

Priority Development Issues

2.7.1 Introduction

Municipal priority issues

Apart from the community priority issues that need to be addressed within the IDP projects and programmes, other over-arching issues, which relate to the entire municipal area as well as the sustainability of the municipality as a whole, also need to be identified. The IDP Steering committee analyzed both the external issues pressing on the municipality and especially the internal problem areas that need to be addressed to ensure effective internal functioning. The resulting municipal wide and institutional issues were prioritized and ranked by the Steering Committee.

Prioritisation of development issues

From the above listed priority issues, needs of both community potentially outweighs the available resources and assets of the municipality. In addition, some issues need urgent intervention. The Representative Forum therefore prioritized issues in order to take effective decisions on the allocation of resources aimed at addressing the identified problem issues.

The priority issues from both the community and other stakeholders should firstly be combined and then grouped into similar sectors eg. Water, sanitation etc. This results in a ranking of priority sectors, are presented to the Representative Forum to confirm the actuality of the results. The Representative Forum assist in ranking priority issues as indicated on the next page:

Rank	Development Sector	Ranking
1	Water	1
2	Sanitation	1
3	Waste management	2
4	Electricity and lights	1
5	Streets and storm water	2
6	Transport	1
7	Cemeteries	1
8	Housing and land	1
9	Health and welfare	1
10	Education and training	1
11	Economy (including agriculture and tourism)	1
12	Sport and recreation	2
13	Safety and security	1

Table 2.7.1 (a) Priority ranking

These priority needs, together with the core operational and management functions (requirements) form the basis of the IDP process assisted the Representative Forum in identifying the important development priorities to be addressed during the next five years.

The dynamics underlying each of these infrastructure and service priorities will be discussed according to this discussion framework in more detail below. Core issues regarding the priority areas will be addressed briefly

Water

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Sufficient Bulk water supply	Bulk supply of water sources as well as the maintenance of storage and purification infrastructure and equipment should enjoy highest priority as this would be the biggest direct threat of being able to provide sufficient potable water to households.
Individual connections	The continuous individual connection of erven to available reticulation networks is the most direct activity of providing water to households. Although other resource constraints exist, such connections should not be neglected as a result and should receive constant implementation. A least 3000 urban households do not have on-site water
Water provision to Rural areas	The farm workers in Kopanong have difficulties in obtaining water from the farmers, resulting in them having to travel long distances to get water and transport it to their homes. The intention is that councillors/officials should engage in negotiations with the farmers to try and persuade them to provide water to their workers
Shortage of personnel	None of the town units within the municipality has sufficient technical human resources to be able to upgrade and maintain the water infrastructure beyond basic repairs. Organisational structures should include sufficient technical personnel as far as possible.
Maintenance and upgrading of equipment	Maintenance and upgrading of equipment will facilitate the constant and uninterrupted provision of water services. Proper equipment will also ensure a long term cost saving through maintenance rather than constant replacement.
Management of Capital projects	Although the municipality does not have the capacity to design and management large capital projects yet. Constant effort should be made increase internal capacity to monitor and manage such projects to ensure compliance with internal planning and constantly becoming less dependent.

Sanitation

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Sufficient Bulk capacity	Bulk sewerage infrastructure capacity upgrade as well as the maintenance of such infrastructure and equipment should be viewed as the highest priority as no sanitation system can be implemented without the ability to dispose of effluent sufficiently and safely.
Upgrading sub standard services	The continuous provision of suitable sanitation services to all unserved erven is the most direct activity in addressing current backlogs.
Rural sanitation provision	Within the drastic resource shortage of the municipality, the plight of rural communities is pushed to the side. Efforts will have to be made to include rural areas within the projects and budget of the municipality
Shortage of personnel	None of the town units within the municipality has sufficient technical and human resources to be able to upgrade and maintain the sanitation infrastructure beyond basic repairs. Organisational structures should include sufficient technical personnel as far as possible.
Maintenance and upgrading of network and equipment	Maintenance and upgrading of equipment will facilitate the constant and uninterrupted provision of sanitation services. Proper equipment will also ensure a long-term cost saving through maintenance rather than constant replacement.

