



## News Letter December 2020

### AGM 2020

The Board extends its thanks and appreciation to Members who attended the 2020 Annual General Meeting held at the Rhino Convention Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> October, despite the restrictions and limitations imposed on social gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Hennie Steyn

Hennie sadly passed away on 27 August.

Hennie and Ria and their family are the longest residents on Raptor's View. Hennie built his own home about 20 years ago and another 12 houses on Raptors over the years. Our sincere condolences to Ria and her family.

### Re-instating Capital Projects and Asset Replacement Levy

The Capital Projects and Asset Replacement and Maintenance Levies will be re-instated from January 2021. Relief of these levies was provided to Members from June to December due to Covid-19, in an effort to alleviate some of the financial burden.

The following will be included in Members' invoices from January 2021:

Asset Replacement & Maintenance Levy R134.86

Capital Projects Levy R 330.00

### Important Dates

18<sup>th</sup> December 18h00 – Contractors gate closes. No contractor activity is permitted during the closure period (other than emergencies)

21<sup>st</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Roz's office (accounts and finance) will be closed, but Wilna will still be manning the reception desk.

25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – New Year's Day

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Contractors gate and office for Contractors services re-opens

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – RVHOA office opens at 08h30

The December invoices will only be finalised after Roz has returned from her well-deserved break.

### Street Delivery of Post

A lot of post was delivered to the office at the end of November, as our local postman was not allowed to deliver post on his bicycle as per usual, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We are receiving more and more post from the post office, addressed to member's physical addresses on the estate. Please note there is no street delivery to your house on Raptors.

If you do not have a post box, please acquire one as soon as possible. Boxes are available at both the post office and Postnet.

You will receive an email notification from the office if post has been received for you (it is not a bulk email sent to ALL members). We urge you to please have all your postal items addressed to your PO Box number.

### Waste collection dates

Waste will be collected on the following days over the festive season:

24th December – Thursday – Waste will be collected as normal

31<sup>st</sup> December – No waste collection will take place as the staff are on Christmas leave. The waste yard at the contractor's gate will be open on the 31st, with access via town.

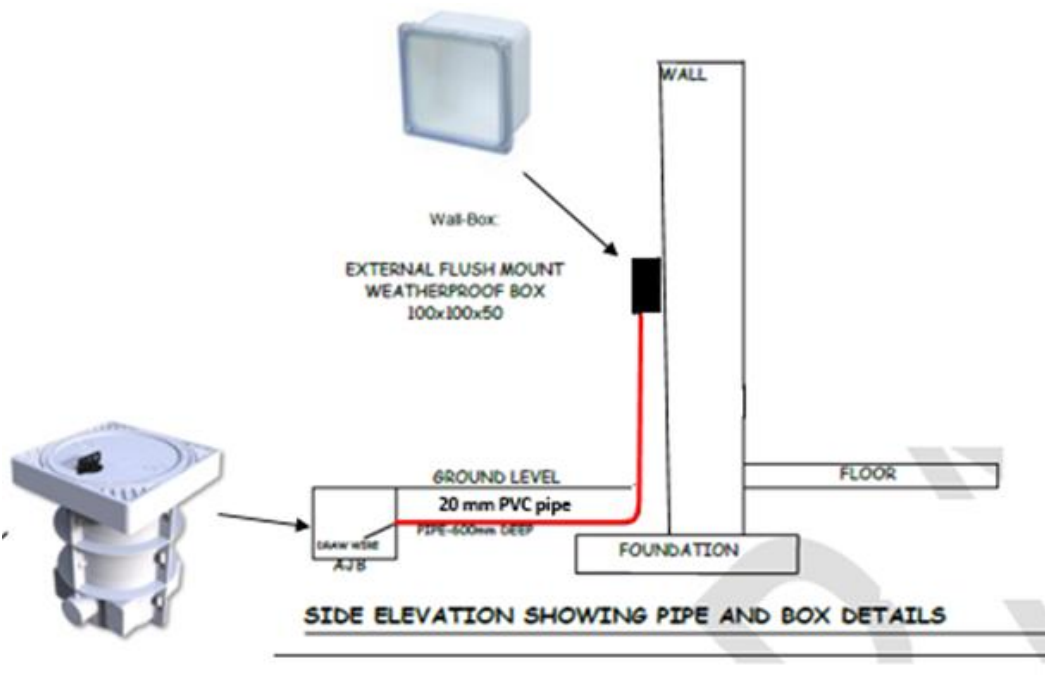
### Update on the Fibre project

Members were recently advised of Openserve's intention to resume the installation of the fibre optic network on the estate, with this being open access and served by all ISPs who currently offer services on Openserve's national fibre network.

