

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

Virtual Quarterly General Meeting (QGM)

We cancelled our 28 May QGM due to C19 lockdown's meeting restrictions. Similarly, we doubt that we will be able to hold our next QGM on 27 August in the normal fashion, but Exco is considering holding a virtual meeting.

Opportunistic Criminals

Lockdown saw an increase in break-ins, theft, vandalism, hijacking and ransacking of libraries, clinics, sports complexes, community centres and parks. City Health staff were hijacked outside Khayelitsha Mall after they completed a COVID-19 awareness campaign in the area. The estimated value of unplanned expenditure / loss is estimated to be just more than R700,000 and excludes repairs that still need to be costed. This has also resulted in additional 24-hour security deployed to the various sites at a current expenditure of R4.1 million per month and a further R10.9 million per month committed for additional measures that will be needed to protect our facilities. To report vandalism, call 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cellphone.

After more than a 99% drop, drunk driving arrests stagger upwards

The City's Traffic Service has recorded a steady increase in drunk driving arrests after the lockdown alcohol ban was lifted. Suspects have to get blood drawn as breathalyser tests are not allowed currently as a result of the health risks. Crime stats were down during lockdown between 56% and 90% depending upon the crime category.

PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRA

CHAIR: BRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

TEL: 0843999933 EMAIL: FISHHOEKRRA@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FISHHOEKRATEPAYERS.COM

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Covid-19 (C19)

Some restaurants and accommodation opened (the latter one being debatable), subject to, inter alia, registry book info being provided for tracing purposes. Expect a temperature sensor to be pointed at your forehead for recording and potential exclusion purposes. Many businesses were allowed to staff at 100% on 1 July.

C19 Related Scams

Some beggars claim that they were laid off by the City due to C19. Of course, this is nonsense. Please donate directly to a charity and not to street people. Also, individuals have been posing as City electrical officials and targeting the elderly in order to gain access to their home. The City does not have members of staff going door-to-door to check on infrastructure without an appointment. All municipal workers and contractors must carry a work-order number specific to that dwelling and a City-issued identification card. Residents should ask to check the official identification card before allowing anyone onto their property. The identification card must display the City logo, the name and surname of the staff member or mandated contractor and must contain an embedded photo of the staff member or mandated contractor. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported to SAPS and the City's Call Centre, Phone: 0860 103 089, for confirmation.

Be extra careful if you have comorbidities

Your chances (percentages based on Western Cape statistics) of dying from Covid-19 increases if you also have the following:

Older people with
Type II Diabetes (34%),
More than one comorbidity (32%),
Hypertension (high blood pressure) (31%),
HIV (13%),
Heart (cardiovascular) disease (8%),
Obesity (6%),
Chronic obstructive pulmonary (lung) disease (including asthma) (4%),
Chronic kidney disease (3%),
Previous TB (1%).

City's Open Data Policy

We commented that the City should use their own data better for coordinating projects to avoid, eg resurfacing a road and then excavating for piping. We specifically requested the following datasets: Scientific Services' two-weekly E. coli and Enterococcus water sample results; call centre (eServices) monthly service complaints by type and area; progressive capital expenditure reports per project and per ward; building plans submitted along with any departures or land use issues, motivation for the departures, locality map and on-line portal for support or objection; and progress reports on major / significant maintenance projects against Key Performance Indicators of responsible officials. These datasets should assist us in monitoring the effectiveness of the City. We think an independent body should be appointed to receive appeals against the decisions of the Chief Data Officer with reasons for excluding datasets being made public. Also, measurable outcomes should be set for senior officials responsible for their department's supply of information.

Public Toilets

We requested public toilets be suitably sited in Fish Hoek and made available 24 / 7. Access to the Arcade's and Civic Centre toilet facilities are not available after business hours. The old Fisherman's toilets on the beach near the Lighthouse have been vandalised. Standard Bank's ATM foyer is being used for sleeping by street people. The Post Office's external post box area is being used as a toilet with the Post Office staff hosing the excrement with potable water into our stormwater gully that leads to the Lighthouse culvert.

