



Stanford's Green Report

Which way are we going?

Less than two years after Stanford's revitalisation project was initiated by Stanford Conservation, it has just become part of the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP). This is quite an achievement, as the annual IDP process takes about 10 months. The IDP is a 5-year planning tool which determines which projects will receive municipal funding and planning support. It also allows the municipality to apply for government and other grants to further its projects.

This official recognition of the project also allows Stanford itself to raise funds to expedite the development, as has been done by Hermanus for their CBD development. With the rand being so weak against overseas currencies it may just be the right time to start such a fund-raising initiative.

In the mean time Stanford's Conservation, Ratepayers and Tourism organisations have been relentlessly pursuing the project and its four (4) main components: the Queen Victoria Street precincts, community centre development, riverfront development and the market square upgrade.

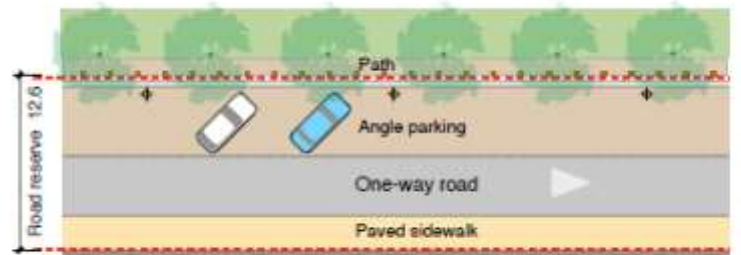
Market Square upgrade

The municipality is presently investigating the best possible engineering requirements for the market square, which includes drainage, road alignment, surfacing options, parking etc. Proposals regarding possible traffic flow around the market square have been made to the municipality (refer to sketches on the right) and after some delays with the town planning department these have recently been sent to adjacent property owners for their input.

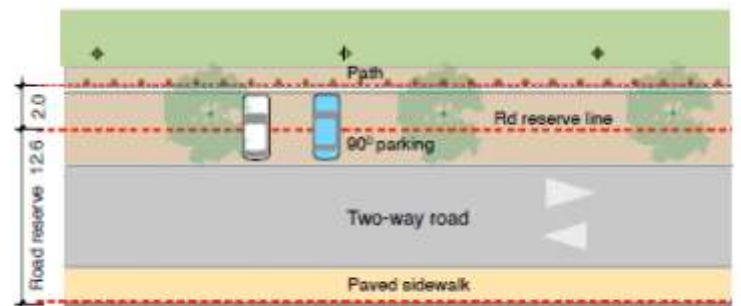
Once their opinion has been obtained along with that of the organisations mentioned above, the consulting road engineers will draw up various scenarios based on the feedback provided. These will then be presented to the entire community at a future public meeting.

Whatever the final decision may be, it is most important that it should enhance the heritage aspect of the area, which is a proclaimed area of provincial heritage significance. This proclaimed area includes the two sections of road adjacent to the village green.

Should you wish to comment, or require more detail on the options, please send an email to our secretary, Vicki le Roux, (email address at the bottom of this page).



Option 1: one-way road / angle parking



Scale 1:400

Option 2: two-way road / 90° parking



Option 3: two-way road / parallel parking

Option 1 will reduce speeding (narrow road), allow for more (diagonal) parking and is the less costly of all the options

In options 2 and 3 the pavement will reduce the existing width of the road. Option 2 allows for more parking, but requires encroachment onto the village green, which will probably not be approved by Heritage Western Cape. Option 3 allows for parallel parking only, similar to the present but with no possibility of parking on both sides of the road.

Wine and Wisdom looking for a new organiser

The monthly Wine and Wisdom quiz evenings held every first Thursday evening of the month, is Stanford Conservation's major fundraising event. It nets approximately R20 000/year and the funds are used



mainly for the maintenance of the wandelpad. It is also the reason why we can currently operate without having to charge membership fees.

Annie Ranger, with the

A sincere thank you to Annie Ranger (left) for organising the W&W for the past 7 years

help of husband Martin, has been arranging this event for the past 7 years and is looking to take a break. We are therefore looking for a willing somebody to organise this function, send out the invitations, allocate the teams and make sure the venue is organised.

The quiz evening is open to anyone wishing to have a fun-filled evening — especially when the wine gets more and the wisdom less! Participation fee is R50p/p (the funds we raise) and drinks and food can be bought at the venue. It is great fun and in the end everyone gets a chocolate, winners and losers.

Please contact Annie on (028) 341-0984 or ranger@reedcottage.co.za should you wish to join in the fun and support Stanford Conservation in its various ventures to keep Stanford a desirable place to live in.

FUNDRAISING vs MEMBERSHIP

In the past year, your committee has initiated a number of fundraising events to boost the organisation's finances. These are simultaneously used as a marketing tool to make the village and visitors aware of the role and function of Stanford Conservation.

The most notable of these were:

- Jackpot quiz evenings (twice a year)
- Heritage Hunt
- Street Festival (guess the number of balloons in the bakkie)
- NG Church Bazaar awareness campaign
- Mystery murder hunt — Who killed the sushi chef?

All these events were a great success, with more than R6 000 being raised. This would not have been possible without our generous prize sponsors, each of whom has received a heart-felt thank you letter. Ann Garret, however, needs a special mention for gracefully accepting and selling any produce we bring to the Saturday morning market (such as the recent spate of granadillas which sold like hot cakes!). This brought in over R800 without any effort at all.

