



Newsletter

December 2019

In addition to giving you an update on recent activities of and achievements by the committees of the Green Point Ratepayers' & Residents' Association (GPRRA), we wish to send all Green Point residents our good wishes for the holiday season as well as for a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Management Committee (MC)

The frequent press coverage (see links below) is evidence of the tireless work done for the community by a small group of volunteers on the MC and sub committees. Co-Chairperson Jenny McQueen continues to wield influence on the political sphere by attending the City of Cape Town (CoCT)'s Ward Committee Forum for Ward 115. Since early 2016 Jenny has been agitating for clarity on the nomination of Green Point Common as a provincial heritage site. This is an essential move to protect a green area granted to all the people of Cape Town for recreation, especially given scarcity of open space. A presentation was given to Sub Council on 21 October. Councillor Dave Bryant has assured us that he will continue to pressure for a successful conclusion. <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/proposal-submitted-for-green-point-common-to-be-declared-a-heritage-site-36749083>
<https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/residents-demand-green-point-common-become-a-heritage-site-23397490>

Constant nudging by Jenny regarding the installation in the Green Point Urban Park of Wolfgang von Schwarzenfeld's Africa Stone titled 'Hope' has finally been signed off by the CoCT but we are still awaiting the date. <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/new-home-for-global-stone-20191111> Equally important has been the urging for a proper decision-making process regarding appeals relating to the protection of our built environment. As well as access to functioning building inspectors.

Although security and policing does not fall under GPRRA, we have a close alignment with the Green Point Neighbourhood Watch and Jenny keeps abreast of the challenges faced by attending the monthly Community Policing Forum (CPF). GPRRA also made a substantial contribution to a license plate recognition camera to be placed in Green Point. We also motivated the Green Point community to fund the

repair of a broken window at SAPS, pending the eventual renovation of the building by the State.

At the Sub Council 16 meeting on 21 October Councillor Bryant submitted a motion requesting an urgent interim urban management plan to deal with environmental and social challenges along Helen Suzman Boulevard as well as the surrounding area. His discussions with officials resulted in a series of cleansing as well as repair and graffiti operations. He acknowledges that a sustainable strategy needs to be put in place going forward. <https://www.atlanticsun.co.za/news/boulevard-plan-needed-36377646>



Proposed map for GPCID extension

There have been some positive developments with the planned extension of the GPCID along Main Road from Highfield Road (De Waterkant) to Varneys Road. The new map, which includes both sides of Main Road and the Circle, proposed by Marc Truss, CEO of GPCID, at the GPCID AGM on 5 December was accepted. CoCT is now making sure all those within the block are current with their rates. Marc will prepare a budget and a competent steering committee, comprising four property owners in the area, will run with the prolonged process of getting all the blocks and businesses to accept the top up of levies for the supplementary services such as security, cleansing, social intervention, upgrading and improving public spaces. We understand that part of the plan is to include public lavatories under the Circle. Scheduled date to come into effect is July 2021. Meantime thanks to Marc who sponsors cleaning by Straatwerk along Upper Strand Street and also the Fan Walk.

(Liz Knight)

Built Environment Committee (BEC)

Demand for residential property on the Atlantic Seaboard continues to fall. There is now some evidence that this is adversely impacting some proposed new developments in Green Point. There is also increasing evidence that developers are moving unsold inventory onto the long and short term rental markets.

GPRRA recently lodged a detailed objection to the proposed removal of existing Title Deed Restrictions to allow the development of a 51 apartment block in lower Braemar Estate. Demolition permits have already been issued by Heritage Western Cape for the three existing graded dwellings.

After a well co-ordinated campaign by the immediate neighbours, an application for a five-storey block of flats on a very small site at the Three Anchor Bay end of High Level Road was refused by the Municipal Planning Tribunal.

<https://www.atlanticsun.co.za/news/tribunal-rejects-flats-plan-35096064>

In the new year we will be opposing an application to significantly increase the size of the hotel already under construction at the bottom of St George's Road. Despite objections, there were significant zoning departures approved for the existing construction. The developer is now seeking a 'second bite at the cherry.'

