

Dear Residents

We would like to give you an update on the work that ZAPO continues to do in Zwaanswyk.

We also wish to extend a warm welcome to new residents who have recently moved into Zwaanswyk.

ZAPO has the mandate from the City to look after the 2,5km baboon proof fence, provide common area security, and to enhance and maintain the common area security. ZAPO is run by volunteer residents who are always open for new-blood to help and have an open and transparent approach to all Zwaanswyk residents. As a formal SRA we fall under the City of Cape Town for reporting and other legislative requirements.

FENCE

Currently our 2,5 km fence is maintained by service providers. Every week (or more often if necessary) our fence service provider, Perisecure, checks the fence for signs of damage (wear and tear / human / animal eg baboons, ants, porcupines / vegetation). They also check that the voltage is correct, that the energizers and batteries are performing as they should and that the communication with our Security provider (Premier) is working. On top of this, there are contractors who routinely come in and spray the vegetation and sort out erosion problems ensuring the fence and surrounds stay in a good condition.

When there is a baboon incursion, Premier are alerted as well as the baboon monitors as to where the incursion is. A board member who is in charge of the fence, Eric Jansen or Anthony Peel, also come to check where the breach has been. In a recent breach (17th April), it was noted that baboons had found a weak spot near the upper reservoirs which was swiftly rectified.

In addition ZAPO keeps a close relationship with Baboon monitors and other wildlife groups to ensure we are reacting responsibly and appropriately for the best outcome for both our residents and the local baboon troops.

SECURITY

ZAPO employs Premier as our security company. They are under an annual renewable contract and have undergone open tender processes for us in the past. Being our single largest contract, we continually review their service against SLAs and to date have been impressed with their overall professionalism. They provide a 24/7 security car, monitor LPR cameras, liaise with our other service providers and keep a close working relationship with SAPS, Traffic enforcement and other relevant organisations.

We are lucky enough to be in a relatively secure part of Cape Town. Typically the crime rate in Tokai as a whole is significantly higher than we find in Zwaanswyk. This is partly due to our location, partly to resident's being vigilant about their own security and partly due to the fence and security measures ZAPO maintains. We can never rest on our laurels though especially in these uncertain times when we need to be more aware than ever. The good news is that to date Premier has not seen an uptick in crime in either Tokai or Zwaanswyk as a result of the lockdown measures, however it is likely to be only a matter of time. With lock-down entering into the fourth week, there is the expectation that break-ins will increase. Richard, the Head of Premier, says that his teams are noticing more foot traffic at night in neighbouring suburbs and have increased their patrols significantly. Hence please can everyone continue to ensure their own security is working well, keep alarms on at night and continue to report suspicious activities.

FIRE

Zwaanswyk is a high risk fire area, as shown in particular in 2015. ZAPO maintains the firebreak around the fence. We also liaise with our neighbours eg Sanparks / Constantia vineyards to have a joined up response as well as with City Fire Marshalls. It was wonderful to receive help from the community in the past 2 years in extending our fire break operations. We will most likely be calling for help again after winter as we prepare for next year's fire season.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Westlake is on our doorstep and often what happens there has ripple effects into our community either through the effect on our home workers or through local crime. ZAPO has, with the support of the City of Cape Town, identified XChange Connection as being a reputable NGO with very good working relationships with the community and making a huge difference in uplifting the area.

Those who came to the AGM in November will have heard Tracy from Xchange Connection tell us about what is actually going on in Westlake which was very sobering for all of us. Last year ZAPO was able to make a modest donation to the NGO out of surplus funds. This is just a drop in the ocean of what is needed. Any help not only changes lives in Westlake but also builds a more secure future for all of us.

If you are interested in supporting Xchange Connection or just want more information on Westlake then please contact tracy@xchangeconnexion.com or alternatively you can donate directly using the following bank details:

XChange Connection
OULW71CT
First National Bank
Account No: 62812201573
Branch code: 250655
SWIFT code: FIRNZAJJ
Reference: Your name/Company name & COVID-19

We wish you all well during these difficult times. Please stay safe and well.

Warm regards



Andrew Glendinning
On behalf of ZAPO Board

Email: info@zapo.co.za

ZAPO board:

Chair : Andrew Glendinning
Deputy Chair and Wildlife: John Green
Security : Rob Tiffin
Fence : Anthony Peel and Eric Jansen
External Liaison: Pam Gorre
Wildlife and Internal environment : Lyndi du Plessis
Administrative Manager : Helen Burdett
Finance manager : Des Brown