



P.O Box 22125, Fish Hoek, 7974 - Tel/Fax 782 4279

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, FISH HOEK ON THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 2004 AT 19h30

Mr. ROBIN BOSOMWORTH and Mr. DES WHITE, the drivers behind the RATES ACTION GROUP, will be our guest speakers at our quarterly general meeting. They have challenged the City of Cape Town in the High Court on the issues of valuations, rates, sewerage charges, etc.

Our Association has supported their action with a financial contribution. But more funds are needed. We kindly request you to make a voluntary donation to the RATES ACTION GROUP at the door.

Refreshments will be served in the foyer after the meeting.

If you are unable to attend, please assist us with this fund-raising effort by mailing a cheque, made out to Fish Hoek & Clovelly Residents' Association and marked - 'Donation to Rates Action Group', to our post box. Alternatively please hand in your donation at a pay centre: Regal Cycles, Silverglades Pharmacy, Wakefords or Weavers.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES
2. GUEST SPEAKERS - Mr. ROBIN BOSOMWORTH and Mr. DES WHITE
3. MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING - 27 MAY 2004
These have been available for scrutiny at the Fish Hoek Library, Regal Cycles, Silverglades Pharmacy, Wakefords and Weavers since early July 2004. Copies are available at the Library and will also be available at the door prior to the meeting.
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
6. TREASURER'S REPORT
7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
8. GENERAL

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2004

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions (R25 per household for 2004) were due and payable at the beginning of the year. Your address label indicates the status of your subs. If outstanding subs (for 2003 and 2004) are not paid by 30 September 2004 your membership will unfortunately be terminated.

Subs can be paid to the postal address; at the following shops: Regal Cycles, Kommetjie Rd, Wakefords and Weavers, Main Rd, and Silverglades Pharmacy, Vallyland; or at the meeting. Cheques must be made out to Fish Hoek & Clovelly Residents' Association.

Appeal for Executive Committee members

We urgently need new members on the Executive Committee. The chairman and treasurer both indicated at the AGM in February that they would not be standing for re-election in 2005. Other members have also contributed many years of service. We also still need a secretary. Without a full Exco the Association will not be able to satisfy members' interests.

Please indicate your willingness to join the Executive Committee to the chairman on tel/fax 782 4279.

Quo vadis Sub-councils?

The Sub-council meetings are a rare event! But another seemingly arbitrary decision, without public consultation, has been taken by the Unicity, namely to remove one of the Sub-councils' functions. From now on, Sub-councils will no longer review planning applications and hear objections from the community or civic organisations. Applications will go straight to a Unicity committee for a decision. In the more recent past, the local Sub-council could at least make recommendations and our elected Councillors, although outnumbered by political appointments of proportional vote councillors from outside the area, could at least make a valuable input based on local knowledge. Far-reaching decisions are now made behind closed doors by the mayor and her executive committee, who seem answerable to no one. As the newspapers have reported, our Sub-council has been plagued with difficulties, not the least of which are a rapid turnover of staff and locking councillors out of their offices.

Council officials intent on providing service

Notwithstanding the political upheavals, council officials at the local level continue to respond to our concerns. In this regard we commend the Area Manager. Since her appointment there has been an improvement in service delivery and an improvement in communication between the Manager's office and the various operating disciplines of the City. We also commend her for her keen willingness to interact with the community in terms of the City's stated policy of furthering public/community partnerships.

RETURN SLIP FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS	Tick block(s)	2003 - R20	2004 - R25
Name:		
Street address:		
Postal address: (if different)		
Telephone:	Fax:	E-mail:.....

Building Survey Department to be closed

We have been alerted to the fact that the City proposes to close the Building Survey Office at the Civic centre, ostensibly due to low usage. As far as we can judge the office is well utilised in view of the multitude of developments occurring in the Far South Peninsula and the ongoing upgrading of dwellings. The closure of this office would mean that the submission of plans pertaining to this vast area would need to be made at the Plumstead office, which is at the northern periphery of our Sub-Council area.

We have objected to this decision, which has been taken without any public consultation and which is further evidence that the City Council is not service oriented, despite their protestations to the contrary.

Fortunately, we understand that the cash office is not likely to be closed because the Unicity is satisfied it is a busy office - collecting all the rates and service charges we pay!

New policy for calming residential streets

The City Council recently presented its new policy for traffic calming. Its primary concept is "people first and vehicles second". Among the policy objectives are to reduce vehicle speeds to appropriate levels; remove excessive extraneous traffic; and to enhance facilities for cyclists, pedestrians and vulnerable road users.

