

Jacky Smith

From: gerritvisser@mweb.co.za
Sent: Sunday, 26 April 2026 12:52
To: TWK Budget
Subject: Objection to Proposed Budget Increase 2026/2027
Attachments: 260426 Budget Response 2026-27.pdf

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please see my response as attached.

Regards Gerrit
Cell 0833871977

20 Main Road Riviersonderend

The Padloper Coffee Shop

Date: 26 April 2026

To: Theewaterskloof Municipality

Objection to Proposed Budget Increase 2026/2027

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing as a business owner to formally object to the Theewaterskloof Municipality Draft Budget for 2026/2027. Your records will show that I have submitted objections in previous years, supported by detailed evidence. This letter summarises the most critical issues.

1. Escalation of Municipal Charges

Over the past eleven years, municipal service charges have increased at rates significantly above the Consumer Price Index. These increases have consistently exceeded inflation and have placed an unsustainable financial burden on ratepayers.

2. Decline in Service Delivery

Despite these above-inflation increases, the quality of municipal services has steadily deteriorated. This decline is visible in:

- Neglected municipal buildings
- Poorly maintained sidewalks, public spaces, and services

The gap between what residents are paying and what they are receiving continues to widen.

3. Impact on Local Economic Sustainability

The combination of rising costs and declining service levels places disproportionate pressure on small businesses and middle-class residents, the very groups that sustain the local economy.

My own business is now at risk. I am attempting to sell it at a reduced price, yet prospective buyers cite the deteriorating municipal environment as a major concern. The neglected municipal building adjacent to my premises and the poor state of surrounding infrastructure are mentioned as deterrents.

4. Request for Direct Engagement

Given the seriousness of these issues, I request that senior municipal decision-makers meet with me in person rather than issuing a written response. I am prepared to:

- Present numerical evidence demonstrating the long-term escalation of charges
- Provide a guided tour of the town to illustrate the condition of municipal infrastructure and the current standard of service delivery

This will allow for a factual, transparent, and constructive discussion.

5. Closing Position

Above-average increases may be justified when accompanied by above-average service delivery. However, the lack of visible municipal investment in the town clearly shows that this is not the case.

I therefore object to the proposed budget increase and request meaningful engagement on the issues raised.

Regards

Gerrit Visser