

**FISH HOEK VALLEY
RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION
(FHVRRRA)**

**CHAIRPERSON, FHVRRRA: Janet Holwill, P.O. Box 22125 Fish Hoek 7974
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Newsletter for November 2011.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Venue: FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE.

Date: THURSDAY 24 November 2011. Time: 19h30.

MEETING AGENDA

1. WELCOME, Introductions and Apologies.
2. OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr. Andre Rademeyer
Architects in Association.

TOPIC:

**“Fish Hoek: Disaster or Delight?
Architectural and Urban errors: can they be remedied?”**

3. MINUTES of the Quarterly General Meeting held on 25th August 2011 & matters arising.
4. COUNCILLOR's Report.
5. TREASURER's Report.
6. CHAIRPERSON's Report.
7. GENERAL.

FHVRRRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions (R60 per household) become due in January 2012.

**Your address label / email letter indicates the current status of your subs.
We appeal to members in arrears to pay their outstanding subscriptions.**

Members unable to afford the subscription fees are advised to contact the Association's Chairperson (Tel: 021-785-1328), in full confidence and no obligation, to discuss a reduced fee.

Details of our bank account and convenient points of payment for Subs:

Bank deposits or EFT payments:

Indicate: “subs-your initials-your surname” in the payment reference.

A/C Name: FHVRRRA. A/C No: 374203091. Bank: Standard – Fish Hoek.

Bank Code for deposits: 036009. Bank Code for EFT payments: 051001.

Subs can also be posted to P.O. Box 22125 Fish Hoek 7974, or paid at the following establishments:

Regal Cycles, Weavers, PennyLane (Valyland) and Thundercloud Music (Sun Valley Mall).

Please note: CASH ONLY for deposits and at pay points – due to exorbitant bank fees for cheques.

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Newsletter for November 2011.

Our Speaker this month:

Local Architect Andre Rademeyer.

Partner: Architects in Association.

Subject of talk:

***Fish Hoek: Disaster or Delight:
Architectural and Urban Errors: Can they be remedied ?***

Andre Rademeyer is a Cape Town trained architect, who has also worked abroad in UK and USA. He professes a bit of love-hate relationship with Fish Hoek and is interested in how it can sustainably transform itself.

Andre's interests are in the field of innovative architecture. From the years 2000 – 2004, he lectured at UCT School of Architecture and prepared informal studies for students and a study group of architects. He currently runs an architectural practice in Kalk Bay.

He has resided in Fish Hoek for the past 7 years with his wife and family.

Queries and Complaints: new call centre for reporting issues to the City.

The City Call Centre telephone number for queries and complaints is **0860 103 089**.

Or: **SMS 31363** (No more than 160 characters),

Or: Email: **ContactUS@capetown.gov.za**

Use any of these numbers and ask for a tracking number for future reference.

Problems needing the City's attention can also be reported directly to the Sub-council Manager, either by Email to desiree.mentor@capetown.gov.za, Tel. **021 784 2011**, Fax **021-782 1185**, or drop off a note at the Sub-Council offices at Fish Hoek.

Any report should contain:

- Date** (of submitting the request);
- Category** (Roads, Waste Management, Parks, Water supply, Graffiti, etc);
- Detailed description of the problem** (this must include the exact location – e.g. not just a street name, but opposite which house number, or which end of a beach);
- Name and contact details** of the person submitting the request.

Cellular Base Stations (Masts): Dangerous to your health or not?

The following is an extract of information issued by the National Department of Health on 14 October 2011:

"The National Department of Health Radiation Control Directorate is responsible for regulating electronic products producing Electromagnetic Fields (**EMF**), operating at any frequency less than 300 GHz. This includes Cell Phones and Base Stations.

The Directorate utilises the World Health Organization (**WHO**) as its primary source of information and guidance with respect to the health effects of EMF.

In June 2005, the "EMF Project" hosted a workshop that was aimed at considering the health consequences of the emissions from cellular base stations and wireless networks. The findings of this workshop were published by the WHO, as a full report, and a 2-page Fact Sheet, which can be viewed at (www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/index.html).

The following extract from this Fact Sheet would appear, on the face of it, to provide a clear-cut summary of the findings to date:

"Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects.

The WHO endorses the set of exposure guidelines published in 1998 by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (**ICNIRP**), and consequently the Department of Health, also endorses these ICNIRP guidelines. The ICNIRP states categorically that exposure to any EMF at a level below that of the applicable ICNIRP exposure guideline will protect people against the known adverse health effects of EMF.

At present there is **no** confirmed scientific evidence that points to any health hazard associated with the very low levels of exposure that the general public would typically experience in the vicinity of a cellular base station.

The Department is therefore satisfied that the health of the general public is not being compromised by their exposure to the microwave emissions of cellular base stations.

Therefore there would be no scientific basis for any allegation of adverse health effects due to the EMF emitted by a particular base station”.

L.L. Du Toit: Deputy Director: Radiation Control, Department of Health.

☐Tel. 021 957 7483. Fax: 021 946 1589. E-mail: DutoiL@health.gov.za

Web: <http://www.doh.gov.za/departments/radiation/01.html>

Department of Health Anti fraud & corruption hotline – 0800 20 14 14, or
Email: health@tip-offs.com. International EMF Project: (www.who.int/emf)

AND NOW...is all of this acceptable to our community? Do we accept it as gospel? According to reaction currently circulating, it's not quite as easy as that. There are still unresolved issues. The jury is still out on this one.

