

# Linden Community Police Forum Annual General Meeting Chairperson's Report



In the last year, the Linden Community Police Forum continued to grow in strength and legitimacy as the structure that facilitates co-operation between Linden SAPS and the community. It was a year where we started to consolidate a strategy and process initiated late in 2007. Our Executive Committee strengthened and our community's structures strengthen throughout the precinct.

My report covers the period since our last Annual General Meeting in March 2009 and includes the following major sections:

- Performance of Linden SAPS;
- Activities and projects of the Linden CPF; and
- Outlook for 2010/2011.

## **Performance of Linden SAPS**

One of the roles of CPF's in our country is to assist SAPS decide on the allocation of limited resources to priorities in our community. The other important role is to act in an oversight capacity on SAPS performance. To fulfil these roles a CPF needs sufficient appropriate representation in its structures and processes. Over the last two years we have been working towards this goal.

At this point we have connections with over 33 community associations and independent street committees. We estimate that these associations and committees directly reach another 5,500 homes by email or phone. In addition, we have strong connections with our schools, colleges, businesses, religious organisations and clubs who reach many thousands more in our Precinct. Many community representatives now attend the monthly open meetings and communicate on a regular basis with the CPF Executive.

This introduction provides context to the feedback that we offer Linden SAPS on their performance over the last year.

Firstly the areas for improvement:

- **Performance in the CSC.** In the last year we have received an increase in complaints and comments on service levels in the CSC. Negative comments on attitudes; a lack of passion and commitment; and sometimes inadequate staffing, indicate a decline over previous years.
- **General lack of maintenance and upkeep at the Station.** There appears to have been a decline in general maintenance of the gardens and also the exterior of the buildings. We understand there may be a lack of funds or delays in the appointment of service providers, but cleanliness in the hall and rooms and grass in the gutters point to a controllable but unacceptable decline.
- **Availability of Vehicles.** Vehicles are a critical resource in the station. There often complaints from officers that they were not able to do their duties

The Linden Community Policing Forum (CPF) is a forum established in terms of section 18 and 19(1) of the SAPS Act 68 of 1995. As of February 2008 the CPF operates as a Community Safety Forum (CSF).

For more information on the Linden Community Police Forum visit [www.lindensaps.co.za](http://www.lindensaps.co.za)

because of a lack of vehicles or drivers with appropriate licenses. This must receive more critical focus from the leadership at the station.

- **Community Communications.** We have noted the improvement in the last few weeks with for example, the Linden Crime Briefs in the Randburg Sun. As this has not been the case for most of the year we are encouraged by the improvement and call for it to be sustained. However, look-outs, which are valued by the community, have been non-existent for months.

We ask Colonel Mohale and his team to ensure sustainable improvements in these areas in the next year and request a plan of action to ensure that these are addressed. We also continue to offer the support of the community where required.

The team at Linden SAPS have had positive areas of performance and we also recognise these. In the last few months there have been noticeable improvements in the work of the detectives. We would like to commend the work of Lt. Colonel Raath and his detectives and wish them continued success.

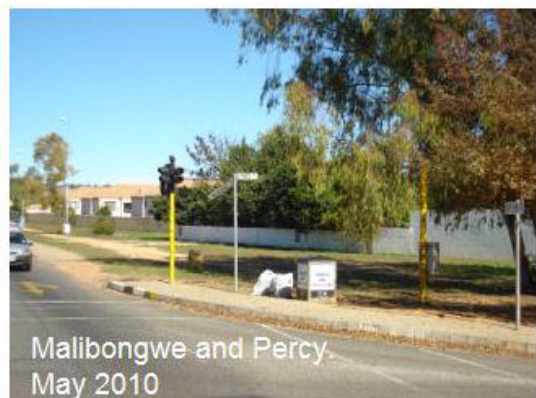
Also, there have been notable successes by the Crime Prevention Unit. We think back to the incident in Valley road last year which started in a home in Silverpine in the early hours of Friday and culminated in the death of one suspect and the capture of another two. It is significant that the domestic worker whose actions lead to the calling of SAPS was a regular attendee at Penny Steyn's Domestic Watch meetings.

### **CPF Projects and Activities**

At the start of our year the CPF decided to focus on two main areas, by-law enforcement and drug and alcohol abuse. Many of the CPF Open meetings addressed these topics.

