



NEWSLETTER

March 2021



Chair's Note

I've just re-read Yuval Noah Harari's book *Sapiens (Wise Ape)* and am struck that he asserts our human dominance over all species is because of our ability to cooperate flexibly and at scale. However, our ability to cooperate efficiently amongst ourselves, as against other species, remains hugely flawed.

Seriously, we need better lines of communication between civic society and the navy to get dustbin lids tied down securely. The Simon's Town social media 'green group' has been 'blue in the face' this past month trying to prevent baboon foraging raids of the 'wet waste' in the Navy's West Yard canteen area. Getting the problem recognised and managed has been akin to cracking a secret code.

Simon's Town has a beautiful location, a unique naval history, and once enjoyed a diverse multi-cultural background. Today, we are a town divided by a wall along the High Street with separate civic and naval cultures. The civic side has a fraction of the seafront compared to the navy - confined to the space from the pier to the yacht club. Meanwhile, the Navy sits on a property goldmine, alongside its constrained operating running costs. Surely, a public, private, community approach might unlock better value all round.

The Just Nuisance's birthday celebration at Jubilee Square on 3rd April was a cooperative success for the business and social community. The 'Able Seaman' was loved and recognised by the Royal Navy and is cherished by the present civic community as a town mascot.

Simon's Town residents are invited to witness a memorial to our monumental political failure to cooperate in the past, when we tore up our diverse social fabric and forced our non-white residents out of town. On Saturday 10th April, also at Jubilee Square, we may humbly accept a gift of several beautiful benches in memory of our past mistakes. The unveiling of the 'Wag 'n Bietjie' memorial benches will not be as innocent and fun an activity as celebrating the Nuisance story was, however, for us 'Wise Apes' to progress it may pay to remember, reflect, recognise, and atone for our past mistakes. That is what all the great religions tell us to do.

I hope my message is not too preaching. Thank you for your tolerance.

Simon Metcalfe
STCA Chairman
simonmet3@gmail.com

Our AGM

Our AGM, which had been planned for 18 March on Zoom unfortunately failed to get a quorum. Thankfully, a second attempt a week later was successful, and the necessary constitutional issues were dealt with. This included the acceptance of the 2019/20 and the 2020/21 financial reports, and the re-appointment of Alan Roberts as the independent Honorary Accounting Officer. In addition, the STCA Executive Committee was re-appointed. The EXCO stayed online for a question and answer session with members after the formal AGM was adjourned.

The EXCO and their portfolios are as follows:

- **Simon Metcalfe** – Chair (Community Police Forum; Baboon Liaison; Gardens)
- **Michael Richards** – Vice Chair (Property, STADCO)
- **Tim Skea** – Treasurer
- **Esther Le Roux** – Secretary (Newsletter)
- **Leigh Houghton** – Social Media Communications and IT
- **Merle Evertse** – Membership (Far South Peninsular Community Forum – FSPCF)
- **Kathy Bolitho** – Sub-council
- **Cilla Bromley** – GEESE (Glencairn Education & Environmental Support Enthusiasts)

The core business of the STCA EXCO consists of representing and promoting the interests of Simon's Town and Glencairn residents. It does this mainly by interacting with the City of Cape Town Municipality, both its political and administrative branches.

The key political doorway for the STCA is the Ward 61 Councillor Simon Liell-Cock who routinely attends our monthly EXCO meetings and responds to our calls and requests. Kathy Bolitho engages with the Ward Committee and the Sub-Council meetings that bring the 3 wards of the 'Far South' together – from Muizenberg to Scarborough. Merle Everste meets with the Resident Associations from the 'Far South' wards at FSPCF meetings. They establish and promote shared interests and concerns to be brought up at the Sub-Council meetings.

Administratively, each portfolio holder engages with the departments that manage the services we need – waste management, water, property, beaches, baboons, roads, open spaces (Parks & Recreation), street people, feeding, disasters etc. Many of these interactions involve the EXCO doing what any resident can and should do – make a service request and follow it up. Frequently, residents will contact us about a problem, an overhanging tree for example. We then report the matter, get a CoCT service request receipt and forward it to the Councillor, who then contacts the relevant department and motivates action. Failure to get a service thereafter can then be escalated up the bureaucratic 'ladder'.

In addition to representing resident's issues to the City, the STCA also does its best to facilitate good relations with other agencies like the Navy, SANParks, and PRASA. Frequently, we coordinate with the Simon's Town Business Association (STBA) and the Community Police Forum (CPF) to improve management of shared challenges like community safety, hunger, homelessness, and the general maintenance of infrastructure and service provision.

Not holding our 'live' general meetings since March 2019 did the STCA no favours in terms of membership. Hosting good speakers followed by drinks and snacks has always had a membership

recruitment and income benefit for us. Our membership (174) is down on previous years, a fact we are not happy about as apart from lost fees it reduces the strength of our voice. Although we represent all residents' interests, we do try and go the extra mile for our members and follow up their service requests and needs. A side benefit of not hosting general meetings is that our expenditure was reduced so our cash in hand actually rose a bit, to R78, 000.

