

SOCIAL BENEFITS AND CONCERNS in Molweni are varied. Many residents were born there or lived there a long time. This builds a strong sense of community. There are many orphans in the community and the gogos have a big responsibility to raise these orphans. There are many concerns about drug and alcohol abuse within all the communities. There is also a fear that there is no future for young people who live in these communities because of challenges with education, employment, drugs and alcohol abuse and boredom. The Greater Molweni Resource centre is viewed as highly significant with social workers, lawyers and an orphanage. School children have volunteering opportunities here too. There are concerns over gendered violence including rape. The local provision of sanitary pads to girls is a key benefit. The area still practices virginity testing as well as other cultural practices. There is a positive sense of respect for the diversity of citizens, including foreign nationals who run local shops.

“We are equal. I wish that if the development comes in an area everybody should be treated the same” (♀ resident).



CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY:

Currently governance is effective in bringing development to the area. Infrastructure improvements are making a positive difference in people’s lives. The high level of unemployment and poverty in the area, and the ways in which this overlaps with high rates of orphaned households makes households more vulnerable. Urgent attention is required by the Municipality to secure employment as well as to continue with and increase poverty alleviation measures. Further delivery of housing, water, electricity and tarred roads is needed in parts of Molweni that have received less attention in the past. Improvement to local policing services is also an urgent requirement.

RESEARCH ON EXPERIENCES OF LIVING THE URBAN PERIPHERY IN OTHER AFRICAN CITIES:

Similar research has taken place in northern Ethekewini, Lufhereng, Ekangala and Winterveld in South Africa and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The researchers spoke to men and women in the community, collected resident diaries and photographs, and interviewed residents and key professionals. The findings of the research showed that residents had experienced both positive and negative consequences of the changes that had occurred in their areas. Some of the key findings in other areas are as follows:



Lufhereng, Johannesburg

and services such as clinics. Conditions in in-

formal settlements remain very poor with little evidence of improvement. Residents are very anxious about waiting times for housing and many are living in poverty. In some areas on the edges of cities local government is quite weak or is far away, and in these cases some local powerful men control whole areas and can often be useful to residents but also operate through a culture of fear. Residents in many cases note the importance of shopping malls and new shopping facilities both is making their daily lives easier but also sometimes providing employment. Lack of employment was a dominant theme across South Africa and this undermined most residents’ otherwise positive experiences of all the changes.

In Ethiopia, more residents had employment but they really struggle with the costs of their new government homes and also with the very long commutes into the city centre for work. Residents noted the new investments in employment-

KEY CHANGES in the area have created a sense of improvement, and that development has come to this area. However many note that it is still not enough. The most significant changes are the new shopping mall, the surfacing of roads, new bridges & electrification, toilet and water provision, bus shelters, pavements and speed humps. The new mall helps people to access shops more quickly and they pay less taxi fare to travel the distance to the mall rather than going to Pinetown or Durban city centre.

“The development of the area is now much better because this area now looks like a township instead of a rural area”. (♀ resident).

Although the developed areas are not free of problems, there is a belief amongst communities of Molweni that they have a better quality of life than many other residents of the city and they are therefore unlikely to move away. They are also hopeful of continued improvements in their neighbourhoods. Some concerns are the need for bridges that are safer and wide enough for crossing even when there is heavy rain, more tarring of roads, and improved drainage on roads, as well as the need for increased access to healthcare and emergency services. Passage ways to housing improved, surfacing roads means taxis will service area.



Coniston

ment opportunities in their areas or beyond. But, many lacked the right skills for the work or were seen as too old or not supporting the right political party. Many struggled with basic things like lack of access to photocopiers etc. to submit CVs for consideration. These findings would all be shared with relevant government authorities and also with those involved in urban planning and housing.



