



8 June 2022

Dear GPRRA member,

Almost certainly your activities have, as with our GPRRA committee members, intensified over the past few months. We hope in a positive direction. Despite ongoing challenges, we think Green Point residents have much to celebrate. The summaries below shine a light on this and also remind you of the effectiveness of the ten volunteers who selflessly devote time to promote, enforce and safeguard your interests and rights. We encourage you to continue to interact with us so as to be part of the solutions to the challenges we face.

And we ask you to save the date for our AGM scheduled for 20 July (6.30-8pm) at Hamilton Rugby Club. Adequate parking for all to attend and it will also be a crucial catch up with you in person after two years 'lockdown'. We have ambitious plans to celebrate our 15th anniversary (details to follow). We will miss the presence of founding member Jenny McQueen. Jenny has 'retired' but continues to share her knowledge 'online' with the Built Environment Committee, particularly relating to the preservation of the Braemar Estate. At her farewell Jenny said 'working with the GPRRA has been both a pleasure and a challenge but thankful to be leaving on a high note with the installation of Africa Stone 'Hope'; the progress made, after so many years, with the Common being declared a Provincial Heritage site; and the opening of Mossat Lane'.

Following the last Municipal Elections on 1 November 2021, the boundaries of Green Point were altered so we are now juxtaposed between Ward 115 and Ward 54 under Ian McMahon and Nicola Jowell respectively. The boundaries are quite complex so we will produce and share a map in due course but broadly - Councillor McMahon's 'territory' is south of Main Road to Signal Hill from Boundary Road in the East to Glengariff in the West up to Camberwell Road. Councillor Jowell is responsible for north of Main Road including Helen Suzman and Granger Bay boulevards, the Common (including the Stadium, Virgin Active, Green Point Urban Park), to Sea Point Civic Centre and Glengariff. (Their areas extend way beyond Green Point.)

After much agitation for four years from GPRRA and Jenny McQueen Africa Stone 'Hope' was finally installed in our award winning Green Point Urban Park. It is part of the Global Stone Peace Project by Wolfgang von Schwarzenfeld comprising ten stones, five were installed in Berlin and five others on various continents. Sculptured, polished, inscribed and positioned so that annually on 21 June the sun reflects on their surfaces to connect all the stones. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was present when Africa Stone 'Hope' was installed in Berlin and von Schwarzenfeld's pledge to him to donate it to Cape Town.

Built Environment Committee (BEC):

- Since Jenny McQueen moved away from Green Point she has continued to attend the BEC meetings as an advisor, giving us the benefit of the knowledge she has gained during her long residence in the area.
- Some progress has now been made in the nomination of the Green Point Common as a Provincial Heritage site. We expect that the Conservation Management Plan, under which the CoCT will operate the Common, will be approved by Heritage Western Cape in the near future. We did object to the

application to install two large illuminated 'DHL' signs on the outside of the stadium. We are hoping to reach a compromise which limits the times when the signs will be illuminated.

- The application for rooftop base telecommunication stations at 38Y Ocean View Drive was refused by the Municipal Planning Tribunal. That decision is now being appealed. In the meantime these base stations continue to operate.



Base telecommunication stations

- The application to redevelop the Ultra Liquors site on Main Road as an 8 storey commercial and residential property was approved by Heritage Western Cape and the MPT. However, approval is subject to effective preservation of a heritage graded dwelling on Varney Road and tree roots in Thorniebrae garden during excavation. An appeal against that decision has now been refused. As yet, no sign of the redevelopment commencing.
- Construction of a second dwelling at 7 Joubert Road has been under way for some time. Neighbours became alarmed at its size and proximity to neighbours. Their investigations revealed departures plus questionable statements regarding the existing ground level. Neighbours led by the GPRRA are now pursuing legal remedies. Following an urgent court hearing, 7 Joubert Road is interdicted from further building work pending hearing of the court case.

Stuart Burnett

Events Committee:

We have mostly good news to share as we continue to work hard at building relationships with event organisers and CoCT's Health and Events departments. This is paying dividends in terms of noise control. Crucial as we are already receiving event applications for next year.

