



**K**OMMETJIE  
**R**ESIDENTS &  
**R**ATEPAYERS  
**A**SSOCIATION



**Kommetjie Residents and  
Ratepayers Association (KRRA)**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

[www.kommetjie.org](http://www.kommetjie.org)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
Cllr.	Councillor
COCT	City of Cape Town
KEAG	Kommetjie Environmental Action Group
KRRRA	Kommetjie Residents and Ratepayers Association
NCC	NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SAN Parks	South African National Parks
SRA	Special Ratings Area
UCT	University of Cape Town

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction | Steve Pike

Media and Communications Coordinator Steve Pike welcomed everyone to the 2022-2023 AGM, noting what a busy year it had been with many activities, challenges and achievements. He went through the format of the evening, which would include brief reports from the Chair and Financial Officer, and information on the activities of the various working groups over the past year. Guest presentations would include a security update by Kane Mitchell from KomWatch, information on baboon management in the Southern Peninsula by Dr. Ben Cousins and an address by Councillor Simon Liell-Cock.

Steve noted that although time had been allotted for questions, time constraints may preclude lengthy discussion on hotly debated topics such as baboons, Swan Lodge and the Spar development. However, he encouraged attendants to engage with the relevant working groups, and noted that a separate meeting could be called if a subject warranted deeper consideration.

It was highlighted that the current sub groups were not the only categories of potential endeavour. New working groups or ideas for groups are always welcome. Groups currently at the early stages of being established include Resilience, a group focusing on urban resilience and disaster mitigation, and a Business and Enterprise group to represent shop owners and other local traders.

As residents hear from working groups and guest speakers about pressing needs and budgetary constraints for village infrastructure and improvements, they may want to consider whether it is prudent to explore the potential for the village to be defined as part of a Special Rating Area (SRA). SRAs are a geographic area approved by the City of Cape Town (COCT) in which property owners can raise levies to fund a higher level of service beyond the scope of the City administration. He encouraged interested residents to start a working group to explore this. An explanatory document on SRAs to the Kommetjie.org website.

The website also contains the minutes from last year's AGM, as well as a copy of the KRRRA constitution. Steve read out some key points from the KRRRA constitution to remind everyone of what the KRRRA is about. These include:

- Promotion and safeguarding of the interests of residents and property owners in Kommetjie by monitoring proposed developments;
- Preservation of the character of Kommetjie and its environment;
- Protection of streams, wetlands, indigenous flora and fauna, ecological systems, cultural assets and scenic beauty;
- Representation of the community with the municipal authority responsible for Kommetjie, including robust engagement with officials to ensure appropriate quality of service delivery, environmental and spatial planning.

Attention was also drawn to the SnapScan codes displayed around the hall for attendees to donate. There is now an option to donate specifically to the causes you feel most passionately about, using the drop down list.

## 1.2 Chairperson's Report | Patrick Dowling

It's not hard to understand that many items reported on from year to year are similar in a relatively small settlement like Kommetjie. This is our location and period and we are the cast, growing less glamorous by the year and the plot develops slowly with periodic spurts of activity, conflict, scandal and intrigue often reflecting episodes from the regional or national playbook. A block buster we are not but a comfortable, predictable series where the storyline unfolds mostly sedately.

So this year the tale continues. This is the 750- word summary to be followed by more illuminating and motivational detail provided by our several sub-committee leaders, consistent with the broader, less hierarchical approach that the KRRRA has followed over the last few years.

### 1.2.1 Planning, Development and Infrastructure

Believe it or not without tangible evidence, but progress has been made with Spar Centre, the fire damaged Swan lodge, the bio-corridor connecting SANParks northern and southerly sections, the ceding of land to Table Mountain National Park, the realignment of the minor public access road between Ocean View and Noordhoek beach, the extensive development planning around the Imhoff's Gift farm precinct near generation school, the provision of services for the new Riverside extension area and the private development on the Eastern boundary of Ocean View formerly owned by OVDT.

In limbo of sorts are the extension of Houmoed Road to link with Buller Louw avenue in Sun Valley near the Pick n Pay centre, pending a court case outcome; and the future of recently renamed Kommetjie Mountain Estate (formerly Kompanjiesuin), where several would-be investors appear to have been led up a non-existent garden path. The City has suggested neutrally that such people should consult their lawyers. Caveat emptor etc. After all they only approved this massive development application that has been plagued by kaolin mud and dust and fears about additional traffic load.

Back in our front and back yards there has been, despite a recession and other national crises, an upsurge of new building, from scratch, alterations and extensions vertically and horizontally as residents discover how newish building regulations allow them to densify and make money. This is not all bad, but it can cause consternation and set undesirable precedents – an issue that keeps our two specialists Ian and Mark very busy.

Apart from ordinary building monitoring we have commented on several heritage related applications and brought out a second edition of the much-loved Kommetjie book earlier this year. If you haven't already, get your copy this evening.

### 1.2.2 Environment

Baboons, love them or not quite, have kept a lot of people busy – a big economic stimulus for scientists to monitor, vets, officials, repair men. It's not only Kommetjie and we have with us this evening Dr Ben Cousins from Simon's Town who with Peter Willis and colleagues, has been trying to establish a rational baboon and management discussion base that does not complicate a difficult issue further with human-human conflict. He'll update us about where we are at regarding contracts, fences, political pressure points etc. We also have some students amongst us who are running a research project on a matter which attracts international interest.

The protection and where possible rehabilitation of Kommetjie's many other environmental and heritage assets has taken up a big chunk of KRRRA's time and money over the last twelve months, a trend we are proud of as it denotes community caring not just self-interest. The work has included a huge alien invasive plant removal effort, fire risk reduction planning for walkway extensions, improvement of public spaces, parks and verges and indigenous replanting. We participated actively too in the City's coastal dune protection project. We thank John Cuthill, Sally Sivewright, Simon Bellingham, Eugenie and Mark Skelton, Craig Lunn and many other helpers consistency, dedication and sheer volume work.

