



MINUTES: General Neighbours Meeting 29/1/2015

AGENDA

- Why **Neighbourhood Watch** and not something completely new?
- Intro to **ALL NEW** interim committee members and call for additional interest;
- NW Code of conduct and responsibilities;
- Area ambassadors/representatives;
- Membership form and explanation;
- Feedback regarding CCTV project and moving forward with this drive: Presented by Mark and Wouter;
- To patrol or not? What does 'patrolling' mean: Formal vs. General Community Activity;
- Collaboration with potential business partners;
- Whatsapp Alert Group;
- Facebook;
- Other Social Initiatives: Recycling, Doggy Date Night....

Why Neighbourhood Watch and not something completely new

Two things happened during the course of 2014....

The Milnerton Ridge Neighbourhood Watch became dormant with no leadership at the end of 2014.

'Friendly Neighbour Meetings' were started towards the end of the year, as a form of communication in which to address security issues, but these meetings lacked structure and direction.

With the leverage that NW has with SAPS – via the Community Police Forum, it seemed logical that we use this structure to reach our one common goal, which is to make Milnerton Ridge safe for our children and a pleasant place to live.

So, we have morphed our 'interested residents' group into the NW structure and will address all issues related to crime and social aspects in collaboration with SAPS and the MRRPA – over time.

Intro to ALL NEW interim committee members and call for additional interest

A core group of residents in the area have made themselves available to initiate and lead various projects that have been identified.

Terence Tichart (acting Chairman)	Jacqui Pember (acting Secretary)
Alex Radlinger	Andries de Vries
Douglas Burger	Ivan van Vuuren
Mark Lindsell	Maxine Barker
Sarah Jacobs	Taryn Jacobs
Tshana Goosen	Wendy Jacobs
Wouter Groenewald	

The above people are all volunteers and are taking this on as a service to Milnerton Ridge residents. We therefore would appreciate assistance from others who have the skill (and time!) to help with said projects. Please be sure to pledge your support by becoming a NW member.

NW Code of conduct and responsibilities

A copy of the **Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct** can be found on following link:

[WC Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct Document](#)

It is our intention to align ourselves with this code of conduct and any changes will be agreed upon and distributed to NW members.

Area ambassadors/representatives

The concept of having designated street or area reps was explained and feedback on this idea was positive. Once there are enough members who have signed up, we can revisit this point and introduce a structure from which to operate.

Membership form and explanation

To become a member of NW, one needs to be registered and go through a police clearance. The reason for this being that members will be privy to information that should not be available to criminal elements. Please read the code of conduct document mentioned above to get a better understanding of the need for this process.

In addition, you must own property or assets in Milnerton Ridge, or rent a house and be a resident in the area.

Please e-mail admin@mrnwatch.org.za for a registration form and submit this back to the same e-mail address for processing. The form can also be found on [this link](#).

You do not have to obtain the police clearance yourself, this will be done by Captain Fourie, our area commander.

Feedback regarding CCTV project and moving forward with this drive

Wouter and Mark had a very productive meeting with Craig Ginsberg of Crimewatch at their premises and prepared a very comprehensive presentation with regard to the ongoing relationship between Milnerton Ridge residents and Crimewatch, as well as the camera project which was refreshed towards the end of last year. This relationship is set to grow closer with cooperation and commitment from all parties concerned.

This presentation can be found at the following link:

[MR Crimewatch Feedback Presentation](#)

Some interesting stats to ponder:

Of the approximately 450 households in Milnerton Ridge, 260 people subscribe to CW. Of those 260 subscribers, 88 contribute towards the monthly cost of monitoring and maintaining the existing cameras.

All present agreed that these figures should be ramped up with some collective efforts between us all.

The benefits of having more residents who subscribe to CW being:

- A dedicated vehicle that doesn't leave the area;
- An extensive network of cameras that will detect criminals from approaching the suburb from the vleiside – thereby not only protecting those who live on the vleiside, but residents further up as well;
- Dedicated monitoring staff at the control room;
- Increased property values for all, as the area will become known as safe;

All of the above will benefit **ALL** of the households in the area, so it stands to reason that we make a consolidated effort to collaborate with the service provider who is most active in the area, namely, Crimewatch.

Currently there are 3 components to the Crimewatch service offering:

- 1) Armed response, as required by your insurance company;
- 2) The camera project from a capital contribution point of view, i.e. installation of new hardware and software;
- 3) Monthly contributions which will go towards monitoring and maintenance of equipment. This is currently set at R170 a month but smaller contributions are accepted.

The NW committee will be re-looking at the above and in due course will be suggesting an alternative, all-encompassing payment structure.

To patrol or not? What does 'patrolling' mean: Formal vs. General Community Activity

Many NW structures focus on patrolling their areas. This means residents form groups, don special bibs and set off on foot with the specific aim of detecting suspicious or criminal behavior. Some of our residents have expressed a willingness to do this type of patrolling, which we will coordinate with the help of SAPS.

BUT – patrolling is not only about organized walks around the area. It also means that neighbours who are out and about doing their usual business, should keep a watchful eye out on what is going on around them. When watering one's lawns, or walking the dog, or walking/driving around, keeping an eye out and then reporting anything odd, is a form of 'patrolling'.

Our Whatsapp groups are also a form of patrol. We all keep an eye out and notify each other of suspicious behavior.

Collaboration with potential business partners

Currently there is no partnership in place between Crimewatch and any other businesses.

We have already had an expression of interest from two parties who would like to assist us with some form of sponsorship with regard to signage and advertising.

Anyone interested in helping with skills and or finances, please e-mail terence.tichart@mrnwatch.org.za or myself, jacqui.pember@mrnwatch.org.za.

Whatsapp Alert Group

We currently have 197 Whatsapp Alert Group members. To join these groups, please e-mail jacqui.pember@mrnwatch.org.za and supply your full name, physical address and cellphone numbers. Please also remember to install Whatsapp!

Be mindful of the rules for this group. Mainly, please do not respond to messages unless the information you're responding with contributes towards the situation.

We also have a Social Group where people can chat and network in any way they choose to. This group is administered and monitored by Jacqui, and the main rule is to keep it clean and be respectful of each other.

It is easy to leave these groups – simply click on the Group Name at the top, scroll down to the bottom of the list of participants, and click on Leave Group. You can then also delete the Group from your phone so that you no longer receive any messages.

[Whatsapp Information Document](#)

Facebook

We have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MilnertonRidge>

Please refer to this page for information that is updated regularly. Social events, crime incidents, loadshedding schedules, important telephone numbers, etc. can all be found here. Posts to the page are moderated and published to the main timelines, so should appear in newsfeeds. Any information of interest can be shared on this platform – please make use of it and let's keep it interesting and as much as possible, light and happy.

Other Social Initiatives: Recycling, Doggy Date Night etc.

Not much time was left for the above, but just to advise everyone that:

- plans are afoot to engage with an operator to pick up recycled items from residential homes – please complete this quick survey in order for us to determine how many people would be interested in participating: <http://goo.gl/forms/ckPM47SLc4>;
- People with dogs are encouraged to visit Clairwood Park on Thursdays between 5:45 and 6:30pm to allow dogs to come and have fun, kids to play in the play area and people to simply come along and meet each other;
- Other suggestions: Spit Braai in the Park, Kids Car Wash, Boerewors Roll Sale, Clothing collections for the less fortunate, etc.

And that was pretty much what was discussed at the meeting.

We will keep you posted with regard to the next meeting and we hope that more of you will join the NW group and become actively engaged in our community.

Kind regards,

The MRNW Committee Members