

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

# Community Dialogue

## The **Violence Prevention** Forum

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust

# November Report

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# 2023

# Welcoming and Framing

Following a warm welcome, participants were reminded of the language policy, which states that they can use any language they prefer.

Throughout the dialogue, a facilitator translated.

The meeting's objectives were to support the market group, to end the year feeling connected, and to discuss the next steps regarding the Wilderness Defence Force.



## Hoekwil & Touwsranten

Community dialogue members lighting candles in support of a member's recent diagnosis with leukemia

**The Touwsranten and Hoekwil Community Dialogue held its 22nd meeting at the Touwsranten Community Hall on 15 November 2023.**

**This was the last meeting of the year. A total of 15 people attended the meeting, including a representative of the South African Police Service (SAPS). Members of the community who were unable to attend sent their apologies.**

**To check in, participants introduced themselves and shared one thing that symbolized sunshine and one thing that symbolized a dark cloud for them in 2023.**



# Updates

## Touwswil Flea Market

The Touwswil market group is making progress toward the planning of its next market on December 9th, 2023. Through an enterprising activity, this market aims to unite the two communities.

So far, there are a lot of stallholders from Touwsranten.

Stalls will sell affordable products. In order to generate funds for the dialogue, people are asked to donate second-hand goods to be sold at the market. The group has an invoice book for stallholders and has already received the first payment of R100. Ingrid will accept payments and maintain invoice records. On the day of the market, stallholders will need to present their slips. Audrey has offered to put the stallholders' money into an unused bank account.

The money will be used for expenses such as the hall and posters. The group is actively inviting people from Hoekwil. The goal is to make the day fun for kids and youth from the surrounding areas.



Some of the activities will be pony rides and face painting. Mandi will coordinate with scholar patrol to monitor kids in the triangle land where the ponies will be. Parents will have to sign indemnity forms for the kids to take pony rides. Ashleigh's family has offered a stretch tent for the day. The market group is also considering having a raffle with a meal hamper for daily products, a ziplining voucher, and a portrait voucher. Tickets for this raffle will be sold in both Hoekwil and Touwsranten as well as surrounding communities.

The group is also in the process of designing an updated poster and inviting other stallholders interested in selling at the market to contact Ashleigh. Further updates will be communicated through the WhatsApp group. Rachel will follow up on whether SAPS will have an information stall or be present in the upcoming flea market.

**On the day of the market, the group expressed the need for as many people from the dialogue to assist with setting up tables and monitoring. A second request was that they show support by buying from stalls, especially if none have sold anything.**

**SAPS**



Morné from the SAPS informed the dialogue that few criminal cases have been reported since the last dialogue. The police were now more active and visible in Touwsranten. During the holiday season, many roadblocks will be set up. Currently, the police are exploring ways to prevent released inmates from becoming repeat offenders through monitoring.

Members of the community were advised to report places selling drugs, alcohol, and firearms if they see them. Police were informed that people felt scared sometimes to report such cases. Occasionally, police responded to such reports without a search warrant, which was unhelpful since they did not search the premises. A particular incident was described in which community members acted on behalf of the task force when they couldn't enter a reported house. The dialogue was informed that the Criminal Procedure Act allows searches without a warrant, so they need not be afraid to report.

There was also a perception that some SAPS members, particularly those in the Touwsranten area, were helping criminals, which caused people to lose faith in them. According to Rachel, community members can contact the station commander regarding SAPS members supporting illegal activities.

## **Wilderness Defence Force (WDF) Meeting**

A statement was read out in which Chandré informed the dialogue that a date had not yet been set for the meeting with Charl Jacobs, the owner of WDF.

Regarding incidents involving WDF, it was reported that a statement had been sent to the Western Cape Police Ombudsman after a victim was turned away from the police station while attempting to file a case against the WDF.

Additionally, a second statement, which includes a case number, was forwarded to General Reddy. The dialogue also highlighted an upcoming meeting on the 21st of November between Melissa Dalton from Wilderness Heights and the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) regarding the WDF. Participants were encouraged to open cases whenever there was an assault and obtain witness statements as soon as possible, and not to influence witnesses if there were any. Media use is encouraged if all else fails.

As a final check-out, participants did an affirmation exercise. They wrote their names on pieces of paper, placed them on their chair, and visited another person's chair to write one meaningful quality they appreciated about that person.



## Attendees List



Ingrid Buys	Rachel Hendiles	Collin Wildeman	
Alan Fowle	Denzel De Swardt	Muzilene November	Sive Vaaltein
Shané Solomons	Sharon Fisher-Buys	Andisiwe Makwecana	Roslynn Damons
Morné Heunis	Sharon Appels	Ashleigh Owen	Amanda Busson

**Next meeting :  
To be confirmed for 2024**

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

**Community Dialogue**