



MEETING AGENDA – 3 JUNE 2014
PLETTENBERG BAY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FORUM MEETING
ANGLICAN CHURCH AT 09h30 – 11h30

1. Welcome

Welcome to David Pickering, a new member of the Forum. Welcome also to Daniel, who is accompanying Chanel from the Orca Foundation.

2. Apologies

Mark Brown, Maretha Alant.

3. Present

An attendance register was signed by all present.

4. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Notes

Accepted by Inez Jamieson

5. Additions to the agenda

Milkwood Manor parking – added to item '9. New applications and issues'.

6. Member Updates

6.1. Bitou Valley Foundation

- Events are being organised for the Plett MAD festival, including: Bird walks and talks, bird ringing, a display of mock-ups of the proposed birds hides etc.
- The food garden is finally ready. It is fully fenced, with water.
- A second group of ladies will be starting under the sewing group.

6.2. Crags Residents Association

- Alien clearing has begun on the road to Forest Hall (carried out by the Fire Protection Association)

6.3. Plett Rate Payers Association

- There are 6 proposed refuse drop-off points. For further communications on the proposal, a public open day will be held at the Plettenberg Bay Primary School on Wednesday 25 June 2014, from 17h00 to 19h00.
- What about drop off points for Kwanokuthula and Keurbooms? These areas have not been included.
- The proposed drop off point for Wittedrift is situated on top of the Green Valley food garden.

6.4. Orca Foundation

- May was a quiet month in the bay. It is starting to liven up with the first 4 humpback sightings this week. The Southern Right whales have not arrived yet. Not as many sardines in the bay as in previous years. 308 children were educated last month; 890 fin profile pictures were recorded (dolphins and whales); 14 whale and dolphin sightings last month; 9 trees were planted.
- Meetings have taken place to try and sort out the problem with regards to the dead brydes whale which was entangled in octopus trap ropes.

6.5. Plett Hope Spot

- An open meeting was held last week which was successful. Public awareness efforts have included interviews on the local MC radio station. Home Brew will put together promotional video clips.
- World Ocean day is this weekend, 8th June. Activities have been planned for Central beach, such as a beach clean-up and reef clean-up by divers. This will raise money for the launch of the Hope Spot in December.
- The committee is very NGO based at the moment. The aim is to try and increase local government involvement.

6.6. Redford Conservancy

- Alien tree clearing follow-up efforts have begun as well as clearing on new properties.

6.7. Small Boat harbour

- The Save Plett Alliance will soon be sending out an email updating everyone on the issue. The deadline for the new scoping report is the 6 October. Appeals for funds continue. The scale of the public participation was one of the greatest witnessed in South Africa. The Forum thanks Basil van Rooyen and Annabelle

Conyngham for all their hard work. Annabelle notes that the battle is not yet over.

- The Public Private Participation route which the developer may decide to pursue would be more formal and expensive as much greater public participation is required and extensive investigations into various issues would be needed.

6.8. Treasurer

- Fundraising is urgently needed and a meeting where the annual accounts can be presented should be held.

6.9. Keith Berning

- As a trustee of the diocese of George, he has interest in the happenings on the large tracks of land owned by the church in the area.

6.10 Indalo conservancy

- BM needs to deal with the stray cattle which roam onto the conservancy. Fences were removed for conservation purposes, but now cattle are invading the area and impacting on the natural vegetation, bringing ticks etc. Query was made regarding the fate of the land BM was involved in purchasing near Wittedrift, for use by communities for their livestock. Eighteen months ago Julie Carlisle assisted the Green Valley community with an application to use the land, but still awaits a response.

6.11 Recycling

- Win Win Swop Shop – most responsibilities have been handed over to the community. Volunteers are paid a stipend and the shop is now getting paid by for the recyclables. A person in BM has been given the responsibility to monitor the shop and help establish swop shops in other communities.
- The R45 000 previously allocated towards a waste management license has been freed up to be used for other purposes. This has allowed for work on the valley behind the Swop Shop to begin (clearing out recyclables). A further R70 000 might be allocated by the BM to the Forum in support of Food For Waste Programmes.

6.12. Eden to Addo Corridor Initiative

- Progress has been made for creating the corridor between the Garden Route National Park and the Baviaans. Establishing a corridor between the Baviaans

and Addo Elephant National Park is still problematic though due to farming practices.

- The Keurbooms catchment alien clearing project has started.
- Coastal corridor (Robberg to Noetzie) – the minister should be able to sign this off soon as all the properties have been surveyed with the owners agreement.
- A new species of plant has been identified in the corridor.

6.13. Keurbooms Estuary Forum

- Nothing new to report. Fundraising is needed.

