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Llandudno School Beach Sports Day

EDITOR'S CHIRP Huck Endersby

For a whole heap of limp wristed excuses, the summer edition did not get off the ground...my sincere apologies.

LLANDUDNO SIGNAGE POLLUTION. Earlier we took stock of all Llandudno signage, much of it worse for wear, festooning at four sites in Llandudno. Many of the Council signs were each standing on their own poles and there were many repetitions at the same site. We engaged with contractors to replicate exact copies and styles and consolidate the signs on the existing and in some cases enlarged timber frames, where appropriate and the result is a huge reduction in signage "pollution" and a massive improvement in the environment. What do you think?

An advertisement for Office National. It features a woman in a business suit sitting at a desk with a laptop. The background is yellow with colorful circular patterns. The text reads 'Order Online now!' and 'www.on24.co.za'. The Office National logo is in the top right corner. Below the main text, there is a list of services: 'Stationery', 'Computer Products', 'Inks & Toners', 'Furniture', and 'Canteen & Janitorial'.

SANParks CUT THE FIREBREAKS to the North of Llandudno and along the boundary line on Kleinleeukoppie in the last week of November And Sol Kerzner's team cut the western break a few days later. Following on a number of reports of dumped brushwood in the Klein Leeukoppie break, I hiked it and there are dense concentrations of long dead brushwood and live bush and trees, some of them invasive aliens, in the firebreak and dotted along the length of the residential fence line. We haven't had a fire in this area some 14 years and my guess is that a future fire, in a strong South Easter, will jump to these concentrations and will in turn jump from them to the houses below. I have asked SANParks if this vegetation, in the firebreaks and on SANParks land is SANParks responsibility. If not I will need the answer in writing as I will also need to write to the affected home owners regarding the potential danger they are facing urging them to have the stuff removed. I have to say that if I thought my house was in danger of going up in flames, I would get going, clear the brushwood myself and not wait on a Government department to procrastinate while I burn! This I do. ON THIS NOTE, it has come to my attention that some Llandudno residents are dumping their cuttings on the mountain and in public open spaces...some dragging the stuff to behind a neighbour's property to disguise their own crime. This is deceitful and seriously dangerous!

A LLANDUDNO GIANT. Clem Gutsche: Long standing Llandudno resident, lifesaver, Hammies RFC, Clifton Hangovers, staunch member of the old LCA Executive Committee and a solid friend to so many of us, is no more. Clem was on his final training ride for the recent Cape Town Cycle Tour when he suffered and succumbed to a massive heart attack. His family arranged a wake to celebrate his life at the Llandudno Surf Lifesaving Club and an overwhelming number of family and friends were there in a show of support indicating just how popular and great a man Clem was. Our thoughts are with Sue and all the family.

I NEED YOUR VIEWS on the distribution of Llandudno News. I have not been able to secure free hardcopy printing of the News but for budgetary purposes, I wish to cut down on the cost of printing so I need to know the names and addresses of those of you who do not use email and need a hard copy and I will print and hand deliver to just you. The rest will only receive email copies but REMEMBER if your spouse, partner, kids, lodger or staff do not get to see your emails, make a copy for them all to read. This blurb is for the whole Llandudno family.

GREEN LITTER BINS. The City is experiencing a shortage of green litter bins and I am trying to meet with Solid Waste to resolve the problem of our own beach path's shortages. There is a lot of ducking and diving going on but I will get to scum and arm wrestle with them soonest.

LLANDUDNO SRA ELECTION OF BOARD DIRECTORS AND ENSUING COMPLAINT. Chairperson Kiki Bond-Smith.

At the 6 November 2017 AGM, the existing 8-member Board of Directors was near unanimously re-elected by the community members present. This included the election of 2 previously co-opted members that had been brought-in to fill 2 vacant positions during the course of the year (an engineer and an architect). There were 2 other nominees that received a very small amount of votes and were therefore not elected. The entire nomination and voting process was witnessed and validated by officials from the City, present at the meeting.

The LSRA board received a complaint with regard to the procedural compliance of the above director nomination and election process. We have met with the City officials, making available the complaint, requisite information and forms to them and received a response from them stating that the nomination process at the AGM was compliant and above board. The full response of Eddie Scott (City Official) has been placed on the website.

