

Notes on Visit to the Alex Park and Highlands Reservoirs 17/12/2018

Peter Morris, Nicholas de Swardt, Godfrey Zitzanza and Innocent Sithole visited the Alex Park Pump station and the Highlands Reservoir on the 17th of December on a fact-finding mission to understand why Highlands Residents have been without water for so many years.

Highlands residents are largely supplied from the Highlands Reservoir on Pockets Hill. The reservoir itself is empty and has been for several years, apart from a few days in 2017 when special arrangements were made to fill it and test the reticulation network. The reservoir is filled from the Alex Park reservoir (in the botanical gardens). The Old Alex pump station has 4 pumps, of which it appears only one is working. Two of the pumps appear to have been cannibalised for parts. The pump station is in poor repair and is in urgent need of rehabilitation. More important however is the fact that the reservoir itself is nearly empty and has been for at least 10 days – indicating that it is not getting regular supply out of Warren Control – this needs further investigation.

When there is water in the Alex Park reservoir, it is apparently possible to supply Highlands, though this entails a number of valves to be opened and shut and is quite a labour intensive process – this was last done in 2017. The reason for these complications is that the Old Alex pump station is unable to supply sufficient pressure in its main delivery line to Pockets hill.

The conclusion from our visit was that the first order of business is to understand the reasons for short supply from Warren Control into Alex Park Reservoir. Once this supply has been re-established we can then move to the rehabilitation of the pump station itself.

