



CKNRAC

CONSTANTIA KLOOF NORTH RESIDENTS AGAINST CRIME
A member of the Honeydew CPF

CKN half year newsletter for 2015

Dear CKN resident

This newsletter was started some time ago and then CKN's 18th birthday got in the way along with a change in service provider and just life and work in general so apologies in an overdue newsletter but I know all our members get the regular email and other electronic updates. There is a lot to tell so please take the time to go through the contents and I also hope you enjoy what I have put together.

To the many CKN members reading this, some of the contents will be known to you and also you will have received a lot of news via our regular emails of the BBM or Whatsapp groups when urgent. We have to remember that CKN was formed in order to counter and prevent any crime that could enter CKN.

2014

2014 was a slightly better year than 2013 when it comes to comparing crime incidents. I suppose that is the best way of evaluating our success as an association. We had 21 incidents during 2014, down from 26 in 2013. Our burglaries remain a concern and these are being addressed. We saw three contact crimes during the year and these remain the most feared of all crimes. Weapons of sorts are used.

I also compare our statistics to what is experienced in our precinct. We fall within the Honeydew policing area. We remain a problem precinct and I include below a piece from an article published in the STAR newspaper. Honeydew averaged more than one house robbery a day in the last financial year and some 1756 burglaries. In total we as an association did not contribute much to the shocking stats of the precinct. That does not mean we can be complacent in our approach to crime. We have to work harder as I am sure you do not want to become another statistic?

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Tel (Home):
011 679 5063 after
6pm

Honeydew Police
Station:
011 801 8613/4/5

Trauma Unit:
082 448 9337

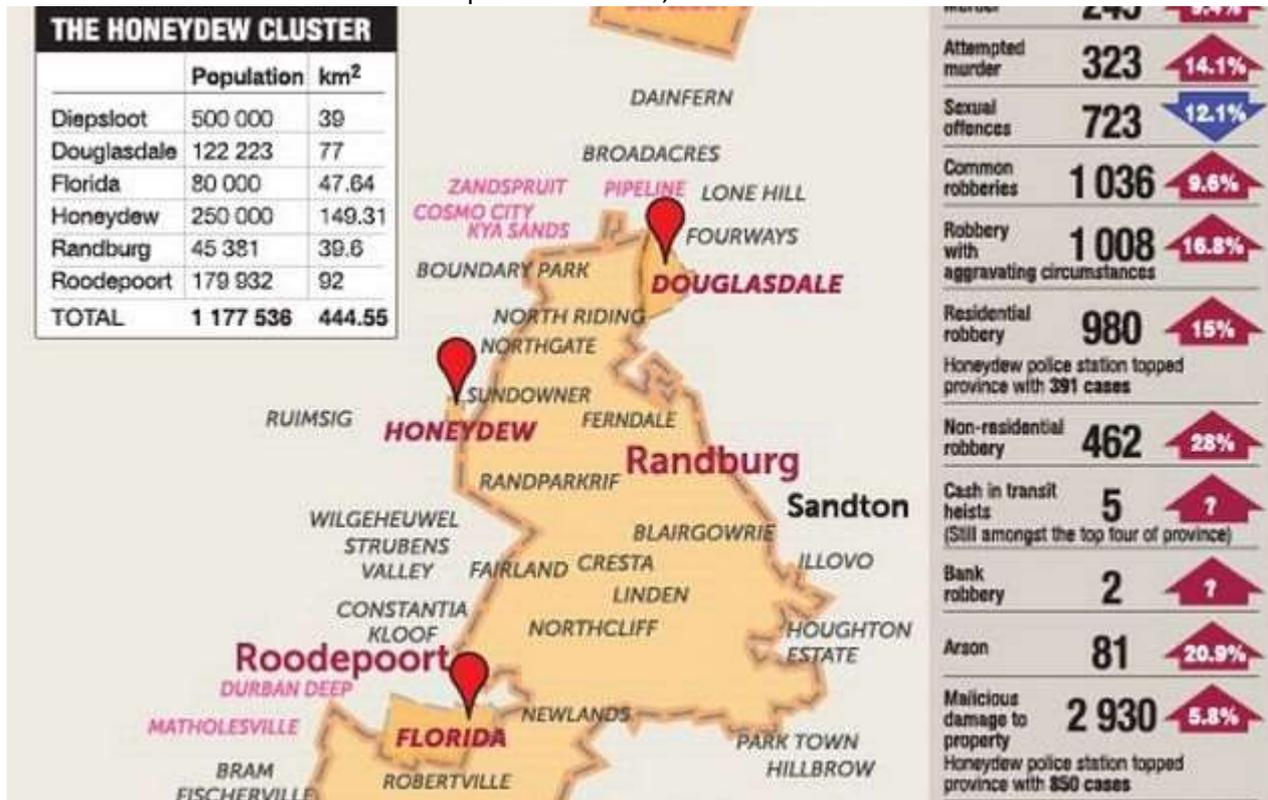
CPF Office:
011 801 8406

Banking Details:
ABSA Bank
Acc. No. 730 172 885
Name: CKN RAC
Ref: Your Street name
& number

**No Man is an Island
Formed**

Gauteng's crime central – HONEYDEW CLUSTER!!!!!!

