

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



With kind permission: Fish Hoek Valley Museum



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NOTICE OF 2023 GENERAL MEETING HYBRID – LIVE & VIRTUAL (HOST: PETER SCOTT) THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 18H00 MAIN HALL CIVIC CENTRE, FISH HOEK

AGENDA

- 1.WELCOME: Introductions & Apologies**
- 2. GUEST SPEAKER: The City's Resilience Strategy - Cllr Kyle Carls**
- 3. APPROVAL : Minutes of the GM of 23 June 2023**
- 4. APPROVAL: 2024 subscriptions**
- 5. GENERAL QUESTIONS**

About the Speaker's Topic

September 2023 was the hottest month on earth since 2016. The Western Cape was lashed by the worst storm in living memory. The City of Cape Town responded to the situation rather well. Cllr Kyle Carls is chair of the Future Planning and Resilience portfolio committee of the City. He will present, "The City's Resilience Strategy" at our FHVRRRA GM at 18:00 on Thursday 2nd November in the Main Hall Civic Centre, Fish Hoek.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023

Subscriptions have been retained at R80 for 2023.

We wish to avoid cash payment queues at General Meetings, so please make payment by one of the methods described.

EFT payments:

Account Name: FHVRRRA Standard Bank

Account Number: 374203091

Bank code for EFT payments: 051001

Reference: your initials-your surname

Cash:

At any time at AP Jones

A boring beetle – so what?

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) beetle threat is real and tree infections are expected to reach us, probably by next year. Infections are primarily spreading via box elders (*Acer negundo*) aka as 'super spreaders'. Once a tree is infected, the risk to surrounding trees increases. The list of other reproductive hosts (trees that the beetle can breed in) is long and getting longer, but the box elder is by far the main culprit. It is for this reason that if you have any box elders, please consider chopping them down, chipping them as small as possible and "solarising" preferably 'in situ'.

Solarisation is a process in which infested wood is covered in heavy plastic and left in the sun for months to kill the deadly PSHB. This will delay the PSHB arrival and possibly allow time for control measures to be developed to save other trees. There are no pesticides known to be safe and effective for use in the urban setting. The closest City "solarisation" site is in Kenilworth.

Once PSHB hits us, we will be facing a protracted period (8-10 years) where many trees will die or have died back. Falling branches and resulting liabilities will become a problem. Unmanaged infected trees will become a legal liability for owners.

Report all PSHB sightings to invasive.species@capetown.gov.za or Phone 021 444 2357 (weekdays 06:30 to 16:00).

iNaturalist (inaturalist.org) should be used by all citizens to identify and monitor reproductive host trees and to record potential PSHB observations.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/363498634400064>

Whatsapp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ER9vs5vXq9l93PAeB3hNt8?fbclid=IwAR2M8EqOku-YVkf1ffhHaRP7A4ZVKoct93zEi6G-Yx1jKwBcuiaQoCSbg1Y>