6.14. Chris Behrens

- The Piesang Valley pump station always smells – has there been a spillage? Christo Vlok will take this up with Pikkie Lombaard. Sewerage spills remain an ongoing problem. It is important that the municipality maintains the infrastructure i.e. maintenance not just problem fixing. It is a potential health hazard if spills run into water catchment areas.

6.15. Rudi Martin

- Alien infestation along Keurbooms beach must be tackled. According to the Conservation of Agricultural Resource Act (CARA) it is the land owners' responsibility.
- What has happened to the environmental officer position within the BM which was approved in Feb?

7. Funding

Plans include:

- 1) Quiz nights. Charge R100pp (R50 for Forum, R50 for dinner). Le Fornil is the planned venue at this stage. Other suggestions include the bowling club or angling club.

A raffle etc. on the night will increase the income generated.

- 2) Two evenings of entertainment at the Whitehouse. These will be aimed at the swallows, in November and February. Entertainment ideas are still needed.

Each evening will also include the auctioning of no more than 6 exclusive art pieces. Annabelle has prints to donate and has kindly offered to organise the auction.

Other suggestion:

- A 'car boot sale' at the market.
- Live streaming of theatre productions.

8. Matters Arising

8.1. Natures Path Life Style Village – Final Basic Assessment – comments due 3rd June

No further input.

8.2. Look Out 'Nature Reserve' – bush clearing by Bitou Municipality.

- James Andrews is to oversee the clearing of the pathway. It will be widened up to 1m in areas to increase visibility (for safety), particularly around corners. No additional permit is required for this as the BM has an annual permit. Halszka and Paul met on site with James to discuss the way it should be done.
- Alien clearing in the area will not be tackled until new funding becomes available in September. It was noted that the BM has neglected alien clearing on their land for too long and the situation in many areas is now a huge problem.
- According to the Conservation of Agricultural Resource Act (CARA) it is the land owner i.e. BM's responsibility. If they have funds for clearing indigenous vegetation this should therefore first be used for the aliens.

8.3. Knysna Elephant Park.

The Forum wrote a letter to Cape Nature objecting to their issuing of translocation permits for the four Sandhurst orphans. We received a reply stating that site inspections had been carried out and no justification for refusing the permits was found.

It was noted that it's the legislation that is the problem, which too easily allows elephants and other wild animals to be moved around.

9. New applications and issues

9.1. Ladywood – proposed rezoning and subdivision portion 18 of farm nr. 438

- Paul and Halszka conducted a site visit and found no obvious environmental issues. The area is old farm land with alien trees (blackwoods). The only

question is whether the small stream is on the property boundary or within the proposed development area. This will be queried.

- The Forum supports the proposal as we have supported densification of this area in the past. We do, however, need to insist on a master plan for the entire area, to check on plans for water, electricity and sanitation. The development is also on steep land and this together with the proposed high density could be problematic.
- Angus is opposed to the density proposed and would like it minuted that he feels “the Forum lost its marbles”.

9.2. Milkwood Manor parking

- The owner of Milkwood Manor wishes to build extra parking bays on municipal land west of his property. The area, a wetland /estuary embankment, is part of an ecological important and sensitive eco system with milkwood trees, salt marsh etc . There are far too many laws prohibiting such activities within the 100 year high water mark. The Forum objects to this proposal.

10. **Recent Updates**

10.1. Small boat harbour

- Julie has completed a fisheries report, investigating the potential, viability and the need for a fishing industry in the Bay.

10.2. Recycling/waste management

- A meeting is to be held next week regarding the closing of the tip site. The problem at the moment is that garden refuse is being dumped there still.
- Refer to 6.3. for information on the proposed refuse drop off points.

11. **Meeting / Workshop Feedback**

11.1 Ward 2 Committee meeting – 20 May 2014

- Comments received from DEADP were that the IDP is not in line with the SDF. The IDP is therefore being reviewed and amended.
- Up to 30 animal carcasses are buried at the land fill site a day (from vets). This could be an environmental problem as they are often full of various

medications/chemicals which can then leach into the surrounding environment.

A mobile incinerator is being investigated.

11.2 Hope Spot

Refer to 6.5.

12. General

Nothing further.

13. Announcements

13.1. Plett Hope Spot Art Auction

7 June, 6 for 6:30pm, Angling Club, R50 pp.

13.2 World Ocean Day

8 June, Main beach from 9am (Beach clean-up, sand castle competition, reef clean up)

13.3 GRI meeting

27th June, 9:30am, George.

13.4. Paul Falla announced that he would be stepping down as one of the co-chairs from the end of August but would remain an active member of the Forum.

14. Date of Next Meeting

1 July 2014