



6 April 2024

Dear GPRRA member,

We are well into autumn yet Cape Town continues to welcome many visitors. Anticipating that a solution to traffic congestion will be found but meantime calming measures along High Level have had a positive effect on speeding. We can expect the same on Ocean View Drive once the speed radar measurement warning sign is in place.

Many thanks to those who have renewed their GPRRA membership (R250 per annum, per household). Your support is essential to keep on fighting the good fight. For those yet to renew, please visit our website <https://www.gprra.co.za/membership> or pay via GPRRA First National Bank | Cheque acct no: 62143274059 | Branch: 560|250655 (ensure name appears on EFT).

And please study this update on efforts by the GPRRA committee to safeguard your interests and rights as well as celebrating optimism. If you have not read Judith February's Newsletter in *Daily Maverick* (21 Mar), we urge you to do so:

***Pat on the back: Green Point park, Cape Town/ City of Cape Town***

*Built as a spin-off of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, this space remains one for Capetonians, especially children who revel in the green space, the furrows of water and the play areas dotted about.*

*It is clean, safe and well maintained and most importantly it is used by people from all walks of life and every corner of the city. With the mountain as a dramatic backdrop and the sea on the other side, it provides a glimpse of the kind of public open spaces we can develop and maintain. It also provides a glimpse of another kind of city; one where everyone belongs and can simply "be".*

*Well done to the City of Cape Town for maintaining it and also for the thoughtfulness which has gone into signs and information about our beautiful city and its biodiversity.*

*A stark contrast to many other cities where parks lie in ruin.*

We also celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Green Point Lighthouse. It was the first solid lighthouse structure on the South African coast and is the oldest operational lighthouse in the country. Designed by Herman Shutte, it took three years to build (1821-23) and was first lit on 12 April 1824. (It is often mistakenly referred to as the Mouille Point Lighthouse.)



*Green Point Lighthouse*

As the Strand Street Quarry is of concern to resident we share some positive developments. Councillor Francine Higham (Ward 77) motivated for very strong spotlights as well as new fencing and a secured gate. These measures will hopefully reduce security breaches. Law Enforcement continues to monitor the three existing structures and to prevent any new ones. It is anticipated that the demolition permit for the ablution facility will be issued soon. Other plans continue to be a work in progress and the Councillor will press for the site to be cleaned on a weekly basis. (GPRRA also organizes regular cleaning along Upper Strand Street with support from GPCID.)

### **Built Environment Committee (BEC)**

We continue to campaign for the nomination of the Green Point Common as a Provincial Heritage site. Liz Knight is pressing for a meeting with the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport. We are hopeful this can break the bottleneck.

Erf 2189, 8 & 2 Granger Bay Boulevard is the gravelled vacant lot between the stadium and Granger Bay Boulevard currently used for parking. CoCT has granted the developer a 99 year lease. The proposed new building will be the second largest structure in Green Point after the stadium. The overall height of the building will be quite a bit lower than the stadium.



*Erf 2189, 8 & 2 Granger Bay Boulevard*

The proposed development will consist of:

- 751 apartments
- 161 hotel rooms
- 106 parking bays
- Retail space

We understand that the apartments will be configured with private bedrooms and bathrooms. All other facilities will be communal.

Our primary concern is the impact the development will have on traffic in the area, particularly on event weekends. We are currently awaiting further information from CoCT on the scope of the Traffic Impact Assessment.

For over six years the GPRRA and concerned neighbours have been opposing a planned redevelopment of Erf 266, 4 Chepstow Road as a block of flats. Despite the fact that required revised plans for the redevelopment have not been submitted to CoCT, sale of the apartments has been actively promoted for the past 5 months. Below is an extract from the promotional material:



4 Chepstow: A harmonious blend of modern living and investment potential

<https://www.capetownetc.com/sponsored/4-chepstow-a-harmonious-blend-of-modern-living-and-investment-potential/>

## ***Stuart Burnett***

### **Events:**

Did you know that Green Point hosts in the region of 350 events every year? These range from small runs, charity events, soccer matches both minor and major, to huge international super stars performing at our stadium, films and commercials being shot here, the annual Cycle Tour, parties like MCQP, the Carnival, a number of food trucks, festivals and fund raisers and so much more.

Currently the Events Committee is made up of two core volunteer members, with the support of GPRRA management committee. Every single event application crosses our desks, and then we evaluate it in terms of how it will impact our community, from litter to noise pollution, crowd control, traffic congestion and water usage.

We won't bore you with the finer details, but on the whole we've been immensely proud of the work we've done, and the partnerships we've nurtured with event organisers, residents, the CoCT, and consulting sound engineers. Of course not every event goes perfectly, but we do our best to take note of less successful events so we can work harder on them the following year. This is why we encourage residents to log complaints with us, should an event impact on them negatively, so we know to address these issues going forward.



*Cycle Tour ....youngest rider with Dad on tandem.... time 3:04:58*

We've had great success in encouraging larger events and troublesome events to use the shared fields or the old athletics track. The Pride event was one example of this. Hiring of independent acoustic consultant to monitor amplified sound has been conditional. In most of these situations, the consultant has managed to turn some of our annual major events from being the most complained about, to some of our most successful. This has given us the confidence and impetus to carry on fighting the good fight, even though sometimes it feels futile, when we come up against bureaucracy or circumstances out of our control.