LLANDUDNO WATER. SUB COMMITTEE Chairperson Eileen Wilton

Water is the latest issue to be faced by the residents of Llandudno. With all the news surrounding a possible Day Zero and/or water scarcity in the future, many residents look to the LSRA to administer the debate. The LSRA formed a sub-committee to investigate, engage with specialists and residents and report back. The Sub Committee took 9 of the most salient proposals and gathered very preliminary pricing and exploring the engineering & regulatory hurdles of each. The LSRA then called an informal Llandudno meeting to present the information and to get a "sense" from those present, as to the wishes of the community. It was noted at the meeting that, if there was sufficient interest, it would still be necessary to call a subsequent formal meeting to first discuss the matter further and thereafter to call for a formal vote - before spending any money.

While all options were up for consideration, it was the recommendation of the committee NOT to fund a desalination plant or borehole at this point...but instead to get quotes to fund a feasibility study from an independent and experienced engineering firm that could provide viable costs to enable a meaningful debate...should ever the community decide to take action in the future (for example, after this next winter). There was significant interest by residents to proceed with the feasibility study. The committee is currently soliciting quotes...so as to consider the most appropriate funding option. They are also considering whether it will be possible to obtain this funding from donations. The next steps include: i) finalizing quotes for a feasibility study, ii) investigating possible sources of funding; and iii) further engaging with Llandudno residents and the City.

LLANDUDNO SECURITY Llandudno Security Committee (LSEC)

Website – residents are always encouraged to look at the website for more detailed information.

Budget & Progress – a recent Sentinel headline caused some confusion; to clarify - there is NO request for increasing any LSRA levy. The article was reviewing progress made on the PRIOR 2017 levy increase (**the Sentinel later published a correction**). It is worth noting that despite the passionate debate on the initial security levy

increase it was passed with a 66% popular vote on 6 April 2017. The vote for this same budget in November 2017 was unanimous. LSRA sincerely thanks Llandudno for its ongoing support. Progress – the project is on budget, most of the security upgrades have been completed or are well underway; and have already made a positive impact on crime-fighting. **We are continually improving and fine-tuning the system.** Most notably:

Special Response Team “PPA” started their contract 1 December 2017 and has proved to be very professional & proactive. LSEC continually works with them to refine their methods based on information that emanates from any incident to Omnivision to ensure that the community stays protected while maintaining a positive image for Llandudno. It should be noted that PPA has also been awarded the contract for the adjacent Kerzner Estate & development which will result in even better crime-fighting coordination. Residents are reminded that they always request assistance by contacting Watchcon (021 790 9333) and NOT to call the PPA patrollers direct.

Off-Site-Monitoring – on 1 December 2017 we changed the contractor and have seen amazing improvements in monitoring; the new operators have since skilfully used the cameras to guide PPA & CCP (with Watchcon coordinating) to address a number of incidents. Fibre-Optic – thanks to generous support of Open Serve and Telkom; we are the first open community in the country to successfully link our security system via fibre and the increase in performance has been amazing, resulting in clearer images and faster control reaction times to incidents.

Detection - Street-View & LPR (License Plate Recognition) Cameras – have been increased – a big thank you to resident groups for continued donations for the street view camera (donations to date now exceeding R 600 000!). Long-Range-Thermal – are all installed & functional; with our focus now on software upgrades & fine tuning of our ground-breaking features being made to maximise their value to us. For those on the Security Broadcast WhatsApp group; some of the impressive (albeit frightening) images of suspects on the perimeter were posted. Seismic Sensors – this technology has only recently been made available for civil use and its initial **test** results are very promising; offering coverage in those areas where the cameras cannot reach.

St. Mark’s Gate & Fence – with the approval of the City and help from adjacent neighbours & community volunteers; this long neglected alternative foot entrance into Llandudno is now able to be secured at night. South-End of Fisherman’s Bend Fence: Properties bordering onto the National Park have progressively improved their private fences over the last year; but there was one open-plot left. Thankfully, even with no immediate plans to develop his plot, the owner agreed to fence-it-off for the benefit of the neighbourhood anyway. So a very special thanks to Philip Chiang and his wife!