Despite being located in a Heritage Protection Overlay Zone, Nedbank was given permission in 2017 for the construction of an eleven-storey apartment building at the bottom of Clyde Road. It is now nearing completion. There were also numerous objections at the time by the owners of a collection of graded dwellings immediately adjacent to the site, but no consideration was given to the potential adverse impact on these adjacent dwellings as a result of sinking new foundations right on the boundary. All these graded dwellings are now suffering structural damage.

The community's efforts to preserve the designated scenic route on Ocean View Drive are being thwarted by CoCT's Planning Department which blithely ignores its own scenic drive by-law. This is despite a recent court case the CoCT lost on a similar issue.

(Stuart Burnett)

Events Committee

2019 has been a very eventful year in Green Point. As the preferred venue for every type of event, more and more applications flow in daily. Thanks to Paige Nick for sifting through and responding to the hundreds we receive annually and to Karen Fletcher for attending the Urban Park Forum meetings.

Brenda King, who very effectively headed up the Events committee, leaves Green Point for a new home in Mowbray. We wish her all the best in her new district and have no doubt she will be as involved there as she was here.

Since our last newsletter there have been numerous big walks, running races, festivals and sports events. The majority of them were well organised and supported by the GPRRA and Mouille Point Ratepayers Association (MPRA). There has been a much improved working relationship between the CoCT events department, the Stadium precinct management, the event organisers and ourselves. The recent Tequila and Beer Festivals went off smoothly, as the stage and speakers faced the stadium, as agreed upfront with the CoCT and event organisers. The same goes for the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon and the Gun Run. A special relationship has evolved with the CoCT's Sigmund Badenhorst, who attends all the major events and ensures that the sound levels are set correctly. He was recently instrumental in assisting us to shut down the Grand White Picnic event at the Salesian Football Club. They were refused permission because they had not followed the CoCT's guidelines and did not have approval from GPRRA nor MPRA. Regardless, they still tried to set up the event and SAPS were sent to shut them down.

At a recent meeting with the GPRRA, MPRA, Councillor Bryant and all the key role players involved in the Stadium, surrounding areas and CoCT's Events Department, the following areas of concern were raised: noise management, traffic management, event co-ordination, parking management and waste management. A further meeting will be held in the new year to discuss these issues, solutions and the added pressure that Western Province Rugby will bring with their move to the stadium. <https://www.atlanticsun.co.za/news/rugbys-new-home-36810858>

(Steve Massey)

Human Environment Committee (HEC)

Friends of Green Point Lanes (FoGPL):

On 24 September we celebrated the second anniversary of our greening some 25 lanes and parks. The lanes are a crucial aspect of CoCT's spatial planning evidenced by positioning of bus stops. We had good coverage in the press:

<https://www.atlanticsun.co.za/news/residents-spruce-up-green-point-lanes-34454643> and <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/keeping-the-lanes-clean-and-green-20190930>

We are indebted to neighbours who participated in and/or funded this project as well as donating plants. With additional funding from American donors we employed a gardener to complete our goal before the summer. Most recently Peter Cookson of CoCT's Street People Unit/Social Development and Early Childhood Development Department (SDECD) assigned six workers through CoCT's Expanded Public Works Programme to clear litter, weed and add plants. Most of our pavements have also been weeded by them. We look forward to working with the team again after the holidays. Photographs below show how much we have to celebrate - evidence of 'mission accomplished'.

Ocean View Drive-Carreg Crescent in Sep 2017 (left) and Sep 2019 (right)



Thornhill-High Level (left) and Joubert-High Level (right)



Thornhill Parkand a reminder to visitors to 'pick up'!

World Homeless Wellness Day:

GPRRA and other associations along the Atlantic Seaboard, City Bowl and Northern Suburbs partnered with CoCT's Street People Unit/SDECD to host this event on 7 October in Milnerton. It was to celebrate the transformation and rehabilitation of some 150 clients from various shelters, the Culemborg Safe Space and homeless communities.

