

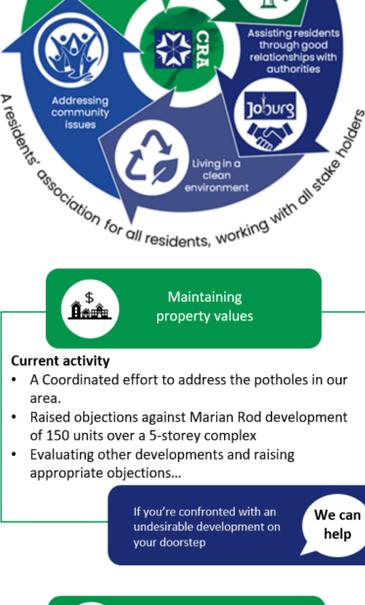
NEWS

“Doing better together for Craigpark” 2021 – A NEW YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The letter from the new Chairperson, Markus, that went out last week, was designed to give the objectives we have put out for the CRA. As a reminder, below is a diagram showing what we believe the CRA should be about. R stands for Residents, its all of us!

THANK YOU for all the responses, constructive engagement, suggestions and offers of assistance, received to date. Please keep those coming.

You can find the letter on our website [here](#).



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We have structured this report back under the focus areas in the diagram, let us know if it works for you.



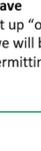
Maintaining property values

Current activity

- A Coordinated effort to address the potholes in our area.
- Raised objections against Marian Rod development of 150 units over a 5-storey complex
- Evaluating other developments and raising appropriate objections...

We can help

If you're confronted with an undesirable development on your doorstep



Addressing community issues

Current activity

- Creation of a community garden, in Abercorn Ave – more below
- Setting up a small informal community library, at AJ's in the Park
- Several community led initiatives have been put in place over COVID-19, thank you. We will have more information in future communications.
- Looking into a pilot project addressing homelessness in the area. Ditto re future information.

We have

- Set up “over sixties club” teas (we will be back as soon as we can COVID-19 permitting)

We can help

If there's a community issue you'd like to look into.



Security coordination

Current activity

- Communications channels for incidents
- Delta Park security - keeping up to date with Jozi Trails initiative
- Reporting requirements
- **Community Residents online Forum in the second half of March – details to be supplied**

We can help

If you have queries about security in general or had a crime problem



Living in a clean environment

Current activity

- Continuing maintenance of parks and verges by 2 maintenance workers
- City Parks are cutting grass in Delta and Hugh Wyndham Park, a good start, with some way to go, but well done to them so far!

We have

- Refurbished the playground equipment in Hugh Wyndham Park
- Repaired the pavement on Clarence Ave
- Together with local businesses, refurbished Lancaster Ave corners
- Organised successful Spruit Day clean ups

We can help

If you're concerned about the environment in our area



Assisting residents through good relationships with authorities

We have

- Participated in the Integrated Development Plan meeting

We can help

If you need to escalate logged faults or reported issues

WHERE CAN YOU HELP RIGHT NOW ?

As Markus mentioned in [his letter](#) the CRA is

A residents' association for all residents, working with all stakeholders, doing better together for Craigpark. We are a committee of 12 volunteers in a community of over 3 000 households and many businesses, which serve us and the surrounding community. Everyone needs things done now! We need your help.

We will do whatever we can, we will do the organising, we will do the communicating, outward and inbound, facilitation and the like, but we can't do it alone. We need you to help by volunteering your time and expertise and paying membership fees.

As we are involved in a variety of activities there is a place and need for people with a wide range of interests & expertise who would be willing get involved in some way. Residents are already assisting in Town Planning and with Business-related input. Community affairs and Environment is where the current needs are.

Here are some things currently happening.

Paulette Malcolm, also a committee member, currently provides vulnerable members of our community with something as simple, yet utterly vital, as human contact by sending a quick WhatsApp or making a phone call to check in. It seems like such a small thing but can be so important and often helps those who feel isolated from society feel valued. If anyone would like to aid Paulette or find out more, please WhatsApp her on 082 452 9322 .

Membership fees are vital to the association. Updating and paying your membership is as simple as logging onto our website and following through the step-by-step process. If you aren't already a member, we would love you to become a member, we hope you feel the same way.

Remember it is a rolling annual membership from the date of payment. With an automated renewal service. If you pay on 1 March 2021, your membership is valid until 28 February 2022, and you will receive a renewal notice via email around the end of January 2022.

Membership fees have been kept constant for a number of years, and that is not changing. R800 for a free-standing residential property occupant, reducing to R400 for those over 60. Our business membership fee is R1 200.

