



## *Grahamstown Residents Association Newsletter 3rd Quarter 2016*



We are sure that Grahamstown people can join together to make things better. We have a plan to make this beautiful city one that we are proud of. We aim to ensure that everyone receives vital services and attract visitors, by working in partnership with the municipality and businesses. The management of the municipality are trying to make a difference now too, so we are moving in the right direction. For more information about the articles below, see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GrahamstownResidentsAssociation/> and website [grahamstownresidentsassociation.com](http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.com)



### **Water and Electricity Meter**

#### **Reading:**

We are working with Makana and the two suggestions below could benefit you and also help Makana save resources:

#### **1 Receive invoices by email:**

Send an email to [michellejacobs@makana.gov.za](mailto:michellejacobs@makana.gov.za)

Please provide:

- Account Number
- Surname
- Address that the bill relates to

#### **2 Submitting your own meter readings:**

You can send your readings directly to: [brendatyota@makana.gov.za](mailto:brendatyota@makana.gov.za) and [nnoqayimxube@makana.gov.za](mailto:nnoqayimxube@makana.gov.za)

Please provide:

- Account Number
- Surname
- Address to which the bill applies
- A photo of your meter, so that the reading can be verified.

Readings should be completed on the same day each month. This should result in you being billed more accurately, rather than 'average bills.' (If this doesn't happen, please let GRA know).

If you have any questions, contact the relevant Finance staff on: 046 603 6014/ 6170 or 6219.

### **Clean-ups:**

With Expanded Public Works employees, the support of Grahamstown Business Forum as well as Creative City, we've recently completed our first clean up of African Street and filled 7 skips with dirt.

While we were cleaning, we met Makana employees to point out the problems and, at their request, we produced a report aimed at promoting better maintenance and clean-up.

Thank you Mike Webber for the skips and to business leaders for the financial support.

### **Worcester Street Dump:**

This 'Garden Refuse Dump' at the end of Worcester Street is the next one on our list of problem sites which is not being used appropriately.

It is overloaded by people dumping large quantities of garden refuse, and also people dumping household garbage and building rubble. The GRA are talking to local residents and Nelm.

At this stage, please take your garden refuse to recycling companies such as Complete Compost on Strowan Rd in the Industrial Area (from 8-5 weekdays or phone on weekends).

Directions: Drive up Cradock Rd, turn left to the Industrial area, then left again at the T-junction into Strowan Road. Complete Compost is on your right. Phone Janine Radar 074 897 2942.

### **Monitoring Council**

#### **Meetings:**

Mayor Nomhle Gaga has been elected as Executive Mayor of Makana Municipality. We developed a good working relationship with her in her Acting Mayor role (from Dec 2015) and wish her all the very best.

At the "Grahamstown Conversation" Public Meeting, Mayor Gaga committed to working with residents, cleaning Grahamstown and dealing with illegal dumping, educating people about litter, ensuring rubbish is collected, trying to resolve the dump site problem (currently considering feasibility of a Waste to Energy proposal), improving revenue collection and financial processes, ensuring competent staff and service providers are hired, maintaining and replacing water infrastructure where possible (limited by funding though), as well as sewerage and electricity upgrades (funding available). She encouraged residents and businesses to assist with cleaning Grahamstown too, as well as painting buildings where necessary.

#### **Special Council Meeting-22 July**

Report by Tim Bull—see our Facebook page: [http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page\\_id=138](http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page_id=138) [grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page\\_id=138](http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page_id=138)

Our monitoring and interaction with Ward Councillors and PR Councillors will also paint a clear picture of 'who works' and who does not work. This is important for people to make informed choices at future elections.

## Water:

There are water restrictions in place. Please use water sparingly and refrain from using sprinklers in your garden.

The municipality are taking water issues very seriously and are doing their best to resolve the ongoing water problems within a limited budget.

**Amatola Water** continue to manage the bulk water supply and **well known local engineer, Pete Ellis**, has been contracted to assist with water distribution infrastructure.

See our Facebook page for more information about the current refurbishment of the dams etc.

## Makana Communications:

We continue to press Makana to improve communication with the community as a whole, especially regarding impending water shortages. At this stage though, check the GRA Facebook page for information.

