Small Town Regeneration – the role of an Economic Development practitioner in SA?

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10 November 2017
Outline

• Introduction

• Small Town Regeneration and LED

• What is a town?

• So why regeneration?

• Regeneration: is it the role of an LED Manager?
What is CSTR?

• CSTR is the mentor that awakens the intrinsic worth of small towns as valuable contributors to the stimulation of vibrant regional economies.

• We give advice and support to the municipalities that own these towns and businesses that have interest in them.

• This we do through offering the following services; training, capability development, consulting, investment attraction and research.
Definition of towns?

- ‘A gathering of people with houses they stay in, supported by trade and industry so required by them’.
  (F. Kruger)

- ‘A concentrated place where people conduct trade from different settlements, usually protected from thugs by police and invasion by fortified walls’.
  (Y. Ngqele)

- ‘A market place where people buy and sell goods’
What is a town?

• ‘A town is a complex system and at any point in time the physical, technical and social manifestation of the dominant though changing demographic, cultural and economic processes of its population. For well-being, the system depends on both stock (high level skills in leadership, entrepreneurship and knowledge) and sound processes (service delivery, payment & municipal accounts, protection of the cadastre, entrepreneurs that operate beyond local consumer spending, functioning, training, effective crime and judicial processes)’. (J. Wessels)
What is a town?

• ‘A community-based service deliverer’ (K.D Xuza, 72)
• ‘A town is a place of creativity and enterprise where social and cultural interactions drive innovation and wealth creation’.
• Towns allow us to share resources and services. Their density means that shops, workplaces, leisure, culture and public services are near, and if we don’t actually live amongst them, they are still where public transport goes, and are accessible to the whole community’.

(Scotland Towns Partnership)
What is a town?

- ‘A town is a built-up area with a name, defined boundaries and local government, it is larger than a village and generally smaller than a city’
- ‘A human settlement larger than a village but smaller than a city’ (Wikipedia)
- ‘A town is a place with many streets and building, where people live and work’ (Collins Dictionary)

Stages of Regeneration

5 phases of regeneration;

• Visioning process
• Feasibility studies
• Business Plans
• Implementation
• Exit strategy

(an example of Alice)