Watchcon (021 790 9333) – **is the primary number to call in all emergencies...**and serves the entire Hout Bay area (which includes Llandudno). LSRA has been instrumental in supporting improvements at Watchcon to include: (i) CCP taking-over day-to-day management, (ii) standardizing instructions to better coordinate with ALL security contractors, (iii) implementing BuzzerPro software to track responders and map criminals’ location in real-time, and (iv) upgrades in the Radio Communications System. **Two of our LSEC members have received Certificates of Appreciation from HBNW for all of our combined efforts in supporting the Hout Bay Neighbourhood Watch.**

Home-Owner & **Volunteer** Support – much of our security equipment requires installation on-top-of private homes. While these locations need to be kept confidential; the community must give these owners a huge “Thank-You” for allowing the technicians into their properties to install & commission the system. Also, a volunteer attorney from our community has pursued cases on our behalf to **try and** ensure that the justice system follows through with prosecution of criminals to the greatest extent possible. This exercise has made it known to the authorities (and hopefully criminals) that Llandudno will be following-up until they get locked up!

Fidelity-ADT – is continuously engaged by the LSRA to provide the agreed level of service. Fidelity-ADT contracts directly with individual residents, **so** the LSRA is constrained in what can be done/enforced; but tries regardless. Some progress has been seen, with ADT finally issuing a smart-phone to their patrollers to enable them access to the real-time info and photos available on the WhatsApp group (incl. LPR reports) and LINK (from Watchcon).

Crime-Events – **for the first time in many years** we had our first physical injury as a result of an attack by an intruder...at the end of November 2017. Unfortunately, this was before the new security improvements were activated; so it is not possible to know if they could have prevented it or not. Regardless, we are thankful that the victims recovered and with the help of many in the community and CCP...a suspect was apprehended by SAPS.

Statistics – The vote for the security levy increase was on 06APR17...but it was only 4-months later on 07AUG17 that Llandudno specific statistics were able to be created by manually separating them from the large consolidated Hout Bay data-history. Once created, these statistics confirmed the general perception at the time of the vote and mirrored the trends in Hout Bay at the time as well. That is, non-violent crime has been consistently trending downward since the very-high peak of 2013; we believe in-large-part due to the increased individual home-owner awareness & precautions against petty crimes. This gives us an AVERAGE TOTAL crime statistics that have been slightly trending downward since 2013. Unfortunately, the violent crimes that prompted the vote...were trending dramatically upward at the end of 2016 & beginning of 2017. The good news...is that we are now seeing the violent crimes also trending significantly downward! Let's hope our investment in increased security continues to pay-off!

Debate on Statistics – Some residents continue to take to social-media and the press to express their own opinions about Llandudno crime-statistics. To try and address these concerns; the LSRA publishes the monthly updated statistics on the website; and also explains the key history of this complicated issue in the notes. This posting includes: raw-data, graphs, and detailed explanation about the collection & calculation methods - for everyone to make their own judgements.

Sandy Bay – traditionally crime in this area is not included in the Llandudno Crime statistics, but as many Llandudno residents use this area, it is very relevant and still a major concern. The LSRA has been actively engaging with: CPF, CCP, SANParks, Kerzner Estate, and the communities in Hout Bay adjacent to the opposite side of the Sandy Bay area to try and address this difficult problem.

Law Enforcement issues like illegal: parking, filming, and hawking - should be reported to Law Enforcement and a case number relayed to Watchcon for it to be posted into LINK, so that others are kept informed and follow-up. These issues are generally not ADT, PPA or CCP responsibilities but they will assist IF a case-number is filed.

Audible Alarms/Sirens - should be industry standard for domestic use (10 or 15 watt), which typically can be heard only 2 or 3 houses away and are sufficient to indicate to criminals, and your immediate neighbours, that your contracted home-alarm monitoring company is being notified. Excessively loud, non-standard alarms should be discouraged as it is unbearably loud. Home owners should also make an effort to ensure their alarm systems are properly maintained & tested to limit the number of false alarms. Currently we are at over 99% false alarms (ref. Fidelity-ADT); which can result in complacency-by and overburdening-of the responders. Let's work together to get the alarms reasonable...meaningful...and with a proper response.

LLANDUDNO BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE"LBAC. SUBDIVISION DENSIFICATION Greg Wright

Llandudno is experiencing a spate of building development applications from property owners seeking to change their title deed conditions and/or deviate from established local spatial policy. Whilst all property owners have the right to apply to the City to amend their Title Deed conditions or depart from spatial policy, this raises the question of what is desirable from a community perspective?