Valyland Sewage Pumping Station

Our Mayor has said that the City will not put a generator in the Valyland traffic circle as that will obstruct motorists' view through the circle. A generator is critical at this pumping station; although a manual pump down is done before expected load shedding, it still often fails to cope with the volume from the two pumping stations with generators. The overflow spills into the stormwater system that leads to the Silvermine Wetlands. We are trying to negotiate with the owners of Valyland to allow a generator to be sited on their building line at the traffic circle that would allow a short buried cable to the pumping station.

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dolphin Park

Another returning resident has requested this park, located between the Galley and Kommetjie Road, to be fenced and locked at night as they are too afraid to use their nearby lock-up garage for fear of the recent influx of street people with disgusting behaviour. They have experienced house, garage and vehicle break-ins. Beams, alarms, barbed wire and fencing are proving inadequate. The negative activity in the park could be transformed into positivity by supporting the establishment of a neighbourhood veggie garden or weekend market.

1st to 6th Avenue water pipe upgrade

After years of gradually worsening water discolouration resulting from our 100 year old water pipes, First through Sixth Avenues, excluding Second Avenue, will finally get their water pipes replaced. Completion is expected on 11 November. This may require alternate route planning for gaining access to the Fish Hoek library that reopened 13 July.

Motor Vehicle Licencing

With the Fish Hoek Licencing Office closed once due to a C19 infection and the difficulty of maintaining a good social distance, we highly recommend registering to:

- renew vehicle licences;
- submit water / electricity readings;
- pay accounts online;
- view current account and account history;
- apply to receive accounts via email; and
- log service requests.

<https://eservices.capetown.gov.za/irj/portal>

Recycling Reference Site

If you want the latest info on what can be recycled and where, go to: <https://aqd96.glideapp.io/?fbclid=IwAR2r7YaOHmABQg6r5bVjKIYQcHzWc2wGA2mjLGzikNL9Jq8RfG0L-q4YaD0>

Silvermine Wetlands

The excavator did what it could in the wetland after clearing Silvermine bridges between Clovelly and Fish Hoek on 19 May, as requested, but was stopped by the street people living there. When they are removed, the Excavator will be brought back to remove the sand under all the culvert sections to allow water to flow again.

Refuse Collection Delays

Some areas of the City have experience delays with their refuse collections due to the City redeploying staff that have become infected with C19. We should try to ease the load by recycling, taking garden greens to drop-off facilities and practising composting to minimise the volume of waste in bins thereby preventing them from overflowing. Note that Simon's Town (Blue Waters Close) and Kommetjie (Kommetjie Road) waste drop off facilities are open. If someone in your household is infected with C19, please double bag and keep the waste on your property for five days before the next collection. If you need to contact the City or submit a service request, this can be done via the following channels:

- Call 0860 103 089
- Online https://eservices1.capetown.gov.za/coct/wapl/zsreq_app/index.html

Please always remember to note the reference number provided. This can be provided to our Cllr for her to follow-up.

Our beaches during lockdown

The City with UCT Prof Peter Ryan, undertook a litter survey on our beaches. The oldest item collected was a soft drink lid manufactured in 1993. Most (94%) of the identifiable litter came from local sources. Despite the lack of beachgoers, on-the-go snack food packets such as sweet and ice-cream wrappers and chip packets accounted for virtually all food packaging, as is also typical of street litter. Litter loads were not much lower during lockdown, because most litter washes ashore, rather than being left by beachgoers. Despite the lower litter levels on land during the lockdown, there appears to have been enough residual litter trapped in stormwater drains to keep litter levels at 'normal' levels. That is, the study demonstrates the litter that is dropped on land, ends up in our ocean. Thus, if you throw your cigarette butt in the street and a chocolate wrapper out of the car window instead of in the bin, it is likely to end up in a stormwater pipe and eventually drain into the ocean.

