

JANUARY 2022



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the New Year! It's so good to have you back!

THE NEW YEAR IS UNDERWAY

Hello again. The New Year is well underway and I hope all your resolutions are holding up. Still not smoking? Lost a bit of weight perhaps? The town keeps bumbling along much as last year. Water leaks pop up almost daily, electricity fails from time to time, and with the recent rains, potholes continue to grow!

But good things keep on happening too. TPO8000 and other groups and individuals continue to brighten up our town and we are all very grateful. The grass is cut, new bins are placed and others are emptied and the bags replaced. Plants are planted and street borders are cleared of weeds. Freddie Robertson is asking that we “adopt a bin” if you now have one very close to your home or business.

It is regretted that only a few of the residents of the town have pulled up their sleeves and got stuck into our problems. How about we ask now that every home that has a verge outside its front wall down to the street take it upon themselves to cut the grass in front of their stand and scrape up or kill the weeds on the edge of the street. Is this too much to ask? If your neighbor is not doing this already, why not ask him/her if they could begin.

CONTENT WRITTEN BY SIMON EVERED - LAYOUT DONE BY DESIGN INSIGHT

REGARDING COMPLAINTS

we are all asked to email our complaints, this way the council gets the complaint immediately logged and can transfer it to the relevant department quickly

CUSTOMERCARE@MBOMBELA.GOV.ZA



Of course, there are still the big issues to be dealt with. The fresh water and sewage infrastructure still needs to be upgraded. Word is that the systems that deliver water to our reservoirs are to be combined so we all get water from the same source. R43 million has been budgeted but we are not sure how much of that will be used in White River. We have heard that before, have we not? The proposed Coolmore dam has been approved by the Council as an asset and preliminary design plans are underway. Capacity is expected to be 183000 cubic meters. This will take some time yet since a water license has also to be issued and an Environmental Impact Assessment has to be carried out.

Pierre du Preez reports that he had a phone call from the Municipal Manager asking for an appointment!!! Yes, that is true and a day/time was arranged but unfortunately could not be kept due to Covid. This surely has to be evidence that the Council becoming increasingly aware of their failings and of the need to do much better. A meeting was however arranged with the General Manageress of Parks and Refuse Departments and her senior staff where the WRRRA and TPO8000 made the Council aware of what we find unsatisfactory. The Manageress has joined two WhatsApp groups in order to get immediate notice of current problems and failings.

A newcomer to working in the town is WESSA, the Wildlife and Environment Society of Southern Africa, who have made a date at the end of the month to work in the valley containing the Nature Reserve. This has never been the same since the dam at the head of the valley was overwhelmed by the flood in 2000 and broke. There used to be a useful little bird hide next to the dam and a boardwalk on which you could traverse the valley. It would be great if the dam could be rebuilt, but one should not forget that this is SANRAL'S preferred route for the proposed by-pass. That is another fight yet to be continued.

Allied to this story we are sad to announce that Tiffany Briggs, a WRRRA and committee member, has decided to resign in order to devote more time to WESSA affairs. As a committed environmentalist, we are sure she will contribute very effectively there and wish her well.

THIS IS FOR THE ANTI-VAXXERS, INCLUDING TENNIS PLAYERS. TOP PROLONGING THE VIRUS AND JOIN THE MAINSTREAM.

Shops: No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service

People: OK! No Problem

Traffic Laws: Wear a seatbelt in your car or get a ticket

People: OK! No Problem

OSHA: While working in certain places, you must wear safety goggles and safety gear.

People: OK! No Problem

Airlines: You must be seated and wear a seatbelt, with your tray table up when taking off!

People: OK! No Problem

TSA: Before getting on this plane, you need to remove your shoes, your belt, anything from you pockets and go through this x-ray machine.

People: OK! No Problem

Grocery Stores: Please wear a mask while you are shopping to help reduce the risk of infecting other with a potential deadly virus.

People: HOW DARE YOU TAKE AWAY MY PERSONAL LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS!!



FROM THE COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM - JANUARY REPORT

X38 Crime Watch and Patrollers are pleased to report that we have had one of the most peaceful and crime-free festive seasons for many years. X1/5 has also advised that they are also experiencing a very quiet time.

This is the direct result of our community standing together and the incredible dedication of our volunteer patrollers and backup from local security companies. Any potential threat is immediately reported and reacted on, making life unbearable for criminals.

This is in stark contrast to the situation pre covid before our neighborhoods joined hands when we had regular dog poisonings, theft of and from vehicles burglaries, and robberies. There has been some crime reported but mostly in town, at shopping centers and public areas.

In an isolated incident, some lights were stolen from an outside wall in Impala St, during the daytime.

We would like to acknowledge Ocean Basket and Bundu Petroleum for the support they offer to our patrollers.

X38 alone has 36 dedicated patrollers which means a minimum of 2 patrols every night. One thing for sure – no patrols will see a huge upsurge in residential crime! These people deserve our sincere thanks and greatest respect.

That is it for this month. Hopefully, we will get some brighter days for the rest of the summer.

SIMON EVERED