The annexure to the report shows various traffic calming measures such as raised intersections or pedestrian crossings, kerb extensions, half closures of roads, mini traffic circles and road markings.

The policy document will be useful as a guide for residents to come forward with traffic calming proposals for their areas. It spells out under what conditions traffic calming would be implemented. One of the conditions is, of course, the availability of funding and priority. Other conditions are the appropriateness of the proposed traffic calming measures, the traffic volumes and speeding levels. It also details the process of implementing traffic calming measures. Part of this is to ensure that a "clear majority support ... of 80% has been obtained from the directly affected residents before implementation can proceed".

If residents can show, for example by means of a petition, that there is sufficient support for a particular traffic calming proposal, then this Association will add its support.

Safety measures on Kommetjie Road

The new road markings and some restricted turnings to/from the avenues have improved safety on Kommetjie Road and made traffic more orderly. Speed checks and speed cameras would further improve safety. These measures, unfortunately, do not fully deal with the problem of access onto and off Kommetjie Road at the major Highway/13th Avenue intersection, which services the schools. We maintain that the long-term solution is the installation of traffic lights.

Management plan for Fish Hoek and Clovelly beach

The City now has a coastal management plan, which defines procedures for managing the beach and standards for beach management, as well as co-ordination between the different sections responsible for the beach. Beaches, on the whole, are to be managed as ecological systems but the City will be actively managing wind-blown sand in identified recreation nodes. Water will be monitored at key points and measured against national standards. Laws are to be enforced effectively and consistently such that there would be a high standard of safety and security.

A key group of stakeholders representing Fish Hoek valley communities, sports clubs and interest groups must be identified and there is to be a quarterly meeting with the stakeholders and representatives from key service delivery units such as law enforcement, cleansing, health and environmental management.

This Association will be co-ordinating the first focus meeting to be held at the Fish Hoek Life Saving Club on 24 August at 17h00. We see this as the stimulus needed to finally establish the 'Friends of Fish Hoek Beach' and we invite residents interested in the joining the 'Friends' to attend this meeting. Please indicate your attendance beforehand to the chairman on tel/fax 782 4279.

Fish Hoek beach targeted for Blue Flag status

This Association is in the process of defining the Blue Flag requirements for Fish Hoek beach and, in the first instance, to having the beach accepted as a Blue Flag pilot beach. If this stage is successful, Blue Flag status can be applied for by the City Council.

The two stormwater outlets on the main beach are an impediment as, for the greater part of the year, waste water runoff from Fish Hoek migrates onto the beach. The City has set aside capital for 2005 to upgrade the stormwater system. General wastewater runoff is to be bled to a sump filtration system and pumped to a sewer. During heavy rain, the bulk stormwater streams will flow directly to the beach.

The Blue Flag representative for South Africa will be meeting with this Association in August to assess our beach and to determine the further measures that should be implemented towards the Blue Flag objective.

Unicity works towards an integrated solid waste plan

The City is in the process of developing an integrated solid waste management plan. There have been public meetings as part of this process and comments on the draft paper, available at the library, can be made until the end of September. The paper looks at institutional matters; waste collection and area cleaning services; waste disposal; waste minimisation; the assessment of hazardous waste; and waste education. Among its findings is that the City needs to reduce the waste disposal at landfills by, for example, composting garden waste and recycling builders' rubble. It also found that the City has no formal complaint system for hazardous waste mismanagement.

Draft Integrated Zoning Scheme

The Unicity is in the process of creating a single zoning scheme for the entire city to replace the 27 zoning schemes in operation across the city. A zoning scheme concerns land use rights and obligations and is used together with other legislation, such as environmental laws, to manage development. All land is allocated a particular zone (eg single residential, general residential, local business, general business, mixed use, etc) and within each zone there are provisions or rules of development such as land use restrictions, height limitations and building lines. The first draft of the Integrated Zoning Scheme, which is very comprehensive, was presented at public meetings and was available in the library for comment by 6 August 2004.

In general, the scheme targets densification in residential areas. Of concern to us is the proposal to allow three storeys in single residential zones for all erven larger than 350 square metres, compared to the limitation (without specific departure) of two storeys prescribed in the present regulations applicable to Fish Hoek and Clovelly. We are also concerned about the reduction of building lines between neighbouring houses. The scheme does, however, provide for the definition of "overlay zones" to preserve the character of an area and to achieve a sensitive transition between urban and rural environments. We have stressed these aspects in our comments.

We have also commented on certain aspects relating to businesses operating from home and the need to protect existing title deed restrictions.