



Newsletter

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

AT A GLANCE
in this newsletter

- ◆ **Sunninghill infrastructure and COJ service delivery**
- ◆ **Sunninghill joins forces with Ratepayers Associations across Johannesburg**

Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association is very excited to launch this newsletter which will inform you on a bimonthly basis, on all things related to Sunninghill. The challenges, the wins and our initiatives and plans for our suburb.

SUNNINGHILL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CITY OF JHB SERVICE DELIVERY

Every year we are asked to submit a “wish list” to Council of what is needed in our suburb. Every year we do this diligently to no avail. There has been **NO** capex spent in Sunninghill on new infrastructure or upgrading of infrastructure for literally years. This while our roads collapse because they need to be resurfaced, while we have frequent burst pipes and sewerage spills, again due to no upgrades or even maintenance. No budget, if there is any, is used on new infrastructure. **Why?** Because this money is spent on crisis management. Now crisis management is not even working. Surely resurfacing a road will cost less in the medium to long term than having to send teams in to do a poor job on fixing potholes? Surely replacing 50m of a pipe will cost less money than sending out TLB’s and teams being paid overtime, to simply put a Band-Aid on a leak or burst pipe, which then bursts again in a few months’ time? This makes no sense whatsoever. This has been the situation for years and it is becoming progressively worse.

In Sunninghill we are currently sitting with 4 bad water leaks. All of these were reported months ago. Were they dealt with when reported? No. Tana road is a prime example of what was a small leak, but now, the road is in danger of collapsing completely. JHB Water have a shortage of vehicles we are told, due to a contract not being renewed. JHB only have one TLB in our region we are told. JHB Water have a long backlog of serious burst pipes, so can’t get to our problem for the foreseeable future we are told.

We follow every avenue open to us to try and resolve these problems. Our suburb manager is spending half his day on the phone with COJ – only to be told what has been mentioned above or that the reference number he received previously has been closed. We report these problems to our Ward Councillor – who assures us that he has escalated them, but when we ask again tells us about the lack of resources and there is nothing he can do? We as a community recently spent R41 000 on repairing potholes ourselves as our roads were becoming dangerous and no help was forthcoming from JRA. This money was not budgeted for by Suncomm, it is not part of our mandate. This money and the donations we received came from residents. Now many of those potholes are back due to the burst and leaking water pipes. This while COJ happily has increased property values hugely when in fact our properties have devalued, this resulting in more Rates and Taxes being collected from us – with no service delivery at all. Who is fighting for us? I am afraid no one

Sunninghill is not the only suburb to face this frustration. Our world class African City has collapsed. We cannot rely on the structures that are supposed to assist any longer. We have to stand up and fight for our hard earned investments ourselves

What is the way forward?

Sunninghill Community joins forces with Ratepayers Associations across Johannesburg

Never before has a strong Ratepayers Association been needed as it is today in order to safeguard our members safety and their investments. Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association has been in communication with various other Ratepayer and Residents Associations stretching across Johannesburg. Clearly we cannot count on those to whom we pay our hard earned taxes, clearly politicians are not focused on taking up the fight on our behalf. We have to stand up, stand together and make our voices heard. "Civic action / participation is going to be critical in dealing with service delivery matters for the foreseeable future."

To this end Joburg Community Collective had their first meeting a week ago. Close on 40 Ratepayer/Residents Association from all areas in Johannesburg have signed up. Although some areas have unique problems, we all have many, many common problems. When we raise our hands individually we are ignored. When we raise our hands as a suburb we are ignored, BUT WHEN WE RAISE our hands as a Community Collective we have to be listened to. It was a productive interesting meeting and all agreed to move forward with this Collective. We have resources, we have skills, and we have all we need to do this. As we move forward we will be calling on you our residents to assist and will share information, plans and ask those who can assist to do so. We have the legal expertise and professionals in our communities who can assist. Working groups are now being formed with portfolios that encompass our joint problems.

This is a Community Collective that is non-political. In fact to this end there will be no Ward Councillors or political parties involved or allowed to be involved. No one with any agendas other than to protect our investments and ensure we receive what legally we should be for the taxes we pay

THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.

4 water leaks / burst pipes in Sunninghill – still not attended to after months and months

5 reinstatements in Sunninghill – the oldest close on 11 months.

25 streetlights not working - the vast majority (90%) for over a year

Bylaws – JMPD --- this is the longest list. We have all the laws but no one to police them

We hope you have found this informative. We hope you realise that we, your Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association, although suffering from "battle fatigue" – will not just throw in the towel and do nothing with the comment – "we can do nothing". We can and we will.

Regards

Linda Gildenhuis
Chairman
Sunninghill Community Ratepayers Association

We thank you for your support and if you are not a member or your complex is not Now is the time to help us help you

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