

## **Noordhoek Environment Action Group Chairman's Report for the year 2008**

Our monthly agenda of environmental issues appears to expand faster than we would like. However, we have remained active and vigilant in our mission to: "Protect and preserve the indigenous flora, fauna, wild life, marine life and ecological systems of the natural environment of Noordhoek". I will give a synopsis of some of the key issues the executive attended to during the past year, namely:

### **Development /Land Usage Issues**

1. The Noordhoek Farm Village ( Old Cape Village Trust)
2. Noordhoek Wine Estate (Farm 934)
3. Serina Kaolin Mine (incl proposed development of an Equestrian Estate (portion 5 of Farm 1387 and departure for a winery (portion 5 of Farm 1387)
4. Proposed Dassenberg Farm development (Erf 940/7)
5. Chapmans Peak Drive
6. Lake Michelle
7. Long Beach Mall
8. Other applications

### **Other Environmental Items**

9. Western Leopard Toads
10. Alien Clearance
11. Dogs Litter Bags
12. Recycling Depot
13. Kid's Climate Action Group
14. Far South Peninsula Community Forum

### **Fundraising**

15. Noordhoek Country Fair
16. Noordhoek Tourism
17. Membership

## **Development / Land Usage Issues**

1. The Noordhoek Farm Village (Old Cape Village Trust)  
The Noordhoek Farm Village continues to use the parking lot despite the court's ruling on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008. NEAG views this as contempt of court and have instructed our attorneys to pursue the matter. At present they are waiting for a meeting with Provincial authorities.
2. Noordhoek Wine Estate (Farm 934)  
Our objections stand on this application. Allegations of intimidation against the developer are being followed up. Evidence was collated by the Far South Peninsula Forum for submission to province.
3. Serina Kaolin Mine (including a proposal for an Equestrian Estate and Winery)  
NEAG's position is that we would require a full description of rehabilitation to be carried out before we will consider an EIA in respect of the proposed development of an Equestrian Estate and a winery. We have submitted our concerns and objections.
4. Proposed Residential Estate on Dassenberg Farm (Erf 940/7)  
The draft Environmental Impact Report has been updated to a Final EIR for submission to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for decision. It is still available for comment till the 19<sup>th</sup> March and can be viewed at Fish Hoek Library.
5. Chapmans Peak Drive  
We are participating with other Civic organisations and NGOs from the area in an open letter to Premier Lynne Brown calling for an enquiry into the operation of Chapmans Peak Drive by Entilini and the lack of public oversight of the enquiry and the composition of the board. Keith Fawcett, an executive member of the Residents Association of Hout Bay is being put forward to stand as the civic representative
6. Lake Michelle  
NEAG continues to be represented on the ELC of the Lakes and to attend monthly meetings.
7. Long Beach Mall  
NEAG continues to be represented on the ELC of Long Beach Mall and attends these meetings.
8. Other Applications  
We have responded to a number of applications, some of which are:
  - Garden Emporium departure request for existing café and to amend the site development plan.

- Old Cape Farm Village Trust application for subdivision and consolidation of Community Hall site and hotel site.
- Part 75 erf 392 (Greenwaves) application for subdivision
- Farm 933 application for a second dwelling
- Afton Grove application for rezoning to a hotel

**Other Environmental Issues that we have been active in:**

9. Western Leopard Toads

We continue to actively support and work with the Toad Nuts in their pursuit of protecting the endangered Leopard Toads.

10. Alien Clearance

Bill Liltved's liaison with SANPARKS with regard to Alien clearing above Chapman's Peak Drive has had very positive results and this clearing is progressing well. We have also undertaken clearing of aliens from the western end of Beach Road. NEAG's alien clearance team is currently busy on a big project above San Michelle. If anyone has aliens that they wish to remove, this team can be deployed at good rates.

11. Dog Litter Bags

After 2 years of work by NEAG, our persistence finally paid off. The initiative to provide those walking their dogs on the beach with bags in which to put their dog litter will soon be implemented. SANPARKS have been enthusiastic in their support and collaboration, as they bear the main burden of keeping the beach clean. After many meetings and considerable effort, a manufacturer has been found to provide SANPARKS, at a reasonable cost, with very thin plastic bags that will have simple instructions on them. These will be handed out to dog-walkers at various public places including Noordhoek Beach.

12. Recycling Depot

After 8 years of running the recycling, Glenn regretfully gave notice due to the increased intensity of managing the depot. We are very grateful to Karoline Hanks who offered to take over the management of the depot. The depot was cleaned up at great expense and plastics were discontinued due to problems with collections and non-payment. We continue to break even on the recycling. The Council is re-starting the recycling programme and we want to encourage people to use it and to make it successful.

13. Kids Climate Action Group

NEAG is giving their full support to the start up of an environmental childrens climate action group. This group will include children between 4 to 11 years old from

all suburbs in our valley who would like to get involved. The children will become members and will be emailed or called to be informed about activities every term, which will cover clean ups, clearing of aliens, replanting indigenous trees, saving the leopard toads and lots of fun teachings on the life cycle of composting, worm farming and more. Liesel James has started this initiative based on her experience with such an initiative in Australia.

**The first project kicks off on Sunday, 22 March 2009.**

They are planning a big **clean up** day in Noordhoek and surrounding areas. They will be meeting at the Noordhoek Common at 8 am. If you would like to participate please speak to Liesel.

14. Far South Peninsula Community Forum (FSPCF)

We continue to participate on this Forum.

**Fundraising Matters**

15. Noordhoek Country Fair

We rely on the Noordhoek Country Fair and our membership for fund raising. NEAG and the Noordhoek Conservancy jointly ran the fair in 2008 and shared the profits. We raised R15 000 as our share of the profits and an additional R3 184 from the sale of T shirts and our book stall that is generously stocked by our members.

We would like to thank our members who volunteer to man the gates and beer tent. Without your help, this annual event would not be possible.

16. Membership

We would like to encourage you to renew your membership for 2009 and to enlist membership from your neighbours and friends.

17. Noordhoek Tourism

Pam Golding is no longer sponsoring Noordhoek Tourism and they are looking for local sponsors. If anybody is keen to assist please contact Beryl at the tourism office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for the support that you have given us throughout the year.

As you can see there is a lot of work and many challenges if we are to continue to preserve the natural environment of Noordhoek. Given the global shift to green economies and people examining a greener lifestyle, groups like NEAG become ever more relevant. We hope that we can continue to rely on your support and once again invite you to get involved and participate with the Executive on projects that are close to your heart.

I'm sure you join me in thanking this Executive Committee for their commitment, resilience and perseverance that they have once again demonstrated in protecting and preserving the natural environment of Noordhoek that is so dear to us all.

Last but not least, a very big thank you to Rob and Boris of the Red Herring for once again hosting our AGM and for their generosity in always providing great snacks.