

JUNE 2021 ISSUE

NEWSLETTER



DEAR MEMBERS

Big surprise, I hope. This newsletter has been expanded after consultation with our sister organizations, The Community Policing Forum and The Power of 8000, in order to give the people of White River a full picture of what is being done to maintain the town and the problems we face.

I shall start by welcoming the news that Rowan Torr, our very hard-working and dedicated Councillor, has recovered from the virus and is back in action. In his own words "it was very unpleasant" and "I am out of it now" His latest message to the WRRRA is that the Council has published its IDP (Integrated Development Plan) which comes into effect from 1st July. As a result, little or no activity can be expected from them for now, other than repair and maintenance. We expect action on the long-promised reservoir and the resurfacing of Tom Lawrence Street shortly.

The WRRRA was involved with The Power of 8000 in an exercise in communicating with the Council regarding the water supply. Our Councillor has reported to this publication that three pumps at the water treatment plant were now working and a fourth (of five) was installed. All this was to improve the water supply to the town. This initiative is regrettably only the tip of the iceberg because the entire water supply infrastructure is beyond its sell-by date and needs to be replaced,

The WRRRA has been demanding this for some years. A similar situation exists with the sewage pipes and the treatment plant. Councillor Torr also advised that there are two booster pumps at the top of the reservoir that needs to be replaced and the emergency generator was hit by lightning and needs repair. See TPO8000 contribution later in this newsletter.

INCREASE IN RATES & ELECTRICITY

I hope you all prepared for the 6% increase in rates and taxes with a 14+% increase in electricity costs. This is going to be painful and one has to ask does the Council deserves the increase when service delivery has become so poor and the Council has failed to pay Eskom (owes over R500 million) in the past. What happened to the funds we paid for electricity if it did not go the Eskom?



IT IS NOT ALL DOOM & GLOOM

It is not all doom and gloom. The Power of 8000 is continuing its good workaround town and is cleaning up the piece of land between Eland and Baobab Streets, including the verges where weeds have been growing in the street. Very well done to all who have had a hand in that.

There follows a bit of comprehensive advice and update from our Community Policing Forum, the members of which also work hard to make living in White River a pleasant experience. Take special note of the measures suggested to protect your family and home from criminal activity.



WHITE RIVER COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM



We, as the CPF of White River, want to thank the WRRRA for the opportunity to be allowed a space in their Newsletter. This will afford the White River CPF the opportunity to inform our community regarding safety matters in town and to keep them informed about any criminal activities and criminal tendencies we obtain from the White River SAPS. We further have to state that White River CPF has been working together with the WRRRA for quite some time, regarding certain burning issues, i.e. the impression that drug lords are not properly prosecuted in our courts, the unfortunate incident that took place in the White River Police station on 28th March 2021. We are awaiting outcomes on both these matters.

Advice regarding keeping yourself and your family safe against criminal activity:

- If at all possible, install an alarm system to your dwelling and have it regularly checked to be fully functional,
- Always have your alarm on when you are at home at night and when you are not at your place of residence,
- Have security gates installed at all your outside doors and critical internal doors, in order to isolate your sleeping areas from other areas, at night? This will act as a deterrent and slow down any unlawful entrance into your bedroom areas,
- Have your dogs sleep inside the house at night, to act as an alarm if any movement outside the dwelling is taking place. This also prevents them being poisoned,
- As far as possible, have the opening sections of the windows to your dwelling protected with burglar bars and keep these windows as small as possible closed at night, this will enable you to hear if any intrusion into your dwelling is in progress,
- If possible, install an electric fence around your property, keep it in working order, and have it activated 24/7,
- Contract the services of an Armed Response Company that operates locally, and have your alarm system connected to them,
- Further protection at your residence would be beams around the outer perimeter of your dwelling as an early warning of any intruders,
- The installation of CCTV cameras with movement sensors would greatly enhance your ability to trace any unwanted movement around your dwelling,
- Have your motor vehicles locked in a garage during night hours, as criminals are always seeking an opportunity to enrich themselves. Keep in mind, what they cannot see, they would not come to steal,
- Have your vehicle keys and other valuable property that you normally carry every day, close to you at night time, this would not offer any criminal an opportunity to drive off with your vehicle without you knowing it. We become relaxed and leave the vehicle keys in the kitchen on the cupboard, as this is a convenient place to find the keys if you have to use your vehicle,
- When using your vehicle, especially in town for shopping, do not leave any valuables in plain sight in your vehicle, as criminals are opportunistic and theft from motor vehicles is a major problem in the White River area,
- When you do park your vehicle at a shopping center, try to into the habit of parking your vehicle with the front of the vehicle facing the direction which you would be driving off into. This allows for a quick departure in case of an emergency. You would not first have to reverse your vehicle before departing,
- Before departing from your vehicle, make sure your central locking system did activate. We also have a problem with remote jamming in town. Test your doors manually to see that they are locked,
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- Whilst traveling in town, keep your windows closed as criminals snatch items from your vehicle whilst you are waiting at a red traffic light,
 - When you are using ATM facilities at your bank, do not allow any unknown person to assist you as card swapping (fraud) at ATMs is occurring frequently,