Fish Hoek Shoprite Liquor Licence

The application has been conditionally approved by the Western Cape's Liquor Licence Tribunal and is in the process of being issued.

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Phase 2 Extension of Houmoed Avenue

Environmental Application has been approved.

The proposed project entails the road (including bicycle lanes, sidewalks and verges) extension of Houmoed Avenue from Fish Eagle Park to Lekkerwater Road, upgrading portions of Masi, wetlands retaining wall and roadway wall for noise abatement.

Load-shedding

Eskom continues to experience power station breakdowns and is threatening load-shedding as businesses start up again. Three of the four generation units at the City's Steenbras Hydro Pump Station have been returned to service. Due to the increased winter demand and lack of generation capacity from Eskom, the City is using the Steenbras plant primarily at the moment to manage the City's higher winter demand.

Municipal Courts

All 11 municipal courts are open for all cases. Restrictions on access to court buildings are enforced to ensure compliance with the recommended social distancing guidelines. Our closest court is Simon's Town, Court Code: 171306, Court Room: TC, Address: St Georges Street, Phone: 021 786 8600 / 4602.

Thank you City

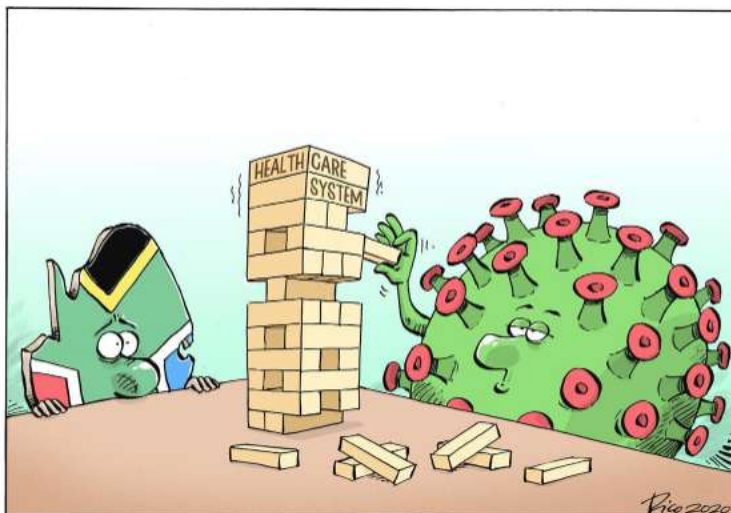
The City attended to 5000 urgent electricity service requests during level 5 lockdown including faulty cables, exposed and dangerous wires, no power, major route street light outages.

Fish Hoek Business Improvement District

Parts of Main and Beach Roads and First Avenue are part of a Special Rates Area. The City collects additional rates in these community established "City Improvement Districts" in order to supplement municipal services, such as:

- To improve safety in the public space;
- To promote and safeguard the interests of residents and businesses in the area;
- To address social issues in a unified, cooperative and sustainable manner;
- To improve, upgrade and protect the natural and built environment of the area;
- To provide additional cleansing and waste management;
- To promote inter-community collaboration as well as with organisations; and
- Facilitating investment to the area and building investor confidence leading to employment opportunities.

To those businesses who do not receive a C19 tool-kit, there is still the opportunity to receive support services from The Business Hub. Please contact The Business Hub via business.support@capetown.gov.za for more information or advice on the City's SMME support services.



FHVRRA Subscriptions

Annual subscription due on 1 January 2020 are R80 per household.

The current status of your subs is indicated in the e-mail or hardcopy addressed to you.

Details of our bank account for EFT payments:

Account Name: FHVRRA

Standard Bank Account Number: 374203091

Bank code for EFT payments: 051001

Reference: subs-your initials-your surname

Subs can also be paid in cash at General Meetings or at any time at AP Jones (1st floor) and Busy Bees (Valyland)

PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRA

CHAIR: BRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

TEL: 0843999933 EMAIL: FISHHOEKRRRA@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FISHHOEKRATEPAYERS.COM