be a disaster. Relationships between members of the community Pringle are extremely toxic now. We do not need this situation to arise in Bettys Bay.

Things were working very well up to the end of last year. The troop moved together and we got ample warning when they were in our area. Then, this new method of "keeping the line" was implemented ... and it doesn't work.

I also find it very interesting how it is the same people, time after time, that have incursions. Do they not know how to baboon proof their houses?

To spend ratepayer money on a system that does not work and has never worked is ludicrous.

Please would you acknowledge the receipt of my email.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term "adaptive management" refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management

interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#36

From: Marelize Smith

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:41

Subject: Comment on draft OM IDP budget

As a resident of Betty's Bay I highly object to baboon monitors with paintball guns , and inhumane uninformed methods, to manage our baboons. Please do not budget for that on our behalf.

We most certainly do not want the same cruelty and mess and lack of respect for the troop as practiced in Pringle Bay.

We value, respect and cherish all life in our village.

Please acknowledge receipt of my objection in writing.

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#37

From: Jane Rosenthal

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 13:56

Subject: Objection/comment on draft IDP budget (specifically more funding in 2026 to manage baboon -human co-existence in Betty's Bay)

RE: proposed funding for materials and more staff for Betty's Bay baboon "management" programme (devised by Beukman/de Villiers).

I strongly object to the current practices being implemented by Gary Beukman who supervises the teams of monitors. This includes:

- chasing and harrassing baboons, including pregnant females, mothers with newborns, juveniles
- chasing baboons on the mountains
- harassing baboons so they cannot forage in peace
- splitting up groups and families.
- the use of paintball guns and gel blasters
- training monitors to be aggressive and hostile to the baboons (some)

These practices are inhumane, likely to destroy baboon troops in this Unesco Biosphere reserve. This is the considered opinion of primate scientists (other than Mr G Beukman).

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOCATE RATEPAYERS' MUNICIPAL MONIES TO FUND THIS UNACCEPTABLE PROGRAMME.

No rates to be used for paintball guns, gel blasters and such anti-baboon weaponry. Only vuvuzelas, flags, monitors' salaries, uniforms and transport to be funded.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email objection.

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#38

From: Fanie Fourie

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:00

Subject: Budget for Baboon Management- Non agreement with OM plans

Please note that as a permanent resident in Betty's Bay since 2012 we are NOT in agreement to increase OM's budget for additional monitors and especially for the purchase of more air guns.

The first thing we did when we had a few baboon incursions in 2012 was to baboon proof all our doors, windows and rubbish bin and since then have had NO problem with the baboons visiting us and foraging in our garden as long as the vuvuzela and our baboon action whatsapp group warn us timeously.

The current method of splitting up the baboons troops and harassing them at their sleep sites with air guns IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE - it just creates more havoc in our residential areas and makes them uncontrollable as they are all over the area.

Rather spend the baboon control budget to support the residents to ensure that their homes are properly baboon proofed AND that each home has a baboon proof rubbish bin - as done by COCT in the baboon living areas.

The current shooting at baboons with gel pellets guns is also TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, specially as the current UNTRAINED monitors shoot INDISCRIMINATELY at the small and infant baboons splitting up the troops and thus unnecessary injuring the small ones in these troops.

An unharassed troop are much more claaam, non destructive and controllable than the current split-up 2 and 3 baboons running around indiscriminately all over our suburb.

Please employ more knowledgeable persons in you environmental department AS the current management team has NO PROPER KNOWLEDGE of baboon troops, their behaviour and cohesion requirements which is very evident to us residents.

Thus if your home and rubbish bin is baboon proof, quite cohesive baboon troops ARE NOT A PROBLEM.

Your baboon action line is useless, the environmental management responsible for the baboons SHOULD RATHER LOG into BB's whatsapp baboon groups to see what is happening on the ground and where necessary get the monitors to act accordingly.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict

management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#39

From: Ken Briggs

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:06

Subject: Hermanus Ratepayers Association - Comment on IDP



Hermanus Ratepayers Association Comments on the

Overstrand Municipality (OM) Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2026/2027

30 April 2026

Overstrand Municipality (OM) tabled a draft 2026 version of their Integrated Development Plan (IDP). It is understood that this is a 5-year plan, and the first version was drafted in 2022. The plan being annually updated through introducing revisions as necessary. This document provides that the comments of Hermanus Ratepayers Association (HRA) on the draft for the 26/27 financial year.

As a point of departure it is prudent to confirm and reflect on the fundamentals of the IDP, the context in which it is developed.

What is the purpose of the IDP in South Africa?

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) in South Africa serves as a strategic framework for local government planning and development, **aiming to improve the quality of life for all residents.**

It outlines strategies for managing municipal finances and facilitates essential service provision, infrastructural development, and disaster management. IDPs also aim to coordinate the work of local and other spheres of government in a cohesive manner.

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Embarking on a new approach :

We find the process somewhat repetitive with relatively few updates during the 5-year cycle. However, Overstrand, like other areas in the Western Cape, are experiencing substantial growth and changes to the demographics. It is essential to regularly revisit the vision and plans. The current approach to deal with this planning later in the budget cycle is not optimal.

In response to these concerns the HRA has focussed its efforts on a new approach based on ensuring ongoing constructive engagement with OM. It also entails the introduction of a platform for strategic engagement. In this regard, in addition to participating in the Ward Committee IDP processes, the HRA adopted a process of engaging the OM at both the executive and operational levels on a ongoing basis during the year. The objective is to ensure improved responses to ratepayers needs - most notably during our monthly meetings with the MM. We believe these constructive engagements have had success and should in future have an increasing influence on both the IDP and budgets.

In our comment on the 25/26 IDP, we proposed that a strategic planning session be held much earlier, in the 3rd term of the previous year (e.g. August 2025), thoroughly covering

a term of at least 5 years ahead. We stressed that there are residents with superb strategic planning skills in Overstrand, and we proposed that a few of them be invited to participate in such planning session as proposed above.

After a lengthy process we finally had a first strategic planning session prior the finalisation of this budget. This was initiated with small delegation representing Hermanus Ratepayers Association (HRA) the Hermanus Business Chamber (HBC), and Overstrand Community Action Network (OCAN), who met with the Senior Executive Team from Overstrand Municipality. OM was represented by senior managers from Infrastructure, Corporate and Finance Services directorates, who were led by the Municipal Manager. The meeting took place on 19 March 2026 and was independently facilitated.

The HRA introduced the process by stating that the current annual IDP and Budget processes were not conducive to optimal community participation. The concern was highlighted that the comment period was merely viewed as a regulatory exercise. The ideal position would be where selected members of the community could give input at an early stage of the annual municipal planning process. To give effect to the preliminary discussions the following OM risk items were highlighted:

1. Upgrade of Infrastructure.
2. Increasing population influx and the related pressure on basic municipal services such as water, electricity, safety and cleanliness.
3. Local economic development not creating sufficient job opportunities and growth for local businesses.
4. Recruitment and Retention of competent and experienced staff to manage the existing complex and often restrictive Municipal regulatory framework whilst delivering first class service to the Overstrand residents.
5. Insufficient focus on the future financial sustainability models for the Overstrand Municipality. This include exploring additional income streams and more innovative and cost-effective service methods.

The sentiment during these discussions was that a constructive dialogue was an imperative condition for these stakeholders initiatives to succeed. All present acknowledged that the Overstrand is far from a failed Municipality. On the contrary, it is one of the better run Municipalities not only in South Africa, but in the Western Cape. There are however real risks and threats to this status, and it is therefore imperative that stakeholders commit to holding each other accountable to maintain those optimal service delivery standards and improve on areas of service delivery that are sub-standard.

In respect of the IDP it was noted that it is currently based on a 5-year outlook and that to properly achieve a robust IDP, it would be wise to apply a longer horizon to some of the aspects.

In conclusion, this session was held late in the IDP/Budget planning cycles and as such had no direct Impact into the current draft budget and IDP, However, more importantly it has established a platform for ongoing interaction to ensure greater and effective community input into future OM strategic planning. In this regard OM welcomed this initiative and agreed to continue with the constructive dialogue process in understanding the strategic priorities and needs in the future.

As invested Hermanus ratepayers, we are convinced that this approach of constructive strategic engagement initiated in will yield a more comprehensive strategy and will allow for more inclusivity. This will bring a fresh new approach to the process and will be much more effective than just capturing some comments many months later.

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Our comments on the proposed 2026/27 IDP

In context of the points raised in the preceding paragraphs the HRA has declined from detailing any comprehensive or specific commentary on the IDP, as it has already raised its concerns and inputs in its ongoing engagements with the municipality.

Within this context the following general comments to the IDP chapters are noted, many of which were raised in the 25/26 IDP review process, but remain relevant.

CHAPTER 2: STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

a. Strategic objectives

It is noted that the 5 Strategic Objectives are retained. We want to highlight 2 of the 5 strategic objectives

- The encouragement of structured community participation in the matters of the municipality

In this instance we feel that OSM must draw much more on the skill pool available amongst the ratepayers. This can be coordinated via organisations such as HRA.

- The promotion of tourism, economic and social development.

Both are very important but require more attention. Well qualified staff must be allocated to very important portfolios such as tourism en local economic development.

Extensive effort in LED is required to respond to the ever-increasing employment demands due to the projected growth in latter wards.

CHAPTER 3: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS PER NATIONAL KPA'S

Top management Team structure must be reviewed. There is an Imbalance if compared to the actual needs. Refer to Chapter 5 below, which sets out the current directorates.

CHAPTER 4: STRATEGIC DIRECTIVES

This is the most comprehensive section and is by far the best updated for 2026/2027. It covers, in quite good detail, the 5 Key Areas that are guiding the planning of OM. However, through scrutinising these KPAs, it is also possible to track where OM is understaffed, e.g. in Local Economic Development (LED) and Environmental Management Services (EMS). It would be good if OM can inform the ratepayers, on a regular basis, about their progress on these programmes and

CHAPTER 5: FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

A point of concern is that there are several important positions that have remained vacant for quite a while. It's essential that these be filled without delay to ensure proper functioning of the relevant directorates. An example is:

Strategic objective 5: Promotion of tourism, economic and social development

These are very important sectors but are unfortunately totally understaffed in OM. It needs urgent attention and a fresh focus to ensure that this objective will be met successfully.

CHAPTER 6: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

It is advised that OM share their service delivery commitments and agreements with the ratepayers more regularly via various media platforms.

A more specific item:

Tanker Services for sewage disposal

The lack of water borne sewage disposal results in unnecessary financial and environment impacts for the residents. It is proposed that the planning and budgeting for elimination of this practice be given much higher priority.

Nothing noted about this item under OM's service level agreements in this IDP?

CHAPTER 7: GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND DIRECTIVE

Sustainable Development Goals: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The OM response to these goals is broadly supported, but there is a concern that there is insufficient capacity and/or focus on addressing the following goals:

- Creation of an environment conducive for LED.
- Promote and support entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Promote Investment in high production sectors.
- Commit to the process of Red Tape reduction for the ease of doing business.
- Implement- Cost and Ease of doing business principles

CHAPTER 8: OVERSTRAND SERVICE ORIENTED SECTOR PLANS – HIGH LEVEL SUMMARIES

Not much about the Strategic Environmental Management Framework. The pristine environmental elements in the Overstrand Region are major fundamental assets for OM and require more focus and attention in this document. The Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) for the Fernkloof Nature Reserve (FNR) was completed in 2024, but is unfortunately still a very broad document lacking specifics and like many of these plans, it is not user-friendly.

CHAPTER 9: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A definition that indicates the importance of LED.

This current LED chapter is comprehensive and contains many parts. However, it will require a skilful team to coordinate and manage its implementation successfully. We contend that the current structure does not provide the required capacity to give effect to the intent. It is essential that OM give prominence to this portfolio and appoint staff that can lead and coordinate sustainable LED for the region.

CHAPTER 10: REVIEWED MUNICIPAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (MSDF)

The current MSDF was adopted in 2020 and requires an update. It is noted that a service provider was appointed for the amendment of this MSDF and that the amendment will be subject to public participation. The MSDF is an extensive and important part of the municipal planning process and needs separate attention. The MTEF also requires upgrading.

#40

From: David Rosenthal

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:09

Subject: "Baboon Management"

I wish to add my expression of concern about the direction the Overstrand Municipality is veering in following the Beukman/die Villiers methodology of baboon management.

Einstein is alleged to have said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a change in the result. Beukman and his supporters admit that the current methods are not delivering the desired result - we should not continue to support them unless we are hell bent in demonstrating our insanity.

The current methods are counterproductive and are offensive to the sensibilities of residents who are empathetic with the suffering of our fellow primates. OM should

consider that "management" is a concept that applies to humans - attempts at managing baboons are almost certain to fail - people should be managed and educated to co-exist with the wildlife with whom we have chosen to share our living space.

Beukman, despite his master's degree, is not the absolute authority on this topic - please give other knowledgeable people the opportunity to steer us away from his inhumane attitudes.

Please do not allocate any ratepayer money to support counter-effective and inhumane attitudes and practices as advocated by Beukman and Dr Villiers.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#41

From: Masha-Lee Boshoff

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:17

Subject: Buffeljagsbaai / Comments

Please find attached- PDF document

Comment on the Municipal IDP draft

Housing: Firstly, everyone knows that housing is a necessity. The Buffeljagsbaai community has been waiting for housing for more or less thirty years. This need has been emphasised many times, and a lot of communication regarding this issue has taken place, but nothing is being done about it. IN BUFFELJAGSBAAI, PEOPLE LIVE HERE, NOT A BUNCH OF ANIMALS!! Winter is upon us, and here we still sit with wooden shacks, roofs that leak, rainwater that comes in, and roofs that are blown off in the stormy weather. Still, nothing is being done about it. We ask, please give us our homes.

Youth: Job creation for our young people.
Programs for the youth.

Community hall: Please do something about our hall. Kitchen equipment has already been purchased for the community hall, but the hall is still in a terrible condition after work in the hall was halted.

Support for our small fishing community during winter times will be greatly appreciated.

Pay attention to all the listed projects that have already been submitted. It is high time that the Overstrand municipality steps up in our community. I also urge our councillor and everyone involved to communicate with the people in his ward before proceeding with projects. Most of the time, the community is not aware of things that are happening or are supposed to happen in their community.

With thanks

Municipality response:

Housing

Buffeljagsbaai forms part of Ward 11 in the Overstrand Municipality, and the revised Ward 11 priorities include the needs of the Buffeljagsbaai community. Housing has been identified as Priority 3 for the community in the revised Ward 11 priority list contained in the IDP.

The Municipality has submitted an application to the Provincial Department of Infrastructure for pre-planning funding and is currently awaiting a decision. Provision for pre-planning funding has been included in the draft 2026/2027 budget and is also reflected in the five-year housing plan contained in the draft IDP. However, funding can only be secured once pre-planning approval has been granted by the Provincial Department. This process has been communicated to the community on several occasions.

In terms of the Constitution, housing provision is a concurrent National and Provincial government mandate, with the Municipality acting only as the implementing agent once provincial funding approval has been obtained.

Community hall

The maintenance of the hall is done in phases due to the magnitude of the work. The interior is still required; we first want to secure the facility as we request council to allocate funding for us to fence during 2026/2027 financial year. Fencing will be phase 2 of the upgrades.

Job creation for the youth

Job creation is not the municipality function. Our role is to create an enabling environment that attracts investment and supports job creation within the municipal area.

#42

From: Stefanie Myburgh

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:17

Subject: Fwd: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. Page 136. In the "NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT: Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon

home ranges. Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management.”

This whole section has been struck through. Why? Where is the onus on residents to live the “lifestyle choice” as directed by the OM, including adherence to the waste management bylaws? This is ominous.

2. The note Page 137. "In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay For all areas, plans are being put in place to acquire more staff, tools and training, post June 2026. More tools and staff will assist in improvement in keeping the baboons out of the urban area for more extended periods of time."

The methodology used in Pringle Bay has caused MASSIVE public division. It should NOT be replicated in Betty's Bay. It is common knowledge that there is an extremely toxic rhetoric circulating in Pringle Bay due to the actions of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers baboon management partnership. Does OM intend to keep funding this program as is, while increasing pressure, thereby increasing the negative consequences, leading to complete anarchy? The community does not want it. It is ineffective and causes MORE problems. Even in Gary Beukman's OWN words the situation is getting worse. There are more house entries (increasing), more baboon deaths, more public division. Both 'anti' and 'pro' baboon lobbies AGREE. Therefore the methods employed by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers are not working. In the two years of their operation so far there should naturally be a trend to show improvement, not a worsening. There is an overwhelming community sense of a bloody-minded resistance on their part to ignore the actual evidence of their actions on the ground. I speak from a vast, in-depth knowledge base and as a resident of Betty's Bay.

Gary's chasing of baboons causes the troop to split, resulting in a very random occurrence in the urban area, leading to heightened community frustrations. We do NOT accept our rate-payers funds being used to cause further problems for our community. The methods used are not working and cannot be considered a justified expense.

Regarding 'more staff'. Every Thursday there are twice the number of OM monitors on duty in Betty's Bay and beyond. Thursdays are most usually the WORST days for baboon incursions and house entries. This is direct evidence that the request for 'more staff' does not result in better 'management'.

3. Page 137. "There is currently a baboon management plan that Minister Bredell extended until January 2026. During this time, the OM will review the current management plan for implementation after January 2026. The review will entail a public participation process. Council budgeted for the implementation of the baboon management plan."

This whole section has been struck through. A thorough 'review' of the current management plan MUST include input from those Betty's Bay residents invested in a knowledge-based understanding of the Betty's Bay and Silversands troops. This 'review' cannot be conducted from within the OM only, who are operating with complete impunity, ignoring a large swath of Betty's Bay resident's evidence as to the folly of the plan. There has so far, NOT been a 'public participation process', as stated that there will be in the IDP. This is none transparent. How can the IDP state there will be such a process if the closing date for public comment is tomorrow but it has not yet occurred?

4. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? What are the KPI's? How is 'success' measured to justify more funds and an increase in 'tools', which include paintball guns (thereby leading to an increase in baboon 'problems'/incursions? What argument is being told by Beukman/de Villiers to their superiors to justify this? Why has the enormous amount of knowledge-based community evidence by residents from Betty's Bay been COMPLETELY IGNORED? Why does the OM IDP not consider it valid to hear 'both sides'?

Municipality response:

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human

conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town’s Baboon Research Unit and

associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

#43

From: Ilan Kaplan

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:02

Subject: BABOON MANAGEMENT

PDF document

30 April 2026

Overstrand Municipality

Email: cfo@overstrand.gov.za ; mm@overstrand.gov.za ; karibrice@hermanus.co.za

Dear Dr Dean O'Neill

RE: Baboon Management Programme – IDP Comment from the Owner of 210 1st Street, Voelklip

I write in my capacity as the owner of 210 1st Street, Voelklip, on behalf of Birdstone Properties (Pty) Ltd, to record my serious concern that the current Baboon Management Programme in the Hermanus Eastern areas – and Voelklip in particular – has been a complete failure from a resident's perspective.

It has now been more than a year since Overstrand Municipality (OM) formally took over direct responsibility for the Baboon Management Programme following the interim arrangements that commenced in mid-January 2025.

This period has been more than sufficient for OM to stabilise operations, resource the function appropriately and reach a reasonable standard of service delivery, particularly in an area such as Voelklip that has a long history of baboon-related conflict and an established body of best practice on which to draw.

Regrettably, based on day-to-day experience as a property owner in Voelklip and on information publicly available from civil society organisations and municipal communications, it is evident that the programme is falling far short of what is both necessary and achievable. My view is that OM is failing its residents, its own staff and its institutional reputation by not ensuring competent, professional and adequately supported baboon management on the ground.

My contention mirrors that of the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG) in its IDP submission of 6 May 2025: firstly, that the current management contingent is unable to lead and deploy the field teams effectively; and secondly, that senior management and key supporting departments are not providing the level of support required to enable monitors to perform to an acceptable standard.

Below I highlight specific areas of concern as experienced at 210 1st Street, Voelklip, and supported where possible by public information:

1. Failure to manage baboons out of the urban area
 - OM's own Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) and communications make it clear that the primary objective is to keep baboon troops out of town as far as reasonably possible, with an appropriate buffer zone outside the urban edge.
 - In Voelklip, however, baboons continue to enter the residential area freely and repeatedly, causing property damage, health risks, and understandable distress to residents. This is not consistent with a properly executed SBMP, nor with the historic performance achieved under specialist service providers using similar tools and methods.

- In my experience at 210 1st Street, the presence of monitors does not reliably prevent troop incursions into the neighbourhood. Troops are often allowed to move deep into the residential grid before any effective deterrent is applied, if at all.
- 2. Inadequate skills, training and field competence of monitors
 - Public updates from OM recognise the need for “experienced baboon monitors”, additional training and support from more seasoned staff, particularly for the Voelklip troop given its high level of urban habituation. Despite this, residents still encounter monitors who appear unfamiliar with basic field tactics, troop behaviour and the safe, lawful operation of deterrent tools.

On numerous occasions, monitors in Voelklip have been observed:

 - reacting slowly or not at all to early sightings of the troop;
 - failing to position themselves to maintain a buffer between baboons and houses; and
 - allowing baboons to forage undisturbed in residential gardens and on refuse.

External organisations have explicitly criticised the lack of expert training among OM’s monitoring teams and the resultant risks to both baboons and sensitive fynbos areas, underscoring that these concerns are not limited to a few individual residents.
- 3. Lack of appropriate equipment and tools in the field
 - OM has publicly stated that its team holds the necessary CapeNature permits and that the full suite of tools – including primers, bangers, screamers, gel blasters and paintball markers – forms part of the approved management toolbox.
 - However, residents in Voelklip frequently report, and I have personally observed, monitors operating with minimal or no effective equipment on hand, relying only on shouting, clapping, or whistles – methods which OM itself acknowledges are inadequate on their own for a habituated troop.
 - OM has also indicated that paintball markers have been acquired and that training is “being finalised”, yet months later they are still not used consistently as part of a coherent, professional field strategy. This disconnect between official statements and the reality on the ground contributes directly to the ongoing failure to keep baboons out of Voelklip.
- 4. Poor coordination with waste management and law enforcement
 - The SBMP and subsequent municipal communications emphasise that proper baboon management depends on secure waste handling, public compliance with bin regulations and coordinated enforcement of by-laws.
 - In practice, Voelklip continues to experience poorly managed waste: unsecured bins, refuse placed on pavements, and ad-hoc piles of rubbish which predictably attract baboons long before collection trucks arrive.
 - As HBAG highlighted in its 2025 IDP submission, there appears to be minimal structured communication between waste services and the monitoring team, and little evidence of systematic warnings or sanctions for repeat offenders. For a property such as 210 1st Street, this means that even when I comply fully with municipal guidelines, my property remains exposed because the broader area is poorly managed.
- 5. Deficiencies in supervision, reporting and community engagement
 - HBAG’s previous submissions called for regular liaison meetings, transparent monthly reporting and meaningful engagement with residents of baboon-affected areas in Hermanus East.

- Despite this, routine and structured engagement remains sporadic at best, leaving residents uncertain about troop status, management strategies and any changes in protocol.
 - Concerns have also been raised that not all monitors have undergone appropriate security vetting, despite their proximity to private properties and access around homes in areas like Voelklip. A professional, clearly identified and properly screened team is essential for public trust and for the safety of both residents and staff.
6. Reputational and legal risk to Overstrand Municipality
- The failure to implement a credible, humane and effective baboon management system in Voelklip has already resulted in growing public protest and negative media coverage, including calls from civil society for an end to “ineffective and cruel” management approaches in the Overstrand.
 - This reputational damage is avoidable. There is a substantial body of scientific literature, municipal experience and specialist service provider know-how demonstrating that well-designed programmes can keep baboons out of urban areas more than 90% of the time when properly resourced and managed.

Given the above, my submission for the current IDP cycle is as follows:

1. That OM urgently reassesses the governance, leadership and operational structure of the Baboon Management Programme in Hermanus East, with specific emphasis on Voelklip, to ensure that suitably qualified, experienced and accountable personnel are in place at both management and field level.
2. That OM allocates sufficient budget and authority for:
 - comprehensive initial and ongoing training of all monitors and supervisors;
 - full deployment of the approved deterrent toolbox (including paintball markers) in accordance with permits and best practice; and
 - proper supervision, performance management and security vetting of monitoring staff.
3. That senior management ensures effective integration between baboon monitoring, waste management and law enforcement, including:
 - clear operational protocols;
 - joint planning for high-risk zones such as Voelklip; and
 - visible, escalating enforcement against repeat waste and by-law offenders
4. That OM reinstates or strengthens regular liaison forums and transparent reporting mechanisms for residents of Hermanus East, including Voelklip, so that property owners such as Birdstone Properties can access accurate information, raise issues timeously and hold the Municipality accountable for clearly defined performance indicators.
5. That OM explicitly reviews and responds to the unresolved issues raised in HBAG’s IDP submission of 6 May 2025 and recognises that many of these concerns remain outstanding almost a year later, to the ongoing detriment of residents and of the Municipality’s own stated objectives.

As the owner of 210 1st Street, Voelklip, I must emphasise that I fully support lawful, humane and scientifically-grounded baboon management and recognise the need for coexistence with wildlife in our region. My criticism is not of the principle of baboon management, but of OM's current inability to implement its own policies and plans effectively in Voelklip.

My sincere hope is that Overstrand Municipality will treat these concerns with the seriousness they deserve and that, by the time of the next IDP cycle, I will be able to write in support of a demonstrably successful, professional and accountable baboon management programme – rather than repeating the same unresolved complaints.

Yours faithfully,

ILAN KAPLAN

For and on behalf of Birdstone Properties (Pty) Ltd

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Voëlklip area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#44

From: Jim McDermott

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:26

Subject: IDP Draft Budget

I write to make strong objections to the increased budget for the new methodology to contain baboons in Betty's Bay where I am a homeowner and resident.

The previous system with monitors following the baboons using vuvuzelas to warn us of baboon presence in the area plus the local WhatsApp group Sunnybag in Sunnyseas where I live in Betty's Bay was extremely effective. We always had ample warning when baboons were in or moving to our areas and were able to take the simple and easy precautions to ensure in good time that we would not have an incursion into our house.

At the same time we would know when the baboons had moved on and could then open up. The new system instituted by Mr Beukman has led to chaos here. "Holding the line" has not worked. Small groups break the "line" and as a result we have small splintered parts of the troop scattered all over the village - a chaotic situation which makes it very difficult to control and play our part as residents to help with adequate warning to others that baboons are in our particular area or moving towards it. It is also obvious that the baboons are staying in the village later in the evenings to forage for sufficient food. This has certainly exacerbated the situation.

So, we have moved from a situation where things were under control to one which is chaotic and, most importantly, not working. Since time immemorial the baboons have been working their way down from their sleeping areas to the sea in the morning and then back to the sleeping areas in the late afternoon.

There is also the question of animal cruelty. We have seen the introduction of the "gel guns" and hear that the new budget caters for the re-introduction of using paintball guns. This is not acceptable to many of us who will also have to subsidise the costs of these totally unnecessary cruel practices via increased rates/ I object very strongly to this increased financial stress in already inflationary times.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term "adaptive management" refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored,

assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#45

From: Sharon Prinsloo

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:03

Subject: Comments to be considered 2026/7 OM IDP budget / BETTYS BAY

As a resident of Bettys bay (Oyster street) I am pleading with you to reconsider the methods employed by Gary Beukman / Liezl de Villiers towards baboon management strategies.

The methods used are not working and cannot be justified. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? How is "success" measured to justify more funds for acquiring "necessary tools" like paint ball guns etc. used in Pringle Bay? Why does the OM IDP not adhere and listen to knowledge - based evidence from our residents?

In the two years of their operations there has been NO trend of improvement or effective management. Please do not fund this program that causes anarchy, negative consequences and blatant animal cruelty. This is a Biosphere Reserve and we choose to live near natural areas. Where is the onus on residents to live the lifestyle choice as directed by the OM ?

The distress, anger and sorrow experienced by many residents in Bettys Bay regarding the mismanagement of this issue must be acknowledged and addressed with care and accountability. It is essential that capable, skilled and experienced leaders take responsibility for resolving this highly sensitive matter. Individuals who may be highly qualified on paper, but lack practical experience or an informed, empathetic approach, should not be placed in positions of leadership in this context.

Please reconsider funding Beukman/De Villiers to increase aggression against baboons. This will result in massive community division.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your comments have been noted.

#46

From: Robert Geugis

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 14:44

Subject: Fwd: Implementation of baboon management plan Bettys Bay

As a law abiding and rate payer of Betty's Bay I would like to make my objections to a management plan as implemented in Pringle Bay heard.

The OM, officially, has in the draft IDP budget that they want to convert Betty's Bay into another Pringle Bay 'situation'.

We have found that the baboon troop has only been frequenting Bettys Bay since they are being chased into the area. These hectic and inhumane practises used chasing the troops from pillar to post have only made the situation worse.

The Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste need to be enforced. As people are still allowed to use those old metal Waste baskets which are not secure. Also virtually every week our black bags are taken out of our baboon proof bin and placed on a street corner until collection sometimes hours later. This is easy pickings for the baboons. Even our recycling is dumped all together with the other rubbish.

I strongly object to the methods used by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers. Paintball are extremely hurtful when being shot at such close range. And now they have gel blasters which are far worse. The monitors blow their vuvuzellas from morning to night in Pringle Bay and when residents complain they say they are doing their job!

Its sheer madness to think this is allowed in a biosphere where people are supposed to live in harmony with nature.

