

# Community Dialogue

On the evening of 23 August 2023, 26 people attended the 19th meeting of the Touwsranten and Hoekwil Community Dialogue at the Touwsranten Community Hall.



## Updates



### Wilderness Defense Force

In the previous meeting, Chandré was asked to reach out to the WDF about the dialogue and explore ways of working together to make the communities safer. She reported that she had not heard back from the email requesting a meeting with WDF. Concerns have been raised about the WDF's behavior, which made people feel unsafe and restricted. Collin will assist Chandré in securing a meeting.

To inform people of their rights, a 'know your rights' pamphlet has been created in collaboration with the Western Cape Police Ombudsman. Copies of the pamphlets are available in English, Afrikaans, and IsiXhosa. The Police Ombudsman will be printing more copies and distributing these in police stations. The meeting decided that anyone who is ever harassed by the WDF guards should report the matter to Chandré, after opening a case with the SAPS. Chandré will record the incidents so that we can take this further with the relevant authorities. These cases will be presented to the ombudsman should police fail to follow up on these cases.

# Updates



## SAPS

The participants were informed that no crimes had been reported in Hoekwil. Touwsrante had 47 cases in two and a half months. Some taverns have been closed due to safety concerns. Following an attempted robbery report, the path between Hoekwil and Touwsrante was cleared again. A request was made for a patrol van to monitor the path during peak crime time, which is at the end of the month.

The dialogue was informed about an incident where two Malawian ladies were robbed and an attempted rape took place in Wilderness Heights. This case will be followed up by Morné.

**Morné advised the community to take note of the name and contact information of the police officer who takes calls at the station and to request an IR (incident report) number for any case that is made. This also ensures that the police can be held accountable.**

For those interested in joining the police service, the due date for the applications was the 31st of August. Those applying were encouraged to look presentable when going into the police station to submit their applications as a way of making a good impression, and reminded that police recruits are not allowed to have any tattoos.

## Clean-Up

The dialogue was informed that SANParks was currently busy with clean-ups in some areas such as Sedgefield. There will be nine people, including Patrick Buys, from the community involved in the project, with someone from Sedgefield overseeing it. It was suggested that the community start with clean-up projects and recruit young people who are interested. The dialogue was informed of the availability of municipal funding. In order to receive the funding available for this project, an application can be made to the Garden Route Municipality. Additionally, it was suggested that Marlene be informed of the clean-up initiatives in order to get Municipal support. Patrick undertook to lead this work and report back to the dialogue.



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## A Way Forward

Black bag collection needs to be properly managed. Chris will ask Oom Boolie if black bags can be collected from the municipal office. Chris will also raise the clean-up projects in the upcoming Ratepayers Association meeting and has requested that Pat provide him with details of what exactly would be done and when. Chris will find out if there are funds that can assist with these projects.



## Market

The dialogue had three questions:

1. Where are we with the market group?

2. Are there people in it?

3. Do we want another market?



The market needs more people particularly from Hoekwil to take part. The two members currently in the market are willing to continue with the market, however more people are needed to be part of organizing the flea-markets. At first, the market was started in order to bring the Touwsrante and Hoekwil community together around an enterprising activity that will also create opportunities for Touwsrante residents to display their skills and make income. The dialogue expressed a need for this activity to continue.

## A Way Forward

The market group will meet and plan for the next flea-market. Audrey, Denzel, Sharon Appels, Sharon Fisher-Buys, Ros and Helet are all part of the newly formed group. Sharon Appels has taken responsibility for organizing their first planning meeting. The group will reach out to other markets and see if there are any people who would be interested in being part of our market.

The community dialogue was invited to give a presentation at the Save Wild event, scheduled to take place at the Wilderness Hotel on the 31st of August. This presented a great opportunity to showcase the dialogue and its work. Dullin, Sharon, and Ros volunteered to be part of the group that would attend this event, with Andisiwe as the presenter.



It was agreed to arrange a dinner for the next dialogue meeting, scheduled for early Spring, as a way of deepening connections. During this social event, participants can get to know each other in a relaxed setting and share a meal.

## Attendees List

Jody Van Heyde	Kim Andreoli	Chandré Gould	Jennifer Isaacs
Chriss Kritzinger	Austin Mkadayenda	Morné Heunis	Thandi Van Heyningen
Ayanda Mazibuko	Francine Veldman	Sharon Appels	Dullin Appels
Thato Matshabaphala	Patrick Buys	Senzekile Bengu	Helet Theron
Bongi Mlangeni	Collin Wildeman	Andrey Kritzinger	Sharon Fisher-Buys
Denzel De Swardt	Roslynn Damons	De Mist Van Zijl	Shane Solomons
	Andisiwe Makwecana	Muzilene November	