### 1.2.3 Road Safety

Another concern being attended to in detail and with gusto is traffic safety in the village. Traffic calming, messaging and safe paths for non-motorists have been the focus. Many thanks to Caro for "driving" these efforts.

### 1.2.4 Social Fabric

Judging by the uptick in volunteer readiness to help with the numerous projects of the association it seems that our own community wide spirit and ethos, is healthy. We are ready to speak to each other even on issues where we disagree. But it's a polarized society we live in and our social fabric group has worked hard at addressing and helping to change this reality while acknowledging and foregrounding a sometimes-painful past. We thank Holle, Mary-Anne, Sandy, Jenny, Gerald, Tammy and Michelle.

### 1.2.5 Resilience

It's not only our fellow humans and other creatures that we must learn to live with but also external factors such as electricity supply and water shortages, pollution events, rampant inflation and fire. With these in mind we are starting a Kommetjie Resilience Group. Thanks to Emily and Holle for bringing up this important topic. Please chat to Emily if you would like to share ideas or feel free to email her at [emilyLhenehan@gmail.com](mailto:emilyLhenehan@gmail.com).

### 1.2.6 Funding

At the moment we have about 30 regular donors. Fundraising with talks and films has been reasonably well supported too. However given the array of work that needs to be done continually to keep this community participation aspect of local governance happening there needs to be a more reliable income stream and that is why we are reopening the discussion about a Special Rating Area and the sort of things it could help us achieve in Kommetjie. In the meantime, tonight we have money boxes and QR codes for snap-scanning aplenty. Sorry no cheques any more.

After more than a year's battle with banking bureaucracy we have nearly completed the merger of KEAG and KRRRA accounts which will give a small boost to the kitty. The environmental work of the two organizations has been combined for a long time. Many thanks to treasurer team Jenny, Tony and Karen who have kept track of income and expenditure and kept us out of debtor's prison.

### 1.2.7 Business and Local Enterprise

Before Covid chaos shut down just about everything, a Kommetjie Business Forum had just started. While normal trading has resumed, that coordinating conversation has not, as far as we are aware. There are many small, homebased and occasional market-oriented enterprises too and it would be good to see a healthy network take forward ideas that help keep spending local and serve village

needs. We thank local business owners for being here and Taryn from the weekly Kommetjie Market for making themselves available for productive conversation on the topic. Taryn is reachable on [TarynM3@gmail.com](mailto:TarynM3@gmail.com).

### 1.2.8 Communications

Keeping the village informed about all the above and more throughout the year is the communication team, Steve, Roger, Holle and Emily who mind the newsletter, website, banners, posters (you must have seen them). There are also external interactions that have to happen with officials, councillors, banks, ISPs, other civics and the media. Here Charmaine, Michelle and Caro have been very effective in addition to their own specific tasks.

### 1.2.9 Thanks

Before ending this report we must acknowledge everyone in Kommetjie who has: contributed funds, picked up litter and after dogs, talked to neighbours about building plans, looked after leopard toads, baboons, otters, porcupines, caracal and other local wildlife made visitors and neighbours feel welcome, composted organic waste, trimmed obscuring branches, slowed down their driving, cared for public open space, reported water and sewerage leaks, supported local business (formal and informal), planted indigenous, removed alien invasive plants, participated in valley projects, helped with play parks, and spoken to officials and councillors.

Finally, thanks to all of you who made the effort to participate this evening and to St. Joseph's Catholic church for making this hall available at short notice.

## 1.3 Financial Report | Patrick Dowling<sup>1</sup>

The 2022-2023 financial year has seen a lot of traffic on the KRRRA account. Income was raised via donations, largely from a small consistent group of residents, and fund-raising efforts through talks and films. Outgoings related to payments for service providers such as webmaster and ISP, printing, indigenous plants for ecosystem restoration, tool maintenance, subscriptions (eg. Far South Civic Forum), and short contracts for chainsaw operation and casual labour (which at R41,000 represents the largest expense). The KRRRA has also made donations in support of fire disaster relief and charitable causes in the valley such as children's events and outings, and there is a more recent request to assist with the purchase of jackets for the neighbourhood watch in Ocean View.

At a total of R27,000 as of 17 May, the KRRRA account balance is substantially less than that of this time last year, which totalled a handsome R84,315,00. However, funds for the coming year will be supplemented by the amount remaining in the KEAG account (approximately R20k), which is in the process of being merged with the KRRRA account. This merging process has taken more than a year and has exposed us to the labyrinthian workings of banking bureaucracy and the value of Vedic mindfulness practices.

The summarized income and expenditure statement is noted in Figure 1 below, and further detail is available to all interested parties. Patrick highlighted three no-interest loans from residents with pet projects, who will be reimbursed when bank balances permit. Patrick noted that the KRRRA has opted

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Jenny Tanesse, Tony Dix, Karen Isaacs & Patrick Dowling

to stay with the free membership sign-up system (ie. no subscriptions) in the hope that introducing snap scan technology will motivate people to donate more easily and possibly more frequently.

