



Newsletter

January - August 2020

Management Committee (MC)

Since we were not able to hold our AGM in May and to reassure residents that the GPRRA committees have not been idle during lockdown, herewith an update on our 'virtual' activities.

Co-Chairperson Jenny McQueen has participated in numerous online meetings including the Ward Committee Forum for Ward 115. These are the type of issues Jenny has raised:

- Green Point Common - clarity on its nomination as a provincial heritage site. Given the scarcity of open space, it is an essential to protect this green area granted to all people of Cape Town for recreation.
- Africa Stone *Hope* by Wolfgang von Schwarzenfeld - through Jenny's persistence the sculpture might be installed in the Green Point Urban Park in the new year.



Africa Stone Hope by Wolfgang von Schwarzenfeld

- Strand Street Quarry – following vocal complaints about a criminal element impacting Green Point residents, Councillor Dave Bryant supported Councillor Brandon Golding (Ward 77) to conduct operations by SAPS, Metro Police, Law Enforcement, Traffic Services, GPCID and the Canine Unit. GPRRA continues to call for sustained interventions to clean and manage the area.
- Ward Allocation 2021/22 – from the R1 million operating fund for Subcouncil 16, GPRRA has motivated for support of four LPR (license plate recognition) cameras. Green Point being the gateway to the Atlantic Seaboard, such cameras would play a

vital role in securing entry and exit. Currently there is only one camera funded jointly by GPRRA (R5,000), GPNW (R5,000) and Ultra Liquors & Spar (R20,000).

- Preserving heritage – having lived in Green Point for 32 years, Jenny has an encyclopaedic knowledge of our built environment and is therefore a crucial role player in this endeavour as well as having the ability to raise funds from neighbours who are also intent on preservation through legal channels.
- Rate increases – we provided information and guidelines as to how to object however objections have to be done by residents including follow up. The same applies to the City increase of 4% as of 1 July 2020. Interest free relief payments can be arranged with CoCT for those severely impacted financially by COVID-19.

Safety & Security: initially came under GPRRA but since 2012 has been very well managed by Green Point Neighbourhood Watch (GPNW). We continue to have a close alliance. Members will recall our recommendation to join Buzzer, the new App introduced by GPNW. Community response coupled with very quick reactions from Avenue Response in the last month shows how very effective the App is in combatting crime. It is free to download but we recommend supporting the cost of licensing the App and the control room module by becoming a member of GPNW (R250 p.a.) and automatically join Buzzer <https://greenpointwatch.co.za/join-gpnw/>. The more members on the app, the greater the capability to respond.

Urban Management Plan: in response to community pressure Councillor Dave Bryant has liaised on a number of occasions with Law Enforcement and SAPS together with Street People Unit and Displaced Persons Unit to interact with homeless along Helen Suzman Boulevard and surrounding areas including Granger Bay Boulevard and Gallows Hill Traffic Department. Areas are cleaned and those who accept assistance are taken to shelters.

Extension of GPCID: proposed for Boundary to Varneys along Main Roads however in early 2020 CoCT was already dealing with some 118 properties in areas with rates. More have since been registered with the Debt Management Section of City's Revenue Department due to the economic fallout. The prolonged process of getting all blocks/businesses to accept additional top up charges is thus stalled until it is proven that 95% can support a CID. Any shortfall would put financial burden on the steering committee and the CoCT. A CID is a geographical area where ratepayers agree to pay a levy for supplementary services such as security, cleaning, social intervention, upgrading and improving public spaces. Thanks to Marc Truss of GPCID for continuing to assist with weekly cleaning initiatives by Straatwerk along Upper Strand Street to Ocean View Drive as well as the Fan Walk from the Traffic Department to the Stadium.

Green Point Stadium: when events do start again, the Events Committee will continue to discuss with CoCT issues relating to policing, management of noise, traffic, parking and waste. They will also request closer coordination of events and insist on accountability from event organizers who break the rules.

(Liz Knight)

Building Environment Committee (BEC):

Building work on development projects in Green Point came to a halt during the early lockdown period. It has now resumed on two significant developments on Main Road.

Construction of the eleven-storey apartment building at the bottom of Clyde Road is now complete. Their website shows that over 50% of the apartments have been sold. With the effective shut-down of the residential property market for most of this year, I find it hard to believe that these are 'real' sales.



