

Muizenberg Improvement District: Cleaning and Gardening Services

Monthly Report

November 2015

PREPARED FOR:

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1 INTRODUCTION

NCC Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd (NCC) was appointed as the service provider for the cleaning and greening services within the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID), with the mandate to provide a cleaning and maintenance/gardening service team tasked with the following responsibilities over a one-year period:

- To ensure that pavements, streets and fences in the MID area are kept clean and free from litter and weeds;
- To ensure that threats to public health and safety are reported to the MID office; and
- To ensure that various formal and informal green areas are properly maintained, regularly watered and kept free from weeds and litter.

2 OPERATIONAL AREAS

The MID has been divided into 4 operational areas (Figure 1). These areas can be ranked according to their priorities, the latter which has been determined based on the following criteria:

- The volume of people that visit the area on a daily basis;
- Areas where litter build up is rapid and needs constant attention;
- Tourist hot spots;
- Public infrastructure and venues;
- Number of planted areas and gardens; and potential areas where criminal activities could take place.

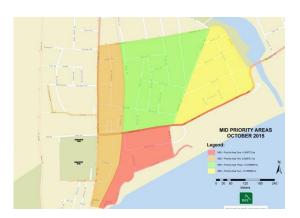


Figure 1: The four Operational Areas of the MID.



2.1 Priority Area One

Roadworks on Sidmouth and Melrose Road have negatively affected operations in Priority Area One however with these drawing to a close the team has been able to perform their duties in most of this area.

With the tourist season approaching the team will look to give extra special care to this, the face of Muizenberg.

The south westerly winds that occur in this area during summer do prove troublesome resulting in sections that were cleaned in the morning having the appearance that they were not by late afternoon as the wind drops litter in these once cleaned streets. The team are at times asked by residents why the road has litter when it has been cleaned mere hours before and to this extent they have been asked by their supervisor to take multiple photographs in order to prove their work if queried.

2.2 Priority Area Two

No major issues to report on in Priority Area Two. The team have, at the request of MID management, been asked to do a brief sweep of Church road and the adjoining subway first thing in the morning and as their last action of the afternoon. This is due to Church road being a major pedestrian area and the subway an apparent litter trap which quickly becomes unsightly. The MID team have been taken here, briefed on this multiple times, and its importance re-iterated (Figure 1.a and Figure 1.b).



Figure 1.a. Church road subway before



Figure 1.b. Church road subway after



2.3 Priority Area Three

Church Road continues to frustrate the team and residents as illegal dumping occurs on a regular basis (Figure 2.a and Figure 2.b). A small yard appears to be a possible sleeping area for vagrants and no doubt contributes to the mess that is often found and cleared here by the MID team (Figure 3.a. and 3.b.).



Figure 2.a. Church road Before



Figure 2.b. Church road After



Figure 3.a. Possible vagrant yard



Figure 3.b. MID team cleaning the yard

2.4 Priority Area Four

Throughout the MID precinct the MID team have been asked to keep a keen eye out for and tackle any weeds. The twofold reason for this is that it is a good way to show residents that work is being done when they cannot find any weeds as unlike litter, weeds cannot just blow in the same day that they have been removed (Figures 4.a and 4.b). Secondly weeds become unsightly and can cause infrastructure failure such as blocking of drains (Figures 5.a and Figure 5.b).





Figure 4.a. Pavement walls showing weeds.



Figure 4.b. Pavement walls cleared of weeds.



Figure 5.a. Weed blocked gutter



Figure 5.b. Gutter cleared of weeds.

3 GENERAL

Major issues involve littering caused by vagrants sifting through bins which spreads litter and perpetuates the problem of untidiness. November also highlighted many leaking hydrants in and around the MID area which may be a sign of old infrastructure or a more broad scale problem of general blockages and unmaintained lines (Figure 6.a. and 6.b.).



Figure 6.a. Regular MID area vagrants.



Figure 6.b. Leaking hydrant on Alexander road.



4 CONCLUSION

The cleaning team managed to remove 1033 black bags of waste from the MID area during November 2015.

The NCC team is striving to continually improve on the techniques and strategy being implemented to keep the MID clean and litter-free. To date the cleaning team has managed to make a significant impact on the visual appeal of the MID area. The guttering systems are constantly maintained to ensure they operate efficiently during the rainy season. All blocked or broken drains and infrastructure noticed during the cleaning operations have been reported to the MID Office to ensure that they are repaired quickly and operate effectively.

We look forward to working with the MID to strengthen this partnership and improve the quality of our services in future.

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