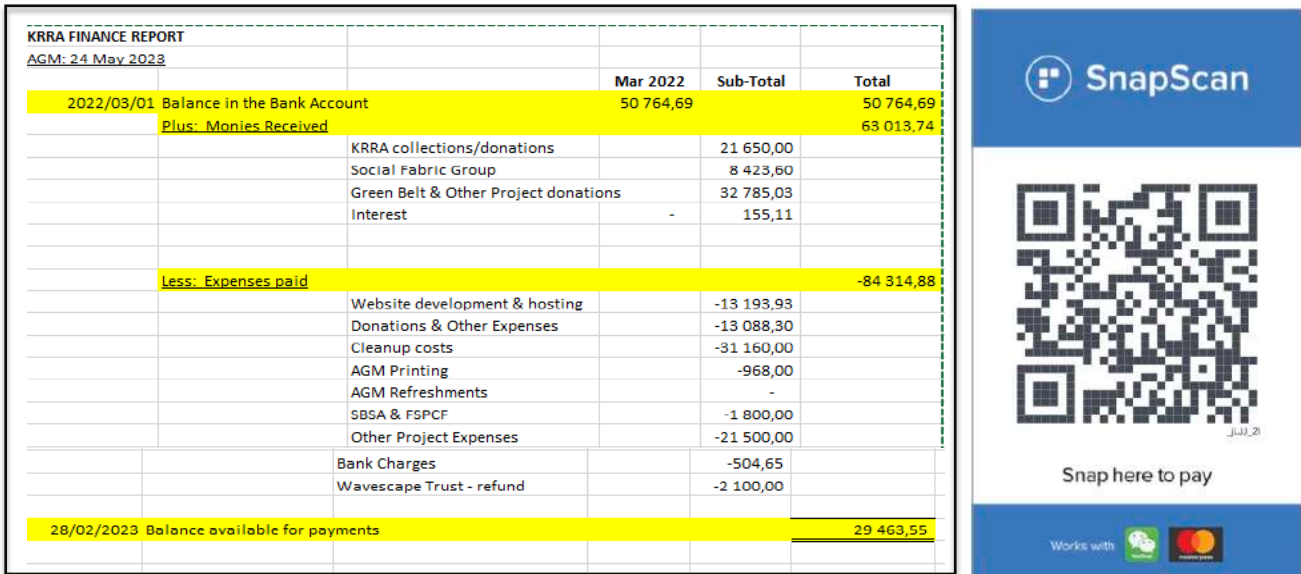


Figure 1: KRRRA Finance Report Summary and SnapScan QR code for making donations

Patrick ended by noting that while spreadsheets usefully summarise financial figures, they do not adequately reflect the hundreds of thousands of rands that the cumulative work of volunteers have contributed to the community over the year.

## 2.0 GUEST PRESENTATIONS

### 2.1 Baboon Management Update | Dr. Ben Cousins

Dr. Ben Cousins, a renowned social scientist and land expert presented on Baboon Dialogue Initiative, which originated recently in Simons Town to facilitate respectful dialogue between stakeholders affected by baboons, with a view to developing a consensus around a more effective baboon management approach for the Southern Peninsula. The initiative has brought together academics, NGOs, the NCC and local government to address this pressing, complex and contentious issue.

As the peninsula has become more populated, baboons have become more habituated to humans and their presence has become increasingly problematic. While there are a range of viewpoints on and levels of sympathy for the baboons, it tends to be the most polarised among the population who make themselves heard. However there is also a large proportion of less vocal residents who may be sympathetic to the baboon issue but recognise that a change in the status quo is needed. The current baboon management plan was developed 20 years ago and formalised 10 years ago; however the situation is quite different from 20 years ago and therefore an updated approach is required.

The Baboon Dialogue Initiative approach is threefold:

1. **Foster Dialogue:** Create a space for calm discussion and develop listening skills to respect differing opinions. This is led by an expert facilitator, Peter Willis.



2. **Inform and Educate:** Dr. Cousins and the team have developed a comprehensive resource pack on baboon science, with links to articles, research studies and all manner of baboon data ([click here to view](#)) and have hosted experts to present and answer questions from residents. These experts include scientists from UCT, management at NCC, independent researchers and city officials.
3. **Engage with decision makers:** The informal alliance has communicated with city officials to provide feedback on strategic management documents, noting the lack of detail on timeframe and sense of urgency. A meeting has been requested with the Mayor.

Going forward, the Initiative plans to foster broader dialogue and engagement across the peninsula to develop a sustainable management plan that is fit for purpose. The contract for the NCC to monitor and manage the baboons is due to expire soon, and until recently there was no plan to renew this. Citizen pressure has resulted in the likely renewal of the contract for the coming 18 months with the same level of funding. This is due to be announced officially in the coming weeks.

Action and planning is required now in order to have a new approach in place 18 months from now, when the new contract will end. Experts all appear to agree that the most effective way forward would be strategically placed fencing. The capital for funding the fence will be more simple to obtain than the ongoing maintenance and operational requirements. Different models need to be considered and consulted upon, including public private partnerships (PPPs) and an increased role for communities and residents.



*Figure 2: Dr. Ben Cousins presenting on the Baboon Dialogue Initiative at the 2023 KRRR AGM. Turnout for the 2023 AGM was high, with about 100 residents in attendance.*

## 2.2 Komwatch Update | Kane Mitchell

Kane has been a KomWatch patroller for 10 years, and the Chair for the past 2 years. He provided an update on crime in Kommetjie over the past year. There was a large uptick in crime at the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023. The incidents vary in terms of their seriousness, but most are opportunistic petty theft. However, last month a more serious crime occurred, which involved two attempted muggings by the same perpetrator. Both of the criminal's targets were women. The first woman was with a pram walking down by the river, while the second was on the beach. Patrollers

and security companies were alerted by a passing car, who saw the criminal accosting the first woman on the river. The criminal was caught by Komwatch patrollers and security companies.

As summarized in Table 2 below, the high figures in January and February dropped off quite rapidly from March onwards. Kane attributes this rapid reduction to a number of factors.

**Table 1: Number of incidents of crime in Kommetjie so far in 2023**

Month	Number of Incidents
January 2023	40
February 2023	26
March 2023	5
April 2023	4
May 2023	3

Firstly, 2023 has seen the widespread introduction of cameras, installed and are monitored by Senixa. There are now 60 cameras in Kommetjie, situated in key hotspots adjacent to green spaces, such as the firebreak. These cameras are 'black screen', which means they are only actively monitoring when triggered by movements during certain hours and this sends an alert to patrollers and security companies.

The second change has been the establishment of Mountain Men security company in the village. Mountain Men have operated with great success elsewhere, and KomWatch are very pleased that they have begun operation in Kommetjie. Mountain Men have a slightly different approach to other security companies. In addition to response vehicles, Mountain Men also post officers on the mountain with binoculars, and in the village on bicycles. This makes them quite proactive / preventative.

