

Service Delivery Watch



Water continues to overflow across Shepstone Road

There has been an ongoing issue in Shepstone Road, outside Mkhamba Primary School, of water flowing onto the roadway from an attenuation pond.

Attenuation ponds are flood protection and flood alleviation mechanisms that slow down the high flow rate during a flood.

Meetings about this problem have been held since before October last year between Alfred Duma Local Municipality, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works and school officials.

The Department of Public Works was tasked with addressing the overflow of water from the pond, which was to be piped and discharged directly into the nearest municipal storm-water catch pit.

However, to date, this has not been done and has resulted in the attenuation pond overflowing and water being discharged onto the asphalt road surface.

Motorists are frustrated with this situation. The presence of the continued stagnant water has resulted in the integrity of the road surface being compromised, which includes base failure and large potholes. Motorists say these potholes cause damage to their vehicles and when it rains, they cannot see where the holes are. At meetings that were held between the affected stakeholders - Department of Public Works, principal of Mkhamba Primary School and the local municipality - it was resolved that a revised plan would be submitted to the municipality in respect of the attenuation pond.

However, to date, the water continues to overflow across the road and fill up the potholes that are increasing in size and number.



Poor work and cheap materials?

The residents of Ladysmith want to know where their money is going.

They pay rates and taxes, but the roads are never repaired. According to John Khumalo, who has a business in Illing Road, he says the municipality forever do not have the proper materials to fix the roads.

He adds that Illing Road is an example of poor workmanship and cheap materials used. The road is now filled with bricks.

Just empty promises and no repairs in Rangoon Road

Rangoon Road is one of the oldest roads in the Leonardsville area. The residents say they were promised several times that the road would be resurfaced, but it never happened. A resident would call Alfred Duma Local Municipality and the feedback they would get is that "Rangoon Road is scheduled to be fixed next week".

Weeks, months and years passed - and to date, nothing has been done. "It is very sad. Ratepayers like myself are frustrated," said Sarika Singh.



Potholes 'pierce and pockmark' the town's roads, with no end in sight

Potholes are a major problem for motorists in many parts of the country, and Ladysmith seems to be the epicentre of potholes.

Over the years, motorists feel that the municipality has left the roads in rack and ruin, as they get worse day by day, with no action being taken to carry out any repairs.

Driving is a nightmare for people travelling on these roads, with motorists having to veer from left to right to avoid the massive holes in the street that can severely damage a vehicle if you hit one of them.

Many motorists have complained of damage to their vehicle's suspension and tyres, with no idea how they are going to claim for these damages.

Many have also commented that they have seen some potholes being fixed with a light layer of tar, but no compacting being done afterwards. With the next rains, the gaping hole is back, bringing into question the maintenance and quality of work that is being done by the municipality on our roads. The Ladysmith Gazette visited a few of the very bad areas in town and asked councillors and the community what they think about this issue...



