

The 17th Touwsranten & Hoekwil community dialogue meeting took place on 24 May 2023 at the Touwsranten community hall.

The meeting included guests from the Kleinkranz and Wilderness Heights communities and General Oswald Reddy, the Western Cape Ombudsman.



Welcoming and Framing

The meeting was opened with a warm welcome and a reminder of the intention of the dialogue: to create prosperity and safety for everyone living in Touwsranten and Hoekwil, and by extension those who live in surrounding areas.

Chandré gave a recap of the last two meetings where different views on the meaning of violence was discussed in detail.

Check In



Ros took us through a round of introductions and a check-in. Each participant briefly shared how they have tried to be non-violent since the last meeting.

Many people shared experiences of anger or frustration that underpinned their decision to act without aggression or violence



Refuse Collection



Refuse collection has been an issue for the community and has caused some friction in the dialogue WhatsApp group.

The dialogue and the Hoekwil Ratepayers Association have been supporting participants in addressing the issue of litter in some parts of Touwsranten in various ways.

Chandré proposed a method called the 'soft shoe shuffle' to facilitate the conversation, as it is a sensitive issue.

This method enables a range of views to be heard and allows people to move around.



The statement “There is litter lying around and rubbish is not collected” was placed in the middle of the floor. Participants were asked to stand close to the paper if this statement was true for them, to stand a bit further from the paper if it was a bit true, and much further from the paper if it was not true for them.

The facilitator asked two questions

“Why are you standing there?”

“How does it feel to be standing there?”

One or two people in each position had a chance to express their feelings and perspectives.

Someone for whom the statement was true said that it was disappointing to see children litter in the streets.

From those who stood the furthest, a participant explained that rubbish was collected weekly where they live and therefore it was not a problem for them.

2

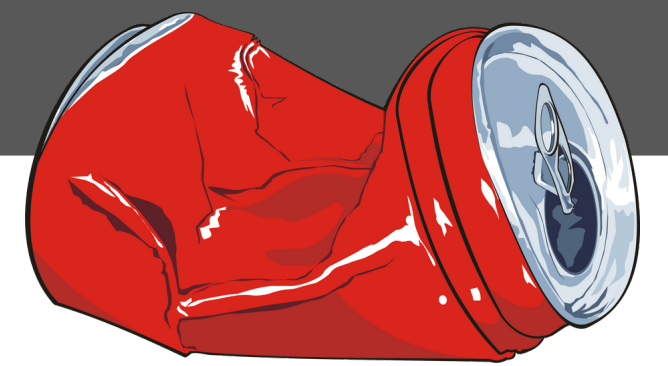
Hoekwil & Touwsranten

Community Dialogue







The statement was partially true for most participants, as they explained that the garbage was sometimes ripped apart by dogs before the pickup truck arrived. This issue was reported on Begonia Street.

Participants expressed anger when asked how this made them feel.

When asked how much they would like to be affected by the issue, all the participants stepped back, indicating that they would prefer not to be directly affected and would like for it to be resolved. The conclusion reached was that everyone is affected differently, and this topic generates strong feelings.



The group then explored possible solutions:

-  **Hold people accountable when you see someone littering. Call them back to pick up their litter. While this may be easy to apply with children, it was acknowledged that it would be difficult with adults.**
-  **Raising awareness, which needs to start at home.**
-  **Report illegal dumping to the Hoekwil Rate Payers association and the police.**
-  **Black bags should be provided for the informal settlement.**
-  **When the pickup trucks do not come people need to place their rubbish bags on higher ground.**
-  **Community members need to inform each other of announcements on refuse collection delays.**



An observation from this discussion was that there is a business opportunity for cleaning wheeled bins. This suggestion was made after people expressed concern regarding bins smelling bad in places where they do not get black bags. Another idea was to use theatre storytelling to educate children about littering and recycling

A Way Forward

Pat will liaise with Simon to coordinate efforts for a clean-up initiative.

Simon will speak with farmers in the district and attempt to organize a digger loader to assist in cleaning up the litter-ridden area on Begonia Street.

Denzel has committed to including cleaning up as part of their program at Seven Passes.

Austin will collect black bags from Oom Boelie and deliver them to Xolani's house for distribution.



Updates



Market

The next market is planned for the 16th of June. Seven Passes will partner and launch a sports programme. The market will include free games for children, drummies and dancers. People from both Hoekwil and Touwsrante are encouraged to attend.

The market group needs volunteers to assist with minding the different stations, those willing to assist can contact Sharon Fisher-Buys and Denzel on the group.

The group also needs sponsors for prizes.

A R50 fee is required for people wanting to have stalls at the market.



Toilets

Xolani, a community leader, joined the meeting and confirmed that the community is currently using the temporary toilets that were recently provided by the municipality.

The construction of permanent toilets has started, with pipes already installed.



WDF is a new security company operating in Wilderness.

