



COWIES HILL ESTATE GAZETTE

*birthday
issue*

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

DEAR FELLOW COWIES HILL MEMBERS

We are 2 years old this month! As we look back on the last 2 years, it is heartening to see what we have achieved...

Especially considering the majority of these 2 years has seen us in repeated hard lock downs. Despite the isolation, we have still managed to band together to create a stronger suburb than ever before.

Spring is a time for regeneration, and with it being our birthday month, we thought it fitting to do a recap on where we have come from, and where we are now.

As of today we have almost 100 oversight cameras. 18 of them license plate recognition, and 71 CCTV cameras, giving us a total of 89 cameras in total connected to our dedicated control room. More recently, we have added solar powered battery back-ups. Read more about this under our progress section.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 01 ***A brief look at our progress - Security Benefits of the Estate***
- 02 ***Security Issues Decline***
- 03 ***Municipal Issues logged on the rise***
- 04 ***Water Issues in Bedford Road***
- 05 ***AGM Reminder***
- 06 ***Start Small in your own patch***

OUR PROGRESS IN A NUTSHELL



Our main objective in all this time has been to secure our residents. This has been a multifaceted approach as we set out to merge the best offers in tech, manpower (including guarding, management and greening) as well as community. It is in the end, all about us as a collective.

In our unified approach, we have managed to go so much further than in the case of 'every man for himself,' all the while fitting our Estate with technology and systems that will see us moving into the future of managing our precinct on more fact-based data, and less guesswork.

In our birthday month, we installed our first 4 solar battery back up sites. Increasingly, interrupted power services mean we need to have alternatives for our security efforts to work around the clock regardless of grid timetables. The ability to operate independent of loadshedding is a significant advantage. Our ultimate future lies in bio-diversity, and harvesting clean sustainable energy for precinct functioning is a good start.

In addition to the tech mentioned earlier, we have 9 Booms, 2 dedicated armed response officers driving around in Cowies Hill Estate vehicles 24/7, a robust partnership with Blue Security which includes a dedicated security /operator in their sophisticated control room, Clearvu fencing on multiple perimeter boundaries, a custom built app as well as an Estate Management team to oversee the day to day management of all the above listed resources in our beautiful Estate.

The significant reduction in crime in our area is a further marker to the success of phase 1.

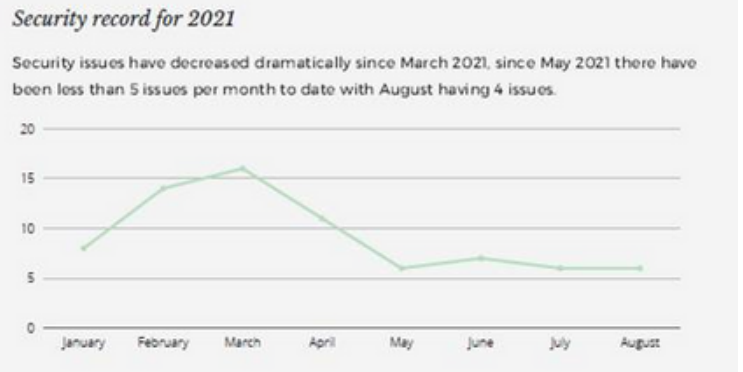
And all this with 60% uptake in membership. Imagine the possibilities of a 100% contribution, and even more so with the surrounding areas of Cowies Hill who have not yet come on board with the Estate, but are showing interest.

SECURITY ISSUES DECLINE

It is really encouraging to view a graph like this one in relation to issues of crime.

We are pleased to report a steady decline on security issues in our Estate from March of this year.

Well done to all security personnel including our ground team and armed response officers.



It is worthwhile noting, that in suburbs without dedicated armed response vehicles, the average response time can be as much as 20 minutes.

In Cowies Hill this time is around 3 minutes.

This is a noteworthy difference when there is a need for immediate action!

MUNICIPAL STATS

MUNICIPAL ISSUES LOGGED ON THE RISE



Municipal issues continue to increase, however it's not all bad news...

While it is the case that municipal specific community issues which involve council have been on the rise, the good news is that they are being consistently reported back to council, and continually monitored.

This kind of ongoing attention means we are able to keep our finger on the pulse of infrastructure concerns which require attention at council level. Speaking of which....

WATER ISSUES EXPERIENCED AT BEDFORD ROAD



We well aware of the extraordinary inconvenience at Bedford Road, Rockhaven and surrounds experienced in the month of September.

After many phone calls and investigations into how to mitigate the risk of this municipal service failure to residents, we can report the following:

- At present, our Estate Management team is only made aware of large scale issues when complaints from members are escalated on the CHE App.
- By this time, the residents have already suffered the inconvenience of service interruption.
- Once an issue has been established, the only available course of action traditionally, has been to petition the Ward Councillor.
- In the case of this incident, this meant the Estate was operating within it's mandate to escalate issues from the App to Council with regular follow ups proving relatively ineffective.
- Going forward, the EM Team will engage directly with EtheKwini both in the field and at municipality level.
- Our ground team will engage directly with the Municipal ground team for regular updates and we will feed this information back to the residents as well as taking the necessary actions to attempt to assist EtheKwini to solve the problem at hand.

AGM

A reminder to please RSVP for the AGM which will take place **Thursday, 28th October 2021 at 18h30 in the Cowies Hill Community Hall, 5 Woodside Road, Cowies Hill.**

The deadline for RSVPs and Proxy Forms is Monday next week (25 October).

In light of COVID-19 restrictions, we urge members not to attend the meeting in person, but rather, to fill in a proxy form and e-mail it to **info@cowieshill.co.za**.

Attendance will be limited to one person per household.

“Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes...but when you look back, everything is different.”

C.S. LEWIS

STARTING SMALL IN OUR OWN PATCH

The bottom line is this. Yes, our rates and taxes should be sufficient to cover basic services such as electricity and running water. One only has to look past the load shedding schedule on any given week interrupting Netflix viewing plans among other things, to see that this is not our current reality.



And while on the subject of reality, the fact that the vast majority of South Africans live without these basic amenities, should be of grave concern to Ethekeweni.

It has become abundantly apparent that the mismanagement of many Ethekeweni municipalities has left the affluent areas to mostly fend for ourselves, and the less fortunate even worse off than before.

The lights go out, and the divide gets bigger.

Original budgets drawn up for the CHE only ever catered for an overall management eye being cast over municipal jurisdiction. The degradation of services under an already strained municipal budget is the reality we find ourselves in. We can complain, or we can do what we can in our own patch.

Our membership is still only sitting at around 60% of the defined CHE area. This doesn't even take into account surrounding roads which really ought to band together with the Estate to form an even stronger community. The more we knit together, the better our overall position will be. A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken.

We have not yet realised the end goal of a fully united community that is possibly able to reach out into surrounding communities to make a difference where government funding cannot.

Encourage your neighbours to sign up. Send this letter on to community members not already part of CHE. The need for unity only becomes more evident with each passing day of power outages and burst water pipes.

We are undoubtedly stronger together.



The Estate Management Team