

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19h30 ON THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2020
AT THE CIVIC CENTRE MAIN HALL, FISH HOEK

1. Present

As per attendance register

2. Minutes

The minutes of the FHVRRRA QGM of 28 November 2019 were approved (proposed Judy Bean, seconded John Shaw).

3. Welcome

FHVRRRA chairman, Brian Youngblood (BY), welcomed the participants and introduced two of the topics to be addressed, namely, the "NET" for the "homeless" by Carolyn Axmann and Water Supply and Sewage Reticulation issues by City officials.

4. Topics

The "Net"

Carolyn Axmann (CA) presented the "NET" as an organisation to coordinate the activities of the various diverse entities that provide succour to the "homeless" in Fish Hoek with the objective of facilitating rehabilitation and eliminating practices that encourage exacerbation of the "homeless" problem. A copy of her presentation is attached.

CA was congratulated on her presentation and praised for her efforts by several members and by Aimee Kuhl, Ward 64 councillor.

Further questions and comments were:-

- A member asked how many "homeless" there were in Fish Hoek to which CA replied she did not know, but ±30-40 attended her programme. The member then referred to a previous FHVRRRA GM at which it had been stated that the City was conducting a survey and compiling profiles of the "homeless". Cllr Simon Liell-Cock responded stating that there were ±9 600 in the City, ±60-70 in Simon's Town. He did not know how many there were in Fish Hoek, but the information was available from the Sub-Council
- A member asked for pamphlets providing information about the "NET" programme and "responsible giving". CA referred to the pamphlets she had provided at the entrance desk and Alderman Felicity Purchase (FP) described the pamphlets available from the City
- A gentleman described the harassment and crime he and his family had suffered at the hands of the "homeless", how he had received little help from SAPS and LE and enquired where he could obtain help. Andre Blom, Chairman of the Fish Hoek Community Police Forum suggested that each incident be logged with LE and the reference numbers be forwarded to him for follow up
- Another gentleman argued that providing succour to the "homeless" only served to exacerbate the numbers and anti-social behaviour;
- Several people complained that LE responded too late, were ineffective when they did respond and that complaints to the councillor were of little avail.
- A lady who had grown up in Fish Hoek stated that she would no longer allow her daughter to cross the road due to harassment by "homeless". She and her family were emigrating, in part because of the "homeless" issue in Fish Hoek;
- Cllr Aimee Kuhl (AK) responded that she understood and shared the frustration of the residents affected but response at night and on private property was a SAPS responsibility. Fines

issued by LE led to court appearances by the offenders, only to have the cases dismissed by the magistrate. Such was the state of affairs that there were “homeless” under every bridge between Fish Hoek and the city centre.

- The trials and tribulations of two neighbours of a derelict empty house at 65 A/B Central Circle, which has been invaded by “homeless” people. One neighbour complained of lack of response of both SAPS and LE to her requests for support against harassment and nuisance. The other stated how his attempts to barricade the house against invasion had been to no avail and requested yet again that the City expropriate the property and demolish the house. Alderman Felicity Purchase (FP) produced a 2017 City report claiming that since rates had been paid on the property, expropriation was not possible. This claim was vehemently disputed by the neighbour. FP undertook to re-investigate the situation and take any appropriate action to mitigate the situation.
- Donald Moore asked whether PnP Fish Hoek would support the “NET” activities in light of the fact that PnP had been granted a liquor license, *inter alia*, on the basis of a record of service to the community.

Water Supply

David Jenliffe described the water supply system to Fish Hoek and surrounds and explained recent supply problems:-

- The new Kommetjie Road piping system would ensure sufficient capacity to the area for the next thirty years;
- Elsies Peak and the Fish Hoek Valley were supplied by three reservoirs situated at heights of 58, 104 & 150 m respectively, above sea level running East to West;
- Water is pumped to the reservoirs, each of which provides a constant head of pressure condition;
- There had been 15 burst pipe incidents reported in February 2020, almost as many as in the whole of 2019;
- These bursts could be attributed to old pipes being subjected to pressure surges from four to eight bar caused by a combination of load shedding, a valve and hydrant replacement project in the Valley and even perhaps the major pipe laying project along Kommetjie Road;
- Low pressure and lack of supply in the Valley was due to the valve and hydrant replacement project and a lack of accurate information about the location of many of the pipes in the Valley reticulation system;
- The valve and hydrant replacement project would be completed by 17 March 2020; and
- The brown water in 3rd, 4th & 5th Avenues was due to one old rusted cast iron pipe in the reticulation system. There was no budget for its replacement as planned for January 2020. It would be a priority item on the the 2020/21 budget starting in July 2020.