Danny Diliberto of Ladles of Love prepared breakfast followed by many presentations by officials. Nine clients were awarded certificates for basic IT training from CoCT's IS&T department. It was an opportunity to learn about CoCT's substance abuse programme and that additional Matrix clinics will open across the city. Issues around gender based violence were also raised. On offer were games, a book store, pop-up shops for clothes and hair/beauty, yoga, health screening, CV writing and entertainment. The highlight of the day had to be rides there and back for clients from the Safe Space on the Red Open Bus. <https://youtu.be/zVR6qwgS8k0> Special thanks to all Green Point residents who responded to requests for donations – we filled 110 toiletry packs and your clothes and shoes were snapped up. The success of this collaboration between SDECD and the donors and stakeholders means we will do it again next year.

Working with dynamic volunteers from other neighbourhoods gives renewed hope that we can make changes. As part of the newly formed group 'Community who Cares', we will continue to find solutions together and assist with creating awareness of responsible giving through CoCT's new giving dignity campaign.

Social and Field workers/Safe Space at Culemborg:

We are constantly reminded by Councillor Bryant of the need to be sensitive to the plight of homeless; people cannot be moved against their will and the intervention operations do not solve all the challenges. The recommendations by CoCT's SDECD are to support organizations that aim to assist the homeless 'off the street and into places of care where they can receive the requisite support' (see below). We are currently working closely with Peter Cookson, Fiona Bosch and Ronelle Erickson of Street People Unit/SDECD to engage with some of the homeless in our area.

Neighbours have been very supportive of appeals by GPRRA to fund some 95 IDs in the past year for residents of the Safe Space. Too numerous to name here but we are much indebted to all donors. The IDs have been processed rapidly by the team at the Safe Space and you will have received acknowledgement. An ID goes a long way in supporting transformation as it means the residents can find employment and be reunited with their families or find alternative suitable accommodation. Importantly this allows for space for more to be housed at the Safe Space.

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/ids-to-assist-the-homeless-20190617>



Social/Field Workers from CoCT's Street People Unit/SDECD with team of gardeners from EPWP

Ladles of Love:

Following Danny Diliberto's involvement with World Homeless Wellness Day, he launched his soup kitchen (every Wednesday) at the Safe Space. GPRRA assists and he has generously agreed to supply food for the carols by candlelight event at the Safe Space on 23 December. We are looking for volunteers to assist with serving the meal...please call or message Liz 0765972640.

To support Ladles of Love, please consider donating - each meal costs R10 and there are other ways to support – see www.ladlesoflove.org.za

Pinocchio Creche:

Residents will recall our successful spring planting of the creche's vegetable garden and the generous support given by Laughtons. After filling three freezers with vegetables so crucial for the children's daily meal, they had a surplus which was sold to residents and at the Oranjezicht City Farm Market to help fund next year's planting.

The creche celebrated their annual graduation ceremony at Sea Point High School on 16 November. The programme included a concert by the graduates and there were eleven violinists performing this year. All 34 graduates have been placed in schools in the area.

Pinocchio's contribution to the community and its social importance is crucial. Listen to the interview with Principal Helen Shongwe Phillips on Smile 90.4FM
<https://echocast.fabrik.fm/J0KqW2KRzxQYXy>



Pinocchio gardeners



Pinocchio graduation ceremony

If you are concerned about homelessness, creating employment and about education, please consider making tax-deductible donations to the following:

Straatwerk (NPO-003-276):

Their rehabilitation program helps destitute persons earn cash by means of work in supervised teams. Applicants are coached in basic principles and ethics of hard work as a source of income. As Hannes van der Merwe says: 'In helping them, we are helping our community'. He asks that you direct any needy person to them and also consider supporting a week's rewards R420 for beginners or R595 for second tier or R630 for Foremen or R875 for Supervisors. They also have similar half sessions for handicapped persons, no matter the level of handicap. Contact Hannes van der Merwe: 021 425 0140, 0726074508, hannes@straatwerk.org.za
ABSA, Branch code 632005, Straatwerk NG Kerk, Account number 9150624420

The Homestead (Projects for Street Children) (NPO 003 217):

With support from many communities, Paul Hooper and his team were able to buy clothes, arrange for some children to visit families over the holidays and to provide food parcels for the most needy families.

