

MINUTES OF THE SECURITY MEETING OF HMNA AND SAINTS HELD AT THE DACE HALL, ST STITHIANS SCHOOL AT 6PM ON 1 FEBRUARY 2023

**PRESENTERS: GEORGE GABRIEL (Chairman of HMNA committee)
THANDO BILI (Operations Director for St Stithians)**

PRESENT: about 100 residents; Lisa Glanz; Howard Rauff; Helene Meyer; Tess Young; Yav Rampaul; Kelly Aronovich de Assis (Committee members)

KEY: HM – Hurlingham Manor; SS – St Stithians; SO – Special Ops

- Feedback on crime spree in HM since mid last year.
- Change to guarding. Requested feedback during 2 weeks after AGM
- Couldn't go into details re change of guarding because SO were present at AGM
- HMNA had been unhappy with SO for about a year before AGM
- Typical example of over promise and under performance.
- It was due to a serious incident that occurred in Goedehoop that became the tipping point.
- Guards need guidance and should keep to SOPS (standard operating procedures) . This is not a requirement of HMNA but the management of the guarding company.

November to December of 2022 saw crime move from boundaries and into the suburbs:

- January – August 2021: 5 break ins, one with home invasion and serious injuries and 1 follow home with driveway robbery
- 22 July 2022: Chablis break-in with robbery of electronics, as well as 3 properties in Riesling breached with nothing reported stolen
- 1 November 2022: 3 properties in Sinsaunt
- 9 November 2022: Chablis again
- 16 November 2022: 3 properties in Sinsaunt
- 7 December 2022: 1 property, Cabernet Crescent

- January 2023: tampering of electrical boxes in Nederburg and Sinsaunt. 1 break-in in Sinsaunt whilst residents were away
- Crime is on the rise in suburbs surrounding us: Willowwild; Bordeaux north and south; Saints Manor and Parkmore
- We are hoping for better guarding performance. George is in constant communication with FADT management. FADT was only appointed in December 2022.
- There was a wall-hopper in Bordeaux South and now we see a similar modus operandi. The wall-hopper only wants specific items eg electronics. He can wait on a property for several hours. We don't live in a bubble. In the first week of January there were 3 murders in Bryanston.
- Crime occurs at weak points in and around suburbs.
- Aerial map: servitude has been purchased by Saints. The Eskom servitudes are not maintained by Eskom – HMNA do this.
- Found weak point on Eskom/Alto servitude as well as at Innovation Property and by bird sanctuary under William Nicol storm water drains.
- Has been suggested that there's a criminal living in the suburb. This is unconfirmed.
- HMNA has raised and strengthened with barbed wire at the Eskom/Alto servitude. SS at the same time have strengthened their side.
- Since August/September SS are patrolling (dog and foot patrols) the boundary.
- Hole cut through Waggon Park. ClearVu fence and garage doors were seen being carried away! This was being done by 'garbage collectors'. This is why we don't like these guys. HMNA patched the fence at a cost of R35 000 and cleared the park at a cost of R20 000
- SS put up fencing at storm water drains under William Nicol. Recyclers/squatters live on the other side of William Nicol
- Jaguar is assisting SS to clear and clean up the area (bird sanctuary) A remarkable difference.
- These interventions are finance dependent.
- Now a garden service at R25 000 per month. Couldn't keep gardeners because their paperwork/permits were not up to date