Waste Management

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

Core Issue	Description
Condition and capacity of waste disposal sites	Waste disposal sites are in a poor condition and the fences that have been erected were stolen. The capacity of these sites is only sufficient for the short term.
Position of waste disposal sites	Water disposal sites will have to be planned for in future.
Buying of Bulk Containers with equipment	Dumping on street corners etc. result in a huge necessity to place bulk containers on strategic places for that purpose. However, the relevant equipment to remove the containers must also be obtained
Equipment for the rehabilitation of waste disposal sites	A need for a Bulldozer to rehabilitate the waste disposal sites is identified. Comparison between the purchase of a bulldozer and the renting of equipment occasionally should be done.
Illegal dumping and pollution	The entire waste management system would be ineffective if the community at large does not adhere to and support it. Illegal dumping , in especially the former township areas, places strain on the ability of the municipality to effectively remove refuse from residential areas and furthermore contributes to the pollution of the natural environment. Community education, even more effective systems and strict control measures could address this problem.

Electricity and Lights

Eskom distributes electricity throughout the region. The network is old and in desperate need of repair, the proper metering of this service will also need to be attended to.

The underlying causes of the service realities as well as the resulting core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUE	DESCRIPTION
Small cluster of erven without electricity.	The clusters of households in the various towns that are not connected to the electricity network should receive attention. These households should be connected to the network as soon as possible to provide equality of services to all.
Insufficient area lighting in some areas.	The lack of area lighting in most areas makes nightlife dangerous and difficult. Springfontein and Trompsburg identified high masts as a matter of urgency, Reddersburg communities requested street lights

Streets and Storm water

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Insufficient storm water in all areas.	The lack of storm water drainage contributes greatly to the poor state of roads. The provision of adequate storm water drainage will drastically limit the need for maintenance.
Weak condition of streets.	Roads are not maintained regularly with the result that the condition of poor roads deteriorate rapidly.
Established urban areas with no roads.	Streets in urban areas fulfill an important role in that it ensures the delivery of goods and services, but more importantly it forms the medium for public transport. Streets should therefore always be in a good and safe condition.
Structured maintenance programme.	Sustained maintenance is required to minimize infrastructure losses and breaks in service delivery.

Housing and Land

"Housing" is the core competency of national and provincial Government and does not fall under the core competency of the local municipality. The main focus is on the promotion of housing developments through assisting in the provision of erven, submission of applications and the control of beneficiaries. For those functions, the council is mainly interested in the housing and erven backlog within each area.

However core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Housing backlog	Housing is a basic need and many of the people in Kopanong has insufficient housing. The housing backlog in Kopanong is high, approximately 5000 (see specific number on p.17) and will have to be addressed to provide quality of life to these citizens.
Availability of residential land	In most areas, the future expansion of residential areas are hampered by the availability of open land . The municipality will have to focus on in-fill planning and securing land from surrounding and willing land sellers.
Administration and Management of projects	To ensure proper construction and transfers, as well as countering corruption, all housing projects will have to be managed properly.
Housing maintenance and support	To address the backlog the community will need to build their own houses, but they will need the relevant support. Capacity building programmes need to be undertaken to assist people in building their own houses and to maintain the houses they have built or received.
Related services infrastructure requirements	Housing projects should not be seen in isolation and support service infrastructure will have to be supplied to areas earmarked for housing development. The subsequent costs and ability of the municipality to deliver such services should also be considered.

