Stanford

Conservation

Sharing a village green

2009-08-14

Overstrand Municipality
P O Box 20
7200 Hermanus

Dear Ms Michels

MAINTENANCE OF STANFORD WANDELPAD

As per your recent conversation with members of the Stanford Conservation Trust, the Trust would like to propose that it officially takes over the maintenance of the Stanford Wandelpad (see attached map); as it has been doing unofficially and with own funding for the past 10 years.

The reason for the request is as follows:

- Membership fees are down due to the economic recession;
- Funds raised need to be used for other conservation issues, not only the Wandelpad.
- The Stanford Administration does not have the capacity and the manpower to attend to the maintenance and/or development of the Wandelpad;
- The Stanford Conservation Trust has been maintaining (the larger section) of the Wandelpad with funds raised via donations, fundraising efforts and membership fees – cost which is only just covered by the income received;
- A member of the community, Willy Dempers has maintaining and developing a section of the Wandelpad for the past 4 years (the area around at the 'Ou Krale' and the 'Vlei'. His efforts were funded by the Municipality (ad hoc contracts) and the Stanford Conservation Trust. As from the beginning of this year, however, two things happened which have resulted in that area of the Wandelpad – and including the gardens he established at the Ou Krale – to become totally neglected (a typical example of the municipality's lack of capacity to attend to the finer detail of recreational areas):
    - No further contracts were awarded to Mr Dempers; and
    - In May 2009 Mr Dempers became terminally ill.
- There have been requests to extend the Wandelpad to the Eye.

The Stanford Conservation Trust (SCT) would like to continue this service to the community of Stanford, but unfortunately the scope of work has increased to beyond the financial capacity of this organisation. It would therefore like to propose to partner with the Overstrand Municipality in maintaining and further developing this tourist attraction of Stanford, but with the following provisos:

- It will only be responsible for the Wandelpad and its immediate surrounding area. This includes:

- Mowing the grass along the Wandelpad (the larger areas will remain the responsibility of the Municipality, as this is done with the 'bossieslaner');
- Picking up litter;
- Spraying the small invasive saplings;
- Keeping check on the Patterson's Curse;
- Prohibiting the further encroachment of reeds;
- Maintaining bridges; steps and other woodwork;
- Maintaining the gardens at Ou Krale;
- The section between Queen Victoria and De Bruyn Streets will be taken over once the municipality has completed the rehabilitation of the area disturbed by the sewerage pipeline.

- Larger invasive trees etc will removed by municipal contracts;
- Specific improvements (such as bridges etc) will be the responsibility of the municipality – as in the past.

One of the aspects the SCT would also like to add to the above responsibilities is the cleaning of the litter traps in the 'leiwater' furrows (but not maintaining the furrows!) and the storm water channels along the river, as well as looking after the unkept gardens along Daneel Street (the entrance to Stanford).

To enable the SCT to assist the municipality, it would need to employ either one person twice a week or two people once a week. The SCT is a registered employer and pays UIF, (???? Royd to complete) for the one person it has employed up to now.

The SCT would like to therefore partner with the Overstrand Municipality, and the requests the following annual budget to do so:

EXPENSE	**REQUIREMENTS**	**COST PER WEEK**	**COST PER YEAR**
Labour (Wandelpad)	2 x labourers	R300	R15 600
Labour (gardens)	1 x labourer	R300	R 7 800
	Bonus		R 1 800
General expenses	Black bags, petrol, herbicide, plants, fertilizer etc		R 4 800
		TOTAL	**R30 000**

In addition to the above the SCT will still, at its own costs, plant and maintain trees along the Wandelpad etc.

We hope that our proposal will be favourably met, and that we can continue to be of service to the Overstrand municipality.

Yours faithfully

Mr Royd Frith
Chairperson