- The only major event in the last three months that might have had a negative impact on Green Point was the Cape Town Cycle Tour. However, our early negotiations with the organiser and CoCT's Health and Events departments resulted in an event that had minimal issues with sound levels or traffic.
- Numerous rugby games have taken place at the Stadium and will continue over the next few months, culminating with the Springboks vs Wales game in July. This will be followed by the return of the HSBC Sevens tournament after a two-year absence on weekend of 9-11 December. As stated by Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis: 'It is fantastic to see renowned international events such as this return to the Mother City. Not only is the economic boost that results from events like this crucial for our post-Covid economic recovery, but this also reinforces Cape Town's status as an international events destination'. He continues to call on National Government to lift capacity limits. Councillor Nicola Jowell reported a big turnout on 5 June in support of the Stormers in the quarter final of the United Rugby Championship. Pity 50% Covid limits still in place.

We have received an application for the Rugby 10's to take place from 2 -5 February 2023 across all the fields and the Stadium itself.



United Rugby Championship on Sunday 5 June (photo by Nicola Jowell)

- The regular soccer games at the Stadium do not disturb residents.
- A recent Thai event at the Salesians Soccer Club had Green Point and Mouille Point residents complaining. This event was not endorsed by CoCT or GPRRA and the organiser had not applied for a permit. After negotiations with the club management, the speakers were moved inside and the noise disturbance stopped.
- The Yom Ha'atzmaut event on the Cricket Club fields was successful, despite a small group of protesters at the entrance. Sound was maintained at an acceptable level and there was constant monitoring by an independent sound consultant.
- Amplified sound at the Green Point Athletics Track continues to be an issue as the internal sound system, installed when the stadium was built, is faulty and event organisers have to bring their own sound in. Councillor Nicola Jowell has been a great help in trying to resolve the problem. Until the stadium's internal sound system is either replaced or repaired, events will be using sound consultants to monitor the sound levels. We were in contact with them during the WP Athletics Event and the 'Under Armour All Out Mile' event on 1 June. Although decibel levels at 'Under Armour All Out Mile' were well within the range set by CoCT, the announcers tended to get louder as they got more and more excited. This is a common problem at all sports events and requires constant monitoring. The internal sound system of the Athletics Track will resolve this once fixed.
- Also coming in February 2023 (day to be confirmed) will be the first Formula E race. Road closures over the coming months, due to widening of certain areas of the track, will be advertised well in advance. A section of Fritz Sonnenberg road, next to McDonalds will be closed this coming week, as work begins on the pit lanes.

Steve Massey

Human Environment Committee (HEC):

- **GPCID:** Support is growing for the extension of Marc Truss's Green Point City Improvement District (GPCID) along Main Road (from Traffic Department to Ultra Liquors). Situated between two CIDs (De Waterkant and Sea Point) makes our Main Road particularly vulnerable, referred to as 'No Man's Land'. The Steering Committee is actively engaging with property owners to ensure that approval of the

additional levy under the Special Ratings Area (SRA) for additional top-up services requires a 60 +1% majority from the registered property owners within the designated area. Based on current support, this can be achieved by deadline of Sep 2022.

A CID has powers to arrest via their Law Enforcement program, issue fines and deal with bylaw infringements. It provides visible policing by public safety teams, officers with radios patrol streets 24x7 in vehicles and on foot. It has partnerships with Law Enforcement, Metro, SAPS, Traffic and private security companies and observation via CCTV and Licence Plate Recognition (LPR). The levies also ensure management of litter, noise, building regulations, street lights and upgrading of public areas.

Stats reveal reduction in crime by minimum of 50% since the establishment of the GPCID in July 2001.

All these factors have created an environment for investment by property developers estimated at over R3 billion in De Waterkant. Commercial and residential property owners have seen notable increases in values.

