

Chairman's Report: Southbroom Ratepayers Association

3 October 2022

IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES

My Committee

Your committee comprises passionate, obsessive people who wake up and work for you and the community and Southbroom every single day. Individuals who are motivated and give of their time and energy freely and reward less. For this, all of us should be thankful.

I am not going to litter the proceedings with too many thank you's so let me get them out of the way right now. It's a pleasure to work with all of you and to be your chairman. And each and every one of you work tirelessly to make Southbroom wonderful.

Brian Dick, Jackie Pratt, Richard Bridgeford, Richard Derman, Allan Woods, Darryn van Aswegen, Laurence Mandy, Deanne Purtell, Dietmar Klein, Duncan Biggar, Paul Longmore, Geoff Evans, Allan Bosch. Thank you!

Thank you to Chris Ledden and Gavin Sole for allowing us to use the SGC. And to Raefe Dyer from Nasua for doing all the printing of the handouts.

How do I isolate the huge effort by some? As all of you work and work and work. But Richard, Richard, Darryn, Brian, Jackie, Deanne and Allan do deserve special mention. THANK YOU.

If you want to join us in the battle to make Southbroom liveable and great I invite you to join us!

Security

For 3 months we had no crime! Listen carefully – not a single reported crime for a full 2 ½ months. Do you remember when crime was all that occupied us? Now thanks to the SPOA and the incredible CPF crime is not an issue. But we continue to support the incredible work done by the SPOA and CPF and they will deal in more detail with crime or lack thereof in their AGMs.

Potholes

Many potholes have been repaired by RNM or their contractors or by the SRA. Occasionally rubble took a while to clear but this has been largely done. And hopefully even the fever tree circle potholes have been resolved or will be shortly.

Street Numbers

Re-energize the initiative to have street numbers on properties as suggested by Nora Hill in the last AGM. The idea is that all properties have a street number in green on a white background on a white oval 18 cm by 10 cm. These are available for order from the Broom to

the right specifications. And we urge you to adopt the standard. For couriers, deliveries and emergencies. If you are unsure about your number, please speak to Duncan Biggar who is resolving street number issues throughout Southbroom.

Clubs

Our sports clubs are all in great condition. I attended the Bowls AGM just last week – what an incredible lively turnout. And the tennis club and of course the golf club are pumping. The library thrives. And all of them have money available for projects. How wonderful is this? How fantasti does this make our village?

Relationship with RNM

We work hard to extract the most we can out of RNM. We attend monthly cluster meetings with all the RNM heads of department and progress is reported. But as always things happen slowly. What these meetings do do is show the problems that some of our fellow villages have. In particular, their beaches and ablutions are a major problem, in some cases completely derelict and beyond repair. We spend considerable effort t in ensuring that our public ablutions are maintained. And we need to keep n doing this. Signage in our villages remains an ugly problem. Our efforts here definitely keep Southbroom beautiful

IT WAS THE AGE OF WISDOM

- SWAT

As announced in the AGM in January the Southbroom Water action Team has been formed and is meeting regularly. Under the able chairmanship of Walter Robinson. Progress is slow, but options are being investigated and evaluated to alleviate at least some of our water problems. Watch this space.

- RECYCLYING COMMITTEE – Not Waste 😊

In conjunction with the Southbroom Conservancy we have formed the Recycling Committee. I know this is a recurring and recurrent exercise that seems to require renewed energy each time. Ah well! We have to march forward. But we really need to get recycling properly sorted and publicised and the SRA and the Conservancy are committed thereto. The committee consists of Paull Fleischack, Paul Longmoor, Deanne Purtell, Allan Woods, Tarryn Burns, Meggan Flinders and Neville Crompton.

What is of major concern is the demise of the Oatlands waste sight which apparently is at the end of its life: either capacity or licencing conditions or both. RNM are deeply aware of the issue after the Ramsgate residents Association went public on the matter. The problem is that resolution is major and expensive and ir appears that no proper planning has been done or if it has it is no public. This is of real concern but not much we can do about it as Southbroom residents. But it does add an edge of importance to our recycling efforts.

IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES

There are several areas where we have not done so well and I will mention them all now.

- **Floods and Berea Road repair**

Still not fixed

- **Main Road water burst**

Still not fixed

- **Garden Refuse and Monkey Cages**

I do not intend to belabour this point again. But – please install monkey-proof cages. Do not put out garden refuse. This is NOT collected by RNM.

- **Building and Development**

We continue to struggle with lots 41 Imbezane Drive and Lot 94, 4 Southridge Road and Lot 109, 34 Southridge Road remain unresolved. We liaise closely with RNM where there has been a recent change in personnel. So we are hopeful there will be progress in the legal processes.

IT WAS THE WINTER OF DESPAIR

- **Dogs**

As you will all know by now a dog was attacked and killed in front of her owner recently.

Will it not be a miserable world where we cannot take a walk in our village because of vicious and uncontrolled dogs? From what pain and anger will we suffer when one of our grandchildren is (yours or yours or yours) attacked?

This simply cannot be allowed to occur. I ask you to report immediately any infringement to law enforcement We absolutely need to work together to halt this scourge upon our village! And this can happen if you report incidents or potential incidents, or dogs off their leashes that pose a threat to us and our pets and our grandchildren!

Call Protection Services. Their number has been publicized in our newsletter, is on the web site and has been distributed via social media

- **College Road**

Promises broken year in year out. And now not unsurprisingly other roads are worse!

- **Lack of support by residents**

Can you believe there are still some residents who ask WHAT DO WE DO?

What do we do? How is that possible that as your property values increase and Southbroom remains one of the nicest villages in South Africa, people can still be so blind. Have they not looked anywhere else in South Africa? Anywhere? So little money achieves so much under the guidance of your committee.

I will give you some examples: look at the ablutions at some of our neighbouring villages! In some cases they are beyond redemption! Brian Dick does an extraordinary job with the beaches and their facilities. Look at the appalling signage in some of our neighbouring villages: Duncan Biggar and Deanne Purtell are on this all the time. Look at our regular communication to a well-maintained database: Jackie and Richard. And a great website – go look at it if you haven't: designed and maintained by Deanne. Look at our relative lack of potholes and verge maintenance: if you think this happens without the constant haranguing and management by RB you would be mistaken.

Attendance at monthly RNM meetings: RB and Allan Woods. Street light and electricity: we have a highly qualified hi current electrician managing Eskom and now RNM, Laurence Mandy. Town planning issues: RB and Allan Woods. The list goes on and on and on: health issues, emergencies, fallen trees, litter, sewerage issues, pink buoys, dustbins, jungle gyms, SANRAL liaison, staff, paving, NYE Parties, speed humps, gardens, trees.

I am incredulous and I know everyone here is too. So PLEASE promote membership of the SRA. Tell your friends and family what they cannot see and what they need to know. Please!

We intend with your permission to raise this to R500 or R550 for 2023. Even then it is a paltry amount, and we encourage and would be grateful if you can add a little more to your R450 subscription.

Thank you to all of you who faithfully support your SRA year in and year out.

IT WAS THE SPRING OF HOPE

Ah water! Finally

In the last AGM in January this year I outlined 9 things I believe we should be doing to resolve or alleviate the water problem. I am not going to repeat them now. They are all in the AGM pack in front of you.

We continue to operate on 3 fronts: Locally, strategically, and practically.

Locally Richard Derman and Darryn van Aswegen operate at a local level trying the best they can every day to get the most water we can.

Strategically, we are aligned with legal efforts with the KZN LSC RRA, the DA and the South Coast Water Action Group led by the enormously energetic Hilton O'Dwyer.

Practically the SWAT is up and running examining various options. The most important one is to completely redo the water reticulation in Southbroom. As you know we live on a sieve and it's not a matter of if but when this job gets done. We envisage a private/public partnership with UGU, government and Southbroom to fund this exercise.

Dickens quote for earlier ends *We had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.*

I certainly hope that is NOT true and together we can protect your piece of paradise.

Thank you.

Eric Annegarn
Chairman
Southbroom Ratepayers Association