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Living the urban periphery: understanding investment, infrastructure and economic change in Molweni, eThekwini Municipality, South Africa



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INTRODUCING THE RESEARCH PROJECT: In 2016, a group of researchers from the University of Sheffield and the University of the Witwatersrand, began a research project in a group of areas in the western part of eThekwini Municipality, including the communities of Molweni, Crestholme and Crestview. The researchers were interested in finding out about how changes (especially relating to infrastructure) in areas on the peripheries of African cities occurs, who makes changes and how, and, most importantly, how it is experienced by residents in the communities on the periphery of cities. The researchers focused on a few different types of infrastructure so the study includes examples of investment in housing, roads, transport, basic services, and investment in industrial areas. The researchers wanted to test the idea that infrastructure investment in the urban periphery can improve the quality of daily life for the communities where new infrastructure has been put in place.

The research in the west of eThekwini Municipality was part of a much larger project which includes research on seven different areas in three city-regions in Africa. There are three cases in Gauteng – Lufhereng near Soweto in Johannesburg, as well as Winterveld and Ekangala in Tshwane. In Durban, the research was also undertaken in the northern areas of Hammonds Farm, Waterloo, Canelands and Coniston. Two case studies in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, were researched in the areas of Tulu Dimtu and Yeka Abado. The researchers hope to understand each of these places in detail and compare them to each other to increase our knowledge of how



Crestholme, eThekwini

gathered from residents of Molweni.

infrastructure changes affect poverty reduction and how people living in these areas experience these changes. The researchers worked in Molweni, Crestholme and Crestview from June 2017 to June 2018. During this time, they spoke to 47 men and women in the community who also wrote diaries about their daily life for a two-week period and took photographs showing living conditions, services and experiences of their neighbourhood. The researchers also spoke to three community leaders and six professionals involved in planning and urban development to gather further information. Surveys were undertaken with around 200 residents.

This pamphlet summarises the findings of the research for the residents and local government of the western parts of eThekwini. The information provided is based on information we

The development of the area is now much better because this area now looks like a township instead of a rural area (♂ resident).

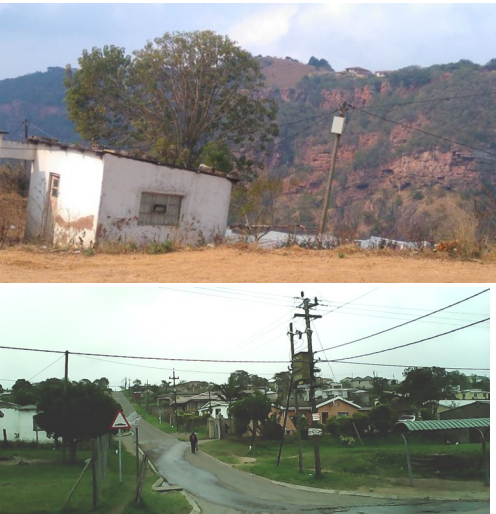
URBAN AND RURAL CHARACTERISTICS: In this case study area, the ward council area includes 13 sub areas. These areas include some that are rural (11) and some that are urban (2). Service provision needs are also very different. Eight of the 11 rural areas are also under the governance of Ngonyama Trust. The differences between the characteristics of the rural and urban parts of this place impact how people live, how government operates and how land is managed. Urban areas are seen by residents and local government as being more developed than rural areas. The differences between these areas makes the everyday life of communities quite different and separate to each other. In urban areas there are malls and good

services. These areas mainly need maintenance, especially of the existing roads and electricity supply. In rural areas there is a need for all kinds of developments of service provision and infrastructure. Residents of Molweni describe the different neighbourhoods as having more or less development. A higher level of development can be found in areas that are near the main road and within the areas managed by the municipality because it is easier to get services to these places. In Lower Molweni where the land is steeper and access is more difficult, there has been fewer improvements and less access to services or RDP houses. Some perceive the whole of Molweni to be still quite rural, which is mostly felt to be a good quality of the area.

HOUSING experiences are very mixed in this area. Many have benefitted from RDP houses from the municipality and the councilor, and are very pleased about this development. Houses were also provided to those moved because of the construction of Inanda Dam and then the severe storms affecting the area in 2008. Some are concerned over allocation processes as newcomers seem to benefit at times. Others note that their RDP houses haven’t been well built, that delivery is slow and that they are irrationally offered formal services e.g. DSTV before getting a house. Areas ruled by traditional authorities present issues around slow housing delivery and complications over funding for housing.



