

# Zwaanswyk Association of Property Owners (ZAPO)



February 2021

Dear Residents

We are a little over halfway through the financial year (to 30 June) and 3 months after the AGM and so it seems like a good time to give a general ZAPO update.

## Security

We approach security with a risk perspective. The risk is at the entrances to Zwaanswyk which cars can access. Hence, we have concentrated on improving the security at the entrance to Zwaanswyk Road and Zwaanswyk Close gate whilst maintaining car patrols across all of Zwaanswyk at least 5 times a day.

- The LPR camera at the hut has been up and running since January. It has already detected 2 suspicious cars coming in to Zwaanswyk 1) a car used by a reported drug dealer and 2) a car with a history of being associated with burglaries. Both cars were detected by the camera in real time, then followed by the Premier security car until they left Zwaanswyk (effectively escorted out). Premier followed all protocols as set out by SAPS.
- Zwaanswyk Gate camera – following the success of the camera at the entrance to Zwaanswyk Road a further camera is currently being installed at Zwaanswyk Close gate, being the other main entrance which a car can enter Zwaanswyk. The patrol car and Premier control room will have access to this camera and will be automatically alerted at night for any suspicious activity.
- The guard hut is generally complete with only an additional security night light still to be installed.
- Night security: We are buying new infra-red night goggles for Premier to see up and down the fence at night and across Sanparks land. These goggles were requested by Premier as a priority and will remain in Zwaanswyk at all times.
- The speed hump is working well to slow the traffic so that both the cameras and Premier can pick up entrants to Zwaanswyk. Some residents were concerned it wasn't big enough and so we have reviewed it by going down there for periods of time and getting the Premier guards feedback. It seems there are 5-6 residents who persist on speeding but 99% of traffic does slow to around 30km/h and hence it is doing its job.

## Baboon fence and environment

- The baboon population in the valley remains at an all time high. Despite this we have had no incursions for almost a year which is a testament to the effectiveness of the fence and the measures we have put in.
- We are especially happy with how our new fence maintenance contractor (Glow Innovations) is proactively improving the effectiveness of the fence.
- Clearance of aliens on Sanparks land by residents, Working for Water and ZAPO has reduced our risk by fire significantly. We are currently in talks with Sanparks to complete controlled fires next winter. ZAPO works to influence Sanparks as the only sustainable way to protect our borders. Our relationship with Sanparks is currently good. This is an area which has improved significantly in the last year and increasingly affects all residents in Zwaanswyk as it has been 6 years now since the last large mountain fire.

## Other

- Due to continual pressure by ZAPO we are very pleased to note that the City has finally fixed the Zwaanswyk Road storm drains before the winter rains.
- The fire hydrants in the neighbourhood have also all been confirmed as checked and working by the fire department.
- Further traffic calming measures – at the AGM the majority of questions from residents were about introducing more traffic calming measures higher up Zwaanswyk road. We have reviewed various ideas from having flashing speed signs to more humps. None of these are cheap options and we do not have the budget for them this financial year as we have concentrated on security upgrades per our mandate. This can be revisited next year. If residents believe strongly in further traffic calming measures then I urge them to build up a petition and/or join the board where their voice will be stronger.

On a personal note, I, along with my family, need to move back to UK in the next few months. I would like to personally thank everyone in Zwaanswyk who have all enriched our lives enormously. We love Zwaanswyk and will be retaining our home here and visiting regularly. However, this means that I have to give up my place on the Board of ZAPO (after 6 years) and my place as Chairman. ZAPO does a lot behind the scenes to ensure Zwaanswyk remains such a wonderful place to live and deserves the support of all residents. We all live here because it is crime free, baboon free and fire free. Where else in South Africa can you say this? The ZAPO board can take a lot of credit for managing all 3 of these risks which cannot be taken for granted.

ZAPO is urgently now looking for one (or two) new board members, particularly with financial skills. The board meets every two months – always with good wine and camaraderie! It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the community and your neighbours. Please email me [andrewglendinning@gmail.com](mailto:andrewglendinning@gmail.com) or John Green (Deputy Chair) [greenhse@mweb.co.za](mailto:greenhse@mweb.co.za) should you feel that you would like to be involved in keeping Zwaanswyk one of the best run SRA's in Cape Town.

All the best

Andrew Glendinning  
CHAIRMAN ZAPO