

Yzerfontein Residents' Association (YRA) - Annual Report 2022

Our Association was established in 1963 making this our 59th year of existence. The Association has over time proven its value by actions in the interest of members by serving as communications channel between the Yzerfontein community and Swartland Municipality (SM). It remains particularly important that we ensure the Association will continue to attend to matters that affect us by becoming members.

The Association submits input to every draft budget of SM as well as attending to issues that require attention.

1. SM Budgets for 2021/22 and 2022/23

1.1 The SM Tariff Policy that contained an incorrect definition was finally corrected and now complies with Section 28(6) of the Municipal Financial Management Act

1.2 The sewerage tariffs of 2021/22 remain a problematic issue and we are waiting for a reply to a letter to SM in this regard. It relates to incorrect tariffs that were raised during that year in terms of the Tariff Policy and implementation of a requirement for conservancy tanks with a simultaneous prohibition of building of any further septic tanks. A recent test of seepage on the coastline indicated unusually excessive e-coli readings. SM has also conducted tests and the results are expected in due course. Should this present a possible health hazard, urgent action would be indicated.

1.3 The YRA input to the SM budget for 2022/23 included matters such as property tax rebate to senior citizens, maintenance at the main beach, repair of the tennis courts, further construction of the pavement next to Lutie Katz along the coast and maintenance of the community hall and surrounding parking area amongst others.

2. Other Matters.

2.1 Valuations

Valuations remain an issue that requires much attention, some at provincial and national level. These matters need to be addressed yet again.

2.2 CCTV System

An amount of some R16,800, primarily donations from members for the camera system, was transferred to the Neighbourhood Watch to cover some of the urgent maintenance required as well as installing backup power given the ongoing blackouts by Eskom.

2.3 Town Manager / Law Enforcement

Co-operation with Senior Regional Inspector Neale Africa, our Town Manager, remains at a highly satisfactory level. It is however unrealistic to expect one person to fulfil both functions of town management and law enforcement on a 24/7 basis and this has already been discussed with the newly elected Mayor and included as a requirement in the input to the budget.

2.4 At our insistence the community hall was given a good cleanup and curtains were cleaned and repaired.

3. TR27 / MR215 Road Crossing, Yzerfontein.

A Forum consisting of chairmen of the YRA, Neighbourhood Watch, Urban Conservancy and NSRI has negotiated with Western Cape Minister DG Mitchell regarding this matter since August 2021. Recently we requested a reply from the new responsible Minister Tertius Simmers without any reaction. Subsequently after 2 letters to the Premier and 7 telephone calls to his office, a reply was received from Min Simmers. The SM Municipal Manager, who attended the on site investigation by Min Mitchell, also had discussions with the Dept of Infrastructure. The matter will be addressed further after receipt of legal advice. Meanwhile the speed limit on the TR77 remains at 120 Kph and 100 Kph on the MR215, the national maximum for these categories of roads.

5. Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation to the committee members for their countless hours of work. Their selfless service to the association and its members, served to the benefit of all. It was a pleasure and honour to be part of such a team.

Our thanks to the Mayor, Municipal Manager, other Directors and personnel who were always available to address issues of concern. A special word of appreciation to our Ward Councillor Ald. Michael Rangasamy and Town Manager Neale Africa for their outstanding attention to matters and co-operation with our Association.

The members of the YRA deserve the gratitude of the whole Yzerfontein community for making the association possible. Any successes that the association may achieve, will benefit all in Swartland.

I trust that you are convinced of the importance and need for your association and its continued growth. It is hoped that the sample of matters addressed will demonstrate that much takes place behind the scenes to promote the interests of members and that others will be persuaded to become members. It is only with concerted and ongoing effort that we will succeed in promoting the well being of residents of Yzerfontein, which are far too often unjustly regarded and described as "those rich people in Yzerfontein". Please encourage your friends and neighbours to become members of the YRA. It is a simple process on our website, yzerfontein.org.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward Brittain
Chairman
20/12/2022