Finally, the introduction of License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras have prompted some arrests in Kommetjie over the past year. LPR cameras are specialized surveillance units designed to detect, capture and log vehicle license plates involved in criminal activity.

KomWatch is planning an AGM in July and will keep residents informed once a date and location has been set.

## 2.3 Local Councillor Briefing | Simon Liell-Cock

Simon Liell-Cock is the councillor for Ward 61, which is a Ward that includes many villages across the peninsula<sup>2</sup> and represents 1% of the population of Cape Town. Simon is a keen proponent of addressing alcohol abuse and its pernicious effects on society, with more than 50% of trauma

<sup>2</sup> Kommetjie, Ocean View, Misty Cliffs, Scarborough, Red Hill Informal Settlement, Glencairn, Glencairn Heights, Simons Town, Windmill Beach, De Gama Park, Pine Haven, Dido Valley, Cape Peninsula, Blockhouse Gap

incidents nationwide being related to alcohol. One way of reducing alcohol harm is to restrict the sale and availability of alcohol.

An update was provided by Cllr. Liell-Cock on the services overseen by the COCT, including water, sanitation, electricity, solid waste management and transport. Many of these services are being affected by ongoing and worsening loadshedding. Loadshedding is affecting the supply of clean water, with R175 million being spent on generators. Being a mountainous ward, there are also perennial issues with water pressure, because when pressure is increased to reach higher dwellings, water pipes often blow in lower lying areas. Sanitation services remain affected by abuse of the system, particularly in certain areas. Loadshedding is also affecting the ability to process waste; because although pump stations prepare for loadshedding by emptying holding tanks ahead of the outages, overflow may still sometimes still occur.

Electricity supply for roadside lamps are also affected by loadshedding, as cable theft is occurring routinely during outages. Loadshedding is also affecting other crime, as during loadshedding some CCTV cameras are not operational. The targeted murder of 6 people recently in Ocean View occurred during a period of loadshedding, because the criminals were aware that nearby CCTV would not be working.

Solid waste management is thankfully not affected by loadshedding, however, illegal dumping continues to be an issue, particularly in Ocean View. A big clean-up is planned and Cllr. Liell-Cock is trying to encourage the reporting of those engaging in this activity.

In terms of transport, Kommetjie Main Road Phase 3 upgrade was delayed over the past year by tendering process problems, however this is in the pipeline for the coming year and ground will be broken in July. Concerns related to traffic at the Generation School Imhoff turnoff continues to be a concern and plans are being drawn up to include traffic lights or a circle. Although a circle would seem to be the preferred option, circles are more costly than one would imagine.

Simon concluded by introducing the new Ward Assistant, Yushrah Davis, who has been a significant support to the councillor in recent months.

## 2.4 PeaceJam Introduction | Earl Mentor

Earl Mentor from PeaceJam South Africa made a brief introduction to the PeaceJam concept and invite Kommetjie residents to an upcoming event. PeaceJam is a global youth organization led by 14 Nobel Peace Laureates, and is dedicated to mentoring youth to get involved in bringing about positive change in their communities. More than 1.3 Million youth in over 40 countries have participated in the PeaceJam programme.

In the far South, PeaceJam is working with at-risk youth, to develop an improved civil discourse by breaking down cultural barriers, better understanding differences and commonalities between and within communities and overcoming negative stereotypes.

PeaceJam have joined forces with the Kommetjie Social Fabric Group to organise an upcoming event at Fishermans in Kommetjie to raise funds for their mentoring programme. The documentary film 'Until We Are Free', about Shirin Ebadi, the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, will be screened at 6pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, with a R50 donation at the door. For more information on this event or to find out how to support the initiative, contact Gerald Tanesse from the Social Fabric Group on 083 333 9418 or Earl Mentor on 072 857 3392.

