

The eleventh Community Dialogue was held on the 14th of September 2022 at the Touwsranten Community Hall. 23 people from Hoekwil and Touwsranten attended. The meeting was facilitated by Chandre Gould and Sharon Appels.

Those present were reminded of the language policy: The use of English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa was welcomed, with translation as required. Apologies were made for those who could not attend including SAPS members who were engaged in a community policing forum meeting in George, and Oom Boelie. W/O Boshoff represented the SAPS.

The agenda for this meeting was set by participants at the start of the meeting. They were reminded that the meetings would take no more than an hour and a half, so not all items would be attended to in the meeting and may need to be deferred.



## The Meeting

Sharon Appels welcomed participants and reminded them that the Community dialogue is a community initiative not associated with any particular organization, political party or religious group. Everyone is welcome if they support the values and the intention of the dialogue.

The facilitators are present in the meetings as community members and not representatives of any organization. However, participants were reminded that Chandre brings the experience of convening the Violence Prevention Forum on behalf of the Institute for Security Studies, and that the reports, catering and materials for the community dialogue are funded by the ISS and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

Participants were reminded that we meet once a month to build relationships between the two communities and that actions are taken between meetings, often in groups that focus on a particular issue. Our actions need to be informed by what we learn about one another and the needs to the community. They should be based on relationships of trust and mutual respect.

## Why people Came to the Meeting



To make our communities safer and more prosperous

To learn more about the dialogue

To get feedback from the market group and progress since the last meeting

To be part of the discussions and solutions

To be part of a good initiative and movement, to give-back and help where we can

To be part of positive change in the community

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To address the divides that exist between the two communities

Because there is a need to work together as things are bad in both communities and they need to be addressed

## Two volunteers were asked to read the mission statements

“The community dialogue is a dialogue to create an inclusive vibrant community by creating opportunities that will uplift while establishing peace.”

“The community dialogue is two communities coming together with the aim to find common ground, build trust and establish a safe, secure and economically prosperous environment for everyone.”

## Values

Compassion	Trust
Empathy	Respect
Deep Democracy	Commitment and Courage
Collaboration and Partnership	Active Listening
Fun	Love

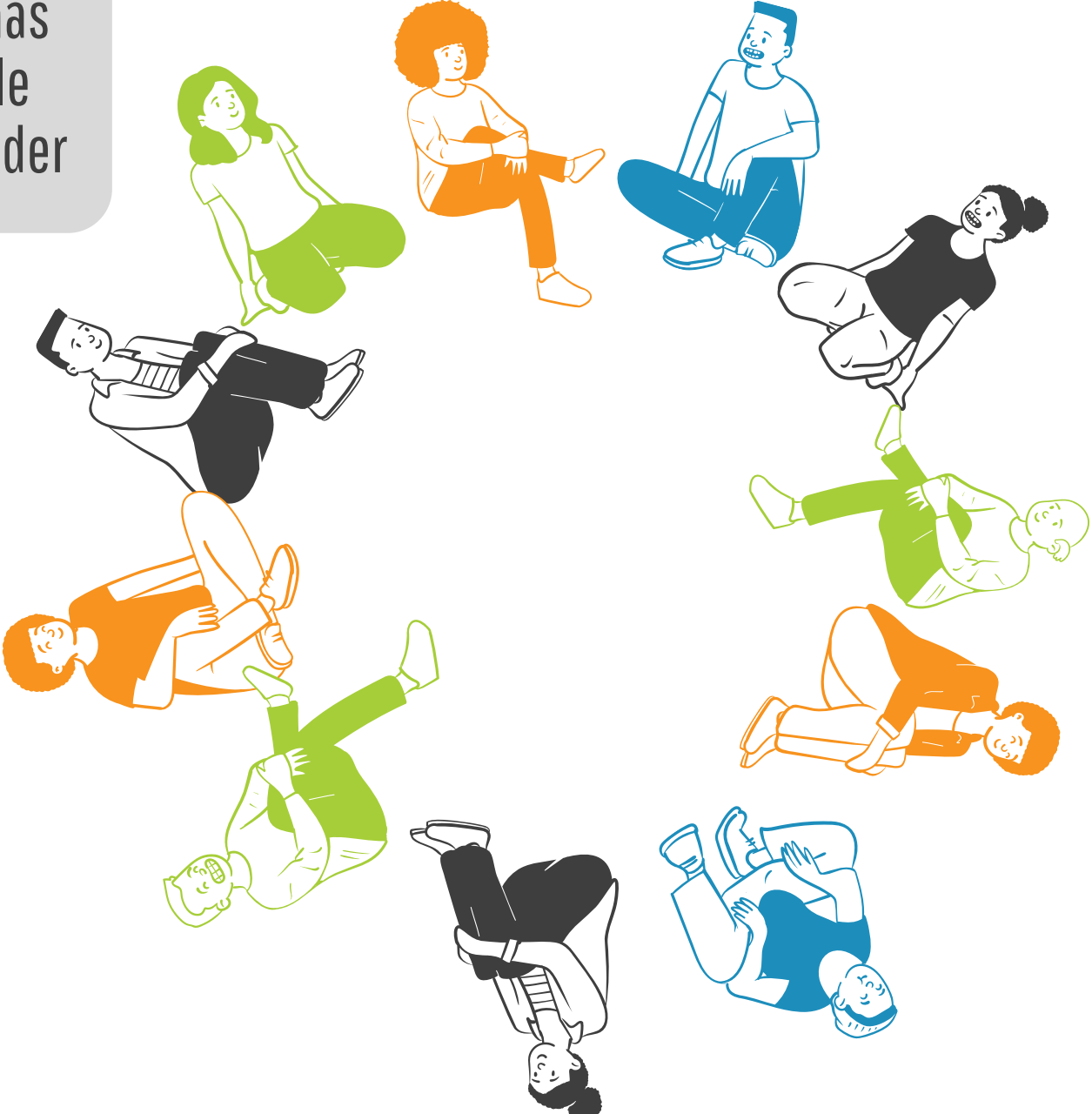
The circle is not specific to one group. It is used all over the world and has been used for many many years, since ancient times. This is how people come together to solve problems, and here everyone is considered a leader

