

Local government elections have come and gone, and even though our Association has remained non-political throughout the process, we are delighted that after five years of idiocy there is now a majority council. We can now hopefully look forward to more constructive interaction with the political arm of the municipality.

Our Association also congratulates Leon van Wyk on his election as our DA Ward 4 Councillor, and we look forward to working closely with him to promote the interests of all in The Wilderness. An immediate positive outcome of his election is that Leon has been appointed to the new Mayoral Executive Committee, with specific responsibility for the Finance Portfolio. Having a business and finance background, Leon's appointment to this position can only be regarded as a step forward in efforts to straighten out the financial mess caused by previously irresponsible decision-making. We wish Leon success with his new challenges, and stand ready to support any sustainable initiatives that do not, as in the past, rely solely on the unreasonable application of tariff hikes to balance the books.

A timely reminder here that municipal rates and other service charges will increase by 6% on 1st July, and electricity will go up by almost 21%. Members with prepaid meters might like to consider investing in additional electricity before the end of June.

On the service delivery front, the municipality's Electro Technical Division has given us the following contact details for all electricity problems (streetlights out / power failures etc):

Rodine Cook: 044 - 803 9258 / or 044 - 803 9202

Switchboard: 044 - 874 3917

Please ensure you are given a fault reference number as it makes it easier to trace on the system.

The same applies when contacting the after-hours call centre (044-801-6300) to report other service delivery problems.

A reminder for you to also ensure that you obtain a case number when reporting incidents of crime to the police. We are pleased to advise that after the arrest of three young men, a drop in the crime rate has been noted. Two cases of ATM fraud involving the skimming of cards took place at the Standard Bank and Absa ATMs in the village last month.