



## SUNNINGHILL COMMUNITY 2021

### OPERATIONAL REPORT

It has been a challenging year and a half with what is happening in South Africa and Sunninghill specifically. The pandemic and the knock-on effect has slowed down a lot of our projects but we have tried to keep the basics going.

Our team has been, against a lot of odds, keeping Sunninghill tidy and litter free – we still empty the 60 odd public concrete bins around Sunninghill on a Monday and Friday – we also replace the plastic bags in the bins. I like to think we are winning the litter war, when I drive around and see such little litter lying around. We still however have an ongoing battle with the delivery bikes and Uber drivers just throwing their litter on the ground where they park and wait.

Our team also continues to tend to the various gardens with weeding, watering and laying down layers of mulch, replacing dead plants and adding new plants that have been kindly donated by residents. We also have a successful recycle compost plan in place utilizing all the grass and cuttings that the team generates – this then goes back into the gardens.

We have now completed the planting of the Maxwell Drive center island all the way to Eskom's main entrance. Thanks to all the plants etc that were kindly donated to us by Sunninghill residents.

We have continued to plant more trees from both our stock and donated plants from residents. Over the past 2 years we have planted more than 1500 new trees around Sunninghill.

Our small team also cut vast areas of grass – the K60 island and verges, Rivonia Road islands and verges and on various street pavements – all of which the council should be doing, but they have simply ignored Sunninghill – if they do come in to work in certain areas, its half done and then left for us to clean up and finish off.

The team has also helped repair paving and pavements etc after Joburg Water have dug holes to fix burst pipes and Eskom have dug holes to fix cables – the closing up and tidying up of the areas is left to us to complete.

However due to the tight budget we are now working with, our utilization of casual labour brought in on an Ad Hoc basis to help when the load of grass cutting, weeding, litter collection is overwhelming – has unfortunately been curtailed and our small team are doing what they can to keep up with the tasks.

BUT good news we have been able to gain some ground on 2 of our projects:-

The large forest on Inyanga Close in the business node – which we have named Inyanga Park - has been moving ahead and huge progress has been made.

Linda managed to get a signed agreement with City Parks to work together to turn the area into a community green belt and parkland. The 66 people that were living there have now left and the area cleared of plastic shelters and years of rubbish. In fact with the help of a team of 15 people, 32 tons of stuff was cleared out and taken away at the end of December last year. Linda was then able to secure sponsorship for ClearVu fencing and this has been erected right around the perimeter securing the park. Joe from Highveld Tree fellers has been clearing the thick invasive plants, thinning out the trees, levelling the various areas and cutting down the long grass. We owe him a huge – thank you!!!

With sponsorship and the assistance of City Parks, we have plans to develop this area into a secure park with dog friendly walking trails, mountain bike tracks, Tree top walkways and picnic spots. We also want to investigate using the open area for community events such as monthly country markets and so on.

The second area that we have also made a lot of progress with is the K73 forest on Leeukop road – this is the forest that borders on the West boundary of Badger Park and Turkana Complex and the Serbian Church – the 12 people that were living in the forest have also left and a resident of Badger Park has gotten permission and an agreement from the 2 property owners of this area, this area is still privately owned. At his own expense, has been clearing and flattening the area – he has also secured the forest by closing the gaps that were open to Leeukop Road with palisade fencing and a lockable sliding gate.

If the budget permits us we also plan to install a secure renovated container type storeroom for all our tools and machinery – this will replace the existing 2 huts standing on the pavement backing onto the Sunninghill Village shopping centre.

Sunninghill Community will continue to, as much as finances allow in this economic climate, focus on the look and feel of Sunninghill. We encourage residents and complexes, to do their bit and assist by ensuring their own pavements are clean and maintained.

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