

BETTY'S BAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2020

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.

In summarising the above objectives it is clear to me that the common thread is to positively influence all authorities such that the value of properties are enhanced by ensuring that standards are maintained and hopefully improved.

The question is; how do we as an organisation achieve this objective and do the things in the correct priority? In order to make sure we are doing the right things I have looked at Maslow's hierarchy of needs as a guide.

This theory states 5 levels, namely:

1. Food, Water, Rest, Shelter and Overall health
2. Safety - protection from violence and theft including financial security
3. Love and belonging. Friendship and family.

- These above 3 points are the basic needs that must be in place.
4. Esteem needs. Ego driven needs, self respect and self esteem
 5. Self actualisation needs.

The above 2 points cover fulfilment of your full potential as a person

The portfolios of the BBRA committee clearly fall into the basic needs according to Maslow. These portfolios include the following:

- Sand dune management
- Roads and storm water
- Conservation
- Property planning and development
- Water waste and sanitation
- Fire and emergency services
- Security and CPF
- Community and cultural matters

As can be seen most of these portfolios depend on having a good working relationship with the Overstrand Municipality. I would like to thank Werner Zybrands for his good work in improving the communication between BBRA and OM.

Generally there has been progress across most of the portfolios. The Covid-19 virus did impact on most of the projects undertaken by OM during the year.

The project to replace water pipes in Bettys Bay was stopped as the contractor was deficient and tenders were called for a second time. This work is due to resume early next year.

One major area of concern is the fire risk that remains unresolved in Bettys Bay, especially at Silver Sands, Jocks Bay, Davidskraal and Bass Lake. There are property owners who are not taking the fire threat seriously. There are many plots that are a serious fire risk because of excessive vegetation. The Fire Department has inspected over 700 erven and of these 325 will be receiving notices to clean their properties. If the concerned home owners do not respond there will be further consequences.

The backlog of 25 outstanding municipal summonses for violation of building conditions is being addressed and in November 5 summonses were issued.

The project to upgrade the CBD in Bettys Bay continues to make progress and the business owners have been consulted and their inputs obtained. This project will also affect the Spar shop coming in Coral street and the parking arrangements in the area.

Coming back to Maslow the baboon issues are taking up far too much time and resources and is dividing the community as this issue is driven mainly on emotion and not on scientific studies. On one hand we have those who love having the baboons around and on the other hand those who see the damage they cause and how they negatively impact on the life style of residents. The sad thing is that nobody knows what the true feelings of residents are, as no formal scientific survey has been undertaken. I am proposing that in the New Year a formal scientific based survey be conducted of residents in the affected areas namely, Sunny Seas, Jocks Bay and Silver Sands by an independent organisation or company. People living outside of these areas should be excluded as they do not have first - hand experience of the baboon issues and their views will be based on hearsay.

Please allow me to thank the committee for their time and dedication throughout the year under difficult and sometimes frustrating conditions.

It has been an honour to serve as Chairperson for the past year and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I thank you.

Bill Steyn

