

WAENHUISKRANS ARNISTON RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
WAENHUISKRANS ARNISTON BELASTINGBETALERSVEREENIGING

POSBUS/PO BOX 7090 ROGGEBAAI 8012

TEL 021 425 3218 FAX 021 425 3228

E-MAIL/E-POS cbird@plantrust.co.za

28 December 2009

Dear Member.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

I have set out in the attached document some of the more important matters your committee has been dealing with this past year.

The dominant issue, of course, was the case against Verreweide. The court ruling in favour of your Association has implications far beyond Wænhuiskrans Arniston. The outcome has set a precedent that will empower communities and motivate them to stand up against what is not in their best interests. We have shown that by standing together something can be done about issues that are patently wrong. I am encouraged by the selflessness with which people have dedicated themselves to the task at hand. Professional time and hard earned money has been poured into the litigation by many individuals. These people are not seeking personal gain. They simply wish to see this place and its people protected from exploitation. My sincere thanks go to all of those who have willingly contributed so generously.

The committee of 2009 comprised Vivian Lourens, Ebbe Dommissie, Murray van Heerden, Peter Hofmeyr, Greg Swiel, Sam Lawrence, Keith Higgins, Rovina Europa and Dawie Maritz. Keith resigned during the year. I must thank them for their willingness to be on the committee, particularly those who provided essential support whenever required.

A website will be up and running by mid January. We will notify you of developments and look forward to keeping in touch via the new medium.

I wish you and your loved ones health and happiness over the festive season and for 2010.

Kind regards,



Colin Bird

ANNEXURE TO CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

Finance.

A Financial report is attached to the papers distributed at the meeting.

Membership.

We had 217 members as at 31 October 2009, the end of the financial year .

Relationship with the Municipality.

Our meeting with the New Municipal Manager at the beginning of 2008 gave us much hope of a more mutually beneficial relationship with the municipality. However, whilst communication has been cordial and courteous, subsequently we have seen little implementation in response to queries, and we are left with a sense that officials are somehow constrained from taking action in certain instances. An example being the case against Verreweide, where the municipality is using ratepayers' money to challenge this judgment of the High Court; this despite the fact that the judgment is to the economic advantage of the municipality and, through them, the community.

Ward Committee .

WARA, probably the largest formal community-based organization in the ward, remains unrepresented on the Ward Committee. Our members are therefore unrepresented on a statutory forum that is meant to improve communication between the municipality and the community. It should be a priority for the incoming WARA committee to ensure that the municipality becomes aware that this void in representation can only diminish the status of the Ward Committee and the substance of its decisions.

Crime.

From most accounts the rate of criminal incidents in Waenhuiskrans Arniston is increasing. Brent Hill continues to provide an invaluable clearing house of these incidents and Johan Smal heads a group of property owners who have looked at the problem and investigated various options available to respond to the situation. Johan will be presenting his findings at the AGM. The zoning of the land set aside in Camp Street for a police station has been allowed by the municipality to lapse.

Rates.

We received complaints arising from the revaluation which took place during the year. These included the perception that Waenhuiskrans as whole was out of line with the rest of the municipal area and the fact that there were, in addition, vast discrepancies within Waenhuiskrans Arniston itself. A number of members successfully objected to the valuation of their properties where their values were out of line in

relative terms within Waenhuiskrans. Future committees need to be prepared to take on this matter with professional assistance, subject to financial support from members.

Nature reserve.

The only apparent change in the status of this issue is that Nature Conservation has installed additional poles to further constrain vehicular access onto the beach and dunes. Whilst their efforts are appreciated, the longer term sustainable solution based on the Memorandum of Agreement by a wide range of interested and affected groups, including WARA, is essential. The only uncommitted party, and therefore obstacle in the path to implementation, appears to be the municipality.

Water.

We have received official notification that the municipality has terminated its access to a water allocation from Theewaterskloof. This was done on the grounds of economics and because the supplier had, in any event, the right to re-allocate the resource. Concern has been expressed that this action could leave the Cape Agulhas Municipality with a supply shortfall in the future.

Sewerage scheme.

We have yet to receive satisfactory responses to questions raised about the smell in the vicinity of the Hotel and the reported continuous pumping at the Hotel premises. We also have no information as to when the second and third phases of the scheme will be implemented.

Dollas Downs.

Construction is reported to be taking place in the area. We are awaiting confirmation from the Municipality that this is legal. This is a matter for priority action by both WARA and the WACA.

Generator stations.

We have yet to receive a satisfactory response to our questions surrounding the construction of generator stations in the building line, and without pre-approved plans, at the Hotel and on the municipal land next to Erf 599 owned by Verreweide - the company we took to court for building illegally.

Pumping of raw sewage.

We have presented photographic evidence to the Municipality of apparently raw sewage being pumped from the 'Seaside Cottages' property on Pratt Street into the adjacent public space. To date we have had no reply regarding action to be taken in the matter.

Parking at the Hotel.

We have not received a response to our request that the Municipality install a barrier to prevent parking on the lawn in front (to the north) of the Hotel. This area is often used for recreation by children and parking there denies the public this amenity. We also await a response to a long standing query

regarding on-site parking at the Hotel. It is understood that the extension to the Hotel, completed two years ago, was approved subject to the provision of parking on the property and that parking has not yet been provided.

'Bob's Shop' site.

The owner withdrew his application for a hotel with planning waivers and has instead applied for the site to revert to its original status of 3 single residential properties. The general view is that this was the correct decision and most appropriate for the area.

Other Planning Matters.

Your committee has dealt with numerous planning matters during the year. Chief amongst them was the Spatial Development Plan (SDP) which is presently going through the final stages of approval. The public meeting earlier in the year was well attended by the committee and good comment made. We subsequently made a presentation to the co-ordinating Town Planners and we look forward to incorporation of the points made into the final SDP. My thanks go to those non-committee members, particularly David Jack and Fabio Todeschini, who, once again, made their time and expertise available in the interests of our community.

oooOooo