They are now gathering gifts for the 40 children who will be in their care over Christmas. Fun and interactive toys for boys of 8 to 17 years such as dominoes, marbles, spinning tops and soccer balls as well as underwear and socks are on their 'wish list'.

And immediately after the holiday season they have to prepare for 'back to school' so calling for second-hand school uniforms in usable condition for boys (grey pants, white shirts and shoes) as well as satchels and stationery. Also with the constant influx of boys and girls into their care they need casual clothes (jeans, t-shirts, sneakers and shoes). Consider this an opportunity to spring clean and to give generously. Contact Paul Hooper 0838542710, 021 4199763, director@homestead.org.za

The Haven (NPO 002 831):

The Haven is committed to reintegrating the homeless with their families and communities. Please refer the homeless to the shelter at 2 Napier Street. At their temporary home for three months they have access to counselling, medical care as well as shelter and three meals a day. Residents participate in the daily management of The Haven and they are guided on seeking employment. Consider volunteering at the shelter or funding reintegration costs including learning new skills and preparing for employment. Contact Hassan Khan 021 425 4700, hassan@haven.org.za
Standard Bank, Branch code 020909, The Haven Night Shelter Napier Street, cheque account 071061118

Recycling:

In September GPRRA successfully negotiated with CoCT that WastePlan, the new service provider for recycling, follows the previous schedule for collection in Green Point and Three Anchor Bay.....as opposed to wet/black bin schedule. Residents are reminded to comply with WastePlan's request for bags to be put out between 7-7.30am (not the night before) so they can be effective in timely collection.

REMINDER: particularly for apartment blocks and AirBnB guests - WastePlan continue to collect over the holidays (25 and 26 December and 1 January). 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.

For electronic waste, rather than in your bin or in recycling, call/email Andy Conder, Clearer Conscience, 082 339 9838, andy@clearer.co.za

Composting:

GPRRA has done some research on this option given diminishing landfill space. The only way to conserve remaining spaces is by reducing, reusing and recycling. And

most importantly organic waste must preferably be composted. A recent audit by CSIR showed that almost 40% of all waste in our landfills is organic. Researchers also claim organic waste produces methane that is more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide. Since 2016 the CoCT has issued more than 20,000 free home composting containers. More will be distributed in 2020 but no decision has been made yet to which suburbs. The public will be advised through radio, community newspapers and leaflets. But, if you have a garden or even boxes growing flowers or vegetables, invest in one soon to generate nutrient-rich compost instead of throwing away your organic waste.

For those concerned about the fate of their coffee pods...approximately 59 billion were produced in 2018 (95% are plastic and aluminium) so think about the number going into landfill....some 56 billion a year globally! There is a more environmentally friendly solution so forgive this advertisement..... @4WKS_pods. These pods are home-compostable as they are made from sugarcane waste. They are also designed to fit a Nespresso machine. Once they start breaking down, in two months they are gone. <https://www.facebook.com/4WKSPDS>

GPRRA apologizes for another 'promo' but we very much support Tea in the Park, an environmentally sustainable tea bar in our award winning Green Point Urban Park, and encourage you to also.

Save water:

As of 28 October dams were almost 83% full and additional rains expected through summer but consumers are back to old ways so its time again to correct our bad habits:

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/cape-towns-daily-water-consumption-exceeds-daily-target-20191021>

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 call 0860 103 089

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)

Newsletter compiled by Stuart Burnett, Steve Massey and Liz Knight

GPRRA MEMBERSHIP:

Please use this opportunity to renew your GPRRA membership or to join us in our journey of neighbourhood upliftment. Annual membership is only R200 per annum per household. The easiest way to join is to fill in the form:

<https://www.gprra.co.za/membership.html>

Whether you have one minute a month to offer, or one hour, or more, we need all the support we can get to keep on fighting the good fight.

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)