I would like written acknowledgement to my objections please.

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#47

From: Gardiol Theron

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 15:30

Subject: Baboon protection.

Dear R Louw, I live in Sunny Seas Betty's Bay. Please do not provide monitors with any kind of tool that causes pain or panic reaction, that will be cruel. The vuvuzellas with the kind monitors is more than adequate to control them.

Please be kind

Thank you.

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#48

From: Adele Lambrechts

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 15:47

Subject: URGENT: IDP Comment for Ward 3 – Urgent Priority: Baboon Management Programme

I write as a Voëlklip resident in strong support of the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG) submission to the IDP process.

Since Overstrand Municipality assumed responsibility for baboon management a year ago, there has been a clear and unacceptable decline in service delivery. The current situation materially infringes on residents' basic rights to safety, security, and the reasonable use and enjoyment of their property.

From personal experience:

- It is unsafe to leave small children or pets outside.
- Homes must remain closed to prevent intrusion.
- We are effectively deprived of maintaining gardens, fruit trees, and normal outdoor living despite paying high municipal rates.

This is not a minor inconvenience—it represents a failure of the municipality to fulfil its duty of care and its constitutional obligation to provide a safe and healthy living environment. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Section 152), municipalities are required to ensure the provision of services in a sustainable manner and to promote a safe environment for residents. The current baboon management programme falls materially short of this standard.

The persistent issues raised by HBAG—including poor coordination, inadequate waste management, lack of effective monitoring, and insufficient management oversight—point to systemic failure.

I therefore request, in the strongest terms, that the Baboon Management Programme be treated as a priority issue within the Ward 3 IDP process. This matter directly affects residents' safety, wellbeing, and property rights and requires urgent and focused municipal attention.

Accordingly, I call on Overstrand Municipality to:

- Restore a competent and properly resourced programme,
- Ensure coordinated support from waste management and law enforcement,
- Reinstate accountability, reporting, and meaningful community engagement.

Residents deserve safety and functional service delivery, and the baboon population deserves professional, humane management.

I urge immediate and meaningful intervention.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within the Voëlklip and greater Hermanus area, as well as your support of the submission made by the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG).

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents' daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader

human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#49

From: Jolanda Robinson

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 15:48

Subject: Shooting of Baboons in Betty's Bay

To whom it may concern

Good day

I am writing to ask if there is no other way of handling the baboon situation in Betty's Bay?

Shooting them, as Mr Beukman has instructed the monitors, is just beyond cruel.

There is obviously total confusion amongst the baboons when this happens. At the end of the day they were here before us, and as we are the intelligent ones here we need to find a kinder solution.

I understand Mr Beukman has a masters degree etc etc but surely there is another way.

Hopefully we can all work together on this. Simonstown, Glencairn and Fish Hoek are good examples of living in harmony with each other.

I really hope as a resident in the biosphere that we can find peace.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#50

From: Maryn Geyser

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 16:16

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget – Baboon Management, Betty's Bay

*Please provide written acknowledgement of receipt of this comment.

I am a resident of Pringle Bay and write to object to the proposed allocation of R5,000,000 in the 2026/7 draft IDP budget for expanded baboon "management" in Betty's Bay and Kleinmond using methods "as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay".

1. The Pringle Bay method is not working.

By the admission of the current contractors and both 'pro' and 'anti' baboon groups, house entries, baboon deaths, and community division have increased over 2 years of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers program. Chasing splinters troops, escalates incursions, and increases risk. More staff and paintball guns will replicate a failed model. Ratepayer funds should not be used to worsen the problem.

2. Prevention, not persecution, is the legal mandate.

Page 136 of the draft IDP originally contained the Environmental Department note: "Baboons are a lifestyle choice... You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas..." Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws... pertaining to Waste Management."

This section was struck through. Why?

The onus is on residents and OM to enforce existing waste bylaws. Baboons enter for food. Funding should prioritise bin locks, public education, and bylaw enforcement, not tools that increase aggression.

3. No data, no KPIs, no public participation.

The motivation for R5M cites no baseline data, no KPIs, and no definition of 'success'.

On Thursdays when OM monitor numbers double in Betty's Bay, baboon incursions are worst, direct evidence that 'more staff' does not equal better management.

Page 137 references a “review” and “public participation process” for the baboon management plan. This section is also struck through, and no such process has occurred before today’s comment deadline.

This is not transparent governance.

I request that OM:

1. Reject the budget line for additional staff and paintball guns for Betty’s Bay/Kleinmond
2. Reinstate the Environmental Department note on preventative measures and resident responsibility
3. Redirect funding to: municipal baboon-proof bins, household bin lock subsidies, and enforcement of waste bylaws
4. Conduct the promised public participation process before any new management plan is funded.

Betty’s Bay does not want to become another Pringle Bay. Escalating the tools that created toxic rhetoric, criminal activity, and worse baboon outcomes here will cause massive community division.

We are custodians of a Biosphere Reserve. Our budget should reflect that.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within Pringle Bay.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents’ daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will

further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#51

From: Sonia Hawkins

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 16:17

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Comments on Baboon Management Provisions for Betty's Bay

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. Page 136. In the "NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT: Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges. Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management." This whole section has been struck through. Why? Where is the onus on residents to live the "lifestyle choice" as directed by the OM, including adherence to the waste management bylaws? This is ominous.

2. The note Page 137. "In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay For all areas, plans are being put in place to acquire more staff, tools and training, post June 2026. More tools and staff will assist in improvement in keeping the baboons out of the urban area for more extended periods of time."

The methodology used in Pringle Bay has caused MASSIVE public division. It should NOT be replicated in Betty's Bay. It is common knowledge that there is an extremely toxic rhetoric circulating in Pringle Bay due to the actions of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers baboon management partnership. Does OM intend to keep funding this program as is, while increasing pressure, thereby increasing the negative consequences, leading to complete anarchy? The community does not want it. It is ineffective and causes MORE problems. Even in Gary Beukman's OWN words the situation is getting worse. There are more house entries (increasing), more baboon deaths, more public division. Both 'anti' and 'pro' baboon lobbies AGREE. Therefore the methods employed by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers are not working. In the two years of their operation so far there should naturally be a trend to show improvement, not a worsening. There is an overwhelming community sense of a bloody-minded resistance on their part to ignore the actual evidence of their actions on the ground. I speak from a vast, in-depth knowledge base and as a resident of Betty's Bay.

Gary's chasing of baboons causes the troop to split, resulting in a very random occurrence in the urban area, leading to heightened community frustrations. We do NOT accept our rate-payers funds being used to cause further problems for our community. The methods used are not working and cannot be considered a justified expense.

Regarding 'more staff'. Every Thursday there are twice the number of OM monitors on duty in Betty's Bay and beyond. Thursdays are most usually the WORST days for baboon incursions and house entries. This is direct evidence that the request for 'more staff' does not result in better 'management'.

3. Page 137. "There is currently a baboon management plan that Minister Bredell extended until January 2026. During this time, the OM will review the current management plan for implementation after January 2026. The review will entail a public participation process. Council budgeted for the implementation of the baboon management plan."

This whole section has been struck through. A thorough 'review' of the current management plan MUST include input from those Betty's Bay residents invested in a knowledge-based understanding of the Betty's Bay and Silversands troops. This 'review' cannot be conducted from within the OM only, who are operating with complete impunity, ignoring a large swath of Betty's Bay resident's evidence as to the folly of the plan. There has so far, NOT been a 'public participation process', as stated that there will be in the IDP. This is none transparent. How can the IDP state there will be such a process if the closing date for public comment is tomorrow but it has not yet occurred?

4. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? What are the KPI's? How is 'success' measured to justify more funds and an increase in 'tools', which include paintball guns (thereby leading to an increase in baboon 'problems'/incursions? What argument is being told by Beukman/de Villiers to their superiors to justify this? Why has the enormous amount of knowledge-based community evidence by residents from Betty's Bay been COMPLETELY IGNORED? Why does the OM IDP not consider it valid to hear 'both sides'?

If this Beukman/de Villiers funding, to increase aggression against baboons, is granted, the result will be massive community divide, akin to Pringle Bay. A result to be avoided at all costs by any governing body.

Municipality response:

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons

and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town’s Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

#52

From: Eurika Young

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 16:29

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/27 OM IDP Budget

I would appreciate it if the following comments regarding baboon management in Betty's Bay could be formally considered as part of the draft 2026/27 Overstrand Municipality IDP Budget.

It is my understanding, based on the draft documentation, that the Municipality intends to implement in Betty's Bay the same baboon management approach currently applied in Pringle Bay. It is further my understanding that this programme would be implemented entirely at the cost of Betty's Bay ratepayers and may amount to several million rand.

I wish to place on record that this approach does not reflect the will or preference of many residents of Betty's Bay. The methods applied in Pringle Bay have, in practice, proven ineffective and have resulted in significant unintended consequences. These include increased troop fragmentation, higher incidences of house entry, injuries and deaths of

baboons, and ongoing dissatisfaction and conflict within the community. Importantly, even residents who are generally opposed to baboons acknowledge that the current methodology has heightened frustration rather than resolved it.

I have been visiting Betty's Bay regularly since my twenties, and baboons have always been part of this environment. I purchased my property here in 2011, fully aware that I was choosing to live in an area of exceptional natural beauty where wildlife forms part of daily life. By taking responsibility for baboon-proofing my home, I have never experienced significant conflict with baboons.

It is therefore concerning that the proposed management methods may fundamentally change this balance—at considerable cost to ratepayers—without a meaningful public participation process having been undertaken or clearly planned, as far as I can determine from the draft documentation. This lack of transparency is troubling. Implementing methods that have not been demonstrated to be effective, at significant expense, risks constituting fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

I respectfully request clarity on what evidence exists to demonstrate that the baboon management programme used in Pringle Bay has been effective and represents value for money. As the Municipality is accountable for its expenditure, such assessments and reports should reasonably be available to residents upon request.

In closing, I would like to emphasise that my concern is not opposition for its own sake, but rather a desire for a management approach that is evidence-based, transparent, cost-effective, and genuinely considerate of both residents and wildlife. While municipal services in many respects are of a high standard, the handling of this matter, as well as others such as alien vegetation control, is a source of significant concern.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input on this specific matter within the draft OM IDP Budget.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email and contents noted.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions,

environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term “adaptive management” refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#53

From: Clea Witte

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 16:45

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/27 OM IDP Budget

I would appreciate it if the following comments regarding baboon management in Betty's Bay could be formally considered as part of the draft 2026/27 Overstrand Municipality IDP Budget.

It is my understanding, based on the draft documentation, that the Municipality intends to implement in Betty's Bay the same baboon management approach currently applied in Pringle Bay. It is further my understanding that this programme would be implemented entirely at the cost of Betty's Bay ratepayers and may amount to several million rand.

I wish to place on record that this approach does not reflect the will or preference of many residents of Betty's Bay. The methods applied in Pringle Bay have, in practice, proven ineffective and have resulted in significant unintended consequences. These include increased troop fragmentation, higher incidences of house entry, injuries and deaths of baboons, and ongoing dissatisfaction and conflict within the community. Importantly, even residents who are generally opposed to baboons acknowledge that the current methodology has heightened frustration rather than resolved it.

I have been visiting Betty's Bay regularly since my twenties, and baboons have always been part of this environment. I purchased my property here in 2011, fully aware that I was choosing to live in an area of exceptional natural beauty where wildlife forms part of daily life. By taking responsibility for baboon-proofing my home, I have never experienced significant conflict with baboons.

It is therefore concerning that the proposed management methods may fundamentally change this balance—at considerable cost to ratepayers—without a meaningful public participation process having been undertaken or clearly planned, as far as I can determine from the draft documentation. This lack of transparency is troubling. Implementing methods that have not been demonstrated to be effective, at significant expense, risks constituting fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

I respectfully request clarity on what evidence exists to demonstrate that the baboon management programme used in Pringle Bay has been effective and represents value for money. As the Municipality is accountable for its expenditure, such assessments and reports should reasonably be available to residents upon request.

In closing, I would like to emphasise that my concern is not opposition for its own sake, but rather a desire for a management approach that is evidence-based, transparent, cost-effective, and genuinely considerate of both residents and wildlife. While municipal services in many respects are of a high standard, the handling of this matter, as well as others such as alien vegetation control, is a source of significant concern.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input on this specific matter within the draft OM IDP Budget.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email and contents noted.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission and for taking the time to provide comments regarding baboon management within the Betty's Bay area.

Baboon management programmes are implemented within an approved institutional, permitting, and operational framework and are not based on the decisions or views of any single individual. Operational approaches are guided by permit conditions, environmental considerations, scientific literature relating to human-wildlife conflict management, practical operational experience, animal welfare considerations and ongoing adaptive management processes.

The term "adaptive management" refers to an internationally recognised environmental management approach whereby operational methods are continuously monitored, assessed and adjusted in response to changing conditions, observed outcomes and available scientific information. Scientific research relating to habituated baboon troops has consistently identified repeated successful access to urban food sources as one of the primary drivers of escalating human-baboon conflict behaviour. Management interventions are therefore aimed at reducing successful urban foraging opportunities, discouraging habituation to urban environments and reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas where they are exposed to numerous risks. These risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; conflict with residents and domestic animals; waste ingestion; illegal feeding; injury; and retaliatory harm.

The Municipality also acknowledges your concerns regarding oversight, operational effectiveness and community division, therefore operational performance and management approaches will continue to be monitored and reviewed through existing governance, reporting and permitting processes. As with many complex human-wildlife conflict situations internationally, differing public opinions and strong emotions often accompany management programmes operating within urban-edge environments.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand region.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#54

From: Karin de Beer**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 April 2026 16:50**Subject:** 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Here are my comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. Page 136. In the "NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT: Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges. Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management."

This whole section has been struck through. Why? Where is the onus on residents to live the "lifestyle choice" as directed by the OM, including adherence to the waste management bylaws? This is ominous.

2. The note Page 137. "In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay For all areas, plans are being put in place to acquire more staff, tools and training, post June 2026. More tools and staff will assist in improvement in keeping the baboons out of the urban area for more extended periods of time."

The methodology used in Pringle Bay has caused MASSIVE public division. It should NOT be replicated in Betty's Bay. It is common knowledge that there is an extremely toxic rhetoric circulating in Pringle Bay due to the actions of the Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers baboon management partnership. Does OM intend to keep funding this program as is, while increasing pressure, thereby increasing the negative consequences, leading to complete anarchy? The community does not want it. It is ineffective and causes MORE problems. Even in Gary Beukman's OWN words the situation is getting worse. There are more house entries (increasing), more baboon deaths, more public division. Both 'anti' and 'pro' baboon lobbies AGREE. Therefore the methods employed by Gary Beukman/Liezl de Villiers are not working. In the two years of their operation so far there should naturally be a trend to show improvement, not a worsening. There is an overwhelming community sense of a bloody-minded resistance on their part to ignore the actual evidence of their actions on the ground. I speak from a vast, in-depth knowledge base and as a resident of Betty's Bay.

Gary's chasing of baboons causes the troop to split, resulting in a very random occurrence in the urban area, leading to heightened community frustrations. We do NOT accept our rate-payers funds being used to cause further problems for our community. The methods used are not working and cannot be considered a justified expense.

Regarding 'more staff'. Every Thursday there are twice the number of OM monitors on duty in Betty's Bay and beyond. Thursdays are most usually the WORST days for baboon incursions and house entries. This is direct evidence that the request for 'more staff' does not result in better 'management'.

3. Page 137. "There is currently a baboon management plan that Minister Bredell extended until January 2026. During this time, the OM will review the current management plan for implementation after January 2026. The review will entail a public participation process. Council budgeted for the implementation of the baboon management plan."

This whole section has been struck through. A thorough 'review' of the current management plan MUST include input from those Betty's Bay residents invested in a knowledge-based understanding of the Betty's Bay and Silversands troops. This 'review' cannot be conducted from within the OM only, who are operating with complete impunity, ignoring a large swath of Betty's Bay resident's evidence as to the folly of the plan. There has so far, NOT been a 'public participation process', as stated that there will be in the IDP. This is none transparent. How can the IDP state there will be such a process if the closing date for public comment is tomorrow but it has not yet occurred?

4. On what data is this motivation for extra rate-payer funding based? What are the KPI's? How is 'success' measured to justify more funds and an increase in 'tools', which include paintball guns (thereby leading to an increase in baboon 'problems'/incursions? What argument is being told by Beukman/de Villiers to their superiors to justify this? Why has the enormous amount of knowledge-based community evidence by residents from Betty's Bay been COMPLETELY IGNORED? Why does the OM IDP not consider it valid to hear 'both sides'?

If this Beukman/de Villiers funding, to increase aggression against baboons, is granted, the result will be massive community divide, akin to Pringle Bay. A result to be avoided at all costs by any governing body.

Please confirm receipt of my email.

Thank you.

Municipality response:

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town’s Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural

changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#55

From: Jennie Boyes

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 17:33

Subject: Re baboons

We have been residents in Voëlklip for over 30 years and holidayed in hermanus since early 70's after we Got married

My husband has been coming here since he was a child - he is now 80 !

We have had a beautiful lifestyle here for many years but this last year and a bit have been made unbearable with this constant fear that a baboon is going to get in the house and make a terrible mess (and we've had our fair share of those) or if we go out and leave our dog outside that he is going to be attacked as he is not shy to bark at them and try and chase them off our property....

We have also had gutters broken having to be replaced and walls marked with their dirty paws so they have to be painted and pot plants smashed as the knock them over

This is not a happy suburb and people are very angry - something must be done to bring us back to how it was a few years ago- a happy place to live

We all hope you will take note of our frustrations and we look forward to hearing your solution.

Municipality response:

Baboon management forms part of a broader integrated biodiversity and environmental management responsibility aimed at protecting ecological systems, reducing human-wildlife conflict, safeguarding public safety, supporting tourism, and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Overstrand.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#56

From: Ashley Banwell

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 18:38

Subject: Re: Urgent Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

I hope you are well. We would really appreciate if you would please urgently consider our input and comments below, regarding the baboon management for Betty's Bay for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget proposal.

Our comments for considerations please.

1. We see on pg 136

The Note for the Environmental department regarding living in the Biosphere is a lifestyle choice and baboons are therefore part of the lifestyle choice. Residents living here need to educate themselves and to take necessary preventative measures living here. They need to be aware of necessary Municipal bylaws pertaining to open spaces and waste management etc.

The above is such an important part of the process of Baboon management and wildlife management in our Betty's Bay and greater Biosphere.

Please do not remove this or strike it out !! It is the very essence of baboon management and reason why there are issues. Residents need to take responsibility if they live here!! This message needs to be made clear and residents and anyone thinking of coming to live here needs to know this!

The environmental department is important key player here and you need to respect this "scientific based" research and instructions. You cannot almost disrespect the department and ignore this major factor and information by leaving it out and scratching it off as such. Please consider this very carefully.

Why would you leave this out?

2. On page 137.

The Note regarding....In addition..

Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas being without and now will be acquiring the necessary tools as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay for all areas!! Etc

PRINGLE BAY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK!!!

Please come here and spend a day or 2 speaking to knowledgeable experts who actually live here and understand our troops and wildlife and how they function and move.

If OM would please be open minded and hear and look and come with open minds. Consult with professionals who have studied and researched primate behavior and know our local troops.

How much is it costing us rate payers to have OM constantly wasting our money at the same thing, because they will not consider another researched scientific option! We will not waste our hard blood earned money to be used for such a waste of money!

There are so many other vital infrastructure and wildlife and Environmental issues our town and area needs funds for.

We do not want the Pringle Bay management program in Bettys Bay.

We do not need it.

The current aggressive approach in Pringle Bay has been an environmental embarrassment and disaster will never work. It has created more problems than there were to start and this creates a ripple effect, not only in the environment and between home ranges and troops in the area. BUT and brought about a DIVIDE AND HATRED IN A SPECIAL CLOSE COMMUNITY FORCING THE ISSUE OF PRO AND ANTI HATRED!!

We do not want this type of "Pringle Bay management" and tools and education in our town.

There are more practical and cost effective ways to deal with our Baboons and environment in our Biosphere.

Funds can be used more effectively in other ways that do not need this aggressive approach.

We need calm back in our village.

I won't go on now about other solutions.

But OM needs to come and have a transparent meeting with fresh new open minds and see what is going on here. DA...listen to the people who live here on the ground.

Not loud mouths who have no idea how our ecology and wildlife works...

There was supposed to be true transparency but there is none.... this needs to change.

3. Also page 137

The section about " The current Baboon management plan the Minister Bredell extend to Jan 2026.....OM were to review the plan with public participation process?

This was also struck through?

Surely cant remove this?

We want public participation from residents in Bettys Bay, in this management plan. With input from residents who actually understand and know about the troops here and how our environment and wildlife. Not some dictatorship who don't live here and are never even seen here spending time and understanding how the troops work and gaining any sort of research values.

Who is researching the baboons troops here.. beside our local experts who actually study them and spend time with them and research the management and what works and doesn't??

Not sure where your information and scientific research regarding our troops comes from?

This is 2026 now not the 1970s and 80s There is now so much more to understanding and information and knew science based research that has been done that can be used than the traditional. Baboons are a pest and must be shot at and killed as was the case in the old days. That has never worked...even in the old days... ask any farmer that fenced his mielies... it was still a constant battle and shooting game that never ever worked! The mentality has changed now and we have so much more knowledge and information and research to manage wildlife and more importantly residents in 2026!!

That is a whole other email about educating the residents and public...to which funds can be allocated instead of gel guns and Pringle management systems money...

Won't do that to you now though.

To be blunt... it feels as OM only has the opinion of outdated baboon management system that is being stoked by stubborn outdated researchers and mis information about the actual effects of this aggressive approach to management.

There is no true transparency and the actual residents and researchers with a true understanding of primates and primate behavior as well as indepth knowledge and research about our local troops and how to better manage the situation here are bypassed and left out of important meetings and conversations and decisions. They are made to look like bunny buggers who are just emotional and don't have destiny the baboon problem!

Far from it..... we have many professional wildlife experts and researchers who really have expert knowledge and solutions. They use facts and experience. Not emotions!

Sure there will be some residents who are emotional about wildlife.

You need to listen to the correct professionals, with unbiased opinions and influence by one side.

The DA I know ...hears both sides fairly with out prejudice.

Apologies for such a long email!

Just FYI

We have lived here in Betty's Bay for nearly 20 years. We both work full time with our own small companies in Betty's Bay, we employ around 13 local employees. So we are very invested in our town and community.

Our children have grown up here and attended school in Kleinmond and Hermanus. We are very passionate about protecting our village life, our environment, our wildlife and our baboons.

I have a ND Nature conservation and worked in the wildlife industry for a long time. Being involved in game capture and wildlife management and problem animal control, guiding and hunting. So I am not just writing this as an emotional bunny hugger! I do have a good understanding on wildlife management matters including people and residents management.

I ask you to please really consider our comments above.

We would appreciate your acknowledgment and please confirm and reply to our comments in writing.

Thank you very much.

Municipality response:

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies.

However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town's Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#57

From: Delia Visser**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 April 2026 20:54**Subject:** Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT HEREOF.

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. I am vehemently opposed to the implementation of paintball guns. Violence has no place in our community of Betty's Bay. Weaponising the monitors would be unconstitutional.
2. Monitors are insufficiently trained in animal management, weapons control and general well-being of baboons and other wildlife in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
3. Why have residents not been consulted in this matter?
4. It is my belief that introducing weapons into this community will also have a significantly negative effect on people's mental health - specifically people like me suffering from PTSD.

Again - I AM VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF PAINTBALL GUNS TO TRY TO CONTROL THE BABOONS OF BETTY'S BAY.

Yours sincerely

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the

animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#58

From: Elaine Wegelin

Subject: Re Baboon Management in the Bettys Bay area

To whom it may concern.

Please let it be registered that we are both very against our rates and taxes money or for that matter any money from the municipality being spent or used for Baboon management as it is currently being done.

It is barbaric and very cruel and is certainly not helping or solving any issues we have with these animals.

Please STOP this treatment/plan immediately. It is unbearable to witness.

Please be so kind as to confirm receipt of this email.

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the

animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#59

From: Anna Weideman

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 21:45

Subject: Comments on the 2026-2027 IDP and budget

Please find attached my comments on the IDP and budget for 2026-2027.

Thanks for the opportunity, and kindly acknowledge receipt.

PDF document attached.

The Municipal Manager

Overstrand Municipality

Email: cfo@overstrand.gov.za; rlouw@overstrand.gov.za; karibrice@hermanus.co.za,

Dear Dr O'Neill

COMMENT ON THE IDP AND DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above documents.

Right now, for Voëlklip residents of which I have been one since 1989, the most worrying issue is uncontrolled baboons which threaten our well-being, safety, and financial security. For the reasons listed below, the Ward 3 Councillor named the baboon issue as a clear priority in last year's IDP:

- People cannot sit outside and have a meal
- We fear for pets and small children and have to keep them inside
- We have to keep all doors and all windows shut all of the time, lest a stray baboon find their way into the house and cause damage and a mess, even as late as 18:00.
- We have incurred substantial financial losses due to baboons vandalising roofs, gardens, windows, ornaments and other valuables.
- We worry about the impact of all of these on the value of our properties.

HBAG SUBMISSION. Let me start by adding my voice to the submission by the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG) on the current IDP. I fully endorse their five main complaints regarding inadequate meetings and reports, transport, waste management, equipment, uniforms, and training and security clearance of monitors.

A BLOCKING APPROACH. To this I would like to add, that many people on our WhatsApp group, the Baboon Solutions Group, are of the opinion that monitors alone cannot outwit the baboons. **Technology** is needed to trace them in time and to enable them to block them *before* they cross the urban edge. The Voëlklip community has great respect for the so-called virtual fence created by Human Wildlife Solutions during their term. The random threatening noises when the baboons near the urban edge were highly successful. "Bring back HWS" is a recurring plea on our group. So most of us believe that the current programme can improve by at least imitating some of these techniques, if not all.

COMMUNICATION. In light of the above I eagerly opened the **2026-2027 IDP** document and found two references to baboons. I was heartened by the electrical fence envisioned for 2028-2029, and appreciate the OM's willingness to provide the funds for this. I am just

wondering whether it will be more effective than a “virtual” fence. Other than these two references I could find nothing else.

In the **2026-2027 Budget** there is absolutely no mention of baboons. So how can one then comment, as a Voëlklip resident, on our most pressing issue? Help came in the form of Mr Errol van Staden who spoke with the Acting CFO, who confirmed that

- R7.5 million in next year's budget (26/27) for baboon management
- Approximately 60 employees
- Two new vehicles on their way (this year's budget) and a possible third in next year's budget.
- Circa R150k for improved communication (I hope this includes tracking technology?)
- An aerial baboon count.

The above looks promising and gives some hope, but my question is:

How were we to know? Is the expectation that one must engage individually with the CFO to learn about budget allocations?

Please accept my humble request for more transparency.

Yours sincerely

Anna Weideman

WhatsApp: 064 655 7199

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within the Voëlklip area, as well as your support of the submission made by the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG).

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents’ daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#60

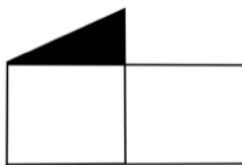
From: Jane MacKenzie-Hoskyn

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 21:51

Subject: Vociferous objection to budget proposal for baboon management

Kindly find an important objection letter attached.
Please acknowledge receipt of the emailed letter.

PDF document



Dear Ms Louw

Vociferous objection to budget proposal for baboon "management"

I hereby express extreme shock and outrage that an undefined (larger?) budget is being proposed for baboon "management" to fund dangerous weapons and more unnecessary staffing from ratepayers financial contributions. Betty's Bay rate payers are already paying far too much for the cruel and unjust actions upon our baboons while alien plant invasions (and fire threats), roads and declining public areas are being neglected.

Page 135: "...the Western Cape Government approved that: "Only to the extent that is necessary..."

On 4 September 2019, the cabinet of the Western Cape Government **approved that:**

"Only to the **extent that is necessary** as a matter of

Comment: The monitors, under the management of Gary Beukman, are going far beyond what is "necessary" by chasing peacefully foraging baboons, shooting them, throwing stones at them and interfering with their sleep site routines.

Recommendation: Replace the current under-qualified management and train the monitors to be empathetic decision makers.

Page 135: " This plan has subsequently lapsed...is R10 million"

areas.

? This plan has subsequently lapsed and Currently the
1 total budget allocated for the baboon
management programme until the end of June
2026 is R10 million for the West and Eastern Region.

The budget has been divided as follows:

Budget 2025 /2026	
West	R5 240 575,50
East	R5 171 275,50
Total	R10 411 851,00

Comment: If the plan has lapsed, what is the current status quo? Surely if it has lapsed the Overstrand Municipality does not have a mandate to be "keeping them out of urban areas"? Over five millions rands is an obscene amount of money to "manage" baboons. Surely this can be slashed dramatically by removing unnecessary staff and good financial management? There are far too many monitors on Thursdays - why is there this wasteful expenditure? The budget for 2026/2027 seems to be missing from the document. **What is the budget?**

Recommendation: Remove excess staff and overpaid management. Replace the manager with a competent, suitably educated and experienced servant leader who consults with the citizens.

Page 136: "...will entail a public participation process".

There is currently a baboon management plan that Minister Bredell extended until January 2026. During this time, the OM will review the current management plan for implementation after January 2026. The review will entail a public participation process. Council budgeted for the implementation of the baboon management plan.

