

22 May 2024

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Good Evening Cllr Jowell, Members, Ratepayers, Residents and other interested parties

This year our AGM is different to the past.

We are focusing on having a shorter Agenda with no guest speaker in order to get through the obligatory stuff and leave more time for Q&A

We will however plan to have a series of info sessions to cover topical issues and invite relevant professional or city officials.

With the 2024 elections happening next week, there is so much noise that we are being inundated with.

We would rather wait till after the election before we conduct a survey to determine what are the most important issues we should be aware of.

To name a few that are currently very relevant.

1. Helicopters that constantly fly over the sea
2. Dirty streets and beaches
3. Noisy Cars
4. Promenade and mountain opportunistic crime
5. Water pipe bursts
6. Rough sleepers, anti social loiterers
7. Street kids
8. Inconsiderate taxis drivers
9. Unofficial taxi ranks
10. The Sewerage issue.
11. Perceived Inappropriate and irresponsible developments
12. Potential development of Provincial property on main Rd (Tafelberg school),
13. Lack of upgrading infrastructure allocated to our suburb.

This is what has been going in our city for decades and will continue to challenge us.

One way to deal with these is to have a very strong community voice that constantly pushes the various authorities, organizations and politicians who are able to manage, support, help or change any of the above.

as I have said many times to the nay sayers and the armchair activists to stop complaining and either donate or provide us your time or money so that we can continue to do the good work that is expected of a community based organization

Our current exco have all committed their valuable time to make a difference in our community. Sometimes it is like herding cats to have our monthly exco zoom meeting but we get the job done.

I attended a seminar late last year and it was mentioned that the promenade is a great example of excellent use of public space enjoyed not only the local community but by local and international tourists. It is used as a platform for everything from fun runs, demonstrations, protest, professional and social events etc etc

We are indeed very fortunate to have this space and we have to be very vigilant to look after and maintain this jewel.

We are seeing recently many new exciting privately funded initiatives.

eg Avenue response starting a street cleaning program in fresnaye which top ups the citys solid waste programme.

Whats app social groups that provide information to its members so that action can take be quickly and appropriately.

All these are a sign of an active community.

In order to continue to do our community work we have 4 areas that we focus on.

1. MARKETING and COMMUNICATION

The challenge which we have solved recently is to have a very strong marketing and communications sub committee that can

A: Broadcast the good silent work that we are doing daily .

B: Communicate with the various councilors, heads of depts to ensure professional and services that is expected living in a city such as ours .

The great news is that Jono (our marketing sub comm member) has in his own time created a brand new website which was launched only a few days ago. It is a refreshing modern website that has many features which Jono can explain shortly.

It is great platform and start and go to place for the latest information.

As not all of us are on social media or belong to a whatsapp group we intend to make it the source of information of whats happening in our area and a conduit for latest news relating t our area..

2. PLANCOMM

Thanks to our **plancomm** team headed by Gordon meet every two weeks, reviewing and commenting on the many hundreds of applications we receive each year.

The balance between heritage, the rights of neighbors and developers is a highly sensitive issue and one that will continue to keep us occupied as we strive to find a balance between these conflicting scenarios.

3. ADMIN

Kim our administrator has the inevitable task of managing us volunteers, monitoring and replying to the many daily emails, what app and calls which she does with patience and professionalism.

4. SAFETY, CLEANING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPEMENT

Miles and Gavin use their considerable knowledge and experience to keep this critical function going.

Gavin represents us on all security and safety issues and attends the local Community Police Forum meetings on our behalf.

Avenue Response is our Security partner and they have recently done amazing community based work with their Mom and Tots safety in the park initiative, the dedicated bicycle patrol on the prom supported by their patrol vehicles I'm sure has made a difference to our area.

Together with the Buzzer App and the other security companies eg SRG collaborate to ensure the safety and security of our area. Thank you guys for going the extra mile.

Miles is the brainchild behind the Project HOPE outreach programme and has been instrumental in ensuring that the organization PS4L the NGO behind Project Hope ensures that the streets, Prom and beaches are kept clean.

There is a good saying that goes.

Good Housekeeping is only noticed when it is not done

our NPO partner **Play Sports for Life** manages this very important initiative. The social outreach program that they run has had significant successes and we are proud to be part of that initiative.

This has served our area well.

This is led by Kevin Alexander, the area supervisor who I am sure to you all is a very familiar face in our Area. He is responsible for the staff and manages them incredibly well.

Kevin will explain later more of what he does.

FUNDING

We, as a volunteer organization, must find our own funding mainly through voluntary donations and sponsorship and without the various apartment blocks and businesses who support us, our area would be a very different looking place.

With the funds we have been able to continue providing additional and top up security, cleansing and social upliftment programs.

A final word before I finish is to thank **Cllr Jowell** and her relationships with the various city depts for dedication to our area. Thank you Cllr Jowell for guiding us as we work through the various channels and depts to ensure maximum service and response to our members.

In conclusion

It has been a privilege to work with our small dedicated volunteers who chose to get involved and do something for the greater good of our community and hope we can add more like minded people to our exco team.

Please call us or join us and add your voice, energy and money to our community.

Please make sure that you vote next week and be heard.

Thank you .