

Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Simon's Town Civic Association
Liaison Portfolio
February 2014

During 2013 the STCA was proactive in working constructively with other civic organisations. Issues affecting residents of Simon's Town and Glencairn are being addressed by a variety of Simon's Town and other civic organisations and it is important to work together on these and not to duplicate what others are doing.

Simon's Town Business Association (SBA)

This meets monthly, and there is a representative from the STCA on the SBA Exco and one from the STCA on the SBA to ensure a flow of information. SBA issues have focused on vagrants and security in the Town, parking, and promoting our area as a visitor destination. The monthly Just Nuisance Market, a joint initiative of the STCA and SBA, continues to be an enjoyable community occasion.

Far South Peninsula Community Forum (FSPCF)

The FSPCF comprises some 13 civic organisations south of Kalk Bay, Chapmans Peak and Ou Kaapse Weg and addresses issues facing the entire area. The STCA has been an active member since its formation. Among the key focus areas in 2013 have been traffic congestion in the Far South, and health, service delivery and safety issues, especially those originating in the informal settlement in Masiphumelele which have the potential to affect the whole area. A key FSPCF focus is on planning, the economy and the environment with much work being done to ensure that inappropriate planning and development does not negatively impact on our unique environment and valuable recreation and tourism assets.

Baboon Liaison Group

Whilst continuing to work directly with the service provider, Human Wildlife Solutions (HWS), around the ongoing human/baboon problem in the da Gama and Welcome Glen areas, the STCA is also participates in the Baboon Liaison Group, the civic organisation that interacts with the 3 authorities responsible for managing baboons on the Peninsula (City of Cape Town, Table Mountain National Park, Cape Nature). Whilst there have been many improvements since HWS took over, the major problems in our area result from poor waste management in Navy and City managed areas.

Greater Cape Town Civic Alliance (GCTCA)

The STCA is a member of the GCTCA, an alliance of civic organisations across the Metro, but we are not that active in it. Where appropriate we support their initiatives.

Community Police Forum and STADCO

There are representatives of both of these important organisations on the STCA Exco, and a good working relationship has developed among them. During the year, as required, joint meetings of key people from the STCA, SBA, CPF, and STADCO are convened to coordinate activities on issues of common concern such as illegal parking, vagrants, derelict buildings, and effective law enforcement.

Conclusion

After 10 years serving on the STCA Exco in various capacities it is time to hand over to others. During this time I have worked with many dedicated people in many of our organisations and I believe that liaison among the organisations essential for success. As a parting shot, I urge our civic organisations and residents to jointly explore the concept of establishing a City/Residential Improvement District as a viable way forward for Civic Liaison.

Lesley Shackleton