

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish. John Quincy Adams

This is the first *Crier* since the AGM in May. We had an excellent response for help and we welcome the six new committee members who joined the executive committee, namely Philip Bond, Eric Glover, Richard King, Harry Rosen, Chris Taylor and Mike Wilmot.

John Turpin stepped down as Chairperson at the end of May, after a long and active contribution to community interests. In the absence of anybody offering his or her services in this capacity, the CRA has been rotating the responsibilities of Chairperson amongst the other committee members every two months. Clearly this is not an ideal situation.

Another important position, that of Treasurer, also needs to be filled shortly. Our current Treasurer, Heidi Kerwin, has taken full-time employment and has requested release from the position as soon as possible, having also now sold her house in Craighall Park and due to move in November. We need somebody to volunteer their services for this position which administers the finances, maintains the membership register and deals with compliance matters affecting the registration of the CRA as a non-profit organisation.

Priorities identified

The Executive Committee has identified three immediate priorities.

- **Filling the above positions.** We appeal to persons in the community who could make a contribution of their time to the CRA for these two positions. If you are interested please contact any one of the committee members listed in this *Crier* for an informal, without commitment discussion at this stage.
- **The security of our community,** including the Craigpark Security Scheme, ie the patrol vehicle initiative with ADT. Four of the new exec members are running the Security portfolio - Richard King, Philip Bond, Mike Wilmot and Eric Glover.
- **Membership.** Newcomer Harry Rosen has taken charge of this responsibility and will also manage Community Affairs. Membership has dropped in 2007 despite numerous reminders for payment of the annual fee. This amount equates to less than R20 per month per household – and half that amount for residents who have reached retirement age of 60.

Important survey

Included with this *Crier* is a survey of views in the community. We ask that you spend a few minutes completing it so that the Executive committee is able to make a reliable assessment of the issues raised. It is your support that enables the CRA to be an effective body in looking out for our community interests.

Lee Whitfield, acting Chairperson

Security matters

Let us not be engulfed in a sense of helplessness when it comes to crime, believing we can do nothing about it. This portfolio is determined to show that something can be done – but it does require the active participation of the entire community.

Portfolio members are busy planning activities such as assisting the Parkview Police with patrols in our area (see the enclosed Survey form), holding regular “your safety” meetings (see below), and introducing the “my home/my street/my suburb” concept. You’ll be hearing more about this, but for now ask yourself, “Do I have contact details for my immediate neighbours? Do we inform each other if we are away? Do I even know their names?”

The first “your safety” meeting will take place on ● Tuesday 2 October ● 18:30 ● Craighall Primary School. Francois Marais has been invited to talk on *Creative security strategies for home owners*.



Don't be a turkey – you can take charge of your own security.

Time to reclaim our streets!

Visit the CRA website for personal security tips and, if you’ve experienced a crime incident, you can complete an on-line “crime incident” form - all reports will help the team keep tabs on crime trends and the like.

The Craigpark Community Security Scheme

The Scheme commenced in March 2007 after a delayed start. A great deal of voluntary effort has gone into both establishing the Scheme and in administering it. Unfortunately we still don’t have enough subscribers on board and there is a monthly shortfall. ADT has absorbed this cost but there is going to come a time when we will not be able to continue on this basis. (See also the attached survey.)

This is therefore a very URGENT appeal to anyone who hasn’t yet joined up to please do so. It costs a maximum of R182 a month – less if you are already an ADT client. It would be a sad day if our 1900 households/businesses between them aren’t interested enough to play their part in helping reduce crime. To those who have joined since the last *Crier* was issued, thank you for your support. We are planning to display all the name of contributors and will let you know when this happens.

A CRA debit order form can be accessed on our website. If you are an ADT client, contact Steve Margo at 082 454-2115 or smargo@tycoint.com to complete the ADT addendum form.

Contact Richard or Philip for **SAPS and related queries** (and a pat on the back to Philip, who is leading by example - he has just donated a much-needed printer to SAPS Parkview). Contact

Mike or Eric re **Security Scheme** queries/joining up. Blyth Thompson assists this portfolio as well.

