



## Kenridge The Hills Rate Payers Association

### AGM Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time:** 5 November 2015, 19:00

**Location:** Kenridge Primary School

#### **Committee Members Attending**

Geordie Hogarth (GH), Natalie Buttress (NB), Ian Flint (IF), Carol Olivier (CO), Estelle Goosen (EG), Tony Cowell (TC), Faye Portlock (FP), Tina Schilling (TS), Karl Schilling (KS), Marle Kroger (MK), Theresa Styles (TST), Walda Bok (WB), Clayton Laue (CL), Paige Tremlett (PT)

**Residents Attending:** A.L. Prior, J. Frazer, W. le Roux, A. Van Vuuren, T. Rist, P. Rist, A. Widd, R.H. Smith, H. Huckstedt, P.G. Du Toit, C. Ackerman, D. Milne, R. Kroger, C. Upton, R. Hajkova, C. Best, R. Best, T. Atterbury, L. Earley, JC Kritzinger, W. Brown, S. Austin, C.C. Wedge, R.D. Le Roux, C. Goffe-Wood, M. Bucalina, G. Eksteen, A. Winsor, M. Winsor, B. Cupido, Y. Cupido, F. Riedemann, J. Riedemann, T. Cato, D. Cato, T. Ingle, A.M. Ackerman, BG Hynes, C. Versfeld, M. Versfeld, R. Theron, M. Theron, D. Swanepoel, R. Lapewig, P. Brandt, P.I. Pimblett, A. Faias, G.L. Simpson, L.M. Buttner, C. Kempton-Jones, S.A. Smith, M. Williams, Z. Rokita

**Apologies:** Wessel Goosen, Fred Merven, Sean Rack, Ronel Viljoen, Cerise/Peter Calderhead, Andrea Crous, Carl Delport, Daniel Reynecke, Danie Snyman

## **1. Official opening of the AGM - GH**

- Welcome and thank you to all present. GH explains the new logo for KNI developed by TST and that the Kenridge the Hills Ratepayers Association logo will soon be changed as well – just an upgrade. GH also explains that there have been quite a few changes made to the Facebook pages (KHRPA and KNI), WhatsApp groups have been established and emails are now more frequent. The word is spreading and GH invited the community to share feedback with the committee to ensure we align our plans with the wants and needs of the community.
- Apologies tabled as per the above
- Minutes of the previous meeting was reviewed and accepted by IF & TS

## **2. Looking back - GH**

- Vagrancy – This have been a huge issue not only in our area but everywhere. The land owned by the Stellenbosch Business School is being used by gangs, the Public open space opposite the BP garage is being used as sleeping quarters, a number of vagrants are living in the Majik forest and the Kenridge Duck pond park has a number of “permanent residents”. Social workers and Law Enforcement have been more involved – thanks to the hard work of Fred Merven. They have embarked on a campaign to profile and help the vagrants by getting them work but many of the vagrants are not interested in being helped in this way. Many residents are giving them money and this is the primary reason for vagrants not wanting to leave. We have heard reports of vagrants earning up to R15 000 tax free a month begging at the robots. We would really like to encourage people to support the Give Responsibly campaign instead of just handing out cash. IF who regularly works every Friday at the Duck Pond Park is constantly removing human excrement from the Duck Pond park and we are concerned that this could soon become a health and safety issue. Vagrants are fornicating, drinking and defecating in the park and we have a serious concern about the effect this will have on the community.
- We have been working with the DCPF, the DCI and other Neighbourhood watches to ensure the safety of our neighbourhood and the surrounding areas. What makes our neighbourhood different is that a lot of people in this community would rather pay for patrollers to drive around than do patrols themselves. The “paid patrols” makes it difficult for us to fit in with the standard CPF rules and regulations. In order to comply,

we need to make minor changes to the KHRPA and KNI constitutions. This will be addressed at the end of the meeting, as a vote is required before we can make the relevant changes. GH acknowledges the hard work done by NB and CL in ensuring that patrols are well managed and that the work done by the KNI is in line with CPF requirements.

- Conflict between Neighbourhood watches in our area – all issues surrounding the operational aspects of patrolling and providing assistance to other Neighbourhood Watches have been resolved.
- New land use process – under the new system the ultimate appeal is to the executive mayor's office and we are fighting this as we believe the Administration's development and densification policy will override all other considerations including current district planning policies reached through a public participation process.
- City purchasing process – The process of appointing and paying contractors has been an issue as very little was done to confirm the quality of services delivered to the City. This has changed and through working closely with City, contractors are now being held accountable for the quality of the work provided in our area.
- Working with the community – WhatsApp Groups have had a positive effect on keeping everyone informed on security issues in our area.