Penwell Dlamini and Shaun Smillie | 25 November, 2014 00:04



To most Johannesburgers it's where they go to play, cycle, hike, or get into the country, but what they might not know is that the Honeydew area is Gauteng's most dangerous region.

The Honeydew policing cluster, according to statistics presented by the police to the portfolio committee on community safety, is witnessing a dramatic increase in violent crime.

The report, which covers the financial year ending 31 March, shows that in 26 categories of crime the Honeydew area was in the top four in 17 categories.

This cluster includes Diepsloot, Douglasdale, Florida, Honeydew, Randburg and Roodepoort. It also covers Cosmo City and informal settlements Zandspruit, Itsoseng, Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Pipeline, Durban Deep and Matholesville.

The population is 1.17-million.

According to the report, 245 people were murdered in the area, 9.4% more than the previous year.

The cluster had the highest number of house robberies in the province for the period, 980, an increase of 15%.

Robberies at non-residential premises went up by 28%, and attempted murders by 14%.

Honeydew cluster commander Lieutenant General Oswald Reddy admitted that policing the area posed a huge challenge, in particular because of a lack of crime intelligence.

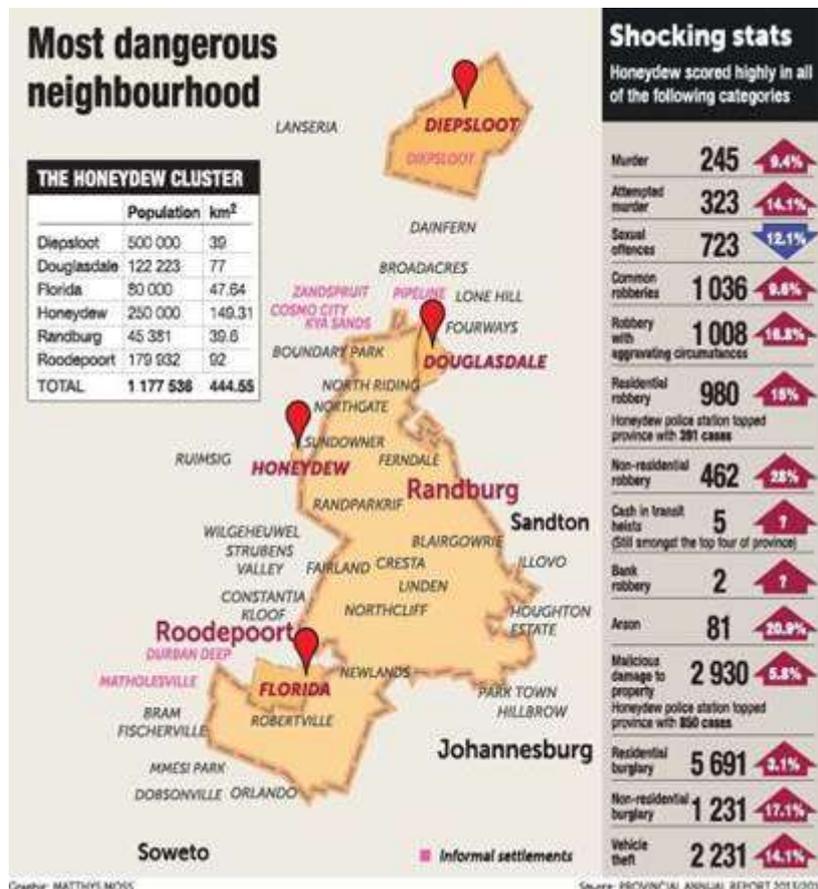
But he said tactics such as identifying hot spots did not deal with the root causes of crime.

With good crime intelligence, Reddy said, syndicates could be identified and profiled and the supply chain detected, enabling the police to arrest the criminals before they even commit a crime.

Reddy said the high murder rate in his cluster had to do with illegal mining. The highest number of murders was recorded in the Roodepoort area.

Reddy conceded there was a lack of human resources to police the cluster effectively .

"Cosmo City is now a massive development and we are struggling to police that area because it outgrew the resources that were allocated for it.