E-mail: PSHBUpdate@gmail.com

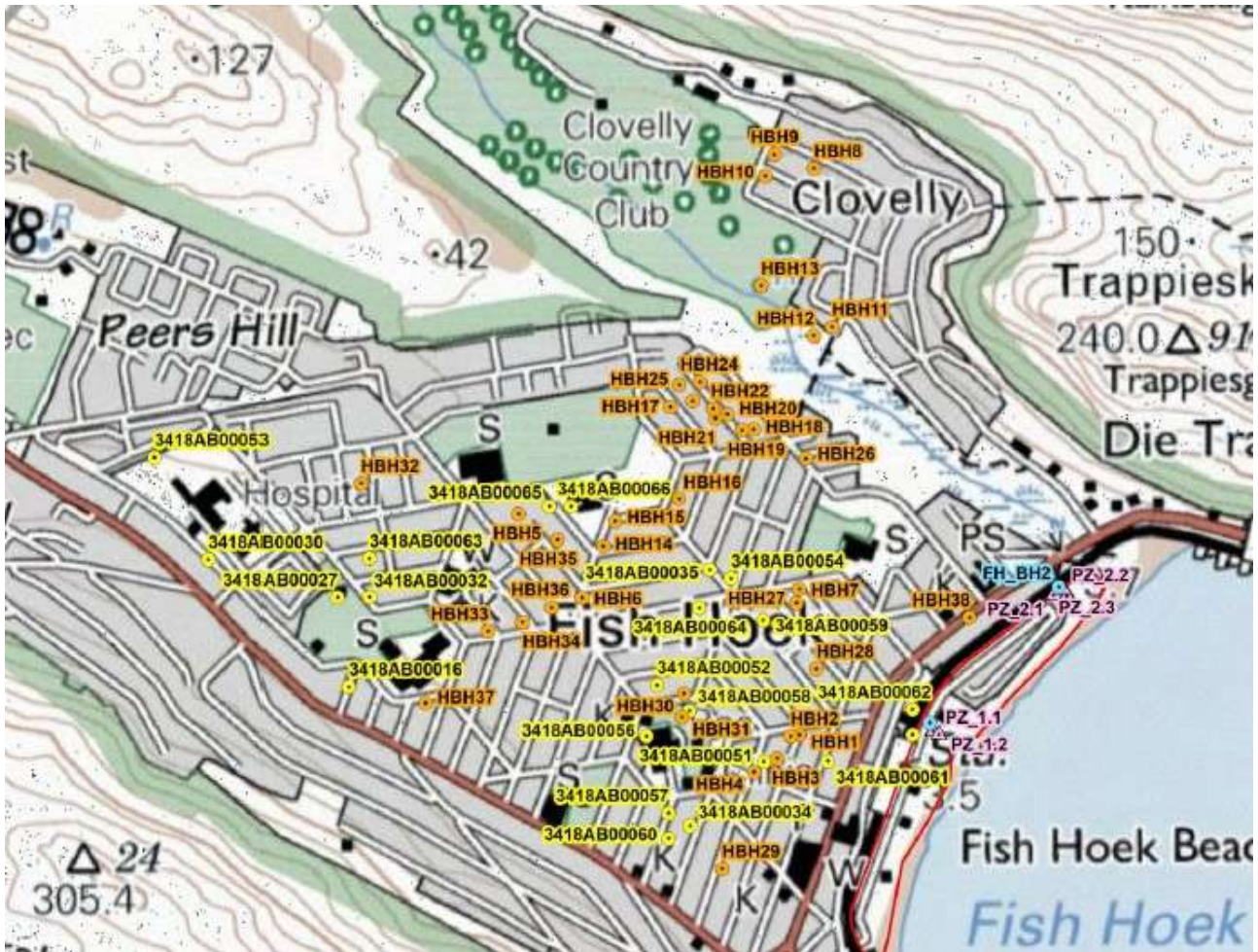
Phone: 0711690963

Geohydrological Report for the Dune Rehabilitation Project

The two boreholes, depth 14 – 15 meters, were tested and found capable of supplying the requisite groundwater volume for the new plantings. A certificate is required as the boreholes are within 500 m from the ocean. Note: there are a lot of boreholes in Fish Hoek and Clovelly. (see map). Fish

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Hoek typically has 9 days of rain in April and 11 days in May, when the tests were conducted. Seawater intrusion is a risk because of the close proximity of the boreholes to the ocean. It is essential that the recommended abstraction rate is adhered to so as to limit the drawdown in the boreholes. Continuous electrical conductivity monitoring will measure and manage any seawater intrusion. The chemical analyses of the water samples support our contention that our stormwater system, which contains human bacteria (from our lab analysis), should be percolated (to recharge the groundwater) through the quaternary sands in this area to reduce the bacteria to the observed 11 to 13 counts per 100 ml.



Exemption Areas from Heritage Resource Act Requirements

The City requested commentary on the general exemption from seeking comments by neighbours before the owner can submit plans for changes to their structures in certain areas of Cape Town (none in our valley). This is a requirement for all buildings older than 60 years with, of course, more falling into this category every year. Where there is no heritage value, this makes no sense and just delays the building process. However, we feel there are some structures in our valley worth placing on the Heritage Register. If these exemptions are expanded to include our valley, we will need your comments as to which heritage-worthy structures you feel need to be preserved.

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Support for Sun Valley Eco Watch to become a part of the City's Park Friends Group

We encourage our members to become part of these two groups. Members of the local public that regularly assist with the removal of litter, removal of invasive alien vegetation, trimming trees where needed and creating natural paths for walking. Their patrolling members discourage illegal dumping by their visible policing for litter.