LAND is especially important to creating change in Molweni. There is a combination of traditional land ownership and western land tenure. Land tenure in places led by the traditional authority allows for community members to have permanent and private use of pieces of land in order to build their homes. Plot sizes in Molweni tend to be larger than in many township areas in Durban and there is room for multiple buildings on one plot and for agriculture. This means that growing families are able to live together and there are a number of extended families living in Molweni. This helps residents to support family members from other places financially and for education and job seeking. Land ownership and governance is also important for social and economic development. It is difficult and complicated to get permission to use state owned land or privately owned land to build facilities such as a creche. This delays development of much needed local services and businesses.



SERVICE PROVISION is mixed in terms of quality and the kinds of services available. Generally in Molweni there is a lack of many different facilities: shops, library, a clinic, a higher education college such as TVET college, better roads, street lights, old age care facilities or home; and better housing for the poor overall. However, there has been a steady introduction of services in recent years with the introduction of electricity, toilets, ATMs, the local clinic, tarred roads, pavements, taxi ranks, WiFi at Waterfall library, and buses for school children. However these are not enjoyed by all parts of Molweni. Most residents are happy that they have basic services such as water, toilets and electricity. Water in Molweni is free but access differs through the community as some areas that an outside tap on each property while in other areas a communal tap serves a number of households in a street. There are complaints by residents in Molweni, Crestholme and Crestview that water and electricity supplies are unreliable and sometimes break down on a daily basis with long delays in connection times. Some residents are forced to

rely on the polluted river for water, and lack of water impacts on the well being of animals too. Electricity supply is viewed as erratic by some and the cost is very expensive for residents, especially when there are many unemployed people. The shortage of money to buy electricity means that residents must rely on other sources of fuel such as par-

“During the Christmas times it was very difficult because people wanted to buy ice cream and jelly. We could not buy it because everything just melted. It is much easier now because of the electricity” (♂ resident).

affin. Toilet provision is also mixed, with some residents noting poor quality and bad advice about how to maintain and manage toilets. Kwa-Nogxaza is particularly poor and lacks many of the basic services that can be found in other parts of Molweni, such as street lighting and sufficient water points. The roads here have a poor quality and there is little transport available so people need to walk long distances from Inanda Road. It is felt that better serviced areas are favoured by the municipality because they fall under eThekweni Municipality rather than other areas which are governed primarily by the traditional authority. The location of services can be a problem, and can be hard to access. Also, many ATMs are found inside the taverns. This can result in social grants being used to buy alcohol. Residents commented that more facilities are needed for the youth, to keep them occupied and to develop their skills, thereby reducing their interest in crime.

SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND CLINICS are a challenge in Molweni. Although there are a number of primary and high schools in Molweni, the local community finds it difficult to access good quality schooling. Higher quality schools in Hillcrest are not too far from the community but they are too costly or are already full. Previously, it was difficult for some children in Molweni to access the local schools because they had to walk long distances, often up steep hills. Recently, high school and primary school buses have been arranged to assist pupils who live deep in the valley of Molweni to get to their schools. This is a relatively new service that is very welcomed by residents. A new primary school is a source of pride for the community and offers better educational resources than the older schools. There are a number of private creches within Molweni and parents pay for this schooling and the care of their younger children at the creches. At least one creche also takes on some partially disabled and mentally challenged children as there is no other caring place for them to go to school. Some non-profit organisations support education and the needs of children on an ongoing basis. There is a large clinic in Molweni but it is not able to cope with the extent of the health needs of the community. Those who live in the valley find it difficult to reach the clinic and in the case of emergencies there is little help available to all residents. The nearest state hospital is far away (Marianhill) and expensive to reach. There have been significant improvements to transport and infrastructure in Molweni including shelters protecting passengers from the rain and sun. However access to good and affordable transport is still a problem for many in Molweni.



