TAXIS AND BUSES

Since taxis are common mode of transport it is important to consider the possibilities for them to stop and pick up/drop off passengers safely. Because of this we propose special taxi ranks along the main roads, such as John Daka Road, Royal Street and Morgan Street. Even if special stops are not desired today there are good reasons to prepare for them for the future. We propose that combined bus stops and taxi ranks with waiting possibilities are constructed along the main roads. By planning and designing special taxi ranks/bus stops it will be both safer and more convenient for the passengers as well as the drivers.

ENTRANCES

The role of the two main entrances Greater No 2 is to be knots for different types of transportation and to offer a wide range of shops and facilities. It is also important that entrance areas help people to orientate and give them an overall picture of the place.

We propose that the entrances are designed so that they offer good possibilities both for trade, transportation and social activities. By revitalizing the two main entrances it is possible to create a more clear connection between the way people move inside and outside Greater No 2 and at the same time increase the trading possibilities.

Fig. 72

Map 14. The two main entrances to Greater No 2.
The two entrances can be nodes where it is easy to change from one mode of transportation to another, for example from walking to riding in a taxi and at the same time find a good supply of goods and services. The entrances are also excellent places for strengthening the semi formal businesses by constructing more permanent structures for the small fruit markets and thereby support the local traders.

By using different solid materials such as stone, concrete and iron it is possible to create both esthetical appealing and sustainable environments. It is important to use materials that can age and still work and look good not only for the apprehension of the place, but also for avoiding expensive maintenance. The entrances and especially the squares are proposed to be well-supplied with lights for safety reasons. To break the monotonous hard built environment and create a softer and more user-friendly environment it is also of great importance to make space for more vegetation.

Detailed proposals for the two entrances, including maps and sketches, can be found under "Specific places", proposal A-B and D.
PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Greater No 2 has only one open space, a small square in the middle of the area. The square is one of the places we have identified as a potential place to upgrade to play an important part in the overall structure of the area. What is really important with the present public spaces, and the new ones, are that they always should be available and never exclude someone from using them.

To welcome people to use the public open spaces there will be no walls or fences around our proposed public places. This is our meaning of PUBLIC and in the work with creating new public places it is our intention to let this be a central part.

In Greater No 2 we have identified four specific places possible to develop into public open spaces. Further more we have also developed four spatial ideas, including a historical walk. The specific places and spatial ideas are all important parts in the overall structure.

The four specific places, the new junction between Royal Street and John Daka Road and the place for the old beerhall, the centrally located square and the car wash area/open area west of Greater No 2, will be individually developed later in this report.

SPATIAL IDEAS

The four spatial ideas that we have developed are suggestions on how empty plots, churches and their plots and places along the streets could be used. These places are today not attractive to the residents, but we have seen a potential to turn them into useful public places. Besides these three items we have also made a proposal for a historical walk through Greater No 2. The walk will pass through the area and show both old houses, important places and our specific places.

The spatial ideas are not dependent on the creation of the hierarchical streets structure, but will naturally be more attractive when the car traffic is limited.

Map 15. The location of places where the spatial ideas are possible to apply.
EMPTY PLOTS AND UNUSED PUBLIC PLACES

Today there are a number of plots with deteriorated houses or shacks in Greater No 2 that are not in use. These plots could if possible be bought and "cleaned up" by the municipality and used as small green elements in the middle of the housing area. They could form small islands of green within the area. That would improve the living conditions by breaking up the housing blocks and just being a place or an area to rest your eyes on or to sit or play in. If there were benches and tables people could go there to socialize.

We propose that the municipality try to acquire empty plots and other unused places in Greater No 2 and turn them into parks, playgrounds or, if needed, parking spaces. By contacting owners of empty plots the municipality has the possibility to turn these plots into public places that all residents can benefit from.

Open spaces have to be maintained. A reason for this is that waste, which is partly what untidy means in Greater No 2, can cause health problems and attract animals. An environment which people use is more attractive than an unused one. By keeping the empty plots clean the municipality can contribute in controlling the sanitary conditions in and improving the reputation of Greater No 2. This is important to make the area more attractive, both for the inhabitants and the visitors. A simple action to avoid loose waste can be to place large containers that the municipality empty every week.

For more detailed location of the empty plots see Map 8 on page 45
OVERALL STRUCTURE

Many churches are today standing empty large parts of the days and their plots are unused. We suggest to make use of some of the churches and their plots in the area. This could mean both a possible place for activities and an opportunity to add more vegetation in the area. This could also be a way to make use of existing resources, since buildings and plots decay if they are standing unused for longer periods.