Comment: Why has this been struck out? Has this public participation process taken place? Was it widely advertised? When and where did it take place?

Recommendation: Implement good governance and seek public opinion and participation from rates paying citizens. Advertise widely through all mediums, physical and digital. This process should NOT be window dressing but should have the intent of it being a consultative forum.

Page 136: "...not actively block and actively move the baboon troops out of town, in accordance with the SBPM, but this has since been corrected".

The Eco-Rangers will continue to implement the Baboon Management Programme and Early Warning System (EWS) in the Western Section (Pringle bay to Kleinmond) until June 2026. For Betty's Bay and Kleinmond, there have been limitations during 2025, where management could not actively block and actively move the baboon troops out of town, in accordance with the SBPM, but this has since been corrected.

Comment: It was never wrong, so how could it be "corrected". When was this changed and by whom?

Recommendation: This should be re-implemented with monitors acting as guides.

Page 136: "function without the necessary management tools..."

In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams

Comment: These "management tools" are totally unnecessary, cruel and violent methods that are a waste of tax payers hard earned money.

Recommendation: Remove all paintball guns, bangers, sticks and stones from monitors. Equip them with radios and a reliable vehicle. Train monitors to only shepherd the troops. Spend the budget on areas of neglect: roads, parks, removal alien vegetation that poses a fire risk.

Page 136: "...be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay

will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay

Comment: No, no, NO! Betty's Bay is very, very different from Pringle Bay. **BETTY'S BAY IS NOT PRINGLE BAY** and does not want to be Pringle Bay - a fractured Pringle Bay caused by Mr Gary Beukman and his violent strategies. Betty's Bay residents definitely do not want to become a Pringle Bay where baboons are shot at, chased and treated like war enemies. We do not want the consequences of a troop being harassed and threatened.

Recommendation: Keep Mr Beukman and his "tools" and violent means of "baboon management" away from Betty's Bay. Betty's Bay does not need his war-like mentality and actions to disturb the peace and quiet that we have chosen.

Page 136: "...a lifestyle choice...especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management."

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT:

Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges.

Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management.



Comment: In the Kogelberg Biosphere, the Environmental Department should be acutely aware of their responsibilities. These paragraphs that have been struck out are absolutely FUNDAMENTAL to management of baboons. Above all else, this is how we, as residents of Betty's Bay, should be behaving.

WHY HAS THIS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT SECTION BEEN STRUCK THROUGH?

By implementing these actions, the baboons will forage naturally and not be drawn to houses.

Recommendation: Instead of spending precious funds on treating baboons with cruelty, invest in a programme to educate residents and newcomers to Betty's Bay. Inspectors should be actively informing, educating and fining, if necessary.

CONCLUSION:

Decrease the funding for baboon "management" by:

- removing Gary Beukman and Liezl de Villiers due to wasteful expenditure
- reducing staff
- removing all staff who are inclined to violence against wildlife, including baboons
- only funding vuvuzelas, radios and a reliable vehicle
- no funding for weapons such as paintball guns, bangers etc.
- invest in monitor training
- invest in educating and informing citizens

Finally, Ms Louw, why is there is **no proposed budget** in the IDP Fourth and **Final Review** for 2026/2027.

Your sincerely



Jane MacKenzie-Hoskyn

29 April 2026

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within Betty's Bay.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents' daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

In the draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year, R8,7 million is allocated for the Baboon Management Programme.

#61

From: Catherine van Niekerk

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 11:27

Subject: Baboon Management Programme – Ongoing Concerns Requiring Urgent

I am writing to formally raise my concerns about the performance of the Baboon Management Programme, and I want to be direct: the current level of service is not good enough.

The Municipality assumed responsibility for this programme over a year ago. I understood that transition period would come with challenges, and I was willing to allow time for systems to settle. That patience has worn thin. A year in, the same problems persist, and there is no visible progress to speak of.

As a resident living with the daily consequences of a poorly managed programme, I find the following issues particularly difficult to accept:

No communication, no accountability. There are no regular liaison meetings. There is no public reporting on how the programme is performing. Residents are left to watch things deteriorate with no formal way to raise concerns or receive feedback. That is not acceptable governance.

Transport constraints that never seem to get resolved. Response times and coverage continue to be affected by what appear to be the same logistical problems that existed when the Municipality first took over. If this hasn't been fixed in a year, I have to question whether it is being treated as the priority it should be.

Waste management failures driving the problem. Unsecured waste continues to attract baboons into residential areas. The coordination between waste collection and baboon monitoring is clearly broken, enforcement of containment requirements is inconsistent, and there is no apparent policy for repeat offenders. This is not a minor operational gap — it is one of the core reasons incursions keep happening.

Monitors who appear under-equipped and inconsistently trained. It is evident to residents that the standard of monitoring varies considerably. That inconsistency undermines the entire programme.

Monitors who cannot be identified. People operating around private homes should be clearly uniformed and visibly vetted. This is a basic expectation and it is not being met. Residents should not have to feel uncertain about who is on their property.

I raise these not to be difficult, but because I genuinely want this programme to work. Responsible management of baboons in this area matters — for residents, for property, and for the animals themselves. What we have right now is not that.

I am asking the Municipality to treat this seriously: strengthen the leadership of the programme, fix the coordination failures with waste management and law enforcement, and put in place real accountability mechanisms so that residents can see whether things are actually improving.

Please respond to this email at the mentioned email address.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within Overstrand.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents’ daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and

- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#62

From: Jenny McQueen

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 18:30

Subject: BABOONS IN VOELKLIP

Baboon management

The Municipality is dragging its heels regarding the action plan for baboon management. The levels of service are still way below what was anticipated.

OM are doing their staff, their brand and their residents an injustice and disservice.

I find it unacceptable that I am unable to enjoy my home and garden and have to live behind bars. I am unable to entertain outside or sit outside on my patio. This is no quality of life.

The support from senior management and other departments is not adequate to ensure that the team is enabled to perform their tasks to be effective.

There are no Baboon liaison meetings and regular monthly reports.

Transport seems to be a problem.

Waste management has not improved as residents are not given warnings or issued with fines which will certainly make people comply.

The truck team make small piles of rubbish which baboons routinely rip apart before the truck arrives.

There seems to be no written policy for dealing with repeat offenders.

Supervisors and monitors should be well established by now but still appear to be lacking.

Residents are concerned that monitors have no security clearance as they are concerned for their safety. They should be clearly identifiable and in an easily recognisable uniform is essential.

OM should adequately empower management with the necessary senior staff and ensure that relevant departments (primarily waste and law enforcement) adequately support the OM's baboon management programme to ensure a successfully run programme.

Action should be taken for with to rectify the situation and protect the property owners of Voëlklip who pay high rates.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within the Voëlklip area.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents’ daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#63

From: Gertrude Smith

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 21:31

Subject: Baboon management

Please make the management of baboons by keeping them on the mountain reserve and out of the suburb of Voëlklip a top priority. It is in the interests of the reputation of Hermanus as a tourist destination and its business and property values to succeed with this. It has worked before for many years so it must be possible.

We are doing our part and are quite successful at keeping them out of our house by taking extreme measures to lock them out, and therefore having one less attraction to the neighbourhood. But tourists and holiday makers with small children and pets cannot be expected to live locked up, so they will simply stop coming to spend their money here.

Municipality response:

Baboon management forms part of a broader integrated biodiversity and environmental management responsibility aimed at protecting ecological systems, reducing human-wildlife conflict, safeguarding public safety, supporting tourism, and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Overstrand.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#64

From: Elsa Jacobs

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 00:09

Subject: Comments to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget

Comments regarding baboon management for Betty's Bay Going forward to be considered for the draft 2026/7 OM IDP budget:

1. Page 136: *"NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT: Baboons are a lifestyle choice and living on the urban fringe is a lifestyle choice. You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas, especially known baboon home ranges. Please make sure that you educate yourself on the precautions to take when living within a Biosphere Reserve or adjacent to Protected Areas, Nature Reserves or natural open spaces. Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws of your local Municipality especially pertaining to Open Spaces and Municipal Waste Management."*

This entire section has been crossed out. Did Betty's Bay lose its Biosphere states? Are the municipality scraping all its Municipal bylaws. Where exactly does the responsibility lie for residents to conform to the "lifestyle choice" dictated by the OM, which includes following the waste management bylaws? This is very concerning.

2. The note **Page 137**. *"In addition, the Betty's Bay and Kleinmond areas have also had to function without the necessary management tools up until now, and these teams will be acquiring the necessary tools, as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay For all areas, plans are being put in place to acquire more staff, tools and training, post June 2026. More tools and staff will assist in improvement in keeping the baboons out of the urban area for more extended periods of time."*

The approach utilized in Pringle Bay has sparked a great divide among the public, and it is imperative that it not be replicated in Betty's Bay. The management style of Gary Beukman and Liezl de Villiers has created a harmful and toxic atmosphere in Pringle Bay and it will be the same for Betty's Bay. One must question if the OM intends to continue funding this program in its current or escalating form, as it will only escalate pressure and exacerbate the negative consequences, ultimately leading to chaos. The community is against this approach, as it proves to be ineffective and only creates further issues. Since Gary Beukman increased his pressure on the Betty's Bay troop, it is clear that it has led to the increase of house invasions and baboon deaths, as well as the growing division among the community. Both those for and against the baboons agree that the vuvuzelas (early warning system) worked. The troop were calmer and if you hear vuvuzelas you knew to close up. Since Gary increased the chasing and shooting, the troop is stress, split up and the monitors cannot keep up with them. This means the residents are not warned about baboons and get surprise visits/incursions. On the issue of requesting additional staff, on Thursdays, Betty's Bay has double the amount of OM monitors. On Thursdays there are far more incursions and house entries. We call it chaos Thursdays. It is a fact that the calmer the troop remain, the better they can be managed.

As a resident of Betty's Bay who lives against the mountain, I do not want people running behind my house in the mountain scaring all the wildlife and damaging the flora. I live in Betty's Bay for the beauty of Fauna and Flora and to have a peaceful life. Not one with people shooting and screaming behind my house in the mountain. I refuse to accept that our taxpayer money will go for a program planned to hurt, kill and destroy animals, plants and our peace and quiet.

3. **3. Page 137**. *"There is currently a baboon management plan that Minister Bredell extended until January 2026. During this time, the OM will review the current*

management plan for implementation after January 2026. The review will entail a public participation process. Council budgeted for the implementation of the baboon management plan.”

Again this entire section has been crossed out. A comprehensive ‘review’ of the present management plan must incorporate insights from those Betty’s Bay residents who are deeply invested in the troop and who have knowledge about the Betty’s Bay and Silversands troop and its social structure. This ‘review’ cannot be undertaken solely by the OM, who are acting with utter disregard for accountability and transparency. It is also worrying that the public participation process has been crossed out. In other words the OM feels nothing for what its taxpayers want.

4. As a ratepayer I don’t see the motivation to use additional ratepayer funding for the current Baboon Management Program. How is “success” measured to justify both increased funding and the increase of additional “tools” (especially the inclusion of paintball guns, which has been proven to increase baboon “problems” and incursions? What evidence and excuses did Gary Beukman and Liezl de Villiers give to substantiate these requests. There is a significant concern among residents of Betty’s Bay regarding the fact that a community vote in a Public Participation meeting against the use of “tools” on the local baboon troop have been entirely disregarded by OM. Do the majority of taxpayers not have a vote in what happens in our town?

The OM will make a huge mistake to fund the increase aggression against baboons. OM will be responsible for a massive community divide and the destruction of a beautiful Biosphere. As a resident who lives against the mountain and who had to endure the HWS horror, with all the shooting and shouting behind our houses, I am begging OM not to fund the increase of aggression against the baboons.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF MY EMAIL.

Municipality response:

With regard to the sections referred to in the IDP documentation that appear struck through, these amendments form part of the normal internal drafting and review process associated with IDP compilation, comment consolidation and refinement prior to final adoption. The removal or amendment of wording should not necessarily be interpreted as an indication that resident responsibilities, municipal by-laws or public participation processes are no longer applicable or relevant.

The Municipality continues to emphasise that human behaviour, waste management practices, access to food sources, and compliance with municipal by-laws remain critical factors influencing baboon incursions into urban areas. Human-wildlife conflict

management requires a shared responsibility approach involving residents, property owners, authorities and service providers alike.

The Municipality acknowledges that there are differing opinions regarding the effectiveness and appropriateness of various wildlife management methodologies. However, it is important to note that certain aversion-based management tools, including paintball markers, where authorised under permit conditions and operational protocols, are not unique to the Overstrand and have been assessed and utilised internationally and locally within human-wildlife conflict management contexts. Available scientific and operational evidence indicates that properly regulated aversion techniques may assist in reducing the amount of time baboons spend within urban areas; discouraging habituation to human food sources; reducing successful urban foraging behaviour; encouraging troop movement back toward natural areas; and limiting prolonged exposure of baboons to urban-associated risks. These urban-associated risks include vehicle collisions; electrocution; attacks by domestic animals; injury from human conflict; illegal feeding; poisoning; waste ingestion; and retaliatory harm by frustrated residents. The intention of these management tools is therefore not punitive, but rather preventative and behaviour-based, aimed at reducing long-term harm to both baboons and residents. Research and operational findings within baboon management programmes in the Western Cape have shown that unmanaged habituation to urban spaces often results in escalating conflict, increased risk-taking behaviour by baboons, greater dependency on anthropogenic food sources, and ultimately higher welfare risks to the animals themselves.

The Municipality also notes your concerns regarding community division and differing public opinions surrounding baboon management practices. It is recognised that there are varying perspectives within affected communities, including differing interpretations of operational effectiveness and causative factors contributing to baboon incursions and troop behaviour.

At present, the Municipality continues to operate under the existing approved baboon management plan and associated permit conditions while broader review processes remain underway. As indicated, future planning and review processes will include public participation opportunities in accordance with applicable legislation and governance.

The Municipality also wishes to clarify that baboon management operations are implemented within an approved municipal and permitting framework and are not driven by any individual “partnership” as referred to in your correspondence. Operational decisions, methodologies, permit compliance, reporting structures and management approaches form part of broader institutional processes involving municipal administration, environmental authorities, permit conditions, operational staff and

applicable governance structures. While individual officials, operational managers and service providers may fulfil specific roles within the broader programme, baboon management remains an institutional function implemented within the parameters of approved policies, operational mandates, scientific guidance and applicable authorisations.

Scientific literature and practical wildlife management experience generally support the principle that prolonged tolerance of habituated wildlife within urban areas increases the likelihood of further habituation, food-conditioning and human-wildlife conflict escalation. Research relating to chacma baboons in the Western Cape and elsewhere has consistently shown that baboons rapidly adapt their behaviour in response to human-derived food rewards and repeated successful access to urban environments. Once habituated, troops often increase frequency of urban incursions; boldness around humans; dependency on anthropogenic food sources; and risk-taking behaviour. Studies by the University of Cape Town's Baboon Research Unit and associated researchers have repeatedly identified food-conditioning and repeated successful urban access as primary drivers of escalating baboon conflict behaviour on the Cape Peninsula.

Scientific findings further indicate that management approaches which do not sufficiently deter repeated urban access may unintentionally reinforce habituation patterns, particularly where baboons continue obtaining high-calorie food rewards within urban areas. In contrast, aversion-based management approaches are internationally recognised within wildlife conflict management as methods aimed at reducing the attractiveness of urban areas and interrupting reward-based behavioural conditioning.

The Municipality acknowledges that wildlife management approaches must remain adaptive, evidence-informed and responsive to changing conditions, it would, however, not be scientifically accurate to attribute all observed conflict trends or troop behavioural changes solely to any individual operational methodology or specific individuals involved in management programmes.

Human-wildlife conflict systems are widely recognised in scientific literature as complex socio-ecological systems influenced by multiple cumulative variables over extended periods. Current scientific understanding nevertheless supports the broader principle that reducing successful urban foraging opportunities and limiting habituation to human environments remain critical components of long-term baboon conflict mitigation and welfare management.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#65

From: Angela De Villiers

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 13:07

Subject: Baboon Management

We have been residents in Voëlklip for umpteen years and have experienced baboon problems ever since moving here.

First the baboons were uncontrollable and residents were left more or less to their own devices to protect their homes with sensible advice e.g not displaying ,fruit which was an attraction. (I had some nasty experiences with home invasions but accepted the fact that I was negligent).

Secondly , the baboon problem was hardly noticed when the Municipality engaged the professional baboon experts who did a brilliant job with their patented method ,until the Municipality found that renewing their contract was exorbitant & unaffordable.

Third phase of our baboon experience is the unacceptable present municipal monitoring idea which is totally inadequate & causing grievous damage to property & possessions, as well as fear for pet & personal harm,

This situation cannot be allowed to continue & must be addressed immediately. Not only is it a danger to property & personal safety, but the value of property will decrease immensely which will affect everyone in Hermanus, which is a favourite tourist destination.

A solution is well overdue & the Municipality must provide an adequate solution to this baboon problem which is humane to both baboons & humans alike. Funds must be made available for a satisfactory answer to this grievous problem without delay.

Kind regards

Municipality response:

Baboon management forms part of a broader integrated biodiversity and environmental management responsibility aimed at protecting ecological systems, reducing human-

wildlife conflict, safeguarding public safety, supporting tourism, and maintaining the environmental integrity of the Overstrand.

The Municipality remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#66

From: Barbara Jenman

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 06:28

Subject: comments for CONSIDERATION for current draft IDP 2026/7

I object to similar methods of paintball guns, currently used in Pringle Bay, to be used in Bettys Bay in the next financial year 2026/ 2027

I object to a further cost of over 5 million rand, which would be needed for extra staff and these guns. It is a waste of resources, better spent in ensuring waste bins are indeed secure from any wildlife.

Waste management needs much public participation, and I suggest a consistent discussion face to face on integrated waste management aspects to really get to grips with ways of keeping many waste items out of landfills, and guidance on better ways of disposal. This can only happen with regular interface between OM and community. This alone would go a long way for keeping wildlife, in particular baboons out of bins and cages, and assist in community enjoying living in a Biosphere.

I object to the lack of Public participation -PP, a lack of real genuine participation. PP is the only way to obtain results, and it gains trust between OM and us the community. It has been well understood in modern times. I cannot understand why OM still refuses to NOT genuinely include PP. Lack of PP creates division amongst us the community and lack of trust with OM as well.

I object to the fact that more breakins to houses are occurring, according to what I see and hear from local people – as the current baboon management plan surely should mean less breakins to homes! Before HWS arrived in Silversands we rarely had breakins, so why have we been hearing so many more besides the fact that the Silversand troupe

is being dispersed in all directions, resulting in confusion, individuals wandering through and not even returning to the mountain to sleep.

Please send me acknowledgement of my email. Thank you

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#67

From: Terry Lavery

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 07:27

Subject: Baboons in Bettys Bay

Good morning

I do not support a Pringle Bay type baboon management.

Bettys Bay has much better management, with less stress for both baboons and residents with vuvuzela warnings when the baboons come into the residential area.

Thank you

Municipality response:

We acknowledge and understand that the use of paintball markers in wildlife management can raise strong emotional and ethical concerns amongst residents and members of the public who care deeply about animal welfare.

It is important to clarify that the use of paintball markers, where authorised, is intended as a non-lethal aversion tool aimed at discouraging baboons from entering urban areas and becoming habituated to human food sources. The intention is to reduce direct conflict between baboons and residents, while also limiting situations that may ultimately place baboons at greater risk of injury, aggression, or euthanasia.

These methods are generally implemented under specific operational protocols and are intended to act as a temporary deterrent rather than to cause harm or cruelty to the animals. The broader objective remains the long-term balance between people and baboons in a manner that protects both public safety and animal welfare.

We do, however, appreciate that there are differing views on the effectiveness and ethical acceptability of these approaches, and public input remains an important part of the ongoing discussion around baboon management strategies.

Your concerns have been noted and will be included as part of the broader public sentiment regarding this matter.

#68

From: Sara Wessels

Subject: Objection to Proposed Kus Road Project

I am writing to formally record my objection to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai.

We, as Sandbaai residents have previously raised concerns, and it is deeply troubling that the process appears to be proceeding despite clear and repeated public opposition, and without the transparency and procedural integrity that such a project requires. In this regard I refer you to:

A. The Ward 7 Ward Committee meeting of 22 November 2025, during which the public very clearly indicated that they do not want or support the proposed Kus road project; and B. The survey earlier in 2025 regarding the proposed project which clearly showed that Sandbaaiers are overwhelmingly opposed to the project.

It is shocking that the clear outcome of both the meeting and the survey, have been blatantly ignored by the Sandbaai ward councillor, the Mayor (who confirmed at the said meeting that the proposed project would NOT be proceeded with and that other issues, such as sewage and flooding, would be prioritised), and the Overstrand council.

In addition to the above, I wish to object on the following grounds:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation and/or blatant disregard for public opinion as set out above.
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans 4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. No environmental impact assessment presented 6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition, as set out above 8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
9. Potential long-term financial implications The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 9 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

- ## Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.
- ## Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.
- ## A transparent and inclusive public participation process.
- ## Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current Sandbaai residents but the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I trust that this objection will be formally recorded and acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward

councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#69

From: Ida Meyer

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 08:42

Subject: Draft 2026/2027 IDP

*Please provide written acknowledgement of receipt of this comment.

1. In response to the Draft 2026/27 IDP budget, I am formally objecting to the proposed allocation of R5,000,000 for expanded baboon “management” in Betty’s Bay and Kleinmond using methods “as used in the management practices in Pringle Bay”.

2. This is a gross misappropriation of taxpayer money. The baboon management model as it is currently applied in Pringle Bay is an abomination. There was a marked increase in home entries and baboon deaths at the hands of residents since the inception of the Environmental Departments Adaptive Baboon Management Plan in Pringle Bay. To allocate more money to expand this failed operation will not change the fact that the both ‘pro’ and ‘anti’ baboon groups are realising that this ABMP is counterproductive.

3. Prevention, not persecution, is the legal mandate.

Page 136 of the draft IDP originally contained the Environmental Department note: “Baboons are a lifestyle choice... You will have to take established preventative measures if you choose to live near natural areas...” Please ensure that you know the Municipal bylaws... pertaining to Waste Management.”

This section was struck through. Why?

4. The onus is on residents and OM to enforce existing waste bylaws. Baboons enter for food. Funding should prioritise bin locks, public education, and bylaw enforcement, not tools that increase aggression.

Currently residents who don't comply with municipal bylaws are encouraged by the Environmental Department to ignore their responsibilities. This is a breeding ground for lawlessness, as is so evident in the many incidents of firing weapons in residential areas. In many cases baboons have been killed, with no consequences for the perpetrators whatsoever.

5. To allocate more money to a department that does not comply with municipal protocols is unacceptable. The Environmental Department has no regard for any accountability, transparency or public participation. To expand the use of paintball guns, bear bangers and other punitive "tools" to Betty's Bay and Kleinmond is a blatant ignoring

of Betty's Bay residents' unanimous vote against such "tools" at the public meeting of 29 April 2024 in Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay.

It is the duty of the Overstrand Municipality as a DA constituency to comply to DA policy by:

1. Rejecting the budget line for additional staff and paintball guns for Betty's Bay/Kleinmond
2. Reinstating the Environmental Department's note on preventative measures and resident responsibility
3. Redirecting funding to: municipal baboon-proof bins, household bin lock subsidies, and enforcement of waste bylaws
4. Conducting the promised public participation process before any new management plan is funded.
5. Focusing on promoting our natural fauna and flora as a tourist attraction and not a tourist aversion by the presence of aggressive, poorly trained baboon monitors.

I am a disillusioned resident of Pringle Bay and I can assure you that Betty's Bay does not want to become another Pringle Bay. Escalating the tools that created toxic rhetoric, criminal activity, human on human aggression and intolerance, in addition to an unmanageable baboon troop, will replicate Pringle Bay's massive community division in Betty's Bay.

We are custodians of the UNESCO Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Our budget should reflect that.

Regards

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within Betty's Bay.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents' daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader

human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#70

From: Christiaan Visser

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 09:12

Subject: Praktiese bekommernisse oor huidige bobbejaanbestuur – Bettiesbaai

Geagte Me Louw,

Ek wil graag kortliks my kommer uitspreek oor die voorgestelde benadering tot bobbejaanbestuur in Betty's Bay.

Wat vir my nie sin maak nie, is die volgehoue gebruik en uitbreiding van metodes wat duidelik nie werk nie.

As iets soos paintball-gewere of soortgelyke afskrikmiddels nie die probleem oplos nie, help dit nie om net meer daarvan te doen en te verwag dit gaan skielik beter resultate lewer nie.

Dan behoort die benadering aangepas te word.

Daar is ook baie goeie voorbeelde wat gewys dat 'n minder aggressiewe metode beter kan

werk. Die CT2- en Seaforth-troppe was oor tyd bestuur sonder hierdie tipe vreesgebaseerde afskrikking, met rustiger gedrag en meer tyd buite die residensiele gebied.

Ek is verder bekommerd oor die hernude idee van die doodmaak van mannetjies. Tydens vorige bestuur is meer as 80 mannetjies verwyder in die Kaap, sonder enige merkbare verbetering. Dit het eerder die tropstruktuur ontwig as om stabiliteit te bring.

Om dominante mannetjies te verwyder, versteur die sosiale hiërargie van die trop en lei tot meer onstabiliteit en chaos.

Dit is basiese kennis oor bobbejaangedrag, en daarom is dit moeilik om te verstaan hoekom dieselfde benadering weer oorweeg word.

Hierdie benadering skep die probleem en probeer dit dan met nog meer ingrypende maatreëls oplos. Dit is nie volhoubaar nie en dit werk duidelik nie.

Vriendelike groete

Munisipaliteit kommentaar:

Dankie vir u voorlegging en dat u die tyd geneem het om kommentaar te lewer rakende bobbejaanbestuur binne die Betty's Bay-gebied.

Bobbejaanbestuursprogramme word geïmplementeer binne 'n goedgekeurde institusionele, permit- en operasionele raamwerk en is nie gebaseer op die besluite of sienings van enige enkele individu nie. Operasionele benaderings word gelei deur permitvoorwaardes, omgewingsoorwegings, wetenskaplike literatuur met betrekking tot mens-wildlewe-konflikbestuur, praktiese operasionele ervaring, dierewelsynsoorwegings en deurlopende aanpasbare bestuursprosesse.

Die term "aanpasbare bestuur" verwys na 'n internasionaal erkende omgewingsbestuursbenadering waardeur operasionele metodes voortdurend gemonitor, geassesseer en aangepas word in reaksie op veranderende toestande, waargenome uitkomst en beskikbare wetenskaplike inligting. Wetenskaplike navorsing met betrekking tot gehawende bobbejaantroepe het herhaalde suksesvolle toegang tot stedelike voedselbronne konsekwent geïdentifiseer as een van die primêre drywers van eskalerende mens-bobbejaan-konflikgedrag. Bestuursintervensies is dus daarop gemik om suksesvolle stedelike voedingsgeleenthede te verminder, gewenning aan stedelike omgewings te ontmoedig en die hoeveelheid tyd wat bobbejane in stedelike gebiede deurbring waar hulle aan talle risiko's blootgestel word, te verminder. Hierdie risiko's sluit

in voertuigbotsings; elektrokusie; konflik met inwoners en huisdiere; afvalinname; onwettige voeding; besering; en vergeldingsskade.

Die Munisipaliteit erken ook u bekommernisse rakende toesig, operasionele doeltreffendheid en gemeenskapsverdeling, daarom sal operasionele prestasie en bestuursbenaderings steeds gemonitor en hersien word deur bestaande bestuurs-, verslagdoenings- en permitprosesse. Soos met baie komplekse mens-wildlewe-konfliksituasies internasionaal, gaan verskillende openbare menings en sterk emosies dikwels gepaard met bestuursprogramme wat binne stedelike omgewings bedryf word.

Die Munisipaliteit bly verbind tot die balansering van biodiversiteitsbewaring; dierewelsyn; openbare veiligheid; wetenskaplike bewyse; operasionele praktiese uitvoerbaarheid; en gemeenskapsbekommeris binne die breër konteks van verantwoordelike omgewingsbestuur in die Overstrand-munisipale area.

U bekommernisse is aangeteken en sal ingesluit word as deel van die breër openbare sentiment rakende hierdie saak.

#71

From: Delwyn Stoltz

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 10:55

Subject: IDP comment for WARD 3 - (BABOONS)

I would like to address you urgently regarding the baboon situation in Voëlklip.

The present situation cannot continue – it is going to end in tragedy for the baboons and the public ! It's just a matter of time.

At present residents are basically captive in our homes – not being able to leave doors or windows open, even with burglar guards and security gates.

I've had a house in Voëlklip for almost 30 years. Yes, there have always been baboons in the area. For a long period of time when the other monitors were in control, we hardly saw a baboon for quite a number of years.

However the situation has changed drastically. Baboon behaviour is definitely more determined and aggressive. They are now trying to **forcibly** enter properties, where previously they would assess a likely opening and walk away if a door or window was open but protected by security gates or window bars.

Many residents report forcible or attempted forcible entry. Their behaviour is now likened to criminals.

In my own instance, my grandchildren have been completely traumatised by 2 baboons entering the house and suddenly appearing right next to them on top of the bar counter, while they were sitting on the sofa watching TV. You can imagine that a fully grown baboon is very big and scary in normal circumstances, but to be a small child and suddenly have such a frightening animal elevated *above* you as well is an extremely terrifying experience.

They now don't even want to come to visit me in Hermanus because they're too scared. Even in the house, the younger ones demand somebody go with them to other rooms/toilet etc.