OpenServe have been laying the fibre sleeves as well as planting the precast boundary boxes in phase 2, and will begin blowing the actual fibre optics within the next week. They will continue with installation in Phase 3 after this.

Below are the details supplied by OpenServe regarding the trenching and piping to accommodate the fiber optics from the boundary box to individual homesteads. Members are to obtain the services of their own contractor for this installation as it is not included in the OpenServe services.





### LEGEND

1. 20mm Outside dia PVC pipe to boundary
2. Flush mounted weatherproof box (100mmx100mmx 50mm D) about 1.5m above ground level
3. Bends not to exceed 90 degrees
4. Draw wire or rope to be in a pipe section
5. Where the distance between house and boundary box is more than 100m - if possible to place a small pit in the middle to make it easier to pull the fibre through on these long lengths.

## Update on Road refurbishment

You would have noticed that the road contractor has started with the second phase of the road refurbishment project as well as minor repairs to the first phase (caused by the recent rain)

The sections of the phase 2 refurbishment include the portion from RV 137 to RV 53 and from Bateleur to Black Kite Roads.

## Southern Cross Schools message

Transcript from WhatsApp message from Mickey Viegas, Head of Southern Cross Schools to our unsung heroes regarding the learner that went missing from the school premises on 4 November 2020:

“I just want to extend my thanks as Head of Southern Cross Schools to James and his team. James, Gordon and everyone else that was involved in finding that little youngster who decided to go walk about today. It was obviously a very stressful time for all of us at the school but the Raptors View team, they were phenomenal. They certainly need a pat on the back. Can you also let the board know that we were very, very thankful and very, very grateful”

## Baboons on the Estate

Some residents have experienced extensive damage to their properties over the past few months due to baboons forcefully entering houses looking for food.



The Eco sub-committee is currently investigating the baboon issue and will be advising the Board early in January 2021.

Residents are reminded of the following important issues which can be addressed by residents themselves and can/will deter baboons from entering houses:

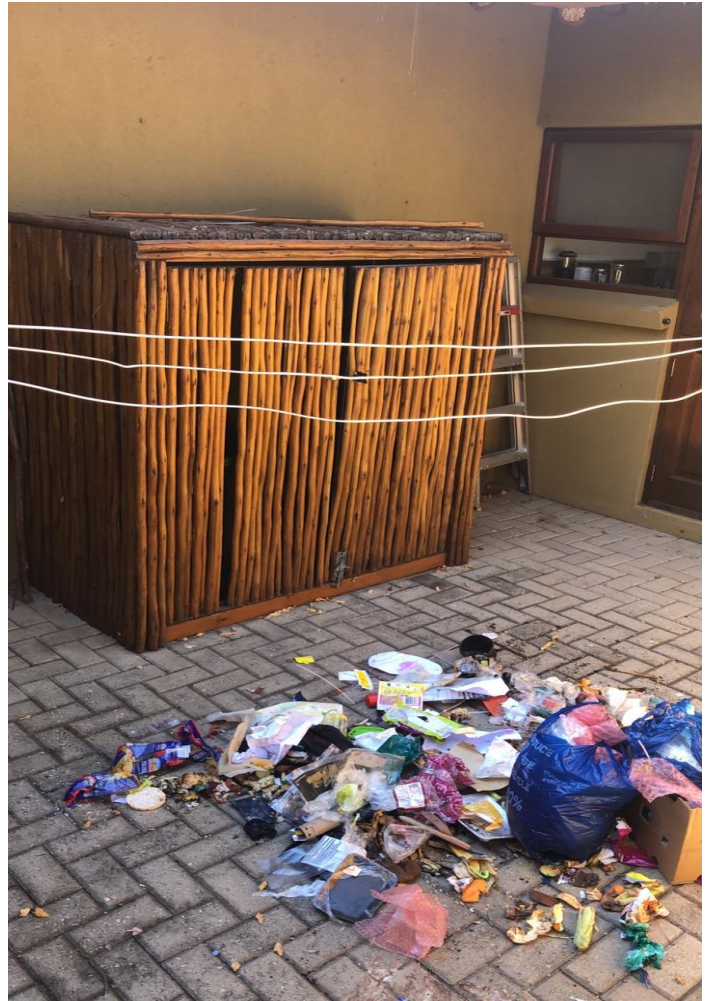
- Waste must be stored in a baboon proof bin and preferably in a baboon proof cage. There are local suppliers who manufacture cages to accommodate wheelie bins
- Do not feed any wildlife on the estate. Bird seed would also make an easy meal for primates
- Do not leave any food and/or fruit that may be visible from outside
- Ensure that all doors and window catches are completely secure. Check all window latches and make sure that sliding doors cannot be lifted off their rails (especially aluminium frames) If they can be lifted, have catches, dead-bolts or plates fitted that will prevent this
- Ensure that your alarm is functioning correctly. If the baboons do manage to break in whilst you are out, there could at least be a quick reaction to limit the damage