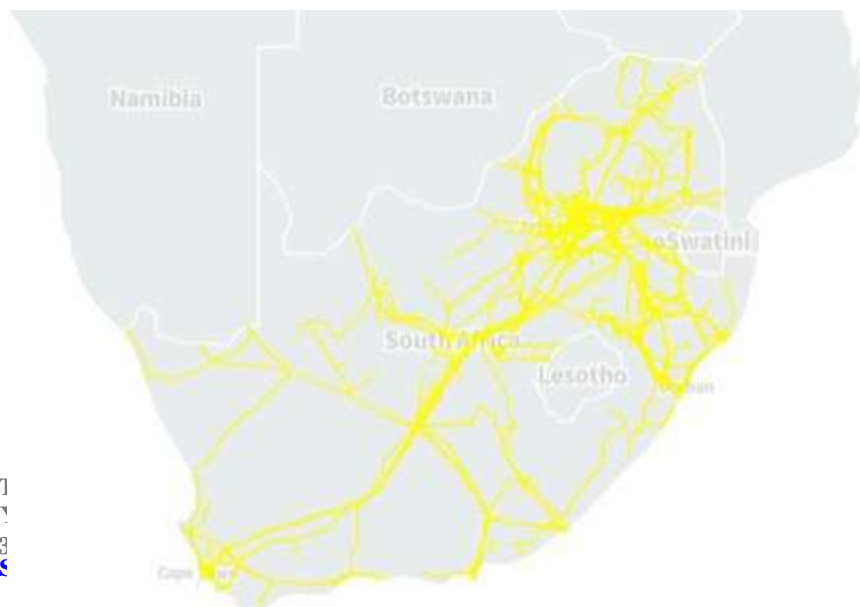
Comments on City's Data Strategy

Following the Far South Peninsula Community Forum's lead, we also felt that the City's document lacked “how” programmes linked with the “evidence-based-decision-making” generated the data for such decisions. We felt that the City isn't really concerned about data quality as we experienced with the City's eServices system incorrectly categorising complaints. The City says their Open Data Portal is working, yet we still don't have raw data from their stormwater water samples. The document says it will share data from partners, which they don't have (from SARS, for example).

City vs Eskom

The Far South Peninsula Community Forum urges the City to expedite the acquisition of alternative electricity supplies, refurbish the grid to accommodate Small Scale Electricity Generator (SSEG) and update the electricity distribution system to mitigate the effects of load shedding.

The new Minister of Electricity, Dr K Ramokgopa, admitted that to unlock generation in renewable energy, about 14,218km of new power lines are needed, including transformers and substations. South Africa currently has 33,217 kilometres of high voltage transmission lines - see map representation below. The current network of powerlines aligns was designed to feed from our coal-fired electricity generators from 1970s (38GW of Eskom's 44GW) , mostly located in Mpumalanga. There is an additional 14 GW of non-Eskom generation. Renewable energy is particularly viable in the Cape: the Western Cape and Eastern Cape have some of the strongest and most consistent wind speeds and the highest quality of solar irradiation levels in SA are in the Northern Cape. So the two Cape Provinces are well positioned to benefit from Renewable sources.



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FHADCO

Cllr Aimee Kuhl is working with the City's Property Management to establish the procedure for public / private participation in management of City property. This is essential for Fish Hoek's Amenities Development Company (FHADCO) NGO to be established similar to the one in Simon's Town, which manages their parking and public toilets. FHADCO could also manage the Garden of Remembrance.

Permanent Generator at Vallyland Sewage Pump Station

Having a generator at this site is important as any failure in the pump restarting after a load-shedding event, failure to switch-over to the standby pump or load-shedding event longer than the two-hour capacity at the pump station, means that sewage ends up in the coffer dam in the wetlands. When we asked our Cllrs why a permanent generator couldn't be submerged next to the pump station in the traffic circle, we were told there were too many existing services (electricity cables, water and sewage pipes) there already, which didn't allow for sufficient space for a generator. When we asked about just placing it in the circle, we were told that the traffic sight distance through the circle had to be observed. (We thought that you just needed to be able to see traffic coming from the right of you.) However, the City is in the process of expropriating land just outside of the traffic circle for a permanent generator. Meanwhile, a mobile generator will be placed as often as possible for load-shedding events. As it is temporary and movable, the traffic sight requirement can be ignored.

We asked the City how the new tariff increases were calculated?

The table below provides a high-level breakdown of the cost of rendering the service, along with how much each item contributed to the overall tariff increase. Note that the Tariff Breakdown percentage is not the increase in the actual line item, but the extent of its contribution to the overall (so, for example, if the City were to ONLY have to increase its Employee Related Costs, an increase of 0.7% would be required).