Some participants in the forum attended the company's launch and expressed concern over the aggressive attitude of the owner and statements he made, indicating that the company would be 'cleaning up Wilderness' by targeting homeless people, car guards, and drug addicts. The company's advertising describes its guards as 'urban soldiers' and presents an intimidating image. There were concerns about the implications of this approach for overall community safety.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that this approach felt particularly threatening to people of color and evoked horrible and traumatic memories of Apartheid. While some shop owners in Wilderness expressed the need for increased safety, reports of intimidating behavior by the security company towards citizens were troubling



The Western Cape Ombudsman, General Oswald Reddy, joined us to educate the community members about their rights and how to report violations by security companies and the police. The Ombudsman is an oversight for SAPS service delivery.



5

Hoekwil & Touwsranten

Community Dialogue



General Reddy explained the differences between the police, South African Defence Force, municipal law enforcement and private security companies:



The South African National Defense force is governed by the Defense Act and is mandated to protect the country.



The police are governed by the Police Act. Through this act the police are empowered to search, seize, and arrest.

The Criminal Procedure Act governs the states response to an alleged or actual crime. A citizen has the right to effect an arrest under this act, meaning that when a serious violent offence occurs in your presence, you may exercise your right to arrest.

In line with municipal bylaws, law enforcement agencies have a variety of powers. Their role is not to police, but rather to enforce the municipality's bylaws, for example littering, which is prohibited and may result in a fine.

Security companies are regulated by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA), which is a separate entity from the police. People can lodge complaints against security companies through a complaints management process. A security company's mandate is to protect only the households they have been hired by, not the entire community. As they do not have a policing mandate, they cannot stop and search anyone or physically assault them.

They only have the same powers of arrest as ordinary citizens. In other words, they cannot arrest anyone unless they catch the person in the act of committing a serious violent crime.

6

Hoekwil & Touwsranten

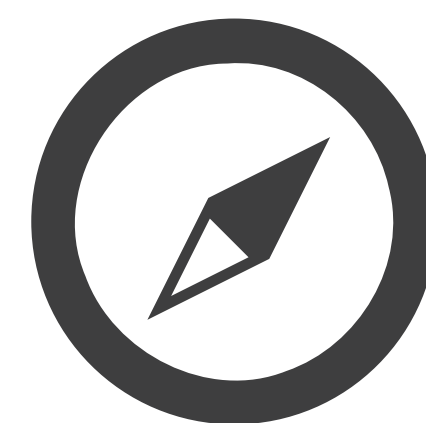
Community Dialogue



If a security guard assaults a person, that person can file a criminal case with the police.



The Constitution of South Africa guarantees freedom of movement, so no one, including security guards, can chase people away or stop them from going to a place unless it is private property



It is mandatory for security guards to carry ID cards, and citizens can request to see their ID to get their details.



The ombudsman can be contacted if the police do not respond when called to a crime or if they fail to follow up on a case.

There must be 4 elements before we can call an action a crime

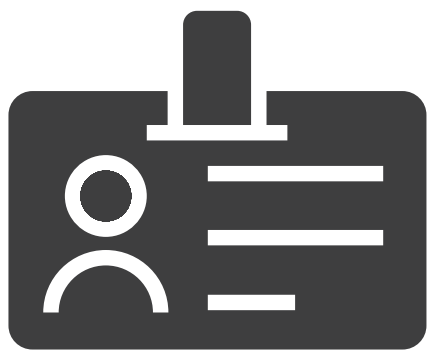
- 1 The issue must be unlawful**
- 2 There must be conduct/ they must do something**
- 3 It must be punishable by law**
- 4 There must be intention or negligence, culpability**



Outcomes

A group of people from the community dialogue will request a meeting with Mr. Charl Jacobs, owner of the Wilderness Defence Force, to discuss our concerns.

The two requests from the dialogue are as follows:



all security guards should wear their name tags clearly on their uniforms for easy identification

at least two WDF guards should attend the community dialogue meetings to foster a better understanding of the community.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Raise awareness of the community's rights with WDF and the community itself. Chandré will develop a fact sheet on knowing your rights in collaboration with ISS colleagues.



A formal complaint system will be established. Any member who knows of a person who has been harassed or assaulted should document the person's name, the date and location of the incident, and if possible, provide photographic evidence. Chandré has agreed to receive these reports. Maintaining a record of all incidents is necessary in case a criminal case needs to be filed in the future.

Everyone agreed that dialogue is always better, so this needs to be the starting point when engaging with the WDF. Further, there was an acknowledgement that WDF's intentions may be good, but their methods may be problematic.

If none of the above helps, then matters can be escalated to the media, Police, Ombudsman and Human Rights Commission.



Check Out



Participants were asked to share one thing they appreciated about the dialogue. Participants talked about diversity, engagement, having the opportunity to speak openly, empowerment through sharing knowledge, and commitment to being the change they wanted to see



**The next Dialogue to be held on the 28th of July 2023
at the Community Hall in Touwsrante**



Attendees List

Mandy Busson

Patrick Buys

Austin Mkadayanda

Collin Wildeman

Oswald Reddy

Walter Damons

Flip Theron

Denzel De Swardt

Roslynn Damons

Simon Mtshotana

Andisiwe Makwecana

Jonniten Goeiman

Sharon Appels

Anthony Innes

Chandré Gould

Brian Mushfiecdt

Sharon Fisher-Buys

Jennifer Isaacs

Helet Theron

Muzilene November

Xolani Qukatayo

Dallin Appels