

# The LongAcres Mailer 1 Oct 2018

Monthly Feature: Get involved and help make Longacres better

By Arthur Dell

## Editors notes

This month I want to say something controversial which some may not like but hopefully others will agree. Instead of always waiting for something to be done we should get of our backsides and do it. Depending on what it is and what is required I believe with a bit of effort we, as a community, can do it and have fun doing so. Here is an example:

At the AGM I was astounded to hear complaints about fire hydrants not being visible and that HOA must get SBM to fix it. First it was a surprise as I did not know we had any and secondly because we all know SBM will take ages to do it. Then I decided to, as a test, tackle the problem and see what can be done. Please see under projects what has happened.

If we as, a community, want to thrive and enrich ourselves by making Longacres a haven each and every person has a responsibility to do something. **Perhaps most important is communication.** Everybody wanted a newsletter but thusfar I have received extremely little feedback on what people want, can and will do or what is going on. This trend you will throughout the letter.

## Social events:

Ek het tot my spyt uitgevind Longacres is nie baie sosiaal nie want daar het NIKS ingekom oor iets wat gaan gebeur, wat gebeur het of wat behoort te gebeur nie!!! Maar omdat ek die ewige optimis is glo ek dat dit sal verbeter as ons daaraan werk. Met dit in gedagte wil ek sommer nou hier se:

**Daar is 'n straatbraai en**



**potjiekos kompetisie op 24 Nov** Kyk onder projekte vir meer inligting.

Ons het egter 'n reelings kommittee nodig daarvoor en ek sal dankbaar as 3-4 mense kan help met die reelings. Laat asb weet.

## What is the committee doing:

This to me as a new committee member was a shock second to none. I have served on numerous committees, including HOA but never has a month passed after AGM that the committee has not come together nor did anything visible. I had a look through some of my old records and feel strongly we should have met within 2-4 days, discussed our agenda for the year ahead, got sub-committees together in need The Website(s) for which we pay, and was discussed at the AGM has not been updated with minutes, names etc.

It is rather difficult to report on project progress unless you what is going on!! And I don't!!

**So, being straight forward, I am going to say: What is the purpose of electing a committee that does nothing we see or know about? Then let us all rather find 3 or 4 people that is willing to put in some time and effort and they should form a committee that is dedicated to improving Longacres:**

## Project progress :

What I gathered at the AGM is that there are several projects underway presently but residents did not really know where we are with them. I have listed some below but there will probably be more. Things that I would like to see with any project is a completion target date, a cost factor, and of



course progress. I do believe many things can be done by ourselves if we all work together and not just wait on council or the committee to do it so please let us know if you can or will help. Due to the fact that I at present don't have sufficient details I will only briefly touch on two of the projects below for now, the rest will be reported on in the next Newsletter. Projects so far are

**a) Gated community**

No news

**b) Street Names**

No news

**c) Fire Hydrants** I used this as example in previous letter. This is what has happened since:

I quickly set out a project plan which took about 15 minutes. Then to verify my plan could work I needed to see what would be required and I traced a number of these hydrants with help from Kiewiet Jordaan. Satisfied my plan could work well I set out working on it. Although I battled a bit I got a map from SBM indicating where all hydrants are. They have agreed to replace all missing lids and that we may carry on with the project.

This turned into a bit of a nightmare as what was indicated on the maps are not real life. We have, after endless battles, located several hydrants which we have so far cleaned around and applied weedkiller. I am attaching a list of all with notes. Giel Pretorius kindly donated poles for us which we will plant during the month with a sign indicating where they are. Then we will test all of them etc. **What you as resident need to do is make sure you know where your nearest point is in the event of a fire at your place**

**d) Clubhouse**

Geen nuus. Ek dink egter persoonlik dat daar niks me verkeerd kan wees om nou reeds te begin bepaal waar dit behoort te wees wanneer ons eendag daarby kom nie. My idee sou wees om dit op te rig min of meer in die middle van die Groenbelt strook maar kom ons hoor ook van ander.

