

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

**CHAIRPERSON, FHVRRRA: Janet Holwill, P.O. Box 22125 Fish Hoek 7974
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Newsletter for May 2014

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

**Venue: FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE.
Date: THURSDAY 22 MAY 2014. Time: 19h30**

MEETING AGENDA

1. WELCOME, Introductions and Apologies.
2. GUEST SPEAKER : LOUISE STAFFORD (Invasive Species Coordinator – City of Cape Town)
TOPIC : INVASIVE PLANT & ANIMAL SPECIES – Overview and Control
3. MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 February 2014 & matters arising
4. COUNCILLOR's Report.
5. TREASURER's Report
6. CHAIRPERSON's Report
7. GENERAL

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

FHVRRRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions (R60 per household) became due on 1 January 2014

Your address label / e-mail letter indicates the current status of your subs.
The subs have been maintained at R60. Members are invited to make voluntary additional donations.

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 for Bank deposits or EFT payments:
A/C Name: FHVRRRA. **A/C No:** 374203091. **Bank:** Standard – Fish Hoek.
Bank Code for deposits: 036009. **Bank Code for EFT payments:** 051001.
Indicate: "subs-your initials-your surname" in the payment reference.

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

A.P.Jones (Bedding Dept. 1st floor), Regal Cycles and ReproClinic (Valyland).

Please note: CASH ONLY at pay points. Add R20 for cheque deposits to cover bank fees.

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**WE ARE OPEN FROM 8AM to 8PM SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
INCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

Newsletter for May 2014

Our Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker is **Louise Stafford**, Invasive Species Coordinator in the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) of the City of Cape Town.

Louise obtained an MSc in entomology through Rhodes University. Prior to joining the City of Cape Town, she managed the Invasive Species Programme at Cape Nature and their Strategic Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation programme. She also managed the CAPE invasive species project, a project funded by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) to develop an invasive species strategy for the Cape Floristic Region, to eradicate bass in selected rivers and to upgrade the biological control insect quarantine facility at the Plant Protection Research Institute in Stellenbosch.

Her role in the City is to work with stakeholders to address the invasive species problem in the Cape Metro. They currently implement five projects, collectively known as the Kader Asmal Integrated Catchment Management programme.

Her talk will provide an overview of invasive species management – plants and animals. She will address the bad behaviour of some garden plants and the threat of invasive ‘wildlife’ such as house crows, guttural toads, wasps, mallards and mynahs, and enlighten us on biological control and how it is used in the City. This should be fascinating!

Public Transport

The City has for a long time been saying that they cannot build new roads and the public must use public transport. It will be cheaper and less stressful for motorists to use public transport but generally the reply has been that public transport is unreliable, dirty and unsafe. In response the City has been rolling out the My City bus system and now we learn that the City aims to take over the running of all public transport within the next 5 years. This includes the Simon’s Town to Cape Town train service which will surely be a tremendous challenge for the City. The citizens in the Southern Suburbs have long wished to return to the days when this was such a well used and excellent service and, given the choked state of our roads, a well run, clean and efficient service will be very welcome. Before the city can take control of this line the ‘railways’ will have to get the correct amount of rolling stock and signalisation ready and this could take up to 5 years.

However, there are more immediate plans for a My City feeder bus service from Kommetjie to Fish Hoek. A feeder service means that it will not be the bigger busses that run on the red road paths in the City but smaller busses that run on the normal road. The bus stops are in planning and it should be operational in the next 2 years.

New Developments and Impact on the Infrastructure

There are various new developments starting in the valley.

Dassenberg, which is the development on the bottom corner of Ou Kaapse Weg on the wood cutter’s bend, is due to start in May or June. When finished there will be about 130 houses. One of the Civic Associations’ concerns is traffic, with cars from this development having to cross the flow of traffic if they wish to turn right. There has been a proposal that all traffic exiting this development should turn left and go down to the intersection of Noordhoek Road with Ou Kaapse Weg. However, whilst the authorities agree that the Noordhoek Road / Ou Kaapse Weg intersection needs upgrading, they are undecided on the best method - circle or traffic lights - and have as yet made no decision about the Dassenberg traffic.

Also soon to commence will be the Amdec retirement village on the old Serina kaolin mine. The final development, which will be established in phases, will comprise 100 dwelling houses, two apartment blocks with 88 flats, a frailcare centre and 40 semi-detached assisted living units. A 100 bed hospital is also planned. Again we have traffic concerns. We have asked that the road from the Glencairn Expressway to the Dassenberg development be upgraded and widened to allow for the greater volume of traffic.

What does seem to be on the cards is the upgrading of the road from the Glencairn Expressway / Kommetjie Road intersection to the Capri traffic lights. We gather that this will be the beginning of the widening of Kommetjie Road all the way to Kommetjie, with special emphasis on the entrance and exits from Masiphumelele and the adjacent shopping centre, which is probably going to have a petrol station on the corner of Lekkerwater Road. The commercial activity will greatly increase an already overcrowded road so something needs to be done soon.

