

STATUS OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN WKRRRA AND THE GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE PROPOSED PACKARD STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL.

1. The WKRRRA position is that there are no 'in principle' objections to development of a site that has always been zoned 'Educational': rather that GDE and WKRRRA need to craft a cooperative relationship to ensure that community and learner interests are properly interpreted through the planning and development process.
2. WKRRRA's the main concerns relate to infrastructural issues, including:
 - a. The impact on bulk service infrastructure (roads, sewerage, storm water and electricity), which are already under pressure.
 - b. Potential health and safety risks to teachers, learners and residents.
 - c. The need to implement proper planning and approval processes in terms of SANS 10400, the Ordinance and CoJ by-laws.
 - d. The need to comply with Environmental legislation.
3. GDE have assured WKRRRA that 'best practice' planning standards are being implemented. However the critical shortage of school infrastructure in the target community within 5 km of the site means that many learners are without places in schools. The situation requires innovative fast-track solutions.
4. GDE have undertaken to give feedback from their professional team including:
 - a. Space planning standards and ratios (incl benchmarks on classes per grade, class size, etc.)
 - b. Confirmation that the school is planned for grades 1-7
 - c. Confirmation of a design population of 800 learners from communities within 5km of the site.
 - d. Status of research into alternative building/construction methods.
 - e. Treatment of common/'soft' areas, pause areas, social/play spaces, landscaping etc.
 - f. Status of engagement/applications with CoJ.
 - g. Status of contractual commitments to preferred suppliers.
5. WKRRRA is undertaking independent technical evaluations of the traffic and sewerage/storm water situation in the area, and will share this information with GDE.
6. Irrespective of the urgency there is still a need to 'do it right' by effectively engaging and utilising the skills mix between GDE and WKRRRA. GDE have undertaken not to 'cut corners', but have requested understanding of the complexity of planning processes. Govt depts. often work 'in silos', resulting in unreliable information on trends in urban densification, transport modality, home/work movement patterns, household sizes, etc.
7. WKRRRA is not simply 'raising obstacles', but is constructively highlighting potential risk areas in an effort to find innovative solutions to continuously improve the quality and sustainability of education through consultation and engagement.

IMMEDIATE WAY FORWARD

1. WKRRRA is busy with its traffic and infrastructure studies.
2. GDE is facilitating formal feedback for Technical team.
3. Follow-up meetings are planned for end February subject to progress on the above.