

Imagine scheme launched

FINOLA QUARSINGH

IMAGINE Durban, a citizen-driven initiative has been officially launched.

It is a long-term planning project that will engage Durban residents on their vision of what the city should be in 2100 and commit to help building that future.

The municipality, Vancouver-based non-governmental organisation, Sustainable Cities, and the Plus Network are responsible for the initiative.

Andrew Plunkett, a representative of the Plus Network, said: "This is a chance for the people of Durban to think about a long-term vision for their city, to have their say and to be a part of building a more sustainable city."

The process will begin to engage residents by asking the five following questions:

□ What do you like about the neighbourhood where you live?

□ What do you not like about it?

□ What changes would you most like to see?

□ Describe your hopes and dreams for:

a) Your neighbourhood in 100 years time.

b) Durban in 100 years time.

□ What can you do to make these dreams a reality?

These questions will be asked through surveys, postcards at coffee shops and restaurants, schools, ward committees and through the Imagine Durban website.

Vital

Imagine Durban hopes to capture the imagination of a wide variety of people by using these methods and this is where the people of Durban will play a vital role of planning, dreaming and putting into action a plan to create a better tomorrow, now.

Through this, the Imagine Durban team – which is made up of municipal staff, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organisations, religious organisations and civil society – will gain a perspective on the residents' wants and needs for the city of Durban.

The ideas generated will then be developed into programmes and plans.

For more information visit www.imaginedurban.com

QuarsinghF@durban.gov.za



Name: Arumugam Chetty
Age: 44
Family: Married with one daughter

Party: UDM
Ward: 62 and 95 – Folweni and Tongaat.

Committees: Economic Development

Ward needs: The upgrading of roads, which are currently in a bad condition. Proper sanitation systems need to be implemented. There is a need for more housing as well as the improvement of infrastructure. Meeting the community's needs.

Has delivered: Although at a slow pace, houses are being delivered. At present, negotiations with relevant departments in terms of a water-borne system are in the pipeline.

Challenges for 2007: Ensuring that people have access to decent housing and appropriate facilities. Also to ensure that every household is free of poverty related factors.

Passionate about: All challenges that I face in my capacity as a councillor. These make me stronger and charge me to perform all of my tasks to the best of my ability.

Contact: 083 555 0006, 031 304 9491 (office), 031 304 9492 (fax).



Name: Mxolisi Thomas Kaunda
Age: 33
Family: Married with two sons

and one daughter.
Party: ANC

Ward: 58 – Yellowwood Park, Woodlands and Montclair
Committees: Economic Development

Ward needs: Mobile health centres, housing for the previously disadvantaged community, job creation and opportunities for emerging businesses in order for them to sustain. Also to dealing with issues that affect youths and their development especially unemployed graduates.

Has delivered: Integrating community to reflect demographics of our country. Interacting in relation with real estate and department of housing for the housing project. Municipality has delivered material that will work on poverty alleviation.

Challenges for 2007: Accelerating the housing project. Intensifying our programmes in skills development, arts and culture amongst youth. Issues of safety security.

Passionate about: Family and watching movies.

Contact: 082 358 3216, 031 462 9042 (office).



Name: Mohammed Haniff Hoosen
Age: 34
Family: Married with a son and a

daughter
Party: ID

Ward: 70 – Woodhurst, Westcliffe and Silverglen
Committees: Economic development

Ward needs: Housing and housing maintenance, basic services, infrastructure upgrade, sports facilities and poverty alleviation.

Has delivered: Has been involved with housing related enquiries and rental stock. Has assisted tenants of council rental housing.

Challenges for 2007: The upgrading of infrastructure and community facilities.

Alleviating poverty and creating jobs. A drug rehabilitation programme as well as an effective drug awareness communication strategy need to be introduced. This will help combat various issues and problems that seem to be affecting our communities on a daily basis.

Passionate about: Working for my community. This is where I get a great deal of satisfaction. I also enjoy travelling, fishing and sport.

Contact: 083 688 5202, 031 464 3639 (office), haniffh@id.org.za



Name: Bella Hester Jacobs
Age: 51
Family: Married with two daughters
Party: ID

Ward: 67 – Bluff, Austerville, Wentworth, Merebank, Newlands East and Sydenham

Committees: Speaker and Chief Whip and Infrastructure.

Ward Needs: Housing and addressing the issue of high electricity and water bills. Job creation. A tennis court and an indoor sport centre. There is a huge ground, which can be turned into a stadium.

Has delivered: Robots, a football ground and a swimming pool. Facilitated the selling of municipal flats, reduced crime in the area and worked with a colleague to set up an Education Trust Fund from Engen's donation of R1-million to the ward. Schools in Wentworth have received money from this fund from 1997.

Challenges for 2007: Addressing issues of housing and unemployment.

Organising finances to speed up service delivery.

Passionate about: Serving people, senior citizens and abandoned children – I have adopted one for three years.

Contact: 083 942 6402, 031 415 697 (home), bhjacob@durban.gov.za

Shezi mourned

SINDY MTOLO

COUNCIL Speaker James

Nxumalo has expressed shock and sadness at the death of ANC Cllr Khuzimpi Shezi.

