

Although I am some way from home right now, visiting children in England and the USA, thoughts of Bushman's are never far away. This newsletter will touch on a variety of interesting and also urgent matters.

December Water Problems

We are experiencing serious water problems and it appears that this will reach a peak during December when the holiday makers join us in the Village. According to Albany Coast Water Board, available water resources have dropped by 60% and we will see a shortage of approximately 1 million liters of water PER DAY during the holiday season. PLEASE USE WATER SPARINGLY.

Community Policing and Security

We have been investigating ways to curb the rampant crime in our town. To this end, locals have formed a sector policing system and they are doing a great job – our crime rate has dropped substantially. Ian, Oorlog and Corris are spearheading this initiative with great success. We have also been in discussion with Hi-Tec regarding crime prevention and will keep all informed if and when there are further developments on this front

Tow Path

The towpath along the River up to the bridge has been closed by the Municipality for all traffic. Only emergency and service vehicles are now (as was the case in the past) allowed onto the path.

The Village is generally neat and tidy – we are using our own resources to clean up the town and to keep open spaces trimmed and clean. Members who wish us to remove heaps of garden refuse can send an email and we will do so at R 50 a load (load means whatever our vehicle can take on one trip). We will again appoint a garden service to maintain park areas and walkways during 2010.

Committee Matters

Stompie Bellingan has agreed to join our committee and will, in the main, be responsible for issues from Riversbend.

We are attending to a number of problems and committee members are all active in their endeavors to keep our town pretty. The car park was covered in sand

after a recent storm and Sheila coaxed Coast Care to assist to get the sand removed.

A number of other projects are being considered – see our minutes of meetings on our website.

Environmental levy.

Ratepayers will have seen the new environmental levy on our accounts. Although we did a study as to the legality of the levy, we are advised the financial director of Ndlambe as follows: the funds are to be ring fenced and utilized for environmental issues, such as cleaning up the refuse sites as directed by the Auditor-General in its annual audit report. This account will be audited by the Auditor-General and report on the accounts disclosed at all Executive Committee meetings. We will be watching!!!

Rates discount

There is also an avenue for deserving pensioners to apply for a rebate on their rates. In order to qualify for a rebate on your rates you must complete an application form. This applies to properties owned by farmers, pensioners, disabled people and eco villages. These forms are available from your municipal office or can be downloaded off www.ndlambe.gov.za under forms.

As the municipalities are at sea with their accounts the deadline of 30th September will be extended. However I recommend that you do this ASAP as you will be charged the full rates until the application is handed in then you will be credited with any overpayment.

Ndlambe phone no is 046 624 1140 ask for finance dept or A Buys

Shop

Nicoll's has been taken over by Pops de Clerq and her son Tobie and son in law Douglas. They are revamping and painting the shop and new freezers are being installed. The bakery has been revamped and all baking takes place hygienically under one of the three new owners' personal supervision. All are welcome to visit and inspect. A new bread recipe ensures that bread

lasts longer – and is quite good too!!!! Pop is attempting to obtain permits to sell petrol and diesel but with the new laws this may take some time. If you need Pop to stock something special, please phone her in advance at 046 648 1207. All accounts are still in place and account holders can continue to purchase on tick. For direct payments: Nicoll's, Standard Bank, Grahamstown (0509170 Account Number: 27013061.

New Filling Station? A new scoping report for a filling station at our town's entrance was recently advertised - this would certainly be more convenient for all of us and it may be the perfect place for such a venture – but traffic congestion issues need to be addressed. We are attending thereto.

Ndlambe Sewage problems

At a Special Ndlambe Council meeting held on 11 September a project was approved for R12m for the "REFURBISHMENT OF NDLAMBE WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND SEWER PUMP STATION" The preamble to the project reads "The municipality is presently facing legal and other proceedings due to its inability to comply with legislated requirements brought about by the deteriorating sanitation infrastructure; desperately in need of some or other attention, be it refurbishment, replacement or improvement. Financial, logistical and numerous other constraints have created a situation where critical refurbishment and essential maintenance is beyond urgent"!!!

There is no doubt that pressure for service delivery from the BRRAG and NRF has brought about this urgent action by the municipality. Once more, "we'll be watching...." And we urge all ratepayers to continue to support our organization as much as possible. Membership forms are available on our website.

Jetty

We have received quotes to upgrade the jetty and have asked Estuary Care, who agreed, to attend thereto. We hope that a fully functional jetty will be in place for the holiday season.

Thanks...

My thanks for the books donated to Klipfontein Primary, especially the box handed in at Robot Furnishers. Should anyone coming at Christmas have some unwanted children's books, jigsaw puzzles or children's games, please could they bring them, the help it gives the Klipfontein school children is immense. Items can be handed to Annabelle Northrop, 10 Alexander Street.

Flooding

We suggest to residents to check the grids for leaves blocking the storm water drains, especially during and after storms to prevent flooding.

Beach maintenance

We have decided to employ an assistant from December to mid January to clean the River beach in the mornings and to tend to toilets during the day. The employee will be allowed to ask for tips for his / her efforts to keep the toilets tidy.

On this hopeful note we'll end this newsletter – probably the last before the December holiday season is upon us. Please visit our website and contribute to our comments – it is only by joining the association and making your concerns known that we are able to “make the difference”

Stay well –

Wendy and your BRRAG committee

