



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES



September 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of our book year and subscriptions are now due. Many thanks to the more than half of you who have already paid. To those who have not, this is a timely REMINDER that your subscription of R150 is now due to FNB, Account number 6222 664 35 93, Branch Code 27 05 52 in the name of White River Ratepayers Association.

Now an urgent request. Will the member who paid on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of August and simply wrote as reference "2021 Subs" please identify yourself, so that I can log the payment. We have asked many times for members to be sure to record their names or their membership numbers with their payments.

Members please take a moment to help the WRRRA along and pass on this newsletter to a neighbour, friend by whatever means. New members would be very welcome and would increase our influence with the Mbombela council, the bigger we get.

*Write a sentence with defeat, defence and detail in it.*

*One response – "When a cow jumps over defence, defeat come first and last is detail"*

This group is to be modified. It currently has over 80 members, only 40 of which are members of the WRRRA. We intend to discontinue access for those who are not members. Some of these might be spouses or partners of actual members, and I ask you to let me know, either on the chat group or privately, whether you fit into that category.

This will not happen immediately since we are busy opening up our new Facebook page and a Facebook chat group (Let's Chat - White River Ratepayers) will be created for those who are interested in WRRRA issues, but do not want to join.

Remember WRRRA1 group was created for members to discuss and inform about issues strictly of interest and concern to the WRRRA. Watch this space.

**THE WRRRA1  
CHAT GROUP**



It seems that these in Mbombela have created their own rules regarding access and service delivery. The White River office is a case in point.

Having the necessary papers seems to be unusual and opening times are varied according to staff decisions.

The WRRRA has been looking into this after complaints by you the members. It seems that the best solution for now is to go to the Mbombela Customer Care Office in The Grove. We have found that the staff there are courteous and willing to assist.

*Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell, in such a way that they ask for directions*

*- Winston Churchill -*



## WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE WRR EXCO MEETING

At the very recent WRR EXCO meeting, we again heard that the CMLM council is broke and that many of their vehicles are either under repair or being serviced. Consequently “no transport” is used as an excuse for not delivering service. Nevertheless, a number of pipe leaks, overflowing manholes have been attended to but there is always some that haven't. Our hard-working councillor, Rowan, reported that garden refuse is no longer accepted by the transfer station in White River. One should bear in mind that garden refuse is collected by the weekly refuse truck in your area, better in sealed black plastic bags.

Rowan investigated further and located the chipper in a shed on site, long abandoned but no doubt it can be revitalised. This will be further followed up since, if made to work, it can chew up refuse and create the beginnings of compost which the staff have said they would be happy to sell.

Our letter (see last month) about the drug trade in White River has gone unanswered and ignored. So what's new? Undeterred our Chairman Piet has sent another letter complaining about the state of the roads in White River, with particular reference to potholes. The state of the verges of many streets can be added to that, where weeds have been allowed to grow over curb stones and into the very tar itself. The weeds take root and lift the tar, causing the road to need expensive repair in the future. In the past the council used to go round all the streets spraying weed killer on the verges thus dealing with the problem quickly and cheaply. The failure to take heed of our written complaints is to be dealt with by a future approach with legal backing. More on this as it develops.

Incidentally, it is not always useful to make complaints directly to Mbombela staff. No doubt they have a management and supervisory system which does not deal with outside messages or calls to individuals.

## ROWAN TORR HAS ADVISED THE FOLLOWING

All Complaints To Be Directed To The Following Address With A Photo Of The Problem  
[customercare@mbombela.gov.za](mailto:customercare@mbombela.gov.za)  
(it will be delegated to the right official within the council's management system)



## WEATHER NEWS

So far we have had a pretty lousy spring so I thought I would share with you some extracts from the Weather Service's Seasonal Climate Watch. I quote “The El Nino-Southern Oscillation is currently in a neutral state” Now you all know what that means don't you. It means it doesn't support either the Stormers or the Sharks.

It goes on “the likelihood of a La Niña phase in the coming summer months has improved” This means that Spanish food like paella may be served at Wimpy. What it actually said is that we can expect more rain than usual and higher temperatures. Feel better now?

*So let us get this straight - there is no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitiser and hand soap?*



# HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU



Frogfoot are busy laying fibre lines in our streets. In a few instances they have broken into water and/or sewage pipes. They have undertaken to repair all such instances, but keep an eye on them so that they do it properly.



The owner of No. 37 Impala Street has been traced and we have postal contact. He was told to clean up his stand within 7 days. It has been done (small success!). He will be billed for the job.



Apparently part of the town was littered with flyers. It was determined that these were a promotion from a doctor in town, he was told to clean them up, which he quickly did. Are doctors allowed to advertise?



It has been reported that a silver Toyota Avanza has been cruising the town as well as neighborhoods in Nelspruit. There is a strong feeling that it is “up to no good”. If you see it, try get the number plate and report this to us immediately.



A ratepayers association has been formed in Nelspruit. Good news since we can act in concert on issues covered by service delivery. With the Barberton association, we cover a large percentage of the municipality’s responsibilities.



There has been land invasion attempts in the Plaston Area and recently behind the Saw Mill. Another has been attended to on the farm Waterval near Hillview. There is suspected involvement by the EFF. Those of you living on farms in the area keep an eye open for pegs suddenly appearing on your land and let us know straight away.



An environmental assessment process has been opened for the construction of a petrol outlet and shops on the corner of the Plaston road with the White River road. We will keep you informed but there is a general local opinion that an additional fuel outlet is not really needed.



## DAM LEVELS

|           | Now  | Last Week | Last Year |
|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|
| Klipkojes | 12,8 | 12,5      | 33,6      |
| Kwena     | 50,0 | 51,2      | 46,6      |
| Longmere  | 56,7 | 52,7      | 65,0      |
| Witklip   | 67,2 | 67,8      | 81,4      |

Why, I ask again, is Klipkopjes being kept so low?

Our committee member Johan Heymans advised our last meeting that “Crime Watch” groups have been set up in Extensions 38 and in 1 and 5 combined.

What with retrenchments, general unemployment, poverty and a maze of other reasons, crime is on the increase. So Johan's information was very welcome and he can be contacted on 082 705 7423 if anyone wants to set something up in your area.



*Whoever decided that bottle stores are more important than hair salons is clearly a bald-headed alcoholic*

For now, stay safe

Simon Evered  
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