Here's the link - [website subscription](#)

To find out if you are a member or for any queries or assistance please contact Robyn at admin@cra.org.za

As a reminder, CAP PSS and CRA membership are separate. If you are a PSS subscriber, thank you for supporting the Public Space Security Scheme, to help make our suburbs safer. Please subscribe for CRA membership separately.

A big thank you to all those who have paid their membership fees and/or assisted us in other ways.

URBAN DENSIFICATION IN CRAIGPARK

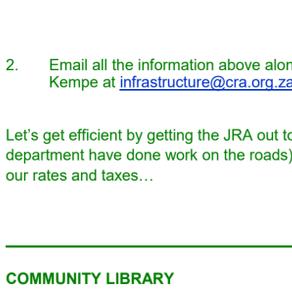
Uncontrolled urban densification is a problem, and while the City Council has passed new legislation and continues to consult with its residents, primarily through its councillors and through various online sessions, there are, and will probably always be, challenges ahead.

In order to be able to help mitigate the effects of urban densification we need Craigpark residents to be alert to the 'white notices' that go up on property walls and gates, indicating that developers are applying to have the property rezoned.

Please be vigilant, if you see any of these notices displayed anywhere in the area, send the information on the notice to the CRA's Town Planning (TP) team at townplanning@cra.org.za. For more information on Town Planning follow this [link](#).

FEATURES

ABERCORN'S SECRET GARDEN



Did you know there's a secret garden on Abercorn...

A place where anyone in the community can go and work in the vegetable patch. Where kids can pick a flower from the flower garden without repercussions or play on the jungle gym and swings. Beautiful shady spots to set up your picnic blanket and have a picnic on a Sunday afternoon. A little tea garden on a Saturday morning.

No?

Well, not yet there but could be. Paulette Malcolm one of the CRA committee members is spearheading the project, in conjunction with AJ's in the Park, to turn the wild overgrown servitude on Abercorn Ave (at the entrance to AJ's – 33 Abercorn Ave) into a picturesque secret garden open to all - whether to come do some vegetable gardening or just spend time in a peaceful environment.

The image above is not going to be created overnight or by a few individuals but rather a long-term possibility. It will need the support and participation of our community to be achieved.

Every journey starts with a single step and for now the first step is to clear the space and plant a small vegetable garden during this year's winter growing season – end of March.

What's Needed

- Currently there are 3 things needed.
- Help clearing as the space MUST be cleared manually.
 - Removal of the garden refuse.
 - Knowledge of trees and their maintenance

How you can help

On Wednesday the 10th and Thursday the 11th of March 2021, Paulette's assistant, will be there to start the work.

- Anyone and everyone willing to come and assist will make a huge difference.
- There is going to be an enormous amount to be taken to the dump. If you have a trailer or bakkie and would be prepared to take a few loads to the Bryanston dump, please come down. Alternatively, if you have a contact or are prepared to organise for a few loads to be removed please WhatsApp Robyn on 064 743 7375 or email admin@cra.org.za.
- Anyone with knowledge on trees, their positioning and maintenance please contact Paulette on 082 452 9322 or see below.

Saturday the 13th of March - Community interest and involvement

Paulette and other members from the CRA Committee will be on site to assist and chat to anyone who is interested in the project.

- So...
- If you've ever dreamt about being an explorer forging a new path into the unknown come along and try your hand.
 - If you have any ideas, or would just like to have a look, come down and let's have a chat, we would love to hear from you.
 - Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

With community involvement we truly could turn this forgotten piece of land into a magical community space... a not-so-secret garden.

AREA MAINTENANCE – the dreaded potholes

We have embarked on a pothole fixing campaign and we need your help!

As you are aware JRA don't drive around looking for potholes to fix, but with a reference number and the assistance of Cllr Martin Williams we hope to see some action. John Kempe, the CRA committee member for infrastructure, is compiling a list of all the potholes and road reinstatements needed in the area. John and Martin need the information, that information needs to come from you please.



With Martin's assistance this list can then be used to escalate the reports and hopefully help in getting all the road reinstatements done in a particular street / area at the same time thus speeding up the process, but we do need your help.

Please do the following:

1. Log each pothole with JRA via: hotline@jra.org.za

You will need the following information:

Full Name
Cell phone number
Street
Nearest house number
Nearest intersection
Suburb

2. Email all the information above along with the **reference number** you will receive from the JRA to John Kempe at infrastructure@cra.org.za.