Questions and Comments

- One of the residents from 2nd Crescent complained that the whole crescent had been without water for a week despite repeated reports to the City’s call centre. The call centre contact person had also fobbed him off with some nonsense explanation. He was supported by another resident and a third claimed that Kommetjie Road opposite 4th Avenue suffered low pressure during the day
- DJ explained that his department were aware of the problem but unable to establish the cause as yet. It was a priority and he apologised for the situation. There is also often a disconnect between the call centre and the relevant operations section
- FP stated that she would take up the matter with the call centre manager. She offered the councillors as the last resort when there was lack of response to service request
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Sewage Pumping

Abongile Duna (AD), manager of the Far South sewage pump stations responded to FHVR-RA’s questions regarding sewage spills both into the sea at the “lighthouse” storm water outfall

and into the Silvermine Estuary. AD described the three pump stations delivering sewage from the Valley and Elsie's Peak areas to the Wildevolevlei Sewage Works; one at Shoprite, one at the Main Road Circle both with back up generators feeding the Vallyland pump station without a back up generator. All pumps are fitted with telemetric monitoring systems Prior to and during load shedding the Vallyland pump is manually operated in order to create capacity for the inflow from the other two pump stations. The Shoprite pump tends to trip when Eskom power is restored and if not promptly remedied causes a major discharge of sewage into the sea at the "lighthouse". Such trips have occurred twice in the last three months. Apparently the telemetric monitoring system does not always provide warning of the situation and / or response teams are otherwise committed. When the Vallyland pump cannot cope with the load or trips spills occur into the underground stormwater pipes flowing into the Silvermine Estuary "Homeless" invasions of the Circle pump station has led to security gates and window bars as well as fencing being required.

Questions and Answers

- Lynn Stephenson asked what sewage treatment was being done and whether there was any chance of contamination of potable water. FP described the major project at Zandvliet to re-cycle treated sewage effluent due for completion in two years time. She also stated that the only contamination of potable water she knew of had occurred at Strandfontein
- Evanne Rothwell, monitoring the Silvermine Estuary, claimed that there had been twenty one recorded spills into the estuary since 2002. This situation was unacceptable and a threat to the health of the community.
- Peter Scott (PS) who had compiled FHVRRA's questions stated that sewage spills into the "lighthouse" outfall occurred during load shedding even when the Shoprite pump had not tripped. For example, sewage flowed into the outfall in increasing quantities from 4th February culminating in a catastrophic flow on 9th February when the pump tripped. He queried why it was not possible to ensure a continuous electricity supply to the sewage pump stations as was the case for the False Bay Hospital? He also asked how it was possible that the replacement of a rusted water pipe scheduled for January 2020, with a contractor appointed suddenly was without budget. FP gave a convoluted explanation of the tendering and budgeting process of the City which was apparently impossible to change despite all efforts (sic)

5. Treasurer's Report

Allen Rose-Innes (ARI) presented his last report as treasurer of FHVRRA Exco. He thanked Lorna Fulford for auditing / reviewing the financial report for 2019. It reflected a healthy surplus and an increase in reserves (copy attached). The report was approved by the meeting. ARI welcomed Judy Bean as his replacement as treasurer subject to approval by the meeting. ARI also proposed Lorna Fulford be appointed auditor for 2020, which was accepted by the meeting.

6. Allen Rose Innes

Councillor Simon Liell-Cock (SLC) paid tribute to Allen Rose-Innes (ARI) who has served the ratepayers and residents of Fish Hoek and the Far South with great distinction since 2000. He and ARI had started the Far South Peninsula Community Forum (FSPCF) in 2003 to represent the various "civics" and residents of the Far South. ARI had found time for all these activities, initially while still MD of Total Coal and a board member of several other companies. In particular, Simon indicated that he had relied entirely on Allen's calm and collected judgements of land use applications. Allen had moved into Fish Hoek in 1997 and was the epitome of an active citizen at local level, the sort of person without whom the democracy and its concomitant freedoms could not survive. Alderman Felicity Purchase also paid tribute to Allen as a Chair of FHVRRA when she was elected to Council. Allen she said, had become a legend in Fish Hoek for his service to the residents. SLC handed Allen a gift from FHVRRA as a small token of appreciation for his mammoth contribution to FHVRRA.

