



03 DECEMBER 2025

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

Community Dialogue

2025

Meeting
Report

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41st Meeting: Welcome and Purpose

The Touwsrante and Hoekwil Community Dialogue held its 41st meeting on 3 December 2025. This meeting was attended by 20 participants including several small-scale farmers. Chandré warmly welcomed everyone and reminded the group of our shared intention: *to build safer, more connected, and more prosperous communities.*

The purpose of the meeting was to reconnect as we do each month, share updates, discuss crime and safety, and explore exciting new developments related to small-scale farming.

Our Shared Values

Our dialogue is guided by values that shape how we meet and work together. Participants were invited to read a value placed under their chairs and reflect on what it meant to them during the meeting:



Chandré reminded participants of the dialogue's language policy and assured new participants that they are welcome to speak in any language they felt comfortable with. Simon assisted with translation from English to isiXhosa. The meeting agenda was also outlined.

Facing Tension and Healing Old Wounds

The dialogue reflected on a recent fire incident, reportedly started by children, which caused fear and stress in the community. During this time, our shared values were challenged and old wounds, tensions, and conflicts resurfaced. This was acknowledged as a very human response.



The group discussed how these tensions became visible on the community WhatsApp group, where messages quickly turned into blame along racial lines. What began as concern about smoke escalated into accusations and reopened historical wounds.

Participants agreed that ignoring these issues weakens the community. Instead, we need the courage to face them honestly, acknowledge the cracks, and work toward healing. This work will take time and care and will continue in the new year.

Check-In:



As part of bringing everyone's voices into the room and getting to know each other, participants introduced themselves and were invited to share something personal to help us work better together as a group.



Small-Scale Farming: A Step Toward Prosperity

Simon shared that local farmers in Touwsranten, many of whom have been farming for years without support, approached him for assistance. They are passionate about their work but face serious challenges, particularly around pigs kept close to homes, which poses health risks.

A meeting with the farmers highlighted key needs, including:

Access to land

Fencing

Water

Veterinary services

Infrastructure



A follow-up meeting was held with Chandré, who wrote to the municipality. Although the municipal database for small-scale farmers officially closed in June, permission was granted for late registrations. The response from the municipality was very positive, and a meeting was scheduled for **10 December 2025**.



Farmers were advised that registration requires:

A completed application form

A certified copy of an ID

Proof or statement of residence

Community members are encouraged to share this information with anyone who is serious about farming and already active in the community.



Updates & Initiatives

Safety and Crime Updates (SAPS)



November was a particularly difficult month, with nearly 20 cases of assault and theft, mainly in Touwsranten.

House break-ins were reported in both Hoekwil and Touwsranten, and copper theft has become a growing concern from Wilderness through to Hoekwil and Touwsranten.

Key points raised:

- A community convoy will be organised under the police forum.
- Community members were encouraged to stay vigilant and report copper theft.
- Reporting crime should never result in people being labelled as “impimpis.” Anonymous reporting is allowed.
- Copper theft affects everyone and causes serious harm to community infrastructure.
- Damage to infrastructure carries a minimum sentence of 10 years’ imprisonment.

All incidents and damage should be shared on the dialogue WhatsApp group.

Noise and Public Disturbances

Concerns were raised about noise in the early morning hours at Four Corners in Touwsranten. While police visibility is good before 22:00, disturbances often occur after taverns close.

Captain Heunis advised that:

- Law Enforcement Services should also be contacted over weekends.
- Complaints can be submitted to the Liquor Board.
- Incidents should be shared on the WhatsApp group, preferably with photos.
- If there is no police response, this should also be reported.



Shift Commander Contact: 082 522 2872

Festive Season Safety

Captain Heunis shared important safety reminders:

- Fraud syndicates have been arrested in multiple cases.
- Avoid going to ATM’s alone, especially elderly residents.
- Arrange for someone to look after your property if you are travelling.
- Be alert during the George Lights and Jazz festivals (13-16 December)
- Do not get into vehicles with drunk drivers- take the keys or contact the police.
- Blue flag beaches will have active law enforcement: alcohol will be confiscated.
- The focus is on family-friendly spaces not drinking.



Community Wellbeing Updates

Outdoor Gym

The gym access code has been shared on the WhatsApp group, but usage remains low. Community members are encouraged to spread the word and make use of this facility.

Children and Drug Use

Concerns were raised about drug use among primary school children. Participants acknowledged the importance of handling this sensitively, as many children already struggle to trust adults. Drug-related concerns should be reported to Social Services.

Year Beyond will roll out a new support programme for at-risk children at schools in the new year.



Firefighting Training

As previously mentioned in the October meeting Firefighting training took place in November. Collin will share further information and feedback on the WhatsApp group.



Closing and Check-Out

The meeting closed with a check-out exercise, where participants mimed the feeling they were leaving the meeting with. The overall message was one of reflection, responsibility, and renewed commitment.



Attendees List

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chandre Gould | Simon Mtshotana |
| Chris Kritzinger | Sharon Appels |
| W/O Kuhn | Morton Hardnick |
| Captain Morne Heunis | Eben Damons |
| Sharon Fisher-Buys | S. Ketj |
| Denzel De Swardt | Martiens Smit |
| Collin Wildeman | Khaualethu Ntsukumbini |
| Ntomboxola Nombambela | Khumbulekilela Ntsukumbini |
| Nicci Kurz | Senzekile Bengu |
| Colleen Magner | Sicelo Sandla |