
McGREGOR GEMEENSKAP POLISIE FORUM

McGREGOR COMMUNITY POLICING FORUM



MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY 24 MAY 2011 : 10h00 to 13h00

McGREGOR COMMUNITY HALL

1. Maria Oostendorff opened the meeting in prayer and welcomed all attending.
2. Constable (Boetie) Willemse introduced Captain Gqabi who gave his background and a short summary of his CV. He stressed that he is available at all times and that Police visibility is of utmost importance – a list of all available officers was displayed with their cell numbers – the community should please keep the Police informed and come forward regarding criminals in the village. It would be wonderful if each institution in the village could partner with the CPF and the Police. See last page for contact numbers.

There are 3 sections in which the community needs to become involved:

- 2.1 To combat or even prevent crime the Police need the support of the community – there have been 14 cases of vandalism this month at the school – during school hours and after hours as well.
 - 2.2 There is a low level of housebreakings but the target is Zero. The incident of the old lady at the top of Voortrekker Street was serious and the child offenders are now in government custody. We need to be pro-active in order to prevent this unacceptable activity. We should also be aware regarding security of cars and houses – don't tempt criminals. We need to keep an eye on strangers in the village – make them know that they are noticed – this is why road blocks are set up to check who is coming in and out of the village.
 - 2.3 To all the stakeholders involved with the CPF and the Police – a big THANK YOU !
3. Lezet Snyders introduced Barbara Jacobs who gave her input – not as an expert – but from a personal point of view, saying she is proud of our Police Station and peaceful town. She thanked the CPF and Correctional Services and felt focus is needed on children and crime. Watching our children grow up in the village Barbara quoted the African proverb – “It takes a village to raise a child” and said we need a creative system to enable children to realise their self worth and not fall through the cracks and end up in prison.
 4. Lezet Snyders introduced the representatives of Robertson Coprrrectional Services, Mr IK Swart (023 626 8100) and Mr David Eyssen (023 626 8148) as well as Divese Wesso (072 951 8248) of the Victim Empowerment Programme (V.E.P.) and thanked them for attending. Mr Eyssen of Robertson Correctional Services felt that McGregor does not have a structured programme for monitoring released prisoners and that the community rejects them as a result. Mr Bob Fortuin suggested that Councillor Davin Hull would be able to create a programme for McGregor through the Municipality.

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5. Jimmy Binos then thanked Capt. Qgabi, the C.P.F. Maria, Lezet, Barbara and said that the reason we were there was to uplift the children and give them something to be interested in. He explained that the tables would work in groups and chose a spokesperson for each table to discuss their thoughts about CRIME / WISH LIST / & WAY FORWARD for 10 minutes each and then send their spokesperson to the boards as directed.

5.1 BOARD 1. CRIME (as we see it in McGregor)

- Table 1 Abuse and Child Gangs
- Table 2 Housebreaking and Drugs leading to rape. Young children being intimidated by older children – forcing small children to steal and do drugs.
- Table 3 Crime being allowed in the community by the community.
- Table 4 A need for the guidance of parents regarding conflict resolution (houses being burnt down) – no recreation places, lack of opportunity – community service.
- Table 5 Family violence and a conspiracy of silence – theft, drugs, alcohol and abuse.
- Table 6 Abuse of alcohol and drugs – gangster recruitment and poor school attendance due to weak supervision and teaching.

5.2 BOARD 2. WISH LIST

- Table 1. Community Organisations must become involved – spiritual bonding /approachability
- Table 2. Tackle young children – critical that parents need educating on how to nurture children and enjoy them. Involve business and community in a drive to involve children in churches and show them the possibilities / hope of positive things / education about alcoholism. Don't let the children slip through the gaps.
- Table 3. Neighbourhood watch – all person should be involved. A healthy home environment. No drug houses. Work opportunities needed in community.
- Table 4. Loving families / community – obedient children. Speak out about problems – more job opportunities.
- Table 5. Viable Center with sustained, audited funding with paid and trained personnel to supervise. Accountability of all concerned. Children to learn self dependancy and respect.
- Table 6. Better supervision at school with more community involvement. Churches to start Guilds and create interest groups. Club house. Place of Safety.

5.3 BOARD 3. THE WAY FORWARD

- Table 1.** Motivate children to participate.
Parents to set an example.
Regular follow up on tasks / assistance with fund raising / help participation
Keep children interested!
- Table 2.** Educate parents/ involve local business / sponsors / education.
Have more social type meetings – bond community.
Report crime – alcohol abuse/ public drinking / drug houses – addresses
Police manpower – only 2 manned vehicles at weekends because crime is not transparent – no cases are opened.
Homeowners don't tempt criminals by being lax with security.
Give young people visions of a better future – Tourism training, share skills/talents etc.
- Table 3.** More community meetings.
Take hands against crime.
Need to have more patrols – vans.
Tell people about crime.
After care – after prison release / supervision / acceptance.
- Table 4.** Co-operation between churches - NEXT STEP?
- Table 5.** Add value to child's life.
Not all play but teach marketable life skills.
- Table 6.** Hold school accountable with community leaders and Education Dept. Inspectors
Promote decent housing which gives human dignity.
Create interest groups at all levels.

There will be a launch of the Programme on June 16, 2011 – Youth Day – details to be advertised.

A meeting before this launch will be advertised.

More than 40 stakeholders were present – the contact details are available on request.

The SAPS & CPF Committee contact details:

Captain Gqabi	Cell No.	082 469 3298
Const Willemse	Tel No.	023 625 8000
W/O Simons	Cell No.	079 894 1663
W/O Mei	Cell No.	082 443 9300
Maria Oostendorff	Cell No.	079 545 3806
Lezet Snyders	Cell No.	082 624 2653
Jimmy Binos	Cell No.	082 569 1872
Anne Binos	Cell No.	082 362 1444