There is in preparation, by the City of Cape Town Environmental and Heritage Branch, a draft policy guideline document on Telecommunications and Infrastructure.

FHVRRA have responded to the invitation to comment on this and has made a number of constructive suggestions, especially in the interests of the health of our citizens.

We have requested that a *cautionary* approach to the WHO findings is adopted, bearing in mind that not long ago asbestos, tobacco and DDT were also not considered harmful.

This, together with careful siting of masts (with alternative site locations as options), support for the proposal that different operators use the same infrastructure, dedicated monitoring of research and international trends and the City keeping track of antennae output to ensure that operators comply with the guidelines, would all contribute to a safer and more acceptable environment for all.

Emphasizing the enforcement of community health-related restrictions is of particular concern to Civic Society members.

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Common Sense Prevails: False Bay Recycling gets tentative green light.

After suffering the original curious decision of giving the recycling contract to operators in Kraaifontein (WastePlan), **local contractors WasteMart** have now been advised that they have been reconsidered and that **False Bay Recycling** will be the sorting centre for the recyclables from the Far South.

Written confirmation is awaited, but hopefully we will soon know what this means to local recycling.

This is a turn around from October 15, 2011, when WasteMart had been told that more expensive than WastePlan and that cost was the bottom line.

It seems that WastePlan started to get the message that locals may not support an outside recycler, which would mean financial penalties if they did not reach targets. Some sectors in the City were also concerned about a monopoly in the recycling industry. Carting it all to Kraaifontein via Boyes Drive must have been a consideration too (!), considering the problems already existing there.

This should be a real step forward for a sustainable Far South and a just outcome for all of our appeals. Thank-you's are due to the Councillors and City Officials who guided this process to include our local recycler. The FHVR&RA are still waiting for a formal reply to their appeal from the City - but in the light of the above it should be favourable.

Main content: courtesy of Kim Kruyshaar of Scenic South website.

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Requests for departures and rezonings.

FHVRRA have recently dealt with a number of requests for departures and rezonings. An example: blatant breach of regulations at No.16 Barling Crescent (building a garage over the street boundary line). Action requested to City: demolish the garage. Another example: No. 64 Highway (intrusion into a single residential area, rezoning to build a block of flats). Action requested to City: Do not allow rezoning.

Our message to members is: be aware of new developments in your street and contact the FHVRRA for assistance if required.

South Africa's worst driving habits: Stash that cellphone!

According to a recent CIB Insurance Administrators (CIB) survey, published on 21 October 2011, **using a cellular phone is the most common kind of distractive behaviour** South Africans are guilty of behind the wheel, surpassing other distractive driving habits by more than 50%.

The survey asked local drivers to choose one of four actions they were most guilty of when driving. The overwhelming majority (**70%**) of respondents admitted that they are guilty of **using a cellular phone** behind the wheel.

Eating and drinking while driving was the second most common distraction, with 17% of respondents admitting to this behaviour. **Personal grooming** in the rear-view mirror and **concentrating on a GPS device** instead of the road were ranked third and fourth, scoring 7% and 6% respectively.

According to Andrew Lilley, Chief Operating Officer at CIB, this is an alarming statistic, given South Africa's high road accident rate. "Disturbingly, people don't realise that these habits reduce awareness levels and can delay their reaction time by twice the normal amount. When distracted, reaction time doubles, which significantly increases the chance of having a collision."

He says that according to the AA, driver distraction is **probably six times more dangerous than driving drunk**. "The context of distracted driving is terrifying when taking into account that a driver just over the legal alcohol limit of 0.05 has a potential risk of being involved in a crash 15 times more than a sober person."

He says that other major distractions that should be avoided while on the move include changing CDs or operating the radio, searching for dropped items, using a map, tending to children and smoking.

"Furthermore, stricter, overt law enforcement practices will also discourage drivers from distractive behaviour and lower the likelihood of reckless driving," concludes Lilley.

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Kommetjie Road Indaba: "Not Enough is NOT Enough".

Guess what: after 2 substantially supported meetings on the Kommetjie Road issue, and reports about progress being made, the visible result so far appears to be? ZILCH.

It's all gone quiet again, with no visible progress at the time of this writing, despite the usual assurances from the Traffic Dept. This, after all the chat, polite meetings and report-backs, website postings and press reports.

How is that possible? you ask. Yes. Well, er, there have been some delays at the City of Capetown Transport Network Development Dept..

When will the work ethic kick in...work ethic? What's that?

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Monitoring the taxis.

The City Traffic Services Public Transport Unit has been busy observing taxi behaviour in the Fish Hoek and surrounding area and continues to do so with resolve. During September '11, there were two major events involving an average force level of 20 officers per event.

Priorities were focussed on Driving Licences (no licence, failure to carry) and moving violations such as reckless and negligent driving, suspended vehicles in operation (fine R2500), robot jumping and cellphone use, to name a few, including overtaking on the road shoulder and sidewalk!

Fines totalling R54,700 were issued for 137 various offences by 61 vehicles during the period. 2 arrests were made.

This activity is most welcome good news and Chief Inspector Traffic Services Eugene Trussell and his team deserve thanks for contributing significantly to our local road safety needs.

<p>DIARY NOTE: Our next Annual General Meeting will be on <u>Thursday February 23, 2012.</u> Our Speaker will be CAPETOWN EXECUTIVE MAYOR Ms. Patricia de Lille. <u>Subject:</u> ISSUES OF OUR TIME.</p>
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