

WARA Newsflash : 6 May 2010

Development opposite the camp site: Erf 599

You will know that High Court acting Justice de Swart denied an application for leave to appeal her judgment on the matter. Both the Municipality and Verreweide took the only route open to them and petitioned the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein to overturn the denial.

Last Friday I was advised that the Supreme Court had rejected the petition. No less than four judges, two from the Supreme Court, have now found in our favour. The action your Association has taken has again been vindicated. This result is also a message to errant developers and local authorities to not underestimate the determination and capacity of a community to take to task those who disregard the interests of the general public.

The Courts have ruled that the land must revert to the Municipality and to its previous zoning. We now need to move forward by encouraging the Municipality to effect an orderly and participative process of rezoning, disposal and development of erf 599 in such a way that the whole community will benefit. I am certain every member of this association supports me in offering our full cooperation in that regard.

Where does this leave the Verreweide and the Municipality? They can now only appeal to the Constitutional Court. We have been advised that Verreweide are, not surprisingly, considering that course of action. It would be most surprising, however, if the Municipality follows suit.

Crime

Based on reports that the level of criminal activity, in particular theft, in Waenhuiskrans Arniston has increased markedly in recent months we sent to members a request for information. The informal survey revealed 5 incidents in January, 7 in February, 9 in March and, 49 in April. These figures have been shown to senior police officials in discussions arranged by concerned members. We have been encouraged by the response and assured that the matter is presently top of mind amongst politicians and officials alike. We intend following up on action taken but, in the mean time, please take common sense precautions. Also, please be sure to report all incidents to the police for it is upon their incident records that staff and equipment deployment decisions are based.

Web site

The privately sponsored website [www.arnistonalive .co.za](http://www.arnistonalive.co.za) is now up and running. You will find it a valuable source of information about Waenhuiskrans Arniston in general, and your association, in particular. This and previous newsletters appear there as well as the minutes of meetings including those of the last AGM held in December 2009. Your comments about the site would be most welcome.

Kind regards.

Colin Bird