- **CoCT Social Development:** Peter Cookson and his fieldworkers are constantly engaging with our homeless community. The emphasis is on assisting them to move off the street and offering strategic longterm rehabilitation solutions. Their role is crucial with the complex Prevention of Illegal Eviction act (PIE) still in place. Law Enforcement still has to approach the courts to evict those living on the street. Rulings are dependent on alternative accommodation being offered in the same neighbourhood. Only after refusal of shelter and social assistance will the law take its course. Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis acknowledges the devastating social impact on this segment of our community as a result of Covid-19 and that 'interventions must be led by a spirit and ethos of care'. CoCT has been addressing the crises since January culminating with approval of a budget of R142 million to expand its safe space accommodation program. There are two more facilities currently in progress. Success of interventions by the fieldworkers can be judged by the 83 IDs we have funded (value R11,620) in the last six months. Funding of bus fares are also crucial for those wishing to return home to families.



GPRRA SafeStreets Collective

GPRRA SafeStreets Collective: In January Councillor McMahon suggested that we partner with Khulisa Streetscapes (and 12 other NGOs) to receive funding from CoCT for our GPRRA SafeStreets Collective program on Main Road. (The CoCT had applied for and received R160 million from National Treasury's Public Employment Program [PEP], a stimulus plan in response to Covid-19.) Our goal was to transform the lives of 16 street-based individuals by offering a more stable environment and regular income.

Crucial also are personal development programs comprising health/psychosocial support, counselling and substance abuse reduction. Each member has been encouraged to connect with their families. Training is also part of the longterm vision for future employment and permanent housing. They are managed by Riedoewaan Galant and two supervisors.

Despite the challenges, the program has had a positive impact. All are either living in shelters or at home; connecting and supporting families and saving from stipends. Seven are going to Matrix and others are preparing to enter the work place (through courses such as first aid; security; computer literacy). Their IDs were funded by GPRRA. CoCT officials who 'inspected' our program on 31 May were impressed. We emphasized the need for an extension of funding beyond the initial six months in order to adequately prepare for stable futures.

The group is easily identifiable by their green golfers, navy blue chinos and branded vests and name cards in their pockets. We encourage you to engage with them (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm) and hear how the program has changed their lives. Their role is to assist community with parking, valet as well as cleaning. We may not be solving all problems along Main Road but we are transforming 16 lives.



FoGPL hiking team



Thornill Park

Friends of Green Point Lanes (FoGPL): In early January a hard-fought five-year campaign by Jenny McQueen culminated in CoCT court's decision to 'tear down' the gates blocking Mossat Lane. Tom and Jacqui Gallagher, new owners of the property next to the lane, and FoGPL promptly restored the garden and CoCT paved the path.

The network of our lanes/steps serve as crucial pedestrian routes for those who live, play and work in the neighbourhood as well as for tourists. MyCity bus stops are spatially placed at the beginning (or end) of each lane on High Level. FoGPL have invested time and funds to transform these once derelict historic features in accordance with CoCT's spatial planning position. We meet many hikers and dog walkers and have formed a neighbourhood hiking group. Get in touch to be part of our 'mini watch', to get fit, to appreciate our environment and to engage with your neighbours.

We benefit from a team of four gardeners/cleaners assigned by Peter Cookson (CoCT Social Development) based on our support for his programs, primarily to fund IDs and bus fares for repatriation. The team is part of the Expanded Public Works Program (EPWP) which provides income and poverty relief for the unemployed. They are learning a new skill and we also witness their personal development through gardening. If you would like to join or support these initiatives, please contact (lzbknight@gmail.com / 0765972640)

Liz Knight

GPRRA MEMBERSHIP (R200 per annum per household): thanks to members who renewed for Jun '21-May '22. Your support is essential to keep on fighting the good fight. Please encourage neighbours to join. (GPRRA's website is currently under construction ... access to membership form will be active in early July). Payment to: GPRRA First National Bank | Cheque acct no: 62143274059 | Branch: 560|250655 (Please ensure name appears on EFT.)

Organic and recycling waste: we continue to lobby residents to be particularly diligent about managing bins given that services are currently erratic. Recommend reducing organic waste by composting and wasting less food. For all your recyclables Waste Plan will provide free bags and free collection. Together we can protect our natural environment. Contact Liz Knight to sign up for recycling lzbknight@gmail.com / 0765972640

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 continues 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.

Yours sincerely,

GPRRA Management Committee