



# COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

## RICHMOND HILL SPECIAL RATES AREA

**HELD ON: 21 FEBRUARY 2019 @7PM**

### **In Attendance**

Rory Norton	William Black	Jan de Klerk	Claerwen Hart
Arvind Amtha	Michelle Berrington	Paddy Brunner	Peter Bulbring
Jan De Klerk	Renee Dinkelman	Mike Du Preez	Claerwen Hart
Samkelo Jiyana	Rhett Johns	Jacques Jordaan	Rochelle Jordaan
Megan Kelly	Rob Lipka	Malcolm MacLean	Michelle MacLean
Craig Mostert	Alan Mounter	Barbara Nixon	Jackie Norton
Rory Norton	Ed Richardson	Francis Richardson	Nele Rosemeier
Mark Rudd	Marianne Terblanche	Jackie Varty	Norman Visser
Lauren Woodburn	Justin Bartlett	Ian Dangers - ADT	Mathilda Hornsveld
Insp Dorothy Serfontein	Elmarie Van der Vywer	Dries Van der Westhuizen	Lara Probert
Lt Col Howland	Ferdie Van Jaarsveld – Algoa		

### **Apologies**

Werna Van Der Linde	Andreas Van Der Line	Chris Parkin	Janine Uderstradt
Megan Bradfield	Geoff Bradfield	Sue Hoppe	Max Hoppe
Trudie Wegner	Hanna Kotze	Mariska Spoomaker	Brig Bentley
Anthony Viera Da Cruz	Grant Lindhorst	Steward Greys	Scott Rollo

### **Welcome**

Thank you to everyone for joining us tonight. Prior to the meeting, tea, coffee & juice was enjoyed by the community members. Please remember to bring your own mug and join us at 6:30pm for a chat and a "cuppa".

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting dated 11 October 2018 were read.  
The minutes were proposed by Jan De Klerk & seconded by Rochelle Jordaan.



1. **Concern about the increase in petty crime.** There seems to have been a significant increase in petty crime in the area. Residents plus visitors to the area (Stanley Street) need to make sure that valuables are not left in plain site as this encourages theft.
2. **Suspected Police Involvement in Crime.** A concern was raised by a resident that they were aware of marked police vehicles and vans frequenting establishments that are known to be undesirable in the area and they suspected police involvement. .... Howland encouraged them to please use their cell phones to record as much video footage as possible, including times, dates and vehicle registrations. Once you have this, please go to Humewood and make an affidavit to this effect as further evidence. Submit this to SAPS and please send him the docket number.
3. **Car guards in the area.** Residents queried if there was any way to regulate the car guards in the area. Algoa try to encourage the unknown car guards in the area to leave, but only Metro Police are in the position to enforce their removal. All guards who want to work in the area need to be licensed – these licenses are available at a cost of R50 and available at the traffic department in Korsten.
4. **Specific Problem Properties addressed at the meeting by Residents:**
  - 4.1 **28 Campbell Street.** Great concern about what appears to be a problem with drugs and prostitution from this address. Lt Col Howland undertook to investigate and revert at the next meeting.
  - 4.2 **39 St Patricks Road.** Another problem address that has been brought to the attention of the Metro. They have issued a notice to the residents that they have 30 days to remove themselves.
5. **Overport & Squatting.** This is an ongoing problem. It will require an integrated approach to be resolved permanently. Human Settlements need to get involved on a regular basis and they need to go back every week, not just sporadically. We will continue to push this matter with the Metro.
6. **Speed Humps around the School.** Traffic calming measures would be the best way to keep the school children safe around Khumbulani High School. Unfortunately, the metro only has a budget of R100 000 or calming measures throughout the ward, and 2 other schools within the ward have already been identified as being in need and this money has been allocated to those 2 projects.
7. **Noise Pollution** - The noise officer is Buhlungu and he can be contacted on 066 476 3602 (details supplied by Rhett Johns) He has come out to do previous investigations.  
  
The Churches are one ongoing problem. Claerwen has started communicating with the Metro regarding the churches on the corner of Campbell Street & Edward. The person dealing with the matter is Monique Strydom, Environmental Health Practitioner, Public Health Directorate for Air Pollution & Noise Control at the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. Further concerns can also be directed to her.



### **S.A.P.S.**

Lt Col Howland addressed the residents. Crime in Richmond Hill is definitely down since the introduction of Algoa Security. He attended a "save the city conference" and there are wonderful plans for increasing the safety of all the residents in PE. He asked everyone to please be patient as what was planned was really impressive.

There are hot spot area for crime in the suburb which they are aware of, and they are monitoring them and rely on Algoa Security for their feedback in this regard. The most common problem is theft out of motor vehicles and the most prevalent times for this is between 3pm and midnight.

