

BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2019

In order to report on the activities for the past year, we need to measure our performance against the aims and objectives of BBRA, as stated in our constitution, these are as follows:

1. To facilitate, monitor and promote excellent management of the town of Betty's Bay and its environs and the needs of the community.
2. To monitor, evaluate and where appropriate, influence the Local, Provincial and Government's decision making in matters relating to Bettys Bay.
3. To identify issues affecting Betty's Bay and to recommend possible solutions to the Municipality and advance the interest of the Community in such issues.
4. To keep members informed, and to cultivate and encourage an interest in local affairs amongst ratepayers and residents in order to ensure improving standards of management for Betty's Bay.
5. To gain universal recognition as the official representative body of the community of Betty's Bay.
6. To promote the conservation of the unique flora and fauna character of Bettys Bay and it's environs.
7. The association is intended to be a public benefit organisation with all its activities being carried out in a non-profit manner and with an altruistic or philanthropic intent.

We started the year with a strategic planning session, which included a SWOT analysis, aimed at ensuring that the allocated portfolios were in line with the needs of Bettys Bay as represented by the organisation. As can be seen much of our work is centred on influencing the budget and work the Overstrand Municipality (OM) performs in Bettys Bay and communicating such initiatives to residents.

The BBRA has been involved in the following activities.

- Sand dune management, beaches and amenities
The sand dunes alongside Nerine Crescent have stabilised. The establishment of a recreational area at the main beach is being planned. The picnic/braai area at Davidskraal remains problematic; this situation will be monitored during the upcoming period. BBRA has initiated an investigation into the practicalities

of developing a coastal footpath along the length of Bettys Bay, which could ultimately link Rooi Els to Kleinmond.

- Roads and storm water
The repair to roads and storm water drains are ongoing. The installation of concrete drains is being investigated. Paranomus street will be tarred next year and further dust control projects will commence next year
- Conservation
The overall management and control of domestic waste by OM and residents remains problematic and is the primary cause of the baboon problem in Betty's Bay. The BBRA is working closely with OM to resolve this issue.
The new draft plot clearing policy has received input from us and further public participation is being planned.
- Property planning and development
We are in regular contact with OM regarding derelict houses and houses that do not conform to the required standard. This includes building sites that do not show progress and that detract from the aesthetics of our town.
BBRA have initiated a project with OM whereby the design of the business areas in Bettys Bay is being re-evaluated. We are in communication with OM and the Public Works Planner regarding the future use of state owned land within Bettys Bay, this will continue in 2020.
- Water, waste and sanitation
The recycling facility should be operational by December 2020 at the new Karwyderksraal site. The water pipeline replacement project is ongoing and we are pleased to report that additional work has been possible in the Sunny Seas area. The analytical reports on the drinking water in Bettys Bay are presented at the ward committee meetings and show that the water conforms to standards
- Fire and emergency services
The de-briefing meeting, following the 11th January fire was held in Crassula Hall on the 16th November. Residents are urged to have an area around their houses cleared of bush, thus creating a defensible space in the event of a fire.
- Security and neighbourhood watch

The Bettys Bay Neighbourhood Watch works closely together with the BBRA as we both serve the same community.

Fewer operations were conducted than last year, because the number of people on the operational group fell from 32 to 23. Operations were performed with an average of 6 people and as a result not all areas of Bettys Bay were covered.

The total number of residents on the data base grew during the year from 616 in Jan 2019 to the current 751. These people are split into 3 whatsapp groups (the first two groups are full) and are also on our e-mail address list.

First aid training was provided for members of our operational team.

Progress on the camera project has been slow mainly due to us waiting for the Special Ratings Area (SRA) to be approved in Kleinmond. The Overstrand Municipality is in the process of finalising the tender process for the installation of cameras along Clarence Drive. We have established a working committee consisting of Werner Zybrands, Gerald Scholly (BBNW) and myself to evaluate the options available.

A well attended special public meeting was held on the 14th August at which our strategy was presented regarding the restructuring of the BBNW and an appeal was made to residents to volunteer their help. It is sad to report that very little support materialized.

Currently there is only one type of service available to residents in Bettys Bay namely a response to an alarm situation once an event has happened. The BBNW attempts to stop crime from happening by patrolling the town and attempting to identify and report suspicious persons and vehicle movements but we have limited success due to a lack of manpower. The future must be the use of alternative technology combined with a dedicated response. We have been evaluating installing cameras in Bettys

Bay at strategic positions to identify people and vehicles that are suspicious, before a crime is committed. The info from the cameras will only be as good as the response to such info, this implies a dedicated response team based in Bettys Bay.

There are two funding models available namely Special Ratings Area or a private funding arrangement with residents. The OM has made progress and should be in a position to start camera installation in March 2020. At this stage it would appear that the most cost effective option would be to form an alliance with the OM, as they will provide an armed response free of charge. We are awaiting the technical details of their system so that we can evaluate how we can enhance the camera surveillance at critical areas.

It is very difficult to measure the effectiveness of patrol work and the dependence on the few operational persons is placing this activity in jeopardy. It is clear that the camera project is the only sustainable option available to us.

There was an average of 3 to 4 burglaries per week in Bettys Bay during the year, and I sincerely believe that with a focused approach we can make Bettys Bay the crime free area we all desire.

The BBRA is represented on the Ward Committee for ward 10 and also attends the weekly Jocom meeting, hosted by SAPS.

There were some particular highlights during the year, these being:

The successful objection lodged against the "rehab centre" in Sunny Seas and the resultant OM instruction that it must close down.

The increased use by residents of our website and the introduction of a monthly newsletter.

The hosting of the fire feedback meeting and the presentation by the Fire Chief.

Our membership during 2019 fell by 16 and is now 373 clearly there is potential to increase our membership. We have attempted to find a person to represent Mooiuitsig on our committee without success. This remains a challenge for the new committee.

May I use this opportunity to thank the committee for their dedication and help during the year and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.