



PARK TO PARK PRECINCT

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Committee Report – November 2014

The Festive Season is upon us and may we take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year. We have had a good response to our Christmas lights appeal and we look forward to “dressing “up our neighbourhood for the Festive season .The final list of participants will be finalised at our 5 November 2014 meeting.

End of year does usually see a spike in crime and we caution all our members to be especially vigilant

At this time of year .We will again be increasing our security presence over the Festive period.

We would like to welcome Mr Roy Petzer of Eastmoor Crescent to the PTP family. It is with regret we bid Jan Vogel good bye .Our sincere thanks to Jan for his years of dedicated service .

Security

Security remains a high priority for PTP (65 % of our budget) and we are very pleased to report that we still enjoy some of the lowest crime figures in South Africa today .Our focus is to manage and secure the open public space in our precinct and we rely on our members to secure their homes and complexes. Lights are the cheapest form of security and we urge all our members to ensure that their properties are well lit with “white” light .Also ensure that electric fences are properly maintained and monitored. We employ a layered, integrated approach to our security and monitored cameras, managed patrol guards and reaction vehicles generally deliver good results .A few complexes in the precinct have experienced instances of intrusion in the last few months and we have been working closely with these folk to improve their perimeter security .We need to guard against complacency and do regular checks and evaluations of our individual security measures to ensure that they are effective.

We have added additional lighting to the Jabula Hill and The Dunes servitude to improve security .We have also continued to evolve the camera system and a motion detector has been added to the Jabula Hill Cameras to provide proactive functionality to the system .This added functionality will be piloted there and if successful, rolled out to the rest of the cameras. We have also established an additional camera monitoring function at the UIP offices in the Village .The UIP are now able to view the PTP cameras and respond more effectively to future incidents.

PTP has also been actively involved in assisting our neighbours in Ridge and Forest Drive to get organised and improve their security .Night time dog patrols of Ridge Road have commenced and this has immediately begun to positively impact, with security incidents dropping off dramatically .Blue Security have also added an additional dedicated response vehicle to our area which has also helped .Additional security signage has also been erected to further raise awareness.

In the event of a security concern or incident we advise our members to immediately contact our 24/7 control room on 086 111 2050.Our response vehicle is dedicated to lower Umhlanga and will probably deliver the quickest response-within minutes. Also please notify the SAPS .The control room will then notify our security manager, Mr Dave Crew (0764238177), whom will attend the scene and do a preliminary assessment and report. We are sometimes contacted days and weeks after an incident for assistance with camera footage. It is a difficult and time consuming exercise to have to wade through hours of camera footage long after the event. The cameras continue to contribute to our overall security system and although each camera is not monitored individually all the time, the system is monitored on a virtual patrol basis .The cameras do all record on a 24/7 basis and camera footage has directly contributed to three arrests in the past year alone.

If collusion is suspected in an incident, Enforce have a certified polygrapher to administer polygraphs .An investigative and undercover team is also available to us, should the situation call for it .It is important that we send the message that should criminals perpetrate crime in our area, they will get caught .When the risk to reward is seen as too great by criminals,they will normally move to another area.

Within the past few weeks we had an attempted burglary, but quick intervention by the guards thwarted this and again quick reaction by our security apparatus resulted in an arrest .Use the system – it works!

PTP is also linked to the CPF (Community Policing Forum) which ensures monitoring and oversight of police dockets opened by our member's .The CPF is the only SAPS officially recognised structure and it is important that we are part of an oversight structure. Once criminals are caught it is crucial that we ensure that the docket is correctly prepared and processed through the justice system.

Cleaning

I think all our members will join us in thanking our cleaners Patricia and Simon for the outstanding job they do .Our beaches are cleaned twice a day and are always in pristine condition .They also clean Marine Drive twice a week .They are both equipped with radios and perform a vital daytime security role .Quick intervention by Simon resulted in two children being rescued from the surf a couple of weeks ago.

Street posters and estate agents boards continued to be monitored and are subject to our agreed code of conduct .Please continue to report any defective street lights or pot holes via the UIP .These reports are monitored and followed up to ensure quick resolution.

The upgrade of complex entrances and verges continues in Marine Drive .This continued investment underlines the confidence of homeowners in the area and will no doubt continue to improve our property values .Estate agents continue to report strong demand in the area with above market values being achieved.

Greening

The dune rehabilitation continues on an ongoing basis and the dunes south of the Eastmoor car park continue to show good progress .We now have a beautiful 2 km stretch of coastline that has been beautifully restored from the ravages of the 2007 storm.

With the vegetation rehabilitation, other benefits have followed and there has been a huge increase in the number of birds and animals that can now be found on our doorsteps .My dream of duikers returning to the area were realised last month when one was found in The Cove .Many thanks to Paul and his team for capturing the duiker and safely relocating it to Milkwood Estates .For pictures and the full story please visit the UIP website.

The vegetation on the dunes has become quite prolific in areas and where that has happened , there is abundant evidence of rejuvenation of the local Milkwoods .We have planted literally hundreds of indigenous trees and shrubs over the last few years and we are really starting to see the results come through . We are truly fortunate and blessed to live where we do and we urge all members to utilise this fantastic asset.

We have also installed two new ponds in the dune area .Liz Scott has just completed their vegetation and we look forward to them attracting many more wildlife .

We must extend our thanks and appreciation to the UIP for their management and maintenance of the Durban View Park .Many members may still remember what a problem this park was- pre UIP .Today it is a wonderful asset and the recent addition of a jungle gym for the children has been much appreciated .This will no doubt contribute to a better integrated community.

General

We continue to monitor the status of the tidal pool project but have no new news to report . We will provide more information to members once it becomes available. The new lifesavers tower is currently under construction and should be completed by the December holidays .

Construction has been delayed on the third phase of the Pearls .It appears that Checkers have pulled out of the development and the developers are at present reconfiguring the design. Construction on the new R2.8 billion Gandhi Square development is scheduled to start mid 2015 .This is a substantial retail development with a shopping mall ,cinemas and restaurants with over 3000 parking bays on site These developments will probably cause some frustration to residents in the construction phase but will undoubtedly serve to improve the overall uMhlanga experience .Please though be aware that the high influx of construction workers will compromise overall security in our precinct and we need to remain vigilant at all times .

We held our annual PTP Get together in July this year in order to avoid the inclement weather Unfortunately we couldn't avoid a clash with a Sharks game , so a number of faces were absent this year .Thanks to Jeff and The Dunes for hosting the event this year .

Finally –thank you all for your continued support, without which, nothing would be possible.

Kind regards
PTP Committee