### **3. What we have achieved KNI - NB**

- Integration of voluntary and paid patrols. The committee has worked hard to ensure that all patrollers are aiming for a common goal – the safety of the community. People in our community need to get more involved though, to ensure maximum effort.
- Street WhatsApp Groups – Drakenstein for instance have 63 houses on the group, which equates to 60% of the residents in the street. What is needed is a street captain in each street who would administer their own street WhatsApp groups. Neighbours need to find unity and look out for each other. Steven from CNI is also on every WhatsApp group – this ensures that the paid patrollers are fully aware of any updates posted by the community.
- 24 Active voluntary patrollers. At the previous AGM we had 13 radios allocated to KNI members, including 2 CNI guys. There are now 32 of which 24 are actively being used. Some members are patrolling in the morning and then again for a 2 hour slot in the evening. We are aiming for a 10% participation between 2500 households which would then mean every member would only need to patrol for 2 hours a month.
- Durbanville Hills have been added to our patrol routes

- We have 830 KNI members - up from 755 at the end of last year
- We have 693 monitoring and response members – up from 607 at the end of last year.
- We have 1198 Facebook members. The Facebook site is very effective. It's a closed group, which minimises the risk of updates being exposed to criminals. Requests from people asking to be added to the group are asked to confirm their address details and this is used to ensure that only people living in or around our area are allowed to participate.
- The camera pilot has been completed. License Plate recognition and overview cameras were installed and these were linked to the KNI control room. LPR cameras only capture license plates of cars entering or leaving the area. These are then compared to known suspicious plates and if a match is found, an alert is generated. The database has flags for specific gradings (for example – suspicious vehicle (3), vehicle suspected as being involved in a crime (2) and vehicle confirmed as having been involved in a crime (1)). Other neighbourhood watches operating in the surrounding areas received 16 alerts in the past 2 months – most of these were L3 (cloned plates). In a number of instances, CNI has investigated L3 alerts. We had no L1 alerts during the pilot. LPR is expensive and has its drawbacks but the fact that Stellenberg NHW has used the system to effect an arrest makes it worth considering in our area.
- **Question by community member: You have mentioned issues in terms of integration between paid patrols and volunteers.** NB – There was the initial feeling that the two parties couldn't work together. Once the goal of a safer community was agreed to, both parties were able to implement operational processes to ensure that they could work together. The paid patrols provide a stable patrol schedule – 3 cars at all times. The ideal is that the voluntary patrols cover 2 hours slots throughout the day. The relationship between the volunteers and CNI is amazing. Once a volunteer starts his/her patrol they sign in with CNI and if they come across any suspicious activity, they alert CNI who then takes over. GH – The two biggest challenges to overcome were:
  1. CNI was seen as an armed response company, who generally are reactive. But in this case CNI are patrolling on behalf of KNI members.
  2. It was expected that they would act like other patrollers and respond to issues outside of the area but they have only been mandated to work within our area. The trouble was not really been between the patrollers, it was more a case of other NHW's not understanding this hybrid function.
- **Question: What should be a point of contact when you notice any suspicious**

**activity?** NB – The KNI control room should be the first point of contact. Notifications can also be posted on the FB site.

- **Question: Can anyone in the community contact the control room?** GH – any person can call the control room - even if you are not a member. KNI will not exclude a community member just because they are not paying – this is a service provided for and run by the community. KNI is simply asking the community to contribute R195 per month to this function. NB – We would still like to encourage people to contribute. This is for the community and apathy is the crime. KNI and KHRPA are working to bring the community together and whatever you have to offer is welcome – 1 hour a month doing admin, helping with patrols etc.
- **Question: How many houses affords an extra car?** GH – 250 houses will pay for another vehicle.
- **Question: How do you get the R195 contribution message across to the community?** GH – through our previous survey we found that the best form of communication has always been email. When we started, the committee walked the streets every night knocking on doors. This proved to be ineffective. Dropping of pamphlets has also proved to be ineffective. The attendance at the community braai has grown from 30 people to 60/70 through the use of email and social media and these two methods have proved to be the most effective. Neighbours encouraging neighbours to join has also proved to be effective and we would like you to talk to your neighbours whenever possible.
- **Question: What are the current crime statistics?** NB – Our area is currently still the lowest in this entire region. Sonstraal’s neighbourhood watch collapsed, which resulted in an increase in criminal activity from the syndicates. The biggest risk for our area is between 7am – 11am. Statistics from the government show that the situation is worse but these include petty crimes such as people jumping over walls etc. GH – We had an average of 16 break-ins per month when we started and this has fallen to an average 4 or less. CL – The Durbanville area has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest crime rate in the Western Cape - Mitchells Plain being the highest - but in the Durbanville area, our sector is the lowest.

