



Nthombizodwa Gcabashe

Working alongside other informal workers

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Informal work supported in a managed facility

eThekweni has a long history in responding progressively to informal work, although this has not been without struggle. Most well-known amongst the initiatives is the Warwick Triangle – a massive informal traders market that with consistent and enormous input, design and management by the City and by AeT has become flourishing centre of multiple specialist markets, each with dedicated facilities and all extremely well connected in this transport hub. Around the informal traders, reclaimers collect recyclables and in the afternoons an impromptu second hand goods market, operated by reclaimers who are selling usable items they have found, takes place along the roadside close to the bovine head cookers market at Warwick.

Collecting materials from informal workers

Nthombizodwa Gcabashe is peeling peas in the corner of a storeroom at Warwick Triangle – the now famous large multi-market space traders market. She is 82 and she's been collecting materials at Warwick since her early 60s. Now she says she can sit here and traders bring her used cardboard. It is piled high behind where she is sitting. She sells to one intermediary only. She knows he doesn't give her the best prices. But she remains loyal to him because she has a longstanding relationship with him, and he has often helped her when she's needed money for something. For most of her life Nthombizodwa worked in sugar cane fields, cutting and packing cane. She is small built and her body attests to decades of back bending labour. But she says she is strong. No man could fight her in her youth she says. And even now they dare not!

