

At the beginning of the year we listed the members of our committee together with their respective portfolios. However, the professional skills of our individual committee members should not be underestimated – least of all by Council. Writing on behalf of the joint secretaries, we are proud of the collective talent working for the ratepayers and residents of Wilderness. The committee's skills include actuarial and economic, business, science, engineering and education. I'm sure our members are pleased to know that The Association's committee does not comprise a bunch of fuddy-duddies, but rather an active force to be reckoned with!

Referring once more to your Valuation Objections, please follow up and check that yours is indeed in the system, as it seems that some have gone astray. You can contact Anita Scheepers or Mimi Conradie at the municipality for confirmation. In addition, we would like to hear if you have received an "Outcome of Objection" form without having submitted an objection yourself. This is really important so please email the details to us including your erf number, the original value not objected to, and the revised value shown on the outcome of objection form.

It also seems that the budget previously allocated to the Wilderness Waterworks and so skillfully managed for the benefit of the entire village by Johan Boshoff prior to his retirement, has been absorbed by George. Any comments on this? In the meantime Cllr van Wyk advised us that work on our numerous potholes will start at the end of September for a five day period, and another five day period from 5th to 9th November.

At the other end of the scale, WRRRA has sent a letter of appreciation to the Sanral division involved in the maintenance of the N2 bridges at Kaaimans for the sterling work being done. We appreciate the courtesy of the labour force, and the high standard of on-site management that has resulted in a clean, well organised and uncluttered worksite. We also understand the contract could be completed ahead of time, which will be an added bonus for us. In the meantime we commend the team for having maintained a constant two-way traffic flow.

Well done to our local police force who responded within minutes of a reported burglary in Kingfisher Close. In another incident a few days later, criminals gained access to a house in Third Avenue through the roof during the owners' absence. They then smashed as many locked doors as necessary to get access to all the rooms. Two arrests were quickly made by SAPS and both incidents have been logged on the Turn-it-Around website. Our new police chief, W.O. Boshoff, urges all members to register on this site using the link www.turnitaround.co.za/network/WRRRA. SAPS have also printed a useful leaflet on Crime Prevention Tips which is available from the Second Avenue Police Station in Wilderness East.

The tips include a caution to always lock your doors even when you are inside, never open the door automatically when someone knocks, install good exterior lighting and know your neighbours. W.O. Boshoff has also requested all residents to ensure that their homes are clearly marked with the street number, as often the numbers do not run consecutively, making it difficult for new police officers to find quickly.

On the Ward Committee side, things move ponderously with lots of talk but very little feedback or action from municipal officials on issues raised. Unfortunately, any feedback we do get generally includes the "lack of funds" or "when funds are available" over-rider. In counter to that, and in an obvious attempt to make us feel useful, the Mayor has assigned R100k per Ward for the Committee

to allocate to a project(s) of their choice. Our Ward 4 Committee has chosen to sponsor the proposed “Wildfest”, on the basis that this is potentially more sustainable in terms of providing a number of temporary jobs and attracting visitors to the area. Hopefully, this “seed money” will motivate the organizers to put on a really good event that can be repeated on an annual basis under their own steam.

At last our new plastic, non-corrosive, flat post office mail boxes are being installed. New keys will be available at the Post Office on Monday 10th September. It is essential that you bring the two old postbox keys with you in order to swap them for new ones, and also to take along your ID document.

In closing.....**Thank you**, thank you and thank you again to all our members who paid their subs so quickly. This has always amazed us, but this year we even had one member who paid his subs while we were still completing our account transmissions! This show of support is invaluable and a great incentive to your committee to do our best on behalf of our members.