The question of membership

Stanford Conservation relies heavily on the W&W quiz evenings as its major fundraiser. On average 37 people pay R50 once a month to participate; and the income is mainly used for wandelpad maintenance. By introducing a membership fee the income stream will be spread amongst a wider group of residents who all have Stanford's natural environment and architectural heritage at heart. In return, Stanford Conservation will be able to further enhance the character of the village by means of additional beautification and heritage projects. These may include the development of the area between Die Bron School and De Bruyn Street being cleared at the moment.

The issue of membership will be discussed at the AGM on 14 April. The committee's proposal is to levy a membership fee of R100 per person. We would like you to think about it and give us your ideas and/or alternative suggestions.

Looking for new blood

There are so many new people in the village — is there anyone out there who is keen on nature and/or architectural heritage and would like to join the committee? New blood is always good, and Stanford Conservation is no different.

We are particularly looking for people with admin (secretary) and social media skills.

Meetings (2 hours max) take place once a month, while members of the Heritage committee scrutinise building plans monthly.

AGM

14 April 2016

18:00

at the
Birkenhead



**We're
painting
the town
red**



Members of the wandelpad team decided that the garage at the entrance needed some sparkle – and what better than some bright red geraniums to compliment the garage branding and the red bus at the back?

Sergeant-major Mary Knight kick-started the process and sourced the plant boxes (grape crates) via Mortimer Lee (Bouchard Finlayson), soil from Barry Ferreira, compost from Jan Malan (Sir Robert Stanford) (via Basil Whittaker's bakkie and Ian Wilson's trailer) and red geraniums and other plants from various SCT members. Finally the day arrived... The wandelpad team got their hands dirty whilst the inquisitives came past to give advice and comment.

Of course there were those who thought the plants would never survive. But they did not reckon with lance corporal Sibusiso (Sipho) Zigana who keeps an eagle eye on the boxes and diligently waters the plants as needed. As the Afrikaans saying goes "*waar daar 'n wil is, is daar 'n weg*": merge an enthusiastic team and a proud petrol attendant with one year's farming education training at Elsenburg and you have a winning recipe.

Wandelpad section to be temporarily closed Construction to start on King Street pumping station

When construction on the King Street pumping station starts in March, the wandelpad section from the King Street parking area to the top of the embankment will be closed for about 3 to 4 months.

This is the reason why all the aloes next to the 47 steps have been removed. It may also be necessary to remove the top two sections of the staircase to prevent damage.



The pumping station will be positioned on a 9 metre wide platform that will be raised about 1.0m above the King Street parking level. The raised platform is necessary to prevent the surface infrastructure being flooded. There is no other place to construct this pumping station as it has to be situated at the lowest point of the area it services. From here the waste water will be pumped up the embankment to an existing manhole in Church Street. ClearVu fencing (same as around Okkie Smuts) will allow one to see trees in the background. The pipeline route towards Church Street will be laid in a section of the wandelpad and then up the embankment to the left of the 47 steps.

The design engineers, Worley Parsons, have been excellent in their communication with Stanford Conservation and the Ratepayer's Association, and most requests have been met. These include that only certain

identified trees may be removed and that the trench for the pipeline in the vicinity of the Milkwood trees will be dug by hand. Although it will be a much altered visual impact compared to the present natural vista, various measures will be put in place to try and soften the impact.

There will also be regular meetings with resident representatives. These will take place after the monthly technical meetings and feedback will be provided via

Stanford River Talk, or the Stanford Notice Board Facebook page should an urgent matter have to be addressed.

Please take note that the environmental impact assessment process for this essential sewage infrastructure went through an extensive public participation process and was concluded some time ago. An environmental authorisation has been obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

As part of this phase to provide water-borne sewerage to the village, the fourth and final pumping station will be built in Sannie Badenhorst Street. Sewerage pipes will also be laid in all roads in the Sillery Estate and other sections north-east of King Street.

What will it be: A hippo or a cow?

When is a reed a weed? Is it a holy cow because it is classified as indigenous (in almost every country in the world)? Can humans step in to control the reed problem because humans proclaimed towns and cities next to waterways where cows are no longer allowed to naturally control reed growth, and humans have implemented farming practices that encourage prolific reed growth?

This debate between Stanford Conservation and the municipality has been ongoing for the past few years. Good news is that a reed maintenance management plan is soon to be signed by both parties after agreeing that using herbicide for reed control must be limited/not implemented at all, but that the harvesting (cutting down) of reeds is permitted in accordance with an approved maintenance plan.

The ideal would be a number of cows merrily grazing along Stanford's riverfront (imagine the furore about the cow dung!) or a hippo in the river (grazing the village gardens at night!). As these options are not practical, the maintenance plan will hopefully prevent any further landward ingress of reeds. Preventing further ingress into the river remains a problem and can only be solved if all river users (boats, canoes, commercial enterprises) stand together to cut off every reed that falls towards the water's side. If not, silt will collect between the stems and the river will become narrower and narrower.

The photographs below are taken about 80 years apart (1930s and 2010s) and show the effect of commercial town and farming developments on what was a reasonably pristine river environment.



*In the 1950s the people still used to wash their clothes at the "wasklip" clearly visible on the left-hand photograph. 80 years later it is totally overgrown with *Phragmites australis*. On both the photographs the road from the Du Toit/Caledon Street intersection towards the present slipway (to the right of the number 1) is clearly visible. Note how the section downstream from the jetty towards the "wasklip" has become totally overgrown with *Phragmites*, plus how much narrower this section of the river has become because of the ingress of reeds into the river has never been curtailed. Some more comparative photographs below — a picture paints more than a thousand words....*

