

## 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

#### 4.1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER

The Guidelines for the Formulation of SDF's (January 2011) have been applied in the process of drafting a Local Spatial Development Framework for the Beaufort West Municipality. The guidelines prescribe 7 phases, of which 2 phases involve public participation. The purpose of this chapter is to serve as record of the public participation phases undertaken during the Beaufort West Local SDF process.

#### 4.1.2 GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMULATION OF SDF's (January 2011)

These guidelines comply with the Municipal Systems Act (MSA), 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act 67 of 1998) and the principles of the Development Facilitation Act (DFA), 1995 (Act 67 of 1995). The following section briefly describes where public participation fits in this process.

#### 4.1.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PHASES

The SDF guidelines (referred to in 4.1.1, above) stipulate a total of seven phases of which public engagement (or public participation) forms part of in order to:

- Identify strategic issues;
- Create awareness of the process;
- Stimulate future thinking; and,
- Provide valuable information for analysing the status quo.

The guidelines make provision for two public participation phases, Phase 2 and 5 (refer to Figure 4.1.3).

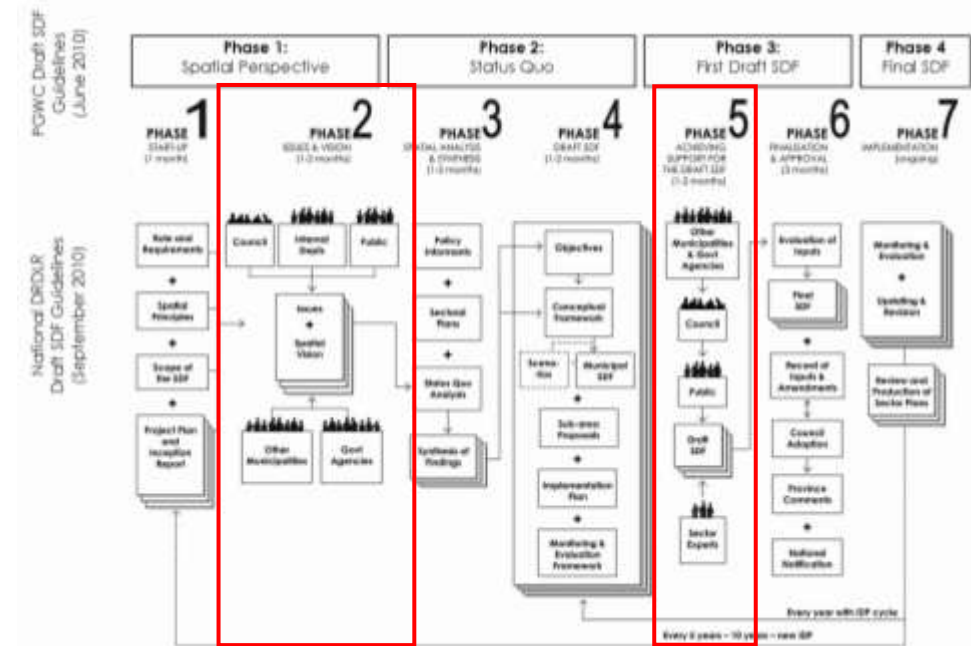


Figure 4.1.3 Public participation phases as part of the overall SDF process

**Phase 2** involves consultation with Council (local or district), internal departments, the public, other municipalities/districts and government agencies. The main purpose of this phase is to gain an understanding of the current issues within the municipality/district and to formulate a spatial vision or desired future scenario for the study area.

**Phase 5** again involves public consultation. The purpose is to achieve support for the draft SDF by consulting with municipalities/districts, government agencies, local councils, the public and various sector experts. Inputs from this phase will be evaluated and incorporated into the draft SDF in order to produce a final SDF which would then be presented for Council adoption.

## 4.2 PHASE 2 REPORT BACK: MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

### 4.2.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS PLANNING

The initial phase of the consultation process involved the confirmation of suitable dates for conducting the various consultative meetings. Suitable dates were discussed with the municipality and the following dates and venues were confirmed:

Date	Venue	Time
21 January 2013	Rustdene Hall, De Vries, Beaufort West	18h00
22 January 2013	Town Hall, Beaufort Street, Murraysburg	18h00
23 January 2013	George Fredericks Primary School, Merweville	18h00
24 January 2013	Council Line Departments, Municipal office	10h00
24 January 2013	Restvale Primary School, Nelspoort	18h00

The methodology followed at each of the Issues meeting/workshop involved the following agenda items which were presented by CNdV africa:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Background to Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF's)
3. Discussion 1: Questions and Problems
4. Small Group Break Away and Report Back Session
5. Discussion 2: Vision for your municipality
6. Small Group Break Away and Report Back Session
7. Summary and Way Forward.