Subjective Category	22/23	23/24	Tariff breakdown
	Budget	Budget	
	Rm	Rm	%
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Related Costs	1 465 819 578	1 562 763 441	0.7%
General Expenses	129 060 539	143 908 720	0.1%
Contracted Services	130 264 841	123 113 068	0.0%
Fuel	30 171 490	44 683 765	0.1%

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Repairs & Maintenance	644 149 475	780 703 410	0.9%
Bulk Purchases	12 350 900 000	14 099 100 000	11.8%
Collection Costs (Vendors Commission)	75 288 911	75 288 911	0.0%
Bad Debts Provision	110 347 902	195 606 000	0.6%
Connection Fees	45 223 797	45 223 797	0.0%
Capital Charges	699 766 375	860 739 240	1.1%
Contribution to CRR	300 184 643	315 989 993	0.1%
Contribution to Rates	1 782 482 645	2 093 029 000	2.1%
Support Services	278 170 685	304 353 796	0.2%
Other	131 867 864	127 553 711	0.0%
Total	18 173 698 745	20 772 056 853	17.60%

Regarding electricity, we asked the City how fixed and variable charges compare with the feed-in tariffs

Feed-in tariffs are not based on revenue recovery requirements. They were initially determined in line with the offset in cost from Eskom bulk purchases, but have over the last number of years been increased by CPI, as the cost drivers underpinning the customer generation are not the same as those resulting in the large increases seen in Eskom prices. The City has for the last couple of years not increased the feed-in tariff by the same amount as the Eskom tariff, rather utilising an inflation-linked parameter. With the addition of the 25c/kWh incentive, this electricity is actually still slightly more expensive than the equivalent electricity would have been had it been purchased from Eskom, but the volume of electricity is such that it does not make a significant impact on the overall price (cost) of electricity. However, this electricity will have a far more predictable price path going forward. The City must also recover the costs of its own distribution network, which are over and above those charged by Eskom (items such as employee related costs, repairs and maintenance costs, capital costs are not included in the price the City pays Eskom and need to be added on to the purchase prices).

Cape Town's Marine Outfalls

The City currently reduces various nutrient loads by just screening through a 3mm grid to remove solids and then maceration before it is released at our West coast marine outfalls, which have been subject to breaks. This is not the same as being treated. We feel that all outfalls must be tertiary treated to remove pathogenic bacteria, pharmaceuticals and harmful chemicals which have been found in our coastal fish, including at Simon's Town and Miller's Point marine outfalls. Tertiary treatment would allow water to be recycled into the City's drinking water purification system in our

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water short Cape Town. Cape Town's population increased 79% between 2016 and 2021, yet its dam capacity in that same period increased only 15%. We do acknowledge that the City is drilling for more water now in the Table Mountain Group Aquifer (TMGA), Atlantis Aquifer Water Resource Management Scheme (AWRMS) and Cape Flats Aquifer Management Scheme (CFAMS).

Comments on Standard Front-of-Food Labelling

Considering this public initiative, we support the front-of-food labelling.



However, the FHVRRA recommended changing “Saturated FAT” to “Artificial Trans FAT” as these are more harmful and are a direct by-product of food processing companies. The deleterious impact of high sugar and salt are well documented. The other requirement would be placed on the Health Department to educate the general public that seeing fewer of these warnings can lead to better health.

Government to implement demerit system for drivers ‘without delay’ after ConCourt ruling

The Constitutional Court has allowed the controversial Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (Aarto) Act to become law. We think this will prevent local and provincial governments from regulating their own areas. Aarto is seen by the government as a way to penalise repeat driving offenders with a points demerit system. Drivers who collected more than 15 points would have their driver’s licence suspended or eventually cancelled. In addition, Aarto will legalise the serving of fines by email. Currently, traffic violations are dealt with as criminal offences, but with Aarto coming into effect, most of the violations will be decriminalised and dealt with through an administrative, rather than criminal, process. Mainly due to a lack of administrative discipline, we think the demerit system will be poorly enforced. Pity, as we believe the road safety needs to be improved and road fatalities reduced. Other fine-able offenses include: no warning triangle in vehicle or displayed properly, tail-gating, reversing too quickly, part of body protruding from moving vehicle (including elbows), engine emitting smoke, running engine while filling up, driving on the sidewalk, excessive noise (including use of hooter), failing to yield to a pedestrian at a crossing, overtaking a vehicle at a pedestrian crossing and wilful obstruction of traffic flow.

