



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021



Hello again. Let us start with something really positive. The WRRRA wishes to commend Pierre du Preez and his mission “Power of 8000” for their work in Ronnie Bester Park. Those of you who have driven past will have seen that it is now a park rather than a wasteland. Pierre kept an “account” of what the expenses might have been, if residents had not volunteered and if equipment had had to be hired. The amount came to R35000. Pierre has submitted this account to the Municipality, as much to show them that White River cares and expects normal service delivery, which it has not been getting, as to expect a refund! Reports from those involved tell of finding used syringes as well as discarded condoms, evidence that the park has been used for nefarious activities for some time. Well done to Pierre and his gang of volunteers, including those who sponsored their gardeners to assist. Don’t you like the accesses to the park being blocked by large rocks, so cars cannot be driven into the park? Pierre intimates that it is his intention to work on other parks as well. His view is also that seeing this sort of activity will make others realise what is the state of affairs regarding White River, and so encourage them to join the WRRRA. The response by Rob Ferreira High School is also encouraging. Hopefully the learners will persuade their parents to join the WRRRA.

My brother in England tells me it takes 5 minutes to walk from his home to the pub. From the pub to his home it takes 35 minutes. The difference is staggering



At the Exco meeting last week, Councillor Rowan was able to report that it is expected that the upgrade of Tom Lawrence Street will begin in June. The long-expected additional reservoir is also in the design stage and should be built during the coming financial year. It is also at last recognised that the White River Fire Station is illegal, being under-manned and under resourced. There is a plan to extend it behind the Licence Office, so that the new Fire Engine can fit in the building. At the moment it sticks out the front!

White River Ratepayers and Residents Association: 19 William Lynn Street (Megapaints), P O Box 1316, White River, 1240
Chairman: P Skead, Deputy Chairman: R Clanahan, Secretary: H Ford, Treasurer: M van Niekerk, Committee: D Dessington, R McQueen, R Torr (Honorary), S Evered, J Heymans, D van Niekerk, Charl Pienaar, B Macaulay, S Zitha, T Briggs, J Oosthuizen, T de Boo, P du Preez

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Rowan also reported that the Mbombela licencing offices have been taken over by the Provincial Administration. I think we will all agree that the licencing offices have been a nightmare recently and some better management is long overdue. It seems also that the CMLM customer care office in Riverside might close. Since this is the one place where complaints and other issues are acted on quickly, I, for one, feel this could be a pity.

2020 is past us. It was like looking both ways before crossing the street, and then being hit by an aeroplane

The WRRRA has also been informed that the issue of schools for White River is being seriously studied. The WRRRA has been advising the CMLM and more recently the Department of Education that there is a serious need for more schools in White River. Since the CMLM insists on proposing housing developments in the town, it should be clear that, not only does water reticulation and sewage need to be updated, but that more should must be provided for the increased population. Infrastructure first is the WRRRA message. A number of sites has been raised. The area of the “Colts Hill” proposed development, next to the rugby club, would be well suited for a primary and high school.

Perhaps most of our readers have read that the Water and Sanitation Department of the CMLM has



been provided with a number of new vehicles. Hopefully this will improve responses to burst pipes! On the other side of the coin, the CMLM has appointed 11 bye-law officers, but guess what, no vehicles for them have been provided. So, we the ratepayers are financing 11 municipal employees to sit in their offices and do nothing. So, what is new?

The environmental impact assessment for the blueberry farm between the town and Bagdad is under way. The farm has not been productive for 10 years but does have water rights. The WRRRA has on the town's behalf registered its interest, particularly regarding the abstraction of water. Having said that, at the moment Longmere Dam is full. Here are the dam figures:

Longmere	102,3%
Kwena	95,8%
Klipkopjes	100,4%
Witklip	100,5%

Water levels this high have not been seen for many a year.

2020 is gone. After 2 months of lockdown, I got talking to a spider. Seemed nice – she is a web designer

During the week, the WRRRA took the first steps in declaring a dispute with the CMLM. It is likely to be a long process, so don't hold your collective breaths. You will be kept informed.

Another issue that the WRRRA is not happy about is the reappearance of ore trucks driving through town – or any other large gross weight vehicles for that matter. Our potholes will not take the strain!

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Steps are being taken to put a stop to this. Good news is that a CMLM team has been going through town replacing missing and damaged manhole covers. At last!

The WRRRA wishes you all a Happy Easter. Stay safe -

Simon

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