*Firemen and floats at Cape Town Carnival*

We have also fought hard to control starting and ending times of events, so that residents get to sleep in on weekends as often as possible, and so that events run no later than midnight.

Our aim is to continue to serve the community with another 350 fun, interesting, colourful and inclusive, well-planned events, that will contribute to society and impact our residents and nature as little as possible.

***Paige Nick with contributions from Steve Massey***

## **Human Environment Committee (HEC)**

### **Friends of Green Point Lanes (FoGPL):**

We urge you to visit Thornhill Park to see the transformation of the garden by the EPWP team. They were assigned by Peter Cookson, CoCT Social Development, based on GPRRA's support of his programs. The team has proved that gardening helps with mental wellness and self-esteem. By weeding, digging, planting, watering and seeing growth, they have developed pride and a vision for a fulfilled, independent life.

Cleaning our pedestrian routes is also included in their daily routine. (Please see our appeal below regarding bins and recycling.) Another challenge is to restore the gardens along these routes. Thanks to neighbours who are funding additional costs. We have also reached out to others, who live alongside, to water the gardens.



*Thornhill Park & GPRRA EPWP gardeners Gift Rikhoto, Ian van der Merwe, Jody Botha, Rene Collins & Craig Christophers*

We also acknowledge the residents of Merriman and Springbok roads who brave the summer heat and occasional puff adder to clean the slopes of Signal Hill. Credit also to San Parks and SRG for swift action on fires being lit.

Reminder to residents – get in touch to be part of ‘Hike the Lanes’, a ‘mini watch’ to get fit, to appreciate our environment and to engage with your neighbours



*Hike the Lanes - ‘mini watch’, fitness, friendship, feasts at Anahid Harrison*

**CoCT Social Development:**

Please take time to read Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis' words ...so relevant to Green Point ...about the CoCT's substantial investment in offering dignified and caring assistance to individuals unlawfully occupying public spaces:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2024-03-04-helping-the-homeless-insights-from-the-cape-town-experience>

The Western Cape High Court ruled in favour of evictions based on offers from Social Development of safe transitional shelter; personal development planning; IDs; referrals for mental health; substance abuse treatment (a key driver of why people end up on the streets); and reunification with families.

A crucial part of this program is to create employment opportunities! Despite national funding being cut by R540m over the next two years, CoCT is investing in crucial work creation:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5BnJptqIMy/?igsh=Nmlsa3FwenUxZ2Ft>



*Anelisa Makweta (GPCID), Peter Cookson (CoCT Social Development) & Councillor Nicola Jowell*

We are indebted to Peter Cookson and his team for late night interventions to engage and document homeless in our community. Big thanks to Councillor Nicola Jowell for her participation and for funding their overtime. And, in addition to having a positive presence on Somerset and Main roads, GPCID are also supportive. We appeal to all to support their efforts by following recommendations of responsible giving and to encourage acceptance of social assistance off the street before the winter. Particularly as the new 300-bed Safe Space is due to open in Green Point in the next two months.

#### **GPRRA SafeStreet Collective:**

With funds from CoCT's Public Employment Program (PEP), members of the Collective continue to develop a diverse set of skills. Appointments have been made for driving tests this month so we look forward to celebrating this achievement. Meantime they have certificates for Personal Survival Techniques at Maritime Safety Training, Red Security Gradings E, D & C, St Johns First Aid and from PPC Brick Making Workshop. All are listed in their CVs for work applications. Equally important to their development are computer literacy skills...thanks to Katherine Moon at Colin Eglin Library they are all making good progress. In return they have taken charge of the library garden. Other highlights in March include awards from Matrix for ongoing recovery relating to substance abuse.





*James Johnson and Lunga Keswa with awards from Matrix*



*James Johnson's precision parking*

In between training the team maintain a pristine environment on Main Road. They clocked up 266 hours in March for cleaning, gardening and collecting and documenting needles. To mark Human Rights Day, Green Point resident Michelle Perch donated a selection of books to the keen readers in the team. Thanks to Steve Massey of GPRRA Events and Gavin Lewis of Western Cape Rugby, tickets were donated for the Stormers matches at the Stadium. The total number of training hours in March was 430 hours. The longterm vision is for permanent employment.



*GPRRA SafeStreet Collective at Stormers matches*

## ***Liz Knight***

**Service Requests:** participate in the day-to-day management of our environment with service requests: [https://eservices1.capetown.gov.za/coct/wapl/zsreq\\_app/index.html](https://eservices1.capetown.gov.za/coct/wapl/zsreq_app/index.html) or 0860 103 089 or download the App on your phone [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thunkable.android.muldereugene.MyCapeTown&hl=en\\_ZA](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thunkable.android.muldereugene.MyCapeTown&hl=en_ZA)

**Report all crime:** Sea Point Police continue to urge the community to report all crime, no matter how small, as soon as possible, and give all relevant information. This is to ensure that the police are aware of all incidences for deployment purposes. By working together crime can be curbed.

**Organic and recycling waste:** appealing to residents, especially in blocks, to be diligent about reducing content in bins given that services are currently erratic. Recommend following steps: participate in the COCT's free recycling service (including bags); reduce organic waste by composting; waste less food. Together we can reduce waste going to landfill and protect our environment as well as the teams who are having to clean outside your front door. Contact Liz Knight to sign up for recycling [lzbknight@gmail.com](mailto:lzbknight@gmail.com)/0765972604

Yours sincerely,

***GPRRA Management Committee***