#### **4. What we have achieved KHRPA - GH**

- New bridges, arboretum area and irrigation system in the park which ensures that the park is now being used more
- Acceptance from the city for the new play area in the park – this will be installed near the rocks close to Mildred Avenue. We are building the jungle gym which is part of our 5

year plan

- Demolition of the vagrants hut – there was a hut on the field opposite the BP that was being used by vagrants as a storage / sleeping facility. The City gave permission for us to demolish this structure.
- Irrigation for the Mildred Road Public Open Space – thanks to Hans Hucksteadt for driving this.
- Another 50m of fence on Alison Road. We have a 1km area to cover and every 2<sup>nd</sup> year we manage to get another 50m. The residents of Alison Road however said this has made a difference in stopping criminals from getting away easily, which in turn has led to a decrease in suspicious activity.
- Informal Trading under control. We have managed to get rid of the trucks selling wood on Tygerbergvalley Road (next to the Kenridge Primary School). Marle Kroger has been instrumental in keeping the spread of informal trading at bay. The wicker basket sellers, air-conditioning guys etc. are not allowed to operate on Tygerbergvalley Road. There are only two informal trading areas allocated by the City. The community needs to assist by not supporting these informal traders. If they are allowed / encouraged to continue trading, we will soon have a situation similar to lower De Bron Avenue where small business establish themselves and we lose the character of our leafy suburb.
- De Villiers Road traffic calming approved. This has again been approved – when this was approved the first time, not enough funds were allocated which resulted in this being cancelled. There is however a huge backlog regarding speed bumps and areas close to schools have preference.
- 146 issues raised, 29 closed, 2 failed, 27 succeeded, 117 still open. These statistics only include issues that take a long time to resolve as we have established good relationships with City officials. The result has been that many issues such as street lights, grass cutting in parks etc. are resolved within 48 hours and we do not have the necessary administration resources to keep track of all issues. When you notice anything that needs to be reported, the process to is to phone the KNI control room and they will log a call (C3) with the City.
- **Question: With the tree cutting in Race Course Road, De Villiers had more traffic and some of the branches were have been left on the road – we have phoned city but nothing has been done. Should we phone the control room?** GH – yes.
- **Question – what about busses and taxis in our area?** GH – phone the control room

immediately and specify the place and time. If you are able to take a photo, please do so and send this through to us. They are not allowed in the area and we are working with Law Enforcement to stop this. The City is in the process of taking Golden Arrow to court for breach of contract. This information will help them in their case. We do however have to be sensitive to the fact that there are a lot of domestic workers in the area that need transport.

- **Comment: In relation to the De Villiers traffic calming. Everyone in the community should take responsibility for their driving and stop at stop streets and drive at a reasonable speed.**

#### **5. Thank you - GH**

- Andrea Crous – Councillor Ward 70 who works tirelessly at efforts such as the traffic calming in De Villiers and goes to Majik forest in the middle of the night to ensure that vagrants are removed.
- CO for administering the Incident updates on the web site.
- CL for managing the patrollers and general operational management
- EG for the minutes and general administration
- FP for handling the marketing
- FM for tirelessly working at managing the vagrants and after two years, finally making a dent.
- IF for the management of the park and managing the Land Use portfolio
- KS for making a nuisance of himself with the neighbours to sort out chickens, dagga plants, dogs etc. Also for liaising with the schools
- MK for helping to ensure that informal trading is kept in check
- TST and Paige Tremlett for managing and implementing the marketing and keeping the Facebook page up to date
- TS for coordinating all the public event application and ensuring that the community is affected as little as possible
- TC who ensures that our parks are looked after and ensure that all street lights are working. Thanks also for picking up the security portfolio and ensuring that we are represented at the various security meetings held by other organisations
- WB for organising the community braai and the AGM

