

QUESTIONS TABLED FROM THE FLOOR:

At Subcouncil meetings, organizations and the general public are welcome to raise a maximum of 2 issues affecting the South Peninsula Subcouncil area of jurisdiction.

You will be given the opportunity to address the Subcouncil for a maximum of three (3) minutes per issue.

Please hand in the completed form to the secretariat \pm 7 days before the meeting.

MEETING HELD ON 14 June 2019

NAME	Brian Youngblood
ORGANISATION	Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers & Residents Assoc.
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<p align="center"><u>ISSUE / TOPIC (1)</u></p> <p>The following are all related to the same issue / topic.</p> <p align="center"><u>QUESTION (1)</u></p> <p>What is the source of the sewage entering our stormwater system grate at the corner of First Avenue and Recreation Road near the Book Worm?</p> <p>Can a surveillance camera be aimed in this area temporarily? The grate's water sampled is stagnate, yet it bubbles sulphur dioxide smelling fumes and probably methane due to the high E. coli count. If the surveillance camera does not find anything untoward, can a camera be inserted into the pipe in order to detect any incorrect sewage connections.</p> <p align="center"><u>QUESTION (2)</u></p> <p>What is the source of the grease found in the stormwater system behind KFC and Town Square and can this be stopped?</p>	

For environmental reasons and in compliance with the City's Protection of Municipal Sewers' Section 4 (1) (e) (iii) of the Waste-water and Industrial Effluent By-Law 2013, the liquid old frying oil from restaurants and fish shops should be sold to bio-diesel converters and the congealed fats and solids in the grease trap needs to be disposed of properly instead of being dumped into our stormwater system where it adds nutrients, thus, feeding the bacteria coming from upstream. Aimed surveillance cameras even for a short period could assist in identifying this potential source if this was being introduced from above ground, but it is most likely overflow from the grease traps. Most establishments do not maintain their grease traps correctly and often fats are simply washed out the system by increasing the flow rate into the trap to the extent that it overflows and pushes the fats into the lines.

Unfortunately as the penalties are not often enforced, this practice continues. In some cases it is simply a lack of knowledge around the products that are on the market and sold to these establishments and as they are after all not waste water specialists, they rely on the honesty of the sales person that has come to see them.

In South Africa and a large portion of the globe, there is no differentiation between "Biological" products and "Bacterial" products which are sold for purposes of treating grease traps. Understanding the difference is the key. There are hundreds of products on the market that are sold as "Biological" products. This really just means that the product is Enzyme based. The enzymes will dissolve the fats in the grease trap temporarily allowing to flow into the sewer network. These fats will then congeal somewhere in the system. The distance will depend on the strength of the enzyme.

A bacterial product will digest the fats and convert them into water, bacterial mass (all non-pathogenic or non-harmful) and a small amount of CO₂. The bacteria themselves will too be washed out into the sewer and will actually assist in reducing the fats in the networks. Obviously the knock-on effect is limited as a minimal quantity of product is required to maintain a grease trap.

We are not aware of any sewage pump stations in this area. A pump station may overflow due to organic and fat build-up in the lift stations with the float switches getting stuck in either the on or off positions. Should the float switch get "stuck" in an off position, then the lift station could overflow. This does not mean that it will stay off; it can correct itself without any intervention. It is just a potential risk. The City can treat the lift station with bio-enzymes to reduce the risk.

Information from: Eco Tabs Africa (Pty) Ltd
082 517 6567
Info@eco-tabs.co.za

QUESTION (3)

Can the "Lighthouse" culvert be "warning" double (from beach and from parking lot sides) sign-posted like the Beach culvert near The Galley?

Over the past year, the "Lighthouse" culvert has had consistently high E. coli and Enterococci bacteria counts as detected by the City's Scientific Services Department (every two weeks) surpassing those of the Beach culvert. However, the signs at the Beach culvert are still needed as the July sewer break at the corner of Second Avenue and Recreation Road took more than a month to clear. Also, the bacteria counts spike after rainfalls flush the grate near the Book Worm into the Beach culvert system.

QUESTION (4)

What is the source of the fresh water entering our stormwater system and can a camera in the stormwater system pin-point the source of entry for a possible intervention to be identified?

