



Minutes of Somerset West CPF Public meeting held at 19H00 on Tuesday 20thth June, 2017 at the Somerset West Library Hall.

1. WELCOME

Mr Smith welcomed everyone attending. He also welcomed attending councillors and the chairman of the Helderberg Residents association.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Ms Anelia Marais. There was a minutes silence for Capt van der Vyfer's father who died recently.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Mr Smith said that we must look after our personal security of ourselves and our home. He encouraged people to join the Neighborhood Watch. He said that he had been on a walkabout of Paardrvlei and Lourentia Park, with Mr Dan Plato, Minister for Community Safety in the Western Cape and Neighborhood Watch members. He saw how important it was to identify problems in the area. He said that we must first look after ourselves before pointing fingers at SAPS.

4. REPORT BY CAPTAIN RAINIER

Report for 1st to 18th June.

Murder was up 100% (One more).

Attempted murder up by one case more.

Assault GBH 100% up.

Assault Common up 3%

Robbery with aggravated circumstances down 9.9%

Common Robbery down 50%

Rape down 100%

Malicious Damage to property down 20%

Burglary residential down 17%

Burglary non residential up 33%

Theft out of motor vehicle down 77%

Theft from motor vehicle down 4%

All other theft down 25%

Commercial crime up 63%

Shoplifting down 6%

Possession of firearm down 100%
Drug related crimes up 15%
Drunk under influence down 69%
Zero offences for carjacking, hijacking, cash in transit robbery and bank robbery.
Robbery at residential premises up 25%
Robbery non residential - same as last year (1).
A crimes down 24%
B Crimes down 13%
Possession of stolen property same as last year (7)
Domestic Violence down 44%
Dangerous weapons up 33%

Capt Rainier then explained what areas the sectors (3) covered. She said that there were new members, but some members are sent to other stations when needed, so it is difficult to say how many were operational at any one time. She said that Sector 1 commander was W/O Thysen, Sector 2 was W/O van der Westhuizen and sector 3 was W/O van Rensburg. Mr Smith said that community are welcome to attend the sector meetings. He also said that there are 264 members at Somerset West, of which 32 are admin staff.

5. General

Mr Willams said that the information coming out of the sector meetings should flow through to the CPF who would be the co-custodian of a safety plan for Somerset West. This information could be fed back to the CPF Public meetings. Mr Smith said this is a good idea, but there has to be a clear line of responsibility between councilors versus Police versus CPF. A discussion followed.

Mr Lang said that there were certain neighborhood watchers whose children were involved in criminal activities. Mr Smith said it was a difficult situation. Mr Poole said that we must work with the police. We as a community must be part of a prevention situation. He said that we know the police station is under staffed and under resourced. Mr Smith said he will not condone vigilantism as described by Mr Poole. He said it was not the job of the community to fetch someone and interrogate them. Mr Smith said the fundamental responsibility of the Neighborhood Watch was to be the eyes and the ears. They must not confront the criminals. Mr Shand said there was a SAPS tip off line to report suspicious activities. The number is 08600 10111. He said if children were caught they should face the consequences and that the courts will see that justice is appropriately administered. Councilor van Minnen said that from what she was hearing about picking up people in

vehicles is potentially breaking the law, and that NW's first port of call should be the police. Regardless of how frustrated people are, there should be no hint of vigilantism.

Mr Poole said that the situation was misunderstood and the intention was to educate people to help themselves.

Mr Leibrandt said that this was not the way Somerset West Neighborhood Watch behaved and that with respect to kids, this is a social problem. He said that SAPs had just told us that the crime is down - it is disconnected. Mr Smith said that the crime figures covered a larger area than just Somerset West. Mr van Minnen said there were lots of micro sectors. He further said that Somerset West was one of the best performing stations.

Mr Smith said that when crime against us hits us personally. When burglaries are up, it affects everyone. He said he attended a meeting of Briza watch - a community of maybe 4000 houses - and about 10 people attended the meeting - of which 2 maybe 3 were patrolling, he said until something happens, then everyone goes on patrol. Mr Leibrandt worked out that there are about 1300 people per police officer. Mr Smith said that crime should be separated from domestic violence.

Mr Lambrechts said that the disconnect that exists in civil society in Somerset West must be resolved in order to fight crime properly. He said that if we can get the golden triangle working (Neighborhood Watches, all Security Companies and SAPS) we can start working with the intelligence. He said that this is the highest priority in Somerset West. He said forming groups in neighborhoods will get the quickest help as security and police always take between 5 and 20 minutes to get to the scene. Mr Smith said that he would try and bring all the groups together so as create the Golden Triangle. Mr Smith said that the social worker side of policing was extremely difficult.

Mrs van Minnen said that crimes must be reported. There were many crimes that go un-reported especially domestic violence and sexual crimes. She said there also tends to be a form of hysteria on facebook about crimes that didn't really happen. She said we must distinguish fact from fiction, and that accurate reporting was very important. Mr Smith added that the numbers at SAPS depended on reported crime. Mr Leibrandt said there were 3 sides to the story. The reason why people don't report small crimes - the last time the NW came to the meeting with a box of weapons, drugs, cards etc, the police did not want to accept it - so SAPS also needs to take responsibility. He said when they tried to report it, it was swept under the rug. Captain Rainier said they do take statements on small crime, as she has done many times. She said that no crime is petty. Mr Smith said that there were legal

issues regarding that box and that he would talk to Mr Leibrandt about it after the meeting. Mr Leibrandt said this is where it gets murky, because it is easy to say that crime should be reported and the nothing gets done about it. He said that his time is worth more than the value of the item being reported. Mr Poole said he tended to agree with what everyone is saying, but the fact of the matter was that the police are also human, and that if ten cases are reported and nine get withdrawn. He said we should take it to task and try and be part of the solution. Mr Leibrandt said that he is trying to be part of the solution and gets condescension. He said it was difficult to get crime reported.

Mrs Moffatt said that she sees crime reported online and people don't bother to report it as it was too much trouble. Ms Patterson said we should all be patient, as there are so many police on duty at a time.

Mr Leppan said that in terms of missing people, can a CAS number be given immediately. Captain Rainier said that it was the case. Mr Leibrandt said that there must be an easier way to report a crime.

Mr Lambrechts said that it is about all working together and having systems in place. But the fact is that we are not working together.

Mrs Buckland said that in Sir Lowry's Pass, there is only one policeman. She said that it is better if a person writes out their statement beforehand, it makes it quicker.

Mr van Minnen said we should not have the Neighbourhood Watch being under the financial control of some security companies, who refuse to work with other security companies. It is like the tail wagging the dog. The Neighbourhood Watches should stand and say to them that they are benefit of the whole community and not for the financial gain of a few. Mrs Moffatt said, as a neighborhood watcher, that she does not care about who the security companies involved is - and that she just cares that she does not get mugged in the street or at her house. She said it was not the Neighbourhood Watch, but certain Neighbourhood Watch members that were causing the dissension.

Mr Zabbia said that that the dissenting members should not be more important than working with the community as a whole. Mr Smith said that he would be arranging a meeting with all the role players in the coming weeks.

Mr Peck said that on 18th July, there would be a meeting in the Library hall to talk to men about how women and children should be respected and treated by men. Women were also welcome to attend. He also mentioned that they were printing and going to distribute "Give Responsibly" pamphlets.

Mr Esau said that we as a community need to keep our eyes open and report

suspicious goings on wrt women and children. Mr Williams said that even though the NWs are the eyes and the ears, there is a moral side and the constitution encourages people to be active citizens.

6. The meeting closed at 20H20