

## TRRA Public Meeting

**Date:** 03 March 2020

**Venue:** Bowling Club, Poplars

**Time:** 19H00

### Welcome

The meeting was opened by Venessa and everyone was welcome. Venessa pointed out that the purpose of the meeting was to give residents an update on the latest issues in the community.

The first item on the agenda:

### Neighbourhood Watch

Nolan, TNHW Chairperson, presented a detailed SAPS report, highlighting the number of arrests, convictions and pending cases. Nolan mentioned that the increased informal settlements at Wingfield is making their job more challenging, however they are working closely with SAPS, observing and responding accordingly. He requested that residents who have people working for them, should take them to the station as robberies are rife.

*Shahied Abass*, asked if the TNHW needed assistance and Nolan responded, saying any help will be welcome, however residents who can assist should notify them via the email address or phone number. Details will be posted to the TRRA website.

*Mr Hendricks*, suggested that the Thornton community have a more offensive approach in dealing with the crime in our area and further suggested a workshop for the community to explore this idea.

Sharon Alexander, responded to the SAPS stats and said she would have preferred it if SAPS were present to answer some of the community's questions. Venessa interjected and stated the purpose of the meeting and that another general meeting could be arranged if needed. She advised her to send her request to the TRRA in writing. Nolan's response to the lady was that TNHW is planning an Imbizo which will take place immediately after Pineland's Imbizo. No date was provided.

*Linda Sumner*, secretary of TNHW, invited residents to report any suspicious criminal activity. This promptly led the TRRA Chairlady to swap agenda items and went straight in the **City Improvement District (CID)** agenda item. She called upon Councillor Brain Watkyns to explain the CID concept. Councillor explained the steps as follow:

- Needs analysis - Determine what are the needs of the community
- Public meeting - To gain agreement, however there must be a 60% agreement to proceed
- Submit to Council for approval
- If approved, a non-profit company is set up to manage the CID

He pointed out that this obviously has a cost to the residents, which will be added to the monthly utility bill. The amount is totalled and paid in a lump sum to the CID Company. Gregg Alkana added that the amount to the resident is about 15% of your utility bill. Councillor ended off his explanation by encouraging the residence to consider cameras and to try and consider the CID concept. Councillor suggested TRRA approach the resident who works at the CID and ask for advice on the way forward for a CID.

*Mr Hendricks*, was keen on the idea and wanted to know who will kick start this process on gathering information for a CID. Venessa and Sahil confirmed that the TRRA will initiate this process by gathering information and will make information available as needed.

*Mr Shahied Abass*, put a question to Councillor wanting to know where the recently qualified police officers were deployed. Councillor promptly stated that allocation is done at a Province level. Ocean View was identified as a community that needed it most.

### Epping Informal Settlement

Venessa said there is much confusion around the eviction process and requested Councillor Watkyns to shed some light on the legal aspects. Councillor highlighted that we were much further along the process than when we started as the case has gone to court, but the judge has made a ruling to revisit the eviction notice in August. So for now there is not much we can do. Councillor did however say that the lease for the Market is up for renewal and there is a proposal to have a truck stop. He handed out pictures of the new proposed layout. Pictures will be made available on the website. Questions were raised regarding the vagrants "living" under the bridge. Councillor confirmed that Law Enforcement removes the belongings on a Friday when a truck is available. Venessa interjected again and pointed out that it's due to residents enabling them, that's why they keep coming back.

*Ralph Samson* concurred with Venessa in this regard, but was more concerned about the gate (thoroughfare) at the end of Kareeboom leading to Viking Road. He said people are not safe and there is no control over who uses the gateway. He offered to be the custodian of the gate. He was advised to put his request in writing and the Committee will consult with the Councillor on the matter. Venessa ended the update on this section by requesting residents to work together so we can gain traction on a decision regards the CID.

### **Conradie Update**

Venessa pointed out that we were not successful regarding all our objections, but that did not deter us, as we will now put measures in place to ensure that the Developer is held accountable and that they stick to the agreed deliveries. This has led to the Conradie Park Development Community Liaison Committee (CPD Community Liaison Committee) being established. The committee is made up of representatives from Pinelands, Thornton, KenFac and Maitland/Garden Village. Riad Davids from Pinelands was voted as Chair, Venessa Edwards from Thornton as Vice Chair and June Hendricks from Thornton as Secretary. Venessa explained the purpose of the committee is to act as the liaison between the ratepayers' and the Developer. This committee will communicate all necessary information to the respective residents via its Ratepayers Associations'.

*Shahied Abass*, was in agreement with this committee and encouraged the community to support the idea. Brenda Boswell, displayed her disapproval of the Development and the fact the no free standing house were part of the plan as was promised.

Venessa explained the phases and the cost related to each phase and pointed out the first phase was essentially the rich subsidising the lower income earners. She also explained that we have information on what is due to happen this year. As information becomes available the residents will be informed.

*Elizabeth Leendertz* wanted to know what is being done about the taxis as she has reported incidents on numerous occasions with no reply. Councillor then said that there was an initiative on the go to get traffic officers to work hand-in-hand with the police to alleviate problems as it arises. A concern regarding traffic was raised and Councillor agreed that the situation is horrendous, but he has seen tenders go out to improve the system, but could not provide any specifics. There is still the plan to have the MYCITI bus pass by Thornton (via Viking) to Jan Smuts and past Old Mutual.

One resident wanted to know how a private school will suffice when low income earners will be living in the development. Venessa mentioned that the type of school mentioned was that of a "generation" school. Residents were asked to email all the questions regarding Conradie to the TRRA and the committee will collate and respond to emails via our website, so the response is available to all.

### **C3 Reporting Issue**

Venessa explained that this was the Councils method of tracking faults/issues raised by the residents. She reiterated again that it is the responsibility of the residents to raise issues/faults and keep the reference number. Where the issue cannot be resolved they can approach TRRA to request assistance in resolving the issue. She urged the residents not to contact Councillor Brian Watkyn's secretary to raise the issue on their behalf. Gregg Alkana also added that where possible residents should add a picture to the online C3 fault. The links to report issues with Council is on the TRRA website.

### **Wish List**

Councillor was asked to explain the process and he mentioned that annually each ward is awarded a budget for improvements. Residents are then able to submit their "wish list" or requests for approval. A Ward meeting is held to prioritise the wish list taking into account the cost associated and will allocate accordingly. Once allocated, it will be implemented. TRRA should notify the residents which requests were submitted and must duly advise which request(s) will be implemented.

The deadline for the wish list is end March 2020, so residents must submit their request(s) to TRRA.

### **General**

Sharon Alexander wanted to know if there was an option to oversee the kids at the primary school, especially when the transport is late to collect them and the teaching staff has already left. She was advised to submit her request to TRRA.

Meeting ended at 8.35 and Venessa thanked all for coming.