**e) Greenbelt**

No news

**f) Streetbraai Potjiekos competition**

This has been mentioned before but as far as I know never really got of the ground. Here is my idea which I hope evokes some reaction from you.

We know exactly where the greenbelt property being transferred to the HOA will be.

Let's determine where we will eventually have our clubhouse and use that area for a braai. We can augment the day with a potjiekos competition, some interesting activities, horse riding and so on. That way people can mingle, have creative ideas for what the Clubhouse and surroundings should look like and what can be done in the meantime.

As indicated above I would like us to work towards a date of 24 November.



**Nighbourhood watch:**

Ons kamera met toebehore is gesteel van die paal af!! Daar is geen twyfel dat sekuriteit ons almal raak nie, dat dit gaan toeneem nie en slegter word maar minder as 10% van die inwoners help met die buurtwag. Ek is nie seker hoeveel mans woon op Longacres nie maar is seker dis meer as 100. As elkeen net bereid is om xxx uur per maand op te offer kan ons dit BAIE meer doeltreffend maak. As JY kan help skakel asb vir Kiewiet by 083 303 1071 en gee jou naam op



Soos julle waarskynlik weet was daar 2 inbrake laas maand, in Adderley en in Ascot str, Dit gaan net toeneem as ons nie meer paraat is nie

**Suggestions:** As jy 'n voorstel het van wat gedoen kan word om die Landgoed, Paaie, Nuusbrief of enige iets beter te maak sal ons graag daarvan wil hoor. Natuurlik sal baie voorstelle reaksie uitlok, beide positief en negatief maar indien dit nie bespreek word nie gaan niks gebeur nie.



Tot dusver het ek slegs een voorstel gekry en dis vir lys van noodnommers. Ek het dit saamgestel (dit kan verbeter) en stuur dit binnekort aan. Ek sal prober reel om dit ook op die Webtuiste te kry.

**Problems reported/noted:** I believe we are extremely privileged as the only problems experienced over a month was the 2 robberies and a person complaining about speedhumps and the fact that people commence work at 07h30!!

**News clips** The old saying is No news is good news!! Apparently nothing has happened in and around Longacres in the last month as I got nothing from anywhere. I however disagree to an extent as I have seen some new houses being build, Taffic and perhaps more important pedestrians increasing significantly.

## **People**

Hier ook, geen nuus nie. Ek byt natuurlik maar moeilik daaraan dat niemand nuut ingetrek, uitgetrek of iets dergliks nie.

Ons, as LongAcres inwoners, is ;n gemeenskap op sy eie, al is dit binne groter gemeenskappe en myn insiens kan dit slegs beter wees as ons nuwe inwoners verwelkom en laat tuis voel in die gemeenskap. Maar ons nie eens weet van hulle nie is dit moeilik en daarom sal ek dit op prys stel as julle my laat weet van enige nuwe intrekkers. Ook van mense wat die landgoed verlaat en toevoegsels (soos babas)



## **Funny**

Sien julle wat gebeur  
wanneer die Bokke wen.  
Dagga word Legal  
want Groen is nou weer die  
in ding.



## **And The Last Word Goes To? Arthur Dell**

I was just about to send out the news letter when I received a call from the Chairman informing me there will actually be a meeting on Thursday. I told him that I am sending out the news letter despite not having feedback from the committee as I made a commitment to send it early in the month.

Although I stand to be corrected I got the impression that these news letters need to be censored/approved before going out. That of course deprives me, and every-one else that wants to contribute, of freedom of speech. Also it defeats the object of the letter as it is meant to be a forum where residents can communicate freely without fear. Obviously we need to be truthful, respectful and honest but also candid and straight forward. If I, or anybody else, says anything you disagree with please let me know and I will without fear publish your comments

This being the case I will do another newsletter on 19/20 Oct as a special edition and go from there. I will however stop spending my time on this if the residents feel I should or if I am restricted from being straight forward and honest about my opinions

May I again appeal on all to get involved, even if you just say it is a crap newsletter!!