“What is good for the people of Nogxaza is that now we see the development. We have buses that take children to and from school everyday” (♀ resident).



UNEMPLOYMENT, LOW INCOME AND POVERTY is a significant concern. Many residents are unemployed and the lack of jobs is the worst problem facing the communities in Molweni. This is especially worrying because there is very high youth unemployment. There is a pressure on local government to provide work opportunities. And without work, there is a pressure for the local government to provide food and vital pro-

“The unemployment is killing your dignity and you become unfriendly or bitter” (♀ resident).

visions to the community members. They seek help directly from the councillor. Residents note how important the soup kitchen is to their well being and survival and their reliance on this is a key indicator of poverty. The councillor acts as a conduit for public works employment.

Most believe he is very careful in trying to be fair in how these jobs are allocated – creating a transparent system of relying on the area committee to identify which residents or households are most in need. Some believe job allocation is tied to party politics and working as volunteers for political parties. Mostly, these jobs involve labour on construction work and tasks required by the Expanded Public Works programme. Thus, a few residents are benefiting from changes in local service provision and infrastructure gaining work in street sweeping, verge clearing, pavement building, gardening at schools, painting work, and construction work. This work is often short term or contractual. Because there is often an insecurity of income through work there are many households in Molweni that rely heavily on social grants such as pensions and childcare grants as their main source of

income. The newly built Watercrest Mall raises the possibility of jobs, but many residents indicate their lack of skills and distance prevents them from securing work there. Poverty is a key theme in this area, and there are important local initiatives to support residents including free

“Some days we are feeling so sad because my parents were providing food.... We are sleeping with water only because we do not have food” (♀ resident).

food at schools and the aforementioned soup kitchens. Food charity is critical for those receiving HIV treatment or who are very poor. Orphans and orphaned households in the area suffer particularly and experience serious vulnerability. Local churches are important in terms of providing clothing and food.

CRIME AND POLICING: There are clear distinctions in the experiences of crime in different areas within this case study. Some residents believe that their areas are safe while others are constantly alert to the possibility of crime. In Crestholme and Crestview there is a very active community policing forum and neighbourhood watch group that works to protect residents from house-breaking and theft. There are also physical security measures in place with alarm systems, high fences, closed gates and some street surveillance cameras used to protect people and properties. In Crestview and Crestholme, high levels of crime are viewed by many as the result of high unemployment within neighbouring communities.



Although most Molweni residents felt that their neighbourhood was safe and experienced very little crime, a number believe that crime had risen recently with car hijackings and gender-based violence happening more often. There is a concern that the community has begun to steal from each other because of improved security in wealthier urban areas. Drug use, drunkenness and the presence of shebeens and taverns also leads to violent crimes. This is made worse because the police take a long time to attend to any crime. Although there is a very large police station in Molweni, it is usually unstaffed and only helps with verifying documents. Residents in these communities all say that cannot rely on the local police and the Molweni police station to address immediate crime situations. If help is needed the Hillcrest Police station is called even though it is quite far away. Residents of Molweni say that crime is lower in their area than in other places because they manage criminals themselves and because they know where the ‘wunga boys’ live so they can get back items that may be stolen by the drug addicts. Residents have also participated in a peaceful protest against rape and crime in 2017, residents have called for better policing in the area.

GOVERNANCE: There have been mostly positive experiences of governance in the case study areas. There is a diversity of communities in the Molweni, Crestholme and Crestview areas. This makes it very difficult for the ward councillor and other local government representatives to address the full range of needs of the different communities. Recently a new ward councillor was elected and residents in all communities express positive feelings about the work that the councillor is doing to meet the different needs of communities. The Ward Councillor is considered helpful to residents and also there is cooperation between the traditional and elected leadership in Molweni. There is a defined and well understood role for the councillor and the traditional leaders and Molweni residents make use of both forms of governance as is required. Residents take issues to the izinduna, and this is scaled up to the amakhosi. Court cases deal with problems such as land conflicts and neighbourly disputes.