

# CUTLER COMMUNITY FORUM

## Meeting held at 18:00 on Monday 25 January 2010 at the NG Kerk, Corner Lighthouse and Donegal Roads, Fynnlands

### Present (as per attendance register)

Cllr Duncan Du Bois (DDB)	Councillor
Ms Lynn Erasmus (LE)	Bluff Community Police Forum
Mr Richard Holgate (RH)	eThekwini Development Applications & Approvals
Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo (LK)	SAPREF
Mr Carl Knauff (CK)	CBCO (Did not sign register)
Ms Carla Manion (CM)	Vopak
Dr Minders (DrM)	MediCross GP
Mr Ronnie Muruven (RM)	SAPREF
Ms Margaret Rowe (MR)	SAPREF
Inspector R. Reddy (RR)	SAPS Cutler Complex
Ms Namo Thambiran (NT)	Engen
Mr Andy Willman (AW)	Resident

### Secretariat

Mr Rod Bulman (RB)	Phelamanga Projects
Ms Claudia McKenzie (CIM)	Phelamanga Projects

### ACTION

#### 1. WELCOME

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:

Ms Tara Aver (TA)	Intertek Caleb Brett (DBN)
Mr Fanie Joubert (FJ)	Island View Storage
Mr Deepchund Ramchurren (DR)	SDCEA
Ms Gillian Marnewick (GM)	Island View Storage
Mr Carlos Esteves (CE)	eThekwini Transport

#### 3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted.

- ♦ Opening, Welcome and Introductions
- ♦ Apologies
- ♦ Acceptance of Agenda
- ♦ Purpose and Format
- ♦ Minutes of 26 October 2009 and confirmation thereof
- ♦ Matters arising from the minutes not covered below
- ♦ Odour Complaints
- ♦ Roads & Truck Staging
- ♦ Emergency Response
- ♦ Any other business
- ♦ Dates of meetings for 2010

#### 4. PURPOSE AND FORMAT OF MEETING

The scope and format of the meeting were restated as follows.

##### 4.1. Scope of meeting

- To discuss issues, originating from the Cutler Complex, of interest to the immediate

**ACTION**

- community around Island View.
- These issues include odour complaints, transport or traffic matters, health related issues and emergency communication.
- The aim is to pro-actively engage between the Community, Industry and the Municipality on issues affecting the Community.

**4.2. Agreed format**

- Quarterly
- Public meeting
  - Word of mouth
  - No newspaper advertisements
- Meetings to focus on genuine issues
- Timing: from 18h00-20h00
- Venue easily accessible
- Attendees to submit issues prior to the meeting
- Agenda to cover agreed topics

**5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2009 AND CONFIRMATION THEREOF**

The minutes were then duly signed as a true reflection of the meeting.

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

CM asked about the agreed format and submitting a newspaper advertisement, RB said this issue was on the agenda for discussion at point 10.

RB told the forum that Dr Minders had been invited to attend to discuss health issues (at point 6.1), as requested at the last meeting, he would be a little late due to late consultations.

RB introduced Richard Holgate from eThekweni Municipality Development Applications and Approvals to the forum, and said that he would be discussing the town planning issue that was raised at the last forum at point 6.2.

**7. ODOUR STATISTICS**

**7.1. Statistics Nov 2009 – Jan 2010**

The following was submitted by Mr P Roberts of City Health

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>
Vopak	1	1	0
IVS	0	0	0
Engen Island View	0	1	0
Sapref Island View	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	1

**7.2. Odour issues**

PR was not present at the meeting so the Forum was unable to discuss the complaints at the time.

**Please note that CM and PR have since had a telecon on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and have discussed the issues raised by the forum.** PR said that with regards to the recent odour stats, there have been no major incidents. Please see below the response to other questions raised.

1. A request was made that the odour stats be circulated to the companies involved

**CM** to circulate  
Odour Stats to

- prior to the forum. PR said this would not be a problem and CM will circulate the stats before the meetings take place.
2. The forum also requested that more explanation/detail be given in the stats table presented. PR said that he prefers to discuss the details at the forum as there are often a number of issues that need to be looked at. This point can be discussed at the next forum.
  3. There was brief dialogue as to whether people were still complaining as much as they had in previous years, DDB said it appeared as though there had been a reduction in incidents. CK added that he would also check the SDCEA database to see if any complaints had been lodged.

**ACTION**  
companies  
**PR** to give more details at meetings  
**CK** to check SDCEA database

## 8. ROADS & TRUCK STAGING

### 8.1. eThekweni Transport Authority

**Please note that Mr Carlos Esteves has since responded to the issues raised below. Please see the addendum attached for his comments.**

#### 8.1.1. Heavy transport and container traffic alternatives

- a. Reminder letters sent
  - o Ministers of Public Enterprise, Transport
  - o KZN MECs for Transport, Economic Development
  - o Municipal Manager, eThekweni Municipality
- b. Invitation for this meeting resent to eThekweni Transport Authority
  - o Mr Esteves sent apologies
  - o Mr Baloyi – no response received
  - o Ms Soobs Moonsamy
- c. The response from Minister Hogan was displayed.
- d. The City Managers have been given copies of the original request twice. DdB remarked that now that the council is back in session, he will follow up the matter.
- e. RB said that he had sent a letter to Ms Soobs Moonsamy the previous week (19 January) following an article in the Daily News, (this was emailed and posted) in which he acknowledged that it may be too soon for a response, but that he is hopeful of a response for next meeting.
- f. It was noted that the request may be taken more seriously if Sapref, Engen or Vopak write a letter on behalf of the forum drawing attention to the representative nature of the Forum which includes residents, community organisations and industry. RM said that the Transnet projects are up for financial review in February.
- g. RB undertook to follow up with the relevant people in mid-February.

