

# Will R44 get 'flying saucers'?

Danie Keet

Stellenbosch residents are up in arms about an environmental authorisation (EA) for the major work of the R44 between Somerset West and Stellenbosch.

Consultants CCA Environmental announced last week that there are no real environmental grounds to stop the next phase of the upgrading of the R44 between the two towns. Further to the assessment, done on

behalf of the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW), some of the work authorised by the EA includes:

- ▶ Closing all median openings along the R44 between Steynsrust Road and Webersvallei Road;
- ▶ Providing a grade-separated U-turn facility at Steynsrust bridge;
- ▶ Providing a left in/left out access to Bredell Road;
- ▶ Providing above-ground grade-separated turning facilities at Winery Road and Annandale Road;

▶ Providing a turning facility close to Jamestown by accommodating U-turn movements at the Webersvallei Road;

- ▶ Improving, at grade, signalised intersections within the Stellenbosch municipal area between Webersvallei Road and the end of the project at Van Rheeche Street. This would entail road widening to provide turning lanes and three lanes in each direction at the intersections at Webersvallei Road, Techno Park Road, Blaauwklippen Road, Trumali

Road and Van Rheeche Road.

Stellenbosch Municipality submitted an unequivocal objection to the scheme in 2014, and again in April 2016, stating:

"The basic assessment process is inadequate for a project such as this which has major implications from a sustainable and safe transport perspective but also from socio-economic and environmental perspectives. The scheme as currently envisaged is not supported."

## Road upgrade against local recommendations

Danie Keet

The Provincial Government's R44 scheme proposal has generated a vast range of objections from a wide spectrum of professions, organisations, interest groups and local parties since 2013.

Each pointed out that the scheme will have high and strategic level impacts and conflicts seriously with the province's own transport and spatial development policies.

Objections have referenced insufficient consultation with relevant role players and the ignoring of recommendations from experts on transport issues.

In a statement undersigned by a number of local organisations and individuals, it is said that the unwillingness to consider more suitable, lower cost and lower impact alternatives to the proposed upgrades

is of great concern.

The valid arguments and objections raised were summarily dismissed in the fourth round of basic assessment responses (BAR) to Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) reports. The levels of concern were well known to the officials and politicians and every effort was made to avoid proper engagement by the authorities.

In a public meeting in August 2017, hosted by the mayor of Stellenbosch and the provincial MEC for transport, Donald Grant, no satisfactory answers to public questions were given from project engineer Malcolm Watters.

Grant, however, gave his word that workshops would be duly set up. No record of the meeting was ever produced and the promised meetings have never taken place.

The decision of Heritage Western Cape (HWC), which expressed its

strongest opposition to the project in its current form, was read out at the meeting. It was insisted that HWC's proposal that a complete review of the nature of the proposed upgrade of the entire route should be undertaken with substantial input from a heritage practitioner, landscape architect and urban designer in the first place to provide for an integrated and holistic solution. The decision of HWC was disregarded.

Many comments offered lower cost options, more in keeping with the multiple roles of the route. An alternative suggested was to remove a large number of median breaks, while keeping a select number of openings in place where the line of sight is good and safety measures can be incorporated.

The provincial roads motivation is based on the need for safety improvements by preventing "U"

turns and right turns at the large number of median breaks. No detailed analysis of accident statistics and causal effects has ever been produced to justify this.

Stellenbosch Municipality has indicated in its own analysis that the number and severity of traffic accidents is higher along the stretch of the R44 in the Stellenbosch town area than along the section the province is proposing for "upgrading".

With the fundamental basis for the proposed scheme not proven, the EIA process should have been stopped a long time ago.

▶ To appeal against the EA issued for the proposed project, a "Notice of Intention to Appeal" to the Minister must be submitted within 20 calendar days of the date of the decision (29 March 2018), or within 30 days of the lapsing of this 20-day provision.

## Cloetesviller beweer polisie en wetstoepassers rand hom aan

Michelle van der Spuy

'n Man van Cloetesville beweer hy is deur lede van die Stellenbosse polisie en munisipale wetstoepassers aangerand.

Volgens Jonathan Delpont is hy op 6 April oorkant Jet in Birdstraat eers vir onwettige middels deursoek en toe deur beamptes geskop en geslaan.

Hy sê hy het beserings aan veral sy gesig opgedoen.

"Ek is baie ongelukkig oor die voorval. Dit is nie regverdig nie.

"Hulle het niks by my gekry nie. My gesin is ook baie ongelukkig."

Kapt. Natalie Martin van Stellenbosch se polisie sê die voorval is nie by hulle aangemeld nie.

Sy moedig enigiemand aan wat by so 'n voorval betrokke was om dit by die polisie aan te meld sodat dit ondersoek kan word.

Stuart Grobbelaar, kommunikasiebestuurder van Stellenbosch-munisipaliteit, sê ook daar is nie so 'n voorval by die munisipaliteit aangemeld nie.

"Geen sake van aanranding is teen enige van die munisipaliteit se wetstoepassingsbeamptes deur die polisie of enige lid van die publiek onder ons aandag gebring nie.

"Die munisipaliteit sal die onregmatige optrede van enige wetstoepassingsbeampte dadelik ondersoek, indien dit by ons aangemeld word."

## Onbekende se lyk by hangbrug gevind

Nadine Williams

Die lyk van 'n onbekende man is onlangs naby die hangbrug by Uniepark gevind.

Volgens die polisie het 'n inwoner op 31 Maart omstreeks 15:30 daar verbygestap en iets vreemds gesien.

Die inwoner het toe op die lyk afgekom.

"Die lykskouing het onthul dat die man tussen 40 en 50 jaar oud was.

"Hy het 'n blou denimbroek, Adidas-tekies, 'n swart- en pienk T-hemp en 'n donker hoodie aangehad," sê kapt. Natalie Martin van Stellenbosch-polisie.

Die oorsaak van sy dood, sowel as die identiteit van die man, kon nog nie vasgestel word nie.

● Enigiemand met inligting kan die ondersoekbeampte, sers. Eilene Japhta, by 021 809 9187 of 082 548 8458 bel.

Help die polisie hiermee ook:

Die Stellenbosch-polisie is op soek na 'n groep inwoners van Enkanini, Kayamandi, wat 'n man op 27 Januarie verlede jaar aangerand het.

"Die groep het die oorledene, wat saam met vriende gesit het, genader en hom weggenem na 'n onbekende plek en hom aangerand," sê kapt. Martin.

Die slagoffer het aan sy wonde beswyk.

Die verdagtes is steeds soek.

● Enigien met inligting kan sers. Kelvin Moses, die ondersoekbeampte, by 021 809 9140 of 084 564 1079 bel.