

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, FISH HOEK ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2006 AT 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**
2. **GUEST SPEAKER: DAVID BIGGS - Topic: "Fish Hoek on Two Wheels"**
3. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23.02.2006**
These have been e-mailed and have been available at Fish Hoek Library, Pennylane, Regal Cycles, Wakefords and Weavers since March. A precis of the minutes is enclosed.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
5. **COUNCILLORS' REPORT**
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
7. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**
8. **GENERALfollowed by refreshments**

David Biggs has suggested a voluntary donation in favour of False Bay Hospital

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions (R40 per household for 2006) are due. Your address label indicates the status of your subs. Subs can be paid to PO Box 22125, Fish Hoek, 7974; at Regal Cycles, Wakefords, Weavers, and Pennylane (Vallyland); or at the meeting. Cheques must be made out to Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers & Residents Association. We appeal to members in arrears for 2005 to pay these subs together with the 2006 subs.

Members unable to afford the 2006 subscription fee are kindly invited to contact the chairperson (tel 782-4279) in full confidence for a reduced fee.

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NEWSLETTER - MAY 2006

No certainty on local government yet

This Association has long held that the City Council is too political and the current round of politicking is a clear indication that the council is too political to function. We hope it settles down in a form that enables it to govern effectively and that this lasts beyond the floor-crossing period in just over a year's time. As yet there is no certainty about the grouping of sub-councils as the elections took place in wards with new boundaries and there are now 105 wards compared to the previous 100 wards. There is no information either about the powers of the sub-councils, whether they will remain essentially powerless, as the previous administration preferred, or have more powers in a decentralised administration that the current administration is said to prefer. All that can be said is that in our area's Sub-council the elected ward councillors (Greater Simon's Town, Greater Fish Hoek, Greater Muizenberg and Tokai) will be in the majority with proportional nominated councillors in the minority. As the ward boundaries have changed new ward committees will need to be elected. We trust that this process will be more transparent than applied in 2004 and that the ward committees will be truly representative of the wider community and interest groups.

Council budget process forges on

Despite the uncertainty, Council's capital and operating budgets for 2006/2007 will be submitted for approval at the Council meeting at the end of May. The draft is available in the Library and we have specifically reviewed the capital budget. Other than general unallocated provisions, only 1,1% of the budget has been specifically allocated to the Far South Peninsula. We are preparing an input that will be linked to specific studies previously commissioned by the Council, such as those for Kommetjie Road (traffic lights) and Ou Kaapse Weg (climbing lanes). This should give our requests and comments more weight. Also, we would welcome input from the members to identify projects that should be considered at a local level (see return slip below). This will be used for the ward budgets (R200 000 per ward) which will be finalised later.

Services continue to disappear from the south

The council's health department, currently based in Noordhoek, is closing in mid-May and we understand that offices will be established in Lakeside. We are most concerned by this further withdrawal of services from the Far South Peninsula. Although we recognise the need for optimisation of costs, the Far South Peninsula is experiencing considerable growth and it is unfair that ratepayers/residents in this area should be inconvenienced by having to transact council business in Plumstead, Ottery, etc. We believe that Fish Hoek should be retained as a hub for services and we shall therefore continue to lobby for the re-establishment of services, such as building survey, withdrawn from the Fish Hoek Valley.

Calder's King gets new lease of life

As has been reported in the press, Calder's King has new owners. Following our close interaction with the first new owners, we have contacted the new owners, Zevenwacht Properties. Harold Johnson, the owner of the company, has advised that the building will be converted into a high-quality hotel with conference facilities. The existing structure will be retained but, in addition to major internal changes, improvements will be made to the façade and the parking facilities. He has promised to make the plans available to our Exco for input and for display at the Quarterly General Meeting. It is expected that this new hotel will have a positive spin-off for Fish Hoek as was the case with the Quayside in Simon's Town, which was developed by Zevenwacht Properties.

RETURN SLIP FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS AND COMMENTS	Tick block(s)	2005 - R25	2006 - R40
Name:			
Street Address:			
Postal Address: (if different)			
Telephone: Fax: E-mail:			
SUGGESTIONS FOR WARD BUDGETS			
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Proliferation of signs despite By-Laws

Members frequently draw attention to the proliferation of signs, from signs put up by estate agents to mobile billboards parked on the side of the road.

The City has a By-Law relating to outdoor advertising and signage. There are various factors the City takes into account, such as whether the sign is offensive, detrimental to the environment or character of the locality and whether it is an unacceptable distraction for drivers.

The Municipality has to approve all signs except for the following specified exceptions: unilluminated business premises signs (maximum 0.2m²); business window signs (maximum 4.5m²); business signs incorporated in the face of a building (maximum 0.2m²); security signs (maximum 0.2m²); sports field signs (maximum 2m x 1m); advertising painted directly onto a vehicle; building development signs in residential areas while the building is going on (one sign, maximum 3m²); flag poles provided there are no more than three on a property of a maximum 3m height; and "to let/for sale" signs of a maximum of 400mm x 500 mm for existing premises or buildings being built (these have to be removed 60 days after the property is capable of occupation).

Estate agents pay an annual fee for permission to display their signs and they are subject to stringent conditions. For example, "on show" signs may only be displayed from noon on Saturdays to 8pm on Sundays - these may be placed on electric light poles where available (otherwise approved stakes may be used, going no deeper than 15cm into the ground); signs may not exceed 0.3m² in area; signs may not be erected on any bridge, public park or centre islands or obscure a road traffic sign; signs may not be closer than 1.5m from a road verge; "sold/for sale/to let" signs must be erected flush against the wall/fence of the property; "sold" signs may only be displayed for a maximum of two weeks.