We are set for the coming year. Please encourage other residents to join the STCA and put your hand up if you want something done or are willing to help get it done. Here's hoping that we will meet together at our next general meeting.

JUST NUISANCE BIRTHDAY



The anniversary of Able Seaman Just Nuisance's birth was commemorated on 03 April with a 'paw parade' from Long Beach to Jubilee Square, followed by a prize-giving, a word from Jean Doyle, the sculptor of the famous statue on Jubilee Square, and some great photo opportunities. The event, which attracted much needed feet into the town, was organised by the Simon's Town Business Association (STBA) and was supported by several members of the STCA EXCO who volunteered their assistance on the day. Local retailers and service providers also came to the party in the form of sponsorships and donations, both financial and of their time. The beneficiaries of the proceeds were TEARS and the SPCA.



Images courtesy of Dream Images (left) and Steph Mellor (right)

SERVICE PROVISION CHALLENGE



The photos above show the state of the parking area outside the cemetery next to the Harbour Bay Mall. If you agree that this eyesore should be fixed and re-vamped, then join me in an object lesson in requesting a service from the City. I have logged a service request and I want you all to add weight to my voice.

1. Search internet for **City of Cape Town service requests** - https://eservices1.capetown.gov.za/coct/wapl/zsreq_app/index.html
2. Tap button for **create a service request**
3. **Service required** – roads & storm water / maintenance required
4. **Enter** – repair road or footway
5. **Type in a motivation** e.g. embarrassing that a main tourist route and historic town should have such an eyesore and evidence of lax repair.
6. **Signify on the digital map** provided
7. **Upload the photos** above or take your own
8. **Submit**
9. **I received an SMS text** – CCT service request 9110445474 for Repair Road/Footway has been logged

Please, back me up on this motivation and our Councillor will leverage that to escalate the request. Do the same every time you see something that needs servicing e.g. potholes, poor waste management, dumping, illegal signage, tree threatening power lines etc.

GARDENS

Our last newsletter featured our gardens activity. So far, our appeal has raised some R14, 000 and we have spent nearly two-thirds of that amount already. Mount Pleasant / Admirals Kloof raised well over half of that amount. Apart from tidying up their own 'hood' they have funded the clean-up of the Long Beach and Toll Gate gardens, and Victoria Lane all the way past the Methodist Church.



Victoria Lane before (left) & after (right)



Leaf litter from the Old Burial Ground fringe

Other funds raised have engaged the mammoth task of cleaning up the fringe of the Old Burial Ground, from Forest Way to Runciman Drive. This has chewed funds as hundreds of bags of leaf and other litter needed raking out, bagging, and lifting to the dump. Several years of accumulated leaf litter has been tidied up. From now on, maintenance will be fairly light work.

Please continue to support this effort to make our town feel that it is loved. If you are keen to see the gardens of Simon's Town restored and maintained, please help us by donating funds towards the ongoing projects.

Your donation will be used to reinstate and maintain the pre-existing garden systems in the central and main road areas of Simon's Town. The funds raised will be "ring-fenced" solely for this purpose once your reference is clear that it is for the Simon's Town gardens. Whatever small contribution you can make to this STCA driven project will be most gratefully received. Let's keep our gardens beautiful and help restore the pride of being a Simonite!

Banking details for donations are:-

Standard Bank Fish Hoek (Branch code 036009)

Account Number 073815209

Their Ref: Surname/garden/suburb (e.g. Jones/garden/Central)

Your Ref: ST Gardens/cell number

U-TURN

The STCA recently met again with U-Turn to review the potential of their input into our local street people situation. I present a brief SWOT analysis to help raise awareness of the issues involved.

OUR STRENGTHS

We have several pieces in place

- Good feeding scheme (MFH)
- Happy Valley Shelter
- Orange Vest project in place with CPF/SAPS support
- Social Services support
- Willingness of STCA, STBA & CPF to support an engagement with U-Turn to implement plan

OUR WEAKNESSES

We are missing pieces & some are not well integrated

- No overall project leadership & coordination
- No drug/alcohol rehabilitation connection
- Lack of responsible giving plan (e.g. voucher system)
- No training/sheltered work/employment

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

- Generate community awareness/ support
- Fundraising – R25,000 per month for management
- Implement voucher system to pay for food, clothing, shelter costs etc.
- Possibility of a rotating fund established by philanthropic grant (e.g. R100,000)
- Ensure City social service & grant support

OUR THREATS

- Will leadership & commitment be forthcoming
- Will STCA find a volunteer to champion this issue
- Can the project be financed sustainably
- Will community/tourists/visitors support responsible giving approach
- How many street people will 'buy-in' to a rehabilitation approach, rather than reject it

Any member who has something to offer this potential project, please contact us.

BABOONS

The Waterfall Troop has been 'raiding', 'opportunistically foraging, the naval west yard and the high street for a month now. This has caused a lot of concern from the business community and anxiety over the situation amongst Simon's Town active 'green group'. Motorists just don't expect to see a troop on the road and the 'green group' has been guarding the road many mornings and evenings.