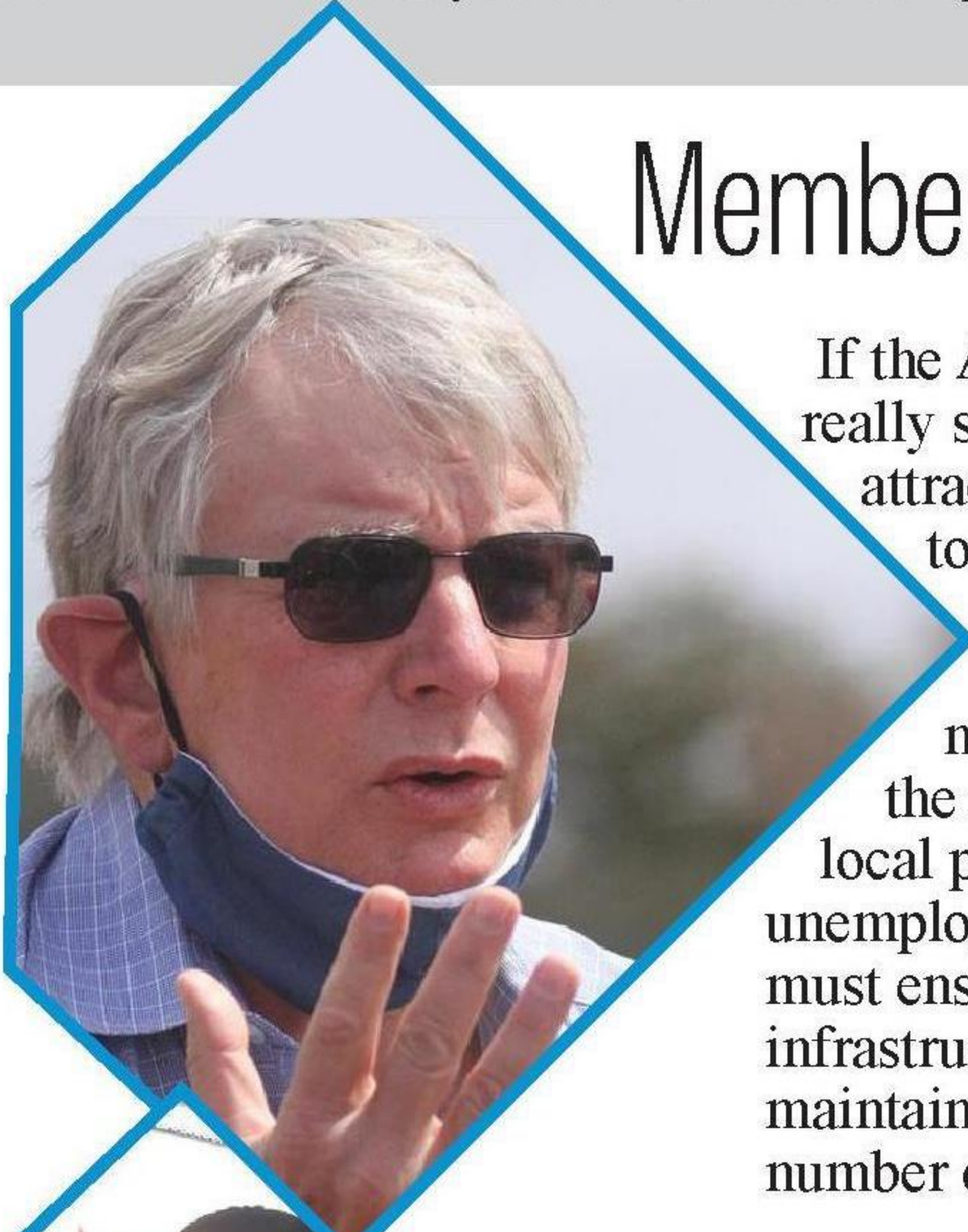
The potholes in NKR are so massive that your car can disappear in them, and many motorists have damaged their vehicle's undercarriage.

As for Rangoon Road, I cannot drive on that road. You avoid one massive pothole and end up in another. Main Road is also a disaster and you wouldn't say that road was done up not long back. Bombay Road, at the back of Hotel Natalasia, there is no tar anymore on the road - it has been washed away.

Then there are the potholes in Leonard Road. You try to avoid hitting the potholes and you find yourself on the wrong side of the road.

The residents of Leonardsville are waiting for the next rains so they can take their fishing rods and fish in the massive potholes.

IFP Cllr L Bhoobun.



The roads in the Leonardsville area and the whole of Ladysmith are in an appalling condition and in a state of disrepair. Any repairs done by the municipality are of an inferior quality and don't last even a month. Concerned ratepayers want to know where their money is going.

Isaac Yohans

Member of Parliament comments on potholes

If the ANC are really serious about attracting investors to Ladysmith to create the desperately needed jobs for the majority of local people who are unemployed, then they must ensure that the infrastructure is well maintained. The large number of potholes

that go for months and sometimes years without repair is an indication of the disdain that the ANC councillors and officials have for the majority of the voters. The ANC councillors and officials drive around in their luxury ratepayer-funded cars

