

### About the DRA

*Dullstroom Ratepayers' Association is a fully constituted non-profit organization set up to represent the community interests of all Dullstroom residents and ratepayers.*

*Please contact us at*  
[dullstroom@vodamail.co.za](mailto:dullstroom@vodamail.co.za)

# We Care

*Your newsletter from the DRA*  
[www.dullstroomvillage.co.za](http://www.dullstroomvillage.co.za)

## Newsletter August 2021

It is a long time since our previous newsletter but with the various restrictions and lockdowns we have experienced during the last few months, there has been little to report on. The re-imposition of restrictions on liquor sales again badly hit our local restaurants in particular but it seems that they managed to again survive those hard times and are largely back to normal.

Dullstroom itself is also moving back to a state of some normality and it is encouraging to see many more visitors from out of town. The Village Market scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> July had to be postponed at short notice due to the restrictions but was actually held on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Although there were not quite as many stalls as usual, it was so good to see the support from locals as well as out-of-towners. The main proceeds from these Village Markets – so ably organised by Munro Deysel – is the Dullstroom branch of the SA National Epilepsy Centre. The next market is currently scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> August.



Your Association normally hold's its AGM in August or September but in view of the rules regarding social distancing etc. we have decided to wait until our next Committee meeting in September to decide on a date and venue. In the meantime, however, we are very pleased to announce two new members to the Committee - Liezl van Niekerk and Mark Da Silva. We're delighted to have them on board !

There have been a number of comments in recent months regarding the quality of potable water in our town. We have obtained results for the last several months from Nkangala District who use an independent company to carry out the monthly laboratory testing. We're delighted to say that all results for the last few months have met or exceeded the SANS 241 standard for potable water. Having said that, however, we are very aware of the water infrastructure problem which have affected many of us recently. There are various reasons for these interruptions including the freezing of the extractor pipe. Our DRA Chairman Mike Allen has been physically at the scene of most of the more significant incidents to ensure that the necessary work is carried out promptly.

We have not had either a Service Delivery or Ward Committee meeting for a long time. We have written to the Municipal Manager – copying the Executive Mayor as well as the MEC for CoGTA – requesting that regular meetings

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### DRA Committee 2020/21

Mike Allen (Chair)   Peter St Clair (Vice Chair & Secretary)   David Simpson (Treasurer)  
Malcolm Siebert   George Skinner   Mike Whelan   Fiona Jones   Liezl van Niekerk   Mark Da Silva

be re-instated. Included in that letter was our complaint regarding lack of formal information regarding rates and service charges for the 2021/22 financial year which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July. (A copy of the letter is on our website [www.dullstroomvillage.co.za](http://www.dullstroomvillage.co.za)). We have now received copies of the various documents relating to the Budget and charges. The following is an extract of rates charges which were promulgated in the Provincial Gazette dated 30 July 2021 :

Residential properties valued in excess of R100,000	0.01006 cents/Rand
Business and Commercial properties	0.0321 cents/Rand
Vacant property	0.0222 cents/Rand
Agricultural properties	0.0025 cent/Rand

Service charges (including refuse collection, sewerage etc.) are being increased by 5.8%

Wonders may never cease ! As of last week there was not a single pothole between Dullstroom and Belfast.... The road has been resurfaced – though rather bumpy in places. However, the road from Dullstroom to Lydenburg is just about the worst it has ever been. As of last week, there were 321 marked and numbered potholes/craters on this road and that has been the case for a long time. Be very careful if you use this road ! Chairman Mike Allen is scheduled to meet with the ELM head of traffic next week to discuss the situation regarding the R540 through Dullstroom as well as the problems caused by the heavy lorries passing through our town. We'll report back on this in our next newsletter.

The Dullstroom Community Police Forum has to some extent lapsed with few meetings and even less actual activity. At a community meeting held a while ago a small sub-Committee was elected to re-validate the Constitution and effectively get the Forum back on its feet. We will keep members informed of the progress in this regard.

As is always the case at this time of year, there is a delay in the Municipality sending out invoices. What happens is that they close the books as of 30<sup>th</sup> June (end of financial year) and it then takes them two to three months to put together all the reports required by the Auditor General. During this time, the 'system' is basically closed. Most businesses would probably fold if they had to do this !

This newsletter is being sent to all those who are on my distribution list which was created a couple of years ago. If you are no longer a member or do not wish to receive these newsletters in future, please let us know.

Finally, just a polite reminder that subscriptions for 2021/22 became due on 1<sup>st</sup> August (now R150 per year). If you haven't yet paid, we'd appreciate you doing so as soon as convenient.

Till next time.....

Kind regards,



Peter St Clair,  
Vice Chairman & Secretary

**By the way, you don't necessarily have to be a ratepayer to join our Association ! Membership is open to all ratepayers AND/OR residents of Dullstroom & Sakhelwe. Do you have a neighbour or friend who is not a member ? Ask them to join and support us.**

**Not a member ?? Join now !! Only R120/year**

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