A loud voice was heard complaining about the navy's waste management failure to secure their 'wet waste' in the vicinity of the canteen. Several attempts have been made to communicate with the relevant navy parties, including by the STCA. The result seems to be an improvement but it must be sustained.

The Smitswinkel Troop has been making its presence strongly felt in Murdock Valley North and South. This is reflected in the rocketing reports to the NCC Hotline. It's unclear why this is happening now. Possibly because litter around Miller's Point is reduced or waste from the Black Marlin is less, or controlled. Whatever, it remains clear that the discussion over living with baboons can become messy and all parties need to really try and agree on a 'middle ground'.

The sensitivity of baboon issue is such that NCC could not provide us with a summary of our local situation, even though they have eyes on it every day. This is because the City is sensitive about baboon matters, having been 'roasted' in social media over before.



FROM THE DESK OF THE WARD COUNCILLOR

- SIMON LIELL-COCK

Glencairn Beach Parking Upgrade Project Begins

The City will begin the full upgrade and formalisation of the Glencairn Beach Parking area in early April. The site will be officially handed over to the appointed contractor and the project will see the gravel and informal parking area formalised and paved. This will include the demolition of the old and unsightly ablution block and the construction of a new ablution facility. The work is expected to take approximately six months to complete. During this time the public is advised that for safety reasons and to allow effective construction activities, the entire existing parking area will be closed to the public for the duration of the project or until such time as sections/areas are sufficiently completed and safe enough to open.

Arrangements for access to Glencairn Beach during construction are:

VEHICLE PARKING

1. Alternative parking exists at the formal parking area at the northern end of Glencairn (Fish Hoek end) beach (P1 in the diagram)
2. On-street parking along Main Road near the railway station and subway (P2 in the diagram)
3. Parking area at Glencairn Station (P3 in the diagram)

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

1. The footway on the seaside of Main Road will be kept open at all times.

BEACH ACCESS

1. Access to the beach and tidal pool will be via the subway and the new walkway.
2. Access to the beach and walkway is also available via the steps that lead off the Simon's

TOWN END OF THE CAR PARK UNDER THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

The contractor will be asked to put up suitable signage directing the public to the access under the railway bridge.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and request the public to be patient during this much needed public beach parking upgrade.



MEMBERSHIP

- MERLE EVERTSE

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”

- Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian playwright (1828-1906)

Please contact us if you would be interested in volunteering on any of our portfolios – we still need a dedicated member for Environmental and Ecological Matters, Stakeholder Engagement and more!

Visit <https://stca.wildapricot.org/> or email our Chair to know more.

Subscriptions are R120.00 per annum per family

Banking Details: Standard Bank Fish Hoek (Branch Code 036009)

Account number: 073815209

Ref: Initials/Surname/Cell no

Payment can also be made by EFT or cash at Jubilee square.

A reminder that by joining the STCA and taking an interest in the issues that affect us all, we can collectively make a difference.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

CLEAN SIMON'S TOWN – 10 APRIL 2021

Please participate in the effort to remove some of the rubbish that is left along our beautiful coastline. There will be points to collect bags between Glencairn and Seaforth as per the poster below.

From 08h00 on Saturday, 10th of April.



EASTER IS OVER...
Lets get Simon's Town and Glencairn
BACK TO CLEAN!

VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP

Saturday 10 April 2021 - 8h00 to 11h00

TARGETING THE COASTLINE BETWEEN GLENCAIRN BEACH AND MILLER'S POINT

There will be CLEAN SIMON'S TOWN Beach Champions at the following HUBS from 8h00 on Saturday 10 April to give you rubbish bags and to offer assistance.

***Glencairn Station *Mackerel Beach (opp. Harbour Bay Shopping Centre)**

***Seaforth Beach parking lot *Fisherman's Beach *Millers Point**

Bring strong gloves, long handled tongs, sunscreen, hat, water, mask and sanitiser.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to get involved.

There is litter all along our coastline!

PLEASE DO YOUR BIT TO GET BACK TO CLEAN!



Harcourts



'WAG 'n BIETJIE' MEMORIAL BENCHES UNVEILING – 10 APRIL 2021

Simon's Town Museum and the Phoenix Foundation extend an invitation to all to attend the placement of the Wag 'n Bietjie memorial benches [at Jubilee Square on Saturday, 10th April from 11h00 to 12h00.](#)



MAD HATTER'S HIGH TEA - 15 MAY 2021

Fundraiser hosted by the Glencairn Neighbourhood Watch

Simon's Town Hall - 15th May 2021
12:30 for 13:00

Dress:
Semi-Formal with a Mad Hat

Ticket -R175
Raffle ticket - R25

Bookings:
Malinda 076 541 5887
malindacoetzee1961@gmail.com



IN CLOSING ...

Please remember to share your events with us and please remember to log any service delivery requests or complaints.

Have a wonderful April and stay safe.

Visit our website:

stca.wildapricot.org

Facebook Page:

[SimonstownCivicAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/SimonstownCivicAssociation)

Email:

stcamail@gmail.com

