



P.O Box 22125, Fish Hoek, 7974

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, FISH HOEK ON THURSDAY 27 MAY 2004 AT 7.30pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**
2. **GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Mr Andy Gubb, Manager of the Western Cape Region of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), will address the meeting on 'Ethics and Environment Decision Making'.**
3. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 26 February 2004**  
 These have been available for scrutiny at the Fish Hoek Library, Regal Cycles, Silverglades Pharmacy, Wakefords and Weavers since late March. Copies will be available at the meeting.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
5. **COUNCILLORS' REPORT**
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
8. **GENERAL**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Please note that subscriptions (R25 per household for 2004) were due at the beginning of the year. Your address label indicates the status of your subs. Subs can be paid to the postal address; at the following shops: Regal Cycles, Wakefords, Weavers, and Silverglades Pharmacy; or at the meeting. Cheques must be made out to Fish Hoek & Clovelly Residents' Association.**

**We appeal to members in arrears for 2003 to pay these subs together with their 2004 subs.**

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

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2004

### **A bold new plan or just words?**

A glossy insert from the City of Cape Town was included in one of our local papers early in May. It was headlined "A Bold New Plan for Cape Town" and included "Six strategies for a better city". This insert reflected the city's vision for 2020 and defined the draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) which proposed six strategies: shifting urban growth to the urban core; improving existing settlements; building competitive advantage; creating sustainable jobs; building strong communities; and improving public transport.

But how is the city going to move beyond slogans? A recent provincial green paper on a settlement framework for our province states that the province "is not able to provide permanent jobs to its available labour force". The IDP estimates that next year, more than one out of every five Capetonians will not have a job. This takes into account jobs in the informal sector. The formal sector employment declined to 64% in 2001, according to the IDP. The IDP acknowledges the need for the economy to grow but does not spell out how it will achieve this beyond saying the city will "work with business and the education sector to develop a city-wide skills and jobs strategy".

The same problem of good ideas but no strategy exists with housing. The IDP states that the housing backlog is increasing and that the number of informal shacks more than doubled in five years. According to the provincial green paper, the Western Cape "has become an established destination for rural Xhosa-speaking households originating in the Eastern Cape".

The IDP report also highlights the increase in TB rates (one of the highest in the world) and the increase in HIV prevalence, especially in poorer communities. Aids deaths are expected to be the main cause of mortalities by 2009 and 1993's estimate of 21 000 Aids orphans is projected to increase to 51 500 in 2006.

It is obvious that the city needs to move beyond feel-good phrases to tackle these tremendous tasks with achievable programmes. The previous IDP had similar aims, but nothing much seems to have happened. At the same time, residents in our valley will have to realise we are a rather insignificant part of the Council's concerns (see page 4) and to a certain extent we have to be happy with what we've got. Nonetheless, Council needs to realise that it is more cost-effective to maintain assets than to let things deteriorate. In addition, there needs to be capital input, such as tackling the sewerage outflow into the beach, which, if left for longer, will have ever more costly consequences.

The intention was that the draft IDP should be presented at meetings with communities and stakeholders as from 15 March 2004, with written comments requested by 15 April 2004. The final draft with public comments was to serve before sub-councils and various other committees before submission for approval by Council at the end of May 2004. But no such public meetings have been held. Moreover, for the IDP to be compliant with the Municipal Systems Act, it needs to comprise a financial plan, which must include a budget projection for at least the next three years. How is this is going to be achieved?

### **The environment and road reserves**

When Fish Hoek and Clovelly were laid out many years ago, erven and roads were glibly pencilled in on town planning maps without much thought to practicalities such as mountains or streams. Some unmade road reserves have been alienated and bought by adjacent property owners, some are infested with alien vegetation and become dumping grounds, whereas others have been carefully gardened by concerned residents. Of particular mention is the road reserve between Highway and Hillside, overlooking the beach, which has been planted with indigenous plants and is being cared for by neighbours who have formed a Friends Group 'HOPE' under the WESSA umbrella. This view site and green belt, which should be seen as part of the Metropolitan Open Space System, is an asset for the public and visitors - and it does not cost the Council anything to maintain.

The Association, together with the Friends of Silvermine, will be embarking on a project to identify all unmade road reserves and to formulate a preferred plan for each reserve. We shall liaise with adjacent property owners to get their input and buy-in.

Many other residents have voluntarily made a fantastic effort in caring for the environment - the plantings along the railway line, the Fish Hoek Mountain Hackers and the Riverine Rovers are just some examples.

The Fish Hoek mountainside above Highway and Echo Road will unfortunately be further developed but many of the planned roads will remain reserves. We can only appeal to the developers to avoid 'Mountain Monoliths' in an attempt to recover development costs and to give specific attention to creating green belts that will enhance the general view from Fish Hoek beach and the CBD.