### Why we sit in a circle

There is no head, everyone is equal

You can see everyone

Everyone has to participate



# Items for the Agenda

Participants placed the following things on the agenda



Market Group Feedback



Safety on the path road between Hoekwil and Touwsranten



Youth Involvement in the Dialogue



Unemployment



Sport Development



Feedback from other groups

i.e., substance abuse group: what is happening and how we can help to get them moving



# Feedback



## SAPS

Legal tavern owners were subpoenaed and met with the police. On the same day of the meeting illegal tavern owners were also subpoenaed, however only two went to the police station. The police are still trying to engage illegal tavern owners. There is a system in place set to deal with the issue of taverns, however there is room for improvement. Community members were encouraged to speak out and play their part in helping the police identify illegal taverns and drug houses. A successful raid was conducted in a drug house. The police have visited the school and had a discussion on drugs with learners and will continue working with schools. The local Ward councillor was invited to attend the meeting but was unable to come due to other commitments, an invitation will be extended for the next meeting



## Market Group

The most recent market was held successfully in Hoekwil.

The market was started for two reasons: to create economic opportunities for people from Touwsrante; and to create a place where people from Touwsrante and Hoekwil could come together socially. While people from Touwsrante made more money when the market was held in Hoekwil, there were fewer people from Touwsrante at the market and less of a vibrant spirit. The market group needs to figure out how to meet both of these objectives, and if that is possible.

People are eager for another market. A market group debriefing was set for the day following the Community Dialogue meeting.



## Substance Abuse and Sport Development

Concern was raised regarding the absence of sport development programmes. Some people felt this contributes to young people's alcohol and substance abuse.

It was proposed that those interested in sport development work together with the substance abuse group.

As discussed in the last meeting, a proposal was made to bring together church leaders to hear what role they wish to play in dealing with substance abuse.

It was also proposed that tavern owners be approached and come up with possible solutions to dealing with alcohol abuse, for example not selling to young people and not serving already intoxicated people more alcohol.

It was suggested that new people could take leadership of the inactive groups such as the substance abuse group. Group members were also encouraged to explore what resources already exist and that they could draw on.

A suggestion was made about educating children and young people about substance abuse through sport and get AA involved in such an initiative. Those present felt that there is a need for an initiative which gives people hope instead of only focusing on shutting taverns to deal with the alcohol problem.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of funds to make sport development possible. There is a need to invite business people to invest in the initiative. Again, the point to invite the right people was raised in order to ensure that we do not just talk amongst ourselves.

We need to be careful of doing the work of existing structures and organisations.

The dialogue is not a Neighbourhood Watch or a Community Policing Forum, but can work with and support these structures. Existing bodies should be engaged, in the case of sport development we need to reach out to the sports body in Touwsrante.

Computer classes were suggested as a way to support young people and enable them to get jobs. The dialogue was informed that the church already has computer classes and that community members are welcome to sign up.

A youth group was formed consisting of: Simon Mtshotana, Mila Gould, Mathew Obel, Anelisiwe Fana, Denzel DeSwardt, Austine Mkadayenda, Martin Maluleke, Hannes Muller.

The youth group will meet with the substance abuse group and discuss a possible plan of action.

# Safety of the pathway between Hoekwil and Touwsranten



Hoekwil Rate Payers Association met with the police. An initiative to clean up is currently awaiting funding. Discussion with municipality regarding lighting and possible cameras will take place. Criminals use the trees as a hideout. In the case where these trees are found to be private property the owners will be approached. A suggestion was made to approach the farmers and get permission for solar lights to be placed in the area. The funds for this can be raised through fundraising to avoid the long process of the municipal route which will take longer.

The police were urged to return to the dialogue should they fail to raise the funds needed to pay for clearing the path between Hoekwil and Touwsranten and the dialogue will be willing to adopt the project

3 things are needed for crime to happen

Perpetrator

Victim

Opportunity



By clearing the pathway, we reduce the opportunity for crime. We can further do this by encouraging people from Hoekwil and Touwsranten to use the path for recreation and exercise, so that there is a more constant flow of foot traffic

## Ideas for making the footpath safer

The Touwsranten and Hoekwil security groups could be approached to work together, ensure there is security every day and take turns to drive along the path every hour. Smart security should also be approached and asked to patrol up to Touwsranten and not stop at the farms

Law enforcement visibility, (SAPS can play a more active role and be seen patrolling around the area.)

People using the pathway should try to walk in small groups and if possible, never walk alone

Cyclists from Hoekwil could be encouraged to ride that way over the weekends and in the afternoons



Regular fun runs



## Attendees List

Chandre Gould

Anelisiwe Fana

Andisiwe Makwecana

Sydney Juues

Sharon Appels

Simon Mtshotana

Denzel De Swardt

Austin Mkadayenda

Willem Jacobs

Mila Gould

Petrus Bewee

Nina Muller

Sharon Fisher-Buys

Genevieve Nkemise

Bennie Boshoff

Willie Booisen

Mathew Obel

Chris Krazinger

Hannes Muller

Ryno Malan

Magdalena Slinger

Martin Maluleke

Patrick Buys

The Touwsrante Gospels Idols  
Finale will take place on the 30th  
of September 2022



The next meeting is on 19 October  
5h30pm at Touwsrante Community Hall