Where the groups were too small, break away sessions were not used as a means to facilitate discussion. Plenary discussions were conducted.

### 4.2.2 NEEDS, ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

The following needs, issues and problems were raised at the various meetings/workshops and are listed here per respective meeting:

#### A. Meeting with Ward Committees and public, Rustdene Hall, De Vries, Beaufort West

<i>Infrastructure</i>	
1	The road from Nelspoort to Beaufort West is in need of upgrading
2	Road between Beaufort West and Merweville to be upgraded.
3	Bulk retention dams are inadequate resulting in insufficient water supply.
4	Electricity supply is not upgraded to keep up with development.
5	In Mandlenkosi road have the same names causing confusion, especially during emergencies.
6	Streets in the vicinity of Barakke Street, north of the railway line in New Town should be tarred. These roads are in a very poor state.
7	Sewerage drains located in private residential yards are flooding, especially in Rustdene and Mandlenkosi. The municipality takes a long time to repair these.
8	Municipality encouraged communities to install water meters. The meters cause on going problems. Meters are cheap and do not work properly
9	In Mandlenkosi pre-paid electricity is not available to purchase 24 hours leading to residents being without electricity until the municipal offices open.
10	The town's infrastructure is old, especially pipes. Municipality constantly fixing failing infrastructure
11	The storm water systems are not adequate, especially in Pieter Street, Mandlenkosi
12	RDP houses have poor services connections.
13	At Mandlenkosi and "Die Laning" the construction of a bridge over the river is required. Money for the bridge has been allocated but is being spent elsewhere.
14	The communal toilets are unsafe for women especially during the evenings.
15	Roads have been graded with lime. These might have health problems when the wind blows and people inhale the lime dust.

<b>Facilities</b>	
1	Upgrading of old derelict government buildings could be done in order for these to serve a purpose in the communities.
2	Mobile clinics are required.
3	Clinics are not open 24 hours a day.
4	A skills training centre is required.
5	The town could develop as a distribution centre where goods from Cape Town are brought and distributed to the north and goods from Johannesburg are brought and distributed further south.

<b>Housing</b>	
1	Housing is located further and further away from town centre.
2	Hillside was poorly planned. People here are unemployed, there are no recreational facilities and no shopping opportunities
3	RDP Housing should be livable and a convenient size. The current houses are too small.
4	No room for expansion in existing new housing developments.
5	RDP houses are being rented out and beneficiaries live somewhere else.

<b>Other</b>	
1	Communities don't know what is being planned in their towns. Members of the community would like to be consulted prior to developments being approved in their area.
2	No grazing land is available for small farmers.
3	Developments are taking place in the river flood plain.
4	The community to be consulted in the exploitation of minerals
5	A hail storm in December 2012 caused property damage. The municipality has done nothing to assist communities.
6	There is a dangerous alleyway in Watsonia Street, Mandlenkosi. Even during the day time it is unsafe here.



**Meeting 1: Beaufort West (21 January 2013)**

## **B. Meeting with Ward Committees and public, Town Hall, Murraysburg**

<b>Infrastructure</b>	
1	Water furrows need upgrading. New bridges are needed in town.
2	Municipality's tractors are constantly broken and old.
3	Municipality is to blame for poor lighting and infrastructure. Street lights don't work.
4	Pre-paid electricity is not available to purchase 24 hours a day leaving residents without electricity until the municipal offices reopen in the mornings.
5	Some houses have no municipal connections to water. Residents are charged large amounts to have these connections installed.
6	Road surfacing has been done cheaply leading to huge potholes.
7	The Municipality is not delivering services.
8	In Wes Street rubbish is being dumped and not cleaned.
9	There are two boreholes in town that constant overflow and water is being wasted.

<b>Employment</b>	
1	The dairy industry employed many people. This industry is no longer in operation.
2	Many foreigners settling here adding to the unemployment problems.
3	The town needs a shopping centre to support job creation
4	Job creation could be improved by establishing factories (e.g. motor factories for parts).
5	The wool industry could be expanded to support job creation.
6	Buildings are required where residents can operate business from (i.e. factories).
7	Available jobs in the Beaufort West Municipality should be advertised in Murraysburg first. Coordinated means of notifying the community should be developed.

