

ADDITIONAL ITEM

7.6	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES : (PC : CLLR P JOHNSON)
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7.6.5	CONSIDERATION OF THE CLOSURE OF A THOROUGHFARE LINKING EIKE AND CURRY STREETS ADJACENT TO THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH, CLOETESVILLE
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Collaborator No:

IDP KPA Ref No:

Meeting Date:

Good Governance and Compliance

17 April 2024

1. **SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE CLOSURE OF A THOROUGHFARE LINKING EIKE AND CURRY STREETS ADJACENT TO THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH, CLOETESVILLE**

2. **PURPOSE**

That Council considers the approval of the proposals contained herein.

3. **DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Municipal Council.

4. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Municipality aims to create a safe environment for all who live, work in and visit Stellenbosch. In certain neighbourhoods, instances of crime have escalated and are at high levels, putting the safety of the community at risk.

A thoroughfare are being used next to the Old Apostolic Church linking Eieke and Curry Streets because the Old Apostolic Church did not put their fence on their erf boundary. This land therefore belongs to the church and is not municipal land. Residents in Cloetesville have approached the Municipality, requesting the immediate closure of the thoroughfare adjacent to the church because of serious assaults and other crimes that have been committed on the thoroughfare.

The closure of the thoroughfare is supported by both the Church and the South African Police Services, who are aware of the crimes committed there. The closure would not significantly impact pedestrian movements - a link between Eike and Curry Streets via Quarry and Lang Streets is a safe alternative that can be used by pedestrians.

It is proposed that the Municipality close the thoroughfare in the street reserve on both sides of the thoroughfare by means of appropriate signage (on both ends of the thoroughfare) and via publication of the notification in the local newspaper, and that the Municipality thereafter proceeds to erect a suitable fence to affect the closure.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) that Council approve the request from the Cloetesville Community close of the thoroughfare linking Curry and Eike roads, and acknowledge that the South African Police Services and the Church support the closure;
- (b) that Council inform the public of its intent to close the thoroughfare by means of appropriate signage (on both ends of the thoroughfare) and via placement of the notification in the local newspaper; and
- (c) that the Municipality, after the notification proceeds to erect suitable fencing to affect the closure.

6. DISCUSSION / CONTENTS**6.1 Background**

The Municipality aims to create a safe environment for all who live, work in and visit Stellenbosch. In certain neighbourhoods, instances of crime have escalated and are at high levels, putting the safety of the community at risk.

Residents in Cloetesville have approached the Municipality, requesting the immediate closure of a thoroughfare near the Old Apostolic Church because serious assaults and other crimes have been committed on the thoroughfare.

6.2 Discussion

The public thoroughfare is situated on the property of the Old Apostolic Church, it is approximately 50m long and 2.5m wide and links Eike- and Curry Streets. The thoroughfare was created when the church erected their boundary wall, constructing it about 2.5m away from the property boundary. The thoroughfare is inadvertently used by the community as a walkway and link between Eike- and Curry Streets.

The surrounding environment is such that persons using the walkway are secluded along its 50m length and are targeted by criminals. Despite the Municipality's attempts in the past to improve safety by installing flood lights and increasing the presence of Law Enforcement Officials, instances of crimes committed in this thoroughfare remains high.

The thoroughfare itself is on the Church land, but the proposed fencing off the entry and exit points is intended to be on Municipal land within the road reserve.

The closure of the public thoroughfare is supported by both the Church and the South African Police Service, who are aware of the crimes committed there. The closure would not significantly impact pedestrian movements - a link between Eike- and Curry Streets via Quarry- and Lang Streets is a safe alternative that can be used.

It is proposed that the Municipality notifies the public of its intent to close the public thoroughfare by means of appropriate signage (on both ends of the thoroughfare) and publication of a notice in the local newspaper and that the Municipality thereafter proceeds and erects suitable fencing to affect the closure.

6.3 Financial Implications

If approved, only the fencing off the entry and exit points will be activated from existing budgets, thus no additional funding is required for this project.

6.4 Legal Implications

The recommendations in this report comply with Council's policies and all applicable legislation. This is not a public road and therefore the provisions to close a road is not applicable.

The required public notification procedures will be followed and the fencing will not be erected on private land, if approved.

6.5 Staff Implications

No additional staff implications.

6.6 Previous / Relevant Council Resolutions:

None

6.7 Risk Implications

Potential risk of reduced pedestrian movement through the closed thoroughfare, but this has been mitigated by alternative access. Potential risk of vandalism of the fence but floodlights have been installed and engagements with the Church will also continue to assist Law Enforcement with oversight of the fence.

6.8 Comments from Senior Management:

Item has not been circulated for comments Senior Management.

6.8.1 Municipal Manager:

Supports the recommendations.

ANNEXURE: MAP INDICATING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:**

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Report Date	15 April 2024

ANNEXURE 1





