

The Conference Room at the Fairy Knowe Hotel was filled to capacity on Thursday 18th December 2008 for WRRRA's AGM. In updating the members present, the Chairman announced that George Municipality has agreed to re-inspect the 251 properties the Association believe are significantly undervalued, which has placed an unacceptably higher burden on the remaining residents. Another controversial subject raised was the case of whether or not Koobooberry Street should be opened for public access. Town Planning has now decided that the Constantia Kloof road infrastructure was never designed for the purpose of through traffic from an adjacent development, so opening the street cannot be entertained. Wilderness residents are also split on whether or not access to the lagoon area via the N2 should remain open or not during the holiday season. Access was prevented by the temporary installation of razor wire.

A strong committee of 12 portfolio holders has been put in place for the current year, with Pieter Naudé of Die Duin being co-opted as the 12th member. The committee elected Graham Sell as Chairman, Al Colesky as Vice-Chairman. Pierre Bovet and Sylvia Sell remain Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The portfolios were allocated at the first executive committee meeting of the year, and we hope a newly formed portfolio relating to Business & Tourism will generate an increased awareness of the importance of promoting an appropriate sense of place for Wilderness, while further strengthening our voice with the Municipality. The breakdown of portfolios and respective committee contact numbers is attached. Sadly, as Wilderness grows, it is no longer a crime free area, and residents are urged to take additional security measures, with 3 houses having been burgled in one week recently. Illegal car-guards and hawkers in the CBD area are causing disruptions and annoyance. Another cause of frustration are the number of bottles and litter left on the beaches, as well as fishermen leaving hooks, line and even defecation behind. Dog owners are upset at being denied total access to all beaches during holiday times, and it was felt that responsible dog owners who carry poop-scoops should be allowed limited access.

Sanparks is hosting public information sessions for members of the public who would like more information about the new Garden Route Mega Park, to be proclaimed at the end of March 2009. The Wilderness meeting will be held on **Monday 19th January** at 18:30 in the Reformed Church Centre, end of Bester Street, Touwsrante. Contact 044-877-0046 with any enquiries.

Ninham Shand have held two public participation meetings at the Protea village hotel so far, to discuss the construction of a municipal sewerage system for Sands Rd. The next meeting will be held on 11th February and monthly thereafter. Die Duin will be next in line for municipal sewerage.

Some concern has been expressed over pollution of the Touw river. The Municipality has advised us that the E Coli levels in the Touw River were recently measured at 43, 53 and 24. They further advise that the Guideline for Recreational purposes indicates that any level below 130 can be associated with low risk for full contact.

WRRRA wishes all residents and visitors well for 2009. Our village is expanding rapidly – too much so for many. However, it is hoped that the soon-to-be established

Garden Route National Park, the first of its kind on the African continent, will enforce responsible development, to enable us all to continue enjoying nature's wondrous gift to us.