#### **6. Challenges (KNI) - NB**

- Resolved

- A cohesive neighbourhood watch strategy between the paid and voluntary patrols.
- Current
  - DCPF membership – we need a small change to the constitution to finalise our membership.
  - Petrol prices – this is a real risk as it increases the cost of patrolling for both paid and volunteer patrollers.
  - Volunteer patrollers – people seem to think that you need to be hard-core but we have moms and grannies doing patrols. As long as you can walk, run or ride a bike, you can be a patroller. You will never be asked to do more than you volunteer for.
  - Lack of awareness in the community – we need to create more street WhatsApp groups and people need to join the Facebook page. We are not into scare tactics. The information is more focused on keeping an eye out for each other.
  - Funding for initiatives (Cameras etc.) – many organisations are asking for money and we are aware that this is a burden. We will however need funding for the cameras. What makes it expensive is that you have to pay for the software license fee (R14,000) and purchase a server (R20,000) – these hike the costs of implementation. We need R47,000 to establish the first camera. Once this is in, it will get less expensive as the server and software license are used for multiple cameras. We need companies to get involved and in return, they will get airtime on our Facebook page.
  - Apathy – Everyone has busy lives but we need to try and get involved and do our part.

#### **7. The Challenges (KHRPA) - GH**

- Vagrants – competing points of view and lack of commitment from the City and the community. Everyone needs to support the Give Responsibly campaign. NB – The Give Responsibly campaign allows you to buy meal coupons at the information kiosk in the Tygervalley Centre. You can then give the person a coupon for a meal at the shelter. It also directs the displaced people in the right direction. CL – We are trying to arrange for coupons to be sold at the Vineyard Deli, Kenridge Pharmacy, Pick and Pay and the Print shop in the Kenridge Centre. GH – There are currently over 30 vagrants living in the Majik forest. If we do not work together we could soon have a squatter camp on our hands.



- Development, traffic and schools – the Clara Anna Fontein project has been approved. This will consist of over 600 additional houses. Kenridge Primary was built to educate 450 children and Fairmont was built to cater for a similar number. Approximately 1,800 learners are dropped off at Kenridge each day and Fairmont currently caters for more than 1,300 learners. There is a real concern that we do not have the facilities to cater for the education of the children moving into this new development. Our roads are already congested and very little is being done to plan for the increase in traffic that will result. We are trying to help children in the area by establishing crèches to service the area but we really are running out of options.
- Inner valley potential conflict of interest – the wine farms in the area have raised a concern that they cannot survive on grape farming alone and need to find ways of generating additional income (hotels, conference facilities etc.) to keep the farms going. IF - They have partnered with business owners and have now raised several million rand and appointed outsourced specialists to research the best options. This plan has now been submitted to City.
- Pick and Pay parking – bollards have been installed to prevent cars and trucks from driving between the Kenridge Centre and Kenridge Primary school car parks. We are also working with the City and Centre management to implement appropriate refuse plans. The next challenge is for us to find a way to resolve the parking problem.

## **8. Financials**

2014

- Turnover R2,508,280
- Expense R2,496,142
- Profit R12,138

2015 (Projected)

- Turnover R2,677,318.32
- Expense R2,673,417.66
- Loss **-R5,585.08**

The self-payer is our biggest problem, as they sometimes just don't pay.

2015 June

- Turnover R1,318,659.16
- Expense R1,336,708.83
- Loss **-R22,792.54**

- There have been issues with the debt collection due to us not having the necessary resources to manage this process. More stringent controls have been established and we have managed to recover most of the outstanding debts in the past 4 months. Wessel Goosen has offered to provide his company's bookkeeping / debtor and creditor management services free of charge and this will ensure that we do not have this problem in the future.
- The June figures are actuals where the December figures are estimated. As our AGM is generally held in November, we will in future be reporting on July to June figures to ensure that we always have actual 12-month financials. The projected figures for December are conservative and we believe that the end position is likely to be closer to a R2,000 loss.
- KNI keeps R10 for every person that has signed up for patrols and the rest goes to paying for patrols. This R10 is used for telephone and bad debt expenses. If a member signs up for monitoring, they are required to pay the contribution towards patrols as this is the only way that we can subsidise the control room. We pay CNI for patrol services on a per member basis, irrespective of whether we have received the money or not. As a result, members who fail to honour their contributions for 3 months are removed from the paid patrols register.

#### **9. Tygerberg Trust Financials:**

2015

- Donations      R21,630.00
- Expense        R21,181.38
- Balance        R448, 62
- The donations have mostly come from our "Sponsor a tree" initiative and therefore most of the money has been used on purchasing trees. IF sometimes needs to buy the odd item for the park maintenance – this also comes from this fund. All receipts have been filed and are available for public inspection.