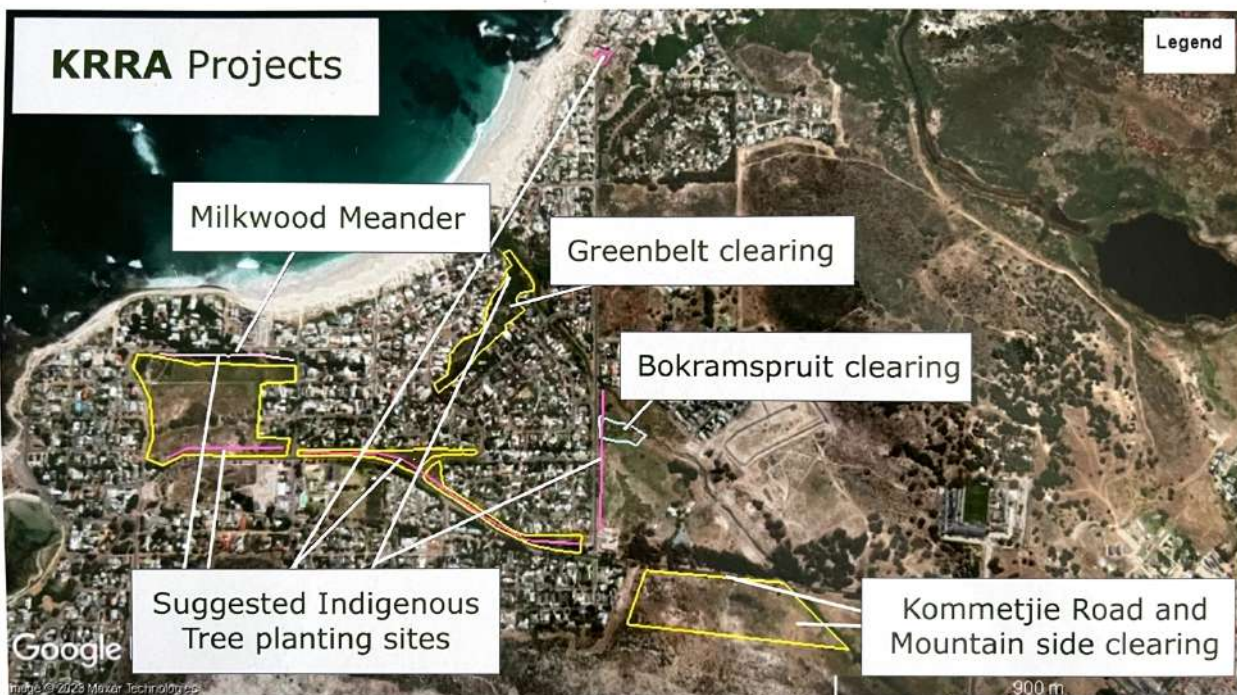
### 3.0 WORKING GROUP PRESENTATIONS

#### 3.1 Environment Group | John Cuthill

John Cuthill outlined the broad scope of work of the Environment Group portfolio, which includes: invasive alien clearing, toad monitoring, paths, Bokramspruit restoration, milkwood and indigenous planting, dogs, beaches, poaching and baboons.

A highly concerning 75% drop in the population of the endangered Western Leopard Toad in Skilpadsvlei was recorded last year. The cause for this is unknown. Last year the two best breeding sites were ponds on private properties. John appealed for assistance from Kommetjie residents to sign up for western leopard toad monitoring activities. A pool of 12-14 toad monitors is needed so that 2 per night can move toads off road, and record information such as measurements and sex of the toads before uploading this information to iNaturalist website. Further information on how you can get involved is included in Appendix 1.

Indigenous planting has been carried out widely, with the Environment Group using KRRRA funds to source 250 Strandveld plants for this purpose. The success rate for the planting has been 90%, and group member Eugenie Skelton propagating a further 250 plants for extending the areas in the coming year. Simon Bellingham has also been instrumental in raising funds to clear aliens and plant indigenous species. The presentation featured many before and after photos of areas where alien clearing and indigenous planting had been carried out, showing substantial changes after just one season in areas such as the Bokramspruit. The presentation also featured aerial view maps outlining where work had taken place, as per Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Locations of KRRRA Environment Group projects**

In the Greenbelt, alien clearing and indigenous planting was instigated by Charmaine Weitsz and funded by concerned residents who border the land. In addition to the ecological benefits, alien clearing benefits residents by reducing risks from fires and wood removal. For alien clearing it is preferable to raise money for professional intervention, rather than using volunteer manpower. Removal of the Rooikrans, Manatoka and Port Jackson trees was conducted in partnership with the COCT Recreation and Parks team. While residents funded the clearing, COCT provided the wherewithal for removal and processing of the cleared biomass. This totalled approximately 20 truck loads. Cleared areas form the basis of the next step which is to plant Milkwoods in the devoid areas, which will be supplied by the COCT. Other green areas have also been earmarked for clearing and planting over the coming year.

The footpaths over Slangkop are a concern due to increased traffic and erosion. The area over the sand dunes is particularly sensitive to erosion caused by desire lines. Currently these paths are not under the responsibility of SanParks, however they are looking into rehabilitating and marking the paths in order to better preserve the area.

A new footpath is to be developed through the milkwoods from the beach side of Kirsten Avenue through to the Skilpadsvlei. The 'Milkwood Meander' was an initiative of Michelle Koch and the KRRA, and following engagement with local authorities, the COCT have agreed to bear the cost of a wooden boardwalk and any new milkwood trees that might be required.

Dog fouling continues on the boardwalk and Die Kom. The Group would be interested in ideas for bins and signage. The beach area is relatively clean – many thanks to Rose Wise and the group that organises beach clean-ups. Two further clean-ups are planned for the first Saturday of July and of December, 9 -10.30am at the Longbeach ablutions block. Rose is on 084 359 4727 for more info.

A lot of effort went towards improving the garden verges around the central area of village this year, with the verges beside Kommetjie Eco Pre-Primary, the proposed Spar development and outside Fisherman's Garden planted with local, indigenous and water wise plants. Many thanks to those businesses, Eugenie Skelton and Environment Group members - they have established beautifully and are a great improvement to the central village area. Next step is to improve the area along Wireless Road; please contact Caro if you would like to donate plants – [carosmit162@gmail.com](mailto:carosmit162@gmail.com).

There are also plans afoot to take a more active role in organic waste management in the coming year, with a composting workshop being planned by Emily Hurley and René Ronge. Please contact Emily on 063 304 9068 or [emilyLhenehan@gmail.com](mailto:emilyLhenehan@gmail.com) for more information.

Finally, the Environment Group requests that residents take note of the visible symptoms of the shot hole borer, which is affecting trees on the other side of the mountain. Residents can aid the prevention of the pest's spread by not purchasing firewood from over the mountain and reporting any suspected cases immediately to the local authorities. An information sheet can be found in Appendix 2, however some of the signs are: wilting trees; dead branches; exit / entry holes on the bark of the trees; shotgun-like lesions on the bark at entry/exit holes; sugar volcanoes on the bark at entry/exit holes; blotches of oozing resin on the bark at entry/exit holes; and wood frass (wooden powder) on the bark at entry/exit holes.

John ended the presentation by appealing to residents to sign up and get involved in any of the various projects outlined, and in particular the toad monitoring. For further information on any of the Environment Group projects, please contact John Cuthill on [rootsanall@gmail.com](mailto:rootsanall@gmail.com) or Eugenie Skelton on [eugenie.skelton@gmail.com](mailto:eugenie.skelton@gmail.com).

## 3.2 Parks and Open Spaces | Craig Lunn & Lisa Labinjoh

### 3.2.1 Wireless Road Car Park and Playground | Craig Lunn

Residents living in the vicinity of Wireless Road car park will have observed problems related to plastic litter pollution, loitering in the small hours of the night and alcohol consumption. With great persistence, substantial improvement has been made in keeping the car park clean and litter free.