Members who have a query about signage should contact Exco member Jan Kriel on 785 7141 who will be able to refer to the detailed provisions of the By-Law. Contraventions should be reported to Simon Klaasen at the Municipal offices in Plumstead (tel 710 8000).

Sewerage overflow problems unresolved

In view of the periodic spillage of sewerage into the Silvermine River and the periodic high levels of e-coli in the sea water off Fish Hoek beach, Exco had a meeting with officials from sewerage and stormwater management to get a better understanding of what the problems and solutions might be. The Association now has plans of the sewerage system (sewerage and stormwater drains). There are 11 sewerage pump stations, each equipped with two pumps, in the Fish Hoek/Clovelly area. There is, however, no automatic cut-in system should a pump fail, whether as a result of power failure or other reason, and reliance is made of electronic telemetry to activate an alarm in the control centre in Phillipi. There are, however, problems at times with the radio signals across the mountain chain. In the event of problems with the electrical motor, a standby generator needs to be physically brought from the Simon's Town depot. In the event of pump problems, sewerage backs up in the gravity collection mains and overflows into the stormwater system.

The officials attribute the high e-coli readings mostly to the pollution washed down the stormwater drains from the roads and pavements, such as dog faeces, rat faeces, car oil, etc. There is also a problem with businesses adding to the pollution by misuse of drains. We appeal to all to clean up after their dogs and to avoid discharging other pollutants into the surface gutters. Another problem is that the valley is low lying and this means that the stormwater does not at all times flow freely into the sea but backs up in the outflow headers with subsequent discharges of highly polluted water.

Sea water quality readings off Fish Hoek main beach and Clovelly beach are taken every two weeks. The Association feels, however, that this is too infrequent, especially during the swimming season, and is exploring a way round this, which may include a contribution by the Association to costs for additional testing.

The municipality also relies on the public to advise them of any sewerage spill or untoward smell emanating from the sewers so that they may investigate and take remedial action.

Contact numbers are: Roads and Drainage Department (24 hours) - 785 5467
Sewerage Department (24 hours) - 703 3070.

Voluntary groups beautify Fish Hoek

As in previous newsletters, we salute the efforts of volunteer groups to beautify our piece of heaven on earth.

The **Riverine Rovers**, a sub group of 'Friends of Silvermine Nature Area', look after the Silvermine Wetlands. As Council has limited resources, they help with basic maintenance and activities such the removal of alien vegetation, keeping the pathways clear of vegetation. picking up of rubbish and dog faeces (which inconsiderate owners do not do), repairing the fences, etc.

Council officials regularly attend their meetings so there is a continual inter-flow of information. The Riverine Rovers monitor the rainfall and subsequent water levels at Main Road bridge so that the council officials can assess the success of the flood plain. They also help Council in managing the estuary. They notify Council when something is beyond their means that needs attention, i.e. boardwalk maintenance, gabion repairs, etc.

Other than above, the work of the Riverine Rovers in endeavouring to save the highly endangered Leopard Toad is well known. The Silvermine Wetlands is one of the main breeding areas in the Valley and the species is being continually monitored here and elsewhere.

The Riverine Rovers are looking for additional volunteers and also need someone to make up A3 size information boards in which they could place pertinent information according to the season, to replace the boards at ground level which are badly weathered and others that have been vandalised. They also need donations to help them print new brochures (cost of re-run R5000), which are issued to visitors, tourists and bird watchers.

Please contact Terry and Evanne Rothwell (tel 782 6144) if you are able to help in any way. In recognition of the efforts of the Riverine Rovers your association has recently made a donation of R200.

We have also previously mentioned the efforts of the **HOPE Group** of residents who have established the beautiful fynbos garden between Hillside Road and the view-site on Highway. Your Association has recently made a donation to this group of R100. Donations may be made to this group c/o Di Busschau (tel 782 7243).

Security beefed up in the Fish Hoek CBD

Further to the item in our February newsletter, on behalf of the F/H Community Police Forum, we can report that businesses and ratepayers/residents have responded in a positive way to the Forum's appeal for donations to a CCTV network in the F/H CBD. R40 000 has so far been collected towards the start-up cost of R87 000.

With these funds, two cameras have been installed on Main Road and one on First Avenue and, with the gratuitous assistance of Arcade Management and others, an interim control centre, housing the monitoring equipment, has been set up in the Arcade complex. At this stage the cameras are hard wired to the monitoring units. As more funds are collected, the area of surveillance will be extended and the control centre will be moved to the Fish Hoek Police Station based on a wireless system.

Contributions should be made to the Fish Hoek Community Police Forum at any of the following destinations: Account # 62029572345, First National Bank; P O Box 22481, Fish Hoek 7974 or leave at A P Jones. Kindly mark your deposit slip or payment - CCTV CAMERAS. The Association has made a donation of R500.

The F/H City Improvement District and the Arcade have also contracted Mach 1 Security to respectively provide 2 and 1 crime prevention officers (CPO's) on a day shift basis. The Bayside has a 24 hour CPO cover and it is understood that Valyland will also in the near future have 24 hour CPO cover.

Free monthly shopping bus

There is a free monthly shopping bus for pensioners which runs from Simon's Town through Fish Hoek to Sun Valley shopping centre and Longbeach Mall. To find out more and arrange pick-up points, phone Donald Stegman on 786 3137.

Post-scriptum - Missing identification

Will the member holding receipt #61 issued by Regal Cycles on 16 or 17 February please contact us as the carbon was not inserted in the receipt book and we are not able to identify the member.