Cemeteries

The underlying causes of the abovementioned realities as well as the resulting core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Insufficient capacity of existing sites.	Due to the rapid rate that cemeteries are occupied many of the cemeteries can only provide in the short-term need. New cemeteries will have to be developed in Kopanong
Public facilities at cemeteries	Most of the cemeteries in Kopanong are not provided with public facilities. Unfortunately these facilities are a target for vandalism and are thus expensive to maintain.
Possible effects of HIV/AIDS	The number of deaths has increase drastically over the last few years mostly due to HIV/AIDS. Reducing the number of people infected with HIV/AIDS will reduce the short-term need for cemeteries.

Economic development

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Agriculture - Highest contributor to GDP	A large burden on the agricultural sector and makes the region very vulnerable to factors influencing agriculture. Many of these factors cannot be controlled such as the weather and prices. To limit the vulnerability to markets it is important to add value to products before it is exported out of the municipality.
Good agriculture potential	The Kopanong area has proven that it has good agricultural potential. This should be exploited, but as mentioned above the necessary supporting sectors will have to be developed before the agricultural sector can expand.
Role of emerging farmers	Emerging farmers need support from existing commercial farmers and the Department of Agriculture in terms of knowledge and information sharing. The agricultural sector should be made more accessible to emerging farmers.

Tourism Development

To promote the area is to the advantage of all the people of Kopanong. Improved tourism improve and promote investment to the area.

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Co-ordination of efforts	To maximize the potential of tourism within the area it is important that there is a coordinated approach in planning and developing the tourism industry. This will limit duplication and strengthen existing efforts.
Cultural tourism attraction	The cultural diversity of the area, coupled to the increase in international cultural interest should be exploited as integral part of the tourism effort. i.e. witblits festival
Accessibility of facilities	Accessibility refers to both physical accessibility as well as socio-economic affordability.
Specific tourism marketing	Lake Gariep, Game reserve, Jagersfontein Mine, Battlefields, Historical buildings, and Fuaresmith horse run

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Women development activities	To maximize the potential of labour within the area it is important that there is a coordinated approach in planning and developing women activities. This will limit duplication and strengthen existing efforts.
Wholesale and retail increase	This sector reflects a blooming growth and should be investigated for assistance

Skills Development and Training

Linked with national initiatives to develop skills, Kopanong are faced with realities and challenges.

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Cost of infrastructure and services	To establish industries are expensive. The key is to develop what is existing and to encourage and support people to start small.
Organized and mobile labour force	A large contribution to the high unemployment rates are the fact the a major portion of the potential labour market is unskilled or unstructured, making it difficult to access information and opportunities which might arise.
Skilled labour force	Skilled labourers are leaving the area constantly and should be engaged in the LED process to retain them. Unskilled labourers should also be trained locally for local potentials and needs.
Tertiary	Education on tertiary level needs to be supported.

Education is mainly driven by higher provincial structures and the role of the municipality is only seen as one of supporting SGBs, liaising with the Department of Education, assisting in the provision of land and facilities, and promoting regional policies aimed at maintaining a high quality of education of both the younger learners as well as adults and the labour market.

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Secondary pass rate	If the secondary pass rate are low it leads to more people having limited opportunities to jobs. Poor attendance by both children and teachers are a problem.
Discipline of learners and educators	Discipline or lack thereof is the largest single contributor to poor pass rates. Mechanisms should be considered to address discipline of both learners and educators.
Parent Involvement	Parent involvement in the education of their children, as well as the general management, maintenance and functioning of the school and its facilities should improve education standards.
Adult literacy	High levels of adult illiteracy occur within the various areas of the community and this in return increases poverty and health risks due to ignorant residents. The local ABET programme will have to be expanded and promoted to address this issue.
Tertiary education opportunities	The rural areas as well as smaller towns do not have direct access to local tertiary satellite education services. This results in a rapid decline in the higher education levels within the area as well as an outflow of youth seeking education opportunities in major centers. Local access to student loans, satellite services and information could remedy this situation.