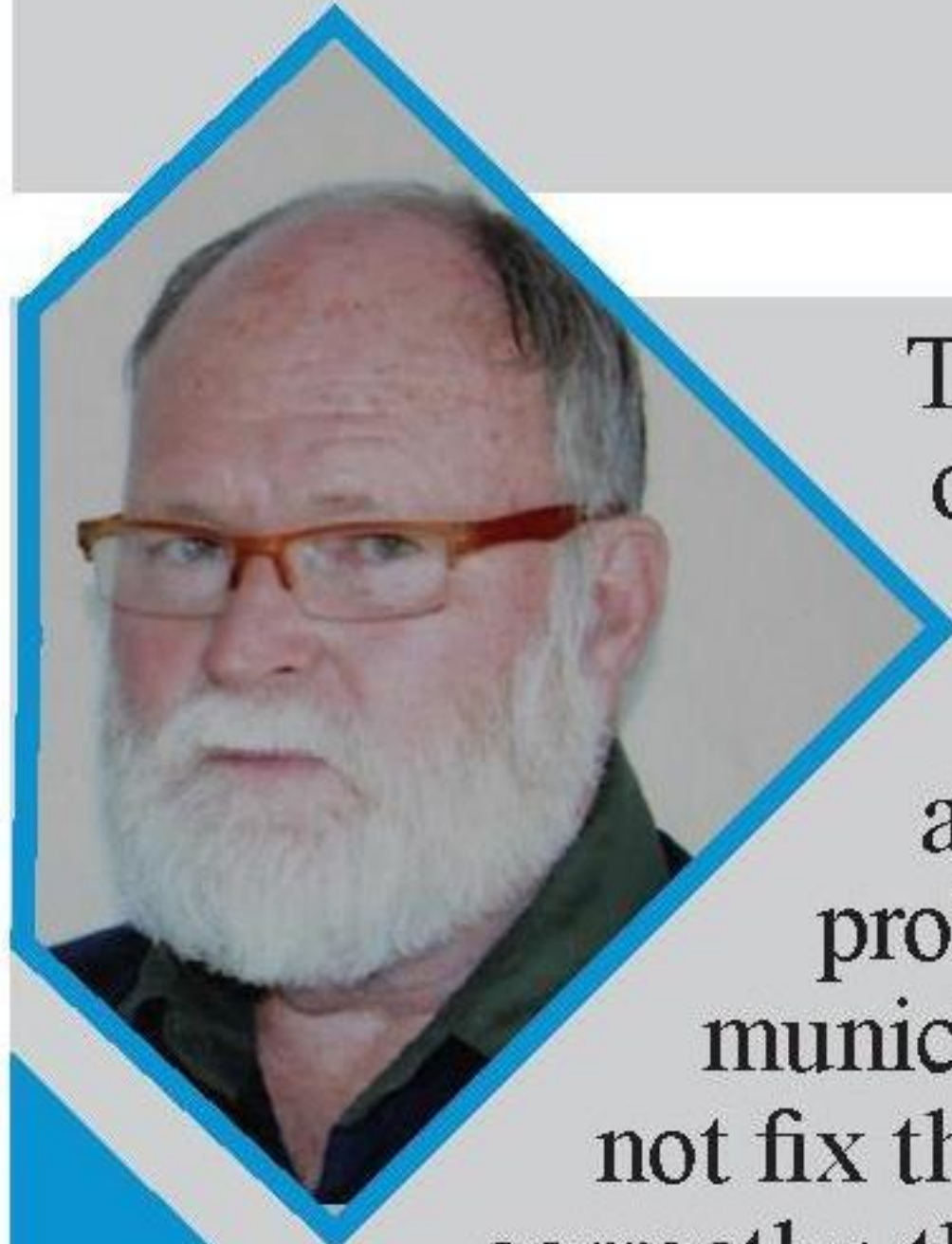
and just ignore the shocking state of roads and potholes.

**Aif Lees, MPL**



Ketesh Maharaj

The potholes in Ladysmith have caused major damage to my car and I had to spend thousands of rands on repairs.



Herman Goldschag

The potholes on the Blue Bank Road are an ongoing problem. The municipality does not fix the potholes correctly; they just dump tar and leave. Over the months, it goes back to square one and a pothole is born once again.

Potholes in Delhi Road

There are a number of potholes in Delhi Road that are impeding traffic and also causing undue wear and tear on vehicles. Hitting a pothole even at the required speed limit can pop a tyre, damage a car or even pose a physical threat to drivers and pedestrians. After a month of complaints, the potholes were repaired... and after two weeks, they were 'back to normal' again.

Also, the parking situation in Kandahar Avenue between General Hardware and Boykeys Auto Paints needs to be addressed. Numerous fender benders have occurred due to cars reversing with disregard for traffic that has the right of way.

Mrs Singh's suggestion would be to erect calming devices / speed humps near Percy's Butchery and one near Eastlink. This, she says, will slow traffic down completely and allow ease of parking and reversing.