- **INNOVATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED (SLIDE):**
 - Clearing of common boundary with Saints of all shrubs and overgrowth
 - Installation of smart cameras along common boundary with Saints.
 - Each property owner/resident to secure their individual property (rings of defence)
 - The installation of motion detectors/flood lights to properties on the boundary with St Stithians where possible
 - Empty stands to be cleared of undergrowth on a regular basis
 - To assist efforts currently underway regarding the illegal land occupation on our doorstep.
- Jaguar installed cameras after a break in costing R55 000
- A functional electric fence, beams, passives and alarm systems all work to deter criminals. Residents need to be more savvy in their security.
- Boundary residents are asked to volunteer electricity connection to allow HMNA to install flood lights. Cameras would be better but are too costly for HMNA
- Any overgrowth on empty stands should be reported to HMNA
- Illegal land occupation is a lengthy process to evict squatters
- Residents are encouraged to contribute to HMNA. HMNA are negotiable on rates if you cannot afford full subs.
- Photos of squatters on the west bank of the Braamfontein spruit (they were at the George Lea Park before eviction)
- George actually started a petition to clear the squatters with another Parkmore resident.
- 55% of HMNA expenditure goes to security
- We aim to raise membership by up to 70%
- Cllr David Potter (AGM) said that residents in HM live in a piece of paradise.
- **THANDO'S PRESENTATION:**
 - There is a relationship between SS and HM (especially as some HM residents have children at SS)
 - SS believe we are not tackling crime as a collective force.
 - There's also in-fighting between security companies and this is counter productive for those they're meant to be protecting.

- **OPS DEPARTMENT SERVICES (SLIDE):**

- Campus security
- Repairs and maintenance
- Audio visual maintenance and setup
- Events and furniture maintenance and set up
- Occupational health and safety (policy and implementation)
- Project Management
- Grounds and fields maintenance
- Cleaning and hygiene
- Medical and paramedics
- Implementations of campus rules
- Waste management and recycling
- Bus bookings and deliveries (College deliveries)
- Access control and access cards management

- Speeding parents especially after leaving SS and going in HM

- **OPS STRUCTURE/ORGANOGRAM (SLIDE)**

- Audio visual
- Events
- Secretary
- Repairs and maintenance
- Admin and accounts
- Receptionist
- Health and safety
- Nurse

- **COLLEGE SECURITY DELIVERABLES (SLIDE)**

- The college has a 24/7 security task team, delivered by Fidelity Security services
- The college has a control room with On-site and Off-site monitoring
- The college has 450 cameras installed and monitored through the control room and off-site

- There are alarm systems installed in various areas and in some of the houses.
- The college has contracted armed response and access to helicopter response from Fidelity Security Services.
- There is a contracts and management team from the service provider onsite 24/7
- Armed response FADT is shared with multiple suburbs around SS
- **PROGRESS ACHIEVED (SLIDE)**
 - The college appointed security experts as advisors to the Operations department
 - A risk and baseline assessment has been done, in 2021
 - There have been upgrading projects emanating from the risk and baseline assessment i.e backup power at the gates, installation of new cameras etc
 - A technology roadmap and security blueprint has been developed from the risk and baseline assessment
 - In 2022, there were perimeter operational implementations done i.e closure of the bird sanctuary, tree felling at the bird sanctuary, and deployment of a K9 unit patrol on the perimeter.
- Tender process was carefully followed before FADT were appointed
- Weak points were identified
- Several projects have emanated from the weak point assessment
- A 5 year advancement plan has been defined
- The October/November 2022 break-in spree was also identified by SS. Clearly both sides are equally vulnerable.
- **SECURITY CHALLENGES:**
 - Lack of CCTV coverage
 - Too overgrown
 - Cycle trail is very dark and this is where people hide
 - Sludge, forming under the installed fence was allowing access, emanating near Engen garage was also creating crime opportunities. Gate here is also continuously left open
 - Residents on boundary must not leave their wall gates unlocked as this provides access to both SS and HM

- No mans land (at the Innovation Building) of about 30m (owned by the city). Criminals come through there. This is being addressed.
- The city is not assisting us. We need to do everything ourselves – security, maintenance etc
- We must not be vulnerable due to the flow of traffic, pedestrian traffic between both SS and HM
- Dewetshof resident – several breakings over years with poor response from Special Ops. Access seems to be gained from Republic road too as that's where her crimes come from.
- The vacant stand nearby is where access can be gained. HM will assist to clear overgrown vegetation.