#### **10. Looking forward**

- Cameras at entrance – NB – There are roughly 15 entrances and it will be very expensive to cover all of them. We have identified 5 main points that warrant overview and LPR cameras and an additional 2 that would benefit from having cameras installed
- Kenridge (Duck Pond) Park upgrade – play area. GH - The city has approved the plan and

allocated the funds. The contract was awarded to a very expensive supplier and we had concerns about the supplier's ability to deliver a quality product that met our requirements. After discussion with the City Purchasing Manager, we have managed to get the contract re-awarded to our preferred supplier.

- More community events – GH – We are looking at organising more community events and wanting to involve running clubs, schools etc. Any suggestions and help from the community would be appreciated. GH asks for an indication as to who would be interested in attending a March braai event – Most of the people raise their hands. NB asks if anyone would be opposed to donating R10 at such a function for fund raising – no objections.
- Cohesive communication strategy between KHRPA and KNI – GH – KNI will only report on security related matters and KHRPA will report on the general upliftment and maintenance of our area. Processes are being implemented to ensure that all communication from both organisations is consistent.
- Jip de Jager extension. – **Brian Hynes commented that this has been on the cards for +- 25 years. People however move and the community hasn't really been informed properly. The community meeting last week wasn't well advertised. It is however also alarming that apparently (unconfirmed) the triangle has been sold to a private person who intends to build houses on this land. Information on how and when the project will start needs to be sent to the community. More interaction between the community and developers is needed. The KHRPA will need to be closely involved and it is necessary for the KHRPA to ensure that rules needs are established (working hours, noise levels etc.). The proposed extension is only for a single carriageway and there are concerns that this will not prove adequate for the expected traffic volumes. The residents living in houses next to the road are going to be severely impacted.** GH – the understanding is that the road will eventually become a dual carriageway. We will ensure that more effective communication is sent to the community. We will attend meetings and manage the process and currently have a good relationship with the Barinor group.
- Velodrome plan – GH – The Velodrome was sold to developers but this transaction has now fallen through due to a breach of contract. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, the City started proceedings against the developer. The Velodrome will soon be back in City's register but no budget for its upkeep and maintenance has been allocated. If we are to utilise the

Velodrome, the community will need to raise funds. We need to encourage schools, clubs and people in the community to contribute to getting the Velodrome back to a state where it can be utilised. We need to approach interested parties and devise a plan to restore the Velodrome. If we don't act soon, this will soon become a derelict building and the City will have no choice but to sell it to developers.

#### **11. 2015 KHRPA Committee**

- Geordie Hogarth      Tony Cowell
- Walda Bok              Ian Flint
- Estelle Goosen        Wessel Goosen
- Fred Merven            Faye Port lock
- Sean Rack              Karl Schilling
- Tina Schilling         Marle Kroger
- Co-opted - Matthew Philogene, Carol Olivier

#### **12. 2015 KNI Committee**

- Geordie Hogarth        Natalie Buttress
- Clayton Laue          Tony Cowell
- Theresa Styles          Paige Tremlett
- Co-opted – Carol Olivier

#### **13. Votes**

- GH nominated as Chairman for KHRPA and unanimously voted in.
- GH and NB nominated as Co-chairs for the KNI both have been unanimously voted in.
- KHRPA Committee for 2015 unanimously voted in as the committee for 2016 (excluding SR as we he has not confirmed his acceptance).
- KNI Committee for 2015 unanimously voted in as the committee for 2016.
- GH asks if anyone would like to join the committee – Callum Wedge would like to make himself available for KNI as DCPF coordinator. Vote taken and unanimously accepted
- Constitution changes – GH suggest changes to both constitutions to allow us to become part of the Police forum, this will allow us 2 votes. The change will be a new paragraph added to both constitution: *Any member providing voluntary patrols within the area shall subscribe to the constitution and code of conduct and sign the indemnity as prescribed by the community police forum.* Voted in unanimously.
- Second change to the KNI constitution is point 4.1 where the KNI's physical address

changes to Franschoek Road instead of Bulawayo. Unanimously voted in.

- Patrol Contribution Increase – Request tabled to increase Patrol Contribution by R20 per month. Vote taken and unanimously accepted.

#### **14. Thank you**

- Lucinda Valentine – assistance with the Give Responsibly campaign
- Theresa Uys – Councillor, Ward 21
- The Committees – giving time to help the community
- The Patrollers – giving their time to help keep us safe
- SAPS – assisting the KNI
- City officials – assisting the KHRPA
- The community – supporting our efforts to uplift our area and keep us safe

#### **15. Q&A**

- No additional questions were raised.