Both used and unused churches could offer room to choirs and theatre groups and be a place to gather at if you want to nit, sew, weave or do some other handcraft, or just to socialize with other people. Outside we propose benches and tables in the shade and lights that makes it a safe place even during dark hours. Since a church traditionally stands for safety and communion this would be an opportunity for the people to be in a church-environment in another way than they are used to and experience these feelings. It is also a great opportunity for different age groups to meet and socialise.

Even if a church is too decayed to take into use again the plot can be cleaned up and turned into a park or a common garden were people can grow things. If the plots look nice and appealing they can attract people instead of as today being places that people avoid, since they are untidy and maybe unsafe places during dark hours.

For more detailed location of the churches and their plots see Map 8 on page 45
PLACES ALONG THE STREETS

On a few places along Moaketsi Street and Oogi Street the sidewalks are wider, almost like small open spaces. These places offer possibilities to make the appearance and feeling of the area greener at the same time as they could be places to sit down and socialize.

We do not propose the whole sidewalks to be “greened”, but there could be green elements like trees or palms which offer shade. There could also be pots with vegetation for the esthetical value. We also propose seating possibilities to be located on these places. Low lighting poles can contribute in making the places attractive even during dark hours.

*For more detailed location of places along the streets see Map 8 on page 45*
One of the most important features in Greater No 2 is the great number of architectural and historical important buildings. There is a need for preserving and displaying these for the future in order to learn about the past. The whole area is an asset for the city but it is slowly deteriorating, the old mud brick houses (see following page) are falling apart and need urgent restoration. Through special governmental funds the houses are now going to be upgraded. This provides an excellent opportunity to show the area to the public. Historical walks could therefore be organized, to tell people about the history of the area. There could be both guided tours and walks that you can do on your own. By also including a visit in a traditionally white area from the same period of time different conditions can be illustrated.

Our proposed historical walk in Greater No 2 displays many different sides of the area. The walk is possible to start at the two entrances to the area and then the walk continues within the residential area. Most of the time the visitor is guided along secondary and tertiary streets and green lanes but one have to cross the main roads a few times. The walk will show both architecturally interesting houses and historically important places as well as our proposed new public open places.

Map 16. The historical walk through Greater No 2 and the two possible start-/endpoints at the entrances.
OVERALL STRUCTURE

VEGETATION

There is little vegetation in Greater No 2 and the trees that grow there are mostly located on private plots. Trees and green elements are important not only for making it more pleasant for the eye, but also for improving the local climate, the air and to create a pleasant and more friendly environment. The heat can sometimes be strong and the shade that trees can offer is strongly demanded. Green elements can be seen both as a design feature that emphasizes the different lanes and, if placed on specific public open spaces or in people’s private plots, elements that contributes to a more pleasant environment.

There are different ways in making an area more ”green”. You can develop parks, plant trees along streets, put vegetation in pots along streets or promote individuals to develop their gardens. Proposed trees along the streets and green lanes and in public spaces will contribute to more vegetation in the area.

TREES AND OTHER GREEN ELEMENTS

An important way to make an area more “green” when the climate is hot is by planting trees. Trees offer shade, improve the micro climate and contribute in giving the area a more pleasant expression. Suitable trees for the conditions in Kimberley are for example karree, karob, vaderlandwilg, nachie, olive, lemon and orange and peach. Lemon and orange trees need more water and care though. Olive trees have been used before and appear to cope with

82. One of many mud brick houses in Greater No 2.
83. An old house still possible to restore.
84. The oldest church in Greater No 2; The Scient Christian Churh located along Mangwato Street.
the environment in the township. Palm trees could also work, but grows very slowly.

Where space is limited along the streets the alternative is either to put vegetation in pots or to let the private dweller "adopt" a tree to be planted in his or her garden. Grass and flowers are more difficult, because they need a lot of water and care. The question of how to water the trees and plants is an important issue to solve, trees planted on public spaces and along streets are to be looked after by the municipality while vegetation on private plots are handled by the dwellers themselves.

Our identified public open spaces can also be seen as "green" places, since green elements will be an important part of the design. These places will complement the trees along the streets and the green lanes and other green elements on private plots or in public parks. It is also possible to plant trees and arrange gardens on school yards and plots for public buildings.