Andy Gubb of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), our guest speaker at our next general meeting, will address us on environmental issues.

### **For whom the toll rings**

A private consortium is proposing a toll road between Muizenberg and Bloubergstrand linking on to the existing R300, with an extension of the R300 to Prince George Drive. This latter section will cross the False Bay Coastal Park, an environmentally sensitive area. We, together with other neighbouring Associations, are opposing this project on environmental grounds and our concern about the additional stress that will be placed on the already congested coastal Main Road feeding into the Far South Peninsula.

### **Bridge impasse**

Residents will have noticed the facebrick buildings going up between the railway line and the road. This is the part of the South Shore development of three-storey apartments, which will end 60 metres from the Silvermine River. This development on Intersite land was opposed by this Association in 1999 but approved by Province. At a public meeting held on 21 April 2004, the developer presented their proposal for a bridge over the railway line at the extension of Addo Road feeding into the Seaside Cottage estate. Our Association is opposed to this bridge for a number of reasons and would prefer to see the pedestrian crossings at Clovelly and further to the south upgraded and made safe. The Chairman will address these issues at the meeting under his report.

### **Join community groups - they need you**

There is an astounding amount of volunteer work in this valley. We have already mentioned some of the environmental groups, but there are many others such as the Trauma Centre, Rape Survivor Clinic, Drug Crisis and Info Centre, Emergency Control Centre, etc. This Association is also a voluntary body. We appeal to residents to become active members of community groups.

### **Neighbourhood watches**

Some resident security associations such as the one at Sunny Cove, serviced by the Mountain Men, and neighbourhood watches, such as the one at Peers Hill, are effective while others are foundering, for example the poor support for Mountain Men in Clovelly. It is clearly evident from Community Police Forum statistics that where there is an effective neighbourhood watch, crime has dropped markedly, even to the extent of having no crime, while crime in other areas rises. The Forum is a way of knowing what is happening in your neighbourhood and enabling home watch groups to network. Ideas are needed on how to make these neighbourhood watches attractive to the residents, beyond the obvious fact of reducing crime.

A member of our Executive is working on a profile of neighbourhood watches. Anyone interested in setting up a neighbourhood watch will receive help and support from the Forum

### **Increased transparency welcomed**

We are getting more information from various authorities and welcome this trend - although in many cases we feel that requests for public participation are somewhat of a sham, more a case of imparting information rather than actually taking account of the inputs of meeting participants and letter writers.

Recently the Association was asked to comment on solutions proposed to repair the corroding bridge that supports the railway line across the Silvermine River. Although this is essentially a technical matter, with which our technical consultant concurred, it enabled us to propose a coordination of activities with the adjacent South Shore development, which may not otherwise have been the case.

### Wheelie bins coming to Fish Hoek

On expiry of the contract with the current waste contractor, Fish Hoek is to shortly join Clovelly in having garbage removed in wheelie bins. Wheelie bins, which remain the property of the City, will be distributed and residents will need to pay a monthly fee for their use. Although there is an additional cost involved and for certain mountainside residences it may present a logistical problem, this Association welcomes the improved hygiene and reduced litter arising from scavenging dogs and porcupines!

### Marketing our Association

We are working on ways to market our Association to Fish Hoek and Clovelly residents so as to make it a stronger voice to have our concerns heard despite the City's other priorities. We need to identify the factors that will attract members, also whether we should establish a suburban framework, etc. Any input from members will be welcome.

### Let the Elections be bygones

The City's workings (eg no Council and Sub-council meetings, no public participation for the Integrated Development Plan.....) effectively came to a stop in anticipation of the national and provincial elections. This is symptomatic of the fact that everything is now governed by politics.

We make a plea to Councillors of all parties to roll up their sleeves and to work together to get beyond the "there are no funds available" syndrome, to motivate staff and to get the ball rolling again.

### The Far South Peninsula in the Metropole

In August 2003 the City issued information on the population profile and characteristics of the Cape Town Metropole drawn from the 2001 Census. Using the City's presentation as a reference we have extracted some comparative information for the Far South Peninsula. In our next newsletter we shall provide further information.

2001 Census	Cape Town Metro	Far South Peninsula
Total population	2 893 251	60 740 ie 2.10% of Metro
Distribution by population group (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black</li><li>• Coloured</li><li>• Indian/Asian</li><li>• White</li></ul>	31.7 48.1 1.4 18.8	16.6 29.6 0.9 52.9
Distribution by age group (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0 - 14</li><li>• 15 - 34</li><li>• 35 - 54</li><li>• 55 - 65</li><li>• 65+</li></ul>	26.6 38.4 24.4 5.6 5.0	22.1 34.7 24.8 8.0 10.4
Home Language (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Afrikaans</li><li>• English</li><li>• IsiXhosa</li><li>• Other</li></ul>	41.4 27.9 28.7 2.0	25.7 58.0 14.2 2.1