

# Sewage Management

**Rustenburg** – Citizens who live near the Geelhoutpark Spruit and DA Ward Councillor Cheryl Philips had a meeting with the new acting municipal manager, Mr G Molokwane on Wednesday, 23 November 2016.

The meeting was held to raise their concerns of the consistent health crisis caused by overflowing sewage along the Rustenburg Creek (locally referred to as the Geelhoutpark Spruitjie) and in particular near Wisteria Ave and Sesbania Avenue down towards the Rustenburg Golf Club.

The crisis recently escalated when one of the residents who lived next to one such sewage leak recently died. The late José Gouveia (61) and his wife Suzie were tending the garden, trimming hedges and removing bushing when he cut his arm from an unassuming branch. Suzie told the Platinum Weekly, "It was a regular garden cut, I simply disinfected the wound and we carried on with our day. Two days later the wound was extremely red and José collapsed. He was rushed to Peglerae and spent 26 days in the Intensive Care Unit before dying of organ failure." Some of the residents in the area believe Mr Gouveia's

illness was a direct result of the sewage leak.

Sharon Gowland, a local resident, told the Platinum Weekly that she is sick and tired of the smell! "Since this started in September we've all been struggling with upset stomachs and head-aches, while one infant in the area has taken so ill, that the poor thing had blood in its stool." Residents have been complaining of the open sewage near the municipal apartments since as early as September this year.

In an interview with Cheryl Philips, she confirmed that she first raised the issue on 23 September 2016. Despite not getting any form of feedback from the previous municipal manager, she was happy to report that the new acting Municipal Manager clearly understood the plight of the residents as he had personally assured the sewage was cleared up as soon as possible.

"Even this morning [24 November], when it was blocked again, within three hours the municipal workers attended to the blocked system," Cheryl said.

The frequency of sewage blockages are a deep concern to the community. "We need to do a lot of education on what people may or may not flush," Cheryl told the Platinum Weekly.

Apparently some of the stranger obstructions removed thus far had been shirts and other clothing, tools, cutlery and toys – but the two most common culprits are nappies.



**A rotten foul smell seeps out of another blocked sewage pipe in Geelhoutpark; these blockages have become a familiar scene to locals. On the photo from left; Jon Gowland, Suzie Gouveia, and Sharon Gowland.**



**Sewage water boils from blocked system, through several manholes and flows down towards the local stream.**



**Another manhole where more solid sediment had recently spewed from.**



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