#### **Project: By-law Enforcement.**

With the help of the Ward Councillors and community associations, we compiled a list of by-law infringement priority areas. This was presented to JMPD at a time when management changes were taking place. We were fortunate to get support from a few individuals within JMPD and have seen varying results. In some cases the results have to-date been permanent.



With the support of the community, Councillor van der Molen and JMPD, the illegal vehicle repair traders and drug dealers at the corner of Malibongwe and Percy, and the "chicken lady" on Malibongwe just off Boundary have not returned. In many other places in the precinct the results have not always been sustainable.

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In October the CPF arranged a night tour of “20” by-law infringement “hot-spots” in the precinct. In addition to support from Linden SAPS, Councillor van der Molen, Piranha, and a number of community association heads we were able to get the support of Arthur Adendorff and his deputy who heads up JMPD Parks and also Mbengeni Ndou of the NPA.

Whilst not yet ideal, this has resulted in a closer relationship between our Precinct and the officials in Johannesburg Parks. One of the outcomes has been that JMPD are performing more raids and clean-ups of our “hot-spot” parks. These raids do not always result in sustainable change because of a lack of resources and attention to this matter by the Randburg Courts.

At the start of 2010 we compiled and issued a two page document summarising the by-laws and what numbers to call to report by-law infringements.

This project will continue during 2010/2011 with a change of focus towards what we can do as a community. We have already had our first workshop in this regard.

An exciting recent development is that we have received in-principle support for community sentences and will be looking for volunteers to assist.

### Project: Drug and Alcohol Abuse.



Two of our Open Monthly meetings focused on Drug and Alcohol abuse. The main thrust of this project has been with our youth and through our Youth Desk. The CPF also ensured that this remained a focus of SAPS and we look forward to seeing the statistics when these are released later in the year.

A significant achievement was the appointment of a new Senior Prosecutor at the Randburg Courts. This was after much pressure from ourselves that included letters to the President's Office.

We have since worked with the Senior Prosecutor and although our progress with Justice has been slow, we are pleased to see that successful convictions in this regard are steadily improving.

The Drug and Alcohol Abuse presentation to Sasol last year was well received and we encourage other businesses in our area to do the same. The CPF has a wealth of material and content for awareness sessions of this nature.

**Linden Youth Desk.**

The Linden Youth Desk was one of our key drivers in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse.

In the last year the Youth Desk conducted drug and alcohol abuse presentations to eight (8) schools in our precinct and another two (2) in the Randburg and Honeydew Precincts. Across these schools they delivered a total of 23 drug presentations.



We would also like to thank the specialist volunteers that have assisted our Youth Desk. These include Margaret Janeke of Outward Bound, Sandy Phillips of Narcotics Anonymous, "Scott" of Anonymous on Air as well as other teachers and professional counsellors for their inputs.

Thank you also to the recovering addicts that work with our Youth Desk. Amanda Pretorius, Louis Delgado, Paul Viviers, and Clyde Broskie have provided invaluable testimonies to learners. We hope we can continue to count on your support

There are two driving forces in the Linden Youth Desk that we must recognise: Warrant Officer Tania Vermeulen and CPF Volunteer, Nadine Scott. Thank you for your effort and commitment to the youth of our community and please keep up the outstanding work.

**Victim Support.**

As of 6 May, we have 21 Victim Support volunteers who provide early on-site support and a further 8 volunteer Counsellors who provide trauma counselling.

In the last year this team responded to 105 incidents ranging from armed

<b>Victim Support Call-Outs per Suburb</b>		
<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>% Incidents</b>
Blairgowrie	1	36%
Linden (all areas)	2	13%
Windsor (all areas)	3	12%
Malanshof	4	9%
Fontainebleau	5	7%
Robindale	6	7%
Cresta	7	5%
Darrenwood	8	5%
Randpark Ridge	9	4%
Ferndale	10	2%

robbery, rape, suicide, murder, drownings to abductions. The incidents per suburb show the top ten suburbs. Please note that these are Victim Support statistics and are not provided by SAPS.

We recognise the extraordinary dedication of this group under the leadership of Keith Russel and Carl Schlotfeldt. You and the team often go beyond what is expected, spending hours, at all times of the day and night with victims of crime. Thank you.

### **Other CPF Activities.**

At the AGM last year we were pleased that David Potter and Jenny Jooste were elected to the Executive Committee. Jenny has been successful in forging links with JMPD and David recently took over the critical role of Secretary in the Executive Committee.

