



## **Oakwood Hughenden Meadows CID Annual Report 2024**

6 November 2024

The Oakwood Hughenden Meadows Community Improvement District (OHMCID) not-for-profit company concluded its fifth year of operation on 30st June 2024. Our first 5 years of operation and I am happy to report that we are operationally stronger than we were a year ago and continue to make progress in securing and improving our area. It was a very busy year, and lots was accomplished, with a few outstanding items still.

### **Membership**

We increased in our membership from 70 last year to 72 this year, with 2 resignations due to moving out of the area and then 4 new memberships.

### **Board meetings**

The board has met 6 times this financial year including our AGM 2023 and on 2 of these occasions property owners have made representations. Once did we had City representatives participate in our meetings and only once did the Mount Oakwood Estate Homeowners representative come to our meetings.

### **Administration**

Mark De Klerk, as our Project manager, is doing a stellar job and is hands on with our projects and municipal requests. Barbara Sziman was our administrative assistant until the year-end.

Mark has built on established relationships with City officials, SANParks representatives and the Isolezwe patroller organisation. These relationships have been instrumental in speeding up the completion of routine maintenance and overcoming challenges with delayed projects. He has tackled parking problems on Hughenden Rd, cleared fire breaks on Pipe Track from Alien vegetation, established stronger community alignment with IY leaders, obtained skip bins for the top waste deposit site after the City's grab truck had damaged the site and ensured that we are always first in line when it comes to city services.

Barbara has had some big shoes to fill after the passing of Marita Blom and did extremely well to catch up and work to keep the wheels turning in the administration department.

### **Environmental management**

A lot of time and effort has been spent on improve our environment footprint. With local indigenous plants planted at the Hughenden Meadow entrance and at the school, which been growing very well. Our Meadows Biodiversity Park's fundraising was a huge success, and we have a local indigenous example flower bed that was planted by Meadows Gardening Group. We obtained sponsorship from residents for the new play park on the Meadows and we were able to buy a few benches and seats for the area. There is a never-ending list of other projects being managed. We are regularly trimming vegetation or trees to ensure the cameras have adequate visibility, removing fallen branches post storms etc and obviously there was a significant amount of work to be done post the huge storm in the latter part of the last year.

The Fundraiser was an amazing community event, and we used some of those funds to have the open-air movie night, which was such an amazing event for all residents, young and old. At the forest we installed a new gate and keypad and with the assistance of Friends of Table Mountain we build steps leading into the forest as well as up the Meadows Gulley. We installed a playpark in the forest for our community. There is still lots to be implemented and we look forward to seeing the results.

### **Urban Management**

Last year's heavy rains damaged the Meadow stream, requiring the City to be called for repairs to improve water flow. Recently, erosion in the gulley area worsened, so we met with the City officials to discuss fixes and future prevention.

The Safe Pathway effluent and wall problems are still ongoing, and we have had twice more than 5 City of Cape Town Officials there inspecting the area with us. We are employing two environmental officers at the Top Gate to assist with the opening and closing of the gate to only school transport and emergency vehicles.

We have another two environmental officers keeping an eye out on Hughenden Road as well as the Safe Pathway and they help with the cleaning of the area.

We are in a much stronger position to engage with the IY community to attend to the parking problem and bring the a few more projects onto the Safe Pathway. Inputs, efforts and engagement from Hughenden owners will be much appreciated to uplift the area. We have engaged with CCP and SAPS due to the muggings in that area and they have made available security personnel during peak times. We want our children and house personnel to walk safely to and from home and will support SAPS in all security initiative they want to implement here.

### **Security**

We have over 30 cameras in our area that are monitored by our service providers Omnivision and CCP. We continuously assess the camera network for its efficiency and where we can improve. We completed the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Main Road Reserve Security project. Phase 2 will be completed in the next financial year. We had to pay an unexpected license fee for CCP and due to the increase in activations on the cameras our monitoring costs increased as well. Our boom guards provided to us by Fidelity ADT, is working very well and helps deter uninvited guests and we were able to place a solar light at the guard house, to increase the visibility at night. We continue to support both CCP (Community Crime Prevention) and Hout Bay Neighbourhood Watch in recognition of their respective efforts to reduce crime in Hout Bay.

### **Social Responsibility**

We linked up the gutters to the Jojo tanks at the Orangekloof Moravian School to assist with water collection for them as well as to be used for the watering of the outside gardens around the school premises, to assist with that we installed a water pump.

### **Financial**

We received just over R994 000 in income from additional rates, just over R107 000 contribution from Mount Oakwood Homeowners Association and just over R41 000 from fundraising and donations, while our expenditure in the year was R1,160m, of which the core business accounted for almost 63%, general expenditure 30% and projects the balance.

Like all CIDs, public safety expenditure accounts for the lion's share of our core business spend, followed by Cleansing Services and Environmental Improvement which is a

particularly active portfolio for OHMCID given our many green spaces, our river, and our location on the urban edge.

Our budget for the financial year 2025/26 has some minor changes to the original proposed, but the expenditure of R1.466m of which R900 000 will be spent on the core business stays the same. Public safety spend is estimated at R525 000, with Cleansing Services the next most significant line item at R253 000.

### **Directors**

As per our MOI, a third of the board resigned. Brad Brown and Mia Blom resigned and Mia Blom will stand for re-election.

A huge thank you goes out to my fellow board members Mia, Brad Brown, Brad Bailey and Rob Manner-Wood for all their hard work, support and effort they have put in to run the CID and to make our area a fantastic community. We wish to thank Brad Brown who will resign this year, for all the years of effort, valuable input and time. Ralph Kujawa is taken the Security portfolio over and appreciate him stepping up and helping us. We hope for a few neighbours to step up in a few other roles as well. The Board is strong in all its core competencies through this team and is ready to grow and achieve even greater success in the OHMCID's safety, security, social responsibility and celebrate Hout Bay.

### **CID Department and City Officials**

I would also like to thank the City of Cape Town's CID department for their tireless guidance and assistance throughout the process: Alma Stoffels, Bonita Ascott, Joepie Joubert, Nonhlanhla Ngubane, Elgan Fortune, Xanthea Limberg, Zimkita Ntelezi and Roberto Quintas, to name just a few. Working closely with these individuals I have come to realise that this city does not just work for you, they fight for you.

### **Property owners and residents**

The success of the CID will be dependent on the ongoing support and effort of all property owners and residents. Our organised and collective efforts will continue to keep our neighbourhood safe, help in maintaining and increasing our property values and make this a fantastic area in which to live. If you are a part of the board or just a resident, I invite you to inspire optimism by creating an exceptional neighbourhood to live in.

**Anzette van Staden**

**Chairperson**

**OHMCID**