Health and Welfare

Core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Sufficient capacity of facilities	Clinics in Kopanong cannot cope with the demand on the services provided due to limited personnel.
Specialized equipment for emergency cases	Due to the major roads (such as N1) crossing through the municipality serious accidents occur from time to time and specialized equipment is needed to deal with patients.
Functioning of regional health system	Residents from Kopanong have difficulty in accessing regional health facilities timeously due to a referral system.
Health services to rural households	Rural areas are not served well by health services. Too little visits to service points and the limited care provided by the mobile clinics are the biggest problems.

Public safety and security

The municipality needs to support police services in combating crime in the area. Specific core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Mainly assault and theft	Assault and theft accounts for most of the crime reports. Rural communications channels and community co-operation could assist in reducing these crimes.
Increase in violent crimes and substance abuse	A slight, but notable increase in violent crimes and domestic violence has been experienced in recent times and is for most part associated with substance abuse. Community awareness and co-operation should be able to curb these crimes.
Community co-operation	Intelligent policing is dependent on the input of the entire community in terms of both resources and basic information. Currently these efforts of community involvement is hampered by intimidation and the fact that all role players are not involved in a structured system. A Sectoral Policing Forum could address these problems.
Capacity of local stations	The capacity of the SAPS stations is limited due to a lack of proper equipment and vehicles and sufficient numbers of police officers. This problem is caused by a lack of financial resources.

Sport and recreation

The development of the youth and recreation facilities for the people in the areas remains a high priority for Kopanong. The underlying core issues that need to be addressed are summarized in the table below:

CORE ISSUES	DESCRIPTION
Quality of existing facilities	Existing sport facilities in the area to be maintained. And/or improved
Co-ordination of sporting codes	Co-ordination of various different sporting codes within the area which could improve the utilisation. A functioning local sports committee would be able to address these issues of co-ordination.

Environmental Management

The physical environment and resources in the area needs to be monitored and protected. Although this function is managed by the District Municipality, it is cutting across the various development issues to be address by the municipality during the implementation of the IDP. All the strategies and projects should take into consideration the existing environmental problems and threats as well as the environmental assets which require protection and controlled management.

2.7.2 Community priority issues

Information acquired during several meetings with local communities and other stakeholders resulted in tracking the performance of the municipality against set targets in the IDP and grading development and/or service delivery in a scale of A- C priority (A-High, C-lower). The next few paragraphs summarise the regional inputs of the various areas within Kopanong.

Edenburg

Edenburg – Public Participation - Community¹

ITEM	GRADING	COMMENT
Telephone	C	Extension of existing telephone lines to new extensions
Street and Storm Water	B	Upgrading of internal streets and roads Upgrading of storm water system
Transport	B	Taxi Rank
Cemeteries	A	Fencing of graveyards
Housing and Land	A	Accessibility to land Improving existing mud houses
Health and Welfare	A	24-hour ambulance service Old age home
Education	A	New libraries Availability of Technikon/Technical college
Economy	A	Shopping complex Job opportunities
Sports and recreation	A	Improving existing halls

Reddersburg – Public Participation – community

ITEM	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE RAISED
Sanitation	B	Upgrading of waterborne sanitation
Electricity and Lights	B	Streetlights
Street and Storm Water	B	Upgrading of paving roads Storm water systems
Transport	C	Construction of taxi rank
Housing and Land	B	Upgrading of dilapidated houses Accessibility to land
Health and Welfare	A	Clinics need to be opened 24 hours Funding home-based care for patients
Education and Training	A	New libraries Availability for bursaries for further studies
Economy	A	Job opportunities

Philloppois**Phillippolis - public participation**

Item	Grading	Comment
Sanitation	B	Upgrading
Electric and Lights	B	High mast street lights
Street and Storm Water	C	Storm water system Upgrading of road linking Phillippolis, Jagersfontein, Trompsburg
Housing and Land	B	Additional houses Upgrading of dilapidated houses
Health and Welfare	A	Clinics need to be opened 24 hours
Education and Training	A	New library Availability of bursaries for further studies
Economy	A	Shopping complex Job opportunities

