

CONSERVANCY NEWS - NOORDHOEK



C. N. N.

Edition 1: Summer 2013

Message from the Chairperson

The Noordhoek Conservancy Committee is a representative group of people that volunteer their time to improve Noordhoek. The committee manages the Common through a Sub committee, comments on proposed and submitted planning applications and advises residents and City of Cape Town (CCT) officials on items and concerns within our area. The committee has been considerably enlarged since the 2011 AGM with new members and representatives from NEAG, ToadNUTS and the sports fields. Certain committee members have also changed their committee role or resigned. Certain members are long standing while other are in their first year of community work. Minutes of the NC meetings can be read on the NC website (www.ournoordhoek.org.za) and on the Noordhoek Farm Village noticeboard.

The NC Committee holds a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. We are fortunate to have our Ward Councillor Alderman Felicity Purchase attend these meetings where she provides necessary information on local items. Most importantly Alderman Purchase gets a first hand experience on how the committee is dealing with our issues and requirements.

The Common is currently well managed by Keith Gurney with a sub committee making decisions in accordance with the Noordhoek Common Environmental Management Framework and Plan.

The NC major improvement project is proposed to be the Safer Streets project. We have had favourable responses from certain community members on the proposed creation of designated pathways where we can walk, run and cycle in safety established zones. Planning for this project has occurred over the past 2 years and we are now in the position to investigate the implementation with the CCT of the initial section. It is proposed to the CCT that once we receive their permission the NC will implement it with community funding. You as residents will have the chance to say which portion of the paths should be constructed initially with a survey that will be sent out to most residents.

One of the major programmes of the past two years has been the successful introduction of speed bumps in high impact vehicle / pedestrian / animal road areas - around the Common and in Village Lane. This highly successful project came about as a result of excellent cooperation between civics, the City, landowners, residents and generous donors. The Conservancy thanks all concerned who so willingly gave of their time and resources to make this a reality.

There are many ways you can be involved to improve Noordhoek, such as support the projects: On the Verge, Noordhoek Common and the Safer Streets.

Bridget O'Donoghue

About the Market

Noordhoek Conservancy wishes to clarify its role in the recent closing of the Earthfair which was held until recently at the Noordhoek Farm Village each Thursday evening.

"The Conservancy is a commenting body only not an approval body. Whilst we were asked to comment on certain parking and traffic issues relating to the Thursday evening market, it was ultimately the joint decision of the Farm Village management and the market organizers to discontinue the market due to the lack of adequate parking facilities", says Bridget O'Donoghue, Chair of the Conservancy.

"The reason the market can no longer continue is that the NFV has insufficient parking to support the market in conjunction with its other businesses," says Peter van der Post, representing the Earth Fair market. All parties agreed that the closure is not necessarily permanent and that the EarthFair could possibly return as soon as viable traffic and parking options are presented.

The Committee 2012/13

Elected Members:

Chair: Bridget O'Donoghue: bodonoghue@telkomsa.net

Treasurer: Hazel Nason: hazel@degoede.co.za

Secretary: Gina Reinosé: reinose@mweb.co.za

Projects: Leonard Gardner: leonard.gardner@gmail.com

News: Gareth Griffiths: garethgriffiths.capetown@gmail.com

Rory Sales: rory@risingtide.co.za

Lou Docke: loudocke@hotmail.com

John Cannan: johncanza@telkomsa.net

Jenny Scagell: jenny@chapmanspeakproperties.com

Ex-Officio & Co-opted Members:

Glenn Ashton - NEAG : ekogaia@iafrica.com

Suzie Jirachareonkul - ToadNUTS : suzie43@gmail.com

Paul Bester - Sports fields : besterph@gmail.com

Ald. Felicity Purchase (CCT)

Contact the Noordhoek Conservancy

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EDITOR ASKS: PLEASE - FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL
Noordhoek is a semi-rural suburb with children, animals, wildlife, runners, walkers, bicycles and even board skaters (taking a chance) using our streets.

Remember speed limits - **70 km/hr Main & Silvermine Roads and 50-30 km/hr** for most other streets. Please remind your visitors- it's in everyone's interests.



NOORDHOEK

CONSERVANCY & CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Common Comment - about the Noordhoek Common

First, a little of the history of the lovely piece of land we call the Noordhoek Common. The Common is not the Common. The actual public commonage of the farming village of Noordhoek was the land where the old dump site and current sports fields are. What we now call the Common was several private farms, and Avondrust Circle was the main road through Noordhoek village. And Camp Faraway really was far, f a a r away!

Today's Common is many different things to many different people. One of the great pleasures I get from managing the Common on behalf of our community is meeting this diversity of people. As a horticultural specialist I thought I knew it all, until a walker on the Common recently enlightened me about the astrology of plants! However, the one thing all users have in common (as it were) is their love of this jewel in our midst. I know of no other community in South Africa blessed with such a priceless asset.

When next you visit, look out for:



- **The Good** – The rehabilitation of the stream started at the lower gate and that will move steadily upwards.
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- **The Bad** – The perennial Stink bean (*Paraserianthes lophantha*, Declared weed, Category 1, picture - www.invasives.org.za)



- **The Ugly** – We have not seen this alien invader in our area for a while. It is throughout Cape Town this summer, probably wind-borne seed brought in from elsewhere. It is not a “pretty wildflower”. It is Patterson's Curse (*Echium plantaginium*, Declared weed, Category 1, picture above - www.invasives.org.za)

Next visit, and where you live, please make use of the free workout Nature has on offer this year and pull out Bad and Ugly wherever you see them, or they will be back as Very Big and Very Bad next year.

Keith Gurney, on behalf of the Common Sub-committee

Safer Streets Campaign - What's it About?

Not everyone in the neighbourhood continues to value the slow pace and quiet lifestyle of past years, and pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders have had to learn new skills over the years: dodging speeding vehicles of all types (from taxis to SUVs), drivers who fail to adhere to speed limits, ignore pedestrian crossings, or simply fail to pay attention to the quality of the neighbourhood in which they have chosen to live and / or travel through.

Objectives of the Campaign



- Keep up a persistent campaign to motivate and work towards a safer environment for all.
- Consult with the community and address the following questions:
 - What are the problems?
 - What should be done about these problems?
 - What are the priorities?
 - Are people prepared to commit resources to these initiatives?
- Engage with the relevant authorities to:
 - Raise issues and priorities identified by the community.
 - Act as a conduit for communications between CCT and Community.
 - Dovetail with maintenance and capital projects in the area.

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