



Phase 2 of the project kicked off on Thursday. Pictured here are (from left) Annaline Cronje (project manager, City of Tshwane), Patricia Motla (managing director, Motla Projects), Tshwane metro councillor Darryl Moss and ward councillor Ina Strijdom.

Gripes over pipes to end

'It costs millions to repair sinkholes and therefore we are very grateful for this project.'

Bennitt Bartl

Some Centurion residents can expect their sidewalks to be dug up by metro workers in the months to come.

This as the second phase of a R15-million project to replace asbestos-cement water supply pipes in the area kicked off this week.

Weekly water leaks and sinkhole fears are the main reasons behind the multi-million rand project.

It will see the replacement of 6 700m of mostly 60-year-old pipes in Clubview and also around Hennops Park.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-April 2020.

Tshwane metro councillor Darryl Moss said the project was just a drop in the ocean compared to the overall work that was needed.

"We need to replace about R2-billion worth of water pipes in the

entire metro," Moss said.

This, he said, was an ongoing project due to funding limitations.

"The current project in Clubview forms part of these larger upgrades.

"It is absolutely essential, especially in Centurion, because of the presence of dolomitic rock."

Moss said the problem with asbestos-cement pipes was how cracks formed on them.

"When a crack starts forming, it cracks along the entire length of the pipe.

"You can fix it at one spot, only to find another crack had formed a few metres down the same pipe within a matter of days."

Local ward councillor Ina Strijdom welcomed the "vital" upgrade to the water system.

"The project will solve the problem of leaking pipes possibly leading to more sinkholes," said Strijdom.

"As we all know, it costs millions to repair sinkholes. Therefore we are very grateful for this project."

Strijdom's ward has some of the most sinkholes in the sinkhole-plagued Centurion area.

"Currently I have around six sinkholes in my ward.

"Residents in the area, although a bit frustrated at sidewalks being dug up, are also glad about the project."

She said the area where pipes were being replaced were hit by "weekly" pipe bursts.

Work has already started in Durham Road, Clubview, where public works employees appointed by the Tshwane metro were currently excavating portions of the sidewalk.

Strijdom said meetings were also being held with residents in the area to keep them informed at all times.

According to project manager Annaline Cronje, residents can expect

intermittent water outages depending on the work that was being done at that stage.

"If the water interruption will last more than a few hours and affect a large portion of the area, residents will be notified in advance," she said.

Cronje said plans had already been made so that construction will not affect a local school in Hennops Park.

"Work in the area will be scheduled during school holidays," she said.

"Once the holidays are over, the workers will return to Clubview."

No blasting would be done during the construction mainly due to the dolomitic rocks, according to Cronje.

All paving, concrete and road surfaces damaged during construction will be repaired by the contractor, Motla Projects.

Phase 1 along Lyttelton Road, as well as a part of Hennops Park, was completed last year.