Comments on Karpowerships

We are concerned about our lack of electricity and its impact upon our economy. However, Karpowerships are not going to just come, dock and start providing electricity. It could take at least

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a year, but possibly two to three years according to Argentina's experience, we also have experience of corruption, which could well beset some of the authorities and / or private contractors in this process. Furthermore, they would only supply two to four percent of our electricity requirements and be the most expensive source of electricity. Besides fire and gas explosion risks, there are other environmental issues. The City has a plan to potentially end dependence upon Eskom by 2030. Let's stick with that.

Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems Control Bill

Vapers, smokers and retailers face up to 10 years in prison for minor misdemeanours for failing to abide by this proposed bill. This essentially results in the criminalisation of smokers, which we believe is not appropriate. Especially where it applies to the youth. Parliament's health committee says the aim of this bill is to regulate the sale and advertising of tobacco products and electronic delivery systems like vapes. It also aims to regulate the packaging and appearance of tobacco products, calling for "plain packaging". You can also go to jail for six months for smoking or vaping in your own car or home if there's a child around. The tobacco industry thinks this bill will be the end of retail sales and a boon to illegal sales. We all know that smokes were available during Covid prohibitions, so if anything, this may drive sales underground.

Firearm Controls Inadequate

A recent report on "The State of the Central Firearms Registry in South Africa..." focused on the Central Firearms Registry (CFR), which falls under the South African Police Service (SAPS). It cited problems of cop corruption and that tighter oversight mechanisms are needed. Although most gun crime is committed with illegal guns, almost all illegal guns were once legal meaning we must close the taps from which these legal guns are leaking into the illegal pool and this requires tightening controls over legal weapons stocks through effective record keeping. The Firearms Control Act, which has been in force for nearly two decades, means that the CFR uses an outdated paper-based system of record keeping, though the CFR records were supposed to have been digitised by 2022 (cancelled R400m tender). Documents have been misplaced causing application delays.

National Health Insurance Bill

If there is potential to improve the country's health system through some form of National Health Insurance, then of course it should be considered. But in our observation, this looks to still be unaffordable as planned to be funded from a general tax revenue, a payroll tax and personal income tax, much like European countries. The National Council of Provinces requested comments, which we provided. We requested an "opt-out of NHI" for our retirees that receive medical scheme co-payments from their previous employers and for our working members to have "phasing-into NHI" based upon their years of contribution into their current medical schemes. We wish to see evidence of the requisite improvements in the health system to handle large central purchasing of medicines

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and capacity to handle the additional paperwork required. The bill lacked many details, such as the extent of the healthcare service benefits, the rate of funding reimbursement, the quality goal of health care, the rules on portability for treatment by registered service providers, the referral pathways between service providers, choice of a single coding system and the relationship between the Fund and medical schemes.

National Minimum Wage

Government is proposing a 9.6% increase in the hourly minimum wage. Any hike that ultimately impacts our costs of services and goods will negatively impact the inflation rate (4.7% at the time of writing) depending upon its weighting. Inflation erodes the spending power of our current cash and accumulated cash if that (future earnings) doesn't perform better than inflation. Inflation is also linked to our purchasing power and currency exchange rate. No one wins when our currency continues devaluing. We end up paying more for less. We recommended that all hikes should be less than the current inflation rate and within the Treasury's inflation range.

Road Accident Amendment Fund

The current Road Accident Fund is being abused and is inefficient. Something needs to be done. Changing the wording from “compensation” to “social benefit” to us implies that financial losses and damages will no longer be fully covered. “Social benefit” includes things such as building a new public park, providing skills training to the public and are based on the demands of the society. That is, this fund will no longer be an insurance fund and might as well be closed. If it does remain open, we strongly disagree with the removal of oversight by the Auditor-General, especially if there is not a strong, morally upright Public Protector. Our concern is that this fund will also be captured.

National State Enterprises Bill

The National Treasury has finally realised that it is running out of taxpayer funds and they cannot keep propping up State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). If SOEs were folded into a company structure as proposed, it would allow investors to share ownership and provide the necessary board level decisions for making profits, which would allow for the long-term commercial sustainability of each. Other investors must be brought in to effectively implement any corrective action for non-performance to targets and objectives. Otherwise, we recommended that all non-profitable subsidiaries must be placed under administrators or shut-down and all assets sold. Our concern is that the Government will hold on too long to full ownership. Merging many of the SOEs is a quick win for reducing costs, mainly through retrenchments at overlapping executive and upper management levels. So far, COSATU is supporting this initiative.

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