Please inform your guests that they are staying in a wildlife estate and that wildlife roams freely between the houses. They need to observe the precautionary measures to avoid further damage to property and buildings, specifically by baboons and monkeys.

Below is a link to an article relating to baboon management protocols that have been put in place in Cape Town, which highlights the extent of their problem.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/urban-wildlife-managing-cape-towns-baboons/>





### **Speeding on the Estate**

A total of 11 speeding fines were issued to members and contractors in November, a marked reduction on the October figure. Thanks to all residents for being cognizant.

Members are reminded that the speed limit on the estate is 30 km/h and that a member is responsible for transgressions by their family, guests, suppliers and contractors. Please remind your guests visiting over the Festive Season of the speed limit as well as the estate rules in general.

### **Rainfall**

We are thankful for the recent rains which have fallen in much of the Lowveld. Our records reflect the following for November:

Contractors' Gate	40 mm
Phase 2	22 mm
Phase 3	20 mm

## Game management

The aerial game count was conducted on the estate on 9 September.

The following table indicates the large mammals counted during the censuses over the past 10 years.

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020
Baboon troops	2		2					1	2	
Blue wildebeest	23	28	22	27	34	26	6	7	12	11
Bushbuck	3	1	-	1	2	1	1	4	2	
Duiker	7	7	12	7	20	11	22	17	25	19
Giraffe	20	24	27	28	38	34	40	32	30	26
Impala	130	121	141	139	202	127	188	155	85	116
Kudu	21	27	30	26	44	41	18	8	20	21
Monkey troops	2	-	3	2	2	-	2	1	2	-
Nyala	17	13	13	9	16	23	12	18	30	12
Warthog	89	73	25	28	48	14	47	39	40	45
Waterbuck	46	21	24	27	38	32	24	21	22	25
Zebra	23	27	29	27	32	26	19	29	24	21

\*estimated numbers – other counts using helicopter.

There are various environmental factors which would influence the decision to remove game from the estate, which are outlined in the recent report received from Dr Mike Peel. The recommendations for 2021 removals, if any, will be discussed at the Eco sub-committee and then approved by the Board. Dr Mike Peels' findings will be shared with members following approval of his report by the Board in January.

## Important Contact numbers

Estate Management (emergencies only)	071 675 2525
RV main gate	015 793 1663
Canyon Risk Solutions	071 218 1994
Medical Response	072 170 0864
Police	015 799 4000
Fire Brigade Maruleng	015 793 0536

There is no longer an emergency number for after-hours doctors in Hoedspruit. It has been replaced as follows:

After hours Primary Health Care Assistance for Medical Emergencies from 6pm to 6am ( no house calls)	063 051 2999
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