



April 2011  
Issue 4

# BHRA Newsletter

PO Box 607, Botha's Hill, 3660

## Botha's Hill Residents Association

*"To Promote the  
Interests of  
Ratepayers and  
Residents of  
Botha's Hill."*



### Greetings: Inside This Issue

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## **Botha's Hill Post Office**

Gerhard Terblanche of the BHRA has kindly arranged a year's supply of cardboard boxes from Mondi to place in the alcove at the Bothas Hill post office, which the public can use to recycle paper, as they collect their mail.

Mr Patrick Chetty of the BHRA has made arrangements with Leon of the post office about closing the roller gate at 7 pm and opening it again at 7am for the safety of our residents, since there have been unsavoury elements in that alcove. This situation needs monitoring to see if this arrangement improves the safety of the area.



## **Lloyd's Tavern Appeal**

Mr. Peter Davies and Ms Lynette Dorkin of the BHRA have sent a list of corrections to the inaccuracies in the appeal document submitted by the applicants who were refused the special consent to operate a tavern. The municipality replied that they are not allowed to take corrections from the BHRA, as it is prejudicial to the rights of the appellant. No further news has been received in regard to the appeal.

## **1000 Hills SPAR in Bothas Hill**

Some renovations have taken place; however the Botha's Hill SPAR is still not kept clean, particularly outside. It is still an eyesore, even after several committee members of the BHRA have separately spoken to the manager and owner on several occasions over the past year about the appearance. The BHRA has now decided to send a letter to the SPAR head office to see if they will be able to assist.

## Illegal Parked Vehicles and Illegal signage

Congratulations to Mr. Patrick Chetty of the BHRA for seeing to the removal of heavy vehicles parked on the verges.

Mr. Peter Davies and Keep Hillcrest Beautiful are congratulated for the removal of the large sign on the hill. Unfortunately, no sooner had the illegal signs been removed than another small one appeared on the hill.

## Illegal Dumping

Ms Lynette Dorkin of the BHRA noticed illegal dumping on Old Main Road and has brought it to the attention of the metro police. Please residents, if you should see any illegal dumping please take note of vehicle details and particularly registration numbers, so that offenders can be reported immediately.



## Wootton Road Developments

Ms D Altenburger of the BHRA has given the relevant telephone numbers of Parks and Refuse to the resident of 6 Wootton Road, so that these authorities may clear his verges and collect his waste. Our members are waiting to hear about the type of developments that can occur in Wootton Road without consent from the residents.

The owners of the Paintball and Motorcross Circuit in Wootton Road have applied for special consent to run their business. The dilemma is that the immediate neighbours would like to enjoy the area for the sounds of nature; while the presence of the activity would stabilize the area against informal settlers.

## Kearsney College Issues

Since the newspaper exposé, some improvements have been made. Verges have been cut and outer walls have been rebuilt. However, the smell of sewage persists. Mr Peter Davies of the BHRA will soon compile an evidence-based document of the situation, to determine a way forward.



## Graffiti

Paul Pollock of Crime-Stop has already appealed to the municipality some time back to give him the go-ahead to organize paint and volunteers to paint a mural along the wall on Old Main Road, but the Dept of Transport has denied permission on the grounds that drivers will cause accidents if they are distracted by a mural. This idea will not be pursued in vain again. A camera has been suggested, but this idea was not embraced due to the fact that the street lights are often not working there due to cable theft.

Enquiries revealed that a resident of Bothas Hill solved the problem of graffiti on his wall after catching the graffiti artist and speaking to the parents. In our case we have not yet caught the culprit. Residents are asked for their advice please, as new graffiti has sprung up. If you know who the parents of these children are, or have any leads, please communicate with BHRA.



## Used Car Lot

The fairly new car lot on Old Main Road at the Fainting Goat (now known as the Value Lifestyle Centre) has drawn numerous complaints from residents. After investigation it was discovered that the property is zoned as 'limited commercial 1', and this entitles the owner to operate one or more shops. The current definition of a 'shop' does indeed include the selling of vehicles.

The municipality has indicated that it would like to change this definition, to keep Bothas Hill as a tourist location. However, until this is done, it appears that the car lot falls within the definition, and will be with us for as long as the current owner cares to exercise his commercial zoning rights.



## Rates Policy to Cap Property values

Good news! Mercury readers will already have seen the article regarding the removal of the policy to cap the rebate for seniors to property valued at R2 million; however it will remain at R3 million thanks to Councillor Rick Crouch and more than 200 ratepayers who sent comments expressing concern about the reduced rebate cap.

Therefore, strong objections from residents have paid off. Seniors with property valued at R3 million will still be eligible for rebates. Rebate forms must reach the council prior to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Residents are advised to take a copy and to ask one of the staff to date, sign and stamp their copy, in case of non-delivery.

## Road Hazards in Botha's Hill

Taxis and heavy vehicles parked on all the verges at the exit from 1000 Hills SPAR constitute a hazard for motorists exiting from the shop, especially those turning towards Yezimbali. Residents also complain of taxis parked across Dunrobin Lane, and at the exit from the Post Office, while they service passengers.

A heavy vehicle with its engine missing has been discarded in Ridge Road. Gerhard Terblanche of BHRA has undertaken to collect identifying details of the vehicle so that all these road problems can be reported to the metro police.

## Manhole

The manhole in Kearsney College Road as still not been covered yet however it has been reported. Photos have been sent to Lilian of Connomira who has forwarded those on to the relevant department. Resident Ryan Altenburger has placed a thick pole inside it in the interim to make sure no one accidentally steps into it while walking their dogs.





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Newsletter compiled by D. Altenburger, edited by C. Friedman and P. Davies. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the committee

**2010-2011 Committee**

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