



19 May 2021

Dear GPRRA member,

Appropriately we update you on our activities as today traditionally marks our 'live' AGM. The summaries below give an insight into how active, productive and effective we as volunteers have been. We encourage you to continue to interact with us so as to be part of the solutions to the many challenges we face and we especially urge you to renew your membership (see instructions below) and invoice attached.

Management Committee: We continue our endeavours to fiercely safeguard the rights of the ratepayers, to ensure the unique social and physical characteristics of our village in the face of a changing city, to increase understanding of civic issues and to interact with all levels of City of Cape Town (CoCT) Council.

Built Environment Committee (BEC): The committee has made progress with securing 'stop work orders' issued on various unauthorized construction work in the neighbourhood.

- Construction of the eleven-storey, 50 apartment building corner Clyde and Main (169) road was completed in mid 2020. The excavation required for basement parking to be no more than 2m from the boundary. Although soil nails were positioned to protect homes alongside, the movement of the ground caused major structural damage to surrounding heritage graded properties, to the extent that it is questionable whether restoration of two properties is feasible. Too late to protect these houses but if a similar application is made in the future we will certainly remind Heritage Western Cape of their failures.
- The Vib Hotel at the end of St George's Road is now open. An application to significantly increase the size of this previously approved hotel development was withdrawn. However, concerns raised by neighbours about anticipated noise levels from the rooftop entertainment area, disregarded by the Municipal Planning Tribunal, are proving to have been well founded.
- The application for removal of existing Title Deed Restrictions to allow the development of a 51 apartment block in the lower Braemar Estate (4, 6 & 8 Braemar Road) was approved by the Municipal Planning Tribunal, with some minor amendments, last September. Appeals have been lodged but have yet to be heard.
- The community continues its efforts to preserve the designated Scenic Route on Ocean View Drive, despite being thwarted on various occasions by CoCT Planning Department. For example, an application for rooftop base telecommunications stations at 38Y Ocean View Drive was received by the BEC and neighbours three months ago. However, six white cylindrical domes, rising above the permitted height on the Scenic Drive, have been in place for well over a year.

Furthermore, from discussions with concerned neighbours, it appears that the base stations were installed and have been operational in a densely residential area for at least nine months without authorisation or consideration of health and safety issues. A lack of action by CoCT Planning Department indicates that they have not acted on the numerous complaints lodged by affected neighbours who have reported this to the Building Inspector over the past year or more.

Stuart Burnett

Events Committee:

- Due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions, there have been almost no events in the last six months. Soccer and WP Rugby games continue at the stadium without spectators. CoCT is planning a full WP Rugby launch for November, Covid 19 regulations permitting.
- We, and Mouille Point Ratepayers, continue to pressure the CoCT's Events Department to hold a follow-up meeting regarding the proposed Events Overlay that would limit the amount and size of events in the Stadium and surrounding precinct, as well as regulate noise, sanitation, traffic, parking and crime. We wait for feedback on this matter from Councilor Ian McMahon and Alderman JP Smith.
- We are also closely monitoring CoCT's approval process for a planned Formula E event at the end of this or early next year. We have indicated that, regardless of the possible income for the city and possible job creation opportunities, we will oppose the event if there is not transparent Public Participation in the approval process. We successfully prevented approval of Formula 1 racing in the same area, a few years ago.
- The Lions Rugby Tour and Rugby 10's event, which are due to take place in June/July, will more than likely exclude spectators due to Covid 19 regulations. We will monitor any applications for these events to ensure that reasonable steps are put in place to minimize noise, traffic and sanitation issues, should spectators be allowed to attend.
- We received numerous complaints recently regarding the generator noise from ships in the harbour area. Councillor Ian McMahon connected us with the department at CoCT that deals with noise pollution, who in turn made contact with the V&A and the Table Bay Harbour Master. The noise appears to have dissipated to a level that does not interrupt one's sleep in the middle of the night.
- The Cape Town Cycle Tour is planned to take place on 10 October. Once again, this is dependent on Covid 19 regulations.

Steve Massey

Human Environment Committee (HEC):

- There is progress with GPCID extension along Main Road with financial requirements now in place and productive meetings between the Steering Committee and CoCT officials. Meantime, solutions for parking attendants along Main Road are under discussion with Peter Cookson

(Social Development/Street Peoples Unit) to unite them in an orderly group employed under CoCT's EPWP (Expanded Public Works Program). We will be reaching out to businesses and community for support.

