



**Feedback on Informal Meeting between Strandveld Plaaswag and  
Baardskeerdersbos Home Owners Association**

**Held at Ou Skool, Baardskeerdersbos on 11 February 2025 at 18:00**

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**Present**

Flippie Groenewald (Interim Chairperson SPW), Paul Giess (Vice Chairperson BBHOA)  
Amanda Rykaart (Admin SPW), Carla Kesser (Treasurer SPW), De Wet Groenewald (former  
SPW Chairperson and BBHOA Secretary)

**Apologies**

Stephan Fourie, Wilmien Fourie, Coleen Emmenis, Johnathan Wright

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AR thanks PG for attending an informal meeting to discuss matters of crime in Bbos.

Point 7 of BBHOA Committee Meeting Minutes dated 20th January 2025 prompted the request to meet.

It indicates that residents of BBos are not fully aware of the role and function of SPW in the community. A decision was made by SPW Management to approach BBHOA to clarify misconceptions and discuss future collaboration.

Strandveld Plaaswag has just received accreditation for the next two years from POCS (Police Oversight and Community Safety) and fits into the legislative framework as follows:

**Role**

- The Constitution of South Africa – Act 108 of 1996, the South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995, as amended, and the Criminal Procedure Act (51 of 1977) form the basis for the implementation of the regulations to self-protection by communities.

- The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety of the Western Cape Government (POCS) oversees the Community Police Forums in terms of the above legislation, and promotes collaboration, communication, transparency, service delivery and responsibility to the accredited neighbourhood and farm watches.
- Act 19 of the SA Police Service instructs the formation of CPF structures by local police stations, on various levels representative of the community. The police are compelled to be directly involved with the CPF.
- As an accredited neighbourhood/farm watch, SPW liaises closely with the Gansbaai CPF, the joint NHWs of the Greater Gansbaai area, the joint operational sector together with SAPS, Rural Safety, detectives, Law Enforcement, SPW service providers CTS (Core Tactical Services), CMC medical and additional role players when needed.
- SPW adheres to strict guidelines according to a Constitution, Code of Conduct for all members, exclusive use WhatsApp groups, re operations and possible funding from POCS for projects.
- SPW consists of farm watch for the farms in the area of operation as well as a neighbourhood watch for the area within the urban zone of the Overstrand Municipality.
- Due to the geological sprawl of the area and up until recent very low crime, low resident number in urban area, voluntary vehicle or foot patrols are not feasible. Details on the infrastructure that Plaaswag utilises can be found on [Strandveld Plaaswag](#).

## **Function**

- The above framework allows SPW to exchange relevant crime trends and information with relevant role-players and NHW's in the area. Verification of criminal events and subsequent liaison with SAPS and detectives is of utmost importance to ensure feedback and receiving information as to progress of cases.
- WhatsApp groups are exclusively for members, as per CPF guidelines, one being a general security information group and the other being an emergency group with relevant SAPS personnel, CTS and CMC as members. The groups have to be strictly controlled to ensure that all SAPS protocol is adhered to and prevent inadvertently jeopardising a possible arrest and prosecution.
- SAPS's intelligence officer provides crime analyses to all Farm and NHW's, together with statistics according to SAPS protocol.
- No addresses, names, detail or photos of suspects are allowed to be used on the WA groups, unless specifically sought by SAPS which implies a subpoena for arrest has been issued, or there is a statement where the suspect has been named as such.

- To follow up on crimes in the area, the permission of the victim needs to be given, together with the case number if reported.

A large concern is therefore unverified messages circulating through town and possibly jeopardising investigation and possible prosecution.

## **Solutions**

All crime incidences heard about to be reported to SPW, Amanda on 0827741370 who will then verify with the residents involved as well as SAPS.

PG proposes the support of BBHOA to encourage members to join SPW to become a part of the relevant, verified information placed on the WA groups. Residents who know details of a break in or criminal event are welcome to report to SPW, even if the reporting person or residents involved are not members of SPW, or do not wish to make a formal statement for SAPS. This information will be used intelligence collation as well as to follow up with SAPS. Feedback received from SAPS that has been cleared is then also shared on the SPW WA groups.