Environmental matters

Preliminary discussions have been held with a company proposing to offer a recyclable waste collection service to our area. The service will be free of charge, but requires a sufficient number of people willing to make use of it for it to be viable. We have included this item in the enclosed survey to assess the level of interest.

The question of keeping our suburbs clean is currently under the microscope and we know what needs to be done but we need additional hands to do it. From a worldwide point of view environmental problems are increasingly being addressed but unfortunately, in many cases, only talked about. We can't afford to let our two suburbs fall into the category of being slovenly or dirty.

In this respect, plans for "reclaiming the river" are at the discussion stage - the idea has not been shelved but as yet we have nothing to report. In the meantime, good news - the authorities are busy rehabilitating the banks, starting with the Craighall Park section. Paulette also reports that most of our section of the river is cleaner than it has been for some time. Help keep it that way by reporting any spillage/waste that you see running down the road to the City's Help line and to Paulette – something will be done!

Contact Paulette, Chris, Wendy or Lee if you can give time to the environmental portfolio.

PS The Rosebank Killarney Gazette is hosting a clean-up of part of Jan Smuts Avenue on Saturday September 15 from 08:00 with the aim of contributing towards improving Johannesburg for 2010. You're invited – meet at Caxton, parking available. RSVP to Kennedy Mudzuli - 011-889-0774/ 083-496-0627.

Traffic

Peter Heritage, who looks after our traffic portfolio, is currently dealing with the Johannesburg Roads Agency and Johannesburg Metro Police on a number of issues raised by residents, including illegal parking, speeding, non-compliance of road closures, poor road conditions, signage, street lights, etc. Some issues get dealt with by the appropriate municipal department quite quickly, whilst some matters which perhaps have not been budgeted for, tend to require more frequent reminder and follow up. Peter appeals to all residents who have traffic or street related issues that they have not been able to resolve themselves through the appropriate municipal authority, to please report these to him so that additional CRA pressure can be used to try and fix the problem.

Draft Rates Policy

The release of the Draft Rates Policy for the City of Johannesburg has sparked a huge outcry, aggravated by a printed statement that the rate in the rand COULD be 1.5c under the new Rates Act. The Council has since released press statements that this figure should be ignored - it was only an example of how rates

could be calculated and is NOT a proposed figure.

Council has stated that the new policy should be REVENUE NEUTRAL, which would indicate that the revenue derived from currently rated properties should produce a similar revenue to what is obtained this year, plus an adjustment for inflation, in the new financial year. The impact, however, on Sectional Title properties, schools, sports clubs, properties bigger than 10 000 sq.m. and the like could be substantial but cannot yet be determined. The uncertainty is compounded by the fact that the Minister has yet to release regulations pertaining to the new Act.

Our Ward Councillor Ian Ollis has assured us that he will not allow residents to be taxed out of their homes and, if necessary, any relevant issues pertaining to the Municipal Property Rates Act will be raised in Parliament.

Closing date for comments is 31 October 2007. To view the draft policy, how to submit comments etc, go to www.joburg.org.za/rates. Cllr Ollis may be contacted at 011 881 6016 / 082 714 7572, or ianollis@lantic.net. Please note that the Town Planning team will also submit comments on behalf of the CRA residents.

Meet some of your exec

The CRA community is fortunate in having many talented people prepared to give their time to look after the interests of our area. Brief profiles on exec members follows.

Town planning

Lee Whitfield is a chartered accountant by profession. Has lived in Craighall Park since 1989. Now retired, Lee – with Paulette Malcolm – is the longest serving member on the CRA, having chalked up more than 10 years of service to the community.

Roly Meyer, a well known General Practitioner in our area, is now retired. Originally living in Dunkeld West, Roly and Jill moved to Craighall when squeezed out by commercial development in North Road.

Bianca de Roland Phillips, among other activities, was an estate agent. Has lived in Craighall Park for four years with 5 children and 6 dogs!

Security

Richard King has lived in Craighall Park since 2004. Married to Leigh and has two teenage daughters. He has been with BP for over 25 years here and abroad: currently runs their retail petrol station business in South Africa.