RESIDENTS COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- One resident got up and expressed his thanks to HMNA and SS for the evenings presentation
- Why not solar for proposed boundary flood lights. Batteries were recommended by camera installers, HMNA will take advice from suppliers. Also concerned that batteries are targeted.
- Graham – HM resident and SS parents: 4 years ago a similar meeting was held with Rene Swart. At the time the school was considered the place where the crime started. This seems to be a continuing problem. This is a concern for all parents. The school is the weak link. He's prepared to provide electricity for the flood lights. He made big security upgrades to his boundary. Thando responded. Acknowledgement but added that great improvements to reduce foot traffic at SS over the past months.
- 32 houses with gates onto campus. 27 were found to be unlocked.
- Building rubble dumping is an ongoing issue
- SS are doing all they can to ensure student safety. Criminals mask themselves as family members especially at sporting events.
- Rene suggested a long fence along the HM/SS boundary to secure SS but this was rejected as a very severe measure but if SS eventually believe this is the solution, they will erect this fence.
- New problem in the alcove at end of Woodlands and Twee Jongegezellen. Both these have pedestrian gates. JRA have specified that we have these gates. We must allow wheelchair access. They're locked

from 10pm to 6am the following morning. Open later on Wednesday to deter refuse collectors but these gates get vandalised regularly.

- Sinsaunt resident: will the same meeting be held with Saints Manor residents? Yes. George met with Brett. They are considering making a single contact number to the SS control room.
- 8 crimes in past 6 months. Mostly coming from the Innovation building.
- Thando comment on Uber/Bolt etc: late 2021 they were found to be roaming around the campus – now access and exit are limited to 1 gate. As they enter they get a number stuck to the vehicle, so that it can be monitored. Frequently Uber were using SS as a waiting area or even to peddle drugs!!! New habit – they park at HM gate and will be chased from tomorrow (2 February) BUT there's always a big push back from SS parents because they rely on these services.
- Andre – Nederburg Crescent: electricity boxes are mostly outside the boundary. Criminals simply turned off the power at the box and wait for the alarm batteries to run flat. Most systems send an SMS warning that power batteries are running low. This is a great help because help can be dispatched. We have to think smarter than the criminals.
- Eric – Audocia Place: House overlooks the park. He notices that youngsters (ie teens) hang out in the park drinking, doing drugs and playing loud music. These have been monitored over the years and Greg found that they are residents. Best response is to call FADT/SO to clear them out or call the SAPS
- 55% contributors – what role can the residents play to assist top get the membership up? We think membership dropped after the guarding change and hope that this decision has been fully explained tonight. Otherwise spread the word to other residents saying HMNA is active and doing so much for HM.
- Another resident has a special app that helps her to know exactly whats happening in her house. Highly recommended – with electric fence.
- Breyton – Nederburg Crescent: parents make leaving his driveway so difficult in the mornings. What is the procedure at SS gates when pedestrians enter SS. New pedestrian gate installed to check visitors. A card system. Visitor management.
- Gates are closed during holidays and this always creates a big push back.
- Inconsistencies in guard checks will be ironed out.
- The card system is not yet fully functional but it is being tested.

- Non-parents will get visitor lanyard tags that provide temporary access.
- In previous years SS had a fairly open campus policy. Due to crime, this has been tightened. Respect the schools property as we should equally respect our HM parks and pavements.
- Issues raised before meeting:
 - Security
 - Speeding on Nederburg and Goedehoop. Speed humps have to be JRA approved.
 - JRA specifies booms must be up during peak hours. Crucial to comply otherwise we may lose our JRA road closure permit.
- Guy on boundary: facial recognition is strongly recommended.
- Offers electricity for flood lights.
- False alarms drain valuable security resources.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Residents were invited for drinks and snacks afterwards.

Jill Sumption

Secretary

(Thanks to Lisa Glanz for taking the minutes at the meeting)