



Port Owen Marina Authority (NPC)

Reg # 1999/010199/08

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Newsletter: February 2021

The Covid 19 Pandemic is still with us, and we are all hoping to be vaccinated soon.

We are back to Level 1 restrictions, but that does not mean that we can relax. Please remain vigilant. Social distancing remains the most effective safeguard against infection.

1) Governance

- 1.1) SPEEDING IN THE MARINA: All the waterways of the Marina are NO-WAKE and DEAD SLOW zones.

The reason for this is two-fold:

- 1.1.1) Slow speed is necessary to ensure safety on the water. Swimming is allowed in most of the waterways and people in the water should be expected at all times.
- 1.1.2) Wake-Waves cause canal embankment erosion and can cause damage to boats moored at jetties.

Please keep your boat speed down to DEAD SLOW. We do not need unwanted accidents and we need to conserve the integrity of the embankment walls.

2) Dredging

- 2.1) Applications for the Dumping and Discharge permits were submitted in October 2020 and the Department has issued reference numbers for both applications.

The Department responded to our applications on 22 December 2020, asking for some information. We have responded via our legal representatives and, in turn, asked for a formal meeting to address a number of issues raised by the Department.

We subsequently met with the representatives of the Department for the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Oceans and Coasts division (DEFF: O&C) on 11 February 2021, and are making progress in sorting out a number of issues

DIRECTORS

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raised by both parties. A follow-up meeting, where various options regarding the disposal of the dredged material will be discussed, will be held soon.

Ensuring that our proposed methodology is eventually accepted as the best option available is seen as a cornerstone of the application process.

We also met with the Deputy Mayor, Municipal Manager and senior Managers responsible for the environment to ensure that they are aware of, and in support of, our application and methodology. This meeting was attended by the Head of Department: DEA&DP as well as the Director for Biodiversity and Coastal Management. Support for the POMA application was confirmed.

As we progress with the application process, we shall engage with other interested and affected parties.

We shall keep you informed as this process unfolds.

- 2.2) We are still waiting for the public participation process, needed to approve the draft Berg Estuarine management Plan, to be advertised.

3) Embankments and Walkways

Planned maintenance on the walkways and embankments for 2021, as per our budgeted priority listings, has commenced.

If you are aware of areas that are in need of urgent attention, please alert the Marina Manager.

4) Maintenance of the Public Open Spaces

Clients may be aware of the development and beautification of the Public Open Space (POMA designation No 19) bordered by Maxi Drive and Sheila Avenue. This was initiated by a group of volunteer neighbourhood members, and acknowledged in this Newsletter.

Despite clear agreements between POMA, the Bergrivier Municipality and affected parties, there is now a major disagreement between certain members of the neighbourhood.

POMA has made its position clear and will now not be involved until the affected parties have sorted the problem out between themselves.

5) General

We are hoping to make significant progress this year as far as dredging is concerned because we believe that we have the right strategy and the support of the relevant organisations.

Please be careful out there. Be mindful of the health requirements and always be safe!

Abe Uys