



Scott Estate & Baviaanskloof CID Annual Report

22 February 2024

The AGM of the Scott Estate & Baviaanskloof CID was held on 30th November 2023 at Kronendal Primary School.

The membership of our CID has decreased slightly from 146 this time last year to 143 currently but this reflects four new membership applications being offset by seven members having left the area. We are pleased to have again achieved a completely clean audit in our third financial year.

In our **Public Safety** portfolio, we still have a total of 117 cameras in place and we continue to monitor and re-assess the camera network both in terms of the efficiency. The public safety directors of SEBCID still meet every month with Deep Blue, our service provider who maintains and monitors our camera network and provides response services.

Our focus for a long time has been ensuring the cameras stay on during load-shedding. We are pleased to note that we have been able to finally land on a solution for UPS, which has not only proven cost effective but immensely reliable even during the worst periods of load-shedding and this really has been tested and proven this past year.

We started with installing UPS on the perimeter cameras, then moved on to key internal cameras and have now completed the installation of UPS for all our cameras with this last stage being financed from our surplus.

We continue to support both CCP (Community Crime Prevention) and Hout Bay Neighbourhood Watch in recognition of their respective efforts to reduce crime in Hout Bay. In addition, we pay CCP a very modest fee for ad hoc, periodic testing of our cameras which entails people moving around the area both internally and on the mountainside at night, checking that the cameras detect them as they should.

Environmental Improvement remains an extremely important portfolio for SEBCID.

On a day-to-day basis, Aloe Africa maintain our public, open and green spaces with two full time staff. Between their gardening work, cleaning out stormwater drains and collecting the vast quantities of litter which gather in our area, on average, almost five bakkie loads head to the dump each month.

Over and above the day-to-day work, there is a never-ending list of other projects being managed. We are regularly trimming vegetation or trees to ensure the cameras have adequate visibility, removing biomass which has been dumped, removing fallen branches post storms etc and obviously there was a significant amount of work to be done post the huge storm in the latter part of the year.

A substantial removal of invasive trees has been carried out by SEBCID this year. SEBCID is also in the process of completing the removal of the pines along Avenue Suzanne which posed a fire risk. Everywhere trees are removed, SEBCID plants in their stead, generally sourcing trees from CCT's arboretum. It is not only invasive trees which we are removing and replacing with indigenous species but also invasive plants such as prickly pear, cactus and syringa where they occur on public space.

The area around the Scout Hall has been a particular focus of late. Due to the way stormwater runs off from the fields of Kronendal Primary School, the area immediately adjacent to the Hall was always under water in times of heavy rain. The decision was taken to embrace the situation and create a natural wetland. This was facilitated by the removal of substantial vegetation which was being used as shelter by vagrants. The space is still evolving but is already vastly improved from an environmental perspective.

Last year we sought approval from CCT for our ongoing rehabilitation of the Baviaans River. While this work is currently being done within the scope of the CID's mandate, we ideally would like to have CCT's formal rubber stamp of approval, and benefit from input from their in-house experts. While we wait for said approval, SEBCID's work continues based on the detailed guidance we have sought from eminent experts in this field. The immense downpour of rain in the storm of late September validated the work done to provide run off plains in times of excess rainfall but more is needed. Unfortunately, several houses in our area were flooded and the importance of keeping the river, and its tributaries, clear of alien vegetation and unauthorised structures cannot be overstated.

We are delighted by how well the path along a section of Baviaanskloof Road was received by residents, employees, dog walkers, school goers and visitors to the area, and would like to extend it and implement others, but clearly this is not prudent until CCT has concluded the pipe replacement work currently underway.

In the **Urban Maintenance** sphere, the demarcated parking bays in the cul de sac at the top of Baviaanskloof Road have been painted in by CCT and seem to be working. And at the request of local residents, SEBCID installed two more traffic mirrors on Hugo Avenue.

Our **Social Responsibility** portfolio remains multi-pronged, and we have been able to support several wonderful causes.

These include ongoing financial support to the Hout Bay Volunteer Emergency Medical Service, the First Aid training programme where we regularly run refreshers for our trained volunteers and new First Aid level 1 courses to uplift others in Hout Bay. SEBCID funded a substantial renovation of the Hout Bay Museum Hall which was very much in need of a face lift. We continue to fund the reading programme for learners from local high schools which is organised by and hosted at the Denis Goldberg House of Hope adjacent to the Museum. Through Bright Start we sponsor Minentle from IY in her education at Valley Pre-Primary. SEBCID is one of the sponsors of the Darcey Sunshine Foundation anti-drowning programme which is facilitated in Hout Bay by Hout Bay Swimming Academy. There are several other smaller one-off supports such as a new sink for the staff room at Sentinel Primary School in Hangberg, assisting with Santa boxes for Hangberg Educare and Xmas Hampers for Hangberg Seniors.

Our **audited financial statements** for our third financial year ended June 2023 and were posted to our website. We received just under R3m in income while our expenditure in the year was R3.1m, of which the core business accounted for almost 80%, general expenditure 7% and projects the balance.

The most notable of the projects was the ongoing efforts to remove invasive trees from our area both in the interests of biodiversity but also to reduce fire risk. Just under R275,000 was spent on these efforts last year. Just under R60,000 was allocated to the constantly evolving rehabilitation of the Baviaans River which flows through SEBCID, and almost R57,000 to the refurbishment of the Hout Bay Museum Hall.

Like all CIDs, public safety expenditure accounts for the lion's share of our core business spend, followed by Cleansing Services and Environmental Improvement which is a particularly active portfolio for SEBCID given our many green spaces, our river, and our location on the urban edge.

While R170,000 was released from our surplus to fund projects, the significant surplus built up in the first one or two years of operation, left SEBCID with approximately R2.2m of cash as of September 2023. For a variety of reasons, SEBCID is better able to execute this year and has thus approved a further release of just over R942,000 to be spent on projects this year including further alien tree removal, ongoing rehabilitation of the river and a donation of R280,000 to local NGO Community Crime Prevention (CCP) to install solar-powered battery back-up for the control room which is vital to Hout Bay. SEBCID was proud to co-sponsor this project with Hout Bay Neighbourhood Watch.

Our budget for the financial year 2024/2025 remains as originally proposed with expenditure of R3.4m of which R2.9m will be spent on the core business. Public safety spend is estimated at R2.1m with Cleansing Services the next most significant line item at R280,000.

As per our MOI, a third of the board resigned. Shazelle Kelly and Alison Louw have stepped down but were re-nominated. Keith Cronwright also stepped down but for personal reasons is not standing again. We are pleased to confirm that Alex Schwager has accepted a nomination as director.

The amended Memorandum of Incorporation from the City of Cape Town updating the existing MOI in effect since 2014 was accepted.

Jemimah Birch
Chairperson
SEBCID