Communities Gear Up for IDP Submissions

Planact & the South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning (University of the Witwatersrand) are conducting in-depth interviews to provide qualitative analysis of how the Corridors of Freedom affect various stakeholders in their day to day lives.

Communities will not only get a chance to share their experiences, but their input will add a new dimension to the project and also identify any shortcomings of the project so far. In-depth interviews in the following areas:

- Westbury / Bosmont / Westdene / Brixton
- Orlando East / Noordgesig / Payenville
- Orange Grove / Malborough / Balfour (Louis Botha Corridor)

More information on www.planact.org.za
Residents at the Vosloorus Men’s hostel are calling for urgent attention to the upgrading of their inhabitable hostels. When the Planact team visited the area, they got a feel of what residents face daily having no privacy when using the bathrooms and going back to a unit with space fitting a single bed only.

Apart from the lack of privacy in the one room divided into three half-walled bedrooms, residents squirm at the thought of men, women and children having to share communal unsanitary bathrooms that are a ticking time bomb for diseases. The Vosloorus Police Barracks Hostels falls under the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

"We also deserve basic services." Hostel residents say.

One of Planact’s objectives is to see municipalities transparently accounting to citizens. Through the Municipal Budget Process and Analysis Project, Thembelihle Informal Settlement and Orange Farm (Region G) were empowered to understand, analyse and monitor City of Johannesburg budget.

The purpose is that Municipal budgets for community development projects are understood, analysed and monitored by empowered communities and local municipalities are able to account to their respective communities. This gives a solid knowledge base for social audits and that communities are empowered to influence public participation in local government processes. This project is supported by the Open Society Foundation South Africa (OSF-SA).

**Orange Farm:**
- Analysis shows that there is a budget for Orange Farm, however information given to the public versus blueprint on the budget needs clarity. Where does the money go to yet communities do not see development?
- Where is the social responsibility from contractors working in Orange Farm?

**Thembelihle Informal Settlement:**
- Are informal settlements budgeted for by Municipalities and how?
- Is there a specific budget for Thembelihle?
- For service delivery in Thembelihle, where does money come from?

What Municipal Budgets Mean For Communities

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Noordgesig, Orlando a 9 Urban Biotopes (9UB) success story

Orlando East community members & German students in 2014

Noordgesig and Orlando East, in Soweto, have been selected under the Nine Urban Biotopes (9UB) as a success story by the European Commission.

In 2014, Planact and seven exchange students from Germany undertook a task to help curb dumping, to identify heritage sites while creating a tourism route and to close the gap between Noordgesig and Orlando.

In Orlando East, Ubuntu Park was developed and in Noordgesig a food garden in Noordgesig Primary School was started. These initiatives have been recognised by the European Commission as a success story based on quality, relevance and results of the project internationally.

“Since we moved here in 2006, Cosmo has developed beyond what we ever imagined. Our history is rich and different from most townships in the country. There is a story to tell from the unique history, the well-thought-out street names, mixed types of housing development, a ten Million Rand sports facility and the Cosmo view,” said the Cosmo Community Development Forum Chairman, Phashe Magagane.

He said that in the 90s, Planact encouraged community leaders to organise themselves and through training and capacity building, the leaders were better equipped to formally engage with the authorities in demand of better living conditions.

Cosmo City is a modern township in the North of Johannesburg. It is sandwiched by the popular Montecasino; Lanseria Airport; Sandton City; the TicketPro Dome in Northgate; Fourways and the Cradle of Human Kind in the northwest of Johannesburg.

Call To Contribute in Cosmo City History Book

Planact is currently compiling a history book for Cosmo City documenting the transition from Zevenfontein to what it is currently. You are invited to contribute. The history book will cover various themes such as the political climate, socio-economic aspects, housing (backyard dwellings), role of the civic structures, integration, migration issues, and the accepting of foreign nationals, which in essence played a crucial role in the formation of Cosmo City.

This will involve extensive research compilation and interviews with relevant stakeholders which will then lead to an exhibition for the book publishing.

Contact mike@planact.org.za for more information.

Is Cosmo City The New Age Soweto?

A tourism route is in the works for Cosmo City to showcase its thriving development and scenic view housing people from widely varying financial, cultural and social backgrounds.

The community-based tourism route is being developed to offer an alternative “new age” township experience in Johannesburg while leveraging off the surrounding attractions and topography.

Phashe Magagane, Chairman of Cosmo Community Development Forum

NEWS

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Untapped Potential For Women & Youth in Breyten

The vibrant community of Breyten has untapped potential for marginalised women and youth who are resilient in sustaining their livelihoods despite the unequal employment opportunities.

Breyten is a small farming town in the Mpumalanga province which has a dominant mining sector. Dwindling job opportunities for women and the youth did not deter them from forming agricultural cooperatives and home based care initiatives to assist the elderly and needy in their community.

A visit to Breyten recently left the Planact programmes team in awe at the magnitude of determination that the women and youth in this community displayed in spearheading several projects with little support from their municipality.

During a focus group discussion, it became apparent that this group is not afforded the same employment opportunities as men in mining towns.

In this project, Planact intends to capacitate the women and youth to express their needs in terms of the Integrated Development Planning (IDPs) and Social and Labour Plan (SLP). Ford Foundation is supporting Planact to investigate and research the impact of the Social and Labour Plan on communities affected by mining.

No more loudspeakers for your meetings – Here’s a free tool to use!

Forget loudspeakers, word of mouth or knocking at doors, Grassroot has developed an easy to use platform that allows low income communities to effectively organise meetings from any cellphone even without airtime or data.

The Grassroot platform works in 3 easy ways:
1. USSD by dialling *134*1994#,
2. Web browser (https://app.grassroot.org.za/home)
3. On Android Playstore (Grassroot)

Planact in The Media

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