Communication App, **MobiSAM** has been funded R1 million by "Making All Voices Count". This re-launch will take care of many fault reporting issues soon.

Furthermore, GRA member, Tim Bull is still pressing Makana to hold a second **Communicators Forum** and was told that a date will be set once Ward Committee members have been recruited.

## GRA Petition—Stray Livestock

We have started a Petition regarding stray livestock. Donkeys ripping open rubbish bags and emptying bins, cows trampling and destroying plants and gardens, goats eating everything they can find, livestock being a traffic hazard etc. have raised the ire of many residents.

We aim to present the Petition in time for consideration at the first Full Council Meeting. If you wish to assist with obtaining signatures on Petition Forms, please see attached or email: [info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za](mailto:info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za), subject "Petition Volunteer". Return completed form to Fusion by Friday 16 September 2016. Thank you.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Email:** [Info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za](mailto:Info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za)

**Facebook page :** See more about articles featured in this newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/GrahamstownResidentsAssociation/>

**Website:** [grahamstownresidentsassociation.com](http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.com)

### **Report municipal service fault/outages to:**

Water	046 603 6136
Electricity	046 603 6036
Roads and potholes	046 603 6111
Litter	046 603 6111
Illegal dumping	046 603 6111
Sewerage	046 603 6136
Parking	081 734 6296
Fire	046 622 4444
After hours	046 603 6000

### **If this is unsuccessful, then report the problem on the following Facebook page or send an email to:**

[Daphne.timm@pamgolding.co.za](mailto:Daphne.timm@pamgolding.co.za)

<https://www.facebook.com/Grahamstown-Municipal-Services-outage-reporting-637598389670035/>

### **Other civic information or questions:**

[info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za](mailto:info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za)

**Municipal invoices by email:** [michelle-jacobs@makana.gov.za](mailto:michelle-jacobs@makana.gov.za)

**Submitting your own meter reading:** Both [brendatyota@makana.gov.za](mailto:brendatyota@makana.gov.za) AND [nnoqayimxube@makana.gov.za](mailto:nnoqayimxube@makana.gov.za)

### **List of councillors: See**

[http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page\\_id=155](http://grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za/?page_id=155)

**Membership forms:** Fusion and Red Café, as well as Facebook page

## Plans for Landfill Site and Refuse

At present Makana Municipality and Rhodes University are at early stages of discussion with Cacadu Deveopment Agency about the feasibility of building and operating a Biomass to Energy Plant.

This would potentially transform our waste management, creating energy instead of landfill. It will have many positive knock-on effects and will also require the upgrading of Grahamstown's electricity reticulation. The key to making this possible is that funding is being sourced so that Makana is not required to pay for these developments.

## **Public Meeting held on 25 August 2016**

### **"The Grahamstown Conversation"**

Presented by the GRA, Grahamstown Business Forum and Creative City.

Tony Lankaster, Professor Matthew Lester and newly appointed Mayor Nomhle Gaga provided a positive review of Grahamstown and where we are heading, **if we work together.**

Tony Lankaster: raised the following points:

- \* Festival is not going to Cape Town, nor any other city
- \* Many shows were full and attendance was good
- \* Need everyone to work together to make it a success and beautify our town
- \* Help by adding to the fun of Festival e.g. *street vibe*, day trips, fun tours etc.
- \* Safe babysitting services at night needed during Festival
- \* Need more accommodation for Festival at reasonable prices (also asked residents not to "price gouge" (*overprice*) as this will chase visitors away)
- \* Need more food stalls and restaurants ("*pop up*" *restaurants*) which charge reasonable prices (price gouging not good) during the Festival

See Matthew Lester's talk on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IyaHAVOSg2U> and a summary of Mayor Gaga's talk on page 1 of this newsletter.

## GRA Recruitment and Revenue:

GRA membership is growing giving us a voice in the Municipality.

Please **encourage others to join** by completing an online application on our Facebook page or collect a form from Fusion or Red Café. The membership fee is R10 per annum.

**Join the "200 Club" and donate R100-R300 a month** to help us achieve more as an organisation. Thank you.