Mike Wilmot, a recent Craighall Park resident, is married to Jacqui. He works for BoE.

Eric Glover has lived in Craighall for 30 years. He is married to Sue and has two daughters. Now retired having worked at Wits and IBM. Was on the exec some 15 years ago.

Philip Bond lives in Craighall. He and his wife Vanessa have their own business, Bond Stationers.

Blyth Thompson, married to Wendy, is a Craighall Park resident of 15 years standing. Legally trained, he is Chairman of Deansgate Old Age Home and a Trustee on CraigTowne's body corporate.

Membership & Community Affairs: *Harry Rosen* has lived in Craighall Park since 1991. Is married to Andrea and has two children. Runs a specialised engineering software company.

Russ Smith, married to Andrew, has helped the CRA exec for the past 5 years. Has lived in Craighall Park for 28 years.

Traffic: Peter Heritage - a Craighall Park resident for 8 years,

married to Lucy. Retired after 45 years mostly in the packaging industry, latterly MCG Industries. They have two married daughters, four grand children, all resident in Craighall Park and Craighall.

Communications: Wendy McAllister - with husband Humphrey - rebuilt a shack in Craighall Park 20 years ago. Formerly Director of Communications at Wits University, she now has own communications consultancy business.

Environment

Paulette Malcolm and John have lived in or near the area for 40 years. A teacher by profession, Paulette devotes most of her spare time to environmental and community affairs. She also serves on Cllr Ian Ollis' Ward 90 Committee.

Chris Taylor - moved to Craighall 3 years ago with his wife Gail. In the IT industry for over 40 years (latterly specialising in search engine development). Now semi-retired, builds boats. Passionate about the environment and the mighty "Limpopo spruit" at the bottom of his garden.

Treasurer: Heidi Kerwan, a qualified CA, loves the area and has lived here for 9 years (in several different houses) with her family – husband, two children and two dogs.

Secretary/co-ordinator: Sarah James has lived in Craighall Park for several years. She has two sons.

Town Planning matters

The Precinct Plan, which defines the development objectives for our two suburbs, is being evaluated by the Council presently and acceptance is anticipated by the end of August 2007. The whole process of drawing up the plan, dealing with community and Council comment and amending the plan taking account of comment has taken over two years. The plan is posted on the website for all interested parties to view. We are already benefiting from the Precinct Plan as professional town planners are now consulting it before making applications.

Among **issues** brought to conclusion since the last Crier:

* Hacklebrooke Estate – the applicant was granted the rights applied for, subject to stringent control of the matters with which objecting residents and the CRA were most concerned. Hopefully the operating tenant will honour all these obligations.

* The Portland Avenue saga – everything was done to prevent outright the granting of townhouse rights to the property in question. However, in spite of all efforts, we were only able to limit the number of houses due for development (now limited to four). In terms of the new Precinct Plan no further townhouse development will be permitted in this street.

There is no shortage of town planning activity and proposals and a number of matters still need resolution, including two appeals to the Townships Board against Council decisions. Illegal usage (usage contrary to approved town planning rights) remains with us as well as building taking place without approved plans, despite stop orders being issued by the Municipal authorities (if only they would take less time to institute legal action!). We can only

urge developers and owners to adhere to the laid down processes as we will have no sympathy if transgressors are forced to demolish what has been built illegally.

The application for a petrol filling station on the corner of Eastwood and Jan Smuts in Dunkeld West has resurfaced after a period of over two years. A revised draft scoping report is available for viewing at the Rosebank Bowling Club, 15 Hume Road, Dunkeld West until Wednesday, 12 September 2007 (or visit www.cra.org.za/garageobjection for information and a form which can be downloaded). If you objected previously please renew your opposition and if you did not do so before please do so now. Sutherland Avenue becomes Eastwood and we do not need another filling station in the area.

As always we repeat our advice to residents to be alert to street notices/advertisements on perimeter fencing that relate to town planning issues in your immediate proximity and ensure that you object timeously if you wish to oppose the application or stipulate conditions that will protect your own investment. Late objections are not condoned. Also do not sign plans approving neighbouring developments without carefully considering the impact on your own property.