85. A tree offering shade to the people.
86. An electric pole covered with a climbing plant.
THE EASTERN ENTRANCE TO GALESHEWEE - a proposal by Anna Wallin

The dwelling area in Greater No 2 is dense and lacks open spaces available for the public today. During inventory we identified four places which could be turned into public open spaces. This is a proposal for the eastern entrance to Greater No 2 and the township of Galeshewe. This entrance is the main one to the township from the city and the one you mainly use, when you go to Greater No 2. It involves two places that are to be seen as one. The two places are linked together with a street, Polisa Street, which is included in our proposed historical walk in the overall structure. There are buildings and places which have played an important role in the history. The Greater No 2 area and the township of Galeshewe has an important history to tell concerning diamond mining and life during the former apartheid system. The two places will be shown during the walks and should therefore be developed into attractive places not only for dwellers but also for visitors. The area has a strategic location at the entrance to Galeshewe and the distance to the city centre is about 2 kilometers.

The proposal has two different concentrations:

The northern part, the Old Beerhall - Place of Activity, is located between the first and second parallel street, Hall Street and Mzimba Street, to Royal Street. It is a proposal for the property of the old beerhall. Discussions with dwellers have told us that they miss meaningful activities like sport in the area and places for children to play. People spend a lot of time in the streets because of crowded living conditions, lack of public open spaces and tradition. Due to high unemployment in Greater No 2 the need of activities is urgent, why this part will concentrate on facilities for sport and socialising.

The two parts will complement each other. The New Junction - Diamond Square is located along an active and lively street and the Old Beerhall - Place of Activity in a calm and quite silent area. The overall aim with the proposal is also to offer green elements that can bring shade on public ground, since most of the trees in Greater No 2 are planted in private plots.

Map 17. Locations of the two Places which constitute The Eastern entrance to Galeshewe

87. Children playing in the street.
Map 18. Proposal for the New Junction - Diamond Square and The Old Beerhall - Place of Activity seen together.
TODAY

There are a lot of activities in the area around the entrance. Along Royal Street, which today is the main street, there is a gas station, a police station, a *Bantu hall*, a tavern, a tuck shop, a more permanent constructed fruit stand, dwellings, shacks and conservation worthy buildings for example Sobukwe’s old law-practice, today a tuck shop. North of Royal Street there are more dwellings and shacks, but also another tavern, *Gums tavern*, and rests of the old beerhall.

There is a lot of traffic all day in Royal Street, but few cars in the streets within the residential area. These streets are all narrow and paved and used to the same extent by the people.

POLICE STATION

The police uses two different buildings today, one older and one of more recent date. When a new central station, which is under construction, will open further west in Galeshewe at Sechoareng Street, either one or both buildings will be emptied. If the police will remain in one building, it will only be used as a reporting office. The present location of the police station has an advantage, since it is easy to find and reach at the entrance of the area.

88. The old police building.
89. The police building of more recent date.
BANTU HALL

The Bantu hall is an old and large building, which has played an important role in history and been used for meetings and other gatherings. The building is unused large parts of the day. When it is used it is mostly for meetings and other gatherings.

SOBUKWE´S OLD LAW-PRACTICE

Robert Sobukwe, the first president of Pan African Congress, PAC, had a law-practice in Greater No 2 for several years. The practice was located in the building, which today is used as a tuck shop.

BEERHALL

The South African breweries built the beerhall in 1947, as the first handing-out place for alcohol in the township. This place used to gather a lot of people and is linked to the history of Galeshewe. There were demonstrations in the area during the fifties according to people in the area. It has been and is still an area with a lot of activity going on along Royal Street, where people travel or just walk during the day. Gums tavern is located across the plot along Bantu Street.
Even though there is a lot of traffic in Royal Street today, there are very few cars in the four streets surrounding the block, which makes it a calm place and environment. There is no hierarchy between the four streets; Bantu Street, Mzimba Street, Polisa Street and Hall Street, today.

The plot for the old beerhall looks bad and neglected today, because the old building was totally vandalised and torn down around 1998. Today the plot is full of old building material and other waste. *South African Breweries* is still the owner of the property. The nearest environment is poorly maintained. Apart from the rests of the building there are two shacks in the block in the western part.
THE NEW JUNCTION - DIAMOND SQUARE

Kimberley municipality has developed two proposals for the crossing where the *New John Daka Road* is connected with Royal Street. This road will lead to the new *legislature building*. My proposal is based on this change. I have chosen the alternative which creates a large open space, since Greater No 2 needs public open spaces. Today Royal Street runs all the way to Morgan Street further west without any interruptions. The street will be divided into two parts, separated by the new square, when the *New John Daka Road* is constructed. Royal Street will not work as the main street any more.