Let's get efficient by getting the JRA out to do multiple reinstatements (fixing of the road where another department have done work on the roads) and repairs in the same area at the same time. After all we all pay our rates and taxes...

Let's make a difference.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Liz Delmont, from Liz at Lancaster's Guest House, first started thinking about this several years ago when she started the red book box. Liz set up a box of books on the pavement at 79 Lancaster Ave for anyone to borrow or swap. The books have at times unfortunately been taken but it was a wonderful community orientated initiative. Liz, Paulette and others wanted to expand on the idea with a small informal community library.

We are starting out by setting up a bookshelf at AJ's. People can come read, borrow or swap the books. The system is trust based as library cards etc are not practical and go against the spirit of the initiative.

There are many possibilities long term that could be included such as reading hours where volunteers could come read aloud to kids or as part of the over 60s club, having a study time (not an aftercare) where retired teachers / anyone willing could assist the children present if needed. Whether the bookshelf expands to something more will depend on the community interest.

How you can help

- We need the bookshelf so if anyone has one they are willing to donate, it'll be put to good use.
- Paulette has already collected a number of books, but any others would be welcome – especially children's books.
- For now, please WhatsApp Paulette on 082 452 9322 if you can assist

EVENTS

Wesleyan Church Market

1st Saturday morning of the month – commencing the 6th of March

4 Norfolk Ave
Craighall Park

ALL WELCOME

Come along, browse what's on offer and enjoy the teagarden.

If anyone would like to sell their homemade jams, breads, cakes, whatever it may be, come set up at one of the tables, and ensure you follow all the usual Covid-19 protocols.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

VOLUME 2 - Community Portfolio

Prof Bruce Sparks

Bruce is Emeritus Professor of Family Medicine at Wits Medical School. He was previously President of WONCA (World Organisation of Family Doctors in 112 countries), and has experience in Family Medicine / General Practice, Paediatrics, Plastic Surgery, Geriatrics, ENT, Community Health and Medical-legal aspects of Medicine within the University and the Gauteng and other Provincial Health Department clinics. His particular interest in the CRA is the health and well-being (clinical and psychological) of the elderly, indigent, homeless, and home-alone individuals in the community and how to involve residents and industry within the suburbs to assist in the lives and concerns of these members of our community and others with health-related problems.

Chris Lund

For the past 25 years I have been passionate about the City of Johannesburg, developing housing solutions for its poorer residents and slaying the Giant of Homelessness. This passion is fuelled by my desire for Social Justice. Using the skills I have developed as an administrator, accountant, HR and compliance expert, I have pioneered different housing solutions namely Transitional Housing, Communal and Social Housing with some good results. However, if we want true prosperity, I have come to the conclusion that our citizens need a change of Heart. Once we start collaborating and our communities become more inclusionary then we can provide jobs for all and slay the Giant of Homelessness.

Fran Swart

I have lived in Craighall Park for the last 17 years. My husband Nelis and I are a merged family with four grown up children. My career has always been involved in stakeholder engagement within the Global Business Services and Human Resources arena. I am fortunate to work with an amazing organisation "Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator" where we look at ways to bring the unemployed youth into the world of work, able to make a meaningful contribution to the country and the economy. I have always supported the philosophy of rather than complain "roll up your sleeves and get involved". As part of this approach, I am an active participant on the Ward 90 Executive Committee with the portfolio of Housing, Chairperson of the Hugh Wyndham Park Committee – together with other passionate residents we adopted the Park in 2018 and still run regular meetings and fundraising initiatives. I believe that the CRA is here for the residents and with active input of the various stakeholders within our community we can achieve a safe, clean, supportive, and effective community.

Paulette Malcolm

I have served on the CRA for more years than I care to remember. First on the Town Planning portfolio then for many years representing environmental affairs and finally Health and Community. I have served on the Ward 90 Committee for the same length of time and at present serve as the representative for health and wellness .

Whether you reside, own property or run a business in our area, **YOU** are an important part of our community. Working together we can build a safe, successful and supportive community. Ultimately you, the members of our community, are the CRA.

If you have any questions or would like more information please email us at admin@cra.org.za or WhatsApp 0647437375.

To help support and build our local community by becoming a CRA Member please [click here](#)

If you would like more information on membership go to <https://cra.org.za/cra-online-registration-payment/>

For more information or to join the CRA / CAP Public Spaces Security (PSS) Initiative & to become an Armed Response client please email info@capgroup.org.za

Please note that the CRA/CAP PSS initiative is voluntary and does not equate to CRA membership. CRA subs are annual whereas PSS is a monthly debit order.