Craig has more recently been working to improve the playground area, to make it an area that parents and kids from Kommetjie, Ocean View and Masiphumelele would be proud of and want to frequent. Following a number of meetings between COCT and KRRRA steering committee member Charmaine Weitsz, Craig has been supported by Vuyiswa (Superintendent of Parks at COCT), together with council workers Zonkie, Bongji, Bongilla and Lee. About a month ago the area was tidied, with flower beds created and overgrown hedges and weeds cut back to reveal established milkwood trees and aloes. While there remains a lot to be done, the area is slowly being beautified.

The COCT has promised to soon assist with the regeneration and composting of the lawned area, the fixing of broken swings and planting of Milkwood trees and indigenous flowers etc. There was a very positive response when Craig posted his initial intentions for the car park on Kommetjie facebook group, and he requests that Kommetjie folk get involved by donating plants and providing ideas and hands-on support. For more details, please contact Craig on [craiglunn6@gmail.com](mailto:craiglunn6@gmail.com) or 072 856 3515.

### 3.2.2 Weavers End Park | Lisa Labinjoh

Weavers End Park has until now operated with very limited interaction with the City of Cape Town (COCT). In December 2022 a complaint was made about some aspects of the park. This prompted the COCT to conduct an inspection and they requested the removal of everything in the park that was not authorised. This included the compost heap, water butts, picnic tables, swings under trees, platforms in trees and zip line.

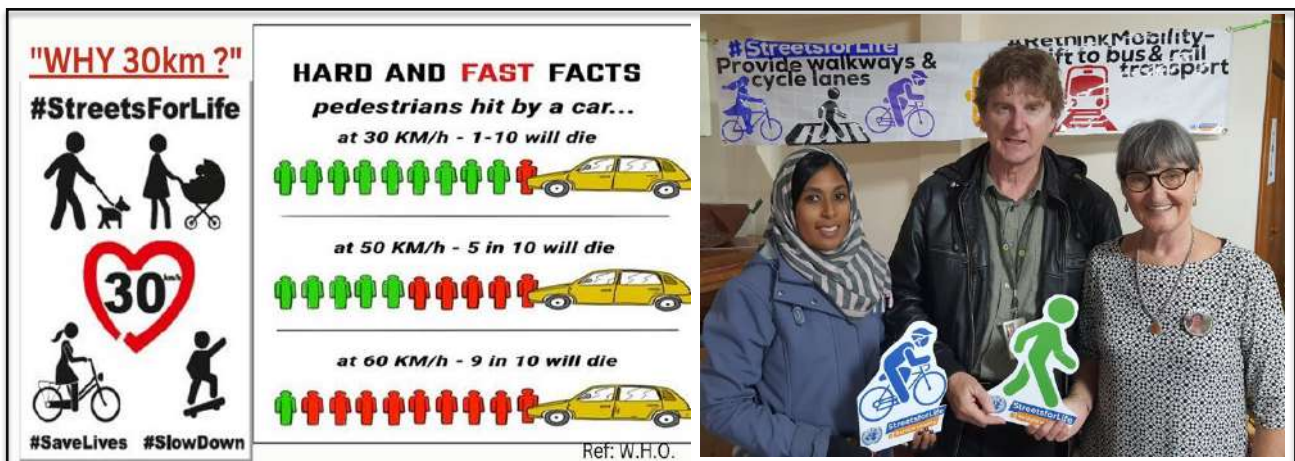
A group of Weaver's End residents and parents got together over a number weekends to rectify the list of transgressions. The COCT advised that establishment of a formal 'Friends of the Park' group would allow residents to be involved in management and improvement decisions related to the park. A Friends of Weavers End Park (FoWEP) group has therefore been formed, with committee members recently drafting a constitution and submitting to the COCT.

FoWEP aims to consult all park users about what they would love to see in their park, and will then raise funds for improvement of facilities via mobilisation of park users and by approaching the COCT. Although time will tell as to how the relationship with the COCT will unfold, the group is feeling incredibly positive. If anyone would like further info please email [llabinjoh@gmail.com](mailto:llabinjoh@gmail.com).

### 3.3 Traffic and Road Safety | Caro Smit

#### 3.3.1 Traffic and Road Safety Update | Caro Smit

Caro Smit introduced herself as an internationally trained road safety expert, advocate and activist who runs the NGO [www.sadd.org.za](http://www.sadd.org.za), and is the coordinator of the road safety working group for the KRRRA. Caro explained that the World Health Organization's campaign, #RethinkMobility, advocates a shift in focus away from the needs of drivers and vehicles, in order to cater for all our road users. Kommetjie is blessed that our residents, young and old, can cycle, skateboard, walk their dogs and run in our quiet streets. We need to keep everyone safer even when they make mistakes. Road crashes are the leading cause of death globally for people aged 5 to 29 yrs. One of the key ways of reducing road fatalities is reducing speed. Nine out of ten pedestrians hit by a car travelling at 60km per hour will die. By comparison, only one out of ten pedestrians will die if hit at 30km per hour. This internationally promoted program is called #Love30km and #StreetsForLife, and residents would have seen the surfboards and signs done by children and others to encourage people to #SlowDown to #SaveLives.



**Figure 4: StreetsforLife infographic and Caro Smit with Cllr. Liell-Cock and Ward Asst. Yushrah Davis**

Caro has had a lot of support from Cllr. Simon Liell-Cock on this issue, and was pleased to report that the COCT has agreed to reduce the speed limit in Kommetjie to 40km per hour, and although this is not slow enough, it is a good start. The response from the AGM attendees to this news was very positive.

With the addition of many new vehicles due to the Riverside developments, there is an even more urgent need for traffic calming or speed humps and a protected sidewalk / cycleway along Wireless Road. Similarly, there is an issue with cars going too fast along Lighthouse Road, and this needs to be addressed urgently. These road safety needs have been submitted by Caro to the Sub-Council 19 meetings, and are therefore logged, and have to be attended to. The feasibility of speed reduction tables on Wireless are being investigated by an engineer, with a report due soon. However it should be noted that even if technically possible, the cost may be prohibitive. If residents want to join the 2 groups (Lighthouse road and Wireless road) to look into traffic calming issues and fundraise, please contact Caro on [carosmit162@gmail.com](mailto:carosmit162@gmail.com).