These are some of the more important matters to keep in mind to make your own environment safer for you and your family.

We would like to show you the crime statistics for the month of May 2021. These are cases reported to the local SAPS for investigation. We have to keep in mind that the community does not have great faith in the local SAPS and for that reason, not all incidents are reported to the SAPS.

- Contact Crime: 1 x Attempted murder, 12 x Robbery Aggravating, 6 x Common Robbery, 2 x Rape, 12 x Assault GBH, 6 x Common Assault,
- Crimes accounted for under Robbery: 2 x Carjacking, 1 x Truck hijacking, 2 x House robbery, 6 x Robbery with a fire-arm, 2 x Robbery with weapon other than a firearm,
- Contact related crimes: 4 x Malicious damage to property (MITP), 1 x Arson,
- Property-related crimes: 5 x Burglary business, 11 x Burglary residential, 21 x Theft out of or from vehicles,
- Other serious crime: 6 x shoplifting, 12 x Theft, 8 x Fraud / Commercial crime,
- Crime detected based on Police action: 2 x Illegal possession of fire-arm, 1 x Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 4 x Offence under the drugs or Drug Trafficking Act, 14 x Illegal Immigrant Act, 18 x Liquor related crime, 1 x Possession of presumed stolen property, 3 x Driving offenses, 2 x Corona Pandemic Offences,

We would further like to inform our community, that the CPF is doing day and night patrols in our residential areas. You would have noticed vehicles with a label on the door "Patrol Vehicle", these are CPF patrollers. They all have CPF ID cards in their possession and whilst doing patrols they report any matter that might be crime-related on their Whatsup group.

We have patrollers in Extension 38 (Kingsview / Parkville), Extension 1 & 5, Extension 3, Yaverland, Haasbroek, Platsak / Plaston, Curlews, Peebles. These patroller groups are all working on a duty roster for their various patrols. We would like to extend an invitation to all community members to become involved in the CPF and make the area where you reside even safer. It deserves to be mentioned, that the areas that are patrolled, are much safer with less incidents. The patrols are yielding the required results.

For any CPF matters, please contact Dewald Oberholster on tel. no 082 335 4249 or e-mail at dewald.o@vodamail.co.za

- WIVES BY A VERY BRAVE WRITER -
Got an e-mail the other day. It said "*bored housewife looking for action*"
I sent her my ironing.

THE POWER OF 8000

The Power Of 8000 has become involved in more than just cleaning of sidewalks and parks recently. An unannounced visit to our local water treatment plant caused raised eyebrows by the TPO committee, our ward councilor Rowan Torr and the representatives of the White River Ratepayers Association. It was determined that only one out of 5 pumps were actually working.

Although there are also numerous other issues that need urgent intervention it was clear that we needed to make the pump situation the focus and not to raise these other issues with the council. We, therefore, approached the executive committee of the Mbombela council and were almost immediately granted a meeting with the Speaker of the legislator. TPO8000 decided to keep the meeting simple, focusing on the most important issue. The pumps. This was amicably received and a second site meeting was conducted the following week. At this meeting, we were pleasantly surprised to find that there were already 2 pumps up and running.

Since then, we have also been informed that additional funds have been approved in the IDP towards the upgrade of our town water infrastructure. Only time will tell how successful our meetings were. TPO8000 remains committed to working with the Ratepayers Association towards a better White River for all.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

As you see, dear members and others, there is a determined effort by a small but increasing number of people who aim to maintain White River as a great place to live. We really appreciate the commitment of all those who have recently signed up.

Welcome – great to have you aboard. What we now need is for the rest of you to show that you also care. To do this please consider joining the White River Ratepayers Association.

The addition of your voices will make our message to the Council heard much more loudly and with the desired response.

E-mail me simon@evered.co.za for an application form. and follow us on social media



Stay Safe Everyone

Simon