I have developed the municipality’s proposal by moving the street a few meters to the south. The six existing houses located in the square will after the construction of the road get more space. I have chosen to keep only three because the other buildings are small and in a bad condition. The remaining buildings will form a central part of the square.

Space is set aside for a bus and a taxi stop along the new street which connects Royal Street and *New John Daka Road* as people in Greater No 2 usually walk or go by taxis. It is also a good place for a stop at the entrance to Galeshewe, since all buses and cars have to pass this place on their way to or from the city. Taxis and buses will drive on Royal Street, because the street is proposed to become a street with businesses, which need to be reachable by people. The *New John Daka Road* is proposed to become a street with few stops.
Map 22. The New Junction - Diamond Square

- Parking
- Tourist information centre and souvenir and gift shop
- Tavern
- Trade
- Bantu Hall
- Entrance point
- Taxi/bus stop
- Coffee shop or post and bank service
- Bicycle stands
- Store room and/or magazine shop
- Bicycle lane
- Police station
ENTRANCE POINT

An entrance point with signs, maps, low lighting poles, flags and palm trees, is proposed since signs will make it easier for people to find their way and to orientate. Signs also can contribute to strengthen the sense of a place. The point is suggested to be located between *Chris Hani Park* and the gas station.

Map 23. The location of the entrance point.
94. Elevation HH; the eastern entrance to Galeshewe after proposed changes.
95. Present eastern entrance to Galeshewe

Fig. 94

Fig. 95
THE DIAMOND SQUARE

The new square (see Map 21 on page 76), which is created by the New John Daka Road can have a joining function for the different activities located around the entrance today, and become a meeting and waiting place, with seats and shade, a place for trading, semi formal businesses, a place where people can change from one mode of transportation to another and a starting/goal point for our proposed historical walk. Sale stalls, benches and low walls, tables, street lights and about one meter high lighting poles, bicycle stands and vegetation will furnish the square.

Walls can both be seen as seating and esthetical elements. Low walls are located around tree trunks and in s-shaped forms, partly they are for decoration. Some of the benches are suggested to be combined with tables, to encourage some kind of activity. To further remind of the history, tables are proposed to be constructed with sunken holes for the original African game Kalaha. It is told that the players from the beginning played with and about diamonds. Benches and tables can contribute to make a square, which probably primary would be used for movement and as a passage, due to the location along a bigger road, to also become and be used as a square of tranquillity.

A low wall is also placed along the New John Daka Road with only one opening, to prevent people from crossing the street. The wall is also there to separate the square from the sidewalk and the bicycle lane, which is located on the northern side of the New John Daka Road. The wall will minimise the risk of accidents between bicyclists and visitors in the square.

Centrally in the square I propose an area shaped like a diamond in different paving materials, for example concrete stones in light colour, bricks of sustainable glass or mosaic, to relate to the history. Diamond Square is my suggestion for a name of the square, since the whole existence of Greater No 2 depends on the diamond mining.

Elevation JJ, after changes

![Elevation JJ along New John Daka Road to the west. View towards the old police building before change. View towards the old police building after changes.](image-url)
The area around the entrance has potential to become a lively and important place, since there already are a lot of old buildings and architecturally interesting houses located there today. It is possible to strengthen the semi formal businesses along Royal Street and to continue the project with more permanent structures for the stalls, which will support the local traders.

The sale stalls are suggested to be located in the centre and in the eastern corner of the square. People can for example be able to rent these permanent stands to sell fruits, vegetables, bread etc. The stands will be complemented by the existing tavern, tuck shop and by three of the six existing houses, which will be located in the centre of the square after construction of the New John Daka Road.
As Kimberly Tourist Information Centre and the municipality propose I also suggest to locate a tourist information centre in Sobukwe’s old law-practice and to locate a coffee shop or a post and bank service in the building to the west. Sobukwe’s old law-practice can also become a starting/goal point for the proposed historical walk. The house could maybe also host a small souvenir and gift shop. The small building south of Sobukwe’s old law-practice can for example either be used as a store room by the traders or as a magazine shop.

PARKING

The square is recommended to be restricted from cars to make it a place for only people, with the exception of a car parking in the western corner of the square. Stall owners will be able to park there, when they want to deliver or take away groceries from their stands.