

**Chairman's Report for the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District Company to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the Belmont Square Conference Centre at 16h30.**

This is the third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Groote Schuur Community District (GSCID).

It is my privilege to deliver the Chairman's Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

### **1. MOA/MOI**

At the first AGM of the GSCID held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the meeting confirmed that the founding Memorandum and Articles of Association under which the GSCID had been established, would be replaced by the standard Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) as issued by the Cape Town City Council and required for implementation in all established City Improvement Districts (CIDs) operating in Special Rating Areas (SRAs). The changes were occasioned by the new Special Rating Areas legislation as well as changes brought about to the Companies Act.

The MOI was approved by the Board and subsequently by the previous AGM held on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012. There was regrettably a delay before the agreed MOI could be submitted to the Companies Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) for final registration. As a result, the approval of the new MOI has not yet been received.

In practical terms, this means that **this** meeting is still subject to the previous Memorandum and Articles of Association and will be chaired by me accordingly.

### **3. Some aspects related to the history of the CID**

I have previously provided in my Annual Reports the history of the establishment of the GSCID. I do not believe that it is necessary to repeat that aspect today. Should anyone be interested, I'm sure that Mr Davies will gladly provide the relevant information.

However, I would like to briefly highlight certain aspects.

The GSCID was conceived out of the concerns of stakeholders and role-players within the geographic area it covers, especially relative to the Main Road and in regard to issues of public safety and urban degradation.

These concerns were articulated at a meeting held in August 2006 convened by then Ward Councillor, Owen Kinahan who was then, and still is now, a member of the University of Cape Town Council.

That meeting ended with a recommendation to pursue the establishment of a City Improvement District (known as a CID) and the work proceeded through a Steering Committee.

CID initiatives are well tried and highly successful urban interventions internationally, nationally and locally. Because they focus on compact, defined areas, they are able to address the specific problems of such areas with greater local knowledge and understanding of the issues than it is possible for local authorities to possess with their widely spread conurbations.

In the case of the GSCID, the establishment of an appropriate interventionist initiative such as a CID was strongly supported by Dr. Max Price when he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town in 2009.

As I have commented previously, part of his vision was for UCT to be more outward looking and to be a good neighbour in the geographic community on which the University impacted.

The University, in fact, provides a massive footprint in the area. The Vice Chancellor proposed that the University adopt a proactive approach to the problems of the area to ensure that the relationships between all stakeholders and role-players became more effective and mutually supportive.

After successfully following the processes required to establish a CID, an application was made to the City Council for the establishment of the Grootte Schuur Community Improvement District, or GSCID as it is generally known. This application was approved by the City Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Levies were collected by the City Council from the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 and operations commenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

#### **4. Services**

Generally the initial initiatives of many CIDs are to establish an environment which could be described as “safe, clean and friendly”. The GSCID followed this broad approach by focusing on three initial services.

Firstly, a **security and safety service** operating along and adjacent to the Main Road from Newlands to Observatory and working extremely closely with the SAPS. The operations are monitored and co-ordinated from a control room which is linked to all its personnel, the SAPS and other relevant parties.

Secondly, a **cleaning and maintenance service** which, in turn, works closely with the City’s Solid Waste Department.

Thirdly, a **social service**, that is highly sensitive to the challenges facing homeless people and to appropriate responses. Any law enforcement that may, from time to time, be necessitated, is always carried out at the GSCID staff’s request by the SAPS or the City’s Law Enforcement personnel.

Mr. Davies will provide further details of GSCID operations and I don’t want to duplicate his report on the achievements of the GSCID services over the past twelve months, but I do wish to single out some of the highlights.

##### **4.1 Firstly in terms of safety and security,**

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, from 1 June 2012, the functions of the GSCID control room were extended to the contiguous Observatory CID (OBCID). This makes great operational sense as the two CIDs abut and are each bisected by Main Road.

I should stress that each CID operates under its own Board of Directors and retains its own dedicated security service-providers but they are co-ordinated and overseen by the GSCID Operations Manager, Charl Brooks, who is the key person in GSCID operations responsible for the safety and security portfolio and highly experienced and acknowledged in this field.

It makes absolute sense to view the security provision on a continuous street-level basis which thus now extends from Paradise Road in Newlands to Anzio Road in Observatory.

GSCID is obviously reimbursed appropriately for the service it renders,

I would like to highlight the close working relationship that the GSCID enjoys with the SAPS in the area. I believe that a spirit of trust and of optimum resource utilisation has developed from this relationship. The GSCID has recently acquired an Emergency Trailer which SAPS also utilise when required. This equipment, incidentally, is quite unique in CID operations.

One seems to be constantly reading or seeing images of the amount and scope of emergencies worldwide that require specialised expertise and equipment, so this acquisition is of immense value to our local community.

#### **4.2 Secondly in terms of Maintenance.**

GSCID is truly fortunate to have the services of the organisation, Straatwerk Ophelp Project, a unique public environment maintenance organisation that not only provides employment for homeless and unemployed people but also provides them with training in life skills. A GSCID Cleaning Depot operates from under the Mowbray Transport Interchange.

Whilst Straatwerk's major function for GSCID is litter and public space waste removal they also handle graffiti removal, grass cutting and pruning and weed spraying.

