

Bungalow Owners' Association, Clifton Glen Beach & Bakoven
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, AGM 21 APRIL 2021

Nele Vermaak and I have served as co-chairs during the past year. We drew lots, and I have been asked to deliver the Chair's report. I do so thanking Nele, and acknowledging her role.

This morning, installation of a second sewage pump was underway at Fourth Beach. Not the most exciting enhancement to open a Chairperson's report, but an essential for us, and for all beach goers.

I use the humble example, as the recurring overflow onto the beach was reported by our community, and addressed with the City and our Ward Councillor.

And it is primarily on essentials such as this that we have retained focus during this strange year of Covid.

It is a full year since the Committee has met in person. As we do this evening, we have met remotely and online, rather than as a group. I must add that two of our committee members contracted the virus, and we are thankful that they have returned to good health.

Covid has impacted our lives and many lives. To summarize some of the direct impacts which we have experienced:

- The Beaches were off limits for much of 2020, a factor which reduced the scale at which "season" impacted on residents, until restrictions were eased early in 2021.
- The same is true of events – with large scale events prohibited under the Disaster Act, applications have been limited to one or two aquatic activities, of minimal impact.
- On the building and development front, several projects have been delayed, and the number of planning applications presented to BOA for comment was less than usual during the year to date.

Covid has also placed additional burdens on the City, and the available resources to serve the Bungalow Areas. This have been notable disruptions experienced in areas ranging refuse collection, through to the scale of Law Enforcement presence. Even when beach usage resumed in late January, staffing was extremely limited, at times only one Law Enforcement Officer present.

We have kept up the pressure in appropriate forums, motivating, pushing and nudging. As we move beyond the first year of covid, we need to ensure that services do not default to a lower level of delivery.

A tragic consequence of Covid has been an increased influx of homeless people seeking shelter in the area, particularly adjacent to Glen Beach, and in the bushes between Victoria and Lower Kloof Roads. We have maintained close contact with the City in this regard, and continue to do so.

The Association believes that in all areas of work, we will need to continue to be proactive, and ask for our community to prompt and cue us. We need the eyes and ears, and we need your support as we navigate these difficult and challenging times.

By way of taking initiative, the committee is engaged with a programme to upgrade and "beautify" areas of public open space. The model requires input (cash or kind!) from residents in the immediate vicinity of the work. Our "pilot" is at the top of iPhengwini steps at three and a half beach, Clifton.

In closing, we would like to thank Warren Chapman, our Treasurer, who has resigned after serving for several years on the BOA Committee. I would also like to thank Natalie Oakley, our secretary, and of course the members of the Committee.