I have had a number of instances of baboons in my home over the years – fortunately without major consequences, but nevertheless very scary indeed.

I realise the monitors are doing their best, and they are a help to some degree. Baboons are very intelligent and easily evade the monitors.

The current situation cannot continue. The likelihood of a severe or even fatal injury to a child/animal/person is becoming a reality.

Our properties are expensive, our rates are high and increasing, but we are at the mercy of the baboons to enjoy our homes and live our lives in safety. Not to mention all the additional expense of installing gates, extra guards, locks and other mechanisms.

I realise this is a difficult situation, but somehow a solution **must** be found.

Residents must also play their part in being prepared to NOT have food sources available. In many cases it would also mean removing well established trees which bear nuts or fruit, but that may be one of the drastic measures that have to be taken to try and solve the problem. Certainly vegetables etc are a complete no-no unless enclosed in a very sturdy cage of some sort.

This matter requires immediate and sustained attention from the Municipality.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges receipt of your submission and notes the concerns raised regarding baboon management within the Voëlklip area.

The Municipality recognises that human–baboon conflict has a direct impact on residents’ daily lives, including concerns relating to safety, property damage, access to outdoor spaces, waste management, and general wellbeing within baboon-affected areas. The challenges associated with baboon incursions into urban areas remain a significant concern for both residents and the Municipality. OM acknowledges that the management of urban baboon populations presents a complex operational and environmental challenge, particularly within areas situated directly adjacent to natural habitat. Increasing habituation of certain baboon troops to human-derived food sources, continued urban expansion, inadequate waste management practices, and broader human behavioural factors all contribute to the ongoing difficulties experienced within affected communities.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding programme coordination, operational effectiveness, waste management integration, monitoring, oversight, accountability, and community engagement. These matters are currently receiving attention as part of the ongoing operational management of the programme and will further form part of the planned review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year.

The review process will include consideration of:

- Programme structure and operational models;
- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Interdepartmental coordination and support functions;
- Community engagement processes;
- Scientific input and adaptive management principles; and
- Long-term sustainability and effectiveness of management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to pursuing a balanced approach aimed at reducing human–baboon conflict while promoting responsible wildlife management practices within the broader urban and environmental context.

#72

From: James Thom

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 11:21

Subject: COMMENTS ON THE IDP AND DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Draft Budget for the 2026-2027 cycle.

As a permanent resident of Hermanus / Voëlklip since 1993, and “visitor” since 1959 when my parents first bought property, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the escalating baboon crisis. This crisis is well known to you and your administration. This

is no longer merely an inconvenience; it has become a direct threat to our physical safety, well-being, and financial security. While the Ward 3 Councillor correctly identified this as a priority in last year's IDP, the daily reality for residents remains untenable:

- **Loss of Amenity:** Residents can no longer enjoy outdoor living or meals.
- **Safety Risks:** We live in constant fear for the safety of our pets and small children, who are increasingly confined indoors.
 - My sister's dog was shredded (skinned) by a baboon in our property. A small Schnauzer
 - My wife has been heavily threatened by baboons inside my house on several occasions – once our security company had to intervene and remove the baboons with guns drawn
 - I have been aggressively challenged by baboons and charged at on several occasions
 - We have had grocery shopping snatched out of the boot of our car after opening the boot
 - We have had groceries snatched - very boldly - out of our shopping bags in the kitchen
- **Property Siege:** Homes must remain hermetically sealed at all times. A single lapse results in significant property damage and distress.
 - No windows or doors open more than 8cm's
 - No fruit trees
 - No vegetable gardens
 - No flowerpots because they get turned over and smashed
 - No fruit bowls in the kitchen
 - Must run the gauntlet from the car to the front door with shopping bags
 - Keep pets inside at all times
 - No bird feeders
 - No birdbaths
- **Financial Impact:** Vandalism to roofs, gardens, and windows has led to substantial out-of-pocket losses and is a growing concern regarding long-term property valuations.
 - I personally have spent tens of thousands of rands on repairs to my thatch roof through baboon damage
 - We have had a skylight smashed during a raid (smashed from the inside!)
 - We have had to replace a toilet that was smashed during a raid
 - We have had to purchase new linen after baboons defecated all over the bedroom, carpet cleaning professionals called in, replaced the contents of our refrigerator more times than I care to remember, and repaired broken windows. There is not a room in our house that has not been defecated in by baboons.
 - We have replaced gutters that have been used as swings

- Our internet and telephone line service has been repaired many times because the wires from the Telkom pole are used as a swing
- The list of expenses goes on and on, and the silence from the Overstrand Municipality on the baboon problem has become deafening.

Support for HBAG Submission

I wish to formally endorse the submission made by the **Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG)**. Their critique regarding the lack of transparent reporting, inadequate monitors equipment, and the urgent need for better waste management and security clearances is well-founded and requires immediate municipal attention.

The Need for a "Blocking" Strategy

The prevailing sentiment within the **Baboon Solutions Group** is that monitors alone are insufficient. We need a proactive, tech-driven approach to intercept troops before they cross the urban edge.

The community still holds the "virtual fence", once utilized by Human Wildlife Solutions, in high regard. The use of random deterrents at the urban boundary was remarkably effective. The success of the virtual fence is well documented. I strongly urge the Municipality to integrate these proven "blocking" techniques and tracking technologies into the current management program.

Budgetary Transparency and Communication

Upon reviewing the 2026-2027 IDP, I noted the provision for an electric fence in 2028-2029. While this commitment is appreciated, it offers no relief for the immediate crisis. Furthermore, the 2026-2027 Budget document itself makes **no mention** of baboon management, leaving residents in the dark – and once again in deafening silence. Why was one of Voëlklips most pressing issues not mentioned once in the 2026-2027 Budget? Please can you enlighten me on the proposed area that the “electric fence” mentioned above is scheduled to be erected?

It was only through informal channels that we learned of the R7.5 million allocation, the 60-person staff complement, possible additional vehicle, and the planned aerial counts, +-R150k for improved communication (tracking technology?). This leads to a critical question: **Why was this information omitted from the public budget document?** Please advise on the perceived secrecy behind this omission.

Residents should not have to rely on private inquiries to the CFO to discover how their rates are being allocated toward the town’s most pressing issue. I respectfully request

greater transparency and that these specific allocations be clearly formalized in the final budget and IDP documents to ensure accountability.

I look forward to your acknowledgement of my letter, and responses, plus a far more open and robust municipal strategy moving forward.

Municipality response:

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding long-term funding certainty, medium-term operational planning, and the sustainability of the programme moving forward.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

The review will include:

- An assessment of the effectiveness and sustainability of current management interventions;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Evaluation of operational structures, staffing requirements, and governance mechanisms;
- Review of reporting systems, monitoring frameworks, and measurable performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term financial sustainability and affordability.

The outcome of this review process will provide the Municipality and relevant stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the most appropriate and viable long-term management approach, associated operational requirements, and future funding needs.

It is therefore important to note that the current operational budget allocations for the 2026/2027 financial year (R8,7 million) should be viewed as interim provisions intended to ensure continuity of management interventions while the review process is undertaken. Subject to the outcomes and recommendations of the review, and dependent on Council approval and broader budgetary considerations, longer-term funding frameworks and medium-term allocations may thereafter be considered where deemed viable and appropriate.

#73

From: Paul Hanekom**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2026 12:15**Subject:** IDP budget and planning

As owner of erf 4043 in Voëlklip I would like to propose that extra budget should be set aside for baboon control in the area. At present the situation is totally unacceptable.

Regards

Municipality response:

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding funding and sustainability of the programme moving forward.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

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#74

From: Claire Mullins

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 12:49

Subject: Rooiels Conservancy comments on 2026/27 Draft IDP

Please find attached comments on the draft 2026/27 IDP. Please could you acknowledge receipt of our comments?

Thank you,

PDF document

Submission on the Draft Overstrand Integrated Development Plan (2026/27 Review)

The Rooiels Conservancy appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft IDP. Our comments are made in a constructive spirit and reflect two realities:

1. Rooiels faces specific local issues requiring practical attention
2. Overstrand is not an ordinary municipality. A substantial portion lies within the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, one of the world's most significant biodiversity landscapes. The IDP should reflect that responsibility clearly, seriously and measurably.

PART 1: Rooiels Local Priorities

1.1 Road Safety, Speeding and Dangerous Driving on the R44 / Clarence Drive

IDP References

- *Page 30 – Chapter 2: Strategic Analysis (road accidents as major cause of mortality)*
- *Page 116 – Chapter 4: Strategic Directives (reduce road deaths / visible enforcement)*
- *Page 119 – Planned Law Enforcement Initiatives*
- *Page 120 – Municipal Court enforcement powers*

The Rooiels section of the R44 / Clarence Drive remains a serious public safety concern for residents, visitors, cyclists, pedestrians and wildlife.

[Vision Zero](#) programmes, now adopted in many cities internationally, combine transparent reporting, engineering, enforcement and measurable casualty-reduction targets. We encourage the Municipality to adopt a similarly focused approach for the R44 corridor under its jurisdiction.

We request:

- A dedicated road safety action plan for the portion of Clarence Drive/the R44 which falls within the municipality's jurisdiction
- Visible and regular enforcement operations
- Publication of traffic incidents and enforcement data
- Acknowledgement and inclusion of reduced wildlife deaths as a road safety objective in the biosphere
- Community consultation on traffic calming
- Clear annual reduction targets for offences and collisions

1.2 Rooiels Nature Reserve regularisation and expansion to include Open Space 1 zones including, Rooiels Koppie and Coastal Strip

IDP References

- Page 126 – Chapter 4: Nature Reserves and Open Space Zone 1
- Page 49 – Priorities

The Conservancy agreed a regularisation (for the Rooiels Nature Reserve to comply with NEMPA) and expansion process with the Environmental Management & Conservation Department back in November 2024. Step one was to present a motivation to Council which the Conservancy lodged in 2024 but which will only proceed to Council at the end of May. These items have appeared in successive IDPs for a few years and it is time to make substantive progress.

As indicated in prior interactions, the Rooiels Conservancy is keen to collaborate with the Municipality to secure funding, administrative and practical resources to achieve this. Consequently, it is vital that the Municipality does not use budgetary constraints to further delay regularisation and expansion.

We request:

- A commitment from the Municipality to at least reach a declaration agreement with the relevant authorities (step 4 of the process) for the expansion by the end of 2026 and possibly a Protected Area Management Agreement.
- A commitment from the Municipality to complete a Protected Area Management Agreement, Public Participation process and draft Protected Area Management Plan, in collaboration with the Conservancy and CapeNature during the coming financial year.
- That the Municipality sets funds aside for the Public Participation process and gazetting costs during the coming financial year.

1.3 EMOZ / HPOZ / Coastal Management Line Enforcement

IDP References

- Page 126 – EMOZ
- Page 141 – Overlay Zones / Coastal Management Line
- Page 49 – Priorities

We request:

- Clear target dates for completion of outstanding policy and by-law steps required for full EMOZ implementation.
- Clear target dates for collaborative review of both EMOZ and HPOZ.
- Public reporting on the effectiveness of overlay zone implementation and enforcement

- Consultation with Rooiels stakeholders on the Coastal Management Line regulations and Coastal Protection EMOZ.

1.4 Marine poaching

IDP References

- P118-119 - Strengthened Law Enforcement

Marine poaching remains a persistent threat to Rooiels' biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability and coastal safety and security. Despite the policy emphasis on strengthened law enforcement, residents continue to experience limited visible enforcement presence and a lack of consistent preventative action.

We request:

- Coordinate Increased visible and regular coastal law enforcement patrols in and around the Rooiels coastal zone
- Clear community reporting mechanisms and rapid response protocols
- Transparent reporting of marine poaching incidents, interventions and outcomes

PART 2: The Biosphere Gap

2.1 Fundamental Strategic Concerns

A large area of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve lies within the boundaries of the Overstrand municipality. Within the IDP, environmental language is prominent, but hard commitments, quantified outcomes and accountability mechanisms are largely absent.

The Draft IDP often frames nature in instrumental terms as:

- a tourism asset
- a scenic brand
- economic infrastructure
- climate buffer
- amenity value

rather than as:

- a living system with intrinsic value
- a primary governance responsibility
- something requiring measurable protection and restoration in its own right

As an example of good practice, in England, most new developments are now required by law to deliver at least a 10% measurable biodiversity net gain using a standard metric

under the [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) framework. Overstrand should adopt a municipal equivalent for its own capital works and planning approvals as befits a globally significant biosphere landscape.

We request:

- Adoption of a municipal no net biodiversity loss principle for municipal projects and approvals immediately
- An annual KPI measuring biodiversity net loss/gain
- Clear target dates and implementation steps for progression to a measurable biodiversity net gain standard for municipal projects and approvals

2.2 Immediate Concerns - Illegal hunting and poaching

Community reports of the growing problem of illegal hunting of wildlife with dogs, along with snare trapping in the broader biosphere require an immediate response. They are antithetical to the principles of a biosphere reserve, and must be addressed to prevent escalation, normalisation and longer-term entrenchment of illegal activity.

We request:

- An explicit plan of action to tackle illegal hunting and snare trapping
- Reporting pathways and timely intervention by responsible enforcement agencies
- Transparent municipal reporting of incidents, interventions and outcomes

Closing

We therefore request that the final IDP:

1. Address Rooiels local priorities urgently
2. Reposition the Municipality as a serious biosphere custodian
3. Adopt measurable environmental governance aligned with global best practice.

Submitted by:

The Rooiels Conservancy



Municipality response:

1.1. Road safety, speeding and dangerous driving on the R44/ Clarence drive

Response per bullet:

- R44 / Clarence drive is a Provincial Road. Any speed calming, road markings, road signage etc falls under their jurisdiction. We are only permitted to enforce the law and assist the Provincial Traffic Department.
- Overstrand Traffic conducts daily patrols and safety checks (e.g. rock falls etc) in the area. We have internal operational groups in place in all areas for immediate updates should it be required.
- Please refer to Provincial department.
- We do not engage with the community as this falls under the Provincial Government's jurisdiction
- This too falls under the Provincial Government's jurisdiction.

1.3 EMOZ/ HPOZ/Coastal Management line enforcement

The EMOZ is part of the Town Planning Scheme. The Town Planning scheme and SDF all associated documents are currently under review. It is anticipated that these documents will be circulated for public participation in the 2026/27 financial year.

2.1 Fundamental strategic concerns

South Africa already has emerging biodiversity offset governance mechanisms in place through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment under the framework of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). In 2023, the Minister published South Africa's first National Biodiversity Offset Guideline in Government Gazette 48841 (Notice No. 3569). However, the Guideline itself specifically acknowledges that biodiversity offsetting remains a relatively novel and evolving practice within South Africa and that implementation has historically lacked consistency, standardisation, governance capacity and defensible monitoring systems. The Guideline is not legally binding; it does not establish a fully operational biodiversity credit market similar to England's Biodiversity Net Gain system; and it does not yet provide municipalities with a complete institutional framework for long-term auditing, ecological accounting, monitoring, compliance enforcement and financial governance.

The South African system currently functions primarily through the mitigation hierarchy under NEMA; the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes; biodiversity offsets as a last-resort mitigation measure; stewardship agreements; conservation servitudes; protected area declarations; and site-specific environmental authorisation conditions. Even within South Africa's own biodiversity offset governance discussions, researchers and specialists have cautioned that implementation success depends heavily on governance capacity, transparency, scientific defensibility, monitoring capability and long-term institutional support. For

this reason, implementing a formal “Biodiversity Net Gain” programme equivalent to the system used in England would be extremely complex at the municipal level at this stage.

The Municipality’s current Environmental Management Overlay Zone (EMOZ), Catchment to Coast approach, biodiversity planning initiatives, ecological infrastructure protection and environmental management frameworks already incorporate many of the core principles underpinning biodiversity net gain and ecological compensation within a locally appropriate and legally recognised South African planning context. The current focus therefore remains on strengthening practical implementation of these existing mechanisms while national biodiversity offset governance frameworks continue to evolve.

#75

From: Gert Bam

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 13:17

Subject: RE: PBRA Input on OM Draft IDP Review and Draft Budget Report

PRINGLE BAY RATEPAYERS’ ASSOCIATION

SARS Reg. 9101/138/16/3

NPO Reg. 214-205

PBO Reg. 930013685

www.pringlebayratepayers.co.za

P O Box 409, Pringle Bay, 7196 / Posbus 409, Pringlebaai, 7196

Chairman/Voorsitter: chairman@pringlebayratepayers.co.za / Tel: 084 222 1242

30 April 2026

The Municipal Manager

OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

PO BOX 20

HERMANUS

7200

PER EMAIL: mm@overstrand.gov.za

Note from the Municipality: Only IDP related responses are provided here in blue text. Refer to the separate Council item on the Budget for budget responses.

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON DRAFT AMENDED 2026/2027 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) AND BUDGET REPORT OF OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Overstrand Municipality (OM) has initiated a public participation process to consult the community during the process of reviewing the Integrated Development Plan(IDP) as well as the planning of the budget for the 2026/2027 financial year. The Pringle Bay Ratepayers Association carefully considered the documentation and drafted a response to both the IDP as well as the draft budget.

As stated in our previous inputs ,the PBRA wishes to acknowledge that the OM is one of the few municipalities in the country that “keeps its head above water”. In certain aspects it can be viewed as a “pocket of excellence in the local government space”. OM has consistently achieved clean audits. With an increase in the total number of OM citizens at the indigent level, together with limited local economic growth, we commend the OM for having been recognised over the last few years for excellence in critical aspects in the local government space, specifically Blue Drop and Green Drop water quality awards. The recycling project and the recent award in this area is another example of a municipality that is grappling with the concept of how to effectively do more with less. While recognising these achievements, the PBRA contend there are still some structural and systemic issues that require attention. It is hoped that our input and comments on the IDP and draft budget will add value in the process of addressing these challenges in the near and medium-term future.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reflects our input on the draft revised IDP and the Draft Budget report. It consists of three parts namely:

Part A : Observations and comments on the draft review of the IDP for 2026/2027

This part consists of points 3 to 4 and comments on the draft review of the IDP for the 2026/2027 financial year. Except for one or two aspects which are general and relevant to the entire OM, Part A identifies sections in the IDP that are relevant to Pringle Bay. It commences with reference to the Spatial Development Framework and highlights certain issues in chapter 10 which are specific to Pringle Bay. In this section reference is made to the Pringle Bay Village Strategic Framework which is a document that took two years to develop outlining the vision of the residents for the future of Pringle Bay and appeals to the OM to take this into consideration in the process of reviewing the SDF for the next 5-year cycle. Regarding environmental matters, the document comments on the Ward 10 IDP priorities, specifically priorities 11 and 12 on page 48 of the IDP. It also provides input on other issues relevant to Pringle Bay in the section of the IDP dealing especially with the conservation of the environment. Regarding Baboon Management the

PBRA acknowledges with appreciation the commitment of the OM to continue with the Baboon Management Programme. Lastly this section has a paragraph that highlights the need for consistency and fact checking when the IDP is reviewed annually. Of relevance here is the matter relating to the review of the maintenance policy as stated on page 99 of the draft 2026/2027 IDP.

Part B : Draft Report for the 2026/2027 Budget

This part of the document consists of points 5 to 10 and comments on specific items in the draft report on the budget for the financial year 2026/2027. Acknowledgment is given to the moderate increase in the tariff structure. However, regarding the recommended increases for property rates and the tariffs increases for water, sewerage and refuse, this section draws a parallel between the draft tariff increases for the 2026/2027 financial year and the 2021/2022 financial year. In 21/22 there was an across-the-board increase of 4.5%. Similarly, in this draft budget for 2026/2027, an across-the-board increase of 5% is recommended. Referencing the factors that impact the drafting of budget at local government level, the budget report resembles a cut and paste exercise in that it is virtually an exact replica of factors quoted in the budget report of years preceding this draft. Commenting on the moderate increase in the Opex this section makes specific reference to two cost drivers where the OM indicates it is exercising cost containment. These are contracted services and overtime. Pertinent questions are posed about the viability of these measures. It is the contention of the PBRA that should there be an upward adjustment in the mid-year budget adjustment process in these to cost centres, the inference may be drawn that this initial draft budget was a deliberate underestimate to enable a moderate increase in the tariff structure for election purposes. Clarity is sought about the concept of cost recovery tariff and the cost summary of services.

Part C: Summary of questions to be answered

This section is a summarised extract of questions highlighted in the document to enable ease of reference when considering a response to this input.

3. PART A: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF THE REVIEW OF IDP FOR 2026/2027

3.1 Chapter 10 Spatial Development Framework – 5 year review process

Page 244 of the IPD refers to the fact that the OM is currently in the process of its 5 year review of the SDF and will commence with public consultation in the 2026/2027 financial year. The PBRA would like to inform the OM that over a two year period the PBRA developed a comprehensive document titled Pringle Bay Village Strategic Framework (PBVSF) which reflects the wishes of the residents in relation to a strategic vision for the village for the next 20 years. We believe this document can add value to the OM's process of reviewing its strategic framework with specific reference to Pringle Bay.

Question : The PBRA would like to forward this PBVSF as input in the 5-year review of the OM SDF prior to the reviewed SDF being circulated for public consultation. May we do this?

Response: Yes, The PRBRA can officially submit their document with the request that it be considered as an input in reviewing of the SDF.

3.1.1 Spatial layout Map for Pringle Bay – page 169

Paragraph 10.4 summarises the spatial proposals of the current reviewed SDF (2020) and states the following in relation to Pringle Bay; “ Key to the future of Pringle Bay is to protect the vast environmental resources within and surrounding the settlement.”

The SDF (2020), on page 169 of this review of the IDP, shows the map with a business zone where Glen Craig Training Centre is located. It has been pointed out in the past that it is in fact incorrect since that property is zoned Rural Zone 2: Conservation usage. The zoning map must be corrected

Question: Kindly confirm that the zoning map will be corrected. **Response:** The correct zoning is depicted on the GIS. The zoning will be corrected on SDF maps during the SDF review process.

3.1.2 Correction to labelling of table – page 246

Paragraph 10.5.23: on Page 246 indicates that the breakdown of the total available capital expenditure, infrastructure costs and the shortfall/surplus for the Overstrand is presented in Table 76.

Question : Table 76 should perhaps be Table 86 as is indicated on page 247? **Response:** Corrected.

3.2 Lighting Overlay Zone

PBRA together with RooiEls and the support of Bettys Bay submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Lighting Overlay Zone with associated Bylaw in support of same. It was referred to the Province by OM. Province reverted by indicating that it must be performed by the OM themselves. The Mayor and Municipal Manager at the time initiated the process but it seems that it has since been side-lined with a remark that the National Building Regulations is in the process of review. We wish to submit that the issue at hand is a local issue and is not dependant on overriding legislation as long as it does not contradict any current law/legislation.

Question: We request that the process be recommenced and “re-energised.”

Response: The process of evaluating the proposal is in process.

3.3 Chapter 11: Disaster Management Plan

Page 264 of the IDP contains an analysis of Disaster Management for Overstrand Municipality and states that no Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRAVA) has been performed. While the reason of no budget availability is appreciated, it is unclear how one can do proper planning for DM events without a reliable HRAVA. It makes sense to first have the HRAVA performed allowing one to fully understand the planning environment before R7.5 million worth of vehicles are being purchased. It is unclear what the vehicles are for.

Question : What is the cost of an HRAVA for the OM and can the operational budget not be adjusted to fund this?

Response:

Though the document indicates that no HRAVA was undertaken, a comprehensive risk assessment was conducted in 2018. We have requested funding for an updated risk assessment to be conducted.

The 2018 risk assessment cost approximately R200 000 and was funded by Provincial Government. Pending the application for funding, we will revert to apply for funding to conduct the comprehensive risk assessment.

3.4 Chapter 8: Environmental Management

3.4.1 General Remarks regarding Environment Management

Chapter 10 of the IDP outlines the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and states specifically that the SDF is a core component of the IDP. In its summarised description of Pringle Bay, the SDF states that “Key to the future of Pringle Bay is to protect the vast environmental resources within and surrounding the settlement.”

Maintaining this strategic posture is commended. However, it needs to be backed-up by the practical implementation of a range of conservation-related actions by OM. The OM Environmental Management Section needs to provide clear and tangible action to demonstrate adherence to the strategic vision.

Response:

The Environmental Management & Conservation Division supports and reaffirms the strategic intent contained within Chapter 10 of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), specifically the principle that the long-term sustainability of Pringle Bay is intrinsically linked to the protection of its exceptional environmental resources and sensitive ecological systems.

The conservation and protection of biodiversity, ecological infrastructure, and natural open space systems remain fundamental pillars of the Overstrand Municipality's planning and development framework. This commitment is firmly embedded within multiple municipal policy and legislative instruments, including the Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), the Environmental Management Framework (EMF), and the Environmental Management Overlay Zone (EMOZ) Regulations.

The Overstrand Municipal Spatial Development Framework recognises the environmental sensitivity and conservation importance of the Pringle Bay area and emphasises the need to protect natural systems, maintain ecological corridors, and guide development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and responsive to climate-related risks and biodiversity conservation priorities.

Similarly, the Environmental Management Framework provides strategic environmental guidance to ensure that land use planning, infrastructure development, and municipal decision-making occur within the ecological carrying capacity of the receiving environment. The EMF further promotes the protection of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), ecological support areas, coastal processes, freshwater systems, and landscape character.

In addition, the Environmental Management Overlay Zone Regulations serve as an important land use management mechanism to ensure that environmentally sensitive areas are appropriately safeguarded through development controls, environmental considerations, and management interventions aimed at preventing environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The Environmental Management & Conservation Division remains committed to implementing practical conservation measures and environmental management actions in support of these strategic objectives. This includes ongoing biodiversity management, invasive species control, environmental compliance monitoring, open space management, coastal management initiatives, conservation partnerships, environmental education, and the integration of environmental considerations into municipal planning and decision-making processes.

The Municipality acknowledges that the effective protection of Pringle Bay's environmental assets requires not only strategic policy direction, but also continuous implementation, collaboration, monitoring, and adaptive management to ensure that the unique natural character and ecological integrity of the area are protected.

3.4.2 Ward 10 Priorities in the IDP

Page 48 of the IDP refers to the updated Ward priorities for Ward 10. We would like to comment on two aspects namely

3.4.3 Priority 12: Environmental Management

Various objectives are grouped together, with no indication of where in Ward 10 implementation will be focussed. The result is what was experienced over the past years, namely NO funds allocation and NO active implementation in Pringle Bay area specific. No funding or support to Dune Management was received and no clearing of alien invasives on municipal land in Pringle Bay was done by OM. There is therefore no realistic expectation that anything else will materialise in the new year.

3.4.4 Priority 11: Waste Management - Upgrading of Mini Waste Drop-Off Site

The status of the planned upgrade of the Pringle Bay waste drop-off is unknown, i.e. no implementation in the previous year, despite R200 000 having been placed on the budget of the previous year and the current indication that the work will be done under an existing fencing contract. We need clarity on the detail of the planned upgrade. What happened to the R200 000 in the previous year? Is it again available in 26/27 in addition to what will be funded via the fencing contract and if so, what will be provided with the R200 000 that is not mere fencing?

Question : What is the status quo regarding the R200 000 allocated for the upgrading of the Pringle Bay Waste Drop-off site ? Is there further Opex earmarked for the 2026/2027 financial year for this site?

Response: The plan is to still do the fencing before the end of June 2026; however, the late award of the fencing tender has significantly delayed the progress to date for the upgrade of the Pringle Bay Drop off.

The site meeting and receiving and evaluating the quotes was completed after the award and the fencing order request was submitted late last month; we are however still waiting on the official order number to appoint the recommended contractor.

Should the order be significantly delayed the funds might need to be rolled over to next financial year and the order then replaced in July 2026, this is due to the lead time for the delivery of the required fencing materials.

The capex amount was increase from R200k to R 300K during the year and for a portion of this a rolled over to next year will be requested , we just need to confirm the contractor once appointed if they will be able to complete the fencing before end of June, if not then the request will be for the full amount to be rolled so that a new order can be drawn in July and the contractor can then start.

3.4.5 Municipal Open Space Zone 1 areas

The IDP (Page126), outlining the OM's approach to Municipal Open Space Zone 1 as conservation areas, refers to areas that are protected for future generations as a network of Heritage Assets but are not formally declared as Nature Reserves or protected areas yet.

What is the plan with the portion of municipal land adjacent to Pringle Bay (North of James Rd), zoned for conservation? Is it not prudent to have it declared as a Protected Area, or to be incorporated in the Brodie Link Nature Reserve? If it is not done, there may be a future risk of allowing re-zoning for some form of development in this area. Several Pringle Bay residents see this as a threat and would argue for a more formalised guarantee for conservation of this area in the long term.

Question : What is the plan with the portion of municipal land adjacent to Pringle Bay (North of James Rd), zoned for conservation? Is it possible to declare it as Protected Area?

Response:

Although the Open Space Zone 1 areas adjacent to Pringle Bay, including the municipal land north of James Road, are not currently formally declared under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), these properties are nevertheless afforded significant protection through the Overstrand Municipality's Land Use Scheme, where they are zoned specifically for conservation purposes. In addition, these areas are further protected through the Environmental Management Overlay Zone (EMOZ), which places additional environmental management and development restrictions on sensitive areas within the municipality.

At this stage, the existing zoning and EMOZ provisions are considered to provide the required level of protection to safeguard the conservation status and ecological integrity of these municipal open space areas. The current planning framework therefore already limits inappropriate development and supports the long-term conservation objectives of the municipality.

