

**Final edit 1/9/2024 Eric Annegarn**

## **Southbroom Ratepayers Association**

### **Chairman's Report 2 September 2024**

I wonder about the nature of our volunteer organizations: I received no skills at business school.

The nature of our Southbroom volunteer organizations is characterized by several key elements:

- We operate through the efforts and contributions of unpaid volunteers.
- We are driven and motivated by a shared commitment to the improvement of Southbroom and our way-of-life. There is no financial compensation.
- We work as teams and encourages collaboration among ratepayers and friends to achieve common goals.

In summary, we are distinguished by our reliance on volunteers, our focus on community improvement and a sustainable commitment to our mission.

Our effectiveness is due attributed to the collective efforts and passion of our committee members.

This spirit is no better reflected than in the following projects:

The huge effort required by many people to get the requisite number of votes for the approval of the UIP increase. Allan Woods deserves special mention in this regard. Thank you, Allan. And he maintains the onerous task of attending Southern Cluster meetings, KZN Lower South Coast Residents and Ratepayers Association meetings and RNM meetings.

The Southbroom Village Gardens has been a spectacular success led by Peter Hind Sylvia and Rolf, Gudegast and many, many others. If this is not an example of how a volunteer group can emerge, not out of nowhere, but out of an environment, a culture, already created of collaboration and cooperation. The gardens are re-wilded and our village is beautiful. They are entirely self-funded.

Johan Pretorius raised sponsors and donated considerable time, money and effort to the rehabilitation of Grannies Deck which was in severe danger of collapsing. Well done, Johan and Southbroom Timber Homes.

Northridge Road deserves special mention. Laurence Mandy and John Neaves and RNM. Money was raised entirely from residents to fix all the potholes. Then miraculously RNM arrived overnight with no warning, no information, no meetings and resurfaced the entire road. I have suggested this model to other roads but there has been uptake. Speak to me if you can make this happen on your road.

The library remains a stunning success under the leadership of Elaine Harrison. It is entirely self-funded and is another shining example of cooperation and collaboration from volunteers. After 3 years of hounding, the plans generously drawn by Shane Cole, to fix the chaotic mess at the back of the library have been approved. We received a generous donation of over R100 000 to do this 3 years ago. And the library out of their funds can pay for the rest.

The ablutions at the main beach were upgraded and water tanks installed there and at Grannies Beach. Well done to Claire Douglas who works and cars for her 4 children and still

does a pie of work for Southbroom. Don't ever say you do not have enough time to help. Ask Claire!

Marketing and newsletters and social media and database are managed by Deanne Purtell, Martie Bothma and the tireless, ever reliable and faithful Jack Pratt! Awesome stuff!

Chick Henderson parking lot, or the Roost, was completely overhauled by Paul Longmoor. It looks fantastic. And Paul is an unrelenting supporter of mine and the committee.

The monkey proof dustbin project has been led by Stefan Hartmann. They have proved a huge success and will be rolled out further in future.

The re-cycling war continues to be fought by the Conservancy and Paul Fleischack and Tarry Burns. It is a tough one to win and requires significant education and attitudinal adjustment. New kid on the block is Bobby Clarke. We 100% support their endeavours and will advertise and communicate on our platforms when required.

SWAT III. Alan Hall fights resolutely against an intractable, incomprehensible system. Really trying his best overseeing our water management initiatives with dedication. Hopefully the telemetry project is going to make a difference. His efforts are crucial as we navigate the complexities of water resource management in Southbroom, both within Southbroom and the bulk water-supply which is largely beyond our control.

And then roads and potholes and roads and potholes. Richard Bridgeford fights every day to maximize our return from RNM! This is a thankless task and we compete for resources against the disasters in Margate and inland. Didi Klein has contributed his time and effort and staff and muscles to fix potholes. We know there are many roads that are almost beyond repair and sadly UIP will never have enough money to rebuild roads. But we and Richard will fight and do what we can. Roads remember remains a priority.

I cannot list everything we have done – it goes on and on. Sometimes my head spins just keeping track of everything that everybody does. But we have that facilitative environment which we must all nurture and care for.

And what of the future. The list of projects and for the use of the new UIP funds is endless, including the hiring of a Village Maintenance Manager. The demands will be great! But the priorities for the SRA remain water and roads to the very best of our abilities. The SPOA board has asked us not to incur any commitments or expenses until there is a solid understating of how much money we will receive from the new UIP levy. That is the prudent thing to do. Of course the CPF will continue to be funded so security is secure.

But it will be up to the new SPOA board and the new SRA committee to decide upon exact priorities. But we will do a good job, persistently and resolutely. Join us, if you will!

### **Acknowledgements**

I want to extend my gratitude to the hard-working committee members who have tirelessly contributed their time and effort to our cause. Especially Jurie Snyman. Your dedication and passion are the backbone of our success.

Finally special thanks go to Richard Derman, the very embodiment of all the volunteer principles about which I have spoken. He's vigour and support and commitment have been invaluable. For 10 years he has devoted considerable time and energy, often daily, to water

issues, collection of subscriptions, maintenance of the books and care for the database. Richard, no-one is quite sure why you are leaving us, but we all thank you and wish you well in the future. How long will it be before you are on the board of trustees of Burgundy Estate?

### **Conclusion**

In summary, the SRA and SPOA continue to thrive due to the collective efforts of our committee, board members, and community. We are financially sound, and our focus remains on enhancing community services and care for Southbroom and all its ratepayers through careful management of our resources and the new UIP funds at our disposal.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication.

Together, we will continue to make Southbroom a better place for all.

Eric Annegarn

Chairman: Southbroom Ratepayers Association