<b>Housing</b>	
1	No new houses have been built in Murraysburg since 1994.

<b>Facilities</b>	
1	Sportsfields and facilities are poorly maintained.
2	The park and "Wandeldam" (no water) are severely neglected. Visitors only pass through town and don't spend time here anymore.

<b>Other</b>	
1	Too much of a power struggle within the municipality which limits development in Murraysburg.
2	The municipality is bankrupt.
3	More attention should be given to the rural areas.
4	The town needs help from the municipality.
5	Murraysburg used to be its own municipality. Today the Beaufort West municipality is not visible here and Murraysburg is treated like an island.
6	There are no jobs and no houses are available. Multiple families live together in one house.
7	Beaufort West is too far away. They do not know what is going on in Murraysburg.
8	There is a permanent oil spill in Marino Street. Is there oil available?



Meeting 2: Murraysburg (22 January 2013)

### C. Meeting with Ward Committees and public, Merweville

<b>Infrastructure</b>	
1	Service delivery in the Municipality is inadequate, e.g. more refuse removal, are vehicles not available or are broken, shortage of staff etc. (The tractor is more often broken than in operation)
2	The Municipality must pay more attention to the area. There is too much work for the single tractor. There are three drivers and one tractor. The tractor must do refuse removal and septic tank clearance.
3	The lower income areas do not receive any attention. The main focus is the old town in terms of municipal service delivery.
4	There is no water at the graveyard.
5	The quality of the potable water (i.e. connection at home) is poor. Water needs to be boiled. There are many problems with the water meters. Meters block regularly. Access to buy pre-paid water is only on Saturdays and Sunday between 10am to 12 midday and during municipal office hours during the week.
6	During heavy rains water remain stagnant in people's properties.



7	There are lots of outside toilets which older members of the community cannot use due to poor stormwater drainage. This is most prevalent in the older parts of the low income areas.
8	Stormwater system is in a terrible state. Sudden storms will leave a number of people in trouble. There is no bridge over the rivers running through the town. This causes problems when emergencies arise.
9	Heavy winds disrupt the Eskom power supply.

### **Land**

1	Land is required for emerging farmers, especially livestock farmers. Farming operations cannot grow beyond 30-40 sheep due to a lack of space.
2	There are only three pig farmers using the "hokke". Other emerging farmers struggle. All community members should be permitted to farm the same number of pigs.
3	Residents want to buy land to build a house. Residents don't want to tender for land. They would rather prefer to know a fixed price and purchase the land directly.
4	There is no need for an industrial area. Industrial land has been bought by individuals for housing
5	The land next to George Fredericks Primary School hall needs to be used for offices and shops.

### **Facilities**

1	There is no community hall in town. Residents have to share a hall with the school. On many occasions the school hall is occupied and residents have no where to congregate. The VGK hall could potentially be used in this regard.
2	The mortuary urgently needs upgrading. This was promised in 2011 already but nothing has been done to date.
3	The park is a "white elephant". Since 2009 nothing has happened there.
4	There is one clinic which is open only two days per week (Tuesday and Thursday). A doctor is sometimes on duty on a Tuesday. The remainder of the week the nurse visits nearby farms. A staff nurse is present everyday but she is unable to prescribe medication. When an ambulance is required it comes from Leeu Gamka (more than an hours drive). The nearest hospitals are in Prins Albert and Beaufort West.

5	The town currently has two primary schools of which one has only about 100 pupils. The community requires a secondary school as transport costs to secondary schools in Prins Albert and Beaufort West are too costly for parents. This leads to a high learner drop out rate.
6	Space is needed for various government facilities. If all departments come together at the same time it becomes problematic as there is no venue big enough to house all at the same time.

### **Housing**

1	The town needs more housing to accommodate those residing in the squatter area. The latest housing was built in 2011. The squatters are building clay houses. Promises were made to supply housing in 2014.
2	Residents complain that the existing housing units are too small and provide no room for extensions.