Meanwhile the upgrading of the Ou Kaapse Weg / Silvermine Road intersection seems to have stalled with the EIA on the adjacent little wetland.

It all emphasises what your Civic Associations have been saying for years – no development without the upgrading of the infrastructure: roads, water, sewerage, electricity, storm water and other essential services.

The new plans for the old Sun Valley mall site have been submitted to Council but as of now the Councillors (and the FHVRRA) have not had sight of them.

Muizenberg – Clovelly Main Road Rehabilitation

The final phase of the Main Road rehabilitation has commenced with Martin and East as the contractors. They will be starting with completing the section of road from the Labia to Atlantic Road which will necessitate a stop go system for 9/12 months, but this will not be so bad as Boyes Drive is an alternative route. At the same time they will commence building the retaining wall below the road from Woolleys Pool to the Clovelly corner. This will take a year and two-way traffic will not be affected on the road above it. However, once that wall is built, the last part of the final phase from Kalk Bay harbour to Clovelly corner will commence. Here we can expect another stop/go system for 6 months in 2015, but the contractors are hoping that from Woolleys Pool to Clovelly there will be enough space for two- way traffic most of the time.

The businesses in Fish Hoek have been seriously affected by these roadworks. They have given the public of Fish Hoek very good service over many years and deserve your support.

Stormwater outflow on the Beach

The water quality in terms of the e-coli count on the beach has not improved. FHVRRA representatives, our three councillors and various officials met in March to discuss progress in the investigations as to the cause of the pollution. The Water Pollution Control Inspector has been inspecting sewer connections, waste refuse rooms and drains and generally looking for any possible causes of pollution and has issued some recommendations/warnings to businesses. The next meeting is planned for May and we, as your representatives, will continue to exert pressure until a satisfactory pollution report is received.

Service complaints

We get many service complaints that “the council does nothing” but, on closer inquiry as to whether the complaint has been reported, the answer is generally “No”. Please realise that if you don’t tell the council authorities about your pot holes, leaking water pipes, rubbish not collected and the many other problems, they do nothing because they don’t know. The easiest way is to email the Sub-Council manager, Desiree Mentor, at desiree.mentor@capetown.gov.za or fax 021 782 1185 or drop off a note at the Council offices in Fish Hoek. Each complaint is given a number and is tracked so please keep Desiree Mentor informed of progress, or lack thereof, so that she can follow up if necessary. Each report should contain the date, the category eg roads, waste management, parks, water supply, graffiti, etc. and a detailed description of the problem. Please give the exact location, not just the street name but also a house number, or where on the beach, etc., and provide name and contact details of the person submitting the request.

All complaints are logged and quarterly reports are tabled at the sub-council meeting so that we can all see just how quickly our complaints are attended to.

Furthermore, on the back page of the telephone directory, there are key contact telephone numbers for all the main departments of the City of Cape Town. A most useful list!

Councillor Felicity Purchase tells us that a number of old water courses are re-appearing all over the South Peninsula. She asks if anyone should see water running on the pavement or elsewhere that cannot be accounted for, to please report it.

Tree Policy and City Parks

The City is currently asking for public comment on the City's Tree Policy and the City's Parks Development Policy. Comments were due by 30th April but if you have something to say, you could try a late comment to cityparks.feedback@capetown.gov.za or fax 086 576 0441. Our comment for Fish Hoek is that we would like to have more of both. Our play parks are a disgrace and we can hardly be called a leafy suburb.

Trim Park and Skateboard Park

A Trim Park has been suggested for Dolphin Park. We are in favour of such an amenity. Another amenity we would like to see is a skateboard park, fenced and properly managed. The teenagers really need something to do. Your committee has been asking the High School pupils for comment especially as regards the location, which so far seems to be either at the beach or the sports fields.

We would welcome your comments, either to Janet Holwill, Desiree Mentor or Felicity Purchase

Jager walk

You may have noticed that the lights have at last been replaced on Jager Walk so that evening strolls are now very pleasant. Thank you City officials!

Another pleasing item to report is that Disaster Risk Management is improving their response time to fires in Masiphumelele and, as a result of an educational programme, there has been a reduction in the frequency of fires.

Riverine Rovers

The Riverine Rovers, who take such diligent care of the Silvermine Wetlands for our enjoyment, will be holding their annual 'Source to Sea' walk on 10 May. This starts at 10h00 at the Silvermine dam car park, continues down the Silvermine River, then to the Sunbird Centre, then either via the sand dunes or the jeep track to the Silvermine River mouth, with a finish at the River Sands complex on Abington Road. As the date may change please check with Terry Rothwell beforehand on 021 782 6144 or 084 711 5416. We invite you to get sponsors of your effort or to make a donation to Riverine Rovers (per contact details above).

E-mail addresses

If you are presently receiving our correspondence (newsletters, etc) by post but do have an e-mail address which can rather be used, please advise Helen O'Regan by e-mail or return the form below.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership: Helen O'Regan - Tel: 021 782 4268 E-mail: hnoREGAN@axxess.co.za
Postal Address - PO Box 22125, Fish Hoek, 7974

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