

**PENNINGTON COMMUNITY WATCH
COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM
6 OCTOBER 2015 – PENNINGTON LIBRARY**

17:30

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome:

Derek welcomes all.

2. Apologies:

- o Steve
- o Stan
- o Marcel
- o Andy

3. Matters arising:

- o None.
- o Comments from the floor are not recorded in the minutes.
- o Tabled suggestions are not reflected.

4. SAPS Monthly Crime Statistics:

- o 11 crimes in total;
- o 8 Housebreakings;
- o 8 Possession of Dagga
- o 2 Drunk in public;
- o 6 Drunk in Public
- o 2 Urinating in Public;
- o 1 Theft Out of Motor Vehicle;
- o SAPS man power is restricted, complaints have been lodged, and the Auditor General has instructed a further investigation for more manpower, based on the geographic area and population for Umdoni (official statistics say we have 37,000 people, while the unofficial estimate is more than 100,000 people, with more than 400km² to patrol. Other factors that impact on allocation of man power is crime statistics. However there has been a 13% decrease in crime for Umdoni for the comparable time last year.
- o Scottburgh main beach is problematic area, getting unnecessary criticism.
- o Considering a new strategy, have suspects, are being questioned.
- o Problem with early releases, parole, and light sentencing.
- o Patrols are difficult, with blue lights are giving the SAPS locations away,
- o Taxi violence is also taking up much of the SAPS time and resources due to the level of violence involved, some members are trying to forcibly take routes.
- o Theft of motor vehicles in Scottburgh is taking up SAPS time and resources.
- o IMPORTANT: Dog Unit is similar to the use of a firearms, therefore the dogs will only be used if there are conditions that comply with Section 49 Criminal Procedure Act:
 - o Confirmed cases with case number.
 - Many people are not willing to open a case.
 - Retract their statement.
 - We need people to be willing to open cases and follow through.

- If it is a priority crime (Schedule 1 offenses are obligated to use the Dog Unit).
- When people's life, physical integrity or property are at risk.
- Unreported cases are problematic for crime statistics, i.e. prioritising SAPS resources (people, vehicles, dogs etc.).
- More vehicles have been dispatched on basis of Group Reports;
- Trends for Pennington since beginning of the year:
 - General trends:
 - **Wednesday nights** are the hardest hit, with 25 incidents of house breakings (note difference between permanently occupied and holiday homes, approximately 90% of the house-breakings occur when houses are occupied, and approximately 70% of these cases occur where the property is unlocked).
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 - Monthly Figures: decreasing since May, contributed to stop and search action from SAPS, This has also decreased loitering.
 - Magma has been helpful with incident responses, and PCW street patrols.

5. Progress on Street Groups:

- Street group are going well, and people are encouraged to join if they are not on yet.

6. Projects in Progress – Security Companies:

- Magma has introduced a National Increase incentive, which was rejected in Gauteng, as this indicates collusion.
- A new security company Extreme Secure, has expressed interest in the activities in the area.
- The idea of involving private camera monitoring of crime situation, where many pensioners can assist with camera footage.
- Descriptions need to be more detailed, e.g. vehicle make, registration number etc.
- Gladiator is the company who is providing a quotation regarding a central monitoring room and equipment, all cameras are manoeuvrable, PTZ wireless cameras, with UPS functioning, intended to go on private property to limit council approval, with 100m range in infrared. Other companies are also quoting on the project.
- Salmon drive have contracted privately funded guards to patrol, this has shifted the crime from Salmon drive back to Cherry lane.
- Main issue is still beach and railway access.

7. Vacant Land - Street Lights:

- Marcel to follow up with Umdoni counsel on the 5 identified sites that need to be cleared.
- Vacant land has to be kept clean, the council can issue a notice to the owners and if no response is received the council will debit the cleaning services to the owners; Please report street light outages on the Groups and also include the pole number
- Reports have been lodged to Eskom regarding meter boxes that are open.

8. General:

- **FaceBook Page** – join on the page for residents, called Pennington Community Watch, it is not for crime reports and statistics, more for the chats and social aspect;

- **Funding:**
 - **Funds for December**, low on funds and SAPS man power and have to substitute with private security.
 - **Golf day** at Selbourne to raise funds, contact Steve (0824614606) or Ian(0731948114) further details will be on FaceBook.
 - **Funding Model:** Suggested by James, suggesting a strategic plan, with income streams where we can budget, and not reliant on the emotional impact of donations. James tables a suggestion to address the PCW separately on the actual proposal detail. To this effect, James has tabled an agenda, with an hour for presentation to the committee.
 - **Meeting between PCW, Rate Payer Association and Environmental Group:** will meet to discuss common strategies, goals & funding;
 - **Urban Improvement Plan:** this initiative is the setting up of a Section 21 Company, to substitute some of the council functions and to act as a formalised Neighbourhood Watch.
 - **Signage;** Umdoni Golf Club, and raise it with Simon Leigh, and ask Rynhart Crous as it is in their interest.
 - **Teenagers on bicycles:** complaint of teenagers on bicycles riding up and down in the road, and looking into the houses in the Dolphin Drive area. The question is whether they are look-outs, and will ask Magma to assist.
- Meeting closed 19:00

Next meeting is on the 3rd November