169 Main Road, Green Point

The second development - of a hotel under construction at the bottom of St George's Road – is progressing. In January the BEC and immediate neighbours objected to their application to significantly increase the size of the previously approved hotel development. That application has yet to be heard by the Municipal Planning Tribunal.

The application for removal of existing Title Deed Restrictions to allow the development of a 51 apartment block in lower Braemar Estate will be heard by the Municipal Planning Tribunal on 1 September.

Since 2015 the BEC has been opposing an application for the removal of Title Deed Restrictions on 25 Ocean View Drive to allow for a multi-unit redevelopment. Having failed at every step, the BEC and neighbours in the Braemar Estate applied to the High Court to have the decision overturned. The City Planning Department have now indicated that they will not oppose our application. Whilst taking us towards a successful outcome, the absence of a High Court ruling will not give us a precedent to apply to similar future removal attempts.

The community's efforts to preserve the designated scenic route on Ocean View Drive continue to be thwarted by CoCT's Planning Department which is prepared to allow almost any departure from its own scenic drive by-law. There are currently five such departures we are attempting to challenge.

We have just received notification of an application to redevelop the Ultra Liquors/KwikSpar site: <http://www.tommybrummer.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Motivation-report.pdf>
The proposal is for a ten storey primarily residential development with 203 residential units and 356 parking bays. Primary vehicle access would be via Varneys Road.



Due to delays in the postal service we only received the notification one week before the closing date for comments of 2 September. We have requested an extension which has not yet been granted.

(Stuart Burnett)

Human Environment Committee (HEC)

2020 began optimistically with a meeting between Peter Cookson of CoCT's Street People Unit to engage with stakeholders in Green Point. (You will have received the minutes which still provide answers to many questions and hopefully the structures will all be in place when lockdowns are lifted:

<https://www.gprra.co.za/images/docs/Minutes%20of%20Meeting%20SDECD-Street%20People%20and%20GPRRA,%2011.1.2020.pdf>)

Six weeks later in line with Covid-19 National Disaster regulations for lockdown, all homeless were to be evacuated to a temporary shelter for their own preservation. A suitable location in the CBD was identified but regrettably only Paint City, Bellville (designated for refugees and undocumented foreigners) was included in the National Minister's written approval. Strandfontein Sports Complex was then urgently selected by CoCT as it had a perimeter fence and existing infrastructure with water and electricity. It was also big enough to accommodate 2000 homeless, including approximately 200 from Green Point, adequately separating those with special needs thus making the delivery of services more efficient. Also allowing Covid-19 positive cases to be isolated. Meals, ablution and shower facilities were provided. Neighbours responded very positively to requests from Peter Cookson for donations. Thanks to all those who generously gave clothes, shoes, toiletries, PPE, games, books and bedding.

After initial complexities with set up, the shelter became an 'efficient safe holding facility' with many being reintegrated with families. It had been conceived to run until October or November but closed on 22 May. Despite statements by Mayor Dan Plato that the 'site was set up under the instruction of the National Disaster Regulations' and requests to 'please stop politicizing a very serious situation', views and reasons for closure still remain polarized and too numerous to discuss here. You might wish to read these posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofCT/posts/2877112055659028>

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofCT/posts/2979252978778268>

Since then CoCT has increased its capacity with the Culemborg Expansion site (adjacent to the original Safe Space opened in July 2018). A third Safe Space also at Paint City, Belville was opened on 20 April. Collectively the three sites can accommodate some 700 however, in line with Covid-19 protocols, capacity is currently approximately 360. The ultimate aim is to keep reintegrating / reunifying people back with their communities and families which allows space for others coming off the street. The facilities continue to be refined and residents receive three meals a day and have access to health and substance abuse assistance; access to identity cards and grants; and employment opportunities under CoCT's EPWP (Expanded Public Works Programme). We remind readers that even though CoCT does not have a constitutional mandate over welfare or homelessness, it drives a range of initiatives to assist street people. It also supports the 15 shelters in and around Cape Town run by The Haven which have a capacity of 1280 beds and there are plans to expand.

Meantime we continue to support CoCT's recommendations to direct the homeless to Peter Cookson and his team. They cannot be moved against their will but accommodation will be found for those willing to accept intervention. As stated by Councillor Dave Bryant: 'Energy from the community needs to be directed to social development initiatives.' This is particularly crucial as following the pandemic, 'many more people are now out of work and the numbers of people forced to sleep rough and beg will only likely increase as desperation for income and sustenance grows'.