In the event of a suspicious person or actions are seen, e.g. the suspect seen with green bag – SPW does not go out to investigate or search. CTS, the designated service provided was called as they are legally covered to search for weapons or seemingly stolen items, do a citizen's arrest if necessary and call the police.

If any resident sees a suspicious or criminal act or person in action, they should try to take video footage or photographs, if they can do without putting themselves at risk. They should then immediately contact SPW to call in SAPS, CTS and/or Law Enforcement and forward relevant information/footage. Law Enforcement is very willing to assist and also have a mandate to search homes and suspects.

WA groups to strictly adhere to the following regarding crime – no naming, shaming, placing of photos or videos of suspected individuals as the group admins can be held legally liable and severely jeopardise investigation and possible arrest.

More pressure from the BBHOA on the Ward Committee may lead to more regular patrols of Law Enforcement.

Currently CTS's patrols are more focused on the town than on the farms, daytime and evenings. CTS sends through their waypoint locations as proof of their patrols.

Initially the focus was on farms due to the bigger threat – by means of cameras and radios. The need to focus on vehicles moving through town hasn't existed until recently. No CCTV

cameras have been installed in town or has been allocated on the budget on the ward committee. More joined pressure from interest groups needed here.

BBHOA and general residents are encouraged to install private cameras, it does not have to be an expensive outlay – very clear footage used to secure the arrest of the two suspects in a recent robbery – was from a R380 Takealot camera. Camera footage picked up on private cameras can also be sent to SPW for adding to the database. This footage can only be used in court if supported by a statement from the camera owner if willing.

Things have changed in Baardskeerdersbos, there has never been a need for securing the town before, therefore a different tactic is needed. The more members who join the existing infrastructure of SPW, the more patrols can be afforded. The ultimate aim is to get a dedicated patrol vehicle for the area. Previous attempts have failed due to not enough members joining SPW, therefore not enough income to afford the service.

Plaaswag is a community project that should be supported by more community members. 80% of the income is spent on patrols, the rest on LPR cameras, radio repeater and CMC and is falling short. There is a need for more focus on the petty crimes, where patrols and cameras have proven successful.

Membership applications have picked up from town residents, mostly new residents who are used to paying for a security company. BBos residents of course may prefer to join CTS and CMC directly but fees are much more expensive, whereas becoming a member of Plaaswag subsidises the fee for the member.

PG posed the question as to why crime is happening now and what caused the increase. Identified factors are socio-economic circumstances, grown up children returning home with criminal experience and intent, children not going to school, residents not scared of CTS anymore, more casual workers on farms, builders in town and more residents.

SPW is already working on an increase of patrols and involvement from Law Enforcement. Badisa has been approached with no response. Children are legally obliged to attend school up to the age of 15 and parents to be held accountable if they don't. This aspect can be escalated via Jocom meetings when children are involved in criminal activities.

The increase of residents in informal housing on town properties is also of concern.

Relying solely on SAPS in time of emergency is not feasible, as they often don't respond due to not enough manpower or vehicles. CTS has proven to be a valuable service, with

competitive pricing and a good relationship already established with SPW. They respond to calls for suspicious vehicles and people and contact SAPS if necessary.

PG gave feedback on the possibility of the use of community hall to alleviate some of the social problems in town. The Municipality required the BBHOA to be responsible for all maintenance in the event of contractual use.

The four large organisations in BBos, namely the Farmer's Association, SPW, BBHOA and Artists Organisation should band together to make our voice and issues heard at the municipality. Quarterly meeting between chairpersons proposed for all four organisations.

The solution must come from the community, as well as a willingness to address the issues and to contribute.

SPW monthly fees to be revised and presented for approval at the AGM on 1 March 2025.

The current cameras and radios were purchased and installed by the Farmers Association in conjunction with SPW. The LPR cameras are flagged and monitored by SAPS and Law Enforcement as well. The repeater for radio network is free to use for members, who have to purchase their own radio which can be used for all emergencies in town when cell phone connectivity is down.

A good start would be the installation of another LPR camera at the community centre – approximately R20 – 25 000 with a solar system, or R12-15 000 if the municipality is able to provide power.

If residents see anything suspicious, report it to Amanda 082 774 1370.

Meeting adjourned at 19:30.



**On behalf of Strandveld Plaaswag Management Committee**