

COWRA

CENTRAL OUTER WEST RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER November 2011

Greetings all!

This is the last newsletter of 2011 and the next one will appear in February 2012. We send you "early" Festive Season's Greetings and hope that 2012 will be a great year for you all.

URGENT! URGENT! SHONGWENI FARMERS MARKET OR A SHOPPING MALL AND OFFICES?

Information is beginning to emerge suggesting that there are rezonings being applied for which could result in the Shongweni farmer's market site becoming a 29,000 square metre shopping mall (about the same size as the original Pavilion Shopping Centre) and 6000 square metres of linked office space.

The glut of empty office space and the flood of shopping malls are placing pressure upon the vital green space in the Outer West area. Furthermore, the traffic pressure that these developments would place on Kassier Road would be totally unacceptable.

The tiny rezoning notice was, as usual, buried in the legal notices in the newspapers and **objections have to be submitted by 14th November 2011!**

Is this what is wanted in the Outer West? COWRA feels that there should be a public meeting to discuss these plans and the deadline for objections extended. **Make your views known by emailing COWRA Chairman, Alan Smaldon (asmaldon@chillibyte.com) and Ward Councillor, Rick Crouch (councillor@ward10.co.za) or enter your comments on the special section headed Breaking News of the COWRA website at www.cowra.co.za**

COWRA AGM – KEY POINTS

The COWRA AGM was held at the Gillitts Hall on the 22nd August, with

Ward 10 Councillor as the guest speaker.. For those who were unable to attend, here are some key points that arose.

Chairman's Report

COWRA Chairman, Alan Smaldon, reported that membership fees would have to go up to R60 per family per year. He raised a concern over the possibility of Durban bidding for the 2020 Olympics, saying that the costs to the ratepayer would be excessive and the benefits, limited. He lauded the proposal for a high speed rail project between Durban and Johannesburg by 2019, saying that anything that removed heavy vehicles from the N3 and M13 would contribute to improved safety and reduced road maintenance costs.

Fixing Faults

The Chairman's successes in getting Outer West roads, pavements and other infrastructure repaired were highlighted and he indicated he would continue to push for the authorities to "do their job".

New Committee

The committee for 2011/2012 will be:- Vicky Sithram, Peter Grobler, Malcolm Chadbourne, Birgit Kaiser, Alan Smaldon, Terri Fritchley and Billy Archery.

Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker, Rick Crouch, gave an overview of his policies for Ward 10 and reported on a range of news in the Ward. He explained the concept of a Special Rating Area and reported the successes achieved in the Maytime area, which is registered as an SRA.

Reporting Problems

He highlighted the importance of reporting problems to the municipality

(eservices@dmws.durban.gov.za) and copying the report to him

(councillor@ward10.co.za) for follow through.

Railway Line

He said that the railway line from Stokers to Wyebank continued to be a problem and despite promises from Transnet, little has happened.

Gillitts Station

The Gillitts station is once again going out to tender after the brick company was given notice to leave for being in breach of their lease. There is hope that Gillitts Community Forum may still get a chance to get the site for use as a security hub.

White Stones

It was reported that the practice of placing white stones on verges is illegal. Pavements are not private property and if any car damage ensues from rocks on pavements, the adjoining homeowner could be held responsible.

Payers of Rates

Councillor Crouch reported on his "war of words" with City manager, Mike Sutcliffe. He said that he maintained that only 9-12% of eThekweni residents pay rates whereas Dr Sutcliffe maintains the figure is 97%.

RE-EVALUATION OF PROPERTIES

Re-evaluation of properties will come into effect from 1 July next year but there is no evidence, as yet, of a new evaluation process. Once more news of this process is available, it will be reported in this newsletter.

CABLE THEFT

A number of recent power outages in the Outer West have been attributed to cable theft. This brazen theft has been partly undertaken by groups of men in overalls with bakkies and ladders who have been cutting down overhead cables.

Should you spot this occurring and the vehicles do not appear to be municipal vehicles or teams, report this urgently to the municipal toll-free number, **080 131 3111**, or the police emergency numbers (**SAPS – 10111**, or **Metro police 031 361-0000**)

GUIDE TO POTHoles AND THEIR REPAIR

The CSIR has published a technical and non-technical guide to potholes, their cause and their repair. The non-technical guide explains the basics and also includes the website address where the technical guide can be downloaded. Get the non-technical guide at http://www.csir.co.za/pothole_guides/docs/Pothole_CSIR_non-tech_brochure.pdf

IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL PHONE NUMBERS

If you have a specific need to contact someone at the Municipality (e.g. removal of dead animals, reporting fraud or maladministration, illegal dumping, flies and rat problems, etc.)

Rick Crouch keeps an updated list of these specific phone numbers on his website at: <http://www.ward10.co.za/municipal-contacts.asp>

ELECTRICITY SAVING TIPS

The cost of power and energy is beginning to bite again and this is not made any easier by the increase in the price of petrol and diesel this month.

There are always ways of shaving a few extra kWhs from your electricity bill. Take a look at this list of tips and see if you can't save just a little more! Go to: <http://www.electricsavingtips.co.za/general-tips.htm>

COP-17 – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

From 28th November until the 9th December this year, Durban will become the focus of discussions on global actions to alleviate climate change. Some 20,000 delegates plus hanger-on, NGOs and other folk will descend on the city. It is unlikely to

have much direct impact upon the Outer West but we are likely to notice a few more things going on....

The municipality has established a simple, explanatory web page explaining what COP 17 is and where to get more information. Go to: <http://www.durban.gov.za/durban/government/city-government-news/what-you-need-to-know-about-cop-17-cmp-7>

SUPPORT AND JOIN COWRA !!!!

If you are a **ratepayer or a resident** in the **Kloof, Gillitts, St. Helier, Everton, Forest Hills, Stockville and Winston Park area**, join COWRA by filling in the form below, and return it to us, along with your Proof of Payment for the annual fee of R60. **All registered, paid-up, members with email receive regular electronic news, updates, crime statistics, and alerts from COWRA Chairman, Alan Smaldon.**

If you'd like to be involved with the committee, or attend a committee meeting, please feel free to contact us for the next monthly meeting details.

REPORT SERVICE PROBLEMS TO:

* **Electricity** - CustoCare@elec.durban.gov.za Tel:- 080 131 3111 * **Potholes** – eservices@dmws.durban.gov.za Tel:- 080 131 3013

* **Water** - eservices@dmws.durban.gov.za Tel:- 080 131 3013 * **Verges** - singhsuresh@durban.gov.za Tel:- 031 767 3908

Note

080- numbers are only toll-free if dialled from landlines. Cell phone calls are charged at standard cell phone rates.

COWRA CONTACT DETAILS :

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GILLITTS

3603

Bank Details :

Nedbank Kloof

Savings Account

Acc No.: 256 201 8680

Branch Code : 15 93 26

<u>Application for COWRA Membership – R60/year/household</u>	
First Name(s) :	
Surname :	
Street Address:	
Postal Address (if different from above)	
Email :	
Tel :	
Cell :	
Deposit Reference :	