We are also guided by the 'Give Dignity Campaign' as outlined in CoCT's leaflet (see on this page). It's a collaborative way to persuade the vulnerable to seek assistance. Residents are encouraged to drop donations (clothes, blankets, tinned food and toiletries) in the blue GDC at the Sea Point Library and Never at Home for collection by the Street People Unit to give to those living at a shelter. Be part of the initiative to restore dignity to someone going for a job interview or being re integrated into their community.

We continue to pressure CoCT to allow the Street People Unit to work at weekends and evenings to support interventions by Law Enforcement and SAPS. And also to engage with those participating in 'feeding programmes'.

Donations: since March through efforts and connections (locally and abroad), GPRRA has channelled more than R200,000 to support feeding programmes run by Ladles of Love and RPJ Helping Hands. Both have done remarkable work sustaining shelters and communities in Green Point, the CBD and greater Cape Town. Thanks to many Green Point residents who

responded very generously. Your donations were supplemented by R91, 000 from American friend Mackin Pulsifer; Green Point resident Renee Scalabrino arranged for her cousin Marcus Salvemini (from California) to contribute R32,500; and Lisa and Tony Phillips of Newlands gave R10,000. R30,000 was raised through GoFundMe for masks made by Sojo. Thanks to Guido Dierschke of Café Extrablatt who was also 'giving back' by keeping his staff busy cooking meals for The Haven.



Meals and masks in Elsies River

Thanks also to residents for more clothes, shoes, toiletries etc and funds to support IDs so that residents of the shelters can find work opportunities. To date R20,300 has supported 145 new IDs. Two wheel chairs for elderly residents at Culumborg were arranged by Bev Gillespie (from Sister Margaret and Sister Gladys of Nazareth House) and Kara Levy funded a new one. One of the beneficiaries, David Farmer had been living on the street in Camps Bay for 15 years until Theresa Massaglia and Alan Marsh of Community who Cares persuaded him to go to Safe Space. He has since returned to his family. GPNW Exco member Yvonne Shaff rallied neighbours to fund (R3800) a blanket drive for residents of the Safe Space.



& Yvonne Shaff

Peter Cookson, Dave Bryant

We arrange for Gerald Petersen (trainer from Virgin Active) to do four exercise sessions a week at The Haven (Napier Street and District 6) motivating and keeping residents healthy. If anyone would like to support this initiative going forward, please enquire.



Gerald Petersen sessions at The Haven

Going forward: surveys show that a crises has been reached with 50% of South Africans experiencing hunger. Guided by the field workers we elect to support vulnerable communities in Elsies River, Atlantis, Athlone and Steenberg. Pat Pillay-Louw (RPJ Helping Hands) also plays a crucial role in selecting areas where there are no other feeding schemes. It is good news that CoCT has established the Covid-19 Humanitarian Food Relief Programme. GPRRA is encouraging the NPOs it supports to apply but civic involvement is still crucial. We ask that you make donations to the NPOs below who will continue to serve these communities for many more months. In addition to the feeding programmes we are now focusing on assisting with vegetable gardens and sporting activities such as soccer and netball. The goal is to prevent migration away from their homes and communities to seek 'income and sustenance' on our streets.

RPJ Helping Hands (NPC 2017-203370-08) (run by Pat Pillay-Louw)
Standard Bank Acct no 252094972 Cheque Account Branch 7829
<https://www.paypal.me/RPJHelpingHands>

Soffiyah Feeding Scheme (NPO 178-890) (run by Zainuniessa Waggie)
Capitec Acct no 1525258514 Branch 470010

Saam Werk (NPO 188-346) (run by Constance Marcus and Keenan Johnston)
ABSA Acct no 4096635637 Cheque Account Branch 632005 E-Wallet 078 340 2275

Vegetable gardens: the first one has been started by Pastor Brian Sives of Calvary Baptist Church in Elsie's River. Trevor and Katrien Laughton and Jean-Michel Victor of Laughtons very generously donated fertilizer and seedlings. Starke Ayres gave 80 packets of seeds. Pastor Brian has appointed members of his congregation to manage the project (many of them gang members who he counsels and who protect the church). In addition to being a sustainable food security initiative, we believe growing and harvesting vegetables is also a therapeutic tool and an effective intervention in community mobilization.



