

## **HEBRA Chairman's Report 2020 – October 2020**

Dear HEBRA Resident,

What a “strange” year it has been!

We kicked 2020 off with a great plan to uplift our enclosure, increase levy payer rates and enhance enclosure security.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and our country's efforts to prevent the mass-spread of the virus, all of our plans were put on hold during the various levels of lockdown. These include plans such as the security enhancements and partnerships detailed within our AGM pack, as well as the proposed levy measures and budget for the next year.

While our enclosure is starting to adapt to our new national circumstances, and people are starting to visit our beautiful park once again, we're facing some challenging times including our current economic circumstances – both nationally and within our community.

The national economic downturn has resulted in a rise in crime levels locally, affecting the Greater Edenvale and Ekurhuleni area in general. However, the economic situation is not solely to blame as an increase in crime levels have been predicted over the past several years due to the increase in population levels and opportunistic crime. Not only has this resulted in a rise in crime levels, with several small incidents occurring directly in our enclosure, it has also resulted in our current levy-payer rate decreasing from 42% in October 2019 to 38% today.

That said, our committee has worked extremely hard to maintain the integrity of our enclosure and community throughout this year. We have successfully paid off 95% of our debt to Mamba, while engaging with several security firms to review our enclosure security and deliver on a strategy which we believe will deliver long-lasting crime deterrents as well as a return on investment better than previously thought by our predecessors.

One of these initiatives, although simple, is our new gate operating times. During lockdown, we made the risky decision to close all of the gates as no traffic would require them to be open. This initiative seems to have worked well and allowed us to more accurately control any traffic, by foot or vehicle, into the area. The operating times have been adapted to our latest council application and submission, thereby allowing us to comply with our own council request and community requirement.

These times and gates are as follows:

- Gibson Road & St Andrew's Road Gates:
  - Open from 06h30 to 08h30, and 13h00 to 18h00.
  - Close at all other times, including weekends, public & school holidays.
  - Open during any school functions which Hurlyvale Primary School may have.
- All pedestrian gates to be open from 06h30 until 18h00, daily.

- St Matthews Road Booms:
  - Used as primary entrances and exits into, and out of, our enclosure.
  - Open 24/7/365, while currently only being guarded at night from 18h00 until 06h00.

We have implemented WhatsApp groups for every road in our enclosure. These are administered by at least 1 committee member, each, and are working very well for road, and area, information and conversations. If you are not part of a road group, please feel free to contact one of the committee members, or email us at [hebracommunity@gmail.com](mailto:hebracommunity@gmail.com)

I truly believe that the committee have done their utmost to construct a reasonable, well thought through budget given the circumstances and the numerous constraints and parameters we have to work within. The now published actuals for FY20, and the proposed budget for FY21 are included in this pack and we will hopefully be able to discuss these constructively at the planned AGM.

Furthermore, we are reviewing our options in forming a not-for-profit company, as well as formalizing an official homeowner's association. Together with these initiatives, we are writing a HEBRA constitution as well as all Policies & Procedures which are better aligned our community's requirements, to ensure that our HEBRA enclosure becomes one of the most well run, maintained and sought-after areas in greater Edenvale.

While security is at the forefront of our minds and plans for the enclosure, we are reviewing plans for social upliftment and community enhancements. This includes initiatives which allow us to become a wholesale provider of security to community residents, backed by best-of-breed security companies and technology, as well as funds for park maintenance and improvements – such as secure kids play areas and communal family leisure areas within our park, and area as a whole. Some of these plans under review also include ideas to form a local internet provider, to provide fast broadband access to all residents and levy payers such as some northern suburb enclosures already do as well, all the way to sanctioned events in our park such as music and markets on a weekend.

All of this information will be released as it is formulated and approved by our hard-working committee members, for your – our residents and members – to consider and back.

In conclusion, I wish to extend a sincere thank you to the entire committee team for their hard work to ensure our enclosure is kept to its best standards and levels of excellence. All of your hard work, care and dedication in the execution of your responsibilities does not go unnoticed.

Also, again a special shout-out to Noel, Steve, Kyle and the rest of the "Lawn Rangers" team who keep ensuring our park remains clean, well-kept and in perfect condition throughout the year.

Another thank-you to Brian Smith, who continues to support our committee and community with initiatives such as arranging the community medical and safety talks in the park, at no expense to any community member.

To Dave Ireland, a long-standing HEBRA community member, who selflessly provides security and safety backup to any community member – we would like to especially thank you for all the time, effort and expertise that you put in to our area security and ensuring we all sleep soundly at night.

Without community involvement, such as these mentioned above, we cannot make the enclosure and community the possibility that it is, today.

These persons, voluntarily, commit a vast amount of their personal time, at considerable personal expense, to HEBRA. There is no personal gain to being involved on the management committee.

This is because it is not possible for any one person to tackle all of the diversity of complexities involved in the running and managing of the enclosure community today. Any community member can and is encouraged, at any time, to approach any member of the management committee should they wish to discuss and clarify any matters which may be of interest or even troubling them.

The HEBRA management committee is a voluntary team of people from the HEBRA enclosure. While we have representation from every corner of our enclosure, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with the various functions of running our enclosure. Feel free to contact a committee member should you feel that you would like to participate and can lend a set of expertise to the team.

We are extremely thankful for the massive support and encouragement we receive from the vast majority of members! My thanks extend to the entire management committee team, past and present for their unselfish and valued contributions!

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Chester  
HEBRA Chairman