- We are indebted to Marc Truss of GPCID for cleaning Upper Strand Street. It's a costly exercise. Consider following example of generous neighbour's donation (R8000) by making a tax-deductible contribution to cleaning teams funded solely by GPCID. Create employment: Straatwerk (NPO-003-276) ABSA Acct name Straatwerk NG Kerk Acct no 9150624420 Branch 632005 Reference: 'clean Upper Strand'. Email proof of payment to: hannes@straatwerk.org.za
Illegal dumping costs CoCT over R100m pa (report on 0800 65 64 63). Along with Councillor Ian McMahon, we have motivated for Solid Waste to include on their schedule cleaning of Main/Helen Suzman and Circle.
- Research by CoCT reminds us how crucial it is to protect beaches, coastal water and sealife, for example Three Anchor Bay. The pollution of our natural environment is everybody's business, together we can protect it. With winter approaching, Friends of Green Point Lanes introduced a campaign to encourage residents to clear gutters to prevent flooding as well as litter going into stormwater drains. Reminder to recycle; compost; waste less food. CoCT is also urging residents to establish from plumbers if their stormwater connections are compliant ie no illegal stormwater-to-sewer cross-over to prevent pollution on our beaches and in coastal waters.
- CoCT also encourages residents to trim their tree branches and vegetation, particularly if growing near or alongside power lines, ahead of the winter season. Fallen trees or branches damage electrical infrastructure causing prolonged power outage.
- Alderman Matthew Kempthorne and Councillors Ian McMahon and Nicola Jowell introduced the Social Development Forum in February to exchange and explore ideas and ways to reach a consensus on issues relating to street people. Unemployment, gang involvement, gender based violence and substance abuse are some of the reasons for migration to the street. Issues such as mental health and availability of drugs were raised as well as the need for uniting our community to support Peter Cookson and his field workers in their efforts to persuade the growing homeless community to seek assistance. Attention was drawn to CoCT's transformation programs as well as the 'responsible giving' campaign. Currently Law Enforcement is limited in its enforcement of some by-laws due to Covid-19 regulations so we are seeing many more structures in our neighbourhood. At the second meeting, a presentation by Janice King, Western Cape Street Children's Forum, dealt with an equally challenging topic and revealed how a network of organizations are partnering to find solutions for those living, working and begging on the street.
- Last week Mayor Dan Plato and Councillor Zahid Badroodien (Community Services and Health) were with Peter Cookson and his team visiting various hotspots in the city. They will soon have a presence in Green Point from Ebenezer to Three Anchor Bay. The Mayor was impressed by the work of the field workers in their conduct, their sensitivity to homelessness and insight into the lives and personal circumstances of each client. Social Development's winter program of expanding shelter beds (including accommodation for couples) will begin and CoCT will continue to counter the narrative that there is no shelter space.
- Thanks to neighbours who have generously supported transport for those who wish to be reunited with their families and also the ID program. Peter Cookson has connected most

recently with families in Tzaneen, Pretoria, Hermanus, Pietermaritzburg and East London to ensure successful reunification. Some 200 residents of the Safe Spaces have been employed by EPWP with their new IDs.

- Active citizenry has seen continued transformation of our lanes and parks, many of which were considered unsafe and derelict. Friends of Green Point Lanes works alongside the EPWP team, assigned by Peter Cookson, to clean and garden. Our regular hiking groups have been the eyes and ears of our open spaces. We believe both have reversed the 'broken windows theory' by preventing deterioration and 'misdemeanours'. We continue to work with CoCT's Road Infrastructure to upgrade the surfaces of the lanes.
- Equally crucial is our focus on sporting activities and games such as chess as well as community kitchens in vulnerable areas to try to prevent migration away from their homes to seek 'income and sustenance' on our streets and to also inspire the youth to excel at sport rather than be attracted by gang activity. Thanks to Green Point residents for generous funding. We also encourage continued tax-deductible donations to Pat Pillay-Louw's RPJ Helping Hands to support community kitchens in Atlantis and Elsies River as well as in Roeland Street: RPJ Helping Hands (NPC 2017-203370-08) Standard Bank Acct no 252094972 Cheque Acct Branch 7829
- Another of our heroes is Helen Shongwe-Phillips of Pinocchio Creche who is applying for a long lease which we fully support as it is pivotal to her growth and development program. Since 1984 the crèche has been critical in the lives of parents who are vital employees of the business, hospitality and other sectors in Green Point and neighbouring areas. It ensures their children receive a quality education in a safe environment close to their work. The spirit of competition fostered at an early age is evident in all the graduates being accepted at schools in and around Cape Town. Pinocchio Creche is one of our most valuable assets.
- Our beloved The Park Café in the Urban Park reopened on 1 March with a new delicious menu.
- A new lease has been granted for the Tennis Development Centre on Bill Peters Drive, Three Anchor Bay with plans for a multi-sport complex including a tennis academy for rising stars. The premises includes a restaurant
- Find 'Give Dignity Bins' at Never@Home on main and Virgin Active to donate clothes and shoes for the homeless.

Liz Knight

GPRRA MEMBERSHIP (R200 per annum per household): fees are due for Jun 2021-May 2022.

We appreciate your support so essential to keep on fighting the good fight. Encourage your neighbours to sign up : <https://www.gprra.co.za/membership.html>

Payment to:

GPRRA

First National Bank

Acct no: 621 432 740 59

Branch: 201 809 (Sea Point)

Please ensure that your name appears on the EFT

Bin clearance and recycling: challenges were and continue with Covid 19 affecting all CoCT departments. However, our bins have been cleared promptly in the past month. WastePlan rose from the ashes after a devastating strike with their reliable service. They take paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, cartons, tin, steel and aluminium cans, foam products, juice pouches, food packets as well as E-waste. Rinse bottles and containers in grey water. Free bags provided. (Buy own bags for garden refuse and wet litter.) Both CoCT and WastePlan continue services over all holidays. Recycling bags and black bins to be put out on morning of collection, not overnight.

For household and electric 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.thunkable.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.

Yours sincerely,

GPRRA Management Committee