

KLEINMOND RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION – KRPA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

1 INTRODUCTION

The sudden death of our previous Mayor, Mr Theo Beyleveldt, brought immense grief to the Kleinmond community. We appreciate the contribution he made; by creating an environment of which we can all be very proud of. We will honour his memory and our prayers go out to Marianne, his beloved wife, and the rest of his family.

We also want to congratulate Mrs Nicolette Botha-Guthrie on her re-election as Mayor of the Overstrand Municipality (OM). We want to confirm our support in aiding her to reach the many goals she has set herself, such as addressing the poverty situation, the persuance of good governance, excellent service delivery, good infrastructure and most importantly, to ensure affordable tariffs for all.

We would also like to congratulate Councillors Philip Appelgrein and Lize Krige on being elected as councillors for Wards 9 and 10 respectively.

The KRPA also wants to thank Adv Werner Zybrands for his continuous devotion to serve the residents of the OM. We wish him a happy, peaceful retirement, good health and much joy. We would like to thank Mr Louis van Heerden, who stepped down as Councillor for Ward 10. We shall miss his devotion to his fellow men and his selfless service.

2 INTERACTION: PERSONNEL AND RATE PAYERS

Poor communication is always blamed when things go wrong. The KRPA would like to place on record that we regret the fact that on numerous occasions, there was insufficient and, even in some cases, no response to correspondence and requests for information. The fact that the electricity deposits were accepted negatively by residents, was a direct consequence where the service provider did not acknowledge ratepayers as his clients.

The KRPA Management met with the Mayor on this very issue and a communication procedure was agreed upon. However, to date, no real improvement can be reported.

We would however like to thank councillors Appelgrein and Louis van Heerden for all their continued support to communicate with the KRPA and with our residents.

3 COST ESCALATIONS

We accept the fact that the Municipality has to invest in many different areas to service our various communities. We also accept that these investments have to be made within an environment of continuous rising costs.

The KRPA has, however, not experienced any indication of sympathy towards the taxpayer from the OM's side. It is our considered opinion that especially the top structure is unnecessary top heavy which places an unnecessary financial burden on the expenditure. Added to this, is the outsourcing of many of the functions and services, without a likewise downward adjustment in the cost of the staff compliment.

Furthermore it has come to our notice that substantial salary increases for councillors are in the offing. The KRPA is of the view that the point has been reached where we are hopelessly overtaxed and that we now expect the OM to control all expenditures very strictly, including those on salaries and bonuses.

4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It is unfortunate to report that most of our citizens do not want to get involved in the activities of the KRPA. The public seldom attends open meetings, both Ward Committee and KRPA meetings, and when it happens, these meetings are only attended to raise discontent with certain public actions and decisions.

Amongst most of the 12 Ratepayers Associations [RPA's] there is a general feeling that the preferences of the ratepayers are being ignored by the OM. There is also a feeling that Ward Committees don't always pay the necessary attention to the needs of the ratepayers in the ward. At present the 12 OM's RPA's communicate regularly to discuss aspects of mutual concern. Although they are not always in agreement on every issue, they, at least, take note of the different points of view.

5 **SERVICES**

The KRPA is very concerned about the long-term fresh water supply as well as the deteriorating reticulation system. The Municipality is aware of increasing demands by the City of Cape Town, the ever increasing pollution levels in the Palmiet River and the enormous price increases of chemicals.

The Hermanus, Hawston, Arabella water consumption is also increasing. These demands will affect the aquifer, a water supply that will have to be tapped for Kleinmond in future.

All these developments will eventually result in rate increases. There are already rumours that the levy on water may be increased soon. Kleinmond is, however, not prepared to subsidize the water needs of developments in other areas.

Huge amounts, labelled as electricity levies, are already being collected. These funds are earmarked for servicing, maintenance and expansion of our reticulation systems. The KRPA is, however, against the use of these additional funds being utilised for any other purposes.

Public health and welfare is of utmost importance for our Kleinmond community. It is the KRPA's considered opinion that our community is totally neglected by the Overberg District Municipality (ODM), who is responsible for these services. The KRPA, however, receives no feedback from the ODM. In the meantime, the services are deteriorating to such an extent that it is becoming an explosive situation.

The KRPA, therefore, urges the Mayor to intervene in this serious matter of common interest.

6 **TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY**

An extensive traffic impact study was undertaken and a technical report of its findings as well both short and long-term actions were set up.

The KRPA took the initiative to request a study on the possible effects of traffic flow via the R44 when the new toll road system becomes operational. The technical reports on both these studies are available on our website.

The recommendations, based on the outcomes of these studies, are now part of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) that must be considered, implemented and amended annually by the OM.

7 ACTIONS IN PLANNING

- 7.1 The Kleinmond Police and the Police Forum are in the process of forming a Neighbourhood Watch. This will not be a “patrol system” but will rely heavily on the eyes and ears of everybody in the community. We must, at least, take care of the well being of our neighbours and fellow citizens.
- 7.2 All of us can be very glad that we are not a so-called “**Bergie**.” Yet the ever-increasing Bergie problem is matter of great concern to us, as it appears that there is no law enforcement action addressing this problem.

An inter denominational church soup kitchen provides soup and bread on a daily basis to many needy people. However, we urgently appeal to everybody **not to give money to the Bergies**. Rather make a donation of some kind to the said soup kitchen.

- 7.3 We are well represented on the OMAF committee and will keep a watchful eye on the budget planning process.

8 COMMITTEE AND PORTFOLIOS

A very special vote of thanks is owed to all the committee members of the KRPA for their devoted service and participation. Die 2011 committee consists of the following members:

Dr Gawie Eksteen	Chairman
Mr. Jan-Willemvan Staden	Vice Chairman
Mr. Jannie Viljoen	Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Johan Barnard	Solid waste transfer station
Mr. Aldert Drenth	Harbour Development
Mrs. Santie Hamman	Health and Welfare
Mr. Japie Conradie	Police forum/Bergies
Mr. Johan de Clerk	OM Budget and finances
Mrs. Susan Swanepoel	Ward10 Representative
Mr. John Watson	Members matters and communication

The regular attendance of meetings by Messrs. Tienie Geldenhuys, Arend Adriaanse and Tommy Snibbe is appreciated and noted with thanks.

We also want to thank Dr André Grové and Mrs Ruanda de Clerk for translating and editing this report.

9 IN CONCLUSION

We would like to wish the new Committee for 2012 all the best and joy on their endeavours. A hearty welcome to all our new members.

May you all experience a very blessed Christmas and a joyful 2012.

GJ EKSTEEN
CHAIRMAN

