

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

We Care

Your newsletter from the DRA
www.dullstroomvillage.co.za

Newsletter November 2020

We are delighted to confirm that Dullstroom is, in many respects, getting back to an almost 'normal' existence. Obviously, we want everyone to pay attention to the Level 1 regulations particularly in regard to the wearing of masks and social distancing. It was very pleasing to see a well-occupied tour bus stopping in Dullstroom a few days ago but local businesses are hoping that international travel will now gradually pick up and bring overseas visitors to and through our town.



It's also great news that some major functions/events are being planned in addition to the ongoing functions organised by local restaurants etc. A food market is normally held each Saturday morning from 09.00 outside the Mad Hatter in Cherry Grove and many restaurants have special offers and entertainment at weekends. The local Village Market has been a huge success and a special Christmas Market is to be held on Saturday 19th December on the Village Green.

On the weekend of 27/28 November the **2020 TRACN4 National Rally** will be held in and around Dullstroom. We understand that the Lekkerland Festival will also return to Dullstroom next year and there will undoubtedly be many more functions and events to fill our calendar

Our AGM was held on 24th October at Critchley Hackle Lodge and we again thank Vonnie Craffert for allowing the use of the facilities and provision of snacks. Each portfolio holder presented a report on their specific topics and these, together with Minutes of the AGM will be placed on our website www.dullstroomvillage.co.za within the next few days. All existing Committee members were re-elected as was Fiona Jones – a welcome local business lady to our Committee. Our 2020/21 Committee now comprises :

Mike Allen	Chairman & main Municipal interface (also Ward Committee member)
Peter St Clair	Vice Chairman & Secretary (also Ward Committee member)
David Simpson	Treasurer
Mike Whelan	Roads & Signage
Malcolm Siebert	Business Forum
George Skinner	Tourism & Walkersons' HOA representative
Fiona Jones	Portfolio to be determined

We are sad to hear of the passing of long-term DRA member David Kirk and offer our condolences to wife Michelle and family

DRA Committee 2020/21

Mike Allen (Chair) Peter St Clair (Vice Chair & Secretary) David Simpson (Treasurer)
Malcolm Siebert George Skinner Mike Whelan Fiona Jones

Onto other matters, DRA Chairman Mike Allen and I met with the Municipal Manager a few days ago. Mr George Mthimunya was appointed a little while ago and filled the post which had been vacant for almost two years. Also at the meeting was Acting CFO Mr Shimane Paul Leshage. He is running the Finance division since the previous CFO was put on suspension. In a similar vein, the Corporate Services Manager, Mrs Shoba, is also on suspension !

Our discussion with the MM was, we believe, mutually beneficial and he made notes on the many topics we raised, promising to have our concerns discussed with the relevant departments following which he would respond to us. Two significant matters we raised related to billing and accounts. We have received a commitment from the MM as well as the Acting CFO that any account query or request for invoice to be sent via email should be addressed to either Mr Nkululeko Nkosi (Manager : revenue) at nkosin@emakhazeni.gov.za or Mr Ian Dube (Accountant : income) atdubeb@emakhazeni.gov.za both of whom will confirm receipt (and, hopefully resolve) the query within 14 days. Please let us know if this is not happening !

I know that we've had similar promises from ELM in the past but both Mike and I feel that these commitments by the Municipality will be met. We will report back on the various other items raised once we've heard further from the MM.

On 12th November an IDP (Integrated Development Plan) consultative meeting was held in Dullstroom. Unfortunately, attendance was less than hoped for but there was interaction and a number of infrastructure etc. matters discussed. Mike Allen requested the opportunity of giving the audience a brief update on our meeting with the MM – in particular relating to invoicing and account queries which have frequently been raised at previous IDP and other community meetings. During the course of the meeting, the matter of a senior accounts department member attending Dullstroom on a regular basis to resolve queries was again discussed. It was decided to wait and see whether the responses from the municipal Finance members mentioned above met our requirements and review the matter in 2021. Amongst other matters discussed was the significant leak in the Lower Town Dam wall, the extension to Dullstroom Cemetery, the appalling state of the refuse site, the pre-paid water project and the lower Dullstroom sewerage installation – both the latter having been incomplete for a number of years.

For several months now, members of the DRA Committee (in the absence of any other constitutionally formalised group), together with owners/management of several local businesses have been meeting with two groups of business-people from Sakhelwe to see to what extent some local issues can be resolved. Much discussion has surrounded the problem of local employment both in terms of 'foreigners' being employed by some local businesses as well as Sakhelwe-based entrepreneurs not being utilised by the residents and businesses in Dullstroom. In response to the latter, the Sakhelwe group have provided us with a list of local skilled and semi-skilled people and we would suggest that wherever possible these people should be used. The DRA obviously cannot make any guarantees to the efficiency of these people but would appreciate any feedback so that it could be possible to creating a rating system in due course. The list of entrepreneurs is available on our website www.dullstroomvillage.co.za

Finally, just a reminder that a number of local bylaws were promulgated in 2016 and these are all available on our website – but please read the preamble first !

This will most likely be the last DRA newsletter of 2020 and we should therefore close by wishing all members a safe and enjoyable festive season !

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