A starting point in unpacking this vexed issue is to look at the current building development provisions that apply in Llandudno, as prescribed in the new City of Cape Town Municipal Planning By-Law (2015) and in the Title Deeds of individual properties. The whole of Llandudno is designated a 'no-subdivision' local area in the Municipal Planning By-Law – this spatial policy was introduced with the canvassed support of residents.

1 Most housing land in Llandudno is zoned SR1 - Single Residential zone 1. In 2016 the City amended the By-Law to include second dwellings as an additional use right on all land zoned SR1 in Cape Town (subject to conditions).

2 The By-Law sets out the building regulations that apply to properties zoned SR1, but retains Llandudno's historic 8m height limit. The By-Law sets out the building setbacks that apply alongside, rear and street boundaries – and these setbacks vary depending on the size of the property. For example, on plots smaller than 650m² it is now possible to build hard-up along common boundaries and up to 12m from the street. On larger plots setbacks apply along common boundaries.

3 Llandudno properties situated in Extensions 3 and 12 of the original Hout Bay Township have development conditions in their Title Deeds prescribing building setbacks and the percentage of the plot that can be built upon, and prohibiting second dwellings. These Title Deed conditions differ from the By-Law's SR1 building regulations.

The older properties in the Llandudno village area (i.e. from the beach up to Liermans & Gulley Roads) have no such conditions in their Title Deeds, and here only the By-Law's building regulations apply.

So Llandudno's new building rules are complex, and it is recommended that you get input from an architect or town planner to help you navigate your way through them. If a building plan application conforms with the Title Deed conditions and the By-Law's SR1 regulations then there is no legal obligation on the City to consult with neighbours when processing the application. If building plans submitted to the City deviate from Title Deed conditions or the By-Law then affected neighbours and LCA must be consulted.

As stated upfront, all property owners have the right to apply to the City to change their Title Deed conditions or depart from the By-Law's provisions. Decisions on these applications are decided on the basis of 'desirability' as defined in Section 99 of the By-Law. Herein lies the rub, what is desirable to a property owner may well be undesirable to affected neighbours or the broader community.

Although it is still early days to say if Llandudno's new building rules are working or not, based on some recent decisions of the Municipal Planning Tribunal we are concerned that insufficient attention is being given by the City to protecting the rights of affected neighbours or the interests of the broader community. The Llandudno Building Advisory Committee has lodged appeals against some of these decisions, but as a voluntary body whose members have day jobs we have limited capacity to address this challenge on our own. The active involvement of the community is necessary to safeguard our unique Llandudno lifestyle.

LLANDUDNO ROADS Paolo Lupini. "Hi Nathan and Team Hout Bay Roads Department, thank you for the pothole repairs done about three weeks ago and the Sunset Avenue roadworks completion."



BEACH SPORTS DAY AND FUN RUN. On Friday 23 March, LPS held a fabulous Inter-House Sports Day and Fun Run on our school field. Once we had completed our races, we walked down to Llandudno beach to enjoy some more fun activities, such as tug of war, sand building competition and other beach games. Families braved the windy conditions while enjoying quality time together during their picnic. All our pupils received a goodie-bag containing a pair of cool sunglasses and delicious Easter eggs. Thank you to all our parents who volunteered as marshals, the event was a great success! We look forward to our annual Beach Carnival.

A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST TERM As the incredibly busy first term of 2018 ends, we reflect on a number of positive (and some scary) events in the life of our school. The sudden dilemma of Day Zero becoming a reality and Cape Town running out of water has obsessed the minds of citizens and schools alike for 3 months. Many of us embraced the news with the same panic as the announcement of a dreaded plague. Real change about how we view water and its use has been a necessary mind shift for everyone and putting water saving measures into place for the future, a priority. The school was forced to stop all sports requiring water and many field activities needing grass were curtailed. Our swimming pool took a hard knock due to the sheer volume of sand blown into it, coupled with the declining water level due to evaporation.

The positives we can celebrate were the election of the new SGB members, as we look forward to them continuing the good work of the outgoing SGB team and the exciting news that we will resolve our waterless problem with the acquisition of synthetic grass for our school field from the second term.