The road safety group continues to campaign and petition the COCT for a safe walk / cycle way between Kommetjie and Ocean View, and although this will not be forthcoming in the near future due to the lack of budget, the need has been logged with sub-council.

### 3.3.2 Discussion

Attendees were quite vocal about concerns regarding traffic in and out of Kommetjie and in particular the traffic situation at the junction of Generation School and Kommetjie Road. One attendee questioned why Generation was not required under the terms of the development to improve the junction. This was logged at the Sub-Council, and COCT is looking at who must carry the costs.

Another resident noted that traffic was already a nightmare but was likely to get much worse with the new housing developments that have been approved. The resident had lodged an appeal against the developments on the basis that the traffic assessment conducted in 2014 was now completely out of date. This appeal had been refused. The resident was confused as to why the housing developer was not made responsible for the costs of the upgrades needed to the road infrastructure. Cllr. Simon Liell-Cock responded that developers pay a portion but government authorities are responsible for the rest, and budget is limited. He was not aware of the particulars of the appeal and so the resident will share this with him.

Another attendee raised a strong concern about local residents being prevented from using the path between Ocean View and the beach through Imhoff Farm, which the resident asserted was a public right of access. They suggested that Social Fabric group become more involved with the Road Safety group to rectify this. Furthermore, the resident stated that the continued lack of a safe pathway between Ocean View and Kommetjie was a disgrace. Cllr. Simon Liell-Cock explained that a grant for the pathway would come from national government and there was simply no budget for this measure, given the pressing needs in more populated areas.

In response to another concern about dangerous driving, Caro noted that residents can report irresponsible driving to the Western Cape Transport Department on their website; <https://safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za/reporter>, noting the location, time and date of the offence, the registration and make of the vehicle and the rules that the driver broke. If you are not driving and it is safe to take a photo or/and video, please do so.

## 3.4 Social Fabric | Gerard Tanesse & Tiffany Chalmers

Social Fabric is a community group that aims to enhance the social 'weave' between residents in Kommetjie and the surrounding valley neighbours to create a stronger knit of community and change. Over the year the group has focused on the following key initiatives:

1. **Anti-racism reading group:** There is a group that has been formed that meets once per month to read anti-racist material. The current group of 15 people has been meeting once a month since March to work through the book 'Me and White Supremacy' by Layla F. Saad. The reading group has expanded since last year, when 8 people attended.
2. **Apartheid Memorial Activities:** To raise awareness about the forced removal of families from Kommetjie in the late 60s early 70s, a number of actions have been supported by the Social Fabric Group:



- Two memorial benches have been placed at the Kommetjie Slipway, as part of a project of Simonstown Museum and Phoenix Committee.
  - A renaming of Jacob Avenue to Jacob Daniels Avenue has been proposed, to remember and honour the family and their ongoing history. Mr. Daniels lived in Kommetjie with his family until they were forcibly removed in 1972 under the group Areas Act.
  - The stories of all three families removed from Kommetjie during apartheid are shared on KRRRA website and social media.
3. An artwork by Chip Snaddon was commissioned for the water tower that was built by Mr. Jacob Daniels. As ‘an elephant never forgets’, this artwork serves as a suitable theme for remembering the family, our community’s history and the work that still needs to be done to heal our past.
  4. **Street picnics:** In October of 2022 the social fabric group initiated an annual street party event in Kommetjie, to bring neighbours together. Despite adverse weather conditions, there were 10 street parties of 10-15 people.
  5. **Peace Jam Film and Discussion Event:** As noted by Earl Mentor, there will be a movie night on 22 June with PeaceJam.

Two awards were given out to Marry-Anne Potts and Phil Hattingh for their positive contributions to enhancing the social fabric of Kommetjie. Mary-Anne has been instrumental in the apartheid memorial activities, while Phil brings so much joy and colour to the village with his kites.



**Figure 5: Memorial artwork to Mr. Jacob Daniels, who built the water tower, by Chip Snaddon**

**Figure 6: Memorial bench for families forcibly removed from Kommetjie during apartheid**

**Figure 7: Phil Hattingh with one of his beautiful kites**



### 3.5 Planning, Development and Infrastructure | Ian McDuff

Ian McDuff introduced himself as an architect living in Kommetjie who has been assisting the KRRRA with a view to supporting a good built environment in the village. Developments and extensions require permits, and there are often variations (known as “departures”) from the regulations, which require mediation and/or recommendations from the KRRRA.

The working group is putting together some building guidelines to assist residents with information on what they can and cannot do without permission from authorities, and the procedures for obtaining planning approval. This is in draft form at the moment, and will be shared via the usual channels as soon as it is finalised. It was furthermore noted that anecdotal experience suggests that the COCT may be more reluctant to allow roof decks and terraces at the moment, due to a recent lawsuit in opposition to COCT approval of a roof terrace.

The KRRRA also reviews proposed building developments from a heritage perspective. Swan Lodge is obviously an important site for the village, given its age and location. The working group would like to facilitate a clearly articulated village consensus about the redevelopment of this site, which due to its central location will substantially influence the character of the village. Great care must be taken to ensure that both the planning and consensus building processes are transparent.

### 3.6 Media and Communications | Steve Pike

KRRRA communications has been spruced up with the addition of a new logo and website, and better visibility on social media. Efforts have been made over the past year to share the new format newsletter on a more regular basis. Over the coming year the group plans to further improve social media presence and newsletter regularity.

The media and communications team invites interested residents to get in touch and share their articles and article ideas. They also appeal to those with an interest in photography to submit their photographs of the village.

