

From: Martin Diessner martin.diessner@gmail.com
Subject: Constantia Valley - Fibre hurdles
Date: 20 July 2015 at 9:11 PM
To: Xanthea Limberg Xanthea.Limberg@capetown.gov.za



Dear Xanthea,

It was a pleasure meeting you last week, and when leaving your offices, I felt very positive “having you on our side”.

This positive feeling did a 180 degree turn after reading the minutes of the subsequent meeting, where it became clear to me that the SLA between CoC and LA and the actual start of laying fibre cables into storm water and sewage is at least another 5 months away, if the strong voices of that second meeting get it their way.

I tried to contact you on Friday and also today but was told that you were in back to back meetings, however, I may expect a call back after 4pm. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and I will try to contact you again tomorrow (Tuesday) morning and hope that you are available to talk and to agree to pave the road to a meeting with the Mayor this week.

Please note that I am not speaking on behalf of Link Africa and their partners – I am representing the Constantia Valley community whose numbers have risen from an initial 1,600 households to now more than 10,000 in total. In fact, since I made project files, websites, databases and all the work open source, more than 70 communities all over the country have followed this blue print and are watching the “master plan” Constantia closely. Beyond the Constantia Valley, we have Franschoek, Somerset West, Hout Bay, Llandudno, Nordhoek and even the sleeping hippies in Simon’s Town copying our approach.

What worries me is the comment from the meeting that the City might be providing a competitive fibre offer, and today’s news article (<https://www.capetown.gov.za/en/Pages/CitysbroadbandrolloutconnectingCapeTown.aspx>) seems to underpin that statement. If the city becomes a player in this field, they should not be a referee at the same time (e.g. negotiating SLAs with LA), at least this is how we the residents and maybe even the competition commission might view this matter as simply ‘unfair and uncompetitive’.

I don’t understand why the CoC cannot fast track (or at least not delay) our project but using it as a **true blue** print pilot and even brand it under the City’s own success. This is how I suggested it at a meeting in Durbanville to Andre Stelzner and his team. We/I/Link Africa do not need credits for what we are doing in our communities – all we want is to accelerate the digitisation of our communities through fibre and to help facilitating a better living and working in those communities – surely the same goals that the City envisions?

At the same time, if I look at the “achievements/milestones” published on that news article on the CoC website: Constantia without the Valley has more than 160km of fibre once laid – compared to 613km of the existing with the City. 106 CCTV cameras in the City – we have more than 80 in Constantia alone – at same if not higher technical specifications than those of the City. I haven’t counted our manholes to compare them to yours – but all I know is that City + Constantia Valley surely equals more than each entity running independently. On top of that, take all those other communities that are on board already – this is crowd infrastructure deployment at its best?

The City of Cape Town was united when we were fighting those wild fires earlier this year, both City servicemen and ordinary residents like myself out there day by day, night by night. When fighting that common enemy, a lot of red tape was ignored and the community and the city **together** won that fight. Why can’t we do this on a more positive subject without an enemy, but with a common goal in mind?

We as the community have only one goal in mind – to get started with this project **right now** and to deliver a lit up fibre community by Christmas, as promised and envisioned. The project has already been delayed due to missing civil way-leaves and the incomplete SLA, and this will either result in an increase of end user prices or LA pulling out of this community and concentrating on others, where the municipality is more co-operating. I am sure you are aware of this and other similar rulings: <http://www.itwebafrica.com/network/272-south-africa/233576-green-light-given-to-continue-pietermaritzburg-fibre-network-build>

I was shocked to hear that LA have put their fibre cables into sewer and storm water in Bloemfontein’s municipal network – I don’t even know where that is?

On a more serious note – I am asking you to support us and to get me and maybe one more community representative to see the Mayor. You said it yourself in the meeting, that even with your own goodwill you don’t have the authority to fast track this delayed project.

I truly believe that Patricia de Lille is the one and only person that can control those voices within the City that don’t mind disappointing 10,000 and more residents to wait for another 5 or more month before this project commences. She may also see beyond the obvious political agendas here and focus on the fact that LA has hired tax paying employees, contractors and even Constantia residents (5 students that are going into a digital/telecoms Internship program with Vox Telecoms) to put the money back into the community and create

employment and education that this country so badly needs. I could go on and on but I am sure you get the idea – the bigger picture is what we jointly need to focus on!

I really count on your support – and hope you email or call back. This is my personal email martin.diessner@gmail.com and my cell is 072 6441789, it's with your PA as well.

I even sent you a Facebook friend request ;-)

We need this resolved asap, otherwise the community will want to fight for their right. I grew up in East Germany, spent most of my adult life in the Middle East and I am tired of fighting. I came to this beautiful Cape Town city in order to retire with my family and to do some good community work, and not to get sucked up into commercial or political wheels.

Thanks for your time,
Regards,

Martin
072 6441789