Bethulie – Public Participation – community

ITEM	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE RAISED
Housing and Land availability		Upgrading of dilapidated houses
Cemeteries	A	Public toilets in cemeteries
Streets and storm water		Upgrading of roads Storm water system
Health and welfare	A	New clinic Day care centre Public toilets in town
Education and training	A	Construction of pre-school High school combined school, adult based education Skills development centre
Economy	A	Job opportunities
Sports and recreation	B	Upgrading of existing halls Development of Bethulie resort

Gariep Dam – Public participation - community

DEVELOPMENT SECTOR	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE RAISED
Water	A	Upgrading of extension of water reservoir and pressure towers
Sanitation	B	Upgrading of sewerage system
Waste management	A	Dumping sites
Street and Storm Water	B	Storm water system in Hydro Park
Housing and Land	B	Houses Provision of land
Agricultural Development	B	Fencing of commonage fields Equipment for farming
Health and Welfare	A	Of critical importance is operating hours of the clinics. It is hereby requested that the clinic operate 24 hours .
Cemeteries	C	Extension of cemeteries
Economy	C	Job opportunities

Springfontein – Public Participation – community

ITEM	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE
Sanitation	B	Upgrading
Electricity and lights	A	High mast lighting
Streets and storm water	A	Upgrading roads and pavements
Transport	C	Upgrading taxi ranks and railway station
Housing and Land	B	Access to land/ownership and title deed
Health and welfare	A	Hospice for disabled and abused children
Cemeteries	B	Fencing of cemeteries
Education and training	B	Upgrading of existing library Provision and improvement of schools
Economy	A	Construction of Business centre Construction of multi-skills centre Job creation

Jagersfontein – Public Participation -community

ITEM	GRADING	COMMENT
Water	A	Improving the availability and convenient water supply
Sanitation	A	Waterborne sewerage
Street and Storm Water	B	Upgrading of internal streets and roads Upgrading of storm water system
Electricity	C	High mast street lightning
Telecommunication	C	Improving telecommunication services
Housing and Land	B	Houses Upgrading of housing units Erven backlog
Health and Welfare	A	24-hour ambulance service
Education		Training centre
Economy	B	Shopping complex Job opportunities

Trompsburg– Public Participation – community

ITEM	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE
Sanitation	B	Upgrading
Electricity and lights	B	High mast street lighting Lightning at rail station
Streets and storm water	B	Upgrading streets and pavements
Waste Management	B	Dumping sites
Transport	B	Construction of taxi rank
Housing and Land	A	Housing Upgrading un-used sites
Health and welfare	A	Hospice for elderly 24-Hour clinic service and doctor 24-Hour Ambulance service
Cemeteries	B	Fencing of cemeteries
Education and training	A	New library High school with classes to grade 12 Upgrading of creche
Economy	B	Camp for live stock

Faurismith – Public Participation – community

ITEM	GRADING	DEVELOPMENT ISSUE
Sanitation	C	
Electricity and lights	B	High mast light Electrification of some houses
Streets and storm water	B	Proper storm water drainage system
Waste Management	B	New landfill site
Transport	B	Taxi rank
Housing and Land	B	More low cost housing
Health and welfare	A	A twenty four hour clinic A permanent doctor for the area Accessible ambulances services
Cemeteries	A	Equipment for digging the grave Fencing and building of ablution bloc
Education and training	C	A satellite FET college
Economy	A	Initiative of job intensive projects Transparent process of tendering Youth development projects
Sports and recreation	B	Sports ground Multipurpose sports center

Conclusion

Together with the regional analysis, sector plan analysis and the needs identified by the community through a public participation process, strategic objectives are being prioritized and formulated for the next life span of the IDP in this review period.