

Bettys Bay Ratepayers Association Annual Report - 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

Betty's Bay remains an attractive destination because of its low density, nature orientation and peaceful environment. Despite some incidents of crime, our village has still not been subject to the amount of violence associated with crime in the cities.

Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association is one of the larger Associations in the Overstrand Region, with a membership of 406.

TEAMWORK

**Divides the task and multiplies
the
SUCCESS**

wish to thank all members and non-members who voluntarily made financial contributions that made it possible to render a service within the community.

The past year has seen a number of positive developments. I was able to build positive relationships with officials of the Overstrand Municipality and the Sand Dune Plan was finally approved. The re-establishment of the Community Policing Forum and the Neighbourhood Watch were major achievements.

2. COMMITTEE

I would like to record thanks to all our committee members who remained unchanged over the last year.

The Vice-Chair, Heine Foot, particularly for his role in the Whale Coast Forum and the management of the Crassula Hall and Adrian de Kock, responsible for the Secretarial and Treasurer duties. The participation of the other committee members is also acknowledged. Your active involvement within the different portfolios resulted in effective teamwork. They are Tim McGavin, Jorika Rabie, Wilna Rademeyer, Richard Stark and Hilda van der Merwe.

3. FINANCIAL STANDING

The financial standing of the association is sound.

During the financial year (FY) ending in October, we contributed R22,000 to three projects. For the completion of the Pringle Bay Fire Station, R10,000 was donated. For the renovation and upgrading of the Kleinmond Police Station, R10,000 and R2,000 to the Dune Interest Group.

This was possible with the generous contribution of members of the BBRA and fund raising projects, initiated by committee members. I wish to use this opportunity to thank you all.

The membership fee for 2017 will remain R60 per person per annum.

The Treasurer will give a detailed report on the financial situation of the association.

4. SPESIAL RATES AREA

Overstrand Municipality has recently gazette a By-Law that would permit the introduction of a special rates area. It enables a community to collect additional rates in order to extend municipal services. The levy collected by the Municipality would be transferred to a sec 21 company that is managed by the community. A full business plan and budget is required which spells out exactly what is proposed over a 5- year period. This is subject to periodic audit and renewal. Approval is required by a majority of ratepayers before a special rates area can be declared.

The community will thus determine the need for such a special rate area. The by-law provides for the implementation of different special rating areas within the greater Betty's Bay Area. If approval of a majority of affected ratepayers within a specific area (for example Sunny Seas), is obtained, that community is empowered to levy additional rates to extend services within their region.

5. PORTFOLIO REPORTS

5.1 Ward 10

As chairperson I was re-elected as a member of the new Municipal Ward Committee. The term of office co-insides with the term of office of the Ward Councilor. There was a municipal election in 2016 and Lisel Krige stepped down as Councilor. Fanie Krige is the newly elected Councilor for ward 10. I wish to thank both councilors for their assistance and support throughout the year.

The Ward Committee is the official channel of communication between the community and Municipality regarding municipal matters. A quarterly public feedback session by the Ward Councilor provides a platform for public participation. You are encouraged to make use of this opportunity.

I submitted the top 10 needs for our ward as part of the municipal integrated development planning and budget (IDP), for the period 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2022. The needs reflected mainly the maintenance of infrastructure as well as Sand Dune Management at the Main Beach Area.

An estimate of Rm25 was requested on the operational budget for appropriate road infra-structure in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els.

The budget estimate for the Dune Management Projects in Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay is Rm2.

The estimate capital budget for the tarring/paving of strategic roads within our region is Rm15.

Funds still need to be made available for the projects.

5.2 Safety and Security

The Hangklip Safety and Security Forum chaired by Director Neville Michaels (Director Protection Services Overstrand Municipality) is responsible to co-ordinate and integrate community resources with the mandate to render a service in the field of Safety and Security. The BBRA is also involved. It is the

second year that a Joint Operational Grid Plan will be implemented over the prime holiday period. This plan, in conjunction with the SAPS, Neighbourhood Watches, Municipal Law Enforcement, including Local and Provincial Traffic Police and the Fire Brigade provides for a force multiplier. This structure is considered to be so important that in 2017, all role-players will meet monthly, instead of the current position where joint planning is done on a quarterly basis.

With the revival of the Kleinmond CPF in October 2015, the BBRA devoted itself to the re-establishment of the **Betty's Bay Neighbourhood Watch**. The constitution was accepted and an application for accreditation submitted to the Department of Community Safety (DOCS) of the Western Cape Provincial Government. The reason for this application is to open the possibility to obtain additional funding from this source for specific community projects.

We are fighting crime with a solid organizational structure backed by an enthusiastic, albeit small team of volunteers.

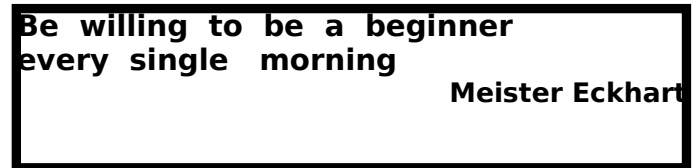
We have built good relationships with the SAPS and get good co-operation and speedy re-action from them. We have also managed to involve some of the security companies, who strengthen our numbers when needed.

