

Gillitts Park News – April 2012

Dear Gillitts Parkers

Please excuse the lack of a March newsletter, I have been totally swamped in personal stuff so have had to focus there sorry to say.

Firstly I trust everyone had a blessed and peaceful Easter with their family and loved ones – always a special time of the year isn't it. The weather has now turned crispy and I love the autumn feel with mild days and snuggle under the duvet nights!

Unfortunately this cooler weather has brought an increase in crime with it and I urge all of you to please be extra vigilant with your and your family safety and security. We need to report **anything** suspicious through to SACAN who can then send the information to the security companies and Police. If they are not informed quickly then they cannot warn us all to keep our eyes open and stay safe – this is the core to how we reduced crime so radically initially and we need to wake up again – the lack of crime in our area has made us complacent.

**Of urgent concern for all of us** are the suspicious characters that are cruising around our area in broad daylight. We need to all consider ourselves as intelligent CCTV cameras to beat this scourge. Since the beginning of April we have had three incidents: The worker at Iphithi was held up by 3 armed men who took the Iphithi brush cutter. The hero of the day, Stephen Gardiner, chased the guys and at least got the number plate before he beat a sensible retreat and they got away!! This vehicle had been involved in an attempted theft in Kloof just a little while before. Yesterday, 3 suspects in a white corolla mugged a woman running in Edward Drive and took her cell phone and in the afternoon they took brush cutters from the verge in Egret. Watch out for these guys please!

House Break in's: We have experienced an attempted break in and 4 break in's for the March to date period (6 weeks)– affected streets were Noelle, Dovehouse, World's View, Norton and Valerie – all of these during the day. House robbery: We had 1 - Our thoughts are with the family in Russell Ridge who were held up at night a couple of weeks ago, such an awful experience. Thank you to the Security Company and Care line crisis centre who were on the scene very quickly, and also thanks to the SAP who have commented that their investigations are progressing quite well– hopefully they can catch these guys and lock them up!! A car was stolen in Ashley drive over night at the end of March as well.

#### **Ashley Drive Dam:**

This has been leaking and there have been concerns about the wall failing – a problem for Ashley Drive itself and houses along that stream. And due to efforts from fellow residents, Brian Collings and Martin Gardiner, they have inspired Ethekewini to fix it. Thank you to both of you! Still with Ashley Dam – a big thank you to Les Uppink who has cleared the dam of alien weed. To those people who are bored with their fish tanks PLEASE don't toss the contents in the dam as the weed just takes over!! The great state of the park around Ashley dam is totally due to our efforts to push Parks and Gardens into line and constant monitoring on the part of various "champions" of this area, Mark Pardey being the chief of these, thank you Mark!

#### **Railway stroll from Ashley Drive to Gillitts Railway Station: 21<sup>st</sup> March**

This went off very well, with some 30 residents walking with SAPS. There was a good showing of the Transnet Railway Police and the head of security for Freight Rail was there as well. Hopefully what

they saw has given Transnet a sense of urgency regarding the sad state of the area – so bushy an army could successfully hide literally 5 metres from the line!! Thank you to all who arrived, to Col Joseph and his team, and to Blue, Securelink, Mvula and Enforce who either walked the line, or patrolled behind the scenes just in case we flushed some skelms out into the streets! Oh yes, I hope you all receive the Hillcrest Fever as there was a great article on this event!

On this subject, I met up with the Metro Fire representative at a meeting last night and he has undertaken to act on the existing order for Transnet to clear this bush – as it now starts to become a fire hazard as the grass dries out.

### **Unsung heroes:**

There are always people who just get on with it and make the place they live in better, here are a couple of people you need to know about -

- Thank you to Rene Ford who quietly and efficiently arranges to have the bush cleared in the glade at the dip in Sheila Place. Rene you are a star to take this little space on and be the champion here!
- Thank you to Brian Collinge who has worked tirelessly on several fronts – the water leak under the M13, the Ashley Drive dam, the messy verges in Weaver Avenue, and keeping an eye on the delinquent home owner who is intent on destroying the forest, polluting the stream and developing land in Sandra Place!
- Thank you to Alistair Maynard, a resident of the Upper Highway, who has worked so hard to create a home for a K9 unit (with 8 dogs currently resident) at Shongweni, specifically for the Pinetown police “cluster”. This is controlled by SAPS but funded out of donations to Alistair from likeminded concerned members of the public. There is room for 8 more dogs and now he is working with SAP to finally get a horse unit resident there as well. Please support his efforts if you can. He needs to boost the income for this project by about R 4 000 a month. Here are his banking details:

Friends of the Force  
Account Name I.A.Maynard  
Account Number 058093338  
Branch 045726  
Standard Bank Hillcrest

### **Dates to diarise:**

#### **Iphithi Sundowners Stroll – This Friday, 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Time: 4:30 for 5:00 pm - 'til dark**

**Cost: R20 each, kids free (Kids to please bring own drinks)**

Iphithi committee will supply 2 glasses of wine. Please bring a small plate of finger snacks to share. Wine and snacks will be placed at a couple of viewing sites along the pathway through the Reserve, finishing under the fig tree at the dam. For those keen to stay for a braai afterwards, braai packs will be available to buy and fires, putu and tomato relish will be provided. Please bring along extra drinks for the braai.

**The Kloof Open Gardens – 21 and 22 April – watch the press for details.**

**Hillcrest CPF AGM:** 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm at the Hillcrest Library hall. Please make an effort to attend this. The purpose of the CPF is to act as our official liaison with the SAPS and it is very poorly represented by the public. I have heard that the committee is looking for new volunteers so if you have any urge to assist your community, here is your chance.

That is it – too long as usual sorry!! Enjoy the coming weekend and stay safe.

Jill