

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

**Lakeside Community Watch**  
**Community Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017  
Time: 19h30  
Venue: 24 Cornwall Road Hall

In attendance: Members & Patrollers of LCW  
Lakeside Community members

Guest speaker: Mike Voortman (Constantia Valley Watches Association)

- Paul Plumridge (LCW Chairman) gave a brief opening address, welcoming and thanking those present for their attendance.

Mike Voortman (guest speaker) then gave a presentation outlining the functioning of the Constantia Valley Watches Association. It was an interesting and informative talk, some of the key things that Mike highlighted were:

- The Constantia Valley Watches Association (CVIC) has now been in operation for 9 years.
- CVIC is a collaboration between 11 Neighbourhood Watches (NHW's) that covers a total of just over 25 000 residential properties.
- The main objective of CVIC is for all the NHW's to share resources and assist each other in the fight against crime. The better the communication between NHW's the greater their success will be in combatting crime.
- CVIC currently falls under the Wynberg Police cluster.
- There is currently R5 million rand worth of camera equipment installed, that services the areas covered by CVIC. There are approximately 70 installed LPR (Licence Plate Recognition) cameras.
- Figures were provided, but without going into detail, it can be said that the LPR cameras have had a dramatic effect on crime, and have been very successful.

- CVIC is built on a model of sustainability: they function thanks to contributions from residents and local businesses. The average budget available to them at the moment is around R500 000 per month; most of this is spent in an effort to improve their services; with only a monthly operating budget retained.
- SAPS, Metro, Law Enforcement and NHW patrollers working under the CVIC umbrella all carry radios, linking them to the CVIC control room and other members who are “out on the road’ at the time.
- CVIC has two Law Enforcement vehicles – these were sponsored by the community. The City of Cape Town paid for the decals on the vehicles, the blue lights and the City pays for their fuel. It costs R7,5k per month to run and keep these vehicles on the road – this is paid for by the City. The vehicles are manned by Law Enforcement Officers, and also auxiliary Law Enforcement Officers (these are mostly volunteers from the CVIC Valley area – with the idea being that hopefully over time permanent positions can be created for them).
- There are also two vehicles that are used by the Special Response Team (SRT) – these are used to cover the rural and farm areas of the Valley.
- CVIC functions via manned radios and LPR camera monitoring. This is all covered by a state-of-the-art control room (located behind the Constantia Village Mall). This resource has proved invaluable in coordinating crime fighting efforts – pulling together all NHW patrollers, Law Enforcement Officers and also SAPS members. It is also able to assist in other areas: when we had the storm on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – and many trees were blown over – the CVIC control centre coordinated efforts to clear fallen trees from busy roads etc. They also assisted in coordinating fire crews and helicopters during the 2016/2017 summer season.
- These radios used by patrollers cost nothing to run, only the initial expenditure in purchasing the handset (+-R2,6k per unit).
- In 2012 there an 18% percent chance of crime being committed against households in the Constantia Valley. This figure has since fallen significantly to 3-4% in 2017.

- Residents that contribute in some way (e.g. by funding, patrolling, being part of their local NHW and in other ways) are given a CVIC plaque to put up outside their residence. Currently these plaques cover 80% of the properties in the Constantia Valley: indicating a high level of involvement and commitment to fighting crime from the residents of the Constantia Valley.
- LCW (Lakeside Community Watch) also has plaques, which are put up outside the properties of contributing residents.
- Mike Voortman concluded an interesting presentation on CVIC and its functions. CVIC is a model of NHW's, the City of Cape Town and various Security Providers (SP's) all working together in an effort to combat crime. The results speak for themselves. This model is currently being used in other areas of the country.

Jean Fourie (LCW Treasurer) then gave an informative talk on the workings of LCW:

- LCW was founded 19 months ago in an effort to combat crime in the area. It has had great success in this time, going on to be currently the fastest growing NHW (Neighbourhood Watch) in the Western Cape. Members of LCW can be proud of the results of their dedication and hard work.
- The ethos of LCW is that it "belongs to the community." It is essentially "for the community, by the community."
- Newsletters detailing the activities of LCW go out to all residential post boxes in the area, and they are also e-mailed. Other platforms such as the ever popular social media are used, and also various WhatsApp groups to keep residents informed.
- LCW currently covers around 1530 residents in the Lakeside / Zandvlei area.
- There are currently 2 main SP's (Security Providers) in the area covered by LCW. WCSS contributes and works with LCW, the other SP does not.
- LCW is aligned with WCSS and CVIC.

- LCW has an office at the Pick 'n Pay Centre, on the Main Road, Lakeside. The rental for this office is paid for by LCW members. It houses a server rack (donated by Dimension Data) and various other equipment and fibre connections; all to enable the monitoring and working of the LPR cameras, and other vital communications.
- The LPR camera fund was started on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. To date enough funds have been raised to purchase and install 2 state-of-the-art LPR cameras. These cameras have had great success in tracking criminal vehicles, and have led to a number of arrests, not just in Lakeside, but in the greater area as the information is shared with CVIC.
- LCW patrollers currently use hand held radios (linked with CVIC) and also the Zello App on smartphones for communications. The various Alert Groups on WhatsApp are also used to notify residents, LCW and the SP of incidents (residents are urged to get involved and join these various WhatsApp groups). The combination of these communication tools has proved very effective. Thanks to technology, as an LCW patroller, you are never alone.
- LCW has a strong management team which consists of amongst others: a Chairman (Paul Plumridge), Treasurer (Jean Fourie), an Operations Manager (Norberto da Silva), a Patroller Manager (Andre van Rooyen), a Fund Raising team, Patroller Applications Manager, Administrative workers, a Webpage Admin etc. It is a truly combined effort, all done on a voluntary basis.
- LCW currently has 57 active patrollers. The more patrollers, the better, we thus urge people to be proactive and get involved.
- LCW also their own plaques which are put up outside the properties of contributing residents.
- Newsletters are produced and sent out to the community.
- There are various Fund Raising Days, such as the Community Awareness Days (you may have seen members of LCW outside Pick 'n Pay Lakeside on a Saturday morning selling boerewors rolls, chatting to the public about LCW and creating an awareness of what LCW is) and the Quiz Evenings (ever popular). All of these are to raise funds for the LPR camera drive.

- Each and every contribution by community members helps. You might not think that a small donation can make a difference, but it goes a long way in the fight against crime.
- There is also printed LCW gear in the form of caps, beanies, buffs and jackets.
- LCW is also supported by various local businesses (there is a fund raiser on the last Thursday of every month at Sostanza restaurant – Old Bakery Building).
- LCW has counsellors also who assist crime victims. To be the victim of a home invasion or serious crime is a rather traumatic experience.
- Since its inception, LCW has reduced the crime rate by 80% in 19 months. These figures are based on SAPS statistics. Visible patrolling (to be the eyes and ears of the community) has greatly contributed to this. Criminals tend to stay away if they can see proactive community involvement.
- In closing, LCW raises the standards of the Lakeside / Zandvlei area. Less crime means there is a possibility that household insurance premiums can come down. The reporting of items such as burst water pipes, potholes and faulty street lights all contribute to a better area for all residents to live in. The overall value also increases dramatically!
- LCW: “For the community, by the community.”

At the end of his talk, Jean asked the community members present if there were any questions. Various issues were raised and addressed. It was a very informative and well attended evening. LCW thanks those members of the community who made the time to attend.

LCW may be contacted via their website:  
[www.lakecw.co.za](http://www.lakecw.co.za)