



2018 Chairpersons Report

Welcome and Thank You

Thanks for coming to NCC. To Karen most recently and of course to everyone else who has been involved in getting this place into its current condition, also a huge Thank You!

I would also like to start out by thanking all the Committee Members for yet another year of hard work. To name them specifically:

- Patrick Wright – who has played a central role as the default go to person for so many people and also a key element of so much that we do, particularly the website and Facebook page, as a radio controller, CPRT team member, K9 team member, a driving force with the community centre and in responding to beach incidents, to name but a few of the tasks he takes on.
- Karen MacIntyre, who, similarly always steps forward to fill in where needed, is also key as a radio coordinator and administrator, has battled endlessly to keep our membership database up to date and more recently has stepped up to take responsibility for the running of the Community Centre.
- Erik Meijer who is the point person for our partnership with ADT, as you will hear in due course, this has been particularly challenging this year!
- Lynne Hogan who coordinates our connector groups.
- Sue Montgomery who has the rather thankless task of SAPS and CPF liaison.
- Tessa Oliver who coordinates of Volunteer Fire Fighting team.
- Robin Mousley who acts as our information officer.
- I must also pay tribute to our secretary Jeannette Beukes, for all her work over the years, another key person we could not manage without!

And finally two who will be leaving our team and who I feel each deserve a special vote of thanks:

- Ollie Wright who has been instrumental in setting up our Camera Network and is also a key response team and K9 team members. Ollie will continue to support as a response and K9 team member but he is retiring from Committee Duty after serving for a total of 8 years. Thank you Ollie, you have brought a huge amount of energy and experience and put in an immeasurable amount of time which HAS MADE THIS COMMUNITY TANGIBLY SAFER!!

AND

- Megan Clausen, treasurer right since our before foundation as CPNW. Mostly quietly in the background for more than a decade now has carefully and diligently kept our books, spent countless hours in the bank and ensured wonderfully reliable and transparent control of our finances.

Thank you! To you both, you have played incredibly important roles in making our community safe!!



Looking Back...

I started preparing my report by having a look at last year's one, and it was really striking to note what a difficult time that was and to reflect on how, even though there is still plenty to be concerned about in terms of security risks, we have managed to come through that period and in the end bring about our quietest periods ever in terms of the crime stats.

This has happened in spite of plenty of evidence that crime elsewhere has been worsening and I believe it reflects the cumulative effects of the many years we have worked together as a community to prevent crime in our area and the multiple strategies we have constantly been working on and developing further.

Complacency

Although it is fair to say that we do all fall prey to some complacency, or at least fatigue when things get quiet, I think what we are now seeing is that in many cases, as soon as the crime picks up again, we are able to act fairly quickly to put a stop to particular trends but of course this does mean that if we were all slightly more vigilant and proactive we be doing even better and putting a stop to any potential incidents before they even get started.

Recap

So, to recap a little, this time last year we were still facing day zero as a real and imminent possibility, the crime wave on the beach was continuing unabated and we were battling a series of regular housebreakings involving a group we will remember by their trademark blue surgical gloves and an exceptional ability to circumvent alarms, remove window panes and steal things, whilst residents and often their dogs too, were in the house, asleep. So I will briefly speak to these issues first before going onto more general matters.

Water

With regard to the water issue, I think all that remains to be noted is that we did come through and that this was, in the end largely due to a collective effort.

So it reminded us again that, even on a larger scale, it is possible to change our collective behaviour for the good of everyone and this is no doubt something that, in the face of ongoing environmental, financial and political crises, we are going to have to get far better at, going into the future.

Beach Security

The beach incidents continued through the holiday period and into 2018, despite the best efforts of ourselves, KomWatch and numerous other individuals and groups to engage with SAPS, SANParks and other responsible bodies on the matter.

Through KomWatch, we were able to organise a contract with Fidelity ADT for a specialised reaction team to operate on the beach and to secure the necessary permission for this to take place. We put out a funding appeal through the NW's of areas and within the space of a week, we had raised enough funds to put a team of two specialised security operatives onto the beach from sunrise to sunset for an initial one month period.



Sadly, further miscommunication resulted in SANParks officials initially ordering the team off the beach and another incident took place on 10 January during their absence. Subsequent to this, SANParks at least stopped interfering with the work of the F-ADT team and in that first month at least 5 suspects were apprehended and handed over.

Due to funding constraints, the hours the team was on the beach had to be reduced slightly and we had two further incidents on 2 and 17 February, both of which took place before 8am when the team began its operations. As it became clear that there was a limit to how long this team could remain in operation, a stop-and-search policy was put into place, aimed at deterring would-be criminals. I don't have exact figures but a large number of searches were conducted which yielded quite a frightening stash of dangerous weapons. The team also effected the arrest of a known suspect on March 9 and thereafter things seemed to cool off.

