

## 2021 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been one of consolidation in respect of our core services whilst a couple of developments will, I believe, improve the services MID provides to its constituents.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The camera system is now well bedded down and has made a major contribution towards crime reduction and detection. Patroller intervention is now largely camera driven through radio contact by monitoring staff who note suspicious individuals and then instruct patrollers where to go and what to look for. A number of arrests have been made because of the availability to SAPS of video footage. It is important to point out that it is impossible to provide camera coverage of every meter of the many roads in the area. Rather the cameras are placed strategically to monitor the movement of persons and vehicles.

Another noteworthy decision by the Board has been the replacement of Grit by Mountain Men as our service provider from December 1st, ie today. This move came only after a very thorough debate by the Directors who unanimously concluded that it would be to the clear advantage of residents to make the change. The Board thanks Grit for its services over the past few years.

Much appreciation is due to our portfolio Director Toby Megaw assisted by alternate Cara Dowling for their constant efforts to see that the public is kept as safe possible given our limited resources.

### STREET CLEANING

MID employs three cleaners who sweep, pick up litter and weed gutters and pavements from Monday to Friday. They also clear litter from garden areas. The system has worked well and the area has certainly benefitted from that budget allocation. Certain major roads are cleaned by Council workers but on frequent occasions that service has been ineffective and the MID cleaners have had to take up the slack.

Many thanks to portfolio Director Joanne Hichens for ensuring that this service continues to be value for money.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

The election of Clair Timlin to the Board and her accession to this portfolio has led to a substantial improvement to the garden areas, mainly but not exclusively, on the beachfront through her enthusiastic efforts. Using casual labour she has kept those gardens weeded, cleared, planted with new material and generally seen to it that they look good. The MID, through Clair's initiative has also entered into a partnership with FynbosLIFE to propagate and then plant this coming Winter several important areas on the beachfront. This too should improve the appearance of this key tourism asset.

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The major achievement of 2021 has been the formation of a partnership with NGO UTurn which has led to the creation of a Service Centre in Killarney Road where homeless persons attend counselling and other sessions and are given meals. The point of this is to ultimately rehabilitate and return homeless individuals to their families. One vital important element missing from this programme is the lack of a Shelter/Safe Space for homeless persons to sleep under cover and in safety. UTurn and MID have put a joint proposal to the Council to fully fund both capital and operating costs but the response has been lukewarm. All that we

have asked for is a small piece of land. MID have a capital fund of about R1.5 million to build the facility and hope to use that in 2022 should land become available. Should that land be made available the service centre will move into it so that it will become a multipurpose facility. The new by law gives LE the power to enforce the by law regarding sleeping on the street provided that an alternative can be offered - which is exactly what the Safe Space would be.

Dale Simpson is Portfolio Director for Social Development and his enthusiasm has contributed greatly to the partnership with UTurn but unfortunately he is not available for continuing his service to the MID.

## FINANCE

As the Annual Financials clearly show the finances of the MID have been well managed and in the five months since the close of the financial year this trend has continued. The annual increase in levy income has modestly exceeded inflation which has allowed a gradual improvement in the services rendered by MID to the community.

My thanks to Charles Goodwin our Portfolio Director Finance for running a tight ship. Sadly, after only one year as a Director, Charles has been given a major work promotion and will be relocating to Stellenbosch. Congratulations and go well Charles.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Melany Bendix has been of huge value for the past year in her always informative and articulate newsletters to members as well as dealing with MID's social media presence. Unfortunately she has found the dual pressures of running her business and motherhood such that she is stepping down after two years as she feels she cannot continue to do full justice to the portfolio. Replacing Melany will be a big challenge.

## BEACHFRONT PLANNING

The changes and upgrades which are desperately needed from Surfers Corner to the Vlei are long overdue. But Council continue to procrastinate and it is tempting to perceive ourselves as Cinderella, the neglected step sister. Mike Romyn, a businessman with a keen interest in these matters, has spent many hours trying to get some sense from Council about what is planned, what budget has been allocated, and when it will happen. But all to no avail so it remains a big mystery. Mike, with the Portfolio of beachfront development, has undoubtedly the most frustrating portfolio but one cannot fault him for effort.

All of these achievements would have been well-nigh impossible were it not for the MID's dedicated and enthusiastic staff. Michael Lategan has, in his two years as Operations Manager, become well known and respected around "the Berg" with his always friendly and helpful demeanour. He supervises the three cleaners you see daily out and about and keeps a keen eye on the security patrollers. In addition he reports infrastructure problems to Council and follows up when action isn't taken, plus a hundred and one other tasks which are thrown at him. MID admin was done by the highly capable Tatiana Kelm for most of the year until she and her husband moved to Gordon's Bay. Agnes Ralston has now taken on that role and has quickly made her presence known efficiently and effectively.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to the Board as a whole who have always given total support to me as Chair. We don't always agree and at times debate matters vigorously. But we are a team and it has been a pleasure to be a part of it.

Peter Corbett  
MID CHAIR