“Making our voice heard - these are our safety priorities”

The “Policing Needs & Priorities” of 2016 was where we gathered to give voice to the safety concerns of the people of the Winelands police cluster.

We started with the previous year’s “Community Safety Plan”. Participants were divided into groups and asked to give their input into three themes: Professional Policing, Safe Public Spaces and Partnerships.

These were some the concerns of the people of the Winelands Cluster:

Professional Policing

1. **Concern:** The conduct of police at Community Service Centres.  
   **Actions:** CPFs to report on poor service at stations and to monitor phone answering time and report on this at SAPS/CPF management meetings; SAPS to ensure that officials are able to communicate in all official languages. It was also proposed that the responsibilities of SAPS officials are written up in a user friendly format and made available to members of the public.

2. **Concern:** SAPS’ slow response to complaints and arrival at crime scenes.  
   **Actions:** CPFs will monitor response times using a standardised template.

3. **Concern:** Insufficient vehicles and officials at police stations.  
   **Actions:** DoCS will continue to monitor this and report on delays. CPFs and SAPS must develop a strategy to recruit reservists to add capacity to the stations.

Public Spaces

4. **Concern:** Safety at ATMs and shopping malls.  
   **Actions:** SAPS to continue regular patrols together with municipal law enforcement, and to engage with the municipal business forum.

5. **Concern:** Safety and law enforcement at liquor outlets.  
   **Actions:** Western Cape Liquor Authority to play a role in enforcing licences; law enforcement to work with SAPS on joint operations. The provincial Alcohol Harms Reduction Game Changer will be implemented in Paarl East.

6. **Concern:** Prevalence of alcohol and drugs at schools.  
   **Actions:** SAPS crime prevention officials and law enforcement to work with schools.

7. **Concern:** Illegal drag racing on public roads.  
   **Actions:** SAPS and Law enforcement will continue to conduct operations to respond and reduce drag racing.

8. **Concern:** Improve safety on public trains.  
   **Actions:** Needs to be more engagement with metro rail and PRASA around this. DoCS will engage with the relevant MEC to take this up.

Partnerships

9. **Concern:** Increase CPFs participation and reporting on the EPP.  
   **Actions:** DoCS will assist CPFs with the registration and completion of reporting and will monitor their payment to CPFs.

10. **Concern:** Training to CPFs on their roles and responsibilities.  
    **Actions:** To be provided by DoCS.

11. **Concern:** Need for improved communications between partners.  
    **Actions:** CPF to develop a communication strategy with members of the public to create awareness and open channels of communication.

12. **Concern:** Support for crime victims.  
    **Actions:** To improve services to victims of crime by ensuring VEP volunteers are trained and supported.
“Our new walk, as a Neighbourhood Watch. One step at a time”

In our neighbourhood, we are taking charge of our future. As neighbours, we all agree safety is our most important priority. So we have worked out a plan of action. One step at a time.

Accreditation:

First, we are applying for our Neighbourhood Watch to be an “Accredited NHW” with the Western Cape Department of Community Safety (DoCS). This means our Neighbourhood Watch will be recognised as official.

To become “Accredited”, we will have to prove we have a clearly-marked NHW area, that we are a proper, organised structure and that we work hard to have healthy relationships with all our safety partners.

Also, our people will be able to trust us – they will know we are an “Accredited NHW”.

Safety Audit:

Second, our NHW will conduct an “audit” of our priority safety issues in our neighbourhood. The safety issues we think are the most important. We will identify all threats, risks and dangers.

Everything will be noted down – the blocked drains, the missing manhole covers, potholes, the dangerous building material, dumped on our park. The holes in the school fence. The areas where the cars speed. The places where there are drug deals in public.

All these issues will form our “Neighbourhood Safety Report”. We will also look for valuable partners who can help us solve our problems – like our School Governing Bodies, our local churches and mosques, our business communities. We want to bring them all on board.

Stocktake:

Every month, our NHW will call our Ward Councillor and our CPF, to check up on the progress on our safety issues. Our relationship will be based on fact. Evidence-based.

In this way, we’ll be monitoring our Ward Councillor’s performance too. It might be a tough conversation, but it will be healthy and constructive. This process will also help us decide whether to re-elect our Ward Councillor.

Eyes and Ears:

We will continuously talk in our neighbourhood – make sure we are still focusing on our most important priorities.

We will update our plans. Each and every one of us must clearly understand what our role is. We will always elect our best people to represent us – as our NHW leaders, as our leaders in different organisations and government.

We all have our specific roles to play, to be safer. We sure have our own work to do – as our neighbourhood’s “eyes and ears”. And know we can only succeed if we work better together. We are definitely proud to belong to our local “Neighbourhood Watch”!

To apply to become an Accredited Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

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PNP Schedule:

1. 24 - 25 June 2016: (Beaufort West Cluster) - Rustdene Community Hall, Cnr of De Vries and Bantom Street, Rustdene, Beaufort West.
2. 1 - 2 July 2016: (Blue Downs Cluster) - Delft South Civic Centre, Delft Main Road, Delft South, Delft.
3. 11 - 12 July 2016: (Eden Cluster) - Convive Civic Hall, 21 Plenenaar Street, Convive, George.
4. 13 - 14 July 2016: (Da Gamaskop Cluster) - Mossel Bay Civic Centre, Mossel Street, Mossel Bay.
5. 12 - 13 August 2016: (Cape Town Cluster) - Salt River Town Hall, 41 Voortrekker Road, Salt River.
6. 19 - 20 August 2016: (Khayelitsha Cluster) - Bethesda Church, 9 Stork Street, Broadland Park, Strand.
7. 2 - 3 September 2016: (Tygerberg Cluster) - Durbanville Conference Centre, 1st Floor, Wellington Road, Durbanville.
8. 16 - 17 September 2016: (Milnerton Cluster) - Robinvile Community Hall, Atlantis, Starling Street, Robinvile, Atlantis.
9. 30 September - 1 October 2016: (Wynberg Cluster) - TBC
10. 7 - 8 October 2016: (Vredenburg Cluster) - Hopefield Thusong Centre, 575 Dwarsweg Street, Hopefield.
11. 21 - 22 October 2016: (Nyanga Cluster) - Nyanga KTC Hall, MJO Street, Nyanga, Gugulethu.
12. 28 - 29 October 2016: (Vredendal Cluster) - Vredendal Sport Hall, Bam Street, Vredendal.

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Through our constitutional mandate, the Department of Community Safety has the oversight responsibility to monitor police conduct.

Tell us what you need to feel safe.

SMS INFO to 35 395 to receive a menu of services.

Note: *Standard SMS rates apply