Pastor Brian Sives, Calvary Baptist Church and Jean-Michel Victor, Laughtons & Vegetable garden in Elsie's River

Friends of Green Point Lanes (FoGPL): September marks the second anniversary of the formation of FoGPL. The images (particularly 'before and after') are testament to the time and funds invested in upgrading these historic features in accordance with the CoCT's spatial planning position. They serve as crucial pedestrian routes to those who live and work in the neighbourhood as well as for tourists. CoCT will hopefully continue to upgrade the surfaces. Gilbert Gwayi cleans and manages the gardens twice a week. If you would like to support this initiative, please make contact as below. We are anticipating that a team from CoCT's EPWP will once again be assigned to work in the gardens next month. This programme is a very effective way of ensuring the personal development of those in the Safe Space and also contributes to a more pristine Green Point. We have launched 'Hike the Lanes' with Gerald Petersen two to three times a week. Sign up for R100-150 depending on size of group. Message or email Liz 0765972640 or lzbknight@gmail.com. Or do a virtual tour <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfGreenPointLanes/>



Before and after – Joubert-High Level



Springbok-Ocean View Drive



Merriman-Ocean View Drive

Substance and alcohol abuse: to stop the spread of infectious diseases amongst those who use drugs, Step Up Project of the NPO TB/HIV provides a package of wellness services that includes sterile injecting equipment (with containers to discard safely or returnthis obviously does not always happen), opioid substitution therapy, HIV testing and screening, and psychosocial services. A recent approach is to encourage a reduction in use instead of demanding abstinence. They have a drop-in centre on Adderley Street.

The City has some seven Matrix clinics which offer, free of charge, treatment interventions to minimise dependency on substances and alcohol. The program follows the WHO which defines substance abuse dependency as 'a health issue and placing treatment in health is progressive'.

Public Ablutions: facilities along Atlantic Seaboard are open from 8am to 6pm (winter times):

Mouille Point Light House

Three Anchor Bay (opposite Shell garage)

Rocklands Beach

Milton Beach Point

Prestwich Memorial at St Andrew's Square

(They will not be open 24 hours as need to be managed especially to follow Covid-19 hygiene protocols).

Recycling: research by CoCT reminds us how crucial it is to manage litter, particularly residents in apartment blocks as well as d AirBnBs. Their study 'demonstrates the litter that is dropped on land, ends up in our ocean. Thus, if you throw your cigarette butt in the street and a chocolate wrapper out of the car window instead of in the bin, it is likely to end up in a stormwater pipe and eventually drain into the ocean. The pollution of our natural environment is everybody's business, and we all need to do our part to protect our rivers, canals, wetlands, and ocean'.

WastePlan continue to collect over the holidays. They take paper, glass, plastic, cartons, tin, steel and aluminium cans, foam products, juice pouches and food packets. Bottles and containers should be rinsed in grey water. The CoCT also clears black bins over the holidays. Recycling bags and black bins to be put out on morning of collection, rather than overnight. (Please accept that some of these services might be delayed due to illness amongst the teams during Covid-19.)

For household and electronic waste, call/email Andy Conder of Clearer Conscience - 082 339 9838 or andy@clearer.co.za

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

or 0860 103 089 or download the App on your phone -

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinkable.android.muldereugene.MyCapeTown&hl=en_ZA

Report all crime: Sea Point Police are urging 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.

(Liz Knight)

GPRRA MEMBERSHIP:

Please renew your GPRRA membership or join us by completing the form: <https://www.gprra.co.za/membership.html>

Membership is only R200 per annum per household

We need your support to keep on fighting the good fight

Payment to:

GPRRA

First National Bank

Account: 621 432 740 59

Branch Code: 201 809 (Sea Point)

Please ensure that your name appears on the EFT.

(If you deposit a cheque [no cash please], please send proof of payment by email to membership@gprra.co.za or by mail to GPRRA, PO Box 711, Sea Point, Cape Town 8060)

GPRRA COMMITTEE:

Having read the extent and breadth of our work, please consider putting your name forward to join one of our committees. Email Jenny McQueen (jenny@mcqueen.co.za)

Newsletter compiled by Stuart Burnett and Liz Knight