If residents have any town planning issues they wish the CRA to be involved with please contact us. The committee members responsible for town planning matters are Roly Meyer, Bianca de Roland Phillips or Lee Whitfield.

Membership & Community Affairs

There is strength in numbers! The more representative our Residents' Association is, the more potential clout we have. Our annual membership fee is considerably less than many other RAs – and will remain the same for 2008 – precisely because we would rather be able to say that we are truly representative than to have a large bank balance.

We have wondered if some residents have perhaps confused the annual membership fee with the monthly subscription fee to the Community Security Scheme. The latter is in addition to the annual subs fee which is used to cover a wider range of activities and CRA initiatives.

Membership fee income is used for activities such as:

- Printing costs
- Town Planning and Development
- Environmental projects
- Communication
- Administrative expenses
- Special projects

It's not too late to pay your 2007 annual subscription – please find a subs form overleaf or download it from our website at www.cra.org.za/cra_subscription.htm.

This portfolio also organises the Street reps, the group of residents hand deliver to your mail box items such as this *Crier*. Street reps are urgently needed for several areas, such as the businesses along Jan Smuts and at Burnside Island, plus a co-ordinator for Talbrager/Waterfall Avenues. If you would like to help, please contact Russ Smith. Thanks!

It's some time since we've arranged a community activity. If you have any suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Harry Rosen if you have any queries or suggestions. Harry is assisted by Russ Smith.



CRAIGPARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF ALL RATEPAYERS – RESIDENTS AND
BUSINESSES – IN CRAIGHALL AND CRAIGHALL PARK**

WWW.CRA.ORG.ZA

P O BOX 41308
CRAIGHALL 2024

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

January to December 2007

Single Residential Property	R220.00
Business Premises	500.00
Flats/Townhouses	50.00 per unit

Note: Pensioners over 60 may pay half the relevant amount

Please either:

1. Complete the details below, attach it to your payment and post it to the above address, attention The Treasurer:

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

2. Alternatively, you may prefer to pay at a branch or by Internet debit into the following bank account:

Standard Bank: Hyde Park Branch
Branch Code: 00660534
Account No: 200874977 (Craigpark Residents' Association)

Kindly fax your deposit slip/transfer notice to 011 442-8367 and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Alternatively, if Internet banking is used, you may email the 'Transaction successful' details to the Treasurer at kerwan@yebo.co.za along with the details asked for above.

Thank you!



CRA Executive portfolios w.e.f August 2007

Heritage, Peter	Traffic	442-6824		083 261 7576	peterlucy@absamail.co.za
Glover, Eric	Security [Security Scheme]	787 1425			ericglover@wbs.co.za
Mike Wilmot	Security [Security Scheme]			083 680 0487	michaelw@boe.co.za
King, Richard	Security [SAPS liaison]	442 8207		083 401 5174	richard.king@za.bp.com
Bond, Philip	Security [SAPS liaison]	326 2352			philip.b@bondstationers.co.za
Thompson, Blyth	Security	447-8494		083 288 7288	computerbird@telkomsa.net
James, Sarah	Secretary / co-ordinator	787-0637			sarah.james@global.co.za
Whitfield, Lee	Town Planning	788-9086	(F) 086 6890818	082 583 1508	fieldsta@iafrica.com
Meyer, Roly	TP	442-6801 T/F			rolymeyer@mweb.co.za
de Roland-Phillips, Bianca	TP	788-3977	(F) 447-9913	083 390-7194	brokleder@global.co.za
Malcolm, Paulette	Environment	787 3680		082 452 9322	malcolmj@global.co.za
Taylor, Chris	Environment	326 1681		083 294 5845	chris@fr.co.za
Rosen, Harry	Membership	886 4957		082 552 1747	hrosen@tasonline.co.za
McAllister, Wendy	Communications	325-7165	(F) 325-7160	083 365 8410	wendym@creativecoms.co.za
Kerwan, Heidi	Treasurer	880-2299 T/F		082 880-1320	kerwan@yebo.co.za
Ian Ollis	Ward Councillor/Advisory	881 6016	(F) 884-2691	082 714 7572	ianollis@lantic.net