Additional measures we put in place included providing the shark spotters with resources and info so that they could alert us to suspicious characters, putting up signage and assisting with other liaison and safety efforts. Fortunately SANParks has, since then, seen fit to appoint a specialised Visitor Safety Ranger (VSR), Vasen Govender in the area and he has continued to apprehend suspects and so far further incidents have been avoided. We note with concern however, that Vasen has precious little back-up, and that SANParks have on several occasions threatened to move him elsewhere, so we continue to monitor this and to provide support where we can.

We have also supported attempts to develop a more comprehensive beach and mountain security plan but it has to be said that, despite extensive efforts, by various members of our community to develop a range of potential solutions and some amazing expertise that is available, the required leadership and collaboration from SANParks has been sadly lacking.

We are very grateful to those who have been involved and we will continue to support this, perhaps the most hopeful solution involving the establishment of Noordhoek as a special rates area which would pave the way for more sustainable funding and control of a broader security plan.

The "Blue-glove Gang"

With regard to the so-called "Blue-glove Gang", there were 4 incidents in close succession in early January, with a couple of Response Team call-outs and at least one near-miss by responders. As a team we developed a more tailored plan for further call outs but had no incidents in our area in February, although they continued in the rest of Noordhoek.

In March, after the team was taken off the Beach, we negotiated a brief deployment at night in the Noordhoek area which resulted in another near miss after an incident on 3 March and that seems to have been the last we saw of this group - although the recent break-in at the stables does raise some concern due to similarities in the MO, but perhaps a lower level of expertise.

Crime Stats

These were the lowest crime statistics since 2009 with an average of 1.5 incidents per month! Well done to everyone!

This is despite evidence that crime elsewhere has been on the increase. Possible reasons for the low levels in our area include:

- arrests made last year



- employment of Fidelity security services last year
- combination of “layers” of different security strategies
- A strong community response once there is evidence of an increase in crime, with several “near misses” when our response team has been deployed.

Trends

In terms of the nature of crime this year, the commonest form of burglary we have been recording has involved break-ins to out-buildings that have not been well-secured or alarmed, with a number of incidents where horse-riding equipment, tools, bicycles and the like have been stolen, so this is one area that where individuals could put in better protection measures.

Related to this are a number of other incidents where goods have been stolen from cars, from gardens and from open properties too, so we all need to understand that the criminals are out there and often watching far more carefully than we would like to imagine, ready to take advantage of the smallest opportunity we might present to them.

Conversely we need everyone to understand that the less we make any opportunities available, the less attractive the whole area becomes to opportunists, so our plea is that everyone understands that improving security on your property is not simply about your own safety but about the security of the whole area.

Armed Robbery at the Farm Village

Lastly, in terms of incidents I would like to mention the armed robbery at a restaurant in the Farm Village, at 9pm on a Wednesday evening, a few weeks ago. This was particularly disturbing as staff members were held at gunpoint and because of the brazen nature of the attack, which took place on a busy Wednesday night at the Village, whilst many customers were still in the restaurant.

More positively the staff at the restaurant received a huge amount of support from our members and our camera licence plate recognition (LPR) network resulted in the getaway vehicle being identified and the suspects apprehended a short while later, up towards the west coast. So great news there and more evidence that having many different types and layers of security measures really pays off!

Looking Forward

We see the trend starting to climb again with lead-up to Christmas Period, so we need to ask everyone to be extra careful in securing out-buildings and in not leaving your property unsecured.

Please also warn any visitors you may have about this too. Holiday-makers are not the only visitors at this time of year!!

K9 Unit

Still active and regularly practising.

This beautifully self-sustaining unit in many ways represents the ideal in a NW strategy, it is run by passionate dog owners who simply enjoy the activity it brings. Had one great success this year, with the arrest of a criminal who was hiding in some bushes.



Cameras

Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) system was upgraded this year and is working well.

For the second year running this system resulted in the arrest of people who had committed a crime in the area and were later apprehended when their vehicle was picked up on the system in another area.

With over 1000 users in the Cape Town Metropole, this has now developed into a formidable crime fighting tool that makes it very hard for criminals to come into our area by vehicle without either immediately being identified or later being picked up elsewhere.

We are currently busy placing the thermal movement detection cameras, this has proven to be logistically and financially more challenging than we anticipated but we are making steady progress.

Radios

We currently have 198 radio-users on our system. This should represent a formidable crime prevention force, even if we just switched lights on and stayed in our houses in an emergency.

Sadly though, many seem to keep these stashed in a drawer somewhere and too often we have heard of missed opportunities where a call on the radio could have resulted in a significantly different outcome.

When you have not used the radio for a while, it can seem quite confusing and complicated when you suddenly need help in an emergency.

That is why we need to practise and get everyone in the family to practise too! Please take it out of the cradle and switch it on at night. I always sleep with it on, on channel 8 and I can assure you, I am almost never disturbed.

Please remember that with Radio Checks – anyone can respond, it does not have to be a radio controller and it is so good to hear that one's neighbours are indeed listening and available should you need help!

We also need more radio coordinators suitable locations, to take turns in monitoring the network. We will provide a base station and a decent aerial for this. We just need people who would be available to respond to calls - it really does not involve a great deal of skill and rest assured: should an incident take place, one of the more seasoned coordinators will step in to take over!