Shezi died on Tuesday, 13 March at King Edward Hospital.

He represented Ward 75, which included Lamontville, SJ Smith Hostel (Wema) and Tehuis, and had been a councillor since 1996.

Nxumalo said Shezi would be remembered for his efforts in bringing



KHUZIMPI SHEZI

about peace within the hostels as well as fostering good neighbourliness

between residents and hostel dwellers.

He said the eThekweni Council wished to convey its sincere condolences to family and friends of Shezi.

He will be buried tomorrow at Umzinto and a service will be

held at the Dumisa Hall at 8am. Buses leave the City Hall in the morning.

For more information, contact the Office of the Speaker on 031 311 2021.



Name: Velile Letyeku
Age: 47
Family: Married with one son and two daughters

Party: ANC

Ward: 36 – Briardene, Durban North, Broadway and UMngeni Bird Park

Committees: Economic Development and Planning

Ward needs: Storm water pipes in Briardene, employment, housing, road improvements, speed humps, a library, community halls, a taxi rank, side walks, sports field, creation of economic opportunities, schools in Briardene and parks.

Has delivered: Provision of houses, running water, electricity, construction of roads, and pathways.

Challenges for 2007: The shortage of houses remains a thorny issue. We still need road improvements in the ward. Fighting poverty and unemployment at all levels and mobilising communities against criminal activities.

Passionate about: Cricket, soccer, TV, relaxed music and eating out with family. Also loves reading novels and newspapers to constantly stay a step ahead.

Contact: 083 571 2754, 031 311 3309 (office), 031 704 7704 (home), letyuku@durban.gov.za



Name: Samuel Bhekuyise Kikine
Age: 60
Family: Married with two sons and

three daughters

Party: ANC

Ward: 28 – Warwick Avenue, Musgrave, Morningside and Essenwood

Committees: Health, Masakhane Grants-In-Aid, Non-Racism and Traditional Healers Council.

Ward needs: Housing and job opportunities. Co-operatives and NPO's to provide self-employment opportunities among the community. Reducing illiteracy by creating free education programs for all.

Has delivered: The Market transformation project is currently in the pipeline. Have registered some of the SMME, NPO'S and other organisations. The aim is to have local traders supplying the Market with products.

Challenges for 2007: Providing skills and job opportunities for the youth through learnerships. Fighting crime.

Passionate about: Creating employment opportunities for the youth and equipping them with skills.
Contact: 082 486 0788, 031 311 1111 (office), 031 301 7027 (home), tlous@durban.gov.za



Name: Alta Gobey
Age: 48
Family: Married with a son and a daughter
Party: ANC

Ward: 33 – Umbilo, Bulwer, Glenwood and Glenmore.

Committees: Economic Development and KZN Pension Fund (Trustee)

Ward needs: Housing. Maintaining a safe and crime-free community by working together with the SAPS. Upgrading council flats. Tarring of roads and cutting road verges.

Has delivered: Has been part of the South Council for five years in Amanzimtoti. Speed humps and street lights near schools. Worked together with committees to lower noise levels from nearby nightclubs. Beach clean-ups.

Challenges for 2007: Identifying land for informal housing. Working with SAPS and the community policing forum to combat the high rate of crime in the area.

Passionate about: Helping improve people's quality of life. Also passionate about hockey and was part of the under-21 KZN hockey team.

Other favourite sport is rugby. "Im a big supporter of the Sharks and Springboks."
Contact: 083 280 2039, 031 205 5849 (office), 031 903 6977 (fax), alta@gobey.co.za



Name: Nokuthula Yolenda Young
Age: 26
Family: Unmarried
Party: ANC

Ward: 57 – Wentworth, Part of Bluff and Part of Treasure Beach

Committees: Masakhane Grants-In-Aid; Non-racism, Non-sexism

Ward needs: We are in desperate need of houses, there is a high rate of unemployment and there are environmental health issues.

Has delivered: We have removed illegal dumping, we have created a youth development structure and ward committees. We have also organised events for senior citizens and we are in the process of developing a youth centre.

Challenges for 2007: Building more houses. Other challenges include developing a youth centre and creating more employment opportunities. Providing skills development programmes the youth in order to prepare them for industry.

Passionate about: Empowering the youth and women of my ward.
Contact: 084 445 7207, 031 503 830 (home), 031 503 3169 (fax), 031 461 1663 (office).

Fine amnesty

THE Libraries Department has granted a period of grace to defaulters during its amnesty week, which ends tomorrow (Saturday, 24 March).

Borrowers who return overdue books and other resources will not be fined.

The department recovered material during an amnesty week last year and is hoping to do the same again.

Contact your local library or Deena Nair on 031 311 2445 or 083 440 4208 for details.

TB awareness

THE municipality's Health Unit is hosting a tuberculosis awareness campaign across eThekweni to inform people about the disease.

Dates and venues are:
Today: Verulam: Golden Step School, Cottonlands
9am – 12pm

27 March: South: Charles James hospital, 8am – 2pm

29 March: North: Lindelani Stadium, 8am – 2pm
Call Nomsa Makhutle on 031 311 2280.