#### **4.3 Thirdly in terms of Social Outreach**

The GSCID's Social Outreach Manager is Ingrid Frieslaar who handles this very difficult portfolio with outstanding empathy and understanding of the problems of the homeless. The GSCID is extremely lucky to have the services of people of her stature and ability.

An agreement was reached with Pick 'n Pay franchises in Observatory and Rondebosch to give GSCID a significant portion of their 'sell-by' waste products to distribute among the homeless within our community. Our grateful thanks to these Pick 'n Pay stores.

#### **4.4 Human Resources**

An external Human Resources Service was engaged during this past year to conduct an audit to ensure that the GSCID was operating in compliance with all the considerable legislation and statutes that a company is subject to in this field. In addition, job descriptions for staff and management were developed together with standard letters of appointment and contracts of employment for both permanent and limited duration employment periods. In addition the HR Service was tasked with developing appropriate policies and procedures for various Human Resource aspects of the business and to roll out and communicate these policies and procedures as required.

#### **4.5, Marketing and Information**

On the Marketing and Information front the website [www.gscid.co.za](http://www.gscid.co.za) was refreshed and upgraded during the year and the GSCID is also now active on Facebook and on Twitter.

In addition the Groote Schuur Digital Community Newsletter is compiled and widely circulated. A GSCID Information brochure has been printed together with a UCT Off-Campus Safety Brochure for students, prepared in conjunction with the SRC.

### **5. Groote Schuur Residential Security Initiative**

At the last AGM I reported on the establishment of the 'Not for Profit Organisation' named the Groote Schuur Management Company. By rationalising management services it provides appropriate management services to the GSCID and funds and operates the Residential Security Initiative (RSI) which provides security patrols to residential neighbourhoods adjacent to UCT and east of the Main Road to Campground Road. The RSI has its own Board of Directors and is currently fully funded by UCT. The Management Company ensures that costs are equitably proportioned to the two initiatives, avoids any cross-funding or cost duplication and provides a transparency in the financial affairs of the organisations involved and reflects the practical situation on the ground.

### **6. Public Environment Project**

I mentioned earlier that the initial focus of the GSCID related to a "clean and safe" approach which forms the base off which an area can begin to market itself to both current users, owners and investors in an area.

The Board has, for some time, been considering what the next strategic move for the GSCID should be. I mentioned this issue at our previous AGM, Our discussions have centered

around the public space physical aspects of the GSCID area and, obviously, in particular, the Main Road.

As a matter of interest, in the now 20 years I have been involved in the CID 'movement'. I have been associated with a number of CIDs that were established both before and after public space environmental upgrading. Such upgrading was usually in the form of public/private partnerships with the CID providing the urban management services to the refurbished public space. They have all been highly successful when measured in terms of increased public desirability and usability.

So I am delighted to advise this AGM that at our last meeting the Board agreed in principle to an investigation of the requirements for a strategic environmental upgrading programme particularly in the GSCID Main Road public-space area. Details will be more fully provided to you later in the meeting.

## **7. Appreciation.**

This leaves me to record some words of appreciation.

Firstly, to my fellow Board members for their willingness to serve and to provide critical input regarding the affairs of the GSCID. It has been interesting to observe how they have grown in their own appreciation of the work of the GSCID as their understanding of a CID function has in turn grown over their terms of office.

Secondly, our sincere appreciation to the University of Cape Town for their unwavering support for the GSCID and their vision and commitment not only to their own community but also to the wider geographic community with which the university interfaces. Our thanks too for their funding without which it would have been extremely difficult to establish and manage the GSCID. It is interesting that a growing number of university towns in the USA have moved in the same direction as GSCID through University and local business and property partnerships.

Thirdly the Board's thanks to the management and staff of the GSCID. I particularly want to thank the CEO, Mr Anthony Davies who continues to manage the operation with dedication and enthusiasm and his senior management team who are equally diligent and committed to their particular responsibilities within the organisation as well as to its overall effectiveness. Then there are the management and staff of those organisations or individuals who are contracted as support services to the GSCID. Thank you for your dedication to and support of the objectives of the GSCID,

A word of appreciation also to all those employed in administration levels and those who work on the streets to keep the GSCID area safe, clean and inviting. Together, these many people are determined to make a difference to enable all persons who use the public environment to do so with confidence regarding their personal safety and with pleasure regarding the standard that is maintained.

Thanks too is due to the SAPS for the special relationship we share with them and the various ratepayers and community organisations and the relevant City Council departments and entities.

A special word of thanks to the property owners who are invested in this area and who have taken an interest in the affairs of the GSCID. I personally have no doubt that your investment in the GSCID will be recouped many times over through the efforts of the CID.

Finally, a special word of thanks to John Critien who will be leaving the University staff in the next few days and therefore the Board of the GSCID. .

John has been immeasurably supportive of the GSCID, in fact one of its midwives, and has been an essential link between ourselves and the University of Cape Town. We are going to miss his help, encouragement and support and we wish him every success in his 'retirement'.

If he would be prepared to fund a visit by the Board for what I believe are called 'bosberaads', I'm sure my colleagues could be enticed to sacrifice some of their time to spend a few days on Sicily or Malta with him. We could then bring him up to date on the growth of the baby he helped deliver and possibly investigate an extension of our operations to the Mediterranean but maybe not to Sicily!

That said, we are equally looking forward to working with his successor, Andre Theys, with whom I'm sure the Board will build a close working relationship.

Thank you all for your attendance.

In short version mention that ad will embroider my points