Lt Col Howland further assured the residents of Richmond Hill that the plans SAPS have to raid central in an effort to get rid of the drugs and crime, they would ensure that when these raids are conducted, that sufficient protection will be afforded to our suburb as we are easy access for criminals trying to escape over to North End and Govan Mbeki. Lt Col Howland quotes his cell phone number as 082 442 1304 for the residents to note down if there were concerns that SAPS were not addressing. He further encouraged residents to please contact him with docket / case numbers where they are not receiving satisfactory feedback from SAPS and he will investigate.

### **ALGOA SECURITY**

Ferdi addressed the residents on behalf of Algoa Security. They saw a definite increase in crime, noise & movement when the students returned to the suburb mid to late January. We had a quite festive season. Richmond Hill is used as a thoroughfare for club goers who leave Central and need to get home to North End and there is an increase of noise when they do walk through. Security do as much as possible to quieten them. They do bring in extra vehicles over weekends in the early hours of the mornings as these are the "busy" times for this.

### **METRO POLICE**

Inspector Serfontein addressed the residents on behalf of the Metro Police. She explained that the Liquor Board is above them in the hierarchy | structure and they can only process situations to a certain level before having to hand matters over to them. They are working hard with the Board to give both themselves and the Liquor Inspectors from SAPS training on how to properly inspect the documentation a proprietor is required to hold for the various establishments so they can immediately see if the document is correct or not. A R2 500 spot fine is payable for any establishment that does not have the correct documentation and all of this documents have to be in original format.

### **COUNCIL**

Sandile Rexwana introduced Dries Van Der Westhuizen who has come on board as the PR Councilor for Ward 5 in an effort to alleviate the workload from Sandile as we are a very busy and complex ward. The article published in the Herald about the state of Central was done in the hope of getting the matter resolved and improving the area. Offices must be held accountable where they are not performing and must advise the way forward and commit to a course of action. Law Enforcement must be implemented and a raid on Central will be the only way to get rid of the unwanted elements. This will, however, require the involvement of many departments and it will have to be carefully planned so as to ensure the information is not leaked out as we need the element of surprise to make it work.



- **Branding of Richmond Hill**

Grand Lindhorst & Steward Greys have nearly completed the online survey for the residents of the area. This will be circulated to all via email. The survey is easy to take and there will be a lucky draw prize to all residents who enter in the form of a dinner out at an eatery of their choice in Richmond Hill (We are keeping it local).

- **Lighting**

The Metro have finally responded and put us in touch with the Acting Director of Electrical and Energy : Lesley Dunderdale who has undertaken to find the correct person who can advise us correctly. We have diarised to follow up and will revert with more information / progress in this matter at the next meeting.

- **Illegal Businesses**

The Richmond Hill Residents Association have taken the municipality to court and are currently in litigation with the Metro. The properties on this initial list have been reduced to 8. As this is ongoing matter, constant feedback will be provided on our progress at each meeting as we have now secured the services of an Advocate as we are not accepting the current status quo. The word needs to get out that the RHSRA will not tolerate illegal businesses or the illegal use of properties that are not correctly zoned.

In an extended effort to try and educate the current and prospective residents of Richmond Hill as far as possible, Claerwen has set up a brochure plus a corresponding letter that will be distributed to all Estate Agents working in the area, so they are aware of what the RHSRA is, how we operate and to clearly explain to them that we will not tolerate the illegal use of property in the area. We have further drawn up a brochure for new property owners and residents in the area that clearly explains life in Richmond Hill, including refuse collection, illegal dumping, etc, etc. A copy of this brochure will be loaded up onto the RHSRA Website as soon as possible. A note to this effect will be put onto our Facebook Page so residents can go and take a look for their reference.

A suggestion was made by the floor to have someone notify Customs about illegal cigarettes that are being sold at the illegal shops. Both SAPS and Ward 5 were represented at the meeting but a follow up by the SRA office to both will be done.

- **Conservation Project**

Alan addressed the residents to give them feedback on the projects currently underway. A concern as raised that there appear to be vagrants living in the wild garden at the bottom of Irvin Street past the steps. Alan was going to check and if necessary the office would report this to Ward 5 for further action. It was also drawn to the resident's attention that after much advertising on both Gumtree and Facebook, the Ford Bantam owned by the RHSRA has been sold, as we only need the 1 vehicle.

- **Megan Kelly & Craig Mostert**

Megan & Craig run the Fury Friends Care Campaign. They have a sterilisation campaign and in the last 3 months have managed to get 14 cats and 3 dogs sterilised. Animal abandonment is an ongoing problem. When your neighbors move out, please check to see that they have taken their animals with them. If not, please report this to Megan or Craig immediately for action.

If there are residents in the area who need help with their pets can honestly can't afford help their animals if they are sick or need sterilisation, please contact them to see how they can assist. They have an ongoing need for funds. All donations are welcome. They have online auctions to raise funds, so if you have any unwanted goods lying around, please consider donating them to this worthy cause.



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### **Close**

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Jan De Klerk thanked those present for taking the time to attend. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

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### **Next Meeting**

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Thursday 11 April 2019 @ 7pm

Please join us for coffee from 6:30pm