### **Other**

1	There is no big shop in the town offering a variety of goods. Only small shops exist who have a price monopoly. This has lead to exorbitant food prices in Merweville. In Beaufort West one can purchase 1.5kg of Rama margarine for R20. In Merweville one can only buy 500g of Rama for R20. It is expensive to travel to Beaufort West for grocery shopping but items are less expensive there.
2	The municipality is short staffed. There are only four permanent workers at the municipality. They are responsible for undertaking all municipal tasks. In Merweville there are more than 1000 residents needing municipal services.
3	Most people are employed as farm workers, livestock and seasonal workers, (Olives. Granates all seasonal).
4	People live on "Allpay" and other grants.
6	There is little communication between the different races in the town. The town does not operate uniformly.
7	The White people in the community have not been informed of this SDF workshop.
8	There is no community forum for sharing ideas between the communities.



Meeting 3: Merweville (23 January 2013)

#### D. Meeting with Council Line Departments

<b>Housing</b>	
1	Housing needs to be addressed. Nelspoort residents want GAP housing for teachers.
2	The housing waiting list should indicate income levels of beneficiaries as an indication of types of housing required.
3	Houses are being transferred to beneficiaries but they don't have the financial ability to maintain the house. There is a need for consumer education, which is currently being done but without follow-up or incentives for people following this programme.
4	The Department of Human Settlements has an insurance programme where houses are repaired if damaged.
5	Rental options might be explored if individuals can't afford their units.

6	Housing for farm workers should be addressed.
7	Emergency housing cannot be done for one house. Houses are only built when a larger group requires housing. This leads to people having to wait for emergency housing for a long time.

<b>Mining / Fracking</b>	
1	Nothing has been done for mining uranium.
2	Fracking could potentially be undertaken but no planning is done if and when this should occur.
3	Uranium will do nothing for Beaufort West town as the resources are located too far away.
4	The richest pockets of uranium are in the north west of the municipality but these are not economically viable. The only economically viable sources of uranium are found at Rietbron (Baviaans Municipality).

<b>Infrastructure - General</b>	
1	The SDF should prevent hap-hazard development. Development should occur where infrastructure, facilities, etc are co-ordinated.
2	There is MIG funding provided for bulk services provision but this is not enough.
3	Municipality has cash flow problems to provide services/infrastructure.
4	Applications have been made for MIG funding for all small towns, but not Beaufort West.
5	Great emphasis needs to be put on sewerage and water shortages in the towns in the HSP and SDF.

<b>Infrastructure – Sewer</b>	
1	Beaufort West has about 30% capacity left at sewerage works. The internal infrastructure is not coping. R6mil is to be spent in new housing areas on infrastructure. If all the housing projects are to be implemented significant upgrading would be required with respect to sewerage.
2	Merweville's sewerage works has been upgraded. It has sufficient capacity exists to accommodate development.
3	Nelspoort has no sewerage capacity but no overflow is experienced. There is no capacity exists for additional development.

4	The sewerage works in Murraysburg requires urgent upgrading as no capacity exists. Sewerage spillage is being experienced on a daily basis.
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<b>Infrastructure – Water</b>	
1	Murraysburg has water quality problems.
2	The water network in Murraysburg, Merweville and Nelspoort is acceptable. Beaufort West has network quality problems, the infrastructure is very old. As an interim measure the water pressure has been reduced in some areas. The water system has enough capacity till 2020 – 2025.
3	Merweville only access borehole water.
4	The water purification plant in Beaufort West should be upgraded (approximate cost is R10mil – 15mil). This is not hampering development.
5	Water connections could be linked with municipalities in the Northern Cape.
6	Additional housing developments in Beaufort West are subject to water availability. Sufficient water supply is available for the currently planned housing projects. Reclaimed sewerage water might be an option to alleviate shortages.
7	Nelspoort received MIG funding to upgrade water quality.
8	Bulk water infrastructure could be upgraded if funding comes through from Department of Water Affairs.

<b>Infrastructure – Stormwater</b>	
1	When the river in Merweville overflows, it splits the town in two.
2	Nelspoort – the biggest stormwater problems are caused by the river, but the system is sufficient most of the times.
3	In Murraysburg extensive studies were done on stormwater. The old town has stormwater problems due to ageing infrastructure.

<b>Infrastructure – Transport</b>	
1	Additional pedestrian bridge is necessary across the Gamka River in Beaufort West
2	A pedestrian link is required in Beaufort West over N1 (estimated cost ±R9mil) linking with the pedestrian bridge over the railway line.
3	R80mil is required for freight bypass (municipality to supply 20% of this). This could possibly affect S8 housing site (layout to be

	checked).
4	The CSIR have been appointed to prepare an integrated Transport Plan for the municipality.