## 4.0 FINAL DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

### 4.1 Final Discussion | Chaired by Patrick Dowling

#### 4.1.1 Spar Development

The first question requested clarity and an update on the Spar development. Patrick explained that Tim de Wet, the representative of the Spar developer, had got in touch recently to say that all is going ahead, following some changes to the plans related to building height. Ground will be broken in the next couple of months, with a view to construction being finished next year.

The KRRRA will be forewarned before construction work begins so that the indigenous plants on the site can be rescued. These will be replanted elsewhere by the Environment Group and any remaining plants will be made available to residents. Patrick also noted that the KRRRA had confirmed with Tim that the plans circulated recently on Facebook were not current.

#### 4.1.2 Kommetjie Lighthouse

The next question came from a self-described seafaring resident, who was concerned that the lighthouse was not functioning as it should, as it was shining into people's homes but not working properly for those at sea. The resident also questioned why it was still not open to the public, and suggested that the lighthouse and its surroundings are not being properly maintained. The resident highlighted how important the lighthouse is as a symbol of Kommetjie.

Michelle Koch from the KRRRA steering committee responded that she had been in touch with Transnet and security staff about the lighthouse already. She noted that although there were probably valid concerns about maintenance, as no access has been possible there is currently little evidence of this. It was proposed that a petition be put together and that interested residents work together to put pressure on the relevant authorities.

#### 4.1.3 Swan Lodge

One resident wanted an update with regards to the status of Swan Lodge redevelopment, and was concerned about it being an eyesore for too long. Patrick Dowling explained that the only planning permission that had so far been given by the COCT planning dept with regards Swan Lodge was permission to secure and clear the building so as to make it safe. Due to the heritage value of the site, reference to the original plans will be important in deciding on redevelopment plans. However, a fire in the planning offices some years ago meant the original plans for Swan Lodge had been lost, and 'forensic architects' had been called in to piece together the plans retrospectively. This had resulted in a significant delay to the planning processes. Following a report submitted to the building owners on what would be required from a heritage restoration perspective, feedback from the owners has suggested that the costs are viewed as being prohibitively expensive, and that an application for full demolition is being considered.

Ian McDuff (KRRRA steering committee member) added that it is possible for residents to search for the status of any planning application using the permit number listed on the signs. It was also suggested that an opinion poll could be developed to ascertain the consensus view from residents about a way forward including the heritage issue and the types of amenities desired by residents. The Planning, Development and Infrastructure working group can take a lead on developing this, following the amalgamation of the Kommetjie Heritage residents group into the KRRRA.

Another resident commented that there are many such smaller residents groups in Kommetjie, that could engage further with the KRRRA.

## 4.2 Closing Remarks | Patrick Dowling

Closing remarks were very brief due to the late closing of the AGM. As Acting Chairperson of the KRRRA, Patrick thanked all AGM attendees, guest presenters and working group members for their contributions this evening and over the past year, and encouraged residents to speak to the working group members at the tables at the back of the hall to discuss the issues further, donate to their favourite cause or get more information about how they can get involved and share their expertise and ideas.



## APPENDIX 1: Toad Monitoring and Compost Workshop Information

**SAVE AN  
ENDANGERED LIFE!!**



**TOAD MIGRATION mid-JULY - end-SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Join TOADNUTS in KOMMETJIE and surrounds for the annual endangered Western Leopard Toad migration to Skilpadvlei.**

Volunteers are trained to handle endangered Western Leopard Toads, safely remove them from the road, and record data which contributes towards citizen science.



**Contact Eugenie on 074 734 2121 or [eugenie.skelton@gmail.com](mailto:eugenie.skelton@gmail.com)**

Please join us for a

### Food Waste & Composting Workshop



 KOMMETJIE  
RESIDENTS &  
RATEPAYERS  
ASSOCIATION

To receive further information or to register your interest, please contact Emily Hurley on 063 3049068 or [emilylhenehan@gmail.com](mailto:emilylhenehan@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX 2: SHOT HOLE BORER AND FUSARIUM DIEBACK

### Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea* sp.) and Fusarium dieback (*Fusarium euwallaceae*)

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PHSB) is an ambrosia beetle native to Southeast Asia. In 2017 this pest was detected on London Plane trees in the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Gardens, Pietermaritzburg. It has been confirmed in Durban, Hartswater, Bloemfontein, George, Knysna and Johannesburg. The beetle has a symbiotic relationship with the fungus *Fusarium euwallaceae* which serves as a food source for the adults and their larvae. In susceptible trees the fungus causes Fusarium dieback which can lead to branch dieback and tree death. The beetles can attack a wide range of exotic and indigenous trees in urban, agricultural and natural landscapes.



The adult female is 1.8 - 2.6mm long. Males are smaller and flightless.



Chinese maple killed by PSHB and its fungus

PSHB is not able to complete its life cycle on all of the tree species it attacks, those that the beetle is able to breed on are referred to as 'reproductive hosts'. Important reproductive hosts include species of oaks, maples, willows and coral trees, avocado and castor bean. The full list of confirmed hosts in South Africa can be viewed at [www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/research/7](http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/research/7)

The movement of infested wood is an important pathway for spread of the beetle and appropriate disposal of infested trees (by chipping/composting, solarisation or burning) will be key to reducing the spread of this damaging pest.

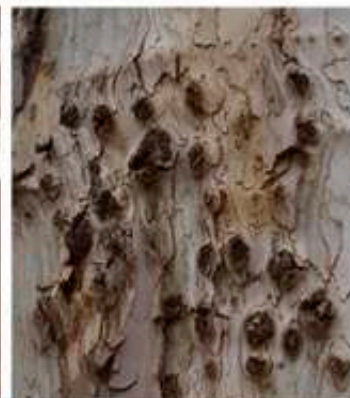
Surveys to monitor the spread of the beetle and fungus in South Africa are continuing. The public can assist by looking out for symptoms. Suspected instances can be reported on iNaturalist.



Reproductive galleries in pecan



PSHB galleries in coral tree



Shot gun-like symptoms on London Plane