Response Teams

Deployed several times in early part of year. A few close shaves caused us to rethink our strategy WRT the "blue glove" gang but perhaps the close shaves were effective as a deterrent.

Social Media and Comms

Mainstay remains Website, emails and Facebook.

Newsletters, less than monthly but try to keep as regular as possible.



We have had some problems with calls for vigilante action on Social Media but generally has been more appropriate. We call on all our members to be guardians of appropriate behaviour in the social media space as we do in our physical space.

CPF Registration

Registration with Provincial Dept of Safety and Security a “requirement” for recognition as a NW

This provides the framework for our relationship with SAPS

CPF joint security meetings and Sector Policing arrangements part of this framework, requiring SAPS to have identified structures for working with NW’s and to allow them to release crime information

Makes NW eligible for funding support from DSS

More recently a “requirement” has been introduced whereby all NW Members names and addresses must be submitted to CPF Committee. This is something we have thus far resisted doing, without the express [permission of each member as to otherwise do so would be a breach of member’s rights to privacy of personal information.

Legality of this will be challenged: Although published in the Provincial CPF Guidelines, the actual Gazette of the CPF Act makes no reference to this.

We have however been threatened with the loss of access to our radio frequency if we do not comply but as yet we are still in discussion and we are aware of several other NW’s who have similarly objected.

We thus do need to put this matter top our AGM.

Can all those who support our decision to withhold or oppose – put to vote.

Volunteer Fire Unit

- This has been going strong with currently 23 members as part of the group
- Equipment housed in container behind NCC
- Fire drill to take place on 2 Dec
- Refresher training to take place in next 3 weeks by Enviro Wildfire Services
- Risk reduction measures in terms of alien clearing taking place on De Goede Hoop property along Chapman's Peak Drive

NCC

10 year Lease held by CPNW – Noordhoek Control Room and Community Centre

CPNW, SMNW, DASCRO, Danieledale NW, NRPA, Noordhoek Tourism, On the Verge, NEAG have all been involved in project to renovate

Volunteer Wildfire Services came on board, refurbished most of remaining areas. Now use as Peninsula base, which would obviously add substantially to our own fire safety!



ADT use it for shift changes which I think also adds to the strong message of a safe community that we are putting out there.

As you can see we have almost completed the huge amount of work that was needed to turn this into a viable community asset and all that remains to do is this floor, the outside area and then start the inevitable constant upkeep that any property owner is all too aware of!

As a committee however, management of the NCC was threatening to totally consume our meetings, which was doubly frustrating as it can hardly be considered as our primary mandate but on the other hand it was not something that, as the leaseholder, we could simply abandon. So we were delighted that Karen MacIntyre was willing to step forward and take primary responsibility for its management and she is doing a sterling job in setting up a scheme for hiring the property and using the funds raised in this way for its cleaning and upkeep.

It would however be wonderful to get those last items ticked off, so we will need to do some fundraising and Karen has got some nice events in mind that hopefully will not only raise the funds but also serve as nice community get-togethers too! So please give her your support!

Fund raising to complete renovations is to start soon, please give us your support!

Connector Groups

Lynne Hogan will speak to this. These are small groups of 6-8 neighbours linked by a single coordinator who is, in turn linked to the Committee via Lynne Hogan.

To me this is really the foundation of our security and is so useful on a number of levels. There are 24 such groups at present but the ideal is 40-50. Most communicate via WhatsApp but that is entirely up to the group.

What is nice is that it allows neighbours to really support one another and also to follow up on all those little things that might worry us but which we do not feel are quite significant enough to disturb the whole neighbourhood about.

On our group we let each other know when we are going to be away, if we are worried about our teens being alone in the house, raise concerns about barking dogs in the night and also use it to offer one another excess plants and even to "borrow" a cup of sugar on the odd occasion. Please encourage everyone to set up these groups!

Security Service Provider

As you all know, ADT has for a long time been our choice of service provider with a collective agreement between CPNW and Fidelity-ADT. Although we are extremely happy with the Patrol and Armed Response Officers, we have lately had some major difficulties in terms of their local management and particularly their accounts. Erik will outline these in more detail in his presentation...

We are however pleased to say that we have now had a very positive response from regional management and they have promised to deal with all the issues in question.

Although we have seriously considered finding another service provider, this has to be balanced against the very good service we do get from the officers on the ground and very strong relationship



we have developed with these individuals. We must also make it clear that to find another suitable service provider would be a huge exercise, so if this is required it is not something the committee can do on their own but we would need to put a dedicated task team together to do the work of looking at and negotiating with other companies, and then of course persuading at least 200 of our members to make a switch.

Of course the worst thing that can happen is a slow attrition of individuals to different companies so that we end up in a situation where there are multiple providers, no dedicated vehicles and no power for collective negotiation. So we would urge everyone to bear with us! We are effectively giving F-ADT a last chance to sort things out and if that fails we will let you all know that we need to go back to the drawing board.

On that note, please do keep us posted on any problems you do encounter with F-ADT.