The Linden CPF website, [www.lindensaps.co.za](http://www.lindensaps.co.za) continued with the support of Sunil Menon. The website received 999 unique visitors in March and April 2009 and 1,781 in the same months in 2010 showing strong growth. The most popular pages remain the "Numbers to Contact" section.

The Linden CPF Executive continued to remain relevant beyond our Precinct. Our station falls within the Hillbrow cluster and in the last year we attended four Cluster CPF meetings and recently contributed towards the constitution of the Provincial CPF Board.

We also attended meetings held by the CPF Partnership as well as a few meetings held by the DP and ANC in the last year. We must clarify that the CPF is a-political but we are open to attending all meetings of relevance to the community.

Lastly, early in 2010 we started the process of enlisting foreign language volunteers for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The process has gone well and we are grateful to the 30 volunteers who have offered their time and skills to assist visitors should they be a victim of crime or possibly even be accused of a crime. Across the 30 volunteers they speak 18 languages including Dutch, Brazilian Portuguese, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili and Ligala.

The involvement of the Foreign Language Volunteers will be integrated into our Victim Support process.

### **Outlook for 2010/2011**

The year ahead will start with a focus, together with billions of others in the world, on the Soccer World Cup. We are extremely excited that Brazil, the number one team in the world, chose to not only train but also use our precinct as a base. This will no doubt divert the attention of some SAPS resources from our station to the team. But it will have the benefit of having many more resources from other stations as well as provincial and national structures, focused on our precinct.

Since January we have worked with community associations to prioritise the projects that the Linden Precinct Community will implement. Through this process we identified the top seven projects from an original list of 19 possible projects. These projects were also prioritised by Sector.

To the extent possible, the CPF will facilitate the implementation of the projects. By coordinating the efforts of multiple communities across the Precinct we stand a better

chance of sustaining improvements. We avoid merely moving the problem to our neighbour, which may risk its return when we relax our focus.

**Linden CPF Priority Projects for 2010/2011**

1. **Vagrancy/Loitering/Homeless Containment.** Outcome: reduced number of homeless and vagrant people in Precinct. Implemented in a humane manner. Will also include better enforcement of security by-laws by JMPD.
2. **Street Patrols – Bobby on the Beat and/or Community Patrols.** Understanding that SAPS has limited resources, will investigate the use (in high priority zones) of Community Patrol and/or "Bobby on the Beat" concepts working in other cities/suburbs.
3. **SAPS / Security Company Collaboration.** Outcome: Better collaboration, action and intelligence sharing between the security companies and Linden SAPS.
4. **Street Committees and Community Associations.** Outcome: A higher proportion of engaged communities through organised community associations and street committees. CPF will also support existing associations and committees.
5. **Justice and Convictions.** Outcome: Increase the number of convictions by working with courts; implementing community sentencing; and more by-law convictions.
6. **Incident reporting and intelligence.** Outcome: A process and system for reporting non-case incidents and reporting to Linden SAPS. All cases must be reported to SAPS.
7. **General upgrades and support at the police station.** General support to the Station and the SAPS team including fixing the shade for SAPS parking; install LAN in parkhomes; access control in Detectives Branch; more frequent grass cutting etc. etc

Another focus, for later in the year, will be to re-energise Sector Forums within the Precinct. As with the CPF Executive, the sector committees must be composed of elected community representatives. This will start in August and we ask community associations to be sure that their structures and committees are in place so that elections in this process can execute smoothly.

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In conclusion, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their support over the last year. Your support is not only appreciated by myself but is also recognised and appreciated by the wider community. I would also like to thank Malcolm Hutton for his support as an Active Business Representative for the many years of service to the CPF and Linden SAPS. We wish Malcolm well in his retirement.

We have had a number of successes in the last year but have also had to deal with high profile incidents from the Blairgowrie fire in August 2009 to the attempted murders of the baby and child minder in Robindale in April 2010. I have no doubt that we will have our challenges in the forthcoming year but am confident that with the continued support of the Executive Committee, Linden SAPS and the different community leaders involved in our precinct, we will continue to build and strengthen our community. Whilst we are not yet there, we continue to journey towards our vision: a Safe and Secure place to Live Work and Play.

Jadd Harding  
Linden CPF Chairperson  
May 2010