



# Kleinmond Street Watch

## Annual Report 2019

Compiled by Gustav Erlank

22 May 2019

**We are grateful to be able to report that all is well with Kleinmond Street Watch. We attribute this to the widespread support of the residents of our town and the truly selfless endeavours by a small group of volunteers, the members of the Kleinmond Night Watch, our operational arm, who are active in its efforts to contain crime and keep Kleinmond safe.**

We would also like to stress the excellent cooperation between our members, the local SAPS, security companies, the Law Enforcement and Traffic Departments of the Overstrand Municipality, the Community Policing Forum, the Kleinmond Ratepayers' Association, the *Overstrand Herald* and other role-players. Because of everyone's cooperation and mutual trust we could focus on our task and prove that we are a force to be reckoned with.

### 1. Organisation of KSW

Kleinmond is divided into 10 wards. The Management Committee of KSW held monthly meetings and reported to members once every two weeks whenever possible. Representatives of the Proteadorp Indigenous Committee (PIC) have indicated that they wish to initiate a neighbourhood watch in that part of the town. KSW offered assistance and will include them in KSW's management until they have more clarity on the way forward.

Residents and property owners are urged to register as members of KSW (this can be done online at KSW's website) and display the KSW notice at their properties. Membership numbers for the past three years are as follows:

- February 2016      1174
- February 2017      1257
- February 2018      1303
- February 2019      1300

### 2. KSW's operational arm, Kleinmond Night Watch

Membership of KSW does not mean automatic membership of KNW. A KSW member has to join KNW voluntarily. They need to accept a prescribed code of conduct, sign an indemnity form, and receive police clearance. KNW members use their own vehicles to participate in the organised patrolling of Kleinmond streets. There are of course costs to patrol work and that is why KSW regularly asks its members and local businesses to participate in the patrols and/or support them financially. KSW membership is not affected, however, if a member does not participate in the patrols.

The number of people willing or able to do patrol work is decreasing:

- 2014/2015 275
- 2015/2016 255
- 2016/2017 200
- 2017/2018 154
- 2018/2019 92

In April 2019 only 72 patrol volunteers were available because a number of volunteers were not well or were out of town.

- The substantial decrease in the number of active patrol volunteers places an ever increasing burden on the other members. We owe many thanks to those members who are willing to help make Kleinmond a safer place for all.
- **We appeal to all our members to participate in the patrols. Please talk to your neighbours and friends and get them involved, too.**
- I experienced first-hand the willingness of our patrol volunteers during the fire disaster in Betty's Bay. Members offered their assistance to evacuate people from Betty's Bay and helped in other ways, too. They also did patrols for two nights in Betty's Bay to help safeguard the area. Thank you for this.
- The Management Committee bought new radios and flash lights for the shifts. They work well and are a big improvement.
- The Management Committee organized a successful training event for patrol volunteers on 27 March 2019.
- Special operations were done in cooperation with SAPS and a number of patrol volunteers helped to safeguard the streets around Mthimkhulu during the annual CANSA relay.

The numbers of our donors also show a decreasing trend:

- 2014/2015 414
- 2015/2016 412
- 2016/2017 312
- 2017/2018 297
- 2018/2019 157

Members are requested once a year to support KSW financially.

### **3. Weekly meeting with the police (JOCOM)**

The KSW secretary attends the weekly JOCOM meeting with the police. Here the various role-players concerned with crime containment are informed about crime-related matters in so far as the police are allowed to make them known and they are given the opportunity to give feedback. These meetings allow KSW to give out information, warnings and tips regarding crime to its members via e-mail, social media and the local newspaper. **KSW mostly communicate to its members via e-mail, and we therefore ask members who do not receive its bi-weekly letter to members to contact KSW and provide their e-mail addresses.**

A member of the Management Committee represents KSW on the Kleinmond/Hangklip Safety and Security Forum. The forum meets from time to time with the OM Department of Law Enforcement to discuss matters such as operational plans for holidays when thousands of people visit the area and this department is put under huge pressure. These meetings form an additional base for cooperation between the various role-players.

#### **4. Community Police Forum**

KSW is represented on the CPF by its chairperson, Gustave Erlank. Committee member Johan Carstens takes his place when necessary.

#### **5. Contingency plan**

During the riots in Kleinmond and the fire disaster in Betty's Bay the lack of a proper contingency plan for Kleinmond, Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els became apparent. We decided to develop our own plan and appointed a committee under the leadership of Gustav Erlank to do so. The street/neighbourhood watches of all the towns mentioned above were involved and the plan was duly developed. We are waiting for the last input from neighbouring towns and are in the process of ensuring that the plan is consistent with the OM Disaster Management Plan as described in the latest review of the OM IDP. After that the first practical test and exercise can be done to ensure every member knows what is expected from him/her.

#### **6. Special Rating Area – SRA steering committee**

The Steering Committee of the proposed Kleinmond Special Rating Area that investigates the possible establishment of an SRA for Kleinmond worked throughout the year on this urgent matter. It remains an uphill effort to comply with all the requirements and address all OM's reserves with the process.

The Steering Committee met with OM officials in Onrus River in the middle of February 2019. There the OM Financial Director, Ms Santie Reyneke-Naudé; the Senior Manager: Legal Services, Mr Lionel Wallace; and the Director of Protection Services, Mr Neville Michaels, told us that the situation regarding Special Rating Areas that aim to improve the safety of public spaces by providing additional services had changed after the publication of Government Notice 1114 in the Government Gazette 41982 of 19 October 2018.

This means that the concerns of the different OM directorates about the steering committee's business plan for the proposed Kleinmond SRA have fallen away. The steering committee can therefore resume the process. The first task will be to adjust the business plan that was developed a year ago so that it is in line with the municipality's latest review of their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and also incorporates the new developments.

The draft IDP was published on 27 March 2019. The KSRA Steering Committee received it and made the necessary adjustments to their business plan and presented it to the OM Financial Director on 11 April 2019 and asked for comments. To date no comments have been received, only a promise that feedback will be given by the middle of next week. The Steering Committee remains positive that the process is still on track. Ms Reyneke-Naudé has to give her consent to the business plan before it can be made known at public meetings and on the official KSRA website.

In a nutshell the steering committee plans to provide a proper camera system to monitor public areas in Kleinmond, thereby visibly helping with crime prevention and ensuring effective reporting to Law Enforcement and the SAPS. A control room will be established and the services of a patrol service contracted.

All of this is of course only possible if more than 60% of Kleinmond property owners give their consent. The process of obtaining consent will start directly after the public meetings.

#### **7. Information about cameras**

The OM Directorate of Community Safety have budgeted R100 000 in the draft revised IDP to install security cameras in Kleinmond. We are waiting for more information regarding where and when the cameras will be placed. The proposed Special Rating Area cameras will be additional to the OM cameras and will cover public areas in the rest of the town, should they be approved.

## **8. Thank you for exceptional service to the community**

In the meantime KSW continues with its normal activities, depending heavily on volunteers' participation, support and donations. The crime statistics for Kleinmond was unacceptable high in the last quarter of 2018 until the end of February 2019, but then decreased considerably. For the past few weeks crime rates were at their lowest level in a very long time. Unfortunately crime increased again last week. However, people are more aware and more willing to accept responsibility for their own safety, and often supply information that leads to arrests. We thank you all for this, and ask that we continue as we have started.

The regular patrol volunteers and the Management Committee often receive recognition for their selfless service to the community. Thank you also from our side. We also want to thank the residents and business owners who donate to KSW. Without this support we would not be able to continue the patrols.