Academically, the school has received very good news that we will be awarded with another prestigious Central Cape District Litnum award (i.e. outstanding literacy and numeracy performance achievement) for Grade 6 achievement in 2017. Our Grade 3 and 6 pupils have done exceptionally well in these national external tests for the last 12 years. We compete against the top achieving schools in the Western Cape annually, and have achieved a 100% pass rate for Grades 3 and 6 tests every year with very high averages. In 2017, the LPS average Math's results were 80.8% and our average English results (writing and interpretation) were 76%. The provincial pass rates were 38.6% for Maths and 38.7% for English. Provincial averages were Maths 46.9%, English 44.3%.

Llandudno is continuing to provide a sound basic education for its pupils by fostering some advanced cognitive thinking practices and innovative trends in teaching, to equip our pupils for the world of work in the future.

OUR EXCITING NEW ASTROTURF! We are very excited to announce that as of the second term, we will be resurfacing our field with AstroTurf! This project should take about 8 weeks until completion. We apologize to any neighbours in advance for any disturbance we might inflict, as we do expect a little noise and dust. The first few days we expect trucks to arrive on the field as the process begins. We will have extra security on site and have chosen a very reputable company to install the AstroTurf. Soon, we will have a beautiful vista to look out on to and gorgeous green grass for our pupils to play on.



Llandudno Sports Club recently held the Finals Night of their Annual Squash Club Championships. The Men's Cup Final saw the continuation of the club's great, long-standing rivalry between the Spear and Dods families. It's a remarkable stat when you realize that there has been at least one representative from either the Dods or Spear families playing in the Men's Cup Final in 19 of those last 21 years, dating all the way back to 1996! And there has been either a Spear or a Dods winner no fewer than 16 times in the past 21 years. Truly amazing! This year was no different, with 9-times winner Geoff Dods taking on Blake Spear, who was playing in his first final. And it proved to be first-time lucky for Blake, who put on a master-class performance to outplay Geoff and take the trophy to add his name to the club's Honours Board, joining his father Glen and his brother Dane (both two-time winners).

In the Ladies' Cup Final, the match held all the action, drama and emotion of a Steven Spielberg block-buster. It pitted Demi Steenkamp against her mother, Vida van Rensburg, for the third consecutive year. Honours were even going into this year's final, with Vida having won the title last year, and Demi the year before. Family affection was parked firmly outside the court for an hour as they went hammer-and-tongs at each other. Demi eventually prevailed, winning an epic match 3-2, and 17-15 in the 5th game.

In the Juniors Championship, Lochlan Williamson defended his title, beating Emma du Toit in the Final.

Marcus Gordon's outstanding service to the club over the past 40 years was recognized in him being awarded The Peter Holling Trophy. The trophy is presented annually to a member of the club who has, over time, shown dedication to the club, not necessarily always visibly, but always selflessly and without thought of reward or recognition. Marcus joined the club in 1976, and served on the Committee for 5 years. He was a Men's League Squash Captain for 35 years, also started the club's annual golf day.

The WP Tennis League season also concluded recently. Congratulations to the Llandudno Men's A team, captained by Bob Groeneveld, for finishing second in their league and winning promotion in 2018.

The Sports Club offers squash and tennis facilities. Membership enquiries, contact Rob Williams on 082 450 790.



The Llandudno Church in Robinson Avenue welcomes residents of Llandudno and Hout Bay of whatever previous church affiliation. Services are held in English but speakers of all language groups are most welcome every Sunday at 9 am.

For the Juniors and Seniors they have also had great results in the first couple of competitions of the season, most notably the LSLC hosted "Rescue Classic" competition, which was won by LSLC - this competition only features the various rescue techniques that would be used in the surf for the saving of lives on the beach. The 8-man classic takes place at Llandudno early in 2018 - this year the showcase event features teams from upcountry, following the phenomenal success of this event last year, which was held in massive surf conditions and truly highlighted the skill and capability of the competitors.

The volunteer and pro duty lifeguards have been busy patrolling the beach to keep the public safe and out of trouble in the water. Summer on the beach has gotten off to a windy start, which has largely kept the crowds away, but with the weather improving they have started to arrive and the beach has been increasingly busy.

We encourage all the Llandudno residents to pop down and meet the crew, watch the members in action and support the club in any way you can.