7. Executive Committee Election

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee (Exco) of FHVRRRA:-

Roger Bagshaw
Judy Bean - Treasurer
Mrs P Carter
Matthew Gray
Helen O'Regan
James Ricketts
John Shaw
Peter Scott
Brian Youngblood

8. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was presented visually and highlighted that smells were not necessarily correlated with E.coli counts.
Also, we have closed the Junior Ratepayers in our "issues" log as this has been accomplished.

We took the opportunity to comment on the City's Spatial Development Framework – Southern District – five year review:

1. A longer term "Future Vision" for Fish Hoek;
2. An improved urban design philosophy and training for City officials;
3. An "overlay" for Fish Hoek that correlates planning regulations and by-laws with the unique characteristics of Fish Hoek;
4. Refurbishment of roads (Main Road) and sidewalks / pavements;
5. Upgrading the informal trading market opposite the Fish Hoek station;
6. Strictly applying health, litter and traffic by-laws;
7. Replacement of potable and storm water and sewerage reticulation piping;
8. Upgrading beach amenities;
9. Improved environmental management of rivers, estuaries and seas;
10. Improved maintenance of parks and municipal sports facilities;
11. Designate all Far South Main Roads as Scenic Routes and preserve their view of the ocean;
12. Rethink Metrorail line (MyCiti bus routes / light rail / tuk-tuks / bicycle lane);
13. Reconsider derelict buildings, military sites, prisons, cemeteries and any buildings not properly maintained by Public Works (eg. our SAPS compound has a broken rising main sewer);
14. Dualling of Ou Kaapse Weg;
15. Revive the Northern By-Pass planning; and
16. Adding more public toilets for our homeless

From our last Quarterly General Meeting

Beach Fee

Note: the kiosk collects a parking fee, not an entrance fee.
Parking fee collections were delayed to 13 December due to not having tickets for issuing.
The parking fee for this season is R20 for full day parking and R10 for half a day.
If you do not have a parking disc, please ensure that you are issued with a ticket.
The City wants to switch to issuing a ticket upon entry and payment / hour upon exit.

Request for streets lights along Abington Road (entrance to Fish Hoek)

Design and implementation up to River Sands is complete. Even though this road faces SAPS, it is a high crime area, probably due to the criminals being able to escape into the wetlands.

4-ways Kommetjie Road / OKW

Re-vegetation and landscaping has commenced with spekboom being added, but no final landscape plan has been presented. Picaroon Crescent's curb damage caused by M&R construction vehicles has been reported.

We were concerned about **pavement re-instatements** being missed, but these have been added to Frogfoot's snag list as we requested of our Sub-Council.

Collection for Fish Hoek Museum – is for their security fencing

Dam Levels were down to 65.9% with water consumption around 750 million litres / day.

Current Issues Tracker

To check on the status between meetings, at: <https://www.fishhoekratepayers.com/>, click "Our Work" then click "Current Issues Tracker"

The Lighthouse Stormwater System has two main pipes: North and South

Key:

Krinos (Building) = Great White Sport & Surf = 55 Main Road

Peter Creese Way leads to Seaside Cottages.

Block = Old Fisherman's Ablution Block

Manhole colours: Red = stinks, Pink = less so, White = no smell, clear, no grease

What the numbers mean:

The numbers refer to counts of E. coli (mpn / 100 ml) when no sewage spills

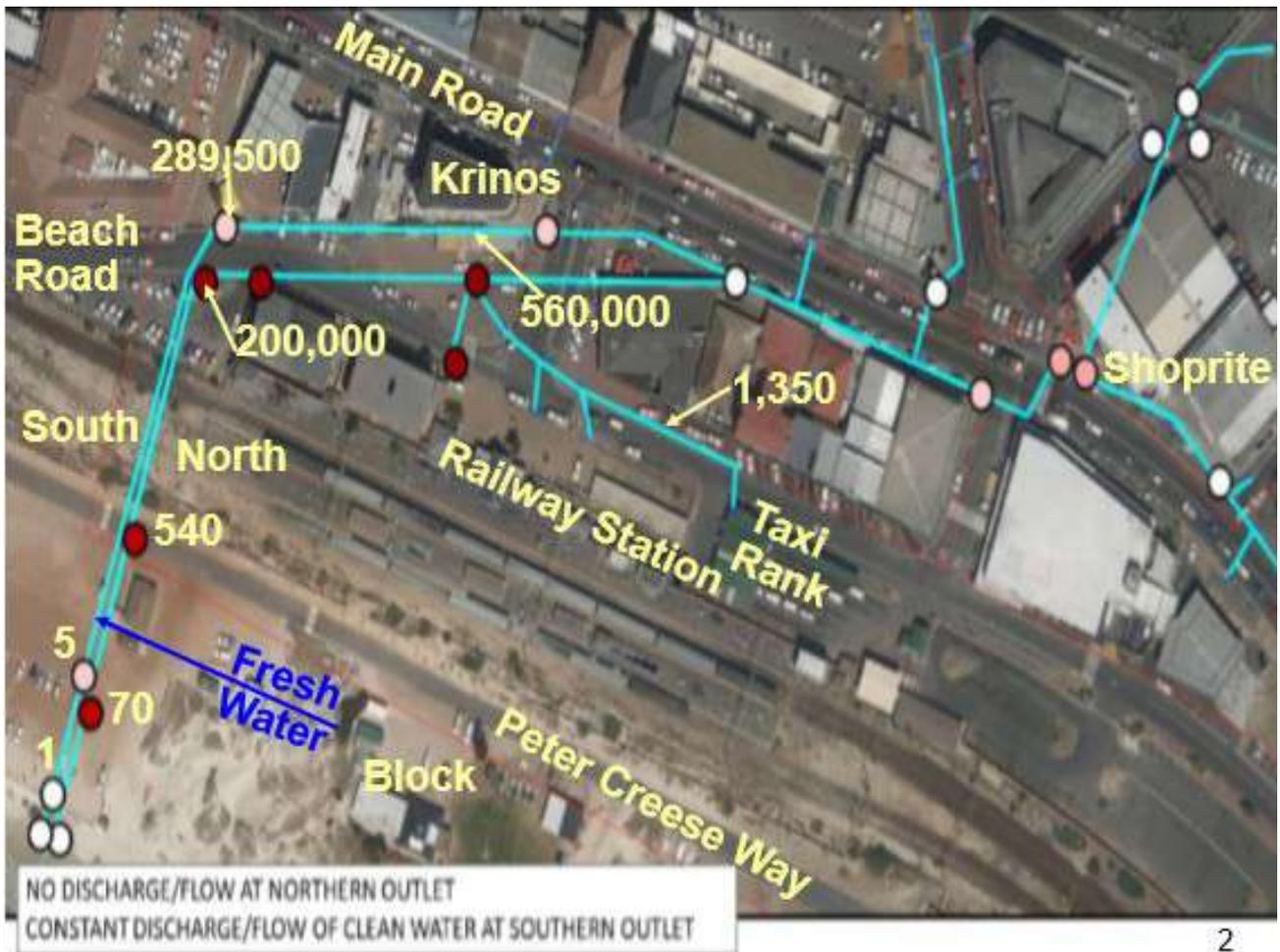
The Department Water Affairs & City guidelines worry when the count is above 500.

Stormwater is not an ideal culture for E. coli which normally live in mammalian guts.

Because the North pipe is blocked near the culvert, the 200,000 count drops to 540 then 70 indicating the E. coli is dying, but the water is not potable.

The South pipe gets a massive inflow of fresh water to reduce the 289,500 count to five and then reduced to one as the sea enters (evidence of kelp up to mid-parking lot).

Rain can take four days to leave the system, but flushes bacteria colonies downstream with it.



9. General

- Allen Rose Innes proposed that as in the past FHVRRRA should contribute some funds to worthy causes to benefit residents of Fish Hoek
- A member thanked Brian Youngblood for his Facebook page which was so informative

10. Closure

Closure was approved.