



REPORT BACK
FROM THE
AGM

The AGM was held on 30 November at the Cowies Hill Community Hall. Here is a summary of the Chairman's report:

"Since our last AGM, we have concentrated on consolidating the functions of the company's modus operandi, with the objectives of bringing the community together in an ambit of a safer and greener environment."

Membership: Mike Woods

- Membership has remained fairly static, but we have had 20 new members join this year and still have a goal to have 70% of the area signed on.
- Talks have begun with WSA Security Committee, to integrate into the CHE security footprint. This is being evaluated and will be brought to the membership for approval. (Editor's note: This is exciting stuff).



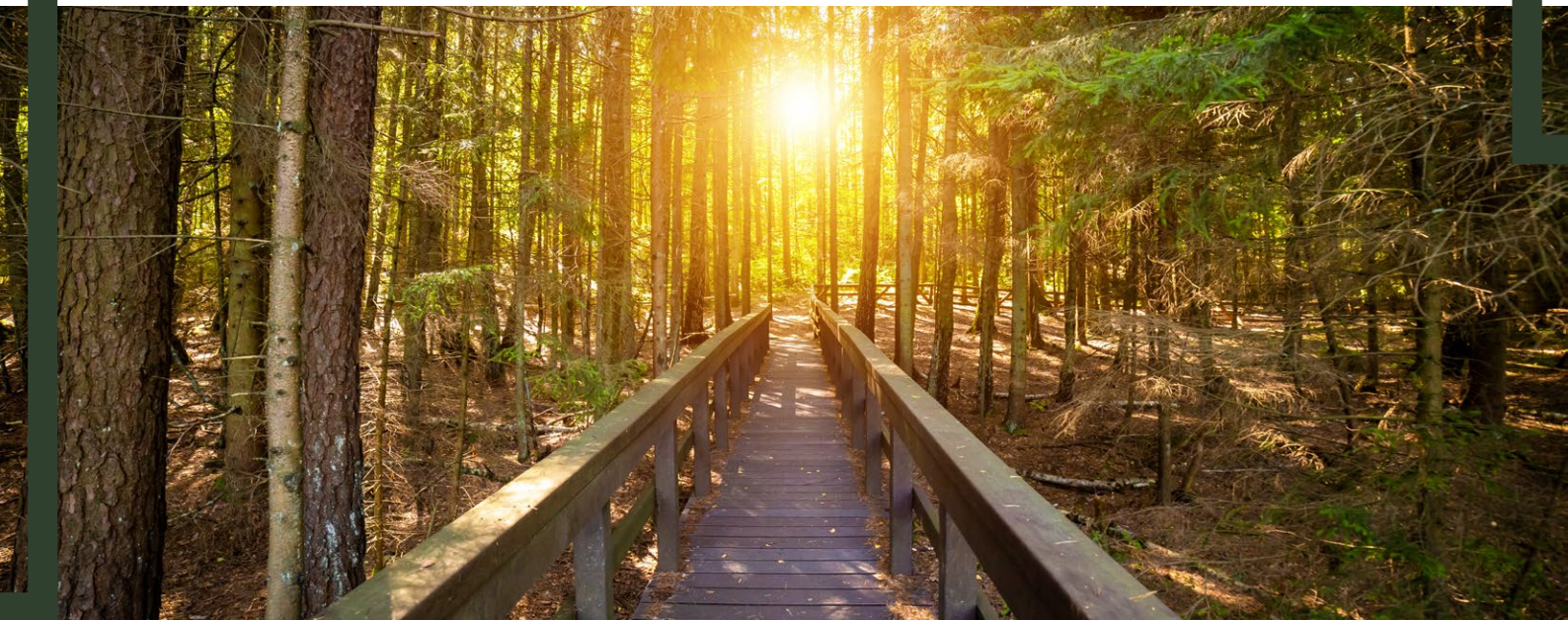
Environment & Infrastructure: Paul Brink

Environment: Our main objective is to provide security but also to improve our physical environment by aligning with a Biodiversity Restoration Programme which is sponsored by Shelley Residential. This year the following was achieved:

- Ongoing work at the six conservancy sites includes the removal of all litter and the eradication of Invasive Alien Plants.
- 35 indigenous garden sites known as the "Gate Gardens" have been identified. Currently 17 sites have been established, with a further 15 sites over the following 2 years.
- The CHE employs a litter cleaner once a week to clear litter mostly from Josiah Gumede Avenue.
- Meondo Holdings sponsored 5 litter bins with a further 20 bins being added.

Infrastructure:

- There is an urgent need to address the issue of municipal infrastructure and services in a structured manner.
- Whilst it is not the CHE's mandate to repair infrastructure and faults, it is important that a process of reporting, recording, and monitoring remedial work is a necessity, and the CHE is looking into developing an accessible Issues Register for members if we are to provide any form of service to deal with infrastructure and service delivery failures.





Security:

An overview of the 2023 security issues are as follows:

- Quarter 1 – 2023 There were a number of petty crimes reported and one house robbery case. CHE's crime reports were low in comparison with our surrounding areas.
- Quarter 2 - 2023 continued with a number of petty thefts with surrounding areas having had an increase in crime since the first quarter.
- Quarter 3 – 2023 indicated a rise in general crime in CHE, with increases in housebreaking, for which no incidents were reported for Q1 or Q2.
- Quarter 4 – 2023 (which has not closed as yet) has shown a sharp decrease in crime. Surrounding areas and crime trends would normally see an increase in the final quarter of the year, which has not been the case for CHE.

Petty crimes are classified as minor theft and trespassing. These incidents have increased since the previous quarter. Contact crimes are the primary concern in residential areas, and efforts are concentrated on reduction of this crime. Statistics indicate that this objective are being met, whereas petty thefts and trespassing are prevalent concerns in residential zones, which are unlikely to be completely eliminated.

Discussions have taken place with Blue regarding the implementation of proactive preventive measures, such as bush walks, special offers for enhanced personal security, and joint operations with law enforcement, in order to deter criminal activity and increase visibility.

Financial Portfolio: Brett Scheepers

Financial results report for the past year can be viewed here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

A high-level report is as follows:

- Income from membership fees amounted to R5.600 000 (R100 000 higher than previous year)
- Expenses before depreciation: R5.400 000
- An operating surplus: R100 000, including smaller general donations.
- Depreciation: R600 000, resulting in an accounting loss of R500 000 (this did not impact cash flow).
- Cash reserves remained broadly the same.
- In July CHE registered as a VAT vendor enabling recovery of Vat-able operational expenses to be included in our reserve fund.
- The increased membership fee from the original fee of R980, (held for the period of 3 years) to R1100 will help to develop a reserve of approximately R400 000 - R500 000.



Communications: John Charter

New protocols for regular communications have been instituted including regular monthly snippets and newsletters have been issued together with WhatsApp, Facebook and website uploads. Whilst there has been improved communications, the co-ordination of the various media of communication are still being reviewed and developed.

Acknowledgements;

The Chairman thanked: Estate Management, Security Consultancy, IDME. The Neighbourhood Watch, now under Justin Collins, and board members for their services and time.

Appeal for new board members:

The Chairman made an appeal to all members to consider making themselves available to serve in any of these capacities on the board:

“We consider it as important to achieve a demographically diverse board and community leadership in order to reflect a more balanced and diverse community. We look to all of you to consider contributing in this way.”