**RB** to follow up with Transport authorities

## 9. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### 9.1. Update on emergency response

RB said that at the last meeting, the Emergency Response authorities said that they were going to have meetings and invite residents to discuss protocol with them

CK reported that SDCEA had a meeting with the Fire Chief and that some of the proposals made by SDCEA in the original brochure could be implemented immediately. In short, the meeting went fairly well and the matter is progressing. CK said it was imperative to get hold of Mr Keeves from Disaster Management. Apparently the Fire team will be following up with a disaster management meeting as everyone needs to know what the long term plan will be.

**Fire Dept** to present long term plan

**ACTION**

**10. HEALTH**

RB introduced Dr Minders from the Medicross Clinic and explained that in the previous meeting, the concern had been raised that industry in the area may be having an impact on people's health in the area.

DrM said that the main health questions that are raised in the area are regarding allergies, asthma and cancer. DrM pointed out that he has lived on the Bluff for 25 years and in attempting to provide an accurate answer, any speculation that cancer has increased in a certain area, should be compared with another area. On a global scale, cancer has increased worldwide. DrM said that the Bluff area is not necessarily a higher risk area than other areas. UKZN have started a cancer monitoring/surveillance programme to track cancer. He will endeavour to follow up whether they are doing surveillance in other areas as well. He will also speak to his colleagues and oncologists in the area. His opinion is that it is not especially bad in the Bluff area.

**DrM** to follow up on cancer surveillance

With regard to asthma and allergies DrM has looked at other areas where there are Medicross Clinics, such as Pietermaritzburg and Pinetown. The Bluff has fewer allergy cases than Malvern and Pinetown. Pinetown and Malvern also have more cases of allergic sinus and asthma. Other factors also play a role; for instance Pinetown has lots of tree pollen, further north they have more farmlands and sugar cane. Umhlanga used to have an allergy problem due to sugar cane, but now there is a downtrend as there is less sugar cane in the area. DrM pointed out that this was not a scientific study as he has only compared data from Medicross records. Apparently Pietermaritzburg is better in terms of allergies and cancer than the other three areas.

**11. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS**

RB introduced Mr Richard Holgate who is the Manager of City Development Applications and Approvals.

**11.1. Explanation of approvals process**

- a) RH said that although he had initially brought along a presentation showing the process of building plan approval, the information was probably not quite what the forum was looking for, and that a town planner is probably the right person to provide more insight into the issues about which the forum is concerned.
  
- b) He explained that areas are broken into zones and different development rights are attached to particular zones. RH said it was important to recognise that different municipal departments have inputs and confirmations, and that the building plan component deals more at a micro level. For instance, if an application comes through concerning residential or commercial property, a plan must be submitted to show the mandatory access and exits as per the Acts and regulations. The building plan must show how it can reduce the effects of fire and that the exits are sufficient. Usually a fire specialist will assist with this design. Assessment officers evaluate applications. There is also a prior approval check to make sure that it does meet safety requirements. Industrial sites are checked for major fire hazards, and for the pollution that can develop as a result. Specialists will investigate that the plans meet the Fire Department requirements and recommendations.
  
- c) RH said that the town planners devise the zonings. When one looks at an area like the Bluff, it will be divided into components such as industrial nodes, transport and so on. For a plan to be submitted, it must meet the town planning requirements.

**ACTION**

**11.2. Discussion**

1. RM asked if it would be possible to get Town Planning input regarding a development where a number of flats, derived initially from the property of a single resident, were built less than 1km away from a fuel tank.

RH said his department would not have seen the application or details. In terms of planning there is strategic land use management in terms of what is and is not permitted. To answer the question, at some stage someone must have done the groundwork to enable this to happen; the Land Use Department must have cleared this in order for it to go ahead.

2. CM asked if the plans were based on schemes that are fairly old and if the town planning department are considering new plans under old schemes. For instance if they have not changed the status of a residential area, what is the forward planning in this area? CM said it appeared as if the status quo was being maintained in the areas, thus allowing more residents as well as more industry to build in the same area..

RH said that a town planner would be able to answer this question, however he is aware that while the National Building Regulations had been re-written they are very old and that there needs to be a way of addressing these changes over time.

3. CK asked about the road plans and said that there were many transport issues. There was a high volume of trucks due to the building of the port, however they still come down residential roads and take shortcuts.

RH said that this would fall under town planning and the forum would need to approach the Planning and Transport departments. RH said that he used to fish a lot on Salisbury Island when he was much younger and he has noticed that these days the heavy duty traffic is horrendous.

4. RB asked if RH could suggest someone in the Town Planning Dept. RH said that his supervisor, Soobs Moonsamy, has a number of deputy heads responsible for specific components. He thought that Soleshni Pewa could possibly delegate someone to look at the issues raised at the forum and that he would provide RB with contact details.

**RH** to provide details of town planning contact

In closing RH said that if people needed to they could get hold of him via his email address which is: [holgater@durban.gov.za](mailto:holgater@durban.gov.za)

**12. ATTENDANCE OF RESIDENTS**

1. DdB wondered if the advertising for the forums has been too low-key and suggested putting in an advertisement into the Southlands Sun. MR said she would send the details to RB.

**MR** to send newspaper details to RB

2. RB said Phelamanga would draft an advertisement for approval by the companies. CM said they would be happy to advertise in the newspaper but care must be taken to make sure the objectives of meeting are very specific; the focus must be on this particular geographic area. Knock and drops may also be an idea.

**RB** to draft advert

3. CK said that a SDCEA meeting was coming up and this may be of value and they could add the Cutler forum on to this list. CK said he would send through the

**CK** to send through info

