

# FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**22 August 2019**

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With permission: B Suter

## **NOTICE OF QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING**

Venue: FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE

Date: THURSDAY 22 August 2019, Time: 19:30

### **MEETING AGENDA**

1. WELCOME, Introductions and Apologies
2. **GUEST SPEAKERS' TOPIC:**  
Prof L Petrik: Are chemicals in sewage a bigger problem than plastics for our marine environment?  
Dr J Barnes: Risks posed by poor management and upkeep of storm-water systems
3. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
5. GENERAL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

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Prepared by the Executive Committee of FHVRRRA

<p><b>Our Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Professor Leslie Petrik</b></p>  <p>Department of Chemistry, University of the Western Cape, her research focus is detection and removal of organics and inorganics from water and decomposition of persistent organic pollutants in waste water using advanced oxidation processes.</p>	<p><b>Precis of Guest Speakers' Topics</b></p> <p>Modern living has included a love affair with chemicals used for cleaning, disinfection, personal care and medicinal purposes. We use these products without a thought about the ultimate fate of the manmade compounds contained in them. Our studies have shown that these compounds persist into the environment and are bio-accumulating in marine organisms due to their prevalence in the sewage effluents being discharged into our marine environment. This talk will provide an overview their findings and discuss the risk associated with these compounds both to ourselves and to the living biota being affected by them.</p>
<p><b>Dr Jo Barnes</b> is an epidemiologist and lecturer at the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Health Sciences. Her major research interests are water-related diseases, water pollution, and sanitation. She creates awareness about the growing problem of urban water pollution and health problems.</p> 	<p>Storm-water systems are an essential part of the urban water management cycle, but the most neglected in many places. For decades storm-water management resorted under the Roads Department in any municipality and the major concern was simply to get the water off the roads as quickly as possible and into the nearest river or other water body such as the sea. The quality of that storm-water was not even considered an issue. The pollution levels of urban storm-water have risen alarmingly in recent times and that poses serious risks to human health and the environment. The talk will cover the likely consequences of failing to properly maintain the storm-water system in a residential area such as Fish Hoek.</p>
<p><b>Property Rates</b></p> <p>As of 1 July, the City receives about 23% of its income from Property Rates – just over R10 billion. Property Valuations were done as at 2 July 2018. This was before the slowing down of the growth in the property market prices, mainly due to expropriation discussions. Property values in Fish Hoek below R2.2m have not changed much, but those selling between R2.2m and R3.5m have dropped between 10% and 15%. Properties above R4m are either not selling or taking eight to 12 months to get a reasonable offer. Do not expect your property rates to drop accordingly as the cent-in-the-rand multiplier will just be adjusted to ensure the City's revenue stream remains intact. However, you might want to check your insurance value, especially those with automatic inflation percentages to see if they reflect the current valuation or market value.</p>	<p><b>Blue Flag Status</b></p> <p>Water quality is a major criterion of the United Nations international initiative of the Blue Flag Campaign, which was meant to encourage compliance from local authorities. On 10 November 2009 South Africa adopted the Council of European Community 2006 target of 40 Enterococci / 100 ml at 95 percentile for Blue Flag status. The Foundation for Environment Education Programme (certifies Blue Flag) recommends limit values of 100 (95 percentile) for E. coli and 50 (95 percentile) for Enterococci as the new global standard for Blue Flag status. Both E. coli and Enterococci are bacteria typically only found in mammalian guts, thus proxies for pollution such as sewage. The City of Cape Town uses the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) 33 criteria for local Blue Flag status of which water quality is only one criterion. Although the City monitors our four storm-water culverts every two weeks using its internal Scientific Services Department, Blue Flag water quality testing is done externally and only during Blue Flag season. The sampling points are most probably different. The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (from South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)) is believed to be the testing laboratory.</p>

### How to beat the beetle

The PSHB beetle cannot be



treated with pesticides and fungicides and

can easily spread across suburbs, through clothing, vehicle crevices, or unclean horticultural equipment if extra precaution is not taken. Sightings of a PSHB should be reported immediately by visiting the Invasive Species Unit's Shot Hole Borer Reporting Tool on

[www.capetowninvasives.org.za](http://www.capetowninvasives.org.za).

Simply click on 'Report a PSHB sighting' to give your details and the location of the infected tree and, where possible, upload images of the tree.

