

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER MAY 2023**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our Membership for 2023 is similar to last year with 147 households, Knysna Golf Club, the Anchorage, Hunters Village, Hunters Retirement Centre, Amble Ridge, the Doctors Rooms and Knysna Private Hospital. We continue to try and increase this membership, and although we appreciate the rises in the cost of living, we are very disappointed that a large number of households are still happy to let others pay for the security of our area. There was no response on Ward 9 Information Whatsapp Group, to my posting of the Knysna Plett Herald article praising HRF NHW.

**CRIME STATISTICS**

Although crime in our area is still reasonably low compared to the rest of Knysna, it has increased in 2023. We believe that the recent activity was down to a known criminal who fortunately is now back in custody. However, there have been incidents of opportunist activity and garages and sheds mainly have been the target. Building tools and equipment have been a popular choice for criminals and not only in our area. Theft out of motor vehicles is also increasing. Long periods of loadshedding are not helping, with criminals taking advantage of the long periods of darkness. We have a small but loyal band of patrollers but always need more. If you are interested, it is not arduous or dangerous, please contact Rob Pringle at [rob.pringle@mweb.co.za](mailto:rob.pringle@mweb.co.za) for more details.

**CAMERAS**

Our 30 CCTV cameras are still our main asset in the fight against crime. They have proved their worth over and over again. However, there are challenges with our present system. The topography of our area, and the rapid growth of trees and bush are making the radio links difficult. The frequent load shedding is another huge challenge. The future will be cameras linked to fibre, and we are in discussions with our partner Allsound to plan the way ahead, both short term and long term. There will be more information available in the next few weeks.

**SAPS PERFORMANCE**

Our local police force is sometimes accused of poor performance. Although there may be occasional lapses, these accusations are based more on perception rather than fact. Recent incidents in our area have highlighted excellent performance, particularly with the arrest of our regular criminal and the recovery of stolen property. Also, their coordination with other forces, security companies and NHWS in the garden route, has resulted in the arrest of professional gangs. Knysna SAPS has a first class Station Commander and even though they are under resourced, they do a great job.

**HOW CAN RESIDENTS HELP?**

Help SAPS and our security services as much as possible.

If you do have a crime incident, open a case. It may be inconvenient, but it is essential.

SAPS are established in accordance with the amount of crime in an area. No case opened, therefore no crime, no investigation, no finger prints, less police.

Crime prevention begins at home. Keep garage and shed doors closed and locked. Use your alarm. Tell builders not to leave their tools around and in full view of potential criminals. If possible, park your vehicles in a secure area. If it is not possible, do not leave valuables or tools in the vehicle.

Keep an eye out for any suspicious activity and report it to your security company. Encourage your neighbours to join our NHW.

**KIND REGARDS**

**YOUR HRF NHW COMMITTEE 15 May 2023**