



March 2021 Update

Dear neighbours,

Please find below an update from the SEBCID Board on the development of our CID.

March Board Meeting

At the SEBCID Board meeting held 4th March 2021, the two new membership applications received were approved. The Board also reviewed the current year's budget and approved adjustments relating to certain items of expenditure being more appropriately allocated. This is a process all CIDs carry out each year as the implementation of budgeted expenditure can often require reclassification once projects are actually being rolled out. Any adjustments to the budget must first be discussed and approved by the City of Cape Town's CID department and then submitted to the Board for approval. The Board is also required annually to conduct a mid-year review of operations. This has been carried out and the Board was pleased to note that in terms of finances, governance and operations, SEBCID is very much on track.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 19th April. A reminder that the first 30 minutes of the meeting are open to any member of the community who would like to raise a concern or question. Should you wish to attend, please email emma.sebcid@gmail.com by **Friday 16th April** and if possible, provide specifics of the topic you would like to raise so we can ensure it is adequately addressed.

Water Supply

The increasingly frequent occurrence of burst pipes resulting in a loss of water supply is a source of great frustration for many residents. The CID is now logging every burst pipe or leak that it is aware of and compiling this information to ensure the Water & Reticulation Dept at CCT is aware of the scale of the problem. If you report a burst pipe or water leak, please ensure the information is sent to emma.sebcid@gmail.com and the reference number included.

In terms of the longer term solution, as we have communicated on our WhatsApp groups, Hout Bay has been approved for a complete replacement of water pipes but unfortunately,

we have no visibility on the timing of this upgrade. Our Ward Councillor Roberto Quintas has been working hard to bring this issue – which affects many other areas in Hout Bay – to the attention of the most senior officials at CCT who actually have the authority to schedule the work. The CID is also following up with the same officials and we sincerely hope we will be given some indication soon of when the infrastructure might be overhauled.

On the topic of water, a reminder to those who may own property adjacent to, or through which a river flows that while pre-1998 it was permissible to extract water, the current National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), abolished that riparian right.

Anyone who had been removing water during the two years prior to the new act being promulgated, was permitted to continue doing so provided usage was reduced by at least 20%. Anyone who had not extracted water during the period 1996-1998 or who may have purchased a property since the 1998 Act was passed, may not extract water without a water use authorization from the National Department of Water and Sanitation: Water Cape Regional Office.

The Department does conduct regular site visits to review access to riparian sources so it is important to be cognisant of our obligations.

Other important legislation to be aware of is that it is unlawful to have a borehole and/or a well point within the 1:100 year flood line of a river and within 500m radius from the boundary of a delineated wetland, unless it is authorized by the National Department of Water and Sanitation, or if it was drilled before the National Water Act, 1998 came into effect.

Public Safety

Our camera network currently stands at 91 cameras and the entirety of our mountainside perimeter is now covered. The remaining cameras are to be installed at a handful of locations around the interior; one or two of which pose a challenge in terms of power supply but the Board is working to resolve these as soon as possible.

As always, thank you to those who have kindly hosted cameras on your properties. If not done so already, please expect Emma to be in touch to sign a brief agreement formalising the arrangement.

Environmental & Urban Management

The Aloe Africa two-man team continues to keep our green spaces as clean and tidy as possible. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, focus currently is on the river section from the Darling Road bridge down to Main Road. The improvements are already clear with many alien species removed and the team working regularly to remove the litter which sadly accumulates daily.

As we also mentioned last month, there is a cluster of c15 pine trees on a small section of public open space on Hugo Avenue which pose a fire and collapse risk to neighbouring

properties. We are in ongoing discussions with the relevant departments at the City of Cape Town to determine the best route forward. In the event, some or all of the pines are removed, replanting of indigenous will be undertaken where possible. There are a few other invasive trees dotted around our area which pose a fire risk and these are being individually assessed in the same manner.

We are pleased to report that the City of Cape Town has confirmed that meaningful budget has been allocated to a riparian alien tree removal programme in our area. We had hoped this would commence in March, but a contractor is still in the process of being appointed and work should be underway next month. Once this programme is completed, the Board will reassess the river corridor with a view to installing additional thermal cameras to monitor the space.

As some of you may have noticed, while the park is looking very clean and tidy, the jungle gym and surrounding play equipment has suffered from a combination of wear and tear and vandalism. We are pleased that the City of Cape Town Parks Department recently attended to our long-standing request to replace the tyre swings, but rectification to the core of the equipment can only satisfactorily be done by the original installers, DreamWeavers. At the most recent Board meeting it was agreed to instruct DreamWeavers to undertake the necessary repairs to return the equipment to its original glory and in order to best preserve it going forward it was agreed to enter into a regular maintenance contract with DreamWeavers. Repairs are due to be completed by end March/early April affording children full enjoyment of this space once more.

We are still chasing the Parks department to install more bins, fix the gates and fence at the dog park and replace the boom which prevents vehicle access to the paved area of the park.

In terms of our roads, we are in very early stage discussions with CCT regarding the potential for additional traffic calming on Baviaanskloof Road and regularly following up for other problematic locations in our area, eg the junction of Marais and Johan, to be addressed.

Thanks to the efforts of Baviaanskloof resident Chris Grinton, a wheelie bin has been installed at the start of the walkway through to Military Road and an arrangement been made with CCT for this to be emptied with the regular weekly refuse collection. Sadly the roll of compostable bags provided was stolen almost immediately but will be replaced shortly. The bin will also soon be decorated with some customised decals.

Social Responsibility Programme

We were delighted to have been able to provide the second of our donations to the Hout Bay Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (HBVEMS) in the form of a Capnograph – see photo below. HBVEMS is in the process of finalising insurance and training on this specific piece of equipment and it will soon be rolled out and operational; making a difference to patients throughout Hout Bay.

A programme of five refresher courses has now been scheduled for the volunteers in our area who so kindly came forward to be trained in First Aid Level 1. The first of these will take

place on 24 April. Since each course has capacity for 15 attendees, we have decided to open the refreshers up to other First Aiders who serve the broader Hout Bay community such as teachers, CCP, Deep Blue etc. Similarly, anyone within Scott Estate & Baviaanskloof who is already trained but would like a refresher would be welcome to attend. For more information or to book a place, please email emma.sebcid@gmail.com.

The SEBCID Board continues to support the amazing work being done by the IY Ukuphila Community Clean Up Team. We have now donated branded bibs to the 12 founder members and provided 50 bibs for the volunteers. The founders were also gifted some customised t-shirts appropriately made from recycled bottles and kindly donated by Polynation, owned by a SEBCID family.

Vagrants periodically are a problem in our area. While the areas around the bridges along the river are much cleaner and tidier, vagrants do still seek shelter here from time to time. SEBCID is considering measures to make these spaces less appealing for vagrants but ensure they remain attractive and appropriate environmentally. In simple terms, the terrain needs to offer fewer places to sleep.

Occasionally we have homeless people sleeping in the park but the newly installed PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) camera has already proven useful in detecting this and enabling them to be moved on. If you see anyone sleeping rough or establishing an informal shelter in our area, please call Deep Blue on 021 790 7901 as soon as possible. We are also, however, now finally in contact with the Displaced Persons Unit at CCT and hope to be able to find a more permanent solution – although as you will all have no doubt noticed, displaced persons are a problem all over Hout Bay.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Kind regards

SEBCID Board



Matthew Rosenberg from Hout Bay Volunteer Emergency Medical Service receiving the Capnograph from SEBCID's Social Responsibility Director Shazelle Kelly.