You can also:

- burn the infected wood or chip the tree into small pieces and use it for compost as the heat build-up in the composting process will eventually kill the beetle
- clear felled debris as soon as possible and sanitise the area
- place infested plant material in sealed refuse bags and store in direct sunlight so that the heat can kill the beetle and its larvae

### Fibre Optic Installers

All Fibre Service Providers are compelled to provide Surety in the form of a Guarantee prior to Permits being issued. After completion of all installations, an Independent Consulting Engineer inspects all reinstatements within the Precinct Area prior to handover to Council (TDA). The Consulting Engineer then Inspects the area again with Council to obtain Civil Acceptance Completion (CAC) Certificates, which thereby allows for release of the Guarantee/Surety after a six (6) month period. The longer the Fibre Installation Companies take to reinstate and obtain the CAC, the longer they wait for their surety to be released. So, it is in their interests to reinstate as soon as possible. However, reinstatement cannot take place until all fibre cables have been installed and tested. Fibre cables are only installed after the civil works are completed in their entirety. The reason why reinstatement takes longer is that if there is a fault and the fibre cables or ducts need to be replaced, they do not have to come back and remove our newly reinstated tar or paving. Because Fish Hoek is a large area. Let's not forget that Frogfoot's Permits were revoked and works stopped for two (2) months in which Frogfoot had to increase the guarantee amount before permits were reinstated. This inadvertently created a delay in installation and hence delays in testing as well.

There are four companies, Nokia Openserve, Frogfoot, Link Africa and Vodacom, all working in Fish Hoek at the same time. Frogfoot, a Vox Telecom subsidiary, scheduled to be 100% complete in Fish Hoek (including handover to council) by 31 July. Note that tar / asphalt is in limited daily supply.

When it rains, the plant shuts down and that delay means a day lost. Also, companies like Martin and East take first preference.

### Re-zone for Municipal Electrical Depot behind Sports-field

We raised concerns about: the high walls abutting a residential area (our preference is for palisade fencing); building materials should match the environment (wetlands); regularise the zoning of the Transport Depot; tar the Access Road to Corsair Way / Kommetjie Road and re-stated our preference for depots to be in industrial areas. The City agreed to add a landscaped berm barrier to reduce the visual impact especially on the Southern boundary; relocate the Southern boundary fencing; add roof gardens; move electrical and transport workshops from Northern to Western boundary with lockable garages moved to the Eastern boundary; access via the upgraded Access Road; will use 60% visual permeability boundary wall and maintains the Northern Bypass road scheme.

### Water Supply

Dams that supply the metro are slowly, but surely recovering. Currently the dam levels are roughly at 59.8% of storage capacity, but we are not out of the drought period yet as we are still recovering. Consumption is around 550 million litres per day. We are still in Level 3 restrictions.



## Liquor Licences

Extended trading hours are under the control of the City. Late March saw Pick N Pay Fish Hoek requesting extended trading hours, but they were denied.

Shoprite Liquorshop Fish Hoek applied to the Liquor Authority for a consumption off-premises liquor licence for shops on First and Dunster Avenues (Triangle Court). Their “high court” interpretation of the Appeal’s “public interest” is “doing something which if done, better serves the public than when not done”. It seems there is a difference between public interest and public opinion, which in Fish Hoek still appears to be negative toward such licences.

### City 600 Tree Replanting Project



Due to the recent drought, the City is only

now returning to planting. Since 2016 the trees at the Newlands nursery have continued growing which should result in a better chance of survival. Sports fields will be the primary target.

- Deep watering prevents weak surface roots from forming and encourages the growth of robust roots underground;

- Check soil moisture. Soil should be moist but not wet;

- During water restrictions, conserve water in other areas of your home and garden while preserving trees;

- Watch out for signs of drought stress. Check for leaves wilting, yellowing, curling or browning at the edges;

- Use mulch to help conserve moisture. Cover the soil with a 3- to 5-inch layer of mulch;

- Use safe pesticides. Stick to organic, environmentally friendly pesticides

### Have you prepared for the winter rains?

The much needed winter rains can cause flooding across large areas of the city, which damages property and risks the health and lives of ordinary people. The electricity department has trimmed back large trees to ensure that branches do not cause disruptions to the electricity supply and other teams have been out clearing blocked storm-water drains, caused by illegal dumping.

Make sure you:

- are aware of early warning messages – [know how the City communicates and warns about floods](#)
- clear fallen leaves and rubble from your driveways, pavements and gutters
- complete your Family Emergency Plan in the [Family Disaster Preparedness Guidelines](#) so that everyone knows what to do in an emergency
- do not dump objects into storm-water drains – including household waste, rubble and substances such as vehicle oil
- know your flood risk - contact the [Disaster Risk Management Centre](#) to find out if you live in a flood risk area
- stay away from flooded streams, rivers, canals or ditches. Soggy banks can quickly collapse and sweep away even the strongest swimmers
- teach children how and when to call [emergency numbers](#) (police, ambulance, fire and rescue services, electricity and water services).

Useful resources

- [Be flood-wise and understand the risks](#)
- [Preparing for winter storms and floods](#)
- [What to do when a flood occurs](#)

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### FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER INCLUDE:

- Ensure that the heater is off before sleeping or leaving home
- Never place clothes or towels over your heater
- Do not move your unit while it is in use
- Keep heaters at least one metre from all flammable objects
- Switch off electric blankets at the socket before going to bed