<b>Infrastructure – Solid Waste</b>	
1	Beaufort West Landfill sites have a remaining lifespan of 2 years.
2	Murraysburg landfill sites need to be relocated (currently in the middle of an aquifer). No new site has been identified.
3	Nelspoort landfill site has ±10 year life span available.
4	Merweville landfill site has ±5 years life span available.

<b>Infrastructure – Electricity</b>	
1	Electricity supply in Murraysburg can't support existing development. Small section is supplied directly from Eskom.
2	Beaufort West has an old electrical system. It can handle the currently planned projects. New projects would require new network upgrades. A new bulk point is being provided (20MPA). 11kv medium voltage network is very old but still in good working order.
3	Merweville electrical supply is the sole responsibility of Eskom. The nearest Eskom office is in Beaufort West.
4	The Municipality is planning to have prepaid electricity available 24 hours a day not just at the municipal office.

<b>Facilities</b>	
1	There are two primary schools in Merweville. No progress has been made with regards to establishing a high school here with the Department of Education.

<b>Other</b>	
1	The Municipality has no long term vision or plan.
2	Two malls were constructed and both are only 50% occupied.
3	30000km of airspace is available for aviation training. This is an opportunity which should be exploited.
4	Organisations in provincial and national government could be used to capacitate the communities. This can address capacity and financial problems.
5	Disaster management is managed at district level. Aurecon were appointed to do a risk assessment analysis. The local municipality

	do not have the capacity to manage disaster management.
6	There is no LED department in municipality has lead to poor economic strategy.

**E. Meeting with Ward Committees and public, Nelspoort**

<b>Beaufort West</b>	
1	There is an FET College but no accommodation for students.
2	There is no Youth Centre for children and no skills development centre for youth.
3	There are government buildings that are not being used and are being vandalised. These could be used for accommodation, etc.
4	There is a need for private medical services. There are no specialist services available in the Beaufort West Municipality, the closest private hospitals are in George and Worcester.
5	The N1 was bumper to bumper over Christmas. Consider need to divert the trucks to alleviate this problem.

<b>Infrastructure (Nelspoort)</b>	
1	Power failures take about 3-4 hours to be resolved from Beaufort West. There is no person in Nelspoort qualified to undertake infrastructure repairs.
2	The town requires funding to help with instillation of solar panels and gas. This will assist in reducing the costly reliance on electricity.
3	Quality of the water is putrid. The water smells and bleaches the clothes, etc.
4	Invasive trees affect the electricity network.
5	6kL of free water, is not available.
6	Free water is available to all in Murraysburg but not in Nelspoort.
7	Some geysers are problematic. Geysers were provided through the municipality and they should follow up on this.
8	The large Blue Gum trees in the town soak up all the water and damage infrastructure. These should be phased out.
9	When the N1 becomes congested drivers use the road past Nelspoort. Donkeys, etc cause traffic problems/ accidents.
10	A boom is needed for the level crossing.
11	The entrance to town should be tarred.
12	The Murraysburg Road should be tarred.
13	There are loose rocks on the road towards the station which could cause serious accidents.

<b>Housing (Nelspoort)</b>	
1	Farm workers are settling in the town and families are growing which leads to additional backyard structures.
2	Housing is required for approximately 100 middle income residents.
3	The upgrading / maintenance of houses was not well executed.
4	Subsidy housing suffers from poor craftsmanship (ASLA) – 2009.
5	Some people do not have ownership of state houses yet and need to make high additional payments.
6	A hail storm in December 2012 caused significant damage (roofs came off, windows broke, etc.). The municipality did nothing to assist those affected.
7	Animals roam freely throughout the town. This is problematic.

<b>Facilities (Nelspoort)</b>	
1	There is no trained paramedic at the hospital. The ambulance needs to travel from Beaufort West which is a problem for pregnant women as the medical facility cannot even deal with births.
2	The sports grounds of the schools are used as grazing fields for donkeys, goats and horses.
3	Nelspoort has a primary school which goes up to Grade 9. A higher education can only be obtained in Beaufort West. Transport to Beaufort West is expensive and leads to high drop outs. Should affordable learner transport be available this problem could be alleviated.
4	The school has ±290 learners with a low number of teachers. The school can not afford additional teachers.
5	The town has an existing recreation hall. Residents were enquiring if this building could not be used for housing.
6	The boarding house in town is not optimally used.
7	The community needs Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) facilities.
8	The crèche needs to be located where the majority of residents are. Currently the only crèche is on the other side of the railway line. This is dangerous for the children.
9	The town needs to be beautified. This can generate employment in the town.
10	Project and opportunity notice boards could be erected to assist with employment generation.
11	A Red and White meat abattoir exists. More grazing land is



	required (to accommodate $\pm 1000$ sheep) to optimally utilise the abattoirs.
12	5 year community projects will not be sufficient to address the needs of the community. Longer term projects with a future vision are required. A strong mentorship element should be incorporated to facilitate capacity building to ensure longevity of the projects.