Overstrand Municipality may, at a future stage, consider pursuing a formal Biodiversity Stewardship or Protected Area declaration process in partnership with CapeNature. However, such processes require significant financial, administrative, management and long-term operational commitments. Current municipal conservation priorities and available budget allocations remain focused on the effective management and maintenance of existing formally declared protected areas, including Fernkloof Nature Reserve and Kleinmond Nature Reserve. The Municipality nevertheless acknowledges the importance of the Pringle Bay conservation areas as part of the broader municipal conservation network and heritage assets identified within the Integrated Development Plan and Spatial Development Framework.

3.4.6 Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan.

This section of the IDP (page 136) reports that the Biodiversity Section has developed a GIS Alien Clearing Management Plans for the municipal reserves and open spaces with Annual Plans of Operation (APO's) as funds are available. It further states that the Municipality is responsible for all Alien Clearing activities on Municipal nature reserves and open space 1 areas. A proposed budget for alien invasive clearing is outlined on page 137.

Despite acknowledging that the municipality is responsible for “all Alien Clearing activities on Municipal nature reserves and open space 1 areas”, the key words “as funds are available” are used. From the budget allocation of R400 000 for Kleinmond only, there is no indication that the municipality will do anything in the Pringle Bay area in particular. It may be argued that Pringle Bay will be served from the R400 000, however there is no realistic expectation that any work will be done in the Pringle Bay area, based on the past and current experience. This is in stark contrast to the statement in the Spatial Development Framework (see Page 246): “Key to the future of Pringle Bay is to protect the vast environmental resources within and surrounding the settlement”. Eradication of alien invasive plants should be fundamental to the protection of the environmental resources. Simply put, for some time already, there is zero implementation by OM in the Pringle Bay area and our volunteer hacking team is fighting a lone battle, with frequent objections by residents and land owners when alien invasives clearing is done on municipal road verges in and around the village, which is the primary responsibility of OM, as acknowledged by OM.

Question : Where does Pringle Bay fit in the Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan of OM and is there specific budget resource allocation for this aspect in Pringle Bay?

Response:

The Environmental Management and Conservation Division have an Overstrand-wide allocation for Invasive Alien Plant clearing under the Forestry operational vote. The implementation of alien clearing projects across the municipality is coordinated and prioritised by infield conservation staff within their respective administrative areas, based on operational priorities, ecological risk, available funding, and the need to retain previous clearing gains through follow-up maintenance work.

Although the IDP refers to specific allocations linked to certain operational areas, the invasive alien plant clearing budget is not exclusively limited to a single town or reserve but rather forms part of a broader municipal alien vegetation management programme. The current operational budget allocation for invasive alien vegetation management across the Overstrand area is approximately R2 million. Due to the scale and extent of invasive alien plant infestations throughout the municipality, the majority of the available funding is presently directed toward follow-up clearing operations in areas that have already undergone initial clearing interventions. This approach is necessary to protect previous municipal investments and to prevent rapid re-infestation of cleared areas.

At this stage, the available budget does not adequately provide for the large-scale expansion into new or initial clearing areas across all towns simultaneously. Should additional or new clearing areas within Pringle Bay require consideration, these matters should be discussed directly with the conservation staff within the Kleinmond administration area so that operational priorities can be assessed and incorporated into future planning where feasible.

The Municipality acknowledges that invasive alien plant management remains a critical component of biodiversity conservation and environmental protection within Pringle Bay and the broader Overstrand region. The Municipality furthermore wishes to thank the Pringle Bay

conservancies, volunteer hacking groups and conservation-minded residents for their continued support, stewardship and active involvement in assisting with the management and protection of conservation areas within their town. Their contribution plays an important role in supporting broader municipal conservation objectives.

3.4.7 Coastal Management

The section of the IDP (Page 139-140) dealing with Coastal Management, in relation to municipal fixed assets and liabilities, makes the point that “Where possible, management agreements have been drawn up between the Municipality and Hacking / Community organisations to assist with this programme.” Note that “Mobile dune management” is listed as a high priority in the table in Figure 16. Further reference to this aspect is contained on page 146 of the IDP with specific reference to Beach and Dune Management. This section refers to the dune system that has been moving back and forth on a seasonal basis as part of an isolated or “pocket beach”

Beach and dune management is supposed to be implemented based on the Updated Management Plan for the Pringle Bay Beach and adjacent Dune Area, dated October 2015. Despite the fact that the OM and DEADP approved plan indicating that OM is responsible for the implementation of the plan, OM has since 2015 not implemented anything. After earlier community efforts that faded away, the plan was re-invigorated in 2022, by Pringle Bay volunteers, coordinated via the PBRA. Despite a co-management agreement that was concluded in 2023 between the PBRA and OM for Dune Management, OM (Environmental Management Section) has failed to provide any of the material support to this program, despite detailed planning done and requirements submitted by the PBRA to the OM Environmental Management Section. (The co-management agreement was not renewed after its first year, as a result of the zero contribution to the program by OM.) The question is how serious is OM about this? It is common knowledge that any objective stated in an IDP, that is not specifically funded in a budget allocation, will simply not be executed.

Question: Is OM willing to resurrect the co-management agreement of 2023 for Dune Management and commit funding to meet its obligations?

Response:

The Updated Management Plan for the Pringle Bay Beach and Adjacent Dune Area (2015) were originally developed through a coordinated intergovernmental process involving the Western Cape Government, CapeNature, the District Municipality and other relevant stakeholders during the period in which the national Working for the Coast Programme was operational and actively funded. At the time, the implementation model envisaged significant support through external coastal management funding mechanisms and intergovernmental programmes.

Since then, the Working for the Coast Programme has largely been discontinued and the associated funding streams that previously supported implementation of Dune Management Maintenance Plans (DMMPs) are no longer readily available. This has significantly impacted the ability of local authorities to fully implement large-scale dune management interventions as originally envisaged in these plans.

It must furthermore be noted that Coastal Management is primarily a District Municipality function in terms of the Integrated Coastal Management Act. Hence Coastal Management is primarily coordinated as a District Municipality function in terms of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act 24 of 2008) (ICMA). The ICMA specifically provides for District Municipal Coastal Management structures and programmes, and the Overberg District Municipality Coastal Management framework recognises that district municipalities are responsible for coastal management within their respective jurisdictions. Accordingly, the long-term implementation of coastal management programmes, including dune management initiatives, remains dependent on the availability of equitable share allocations and broader intergovernmental coastal management funding support. Until such funding mechanisms become available, the Overstrand Municipality is unfortunately only able to implement limited and essential maintenance-related coastal management activities within existing operational and budgetary constraints.

The Municipality recognises the importance of the Pringle Bay dune system and acknowledges the valuable role played by community organisations and volunteers in supporting local coastal conservation initiatives. The previous co-management agreement with the Pringle Bay Ratepayers Association demonstrated the value of collaborative management approaches, and future cooperative arrangements may again be considered where operational capacity, available resources, and funding allow for meaningful implementation and support.

3.4. 8 Baboon Management

We welcome the fact that the draft IDP outlines the plans for operational capacity for baboon management for the 2026/2027 financial year. We furthermore welcome the stated intent of the baboon management strategy being "The sustainable management of local baboon populations, by keeping them out of urban areas."

This narrative in the draft IDP implies continuation and even expansion of the programme, yet no corresponding forward budget allocation or multi-year funding framework is defined. In the absence of such clarity, it is not possible for stakeholders to plan, align resources, or assess the long-term sustainability of the intervention.

A definitive statement is therefore required from the Municipality confirming the level of funding committed over the medium term to ensure a comprehensive implementation of a management plan to achieve the objective above.

Without this, the current budget provision risks being interpreted as a short-term measure rather than part of a sustained strategy, undermining both planning certainty and programme effectiveness.

It is encouraging to note that there is acknowledgement of the fact that baboons can be a nuisance and damage-causing, which requires management. This acknowledgement is in line with Schedule 5 Part B of the constitution which lists the control of public nuisances as a local

government function. It is therefore concerning that the Municipal Manager stated at the public consultation session of Wards 9 and 10 that baboon management is not a municipal mandate.

Question: What is the funding allocated in the Opex to baboon management for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Response:

The Municipality acknowledges the stated objective contained within the draft IDP, namely “the sustainable management of local baboon populations, by keeping them out of urban areas.” This objective remains aligned with the broader intent of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP), which seeks to reduce human–baboon conflict while promoting the long-term wellbeing of both residents and baboon populations.

The Municipality notes the concerns raised regarding long-term funding certainty, medium-term operational planning, and the sustainability of the programme moving forward.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

The review will include:

- An assessment of the effectiveness and sustainability of current management interventions;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Evaluation of operational structures, staffing requirements, and governance mechanisms;
- Review of reporting systems, monitoring frameworks, and measurable performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term financial sustainability and affordability.

The outcome of this review process will provide the Municipality and relevant stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the most appropriate and viable long-term management approach, associated operational requirements, and future funding needs.

It is therefore important to note that the current operational budget allocations for the 2026/2027 financial year (R8,7 million) should be viewed as interim provisions intended to ensure continuity of management interventions while the review process is undertaken. Subject to the outcomes and recommendations of the review, and dependent on Council approval and broader budgetary considerations, longer-term funding frameworks and medium-term allocations may thereafter be considered where deemed viable and appropriate.

With regard to the question of mandate, the Municipality’s involvement in baboon management remains based on cooperative governance arrangements between the relevant authorities, together with the practical need to manage public nuisance impacts, waste management

challenges, public safety concerns, infrastructure damage, and broader environmental management responsibilities associated with the human–baboon interface within urban areas.

4. Maintenance Policy

“The Maintenance Policy is currently under review and needs to be updated after the restructuring of the municipality... It is foreseen that the policy review will be completed by the end of the calendar year”.

This paragraph appeared on **page 93 of the IDP for 25/26**. In other words, this is an undertaking in the draft 25/26 IDP published for public consultation in April 2025. Indicating that the policy review will be completed by the end of the calendar year means it should have been completed by the end of 2025.

This very same paragraph appears verbatim on **page 99 of the draft 2026/2027 IDP**. Once again, it is indicated that “policy review will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The restructuring of the municipality has been completed and implemented since 1 July 2024. .

The following two question therefore requires a response:

- Has the Maintenance policy review been updated?

Response:

No, but the maintenance schedule for the parks department were partially reviewed and minor changes on the road and reseal schedules which are updated annually.

- Has the policy review been submitted to council for acceptance to be implemented by the administration?

Response:

No, the policy will not be reviewed at this stage.

Part B: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BUDGET REPORT

5. General Observations

5.1 Budget Surplus

The budget shows a surplus in 2026 /2027 because of capital income from National and Provincial, however if this is removed it's actually a +-64M deficit which doubles in 2028/29 budget . While this is acknowledged by the Municipality, it is however accelerating.

5.2 Moderate Opex increase

The Operating Budget increase of a modest 4.36% is welcomed. This can only be realised if the cost containment measures are realised.

5.3 Employee costs

Employee Costs increase by 13.4% from 2025/2026 -2026/2027, and consumes 30% of the budget. This is high, considering that not all the positions are filled. It is assumed the vacancies are all funded and therefore included in this employee cost. Is it correct to assume that if not all vacancies reflected are funded then there will be extra costs once the process to fill vacancies commence?

5.4 Contracted Services

We note the excessive expenditure in contracted services for outsourced water and sewerage and "asset" maintenance? How is this being addressed other than the budget being increased. Will the promised containment measures be realised.

5.5 Dependency on electricity to cross subsidise services

The reliance on electricity as a revenue stream to fund expenditure could be problematic as IPP will bring the cost of electricity down in the future and as more individuals switch to solar, this may become an issue as the revenue may fall as the demand gets less from those that pay.

5.6 Bad Debt

Bad Debt reflects a big swing upward for provision of Bad Debt ? Is there a financial strategy to contain this?

6. Observation : Election year budget

The tariff increases over the last few years and the proposed increases for the 2026/2027 financial year makes for interesting analysis.

Financial year	Property Rates	Water	Sewerage	Refuse
21/22	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
24/25	8%	6%	8.9%	11%
25/26	9.7%	6.2%	6%	6%
26/27	5%	5%	5%	5%

The reduction in the property rates tariff from 9.7% (25/26) to 5% (26/27) would of course be welcomed by ratepayers. Ratepayers are also relieved that the tariff for water, sewerage and refuse is increased by only 5%.

Kindly advise whether this 5% increase is an indication that ratepayers can in future expect the same level of increase that is close to inflation and the projected CPI levels.

The above table however shows a remarkable similarity between the 2021/2022 and the 2025/2026 tariff structures. The 21/22 financial year had an across the board 4.5% increase. The 26/27 financial year now has a 5% across the board increase.

It is instructive that these two financial years are local government election years.

A further observation is that there seems to be disjuncture between the recommended increases and the content of the report. The external factors impacting the budget are quoted the same as previous years. Yet we now have an across-the-board increase of only 5% compared to the relatively steep increases in the previous years.

7. Cost containment

Section 1.5 (pages 16-21) of the budget report discusses the Operational Expenditure Framework. While it is accepted that there are certain categories of expenditure that leaves no room for flexibility , this section of our input focusses on specifically two areas where the administration has committed to cost containment namely:

7.1 Contracted Services

In its summary of operational expenses by functional classification item (page18), with specific reference to cost containment, the budget report states the following “Contracted services have been identified as an area for the municipality to implement efficiencies.” Our observation as follows:

The OM must be complimented if indeed this will be achieved. However, the trend of operational expenses on contracted services makes this commitment in both the IDP and the budget report an interesting one to say the least. Our reference for this assertion is table 12 on page 17 which reflects the following annual increases

- 22/23 to 23/24 : an increase of R36m
- 23/24 to 24/25 : an increase of R28m
- 24/25 to 25/26 : an increase of R62m
- 25/26 to 26/27 : an increase of R13m

What this data illustrates is that the OM is **planning** (not estimating) to reduce its increase in use of contracted services by R49m compared to the increase in the current financial year.

A further significant observation (as per table 12) which requires clarification is the following:

The 25/26 planned budget(the current budget) which was circulated for public consultation during 2025 reflected a budgeted amount for contracted services of R356m. The projected final amount for the current financial year as reflected in the adjustment budget is R383m. In other words during the public consultation process of 2025 the ratepayers were told that the planned increase in contracted services will be in the region of R35m. The reality reflects that this was an under estimation of the increase in the region of R27m which had to be adjusted midway through the financial year.

This is an obvious anomaly that requires an explanation. Which events lead to this drastic increase in the planned budget line item for contracted services.

Of concern is the fact that annually, during the public consultation process, the following commitment regarding containing the cost of contracted service is made namely;

“As part of the compilation of the 2026/27 MTREF, *this group of expenditure was critically evaluated and operational efficiencies are being enforced*, a process that will be continued forthwith.” (Draft budget report pg. 18)

Question :

- Is the evaluation study available.
- Can this be shared with the ratepayers or at least the ward committees
- Which specific areas are these operational efficiencies enforced?
- Which savings are being realised In the current budget cycle with the operational efficiencies?
- Which savings are envisaged in the new financial year with the operational efficiencies

7.2 Overtime : Is the projection of no increase realistic

Page 9 of the budget report refers to the overtime budget and states that external factors such as the illegal occupation of land and climate change has had an impact on the increase in overtime over the years. With regard to cost containment with overtime the budget report states the following :

“The municipality is aware of the cost implications of before mentioned and has embarked on a process to contain costs as far as possible over the past number of years.” (Section 1.4 page 9).

This statement is tested against the facts contained in the draft 2026/2027 budget report. Table 2.8 on page 65 of the draft budget report indicates the following

2024/2025	Full year Actual	R42m
2025/2026	Original Planned Budget	R42
2025/2026	Adjusted Full Year Estimate	R53m
2026/2027	Original Planned Budget	R53m

Once again it must be highlighted that the very same promise about overtime cost containment was made in the IDP/Budget as well as the public consultation process for the current financial year. In other words the public was promised that the overtime expenditure would be curtailed.

In fact, at the public consultation session at the Kleinmond Hall in 2025 the writer of this input brought it to the attention of the Municipal Manager that the stated planned increase of R1m in overtime in the 2025/2026 draft budget report was unrealistic. In response to this both the Municipal Manager and the Director of infrastructure (Stephen Muller) very boldly indicated that they are positive the overtime budget could even be reduced due to the fact that the municipality will be acquiring about 12 new sewerage trucks by June of 2025. This will then drastically reduce and even eliminate the need for the trucks to work overtime.

It is therefore instructive that table 2.8 on page 65 indicate an adjusted full year estimate for this financial year of R53m for overtime. **This is an increase of R10m.** Accordingly it is very relevant to seek answers to the following questions namely:

- Which process did the municipality embark upon to contain costs

- What cost savings occurred as a result of these measures.

Given the above it is therefore puzzling that the Municipal Manager, when asked which line items are impacted on with the planned low increase in the operation budget, indicated that the overtime budget will remain at the 2025/2026 level.

Questions

- **What measures are the Municipal Manager putting in place to ensure overtime remains unchanged**
- **What mechanism/system is in place to monitor whether this is adhered to.**

7.4 Cost Containment: Concluding statement regarding Contracted Services and Overtime

It is our contention that, should the mid-year adjustment reflect substantial upward adjustments to the estimates of contracted services and overtime, then it may be inferred that this draft IDP/Budget process deliberately misled the public and council in order to enable the administration to contain the increases in the draft budget to a minimum as reflected on the different tariff increases.

8. Cost of Service : Water , Sewerage and Refuse

Regarding the reference to cost of service the following two points are relevant.

8.1 A phased approach by OM

The budget report (page 12) references the national treasury guidelines to municipalities with regard to calculation of cost-reflective tariffs. Regarding water tariffs the budget report makes four points of which we would like to refer to the following point in relation to cost reflective tariff process of OM namely; *“Overstrand has implemented a phased approach in this regard”*.(page12)

The previous three IDP and Budget cycle reports have consistently referenced this phased approach to get to a cost-reflective tariff structure. It will be appreciated if we could get a response to the following questions namely:

- When did this phased approach commence?
- Has this phased approach now been completed?
- If so can ratepayers in future reasonably expect inflation and CPI related increases?

8.2 The reference for the cost of service tariffs?

For the past three years the ID and budget referred to tariffs to be based on Cost of Service for water, sewerage and Refuse. Kindly advise on the following questions related to the reference for the cost of service tariffs namely:

- when were these studies conducted

- when were the results of such studies tabled at council for the phased implementation of cost-reflective tariff structures to have been determined and approved by council.

A consequential question relating to the above therefore is relevant namely :

- If no such studies were conducted then what methodology is used to set tariffs?

9. MTREF Related Observations

9.1 Water Tariff over MTREF

Page 9 (table5) reflects that the water cost of service moves from a 13.77% in 26/27 surplus to a 3.90% deficit by 2028/29. Two facts are important

- Water tariff is a cost-reflective tariff
- OM has consistently indicate that it has phased in the cost -reflective tariff methodology guideline form Treasury

Is it reasonable therefore to expect a sharp increase above inflation and CPI level in the water tariff and by extension sewerage tariff by 2028/29?

Is there a pro-active remedial strategy in place in anticipation of this projected deficit?

Solid Waste (page 10 table 5) : 26/27 is budgeting a decrease of R2.2m compared to 25/26. For this 5 year cycle 24/25 to 28/29 the following increases are reflected in table 5 rounded off namely:

- 24/25 to 25/26 an increase of R29m
- 25/26 to 26/27 a decrease of R2.2m
- 26/27 to 27/28 an increase of R13m
- 27/28 to 28/29 an increase of R8m

From 25/26 to 26/27 table 5 reflects a decrease of R2.2m. This is clearly an outlier.

What is the explanation behind this outlier?

Has the impact of fuel and other inflationary factors been considered with this estimate? Furthermore the cost of service table reflects a projected increase of 11.2% increase in income while the tariff increases by 5%. From an accounting perspective this seems strange.

10. Repairs and Maintenance (R&M)

10.1 General Observation

The report (page 21) states that the R&M spend is 16,04% of total budget.

The national treasury looks at the R&M ratio as a % of Property ,Plants and Equipment and Investment property (Carrying value) and proposes a low 8%(MFMA Circular no.71: Municipal Finance Management Act No.56 of 2003: Uniform Financial Ratios and Norms”(National Treasury 2014).

For the current financial year table 14 on page 20 reflects that the R&M full year projection pegs the R&M as percentage of PPE at 8.5%. However, for the 26/27 financial year this table pegs R&M as percentage of PPE at 521.9%.

Is there an explanation for the ordinary citizen in relation to this difference?

It is noted that this table 14 reflects R&M as percentage of Opex at 26,8% for 26/27 which is a substantial increase on the 15.6% of the current financial year. The OM should be commended for this increase. The following observations and questions regarding the R&M budget namely :

10.2 R& M Category of Other Assets :Comparison between municipal offices and depots

Allocating R&M of R23m on municipal offices and nothing to depots requires an explanation. It is our contention that the operational staff facilities at the municipal depot in Kleinmond and the depot in general requires attention which should be funded from the R&M budget. Yet there is no allocation to depots in this category.

- Is there a facility maintenance audit and audit of the Kleinmond depot in general.
- If so, what improvements have been identified as a priority requirement
- Why is there no allocation for depots in the R&M budget

10.2.1 Drop Off Facilities

Pringle Bay has a waste drop- off facility which requires attention. This has been a priority in the IDP for a number of years. Given that OM has a confined geographical area with only a few sites it is reasonable to request that these allocations in the subcategories in this class of R&M expenditure be further subdivided to actual sites or even regions.

Kindly advise what portion of R&M budget allocated to this category is earmarked for Pringle Bay.

10.2.2 Community Assets

Tourism is an important contributor to the economic growth of the OM. The sub- categories of Public Open Spaces and Public Ablution facilities are services which can be seen as the face of the municipality when it comes to tourism. Tourists come here to enjoy the environment and when frequenting the beaches use the public ablution facilities. In addition, public ablution facilities at transport hubs are an important basic service to the community. However, table 14 reflects in fact a reduction in the operational funds allocated to Public Open Space with R1.3m increase in public ablutions. Parks is allocated an increase of about R3m.

The ward committee of ward 10 conducts regular site visits and have consistently observed the state of disrepair of ablution facilities at our beaches in ward 10. It seems that the R&M approach is reactive rather than pro-active.

It is recommended that the R&M for Public Ablutions and Open Spaces should be increased to enable the relevant department to adopt a pro-active strategy with public ablutions.

10.2.3 Transport Assets

This category shows a reduction of R10m from the full year projection of 25/26 to the budgeted amount for 26/27. Both the MTREF going forward as well as especially the past financial years reflect substantial increases in this category. This budget line item is therefore once again an outlier.

Is there an explanation for this.

10.2.4 Beach Management: No R&M allocation

It is our contention that the Repairs and Maintenance budget needs to have a specific allocation for beach management as the rehabilitation of dunes(as an example) falls within the description of Repairs and Maintenance.

Kindly advise where in the budget the maintenance of beaches is allocated an operational budget

We sincerely request that you will please be so kind to acknowledge receipt of our comments/ input/questions and be so kind to respond accordingly.

Kind regards



GERT BAM : Chairperson

Obo: Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association

PART C: SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RESPONSE

Part A : Questions pertaining to the draft of the 2026/2027 IDP review document

1.Spatial development Framework : Chapter 10

1.1 Review of the Spatial Development Framework for next 5-year cycle

Question : May the PBRA forward the PBVSF as input in the 5-year review of the OM SDF prior to the reviewed SDF being circulated for public consultation.

1.2 OM Spatial development Framework(2020) zoning map of Pringle Bay

Question: Kindly confirm that the zoning map will be corrected reflecting the area where Glen Craig Training centre is located as Rural Zone 2: Conservation usage

1.3 SDF section : Paragraph 10.5.23 on Page 246 - labelling of table

Question : Table 76 should perhaps be Table 86 as is indicated on page 247?

1.4. Lighting Overlay Zone

Question: We request that the process be recommenced and “re-energised

2. Disaster Management plan ; Chapter 11

Question : What is the cost of an HRAVA for the OM, and can the operational budget not be adjusted to fund this?

3. Environmental Management : Chapter

3.1 Waste Management and Drop -Off Sites

Question : What is the status quo regarding the R200 000 allocated for the upgrading of the Pringle Bay Waste Drop-off site and is there further Opex earmarked for the 2026/2027 financial year for this site?

3.2 Municipal Open Space Zone 1 areas

Question : What is the plan with the portion of municipal land adjacent to Pringle Bay (North of James Rd), zoned for conservation? Is it possible to declare it as Protected Area?

3.3 Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan.

Question : Where does Pringle Bay fit in the Invasive Alien Plant Management Plan of OM and is there specific budget resource allocation for this aspect in Pringle Bay?

3.4 Coastal Management

Question: Is OM willing to resurrect the co-management agreement of 2023 for Dune Management and commit funding to meet its obligations?

3.5 Baboon Management

Question: What is the funding allocated in the opex to baboon management for the 2026/2027 financial year.

4. Maintenance Policy – page 99 of the draft IDP

The following two question therefore requires a response :

- Has the Maintenance policy review been updated?
- Has the policy review been submitted to council for acceptance to be implemented by the administration

Part B: Questions pertaining to the draft 2026/2027 budget report

5. Property Rates and Tariff Increases – across the board 5% increase

Question: Kindly advise whether this 5% increase is an indication that ratepayers can in future expect the same level of increase that is close to inflation and the projected CPI levels.

6. Contracted Services : reference statement in budget report : “As part of the compilation of the 2026/27 MTREF, *this group of expenditure was critically evaluated and operational efficiencies are being enforced*, a process that will be continued forthwith.” (Draft budget report pg 18)

Question : Response required for the following questions pertaining to above statement

- Is the evaluation study available.
- Can this be shared with the ratepayers or at least the ward committees
- Which specific areas are these operational efficiencies enforced?
- which savings are being realised In the current budget cycle with the operational efficiencies?
- Which savings are envisaged in the new financial year with the operational efficiencies

7. Overtime Expenditure : Reference Municipal Manager statement at public consultation session that overtime line item will have no increase.

Questions : The following two questions relating to this are relevant

- What measures are the Municipal Manager putting in place to ensure overtime remains unchanged
- What mechanism/system is in place to monitor whether this is adhered to.

8. Cost of Service :

8.1 Water, Sewerage and Refuse – Budget report annually refers to a phased approach to implement Treasury guidelines of cost to service tariff

Questions : There should therefore be a factual response to the following questions namely:

- When did this phased approach commence?
- Has this phased approach now been completed?
- If so can ratepayers in future reasonable expect inflation and CPI related increases?

8.2 What is the reference for the cost of service tariffs.

For past three years the ID and budget referred to tariffs to be based on Cost of Service for water, sewerage and Refuse.

Question: Kindly advise on the following questions namely:

- when were these studies conducted
- when were the results of such studies tabled at council for the phased implementation of cost-reflective tariff structures to have been determined and approved by council.

9. MTREF Related Observations

9.1 Water Tariff over MTREF

Question : Is there a pro-active remedial strategy in place in anticipation of this projected deficit in the water tariff over the MTREF.

9.2 Solid Waste (page 10 table 5) : 26/27 increase seen as outlier

Question : What is the explanation for this outlier?

10. Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) Specific Items : Table 14 on page 20 of budget report

10.1 Line Item : Category of Other Assets :Comparison between municipal offices and depots

Question : Why is R23m allocated to municipal offices with no allocation to the depot line item. Is there a facility maintenance audit and audit of specifically the Kleinmond depot.

10.2 Drop- Off Facility line Item

Question: Kindly advise what portion of R&M budget allocated to this category is earmarked for Pringle Bay

10.3 Transport Assets

Question : Is there an explanation for the reduction of R10m between the 25/26 full year projection and the 26/27 planned budget line item.

10.4 Beach Management: No R&M allocation

Question : Kindly advise where in the budget the maintenance of beaches is allocated an operational budget.

10.5. Community Assets

Recommendation : It is recommended that the R&M for Public Ablutions and Open Spaces should be increased to enable the relevant department to adopt a pro-active strategy with public ablutions.

#76

From: Regina van Heerden**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2026 12:18**Subject:** WYK 14 - RC van Heerden - GOP en Begroting Kommentaar**KOMMENTAAR:- BEGROTING & GOP 2026/27 – WYK 14**

DANKIE aan almal in die Raad en Amptenare ! :- Dat daar nog dienslewering is op 'n uitstekende standard. Outokratiese Amptenare raak al hoe groter problem!

