

A very warm welcome to all our new members. We look forward to keeping you updated on what's happening in the Wilderness, and thank you for assisting us in strengthening our voice when dealing with local authorities. The latest development relating to the municipal revaluation of properties in Wilderness, is that the municipality has acknowledged that there is a problem with our area, and we have been advised, today, that they will be undertaking a **completely new valuation** of Wilderness and Kleinkrantz. We will keep you updated in this regard. The 2008/9 municipal budget has not yet been ratified by council, although we understand the draft budget is +/- R105m, up around 10% from the R95m last year.

Other matters of concern taken up with our councillor are the discharge of grey water onto Leentjiesklip via the aqueduct next to the steps accessing the beach; the need to upgrade the Leentjiesklip ablution facilities; and the severe shortage of staff in the planning and technical departments. We are pleased to note new road markings recently painted on the access road from the N2 into the village; the positioning of a fire engine in the village during the Easter holidays; and the promise by the traffic department to place speed restriction signs along the Hoekwil Road past Kingfisher Close.

SAPS have expressed concern that residents are lulled into a false sense of security when at home, and have urged everyone to take extra precautions, particularly during the Eskom blackouts. Do not allow anyone wearing Eskom or Municipal uniforms into your homes unless they can produce accredited identification. If necessary, telephone the municipality or Eskom call centres if you have any doubts. As the town and its surrounds develops and grows, it becomes more attractive to criminal elements. A reminder that the monthly meeting of the Wilderness Neighbourhood Watch takes place on the last Wednesday of each month at 5p.m. at the Fairy Knowe Hotel. Your support and attendance will be much appreciated. The Municipality has urged residents to place recyclable waste in the form of paper, bottles, tins and plastic, in a different coloured bag for collection on refuse collection days, in preparation for a full programme to be introduced later in the year. This will assist in making the sorting at the transfer station easier. There is also a bottle bank at the Caltex garage in the village. The updated Constitution has now been placed on the website for your perusal, and we will shortly add the Application for Registration of Membership. One of our members resident in Cape Town has petrol generators for sale. Interested parties can contact the secretary on 044-877-1370 for details.