The main challenge is to change the mind set of owners who fail to secure their homes in accordance with the changing face of Betty's Bay. We do not think that it is necessary to be anxious about crime,

but vigilance is important as criminals are also active, especially during the Festive Season.

The purchase of technical equipment is imminent. This will improve our chances of uncovering the criminal element who are a threat to our properties and possibly ourselves in the future.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Tim McGavin for all the hours that he has devoted as co-ordinator to establish the



Neighbourhood Watch, Jorika Rabie, our operational leader and night owl and all the devoted volunteer members of the Neighbourhood Watch for their unselfish service. We also wish to thank the many property owners/residents, who have made generous financial contributions.

Betty's Bay Property Owners, residents, week-enders, swallows and vacant land owners, are encouraged to participate in the fight against crime by becoming the eyes and ears within our community. Please apply by completing the necessary documentation, available from the zone wardens. Tim McGavin (cell 083 703 8073) can be contacted for further information.

5.3 Beaches, Amenities and Dune Management

The condition of public amenities is inspected regularly and shortcomings brought to the attention of the Municipality.

A boardwalk assessable for wheelchairs was established at Rondevlei, off Wheeler Road.

Through the efforts of the Dune Interest Group under leadership of Gottlieb van der Merwe, the Dune Management Plan was submitted and approved towards the end of this year. We can proudly announce that work has begun.

The Municipality started the process of moving the sand on the main beach parking area back onto the beach to form a fore dune. A demarcated pathway to direct visitors onto the main beach, with the necessary signage will be in place.

The approved management plan is available on the

Municipal and the BBRA Website.

I wish to stress that the movement of the sand dunes at our main beach area is not only a concern for the immediate property owners, but for the entire community. If it is left unattended, we might end up losing our beach, as is clearly visible from earlier aerial photos.

5.4 Property , Planning and Development

The BBRA has the opportunity to make a recommendation regarding applications submitted by property owners for a consent use and removal of restrictive title deed conditions.

One of the applications received during the course of this year was the application submitted to utilize a property zoned as single residential special, within the Sunny Seas Area, as an institution. This

application was opposed. This issue has still not been resolved.

With the new Overstrand Municipality By-Law on Municipal Land Use Planning, 2016, a large number of applications have been received for relaxation in terms of building lines. Many of these applications were for already existing developments and 'as built structures.'

The position of the ratepayer's association is that all property owners who might be affected by the proposed relaxation, should be consulted.

All our members are encouraged to make sure of the content of the Title Deed conditions imposed on their properties. These conditions are instrumental to ensure that the character of our village is maintained - for instance allowing for a single dwelling on a property, prohibiting wood and iron structures and/or guest houses on a property zoned as single residential.

5.5 Roads and Storm Water

Many roads are in a poor state of repair. The portfolio manager is constantly in close contact with the municipality to advise them of roads needing attention. This is showing some success.

With her intervention, the Municipality has commenced to cut back the bushes on those roads where the verges are overgrown.

In terms of the IDP plan it is hoped that the necessary funds will be made available to address the roads and the storm water issues of our village.

5.6 Water, Waste and Sanitation

The water purification has been outsourced and the private company by the name of Viola is currently contracted to render this service.

There are still many incidences of burst pipes. For this reason, the BBRA is in communication with the Municipality to motivate the re-placement of the old reticulation system with new pipes.

The water test results are received on a regular basis.

Should there be any discrepancies, the portfolio manager addresses the problem with the local authority.

5.7 Firefighting

There has been a decrease in the number of volunteer fire fighters in Betty's Bay. An embargo on the recruitment of new volunteers, made it currently impossible to recruit new members.

We had several discussions with the Fire Chief and Disaster Manager in this regard.

It is for this reason that some of the funds collected to assist the volunteers, have not been utilized. It is foreseen that these donations will be utilized for equipment in respect of the volunteer firefighters.

I am of the opinion that, in time to come, the Betty's Bay volunteers might amalgamate with the volunteers of Pringle Bay, as the new fire station in Pringle Bay can be developed into a regional emergency centre, to render a service to the entire Hangklip Community.

In the meantime, we will continue to support our volunteers. In the new

financial year, some of the funds will be utilized to equip the firefighting trailer.

6. COMMUNICATION

Communication with our members is primarily through the BBRA Web Page, our electronic messenger. We are fortunate to have Donn Ingle as our webmaster. Thank you for doing a sterling job and the many hours spent in front of the computer. Donn is willing to manage our web page again next year.

You are encouraged to read the web page regularly as we would like to keep our members up to date with community affairs, matters discussed and action taken by the committee. We also welcome contributions.

From time to time emails directed to members are returned. We urge all our members to ensure that changes in any of their contact details are communicated to us.

The editor of our official magazine, 'The Buzz', stepped down and despite several requests, no volunteer came forward to take up the position as editor. Unfortunately, we thus had to discontinue the publication of 'The Buzz', until a volunteer is prepared to take up the challenge.

CONCLUSION

Enjoy your stay in Betty's Bay over the holiday period.

Seasonal Greetings to all and thank you for your continued support of the BBRA.

Kind Regards

Rudi Perold

December 2016

**Whatever is worth doing at
all
Is worth doing well**

Lord Chesterfield