Publieke Deelname proses ens.:-

1. Die vergadering datum van 2026/27 waar die publiek in die wyk 14 insette kon lewer is nie gekies om die publiek kans te gee vir verteenwoordigende insette nie. Meeste van die Belasting betalers is nie permanente inwoners nie en kan dus nie die vergadering bywoon nie. (afstand, dag, tyd en koste is net nie haalbaar nie. Die bywonings register toon die probleem feit. Die vorige jaar was die datum beter gekies en goeie opkoms was geregistreer.
2. Die Raadslid Dudley Coetzee, wat die Vergadering gelei het tydens vroeë Antwoord sessie, was professioneel bod en onbeskof en die Publiek moet doen soos hy besluit en REGEER. **TOTAAL SNERT !**
3. Die publiek wat hier deur benadeel word, is eintlik die gene wat die inkomste in die area genereer. Die media is wel beskikbaar met dokumente, maar in die gewone eienaar se leeftyd is daar nie die nodige tyd om alle items deur te werk en dit te verstaan nie. Daar is geen **detail** berekenings metodes en syfers, hoe daar by tariese se antwoorde uitgekom word nie.
4. Dit is noodsaaklik dat daar beleid dokumente vir berekeninge van tariese in geheel opgestel moet word wat jaarliks onder elke Departement uiteengesit moet word (**DETAIL**). Die geheime berekeninge wat vasgevang word in die finale Tariese moet uitgehaal word vir behoorlike publieke deelname en besluitneming.
5. Die idee dat die Raadslid kan weet, ken of verduidelik aan die publiek in feitelike konteks is 'n klug. Dat Amptenare verantwoordelik, kan nie elke persoon individueel dien met navrae en antwoorde in die verband nie.
6. Die dae van net persentasie aanpassing in die Begroting is nie werkbaar of haalbaar nie. Feit staving en Professionele benadering is nodig om die Publiek te dien en nie te REGEER as Outokrate nie.
7. Die promageering van regulasies, Bywette/verordenings ens. sal daadwerklike aandag moet geniet om negatiewe Outokratiese bepalings te verwyder. Die Publiek word ook nie gelyk gehanteer in toepassing nie. Die Publiek se eiendom word eintlik deur die Amptenare, besit wat regulasies skep en bestuur namens die Wettige Eienaar wat nie 'seggenskap het nie. As die eienaar 'n adres, ID en formele eiendom van waarde besit wat die belasting basis voer is

die Munisipaliteit se toepaslike Amptenare die Koninklike Regeerders en besluitnemers van privaat regte.

8. Wet en orde moet bestaan maar nie geselekteerde toepassing nie, ook nie afwatering van eienaarskap deur betaalde amptenare deur die Belastingbetaler betaal word nie!
9. Die oneerlike manier om Amptenare se wil op die Publiek af te dwing, moet uitgeroei word. Verwysing onder andere:- Die ontwikkeling van 100Ha van erf 210, Gansbaai wat weer stilletjies sy pad teruggevind het in die GOP dokument vir 2026/27. Die feit is dat daarop die vorige jaar 2025/26 se Publieke vergadering van Wyk 14 duidelik ernstige teenkating aangeteken was en die Munisipale Bestuurder het die vergadering ingelig dat die ontwikkelings voorstel uit die Dokument gehaal word. Nogtans die jaar 2026/27 word die item weer ingesmokkel in die GOP van 2026/27 sonder om die publiek atent te maak op die terugbring van die ontwikkeling nie. Ek lei af dat die datum van die Publieke deelname vergadering in WYK 14 so gekies was dat die ontwikkeling van erf 210 kan voortgaan deur so min moontlik deelname te verseker in die proses!

Munisipale kommentaar:

Soos in die konsep-GOP vermeld, sal addisionele grond geïdentifiseer moet word vir toekomstige menslike nedersettingsuitbreiding in die Gansbaai-gebied. Dit sal nie net verskeie behuisingsopsies insluit nie, maar ook ekonomiese, sosiale en opvoedkundige fasiliteite, sowel as enige ander verwante grondgebruike wat benodig mag word. Tot op hede is geen spesifieke ligging aangewys nie. Die aanvang van ondersoek is afhanklik van riglyne rakende grondidentifikasie deur die Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk (ROR)-proses. Daarna sal alle relevante beplanningsbeleide, wetgewing en toepaslike omgewingswetgewing streng nagekom word vir die verloop van die proses.

10. Daar word ook ernstige beswaar aangeteken dat Konsultante aangestel word om die proses te dryf sodat die Amptenare kan skuil agter **AGENTE** wat die gepla is oor die Belasting Betalers se afkeur, voorkeur of mandate nie.
11. Ek verwag 'n verduideliking skrywe van die Munisipale Bestuurder oor die toelating van die Ontwikkeling in die GOP 2026/27 dokument, waar die Publiek hulle totale teenkating in die 2025/26 Publieke Deelname proses geregistreer het. Amptenare bestuur die Munisipaliteit na die Belasting Betalers se Behoeftes, Voorkeure, Afkeure en Mandate ontvang deur die publieke deelname proses en andere. Alle beskikbare ontwikkelings gronde in die naam van die Munisipaliteit moet voor gehou word aan die Publiek met behoorlike verteenwoordiging in Wyk 14.
12. Die implikasie van erf 210 ontwikkeling het radikale negatiewe invoer op eiendoms waarde, Publieke veiligheid, Sosiale verval en toegangs roete beskikbaarheid. (Sien N2 ens. in Kaapstad deur beide kante van hoof roetes te ontwikkel!
13. As gekyk word na die bestuur van instroming waar daar nie werkgeleenthede of ondersteunende Ekonomie is nie val die Amptenare oor hulle voete om nie Politiese golwe te skep nie. Maar eerder word daar ontwikkeling op ontwikkeling

- geskep en gevestig wat net 'n SOSIALE FIASKO skep wat slegs die onwettige besters net beter en beter huisves.
14. Menere/Dames ons skep CHAOS wat reeds duidelik is oor die hele land. Gesins geweld, Moord, Kriminele, Dwelms, Drankmisbruik, Gevaar vir Publiek regte, Inbrake, Geldwassery, Korruptsie, Vandalisme, Diefstal ens. Almal KLA, Almal WEET, maar die skeppers van die probleme word nie intoom gehou deur die Bestuur en Amptenare wat volgens PUBLIEKE Mandaat moet Regeer en Bestuur. DIE BESTUUR EN AMPTENARE IS ernstige besig om nie die nodige BEHEER te skep om wet, orde en Sosiale Vlakke te verbeter nie.
 15. Die las op Infrastruktuur raak en is katastrofies, maar die weldoeners is nie getoor oor CHAOS Ontwikkelinge nie!
 16. Die Staat se aandeel om Dienste, Wet en Orde en Ekonomie te skep BESTAAN NIE! Overstrand kan nie ook deelneem aan die verval nie.
 17. Elektriese Tariewe:
 18. Daar is nie 'n COS verslag beskikbaar binne die finansiële jaar op die web-blaai van die Munisipaliteit waarna verwys word nie.
Munisipale kommentaar:
Webtuiste skakel : <https://www.overstrand.gov.za/document/electricity/have-your-say-85-electricity-tariff-increase/electricity-tariffs-cost-of-supply-2026-02-27/?layout=default>
 19. Op 23 Feb. 2026 is daar 'n Spesiale Raadsvergadering gehou, Item: **ELECTRICITY TARIFFS FOR 2026/27 AND THE COST OF SUPPLY STUDY**
Die COS verslag aan die Raad voorgelê in die item was nie die nuutste Revisie van die Verslag nie?
 20. Eskom Regulasies het geen mandaat in plaaslike bestuur nie, behalwe die wat Lewering, Veiligheid en Tegnieke koppeling bestaan. Overstrand is outonoom en Tarief Strukture van Eskom geld vir Eskom. Overstrand skep sy eie Koste Struktuur.
 21. Daar behoort ernstige aandag gegee te word aan toegekende Eskom Lisensie Kapasiteits toekennings wat nie tred hou met Ontwikkeling nie, maar moontlik oorskreidings van Piek aanvraag oorskreidings Boetes lei. Indien Boetes nie gehef word, is dit weglaatbaar, maar onwaarskynlik. Vakansie en Winter tye is gewoonlik die oorsaak.
 22. Die heffing van Vaste Koste Strukture (alle sub ingesluit) laat geen ruimte vir die Finansiële Gestremde publiek om enige besparings in sy begroting self te bestuur nie, maar word geforseer om bepaalde uitgawes soos verskanste sekerheid vir die Munisipaliteit in rots te giet met geen ag vir die Publiek se benarde posisie van bekostigbaarheid nie. Die werklike elektrisiteit per aansluiting moet die hoof koste verhalings wees en nie die Instandhoudings-rekening nie. Hierdie tariewe faal die behoefte van die Belastingbetaler en toekomstige Mandaat moet heroorweeg word in die nuwe COS verslag van 2027/28.
 23. Dit moet ook voldoen aan die "The main focus this year is further progression towards cost-reflective tariffs". Dit sal gebaseer moet word op die item koste wat jy gebruik en kry, nie verskanste inkomste Versekering nie.

24. Die Munisipaliteit behoort ernstige 'n werklike Ekonomiese Onderzoek te Loods wat die profile van sy gemeenskappe daarstel om daadwerklike bekostigbaarheid binne die Begroting te vestig.
25. Die Munisipaliteit behoort ernstige aandag te gee aan die registrasie van "indigents" om die korrekte inkomste van die Staat te bekom en nie parasities op die Belasting Betalers te steun nie.
26. Die Munisipaliteit behoort produktiwiteits Bestuur in te stel op alle vlakke. Die wêreld en Ekonomie vereis produktiwiteit wat 'n gegewe is in die Privaat sektor.
27. Die Munisipaliteit behoort meer van die GIS stelsel te gebruik om feitelike inligting beskikbaar te hê vir behoorlike betuur. Dit is nie moontlik om behoorlik te Bestuur of Begrotings daar te stel indien daar nie feitelike inligting beskikbaar is nie. Daar betaan reeds baie inligting, maar is nie beskikbaar vir Bestuur nie. Spandeer meer op GIS om behoorlik te bestuur.
28. GIS potensiaal is enorm, maar lê en stof vergaar. Alle Dienste, Gebruike per diens, inkomste, onwettige dienste voorsiening kan gespoor word. Die projeksie op kaart spreek boekdele wat "n verslag van honderde bladsy nie kan weergee vir die besluitnemers nie.

[Nota van Munisipaliteit: Slegs GOP verwante kommentaar is hier gegee, verwys na die aparte Raadsitem op die Begroting vir begrotingskommentare.](#)

Bogemelde kan moontlik vir sommige Amptenare van geen waarde wees nie, maar die feit is dat die Gans wat die goue eiers lê, besig is om te vrek!

Ek vertrou dat erens is daar "n oor wat kan hoor!

Groete

#77

From: Jeanine Vellema

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 13:30

Subject: OBJECTION LETTER TO 26-27 DRAFT IDP WARD 7 (SANDBAAI) IDP PRIORITIES & FUNDING

RE: OBJECTION TO THE DRAFT OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY IDP 2026-2027 REVIEW PLAN (Published 31 March 2026): SANDBAAI / WARD 07 IDP PRIORITIES & FUNDING

I herewith wish to submit my written objection to the **IDP Priority List for Sandbaai / Ward 07 – Kusweg and Bergsig Street Projects** in the current **OM DRAFT IDP '26-'27 Review**, as published on 31 March 2026.

I've attached my **Objection Letter**, for your consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to raise my concerns and my objection.

I look forward to your responses.

PDF document

29 April 2026

**RE: OBJECTION TO THE DRAFT OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY IDP 2026-2027 REVIEW PLAN (Published 31 March 2026):
SANDBAAI / WARD 07 IDP PRIORITIES & FUNDING**

For Attention:

Municipal Manager: Dr Dean O'Neill - mm@overstrand.gov.za

Executive Mayor: Ald Archie Klaas - mayor@overstrand.gov.za & PA Mayor: pamayor@overstrand.gov.za

Mayor Elect & Infrastructure Services: Cllr Clinton Lerm - clerm@overstrand.gov.za

Strategic Support Services: Ms Rochelle Louw - rlouw@overstrand.gov.za

Copies To:

Deputy Mayor: Ald Elnora Gillion - egillion@overstrand.gov.za

Overstrand Speaker: Ald Grant Cohen - gcohen@overstrand.gov.za

Overberg Speaker: Ald Lindile Ntsabo - lntsabo@overstrand.gov.za / lntsabo@yahoo.com

Acting CFO: Mr Davy Louw - dlouw@overstrand.gov.za

Dear Dr O'Neill, Alderman Klaas, Cllr Lerm and Ms Louw,

I herewith wish to record my objection to the **IDP Priority List for Sandbaai / Ward 07 – Kusweg and Bergsig Street Projects** in the current OM IDP '26-'27 Review, as published on 31 March 2026.

I am not only objecting to the **'Kusweg to Piet Retief Street Project' priority 'insertion and ranking'** in the Ward 07 IDP (Pages 44 and 45), but also to the **'2025-2026 Ward Specific Projects (WSP) funding'**, awarded to both of the following Sandbaai IDP Items:

1. **The Kusweg (to Piet Retief Street) Project** – Inserted in and elevated to **Priority 2** position, with **R228 571 WSP funding awarded**.
2. **The Bergsig Street Project: From Curro towards Main Road** – Ranked in **Priority 7** position, with **R150 000 WSP funding awarded**.

For ease of reference, please see the **Ward 07/Sandbaai IDP Priority List**, as extracted below from the **Overstrand Draft IDP Review (31 March 2026)**:

▶ CHAPTER 2: STRATEGIC ANALYSIS ▶

Priority 2026/27	WARD 7					
	Cllr. Hybre Lombard			Responsible Sphere of Government		
	Description	Area	Capex / Opex	Overstrand	Provincial	National
1	Security/ CCTV	Sandbaai	Capex	x		
2	Upgrading/curb stones/sidewalks of Kusweg and/or beautifying and repair to roadside/verges continue onto Piet Retief Street towards Surfers Beach.	Sandbaai	Capex/Opex WARD PROJECTS- UPGRADE OF COASTAL PATH (sic) R228 571	x		
3	Upgrading/repair/maintenance of beach area and facilities including parking areas and/or new infrastructure to improve beach/facilities and paving of Coastal Parking areas and extension (new) coastal paths	Sandbaai coast	Capex/Opex	x		
4	Improvement storm water system - storm water channels	Sandbaai	Capex	x		
5	New Streetlights	Sandbaai	Capex	x		
6	Upgrading and development of sewer systems	Sandbaai	Capex	x		
7	Upgrading and development of roads and sidewalks: 1.Main Road: From Jimmy Smith Street towards Kusweg 2.End Street 3.Bergsig Street: From Curro towards Main Road	Sandbaai	Capex WARD PROJECTS- TRAFFIC CALMING BERGSIG STREET R150 000	X		
8	Upgrading/repair/maintenance and new equipment, fencing for Play Parks and Open Spaces and dog park	Sandbaai	Opex and Capex	x		
9	Conduct a traffic audit and install traffic calming	Sandbaai	Capex	x		
10	Upgrading and maintenance of Sandbaai Hall	Sandbaai	Capex and Opex	x		
11	Maintenance of sidewalks and open spaces	Sandbaai	Capex and Opex	x		
12	Clearing of overgrown plots (municipal land) and alien vegetation	Sandbaai	Opex	x		

Table 19: Ward 7 reviewed priorities for 2026/27

The foundation of my objection relates to the fact, that despite every effort by die Sandbaai Community to have their opinions heard (*in the spirit of 'participatory democracy'*), **absolutely no cognisance of- and/or respect for the greater Sandbaai Community's wishes were ever allowed**, by the Ward Councillor and Ward 7 Committee.

My primary reason for this objection is thus the total disregard for ‘**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**’ in Sandbaai, which is not only unethical but also illegal and totally contrary to the Overstrand Municipality’s Public Participation Policy (OMPPP 2016) and current Ward Committee Rules (2022).

The definition of Public Participation in the OMPPP 2016 is given as follows:

*“Public Participation” means an open, fair and accountable process through which **individuals and groups within selected communities can exchange views and influence decision making**. It is further defined as a **democratic process of engaging people**, deciding, planning and playing an active part in the development and **operation of services that affect their lives**.*

The Legislative Framework for Public Participation is also included in the OMPPP 2016, as extracted below:

*“While there is (sic) several government policy documents which require some form of public participation in local government **there are a few laws which are central**.*

*These are the **Constitution**, the **Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000** (hereafter referred to as Systems Act), **Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, Act 117 of 1198** (hereafter referred to as the Structures Act,) **Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003** and **Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004**.”*

Meaningful public participation is thus a **lawful requirement** of municipal processes, as set out in the Constitution of South Africa and other Provincial and Local Government legislation and Policies.

During the **15 April 2026 IDP Roadshow Meeting**, when I asked whether ‘public participation’ had become a ‘tick-box’ exercise in the Overstrand, I was given the explanation that processes to participate in the IDP had started in July/August 2025 already.

However, one has to question the effectiveness of these processes, if the wishes and inputs of a community like Sandbaai, have been simply ignored by its Ward Councillor (*since September 2025*) and, as a result, by the Overstrand Municipality. A frequent complaint by residents is that written objections are simply ‘noted’ and then ignored, regardless of how well-founded they may be.

BACKGROUND TO MY OBJECTION:

When the Ward 7 Councillor, Hybre Lombard, simply announced on **WhatsApp on 1 October 2025** (*prior to the 20 November ‘Public’ Ward Committee IDP Meeting*) that **Kusweg (west)** was to be converted to a **one-way with public parking bays on its sidewalk**, the Sandbaai community responded vehemently and immediately, raising objections with the Ward 7 Councillor, the Municipal Manager and the Mayor.

This resulted in the halting of the **“One-Way-Conversion of and/or Public-Parking-Bays in Kusweg”** Project, to allow for a **Public Survey** to be conducted by the OM between 14 and 17 October 2025 (**3 days only**), with the results published on 14 November 2025.

Overstrand Municipality: Survey - Road upgrade proposal Ward 7

*The Ward 7 committee has initiated a project aimed at improving road safety, encouraging responsible road use, and making the area more accessible and attractive to visitors. A key part of the proposal is to **convert Kusweg into a one-way road** from Main Road up to the Bamboo Beach turnoff. Additionally, parking bays and speed humps will be installed along Marine Drive (sic) in phases, depending on available funding.*

In the survey, residents were asked a straightforward question: *"Do you support the proposed improvements? Yes or No."* The final verified results showed that **135 (70%) voted NO** and 58 (30%) voted YES.

As a result, the matter was referred back to the Ward Councillor with a request by the Municipal Manager, that a **'Public' Ward Committee Meeting** be arranged, to create a further opportunity for the public to give inputs about- and discussion of the Kusweg Project.

The Municipal Manager emphasized that while the Kusweg Project had already been approved by (some) members of the Ward 07 Committee, the significant outcry from Sandbaai residents to allow for **actual/real 'public participation'**, made it necessary to consult the wider community in a 'Public' Ward Committee meeting.

This Public Ward 7 Committee Meeting was scheduled for **20 November 2025** and drew a large number of Sandbaai residents, where they were given to understand that their opinions and inputs would matter.

Furthermore, the attendance of the **20 November 2025 Ward 7 Committee meeting** in the Sandbaai Hall, by the OM Mayor, the OM Speaker, the OM Mayco and other senior OM Officials, raised the hopes of the residents of Sandbaai, that their serious concerns about the **Ward Committee's IDP 2026 – 2027 priorities**, would be acknowledged and respected by the Overstrand Municipality.

These concerns included the (**brand new**) introduction (in 2024) and meteoric escalation in IDP priority ranking of a personal project of our Ward Councillor, namely the **'Kusweg Project'**. This project, which was obscurely and vaguely called **'Upgrading of Kusweg'** during a 'Public' Ward 7 Committee Meeting on **16 Nov 2023**, then merely alluded to **"Upgrading / curb stones / sidewalks of Kusweg and/or beautifying and repair to roadside / verges"** and was inserted and captured as such (**for the first time in 2024, yet in priority 2**) in the **Sandbaai/Ward 7 IDP Priorities of 2024 – 2025**.

The above 'upgrading/repairs' is what the public in attendance reportedly 'agreed' to, albeit that **no scoping plans or specific details were ever shared** with them. **It must be noted that NO PLANS have been shared with the Ward Committee members either.**

Of further note is that a PAIA investigation into (inter alia) the Budget and the Minutes of the Ward 7 Committee, also NEVER showed any meaningful 'public participation' about this 'Kusweg Project Proposal', given that the 'Proposal Document' was never shared with the public.

It begs pointing out that this Proposal was made/conceived/crafted by **two 'private' residents, NOT representing any Group, Sector or Geographic Area (as defined)** in Sandbaai, other than the **DA Political Party**. In addition, these two individuals and the Ward Councillor were blatantly deceitful by declaring that this Proposal had been submitted on behalf- and at the behest of the Sandbaai Ratepayers Association.

This misrepresentation was emphatically denied by the Chairman of the Sandbaai Ratepayers Association, Mr Roy Groenewald, whose members (*the Ratepayers & Residents of greater Sandbaai*) were and still are strongly opposed to the 'Kusweg Project'.

There was **never** any mention of a **‘Kusweg-One-Way-Conversion + Public-Parking-Bays’** during the 2023 WC meeting, nor in any ‘Public’ Ward 7 Committee (W7C) meeting since then. The One-Way-Conversion was not even mentioned during the **‘Ordinary’ IDP Ward 7 Committee Meeting** held on **18 Sept 2025** in the Jukskei Club, where Mr Anver Wyngaard led the meeting.

During this **18 Sept 2025 W7C Meeting**, Mr Wyngaard edited the **‘Kusweg Project’** wording in the IDP, to read: *(Mr Wyngaard’s edits in red)*
**~~“Upgrading/curb stones/sidewalks of Kusweg and/or beautifying and repair to roadside/verges, continue onto ...
 Revitalisation of Kusweg from Main Rd to Piet Retief Street towards Surfers Beach.”~~**

I must reiterate that even then, there was no mention of the **‘Kusweg-One-Way-Conversion + Public-Parking-Bays’** nor was there any public information / participation either, about the above ‘edits’, at this 18 September 2025 ‘Ordinary’ Ward Committee Meeting.

The **ONLY** further information the public (*and even Ward 7 Committee members*) was given about the **‘Kusweg Project’**, was through a **WhatsApp “Notice”** issued by the Ward Councillor, on **1 October 2025**, as below:

“Kusweg’ to become One-Way Street

Work will begin by mid-October 2025 to carry out improvements to Kusweg in Sandbaai.

*The most significant change will be that **Kusweg will become a one-way road from Main Road up to the Bamboo beach turnoff**. Please note that the one-way will not extend to Piet Retief Street, as was originally proposed.*

The project is expected to be completed within one week, weather permitting as the work will primarily involve new road markings and signage. During this period, traffic will be temporarily diverted, and road users are requested to follow on site signage to ensure safety and minimise disruption.

Additional parking and speed humps along Marine Drive (sic) will be completed in phases, depending on the availability of funding.

The improvements are part of a broader plan to improve road safety and encourage responsible road use in Sandbaai while making the area more accessible and attractive to visitors.

*According to Ward 7 Councillor, Hybré Lombard, this project has been part of the Ward 7 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for some time, **(*since 2024-25)** consistently listed as priority item 2. **(*Inserted a s NEW IDP Priority.)** The proposal was first introduced in September 2022 **to the previous Mayor**, with no objections raised at the time. It was later formally presented in 2023 by local residents Robbie Robberts and Johan van Schalkwyk during a public meeting. Most recently, on 18 September 2025, the Ward Committee reaffirmed its support for the initiative, once again ranking the upgrade second on the IDP.*

Kindly note: In Sandbaai, Kusweg does not automatically become Marine Drive - it remains Kusweg in both English and Afrikaans.

Issued by:

Ward Councillor for Ward 7, Cllr Hybré Lombard”

There can be no doubt, that the above WhatsApp message is **NOT** and will never be ‘**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**’, as described/defined in the **OM Policy for Public Participation** on Page 8:

2.1 What is Public Participation?

*Public participation has been defined in various ways by different people, and for a variety of reasons. In this document public participation is defined as an **open, accountable process through which individuals and groups within selected communities can exchange views and influence decision-making**. It is further defined as a **democratic process of engaging people, deciding, planning, and playing an active part in the development and operation of services that affect their lives**.*

The **Ward Councillor’s ‘Notice Statement’** is also filled with falsehoods and are very misleading:

- “According to Ward 7 Councillor, Hybré Lombard, this project has been part of the Ward 7 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for some time, consistently listed as priority item 2.”
 - It only became a **NEW** W7C item for discussion at the **end of 2023**, and was then meteorically **inserted and elevated to priority 2** in the **2024 - 2025 Sandbaai IDP** – but only as an **“Upgrading / curb stones / sidewalks of Kusweg and/or beautifying and repair to roadside / verges”** project.
- “The proposal was first introduced in September 2022 to the previous Mayor, with no objections raised at the time. It was later formally presented in 2023 by local residents Robbie Robberts and Johan van Schalkwyk during a public meeting.”
 - There are no W7C Minutes available to verify that this was ever presented to the **public** in 2022. There is only a reference made to **Robbie Roberts’ (who is NOT a Ward Committee member)** presentation in 4.9. of the W7C Minutes of **16 November 2023** under NEW ITEMS: 4.9.1- IDP 2023/2024 “Upgrade Kusweg (As proposed by Robbie Roberts)”
 - It must also be noted that Mr Roberts’ proposal made no reference to a **“One-Way-Conversion of and/or Public-Parking-Bays”** in Kusweg. (I have a PDF Copy of this Proposal, should you wish to see it.)
- “Most recently, on 18 September 2025, the Ward Committee reaffirmed its support for the initiative, once again ranking the upgrade second on the IDP.”
 - There was most definitely **NOT a consensus approval/support of the Kusweg Project by the W7C members:**
 - **Five of the 10 W7C members were opposed** to the Kusweg IDP ranking being at No 2, with major issues such as **stormwater and sewerage problems** simply being pushed further down the ranking list, to 4 and 6 respectively.
 - The **Ward Councillor’s casting vote** is what promoted the Kusweg Project to remain in number 2.

It is also ludicrous to claim that the *“improvements are part of a broader plan to improve road safety and encourage responsible road use in Sandbaai while making the area more accessible and attractive to visitors”*, given that there have **never** been any “road safety” or “irresponsible road use” issues in Kusweg, **and** given that a “road” is not what makes the Sandbaai coastline “more attractive” to visitors.

Simple ‘Pavement Management’ (i.e. OM Opex budget) is all that would be necessary to make Kusweg “safer” (for pedestrians) in one small area at its bend and/or more “accessible” for visitors/tourists.

When the residents of Sandbaai became aware of how their Rates & Taxes (R&T) money would be misspent, they turned up in large numbers (*more than 150 attendees*) to participate in the **“PUBLIC” IDP W7C meeting on 20 November 2025**, in an effort to ensure that the 18 September 2025 Ward Councillor’s IDP 2026 – 2027 priority list would NOT be accepted or promoted.

Events at the 20 November 2025 “PUBLIC” IDP Ward 7 Committee Meeting:

After listening to (*and observing*) the dissent amongst the public present and acknowledging their concerns, Mayor Klaas most graciously not only intervened to take over as Chair of the meeting, he publicly committed to ensuring that **APPROPRIATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** would take place regarding our **Sandbaai IDP Priority list**, including the Ward Councillor's '*foisted upon us*' '**KUSWEG-ONE-WAY+PUBLIC-PARKING Project**'.

Mayor Klaas also acknowledged that **Public Participation had NOT taken place at all in this regard** and he committed to ensuring that **Sandbaai's Sewerage and Stormwater problems** would be elevated to **TOP PRIORITIES** in the **Sandbaai IDP**, which implied budget would have been awarded for such.

However, the 'approved' **OM Adjustment Budgets** (*published on 2 February 2026 on the OM website*) revealed that in fact, only the **NAME** of the '**Kusweg Upgrade**' Project had been changed to the '**Coastal Path**' Project, and that together with the '**Traffic Calming Project in Bergsig Street**', both were still included in the **OM Adjustment Budget**, i.e. NOT the sewerage or stormwater concerns, as was requested by the PUBLIC during the 20 November 2025 Ward 7 Committee Meeting.

Please see extracts below:

Final Toplayer Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan for 2025/26 - Overstrand Municipality - 1st Adjustments Budget for 2025/26, 28.1.2026

Revised Capital projects

Revisions are indicated in red text

<https://www.overstrand.gov.za/document/strategic-documents/service-delivery-and-implementation-plan-sdbip/overstrand-revised-sdbip-2025-26-1st-adjustments-budget-28012026/?layout=file>

PAGE 15 (Extract)

Assist	Sub-Directorate [R]		Function[R]	Project name [R]	Funding source [R]	Planned Start Date [R]	Planned Completion Date [R]	Actual Start Date	Ward [R]	Area [R]
66	Infrastructure Services	Civil Infrastructure Planning	Road Transport [Core function] - Roads	WARD PROJECTS-TRAFFIC CALMING BERGSIG STREET	Surplus-NT-WSP	01/06/2026	30/06/2026	01/06/2026	Ward 07	Sandbaai
67	Infrastructure Services	Civil Infrastructure Planning	Road Transport [Core function] - Roads	WARD PROJECTS-UPGRADE OF COASTAL PATH	Surplus-NT-WSP	01/06/2026	30/06/2026	01/06/2026	Ward 07	Sandbaai

And

Overstrand Adjustments Budget, 2025/2026

28-Jan-26

<https://www.overstrand.gov.za/document/strategic-documents/budget/adjustments-budget-2025-2026/?layout=file>

CAPITAL BUDGET 2025/2026 MTREF [ANNEXURE A 10 / 19]

						ORIGINAL 2025/2026 BUDGET			ADJ BUDGET PROPOSALS		REVISED BUDGET-2025/26 BUDGET			B-KEYS
Area	Local Area	Ward	Project Description	Project Manager	Funding Source	COUNCIL FUNDED	EXTERNAL (GRANTS)	TOTAL	COUNCIL FUNDED	EXTERNAL (GRANTS)	COUNCIL FUNDED	EXTERNAL (GRANTS)	TOTAL	
			ROADS			11 400 000	6 000 000	17 400 000	356 723	43 650	11 756 723	6 043 650	17 800 373	
Hermanus	Sandbaai	W7	WARD PROJECTS - TRAFFIC CALMING BERGSIG STR	T Marx	Surplus-NT-WSP				150 000		150 000	0	150 000	New
Hermanus	Sandbaai	W7	WARD PROJECTS - UPGRADE OF COASTAL PATH	T Marx	Surplus-NT-WSP				228 571		228 571	0	228 571	New

And

Overstrand Adjustments Budget, 2025/2026

28-Jan-26

<https://www.overstrand.gov.za/document/strategic-documents/budget/adjustments-budget-2025-2026/?layout=file>

WARD SPECIFIC PROJECTS 2025/26

ANNEXURE A 13 / 19

			STRATEGIC SUPPORT		TBC	ASSETS DEPT	PROJECT MANAGERS							
Project	Descriptio n	Budget Allocatio n	IDP	PRIORIT Y NO.	Responsible Official	CAPEX/OPEX	FEASABILIT Y	Timeframe / Expected Completion Date	ASSET: New / Renewal / Upgrade	GPS Coordinate s (Decimal Format)	OPEX: Items require d	CASH FLOW		
												Feb-26	Mar-26	Total
Sandbaa i	Traffic Calming Bergsig Str	150 000	W7	7	T Marx	CAPEX		31/03/2026	New	19,201- 34,416		75 000	75 000	150 000
Sandbaa i	Upgrade of Kusweg	228 571	W7	7 (sic)	T Marx / T Steenberg	CAPEX - define "upgrade"		31/03/2026	New	19,191- 34,425		114 286	114 286	228 571
TOTAL		378 571												

The amounts awarded in the **Overstrand Adjustments Budget, 2025/2026**, are as follows: **SANDBAAI W7 WARD PROJECTS: SurplusNT-WSP:**

UPGRADE OF **COASTAL PATH (??a.k.a KUSWEG??)**

✓ ****R228 571.00**

TRAFFIC CALMING **BERGSIG STR**

✓ ****R150 000.00**

Furthermore, not a cent has been earmarked in this entire Budget, towards addressing the **Sewerage and Stormwater concerns in Sandbaai**, which the Mayor had publicly committed to prioritising in the **Sandbaai 2026 – 2027 IDP**, during the ‘Public’ WC Meeting on 20 November 2025.