### **Station Community**

13	A community ( $\pm 20$ families) is situated west of Nelspoort on Transnet land. They rent the houses there. These families interact with Nelspoort residents and their children attend school here. The municipality has stated that they can not deliver services to this community.
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### **Other**

1	There are no seasonal workers.
2	Job creation is needed.
3	The sanatorium is the biggest employer, others are employed as teachers, others are employed at the municipality and Ultra Shell. Most people are unemployed. People assist on ad-hoc construction projects.
4	There are few house shops in existence and others are employed at Trust Klipkraal farm (farming with sheep, cattle and chickens. They employ approximately 5 people.
5	The community requires a business hive consisting of hairdressers, mechanical engineering workshops, sewing projects, etc.
6	The town had a bakery but it closed down due to high electricity costs.
7	The only means of transport to Beaufort West is a R100 return trip with a private vehicle of one of the community members.
8	Shopping and banking take place in Beaufort West.
9	The Commonage is not ample for grazing.
10	Most skilled artisans such as electricians are located in Beaufort West.
11	Two emerging farmers do not use the land reform farm land for grazing etc. Instead their animals graze throughout the settlement.
12	A property adjacent to the hospital is heavily overgrown with vegetation. This has become an unsafe area and should possibly be cleared.
13	The town requires a marketing strategy.



**Meeting 4: Nelspoort (24 January 2013)**

## **4.2.3 VISION**

The following elements were regarded as unique to the municipality and need to be collectively strengthened to formulate a vision for the municipality.

### **4.2.3.1 Beaufort West**

- Beaufort West lies in the middle of the Karoo. It is a "half way" between Cape Town and Johannesburg.
- Beaufort West was a caring town where people cared for each other with a strong sense of community.
- The farming and natural areas make Beaufort West unique.
- Beaufort West was a small and compact town.
- Chris Barnard (world's first heart transplant) was born here.

- The town is safe and calm with little crime.
- The air is clear and there is lots of space.
- Kids can play freely in a safe environment.
- Property prices are still low.
- Beaufort West is famous for its Karoo lamb
- Beaufort West Municipality is the oldest municipality in South Africa and was originally called Rooivlakte Municipality.
- Beaufort West town has beautiful guesthouses.
- The people are honest.
- The night skies are particularly clear.

#### **4.2.3.2     Murraysburg**

- The town has water and fertile soil.
- Livestock farming takes place.
- The town has many resources - oil, gas and coal.
- Welcoming town with fresh air.
- People are friendly.
- Coal reserves in Murraysburg Kop.
- Potentially link Beaufort West, via Murraysburg to Richmond.
- Town should be developed as a fully functioning urban settlement.

#### **4.2.3.3     Nelspoort**

- Tourism should be promoted e.g. the Bushman paintings.
- Nelspoort to function independently and be self sustaining.
- Nelspoort to be beautified with landscaping.
- The town contains lots of infrastructure from the Department of Health which can be used to the benefit of the community.
- TB patients treated at the hospital received therapy entailing pottery, spinning and weaving. This is no longer being used but the infrastructure could possibly still be used by residents to generate employment. Weekend tourism courses in these could also be offered.
- A property on the opposite side to the entrance of Nelspoort could be developed as a road stall and potentially entice travelers to enter the town.
- The area has very clean air. For this reason this was a popular place for treating TB patients.
- The area is safe and ideal for retirement.

- Hospital was the reason for the establishment of the settlement mainly due to the clean air.
- There are places/opportunities for camping,

#### **4.2.3.4     Merweville**

- Retain the current character of the town especially the tranquility and peacefulness.
- The town is clean and welcoming.
- The town is currently not densely built up and should remain like this.
- Maintain the rural character.
- Bikers frequent the town and stay for a few nights. Promotion of tourism to accommodate these bikers should be encouraged.