

# **Southbroom Ratepayers Association (SRA)**

## **Chairman's Report**

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Chairman's Report on behalf of the Southbroom Ratepayers Association (SRA) for the past year.

### **1. Introduction**

The past year has not been a particularly easy one with some gains being seen but equally many challenges emerging. As custodians of this unique village, our mission remains clear: to preserve Southbroom's natural beauty, promote responsible development, and ensure that municipal services meet the expectations of our community.

### **2. Membership & Community Engagement**

Our community base remains strong with the demographics having shifted slightly in favour of younger families moving into the community, principally post Covid-19. We have also seen a sizeable increase in Southbroom being viewed as an attractive holiday destination.

As always, active and responsible community engagement is heavily encouraged from both permanent residents and holiday homeowners. We have increased our communication efforts through newsletters, community meetings, and digital platforms, ensuring transparency and engagement with all stakeholders.

### **3. Key Focus Areas**

#### **a) Security & Safety**

- Strong partnership with local security providers and SAPS to improve crime prevention.
- Community awareness drives and support for neighbourhood watch initiatives.
- Promotion of emergency response protocols for both residents and visitors.

#### **b) Infrastructure & Service Delivery**

- Continued monitoring of road maintenance, refuse collection, water supply, and sewage management.
- Constructive engagement with Ray Nkonyeni Municipality and Ugu on service delivery issues, with mixed responses received.
- Pressure applied to ensure accountability on rates and municipal performance.

#### **c) Town Planning & Development**

- Ongoing scrutiny of development applications to safeguard the character of Southbroom.
- Active objections lodged against inappropriate building plans that threaten the environmental and aesthetic balance of our village.

- Constructive cooperation with developers who align with our community's vision.

#### **4. Acknowledgements: Volunteers**

I often wonder what Southbroom would be like without our volunteers? (leadership, structure, volunteers, funds etc.)

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

- They operate through the efforts and contributions of unpaid volunteers.
- They are driven and motivated by a shared commitment to improve Southbroom and our way-of-life.
- They work as teams and encourage collaboration among ratepayers and friends to achieve common goals.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Committee for their dedication and the countless UNPAID volunteer hours, to our members for their continued support, and to the broader Southbroom community for their shared commitment to keeping Southbroom the jewel of the South Coast

#### **Some of our success seen to date include:**

- The approval of the increased UIP (Eric Annegarn, Allan Woods et al)
- CPF: Their ongoing security efforts (Brian Dick & Bennie Kruger)
- Appointment of a Maintenance Manager (John Lowe, wef Jan. '25)
- SWAT III: Ongoing activities & telemetry (Allan Hall & Mark Schormann)
- Dealing with sink hole repairs (Imbezane/Beach, Lewin, Capt. Smith and Outlook (John Lowe & RNM)
- Pothole repairs (John Lowe & RNM)
- Navigating the RNM strikes and refuse debacle in Dec. '24/Jan. '25 (John L)
- The main beach tidal pool repair (Brian Dick, Claire Douglas)
- Water tank: Umkobi ablution block (Darryn van Aswegen & John Lowe)
- Prompt intervention on fallen trees (John Lowe)
- Village garden activities (Peter Hind, Rolf G, Sylvia Gugegast)
- The conclusion of the library upgrade (Eric Annegarn, Des Erasmus & Duncan Bigar)
- Close collaboration with RNM and other coastal SRA groups (Allan Woods)
- The purchase of equipment (chain saw, pole saw and paving material)
- The roll-out of Improved 'monkey-proof' dust bins (Stefan Hartman)
- Roads: Private/Municipal partnerships (Northridge Road and more recently Woodlands Road) – (Laurence Mandy, John Neaves & George Bishop)
- The rejuvenation of our recycling initiative (Bob & Moira Clarke)

## **6. Looking Ahead**

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Strengthening municipal engagement to improve service delivery.
- Continue to supplement municipal service with our own resources (Maintenance Manager, staff and materials)
- Increasing community participation, particularly among younger residents and new property owners.
- Exploring digital solutions for communication and issue reporting.

## **7. Conclusion**

Southbroom faces ongoing challenges, but also exciting opportunities. With unity, vigilance, and active involvement, we can continue to preserve the special character of our village while ensuring it remains a sustainable and vibrant community for generations to come.

Thank you.

Paul Longmoor  
Chairman  
Southbroom Ratepayers Association