THIS BEGS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Given the fact that **NO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** had taken place regarding the ‘**Kusweg Project**’ and/or the ‘**Bergsig Street Project**’ (*or in fact regarding the 2026-27 Sandbaai IDP in totality*) and the Kusweg Project’s elevated 'insertion' into the IDP, and the recent OBJECTIONS of Sandbaai residents to these Projects, how could either of these Projects still legitimately have featured in the **OM Draft Adjustment Budget**, (*albeit with one of them now under the obscurely altered name of ‘Coastal Path’ Project*) and now also feature in the recent **OM Draft IDP 2026-2027 Review document**, draft of 31 March 2026?

I wrote to mayor Klaas about these concerns on **8 February 2026** (*but received no response*), prior to our **Ward 7 Committee Meeting** scheduled for **Thursday 12 February 2026**, under the (*implied ‘closed’*) meeting heading of ‘**ORDINARY**’ **Ward 7 Committee Meeting**.

The Ward Committee Agenda for **12 February 2026** featured the **Ward 7 IDP Priorities**, but, as stated before, AGAIN in a **Ward 7 Committee Meeting** labelled “**ORDINARY**”, which (*in the Overstrand*) apparently implies (in the Overstrand) that the public in attendance may not exercise their democratic rights to ‘participate’, contrary to **section 20 of the LG Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2 000** prescripts. (*Please see Annexure.*)

5. MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Extract)

5.1 IDP Ward Priorities 2026/27

5.2 Traffic Calming: Bergsig Street

5.3 Ward Specific Funding

5.4 Kusweg Upgrade: Feedback

5.5 UISP Project Schulphoek: Feedback

5.6 Cove Street: Feedback

5.7 Naming of Beaches: Feedback

This ‘Ordinary’ Ward Committee Meeting went ahead on 12 February 2026, with no response from Mayor Klaas, but with Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion in attendance, and the Sandbaai Ward 7 IDP Priorities were AGAIN ‘pushed through’ **ILLEGALLY and WITHOUT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**, as they are currently showcased in the **OM Draft IDP 2026-2027 Review document** of 31 March 2026?

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Sandbaai residents need to understand why certain (*unwanted and unnecessary*) IDP Priorities are being **favoured and funded** (*as featured in the recently published **OM Draft IDP 2026-2027***), despite their fervent opposition and despite appropriate public participation NEVER having taken place, **and** why the needs of greater Sandbaai are ignored.

During the recent **15 April 2026 IDP 2026-2027 Roadshow Meeting**, the Mayor alluded to a ‘compromise’ which was reached about the **‘Kusweg Project’**.

We have to wonder who the parties to this ‘compromise’ were, because there was certainly no ‘compromise’ made with the residents of Sandbaai, who are the legally mandated participants in any Sandbaai IDP Priority decisions?

A further major concern from an **ENVIRONMENTAL perspective**, is that no appropriate **NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping** of the **‘Kusweg Project’** was ever performed.

Given the fact that no official, updated **** ‘Road Reserve Plan’** and **** ‘Integrated Transport Plan’** exist in the Overstrand (*as required by the National Land Transport Act 5 of 2009*), it makes any NEMA Listing triggers (*which rely on documented road reserve measurements and scoping/development/engineering plans*) moot in a **National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act 24 of 2008 (NEM-ICMA) Coastal Protection Zone (CPZ)**, as is Kusweg in its entirety. (**** This information as shared after a PAIA request for such documents.**)

Furthermore, given that no **‘Kusweg and/or Bergsig Street Project Scoping Plans’** were shared with the public (*or Ward Committee Members*) and that no public **‘Road Project Planning Process’** was followed (*in terms of the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Act 3 of 2023*), any further actions- and funding pertaining to the **‘Kusweg and Bergsig Street Projects’**, would be deemed illegal misappropriation of Ratepayers’ moneys, particularly if the so-called (*and very vague*) ‘Kusweg improvements’ fall outside of the scope of the normal OM **‘Pavement Management System’** (PMS), which ought to be funded through OM OPEX budget, not a Ward Specific Fund where most residents are objecting to it.

I sincerely hope that my **objection to the ‘Kusweg Project’ (in its entirety) and its awarded WSP funding and** its highly irregular insertion and elevation into the Sandbaai IDP Priority List (*in 2024*) to rank 2, will be considered, given the **absence of** any published official plans and **no** transparent, reasonable or valid public participation w.r.t the Sandbaai IDP, as well as the vigorous **public opposition** to it by Sandbaai residents, together with numerous other procedural illegalities and irregularities relating to the ‘Kusweg Project’.

With my above objections in mind, please would you confirm that all **Sandbaai IDP ‘plans’ and budget considerations** will be **suspended** until such time as the **appropriate, lawful processes and procedures have been concluded**, including:

- Full disclosure of the proposed ‘Kusweg Project’ and ‘Bergsig Street’ **scoping &/or engineering plans** to the residents of Sandbaai.

- Implementation of appropriate **NEMA and NEM:ICMA Environmental Assessments** in the ‘**Kusweg Project**’, including any **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports**, based on the ‘Kusweg Project’ scoping &/or engineering plans and with due consideration of the location of Kusweg (*located in its entirety*) in a **NEM:ICMA Coastal Protection Zone (CPZ)**.
- Appropriate, transparent and inclusive **public participation processes**, which include publication of the ‘Kusweg and Bergsig Project’ plans, to include ALL residents of Sandbaai, prior to discussions.
- Clarification as to why the ‘Kusweg and Bergsig Street Projects’ fall outside the scope of the **Overstrand Pavement Management System (PMS)**, requiring WSP CAPEX funding, rather than being funded from the greater Overstrand PMS OPEX budget. (*Since no plans whatsoever have been shared with the public, the budget assignments are unclear.*)

I look forward to receiving your responses.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanine Vellema.

Ward Committee Member and Concerned Resident of Sandbaai.

Sandbaai Erf Number: 119

Prof Jeanine Vellema

Honorary Member: Wits Division of Forensic Medicine & Pathology

Retired Head: Clinical Department / Chief Specialist

GDoH FPS Southern Cluster & Wits Division of Forensic Medicine & Pathology

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ANNEXURES – ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Please note below the Sandbaai Ward 7 IDP extract from the Minutes of a **‘Public’ Ward Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 16 November 2023**, in the Sandbaai Hall.

The newly proposed ‘Kusweg Project’ was inserted here and elevated to rank 2 in the Sandbaai IDP, but *(at that stage)* entailed effectively nothing more than routine Pavement Management System (PMS) ‘upgrades’ – **there was no mention of a ‘one-way Kusweg conversion and public parking bays’ in/along Kusweg and/or any ‘extension of the Project through Piet Retief Street to Surfer’s Beach’**, as is currently captured in the Sandbaai IDP. *(Refer IDP Extract on Page 2).*

There was no presentation of the ‘Kusweg Project’ to the public *(as conceived and proposed by 2 private individuals and the then Mayor, Rabie)*, of what this now enormously **expanded ‘Kusweg Project’** entailed, hence **NO VALID, TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**.

8. DRAFT REVIEWED WARD PRIORITIES FOR 2024/2025 IDP REVIEW PROCESS

Priority 2023/24	Re- prioritise 2024/25	Ward 7 Cllr. Hybre Lombard		
		Description	Area	CAPEX/OPEX
1	1	Security/ CCTV	Sandbaai	Capex
2	4	Improvement storm water system - storm water channels	Sandbaai	CAPEX/OPEX
3	5	Upgrading and development of sewer systems	Sandbaai	Capex
4	6	Upgrading and development of roads and sidewalks	Sandbaai	Capex
5	12	Upgrading and maintenance of Sandbaai Hall	Sandbaai	Capex and opex
6	3	Upgrading/repair/maintenance of beach area and facilities including parking areas and/or new infrastructure to improve beach/facilities	Sandbaai coast	CAPEX/OPEX
7	7	Paving Coastal Parking areas and extension (new) coastal paths	Sandbaai	Capex
8	11	New Streetlights	Sandbaai	Capex
9		Beautifying entrances to Sandbaai and open spaces (development)-	Sandbaai	
10	8	Upgrading/repair/maintenance and new equipment, fencing for Play Parks and Open Spaces and dog park	Sandbaai	Opex and Capex
11		Public transport	Sandbaai	
12	10	Traffic Calming	Sandbaai	Capex
13		Free Wi-Fi Hotspots	Sandbaai	
	2	Upgrading /curb stones / sidewalks of Kusweg and/or beautifying and repair to roadside/verges	Sandbaai	CAPEX/OPEX
	9	New Refuse Truck	Sandbaai	Capex
	13	New Transfer station (mobile or other options)	Sandbaai	Capex

Section 20(2)(c) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems (Act 32 of 2000) regulates Admission of the Public to Meetings:

“20. Admission of public to meetings

(1) Meetings of a municipal council and those of its committees are open to the public, including the media, and the council or such committee may not exclude the public, including the media, from a meeting, except when—

- (a) it is reasonable to do so having regard to the nature of the business being transacted; and
- (b) a by-law or a resolution of the council specifying the circumstances in which the council or such committee may close a meeting and which complies with paragraph (a), authorises the council or such committee to close the meeting to the public.

(2) A municipal council, or a committee of the council, may not exclude the public, including the media, when considering or voting on any of the following matters—

- (a) a draft by-law tabled in the council;
- (b) a budget tabled in the council;
- (c) the municipality’s draft integrated development plan, or any amendment of the plan, tabled in the council;**
- (d) the municipality’s draft performance management system, or any amendment of the system, tabled in the council;
- (e) the decision to enter into a service delivery agreement referred to in section 76(b); or
- (f) any other matter prescribed by regulation.”

Section 21(2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA) states that, when preparing the annual budget, the Mayor of a municipality must:

- ✓ Take into account the municipality’s **Integrated Development Plan**.
- ✓ Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the municipality revises the integrated development plan in terms of section 34 of the MSA, taking into account **realistic revenue and expenditure projections for future years**.
- ✓ Take into account the national budget, the relevant provincial budget, the national government’s fiscal and macroeconomic policy, the annual Division of Revenue Act and any agreements reached in the Budget Forum.

One last comment regarding the so-called ‘tourism’ factor in the Kusweg ‘One-Way-with-Public-Parking-Bays’ Upgrade Proposal (*with the objective cited for it “to resemble Atlantic Road in Onrus”*):

The Sandbaai community’s wishes to protect its coastal area’s **natural beauty and ecological integrity** through municipal ‘**conservation’ rezoning** (*to Public Open Space Zone 1*) of the Sandbaai coastline (*akin to all other urban coastal strips in the Overstrand zoned as ‘conservation areas’, except Schulphoek, Sandbaai and Onrus/Vermont*), have not yet been met. This ‘proposal’ was **NOT supported by the Ward 7 Councillor** and the community had to resort to a **Petition** (*in mid-2025 – collecting 1 300 signatures within 4 weeks*) to raise the matter with the Municipality.

The Petition-Driven Sandbaai Coastal Rezoning proposal will hopefully be addressed in the soon-to-be-published (*for public participation*) revised/rewritten ‘**Overstrand Municipality Land Use Scheme, 2020 Amendment By-Law**’.

The **natural, environmental beauty of the Sandbaai coastal strip** is much more sought after by **tourists and local residents** than a ‘commercially developed’ coastline.

Sandbaai’s unique ‘tourism value’ lies in its **rugged, natural authenticity, tranquility and a sense of place** that cannot be replicated by one-way streets, public parking bays, restaurants, shops or entertainment complexes.

The (*real*) **Coastal Path** with its surroundings of **fynbos and milkwood trees and its beautiful seascape vistas**, is what attracts visitors to Sandbaai.

To cite an extract from a local Tourism Advertisement:

*“The **Sandbaai Coastal Path** is a scenic, well-maintained paved walkway linking Sandbaai Beach to Onrus, featuring stunning ocean views, rugged rocky outcrops, and rich fynbos. It offers a serene atmosphere perfect for walking, cycling, and enjoying local marine life, with dramatic waves providing a picturesque backdrop to the coastal flora.”*

Also, any ‘**expansion plans**’ of e.g. roads and/or public parking areas in a **NEM:ICMA Coastal Protection Zone** (as is the entire Kusweg) require expert, scientific and environmentally sound guidance, w.r.t. (inter alia) noise, dust, vibrations, types of road re-surfacing and construction materials, as well as waste (water) management during construction, to minimise the impact on the surrounding and/or abutting natural coastal fauna and flora, which include **fynbos** and numerous protected **White Milkwood trees** (*Sideroxylon inerme* - which are strictly protected in South Africa under the National Forests Act of 1998).

This means that with construction of roads and/or public parking spaces in a **Coastal Protection Zone**, ‘simple’ Civil / Structural Engineering Plans do not suffice.

Scoping Plans, Road Reserve Plans and/or the Overstrand Integrated Transport Development Plan (ITP) must be made available to expert, independent Environmental Practitioners for **National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Triggers**, to be considered and to inform the processes to be followed.

Furthermore, the **Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (2023)** (Adopted on 13 December 2024 - Gazette Extraordinary 9017) has defined the **Sandbaai Coastal Strip** as an **Ecological Support Area 1 (ESA 1)** as well as a **(Terrestrial) Critical Biodiversity Area 2 (CBA 2)**

In the **2025 UPDATED WC State of Conservation Report, Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA2)** has had the designation “**TERRESTRIAL**” added to it, effectively uplifting its **Desired Management Objectives (DMO) to CBA1**, as per the 2023 Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan:

Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (Terrestrial)

Definition: Areas in a natural condition that are required to meet biodiversity targets, for species, ecosystems or ecological processes and infrastructure.

DMO: Maintain in a natural or near- natural state, with no further loss of habitat. Degraded areas should be rehabilitated. Only low-impact, biodiversity-sensitive land-uses are appropriate.

There can be no doubt whatsoever, that any proposed roadworks or public parking bays in **Kusweg**, without appropriate NEMA EIA and NEM:ICMA considerations, will be in direct contravention of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan and Guidelines (2023), as well as Western Cape State of Conservation Report, 2025.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#78

From: Neville Henn

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 14:36

Subject: Objection on IDP Ward 4

PDF document

FORMAL OBJECTION: PROPOSED HALL DEVELOPMENT & NON-PRIORITY PROJECTS (MOUNT PLEASANT)

This document constitutes a formal objection to the proposed construction of a community hall and related non-essential projects in Mount Pleasant, as reflected in the Overstrand Municipality Draft IDP Review 2026/27.

1. Misalignment with Strategic and Socio-Economic Priorities

The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) clearly identifies critical developmental pressures including population growth, housing demand, infrastructure backlogs, and socio-economic inequality. The allocation of limited municipal resources toward non-essential infrastructure such as a hall does not align with these priorities.

Reference:

- Chapter 2: Strategic Analysis – Population growth and service delivery pressures
- Table 38 & 39: Service backlogs and challenges
- Table 73–75: Housing demand and informal settlements

2. Failure to Address Critical Needs

The IDP highlights urgent needs in housing, employment, youth development, and crime prevention. The proposed project does not contribute meaningfully to:

- Housing delivery or land reform
- Sustainable job creation
- Youth empowerment programmes
- Crime reduction strategies

Reference:

- Chapter 3: Basic Service Delivery Challenges
- Table 46 & 47: Local Economic Development challenges and limited job creation
- Table 12: Crime statistics

3. Financial Misallocation and Opportunity Cost

In terms of financial governance principles, municipal expenditure must prioritize high-impact, needs-based development. The proposed hall represents a low-return investment with ongoing maintenance costs and minimal economic benefit.

Reference:

- Chapter 12: Financial Plan
- Table 88: Infrastructure funding shortfalls
- Section on Financial Viability Risks

4. Lack of Adequate Public Participation

There is insufficient evidence that this project reflects genuine community priorities. The Municipal Systems Act requires meaningful community consultation and alignment with ward-based needs.

Reference:

- Chapter 1.3: IDP Process and public participation timelines
- Ward priority tables (Tables 13–26)

5. Legal Grounds for Objection

This objection is grounded in the following legislation:

- Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000)
 - Section 25: IDP must reflect community priorities
 - Section 34: IDP review must respond to changing needs
 - Chapter 4: Requires meaningful public participation
- Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA)
 - Section 19: Capital projects must be justified and aligned to service delivery needs
 - Section 62: Financial management must ensure effective, efficient, and economical use of resources
- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
 - Section 152: Municipalities must prioritise basic needs and promote socio-economic development

6. Recommended Alternative Priorities

The following should be prioritised instead:

- Housing development and serviced sites
- Job creation programmes and SMME support
- Youth development centres and skills programmes
- Crime prevention infrastructure and community safety
- Social welfare and support services
- Core infrastructure upgrades

Conclusion

The proposed hall project should be rejected or deferred until critical socio-economic priorities are addressed. Municipal investment must be directed toward initiatives that produce measurable impact in improving livelihoods, reducing inequality, and strengthening economic resilience. The road upgrade in Angelier Street R12.7 million is not a major need unless there are really sign of danger, the road totally collapsing and a valid inspection report stating that it must be prioritized.

Municipality response from Ward Councillor, Cllr R Nutt

The municipality acknowledges the comments received as part of the public participation process, and these were subsequently circulated to the ward councillor.

The IDP was discussed with the residents and the Ward Committee hence the ward councillor stands by that participation process with many meetings we had and therefore our IDP priorities will stand as decided by those who attended those from the start. These objections came at the latter part of the process.

#79

From: Hermanus Baboon Action Group

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 14:41

Subject: IDP Comments Ward 3

2 PDF documents

30 April 2026



Overstrand Municipality
 Email: rlouw@overstrand.gov.za
cfo@overstrand.gov.za; mm@overstrand.gov.za; karibrice@hermanus.co.za

Dear Rochelle Louw

RE: IDP comment from the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG)

It has now been a year and a month since OM officially adopted the running of the Baboon Management Programme after an interim period starting mid-January 2025.

This time has provided ample opportunity for the public to gauge OM's ability to manage the program and for OM to reach its anticipated service delivery level.

Judging by several indicators that we've observed the levels of service are still way below par. Unfortunately, in this regard OM are doing their staff, their brand and their residents an injustice or disservice.

We draw your attention to HBAG's IDP submission of 6 May 2025 which outlined issues and expectations then and will below outline the substantial issues from that submission almost a year ago which remain.

Our contention is twofold: The management contingent cannot manage the team effectively, and the support from senior management and other departments is not adequate to ensure that the team is enabled to perform their tasks to standard.

ONGOING ISSUES

1. Lack of Baboon liaison meetings and regular monthly reports.
2. Transport appears to be a recurring issue.
3. Waste management has hardly improved – residents are not given warnings, the waste team make small piles of rubbish which baboons routinely forage from before the truck arrives, there is little to no communication between the waste and monitoring teams. There appears to be no written policy for dealing with repeat offenders.
4. Equipment, uniforms and training – radios, uniforms, flags, on the job training of area managers, supervisors and monitors etc should all be in place by now but still appear to be lacking.
5. Residents are concerned that monitors have security clearance as they are concerned for their safety given the proximity and access monitors have to private property and our neighbourhoods. In line with this clear identification and easily recognisable uniform is essential. For the residents as well as for team morale and unity.

Our submission therefore for the IDP input is that OM adequately empower management with the necessary senior staff and ensure that relevant departments (primarily waste and law enforcement) adequately support the OM's baboon management programme to ensure a successfully run program. The Baboon Management Program should continue to receive priority attention in Ward 3.

We furthermore submit that OM take note of HBAG's submission of 2025 and take note of the recurring issues. Our sincere hope is that by next year our IDP input will not simply be a repeat but a praise of a job well done.

END - HERMANUS BABOON ACTION GROUP



6 May 2025

Overstrand Municipality
 Hermanus

Email: cfo@overstrand.gov.za; mm@overstrand.gov.za; karibrice@hermanus.co.za

Dear Dr Dean O'Neill

RE: IDP comment from the Hermanus Baboon Action Group (HBAG)

Last year's budget made no provision for Baboon Management. We believe OM received in excess of 100 letters requesting the continuation of the Baboon Management Program (BMP) for Hermanus East. We note and appreciate OM's efforts to extend the services of HWS and then to develop an in-house service. There is still a level of uncertainty as to BMP in the future and in this light HBAG would like to record its position that it is essential for BMP to continue indefinitely as part of the regular service that OM delivers to its ratepayers.

Item 3 on the IDP priority list for Ward 3 states: "Baboon Management Programme Continuation thereof". This will remain a top priority on the IDP which we believe is supported by our September 2024 survey conducted in the Hermanus East baboon affected area. Of the 643 respondents **95% of residents Agree or Strongly Agree that BMP should continue = 610 residents.**

A BMP should:

1. Be practical to implement,
2. Be cost effective,
3. Be effective at deterring for as prolonged a period as possible,
4. Have minimal negative impact on environment,
5. Be target specific,
6. Be socially acceptable.

With that as background HBAG hereby lodges its request that the Budget for BMP must be sufficient for staffing, tools, technology, transport and equipment required to deliver a level of service that we know is achievable.



The process and level of service should include:

1. FINAL decision on who's mandate and responsibility BMP is. FNR belongs to OM and therefore so do the baboons. Unlike the City of Cape Town with SanParks. Once this decision is made it should enable stability and a greater level of certainty for residents and to enable better forward planning by OM.
2. BLG meetings to continue quarterly.
3. Waste management:
 - a. Strict enforcement of compliance
 - b. Collection service to improve to eliminate dumped heaps of refuse
4. Cruelty to Baboons
 - a. Strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the SOPs governing use of paintball markers, and other methods used by the OM staff.
 - b. Report all and any animal abuse by residents to the relevant authorities and follow through with the case.
5. Education and awareness drive especially on social media and via rates bills. This communication is to affirm the role that residents need to play in successful BMP and their responsibility in this regard; and to raise the levels of tolerance within the community.
6. Reporting. Monthly reports detailing time spent in the urban area, movement of the various troops, incident reports etc. Annual troop counts to form part of these reports.
7. Ongoing daily communication on troop presence in or near the urban edge. (we have experienced a marked improvement with the in-house service which we believe serves the public well).
8. Staff training and HR.
 - a. regular training on baboon dynamics, environmental awareness, visitor interaction and safety.
 - b. Contracts to provide ongoing employment and not roll over temporary contracts. We recognise that this may not be possible but there should be a focus on continuity in the service which would then ensure the retention of good staff.
 - c. Rangers to be visible recognisable assets to the community and the reserve.

Finally, and upon further consultation with residents in the baboon affected area we would like to emphasise certain issues:

1. Residents are unclear what caused HWS to quit their contract when there was an expectation that it would continue. The management of this process and the subsequent lapse in baboon management appeared to be poor and lacking in transparency.
2. The subsequent chaos that ensued eroded ratepayer confidence. This period included the shooting in public, by a resident, of a female baboon with a baby. We have not had



feedback on this incident. HBAG firmly rejects this level of violence towards wildlife, and firmly rejects the illegal discharge of weapons in the suburbs and believe that SAPS should be pressured to investigate and the perpetrator be brought to book.

3. The current system for waste collection whereby recycling is piled up and collected later is not working as evidenced by these images below taken 5 May 2025 in Voelklip.
4. There is serious concern regarding the ability of OM to deliver the level of service that residents know is possible. Communication from the team on the ground to the community has been a positive improvement but we hear reports suggesting that the team is well out of its depth. We believe that sufficient properly qualified **management and supervisor staff** is essential for the staff to be able to learn on the job and grow into a team that can deliver the previous high standards that were delivered by HWS. We'd like to see budget and commitment to return the BMP to that level of excellence by a service provider, or management team who has the knowledge, wherewithal and understanding of and empathy for baboons that the task requires.
5. And lastly, the residents recognise that OM is doing the best they can to rectify the situation and as such there is a level of patience and grace, but if OM do not take the BMP firmly in hand there will be high levels of dissatisfaction with the performance of the Overstrand Municipality.

END

HERMANUS BABOON ACTION GROUP



Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges the concerns raised and appreciates the constructive manner in which the issues have been presented. It is recognised that the management of the human–baboon interface remains a complex and evolving challenge, particularly within urban-edge areas where increasing habituation of baboons to human-derived food sources continues to place pressure on both residents and operational management teams.

With regard to specific matters raised:

1. Liaison meetings and reporting

The need for improved communication, structured stakeholder engagement, and more regular reporting is acknowledged. These aspects will form part of the broader review of communication and governance structures associated with the forthcoming review of the Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP).

2. Transport and operational resources

The operational demands associated with baboon management across multiple urban-edge areas remain significant and resource intensive. The Municipality continues to assess operational requirements, including vehicle availability, staffing, equipment, and logistical support necessary to improve operational effectiveness. Transport has been improved and will be implemented as from June 2026.

3. Waste management coordination

The importance of integrated waste management in reducing human–baboon conflict is fully recognised. The Municipality acknowledges that waste management practices, resident compliance, communication between departments, and enforcement mechanisms remain critical components of any successful baboon management strategy. Greater interdepartmental coordination between the Baboon Management Programme, Waste Management, and Law Enforcement remains an ongoing focus area and will be discussed again during the review of the SBMP.

4. Equipment, uniforms and training

OM agrees that ongoing training, improved operational equipment, standardised uniforms, communication systems, and clear identification of operational staff are important both from a public confidence and operational perspective. Continued efforts are being made to strengthen these aspects of the programme while simultaneously building local operational capacity and skills development within the Overstrand area. Training for staff has taken place and will continue to concentrate on applicable training to improve operational

effectiveness. Uniforms have been purchased and will effective infield from June 2026.

5. Public confidence and operational professionalism

The Municipality acknowledges the importance of maintaining public trust, professionalism, and operational accountability within the programme.

Measures relating to staff conduct, identification, supervision, and operational protocols remain subject to internal policies, oversight mechanisms, and ongoing management review processes.

OM further notes HBAG's request for improved senior management support and interdepartmental cooperation. It is agreed that effective baboon management requires a coordinated municipal approach involving environmental management, waste management, law enforcement, infrastructure, and community participation.

Importantly, the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan is scheduled for formal review during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process will include:

- Evaluation of current operational structures and interventions;
- Review of governance and oversight mechanisms;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Assessment of reporting frameworks and performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term sustainability and funding requirements.

The Municipality appreciates HBAG's continued participation in the IDP process and acknowledges the value of constructive stakeholder engagement in assisting to improve management approaches moving forward.

#80

From: Ansie Sevenster

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 14:51

Subject: IDP comment for Ward 3

To whom it may concern

The baboon management program (BMP) is in shambles and is a joke. For us living in Voëlklip it has become a daily frustration, annoyance and irritation.

There are various types of intrusions into the yards, which is bad enough, but the intrusions into our homes are really the point of aggravation - sometimes one specifically big, quiet, stealthy baboon or a little group of 3 slip unnoticed past the notices on our

baboon group (the monitors also get their information from the group, not the other way around as it should be). These intrusions are also becoming more advanced as time goes by, the baboons are starting to move into the bedrooms and not only the kitchen. Apart from the food stolen and the dirt and germs, it is like a burglary, an intrusion of one's privacy.

The monitors have no tools, assistance, knowledge or training - they run around shouting 'shoe shoe', an absolute shame.

Please could you give the baboon management program priority attention in the Ward 3 IDP process?

My opinion is that the strategy of the whole approach should be revamped: investigation done, research consulted and a new budget and plan designed.

Regards,

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges your concerns regarding baboon management in Ward 3.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons. These animals form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand, and their management cannot be separated from the Municipality's broader biodiversity management responsibilities. Baboon management therefore forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

The Municipality recognises that urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active and effective management interventions, conflict between humans and baboons can escalate rapidly, resulting in increased aggression and habituation, property damage, threats to public safety, injury or death of baboons, and growing frustration within affected communities.