We understand that stormwater systems can take four days to empty after a rain. However, we have some constant sources with the first two below being constant rate as well.

Lighthouse Culvert

All four stormwater grates in the taxi rank flow a trickle of fresh water. It appears to be coming from the station and all these grates flow the same water. This could be an non-metered and wasteful use of potable water.

After the last manhole along Beach Road before heading to the Lighthouse, the trickle of water picks up a massive source of fresh water before reaching the culvert. There is a water pipe running along Peter Creese Way to service the Seaside Cottages. Between this water pipe and the culvert is the old fishermen's ablution block that is in disrepair whereby the sewer pipe crosses the stormwater pipe. Either could be the source. Again, these sources could be an non-metered and wasteful use of potable water.

The Beach (Galley) Culvert

Apparently mountain streams "seep" into the stormwater system sub-subterranean at the top of the traffic circle (Recreation, Simon's Town and Kommetjie Roads). We would just like an explanation of how this water enters the system unseen and its location.

Terry Schorn, City Sewerage Department, says that Andrew Mark April is the responsible person, but Andrew has never replied to any questions that we have posed. We also asked him about the pump near The Galley, which according to Malinge Dalasile has failed and backed up into the parking area nearby.

The City's Malinge Dalasile, Facility Officer, Recreation and Parks, says it's not the old fishermen's ablution block. However, Malinge believes that the cause of the lighthouse pollution is a blockage in the sewer pipe carrying pumped sewage from The Galley and Law Enforcement area of the beach. He says the blockage causes the sewage to flow into the small parking area on the sea side of Woolworths and thence into the stormwater drain. He claims this happens often and in particular occurred in mid-June. We have asked a local car guard to inform us of any re-occurrences.

QUESTION (5)

Can a "low-flow stormwater diversion grate" be installed in the Train Precinct? It is the one located in the middle of the informal traders' parking lot between the Krinros building and the train station.

It be a case of human convenience factor, possible socio-economic or lack of education (that stormwater flows to our beach) and defiance of authority (political or otherwise) that we are proposing the low-flow stormwater diversion grate.

"The problem is they throw all the fat & rice etc. down the drain and it only takes a week or two to block up the drains. That is why they use the storm water drains." says the owner of surveillance cameras aimed on this area. See the photo on the next page. This type of event happens several times a day and night-soil discharges have been observed.

The owner of the Krinros building has offered to "develop" the area for the informal traders.



QUESTION (6)

Can all the stormwater grates be stencil painted like this one?



QUESTION (7)

Can the City now collect water samples on either side (upstream and downstream) of our collections for bacteria counting by the City's Scientific Services to confirm that we have pinpointed the source of the sewage?

If the counts are the same or higher on the upstream side, then further samples need to be taken more upstream.

On 16 August the City's Kyle Rodriques offered to assist with any further lifting of manhole covers.

QUESTION (8)

May we observe one of the water sample collections at our four culverts and ask questions on the process?

We have observed Dr Barnes take water samples aseptically. The City's Scientific Services says that Malcolm Cupido is responsible for taking the collections, but the only time that he has responded to an email was when his boss was copied, Soraya.Elloker@capetown.gov.za.

QUESTION (9)

Can a net be stretched along the bars of the culvert entrances to collect plastic litter?

If it is not trapped here, then it spreads all over the beach. EPWP workers could clear the nets.

Australia uses a drain sock for this, but it requires a crane to lift it:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-09/drain-sock-kwinana-pollution-solution-takes-world-by-storm/11190266> The plastic is then recycled with the fresh road mix, similar to that used by the

Kouga Municipality (Jeffries Bay):

<https://www.facebook.com/FHVRRA/photos/a.153399625236099/410372926205433/?type=3&theater>

QUESTION (10)

Can the City's health inspectors issue fines for repeat offenders that dump food and night soil into our stormwater grates, such as in the train precinct? See photo above.

QUESTION (11)

Can the plastic and organic matter that has built-up in our stormwater grates be flushed possibly using the "Jet Vac" machine from the City's Public Housing Department?

When looking for stagnant water in the stormwater grates in order to take samples, it was noticed that many were filled with some organic material, but mostly plastic.