We acknowledge your concerns regarding the increase in baboon incursions into residential areas and the impact this has had on residents over many years. Your

comments regarding tools, assistance, knowledge or training and funding for the baboon programme are also acknowledged.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, public safety, scientific evidence, operational practicality, and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand municipal area.

The Municipality also remains committed to engaging with stakeholders and residents to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions to the challenges associated with baboon management in the Overstrand.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

The review will include:

- An assessment of the effectiveness and sustainability of current management interventions;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Evaluation of operational structures, staffing requirements, and governance mechanisms;
- Review of reporting systems, monitoring frameworks, and measurable performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term financial sustainability and affordability.

The outcome of this review process will provide the Municipality and relevant stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the most appropriate and viable long-term management approach, associated operational requirements, and future funding needs.

#81

From: Chris Meyer

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 15:47

Subject: Fwd: Draft Budget 2026 2026 comments by Kleinbaai rate Payers Association

Duplicate submission also received from Riaan Jacobs (**#26**).

#82

From: Frances Fish**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2026 16:40**Subject:** BABOONS IN VOELKLIP AND OTHER SUBURBS IDP &SDIP, WSDP,DMP

As a resident of Voëlklip for almost 30years it is important we address the situation of the baboons who are running rampant over most of the area. We personally have experienced break ins of baboons over the years and its not a good occurrence. Fort Fish we have had to create!

The previous method of control certainly helped but unfortunately the restrictions created have resulted in an unchecked and wild response to get into the suburb and feed on human food and offering.

I have read some of the letters sent to you and underscore most of the points so won't restate them here.

My suggestion is that the current monitors are trained properly. Receive recognition for the work by upskilling them. Ensuring they get to be able to control and work within parameters laid down by full employment conditions. Are provided with uniforms, certification and provide their ID's and other documents required in an employment situation. They should have the ability and capability to do the work. It's a tough role and needs certain skill sets.

Residents should also be educated in how to react in the safest most assured manner when confronted by the baboon in a home or closed space. Run training courses. Introduce people to the monitors their leader and other members of the team. To try and encourage a more respectful relationship which is already aggressive and angry and into one which is more kind and even cohesive could be a start.

It is not easy but certainly worth sharing and certainly appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges your input regarding the baboon situation in Voëlklip, as well as your long-standing experience as a resident of the area for almost 30 years.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas,

protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons. These animals form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand, and their management cannot be separated from the Municipality's broader biodiversity management responsibilities. Baboon management therefore forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

The Municipality recognises that urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active and effective management interventions, conflict between humans and baboons can escalate rapidly, resulting in increased aggression and habituation, property damage, threats to public safety, injury or death of baboons, and growing frustration within affected communities.

We acknowledge your concerns regarding the increase in baboon incursions into residential areas and the impact this has had on residents over many years. Your comments regarding previous management methods, the current challenges being experienced, and the need for practical and balanced solutions are also acknowledged.

The Municipality welcomes your constructive suggestions regarding the professionalisation, and upskilling of baboon monitors as well as the importance of community education and public awareness around safe and appropriate responses to baboon encounters.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, public safety, scientific evidence, operational practicality, and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand municipal area.

The Municipality also remains committed to engaging with stakeholders and residents to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions to the challenges associated with baboon management in the Overstrand.

#83

From: Dale Lautenbach

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 16:44

Subject: IDP/budget message for Ward 3

I write as a resident of Ward 3, a house owner there since 2004 and a permanent resident since 2017.

Living at the eastern edge of Voëlklip, we have been exposed to baboons over many years during which the period when HWS was running the program were notably baboon free.

That said Western Voëlklip and Fernkloof have been much far more exposed than us in the East and since the departure of HWS the situation has exploded as I'm sure you all know well. Despite our milder experience I take no pleasure in my neighbours' distress and stand solidly with them in calling for intense OM focus on the baboon incursions into the urban space. Your much more studious and informed commitment to the BMP is the acid test in our ward.

In the nearly 18 months of the intensified baboon problem our ward has not been engaged by the OM at even close to the level the situation requires. You will argue you meet with the HRA and HBAG. Maybe you do. They are either failing to communicate the distress to you or you are not listening. Our ward councillor declines to even join the baboon monitoring groups to hear the very voices of her constituents. This is a profound political mistake. For example we now hear rumours of an electric fence which many of us oppose strongly but there has been no consultation, no engagement and no discussion at community level on this or any of the myriad problems Ward 3 residents experience with the current monitors. As a result the community is more and more divided on kill, capture, castrate ... or be kind and thoughtful. A dangerous array of emotions which have already seen one baboon shot in broad daylight and another poisoning incident ... and no Law and Order outcome or apparent OM concern.

Our biosphere, mountain and sea, is our greatest asset in Hermanus as property owners and as decent responsible citizens. Most of us want to see these assets cared for with wisdom and transparency and would like to be part of that process in the appropriate way. A municipality that rules by decree, back-room planning and faux consultation (ie the annual budget is cooked before we even get a look in) does not facilitate that process. As a municipality you are richly endowed with all sorts of retired professionals who give back to the greater community generously. It is mysterious that, in my ward 3 experience, you don't meet that with open arms with an enriched IDP and budgeting process.

Bottom line: make sure you have adequate funds for BMP. But even more importantly listen to our voices and concerns around this issue for longer term planning. The success of the Cape Town model despite enormous challenges is engagement, willingness to listen and to be seen, to be open. A baboon issue is small, trite even set against the human challenges faced by our country but you set the tone by being available and

engaging. Rumour loves a vacuum and there are too many in our sought-after little town. Thank you

PS: I didn't get started on garbage/waste management. The way it's currently handled is filthy and old fashioned. The R43 on a Friday when all our lovely visitors are arriving is a disgrace. You don't even mandate bins in Eastcliff by the looks of things. What about new thinking, what about community composting, what about waste management as a science and innovation rather than a baboon and fly show. We're small enough to actually make innovation work.



Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges your concerns regarding the baboon situation in Ward 3.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons, that is indigenous wildlife and form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand. Their management therefore cannot be separated from broader biodiversity management responsibilities. The management of baboons does not occur in isolation from these broader conservation functions and forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

Urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active management interventions, conflict

between humans and baboons escalates rapidly, often resulting in increased aggression and habituation; property damage; threats to public safety; road accidents; injury or death of baboons; illegal feeding or persecution of wildlife; and significant reputational damage to the Municipality and the region. Baboon monitoring therefore serves not only to protect residents and property owners, but also to reduce harm to the baboons themselves and to minimise the need for more invasive management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand municipal area.

The Municipality also remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

The review will include:

- An assessment of the effectiveness and sustainability of current management interventions;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Evaluation of operational structures, staffing requirements, and governance mechanisms;
- Review of reporting systems, monitoring frameworks, and measurable performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term financial sustainability and affordability.

The outcome of this review process will provide the Municipality and relevant stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the most appropriate and viable long-term management approach, associated operational requirements, and future funding needs.

#84

From: Amelda Groenewald

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 16:52

Subject: Om Buffeljagsbaai deel te maak van IDP begroting

Goeie middag die forum van Buffeljagsbaai het die publieke vergadering van onlangs by gewoon. Tot ons terleurstelling moes ons sien dat Buffeljagsbaai nie in die begroting is nie. Ons vra dat u Buffeljagsbaai deel Sal uit maak van die begroting asb?

Behoeftes van Gemeenskap:

*Behuising is n groot nood.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

Buffeljagsbaai forms part of Ward 11 in the Overstrand Municipality, and the revised Ward 11 priorities include the needs of the Buffeljagsbaai community. Housing has been identified as Priority 3 for the community in the revised Ward 11 priority list contained in the IDP.

The Municipality has submitted an application to the Provincial Department of Infrastructure for pre-planning funding and is currently awaiting a decision. Provision for pre-planning funding has been included in the draft 2026/2027 budget and is also reflected in the five-year housing plan contained in the draft IDP. However, funding can only be secured once pre-planning approval has been granted by the Provincial Department. This process has been communicated to the community on several occasions.

In terms of the Constitution, housing provision is a concurrent National and Provincial government mandate, with the Municipality acting only as the implementing agent once provincial funding approval has been obtained.

*Gemeenskapsaal is buite om plaveisel gele maar binne nog niks verder gedoen. Burgermeester het saal geopen maar dis on klaar. So asb maak dit n prioriteit.

Municipality response: The maintenance of the hall is done in phases due to the magnitude of the work. The interior is still required; we first want to secure the facility as we request council to allocate funding for us to fence during 2026/2027 financial year. Fencing will be phase 2 of the upgrades.

*Voorsien ons mense van werk.

Municipality response: Job creation is not the municipality function. Our role is to create an enabling environment that attracts investment and supports job creation within the municipal area.

The recruitment and selection process of municipal vacancies are managed by the Human Resources Division.

*Voorsien vir biblioteek van eie toilet

Municipality response: The Buffelsjagbaai Library building was officially opened in 2012 without a toilet due to the size of the building, which has insufficient space to accommodate one. The library staff member was informed that she would use the existing toilets located between the neighbouring ECD and the community hall. Both toilets are within walking distance, approximately 15 metres and 30 metres away, respectively.



However, the need to build a toilet for the library must be registered on the IDP as a library extension, prioritised accordingly, and budgeted for as a capital project. Alternatively, the installation of solid precast toilet(s) retrieved from informal settlements where services have been upgraded may be considered as a temporary solution.

*ordentlike speelpark vir ons kinders

Municipality response: Normally, the new housing developments always cater for a playpark.

* om hawe op te gradeer sodat bote ordentlik launch asook skoonmaak plek vir vis)

Municipality response: The Harbour is not a municipal function but managed by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

*multipurpose centre (vir jongmense en bejaardes)

Municipality response: An upgraded community hall could potentially also serve the purpose of a multipurpose centre for youth and the elderly. Funding would be required for the building upgrading.

* stuk grond vir ons kinders om hulle sport talent te beoefen

Municipality response: The need must be registered on the IDP, be prioritised accordingly, and budgeted for as a capital project under the Directorate of Infrastructure. The Directorate Community Services deals with maintenance on the existing sportsground.

* ondersteuning vir die kleuterskool

Municipality response: The work currently underway at See Sterretjie ECD is with ward allocation funding. The Directorate Community Services will be doing some painting and water proofing on the roof and the walls later in the financial year 2026/2027.

* vervang toilete in die hawe

Municipality response: The Harbour is not a municipal function but managed by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

*kliniek

Municipality response: Clinics are not a municipal function but a Provincial mandate of the Department of Health and Wellness.

*containers vir besigheid (soos in Masakhane)

Municipality response: The Socio-Economic Services Section (SES) does not have containers to issue to informal traders. We currently oversee the existing stalls lease contracts at the taxi ranks when the leases expire entrepreneurs are given an opportunity to apply to occupy vacant stalls/ containers.

*toilette vervang asook deure ensovoorts(agter by Wendyhouse)

Municipality response: No proper location provided, therefore unable to respond to the comment.

Hierdie is die lys van behoeftes glo en vertrou u Kan Buffeljagsbaai help.

Baie dankie

Forum van Buffeljagsbaai

#85

From: Tom Baigrie

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 18:54

Subject: Rooiels Ratepayers submission regrading the 2026/27 Draft IDP

The Rooiels Ratepayers Association (RERA) represents approximately 300 even and a smaller community of permanent and part-time residents, is grateful for the chance to comment on the Draft Integrated Development Plan. We apologise for our late submission.

We have separately reviewed the Rooiels Conservancy's submission and endorse it entirely. Pleas grant what REC asks for.

We make our separate submission as municipal ratepayers and residents of a small place that sits in a vital and rare position: close enough to Cape Town and Hermanus to feel the steady pull of suburbanisation, yet situated in a landscape of quite exceptional sensitivity, where decisions about infrastructure are rarely neutral and, once taken, are very difficult to undo. Rooiels is unique and we need OM to take care that it stays that way.

Our interest in the IDP is therefore a limited practical one. We are engaging with the PRA and WCG regarding road safety on the R44, and while we should appreciate OM's support in that, as regards the IDP we are looking only for investment that improves safety and resilience where it is genuinely needed, without gradually turning Rooiels into something it was never intended to be. The question of renewing the water pipelines we depend on is already being addressed, and needs to be more swiftly please, but beyond

the vital, we do not want to see the slow and often individual wealth driven creep of suburban features into a village that has deliberately remained something else — very windy most often, darker at night, dusty by day, always beautiful, but rougher, and thus closer to its surroundings than, perhaps, the rest of the Overstrand.

There is, however, one fix to our infrastructure that we need urgently: at the lower end of Anemone Road, where it drops down to meet Rocklands Road, there is a short but steep section, perhaps twenty metres in length, which remains unpaved, despite the recent use of Ward 10 funds to extend the paving. In dry conditions it is awkward enough; in wet conditions it becomes unstable: traction is poor and it presents a very obvious risk both to vehicles and to anyone on foot. This is an small cost that would deal with a clearly dangerous stretch of road. We would therefore ask, that the IDP urgently allocates funds such that the existing paved surface of Anemone Road be extended over this final stretch. It is a small intervention, but one which would remove a disproportionate and entirely unnecessary risk to villagers .

Although the IDP is, on the face of it, about infrastructure, it is difficult to separate that from the systems that determine how development is approved and implemented in the first place. From a resident's point of view, there is an increasing sense that when planning decisions are taken incorrectly, or without full regard to the applicable rules, the consequences do not remain theoretical. They become physical, and they become permanent, and they are then left for others to deal with. What tends to follow is familiar: residents object, developers are caught in the middle, and the Municipality finds itself saying that the decision has been made and cannot be revisited, leaving the only real remedy as a recourse to the courts. That is a costly and adversarial way of correcting what are, in many cases, avoidable errors.

It would seem to us that there is a strong case for treating this, at least in part, as an IDP issue, in the sense that it points to the need for investment in the quality of decision-making itself — whether through better internal review, more consistent application of the rules, or processes that allow errors to be identified and corrected before they become built reality. The Cape Town municipality has recognised this and put in place mechanisms to deal with it more pragmatically. Whether or not that is the exact route taken here, what we are asking for is a modest investment in getting decisions right at the outset and allowing errors to be reviewed, so as to a great deal more in time, money and goodwill, later on. In a place like Rooiels, where the margin for error is small and the consequences are very visible, that matters more than it might elsewhere.

So we few Rooielsers are rightly not asking for much. Just a limited, practical intervention to save a specific danger, and better management of things that do not need to be done. We would therefore ask that the final IDP reflects this approach, by making provision for

the Anemone Road intervention, by supporting infrastructure investment that is proportionate and appropriate to the setting, and by recognising that the quality of the decisions that sit behind that investment needs to be got right.

With thanks for your attention and apologies again for our late submission.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

Anemone Road have been paved in phases with Ward Allocation funding over the years. We however did not have enough funds to complete the project, and it was decided to complete the project over two financial years. With the new financial year (i.e. 2026/27), ward specific project allocation, we should be able to complete Anemone Road up to the intersection with Rocklands Road.

#86

From: Helen Potgieter

Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 21:47

Subject: Environmentalists' objection to the Sandbaai Kusweg IDP

I am writing to object to the proposed Kusweg Project in Sandbaai, as it is unnecessary (no study was made), and given the shortage of money, this is the wrong priority.

As an environmentalist who spends my own money to clean the sensitive, volatile Sandbaai coastal strip and green circles from aliens, Port Jackson, and clean the storm water drains, and take care of soil erosion in the environment.

For the past 10 years, not once have environmental concerns ever reached the IDP List. I can provide you with the figures if necessary, what it has cost me over the past 5 years.

As a Sandbaai resident, I have previously raised my concerns and objections directly and indirectly in meetings as well as privately to the Councillor and her DA support group members.

I am most upset that the process still proceeds despite many Sandbaai residents' repeated objections. And not once was there ever referred to the Environmental status of Sandbaai.

The Kusweg or (Kuspaadjie) is overriding even environmental impact assessment studies. The omission is of serious concern.

My objections are based on the following:

1. Lack of meaningful public participation
2. The community has not been adequately consulted in a manner that allows for informed input or engagement.
3. Absence of publicly available project plans
4. No clear, detailed plans have been made accessible to the public, leaving residents uncertain about the full scope, impact, and intent of the project.
5. NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PRESENTED
6. Given the sensitivity of the coastal environment, this omission is of serious concern.
7. Disregard for demonstrated public opposition
8. Both survey results and public meeting feedback have indicated opposition, yet these inputs appear to have been ignored.
9. Potential long-term financial implications

The suggestion that this project could commit municipal resources for up to 9 years raises significant concern, particularly if it diverts funding from critical infrastructure priorities such as stormwater management.

Given the above, I formally request:

Immediate suspension of any steps toward implementation until proper processes have been followed.

Full public disclosure of all plans, budgets, and supporting documentation.

A transparent and inclusive public participation process.

Confirmation of whether environmental assessments have been conducted or are planned.

This matter affects not only current Sandbaai residents but also the long-term sustainability and governance integrity of our community.

I trust that this objection will be formally recorded , acknowledged and acted upon.

Municipality response:

Thank you for your submission.

For the current financial year, the remainder of the existing gravel sidewalk on Kusweg will be paved. No other work will be done on Kusweg for this financial year. The current ward councillor was advised to cease all proposed Kusweg related projects for the next financial year.

#87

From: Jill Schlachter**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2026 23:50**Subject:** [CAUTION: SUSPECT SENDER] Comments on Draft IDP: Ward 10 specific

I am a rate payer in Pringle Bay. I am concerned about 3 priority issues in Pringle Bay, other than the big ones like storm water drainage and road maintenance. I have read the relevant sections of the Draft IDP and offer the following comments.

1. Shelter for taxi commuters (bus shelter/taxi rank with shelter)

Pringle Bay is a very windy town, all year round. In winter, it rains a lot. This year it has also been extremely hot in summer.

There are more and more people who travel from Kleinmond to Pringle Bay by taxi on a daily basis for work. They urgently need shelter from the wind and the rain while they wait for their transport. It is cruel to the poor people in our community to expect them to wait outside in the heat of the sun, or the gale force wind, or the rain. The municipality has a duty to provide them with shelter.

Priority 16 refers to Taxi stops/Shelter. In Table 10, Ward 10 Priorities, on page 49, mention is made of a taxi rank for Mooiuitsig/Overhills. I believe that a shelter for commuters in Pringle Bay is also a priority.

I did not see any reference to the taxi rank or shelter for the commuters in the Draft Capital Budget.

Municipality response from Ward Councillor, Cllr Theresa Els-

The revised IDP refers to Ward 10 and not only to Mooiuitsig or Overhills. We wanted to do it this financial year with ward specific funds, but we did not have enough money available. We hope to do it in the new financial year with ward specific funds, area to be determined by ward committee.

As stated on page 36 in the draft IDP review *"Including a priority in the ward needs list does not guarantee funding in the municipal budget. Funding decisions depend on budget availability, cost effectiveness, affordability, and alignment with municipal mandates. Priorities from all 14 wards are presented to the Budget Steering Committee (BSC), which oversees the budget compilation process."* For the 2026/27 draft budget no funding was unfortunately allocated for this ward priority.

2. Upgrade of Pringle Bay Waste Drop Off facility

This has been discussed for many years, and an agreement was reached that it is a priority. This is for two reasons.

- Most importantly and urgently, as part of the Adapted Baboon Management Action Plan to prevent the baboons from gaining access to human waste.
- Secondly, because it is an eyesore at the entrance to Pringle Bay. Part of the Overstrand Tourism Marketing Strategy is to 'improve the visitor experience'.

Priority 11 refers to upgrading and maintenance of waste management and drop-off facilities. However, I was not able to find these items budgeted for in the Draft Capital Budget 2026/7 MTREF.

Municipality Response –

The plan is to still do the fencing before the end of June 2026; however, the late award of the fencing tender has significantly delayed the progress to date for the upgrade of the Pringle Bay Drop off.

The site meeting and receiving and evaluating the quotes was completed after the award and the fencing order request was submitted late last month; we are however still waiting on the official order number to appoint the recommended contractor.

Should the order be significantly delayed the funds might need to be rolled over to next financial year and the order then replaced in July 2026, this is due to the lead time for the delivery of the required fencing materials.

The capex amount was increase from R200k to R 300K during the year and for a portion of this a rolled over to next year will be requested , we just need to confirm the contractor once appointed if they will be able to complete the fencing before end of June, if not then the request will be for the full amount to be rolled so that a new order can be drawn in July and the contractor can then start.

3. Pavement Management

Pringle Bay is both a residential and a holiday town. People live here and come here on holiday because they enjoy the beautiful environment. They also enjoy the peace and quiet of a small town. Many of them like to walk and cycle instead of using their cars e.g. when going to the shops. They often walk or cycle with their young children, in the belief that it is safe. There are also a number of pedestrians who walk from the town centre to the R44 to hike back to Kleinmond and save the taxi fare.

It is not safe for pedestrians to walk along Hangklip Road because there are almost no pavements available. It is urgent that the municipality performs its duty and manages the pavements. I see that upgrading and maintenance of pavements is mentioned in Priority 6. Pavement Management Systems is also mentioned in Chapter 8: Overstrand Service-Oriented Sector Plans – High Level Summaries on page 212, item 8.1 Overview of Sector and Operational Plans.

I would like to know that this has been sufficiently budgeted for.

Municipality Response

The term “pavements” typically refers to the vehicular riding surface within the road reserve. In this case, my understanding is that the client is referring to the pedestrian sidewalk.

The paved pedestrian sidewalks mentioned were funded over previous years through the Ward Allocation. Going forward, if the Ward Committee identifies this as a priority and includes it in the IDP, funding could potentially be made available again. Please note that this would require Capital funding, and as such, provision cannot be made for it within the Operational budget.

4. Play Park Equipment

On page 315, Capital and Other Investments in Ward 10, mention is made of a budget of R 50,000 for a Rooi Els Ward Project for Play Parks. I believe that there is an urgent need for play park equipment in Overhills and I would like to recommend that the money budgeted for Rooi Els is re-directed to Overhills.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the IDP process and I hope that my views will be considered.

Municipality response from Ward Councillor, Cllr Theresa Els

The item was incorrectly indicated as Rooiels – it should have been Bettys Bay (Bass Lake). This is being done with ward specific funds. Since Bettys Bay residents around Bass Lake objected to the playground, the ward committee decided to do it at Bambanani Day Care Centre in Overhills. This is still being done in the current financial year (i.e. 2025/26).

#88

From: Martella Du Preez

Sent: Friday, 01 May 2026 00:37

Subject: Fwd: Baboon monitoring

Dear all

I am a resident of Pringle Bay. I am forwarding this message I sent to Dean O' Neill on 13 February 2026 as background information on the Adaptive Baboon Management Plan Implemented by the Municipal Manager of OM, Gary Beukman and senior employee Liezl de Villiers. I also attached Pete Oxford's letter who clearly described the situation and

loathing residents have for the OM disastrous, persecution style baboon management. I and many others that are simply ignored fully support Pete Oxford's letter. Why is ratepayers money used for this if there was NO stakeholder buy in? I do not want to pay for this and most residents feel the same. Mr Gerber, who has received my email from O' Neill, has never responded in any way. He has not even acknowledged receipt of it.

Dr O' Neill never takes action or accountability against his senior management, never responds in any other manner than the fob-off letter in this email string.

I and many residents in Pringle Bay now hope to get support from higher up in an attempt to get past the closed door of OM and CapeTown Government and want to insist on at least an active response, ethical, humane management that takes the current legislation into account and above all the the wellbeing of these animals that has been devastated and are injured daily under Gary Beukman's and Liezl deVilliers, persecution style management.

Only half of Pringle Bay residents support this method, They are from elsewhere, are misled by ignorance, social media and members of the Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association that seemed to be coerced into accepting this method by Mr Gert Bam, previously employed by the Cape Town Government.

Mr Bredell has signed off on this method, he chooses the Board Members of Cape Nature, an organisation that has the mandate to protect and preserve our wildlife and biodiversity, the CN board reports to Minister Bredell. Cape Nature dishes out permits for this kind of animal treatment.! How is it possible that this type of management, that can only be appreciated by seeing it on the ground where it happens, can be allowed? Have you seen this kind of treatment being dished out by untrained monitors? Gary Beukman and Liezl de Villiers, who have never given any criteria for their decisions, shirk their oversight responsibility. They are seldom/never seen to do any oversight in Pringle Bay. Baboons, females, infants, juveniles and adult males, deliberately shot at at close range, are injured daily, by indiscriminately using the "non-lethal" paintball guns. This is in **direct contravention of the SOP Regulations of Cape Nature who also deny that they are responsible for oversight of this management plan.**

I would appreciate, for once, an actionable response and stakeholder engagement that can be conveyed to angry and DA disillusioned Pringle Bay residents.

Yours sincerely

[Municipality response:](#)

[The Municipal Manager did respond to your previous emails on the matter and his position remains unchanged.](#)

#89

From: [Delwyn Stoltz](#)**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2026 10:55**Subject:** IDP comment for WARD 3 - (BABOONS)

I would like to address you urgently regarding the baboon situation in Voëlkliip.

The present situation cannot continue – it is going to end in tragedy for the baboons and the public ! It's just a matter of time.

At present residents are basically captive in our homes – not being able to leave doors or windows open, even with burglar guards and security gates.

I've had a house in Voëlkliip for almost 30 years. Yes, there have always been baboons in the area. For a long period of time when the other monitors were in control, we hardly saw a baboon for quite a number of years.

However the situation has changed drastically. Baboon behaviour is definitely more determined and aggressive. They are now trying to **forcibly** enter properties, where previously they would assess a likely opening and walk away if a door or window was open but protected by security gates or window bars.

Many residents report forcible or attempted forcible entry. Their behaviour is now likened to criminals.

In my own instance, my grandchildren have been completely traumatised by 2 baboons entering the house and suddenly appearing right next to them on top of the bar counter, while they were sitting on the sofa watching TV. You can imagine that a fully grown baboon is very big and scary in normal circumstances, but to be a small child and suddenly have such a frightening animal elevated *above* you as well is an extremely terrifying experience.

They now don't even want to come to visit me in Hermanus because they're too scared. Even in the house, the younger ones demand somebody go with them to other rooms/toilet etc.

I have had a number of instances of baboons in my home over the years – fortunately without major consequences, but nevertheless very scary indeed.

I realise the monitors are doing their best, and they are a help to some degree. Baboons are very intelligent and easily evade the monitors.

The current situation cannot continue. The likelihood of a severe or even fatal injury to a child/animal/person is becoming a reality.

Our properties are expensive, our rates are high and increasing, but we are at the mercy of the baboons to enjoy our homes and live our lives in safety. Not to mention all the additional expense of installing gates, extra guards, locks and other mechanisms.

I realise this is a difficult situation, but somehow a solution **must** be found.

Residents must also play their part in being prepared to NOT have food sources available. In many cases it would also mean removing well established trees which bear nuts or fruit, but that may be one of the drastic measures that have to be taken to try and solve the problem. Certainly, vegetables etc are a complete no-no unless enclosed in a very sturdy cage of some sort.

This matter requires immediate and sustained attention from the Municipality.

Municipality response:

The Municipality acknowledges your concerns regarding the baboon situation in Voëlklip.

The Overstrand area is internationally recognised for its exceptional biodiversity and environmental significance. The Municipality contains critical biodiversity areas, protected areas, ecological corridors, coastal ecosystems, mountain catchments, estuaries, and conservation-worthy land that support a wide range of indigenous fauna and flora, including chacma baboons, that is indigenous wildlife and form part of the natural ecological systems of the Overstrand. Their management therefore cannot be separated from broader biodiversity management responsibilities. The management of baboons does not occur in isolation from these broader conservation functions and forms part of an integrated environmental management approach.

Urban expansion adjacent to natural habitats has significantly increased human-wildlife conflict across the Overstrand. In many instances, baboons move through urban areas due to habitat fragmentation, food conditioning, unsecured waste, and increasing pressure on natural systems. Without active management interventions, conflict between humans and baboons escalates rapidly, often resulting in increased aggression and habituation; property damage; threats to public safety; road accidents; injury or death of baboons; illegal feeding or persecution of wildlife; and significant reputational damage to the Municipality and the region. Baboon monitoring therefore serves not only

to protect residents and property owners, but also to reduce harm to the baboons themselves and to minimise the need for more invasive management interventions.

The Municipality remains committed to balancing biodiversity conservation; animal welfare; public safety; scientific evidence; operational practicality; and community concerns within the broader context of responsible environmental management in the Overstrand municipal area.

The Municipality also remains committed to engaging with stakeholders to develop practical, lawful, and sustainable long-term solutions.

At present, the Municipality is in the process of preparing for the formal review of the current Strategic Baboon Management Plan during the 2026/2027 financial year. This review process is considered essential before the Municipality can responsibly commit to a definitive long-term operational model and associated multi-year funding framework.

The review will include:

- An assessment of the effectiveness and sustainability of current management interventions;
- Consideration of updated scientific research and best-practice approaches;
- Evaluation of operational structures, staffing requirements, and governance mechanisms;
- Review of reporting systems, monitoring frameworks, and measurable performance indicators;
- Public participation and stakeholder engagement processes; and
- Consideration of long-term financial sustainability and affordability.

The outcome of this review process will provide the Municipality and relevant stakeholders with a clearer understanding of the most appropriate and viable long-term management approach, associated operational requirements, and future funding needs.

END