"More crime is reported in Cosmo City than Honeydew. With the new development people do not know each other, so the criminals take advantage of that."

Criminologist Professor Anthony Minnaar said the Honeydew cluster's crime problem had to do with a myriad of factors, from its proximity to Diepsloot to a lack of police training and resources.

Reddy said the police were working hard at building the confidence of the community and strengthening communication.

"We want to have street committees or block committees that work with the police."

Police have also started going to primary schools and high schools to tell pupils about the dangers of crime to prevent the younger generation joining criminal gangs.

Sandy Andrew, chairman of the community policing forum in Randburg, complained about the lack of co-operation from residents.

"People think it is never going to happen to them.

"We are educating people on how they can prevent crime by doing simple things.

"For example, we warn people not to leave stuff on car seats.

"We keep asking people to put their windows up when they go towards intersections and we tell them about closing windows when they go out.

"It is little things like that can help prevent crime."

Andrew said a business forum would be established to further intensify the fight against crime in the area.

Other stats at a glance

There is one policeman in Gauteng for every 333 citizens.

Contact crimes, including murder, fell by 32.6% over the past 10 years but increased by 4.3% in the past financial year.

20.5% of hijackings that took place on streets involved British American Tobacco vehicles. The vehicles were carrying cigarettes.

Nearly one out of three truck hijackings was committed by criminals wearing police uniforms.

Provincially, bank robberies are up 1000%. This is because only one case was reported in 2012/2013, while 11 cases were reported in 2013/2014.

Other hot spots you didn't know about

Honeydew, northern Joburg, tops the list of the most crime-ridden areas in Gauteng.

There were 980 cases of residential robbery recorded in the Honeydew policing area in the year to the end of March, an increase of 15%.

The precinct of Alexandra, which includes Sandton, also in northern Joburg, recorded 579 cases, an increase of nearly 10%.

Mondeor, southern Joburg, and Midrand, in the north, came third and fourth respectively.

The worst policing cluster for murder was Katlehong, East Rand, with 242 cases, an increase of 16.9%. Murder rates were also high in Roodepoort, western Joburg; Tembisa and Ivory Park, East Rand; and Jeppe, Joburg.

The Honeydew cluster had the highest number of attempted murder cases - 323, a 14.1% increase.

High rates of attempted murder were also recorded at the Alexandra, Jeppe, Kagiso (West Rand) and Roodepoort police stations.

According to the report, presented to the portfolio committee on community safety, the worst place for motorists was central Johannesburg, which recorded 2942 cases of vehicle theft (a decrease of 4.9%). Brooklyn (Pretoria), Booysens (Joburg), Roodepoort and Honeydew are also high-risk areas for car theft.

The Sunnyside, Pretoria, policing cluster had the highest incidence of theft from vehicles: 4996 cases, though this was 5.2% fewer than in the previous year.

The Germiston, East Rand, cluster had the highest number of truck hijackings, with 80 cases, an increase of 14.3%.

There were 3987 cases of robbery with aggravating circumstances in the Johannesburg CBD, a 27% rise.

Pretoria Central, Honeydew and Hillbrow recorded high rates of robbery with aggravating circumstances.

2014 saw CKN keeping its two patrol cars on the road, which remains our biggest success in the fight against crime. Pro-active patrolling works and our lack of problems is largely due to these cars driving around. The Whatsapp and Blackberry Groups in the area have also had a huge impact as little goes unnoticed and is quickly reported on. More on this later.

January 2014 saw the installation of the first cameras in CKN. These have also proved effective in the crime fight and we have on a number of occasions been able to connect criminals to crimes. CKN has also been able to help maintain property prices in the area. Your home remains your biggest investment and therefore we have undertaken to help keep the area neat and tidy. I have on many occasions been told as to how appealing the area is by new residents and estate agents.

At the time of writing, CKN had experienced 6 incidents for the first 6 months of 12/07/2015

So Why A CKN?

Unfortunately, due to the times we live in crime is a daily occurrence, comes in many forms and very much a reality. As I have stated many times in the past, the police will not get crime under control in the foreseeable future and many security

companies are largely reactive. That leaves a big gap in our security and so it is up to you and I to fill that gap. Hence a resident association.

By standing together we can make a difference in our neighbourhood. We cannot change the country and we cannot change our precinct but the area we call home can be better secured. We all want our families to be safe and we all want to sleep a little sounder at night.

I have been involved in CKN and Honeydew for some 16 years and have for some years even rode with the police. I have seen all the nasty faces of crime, the associated trauma and in many cases death. We do not want this in our neighbourhood.

Therefore we have taken the route of our own patrol cars that actively patrol CKN, paid for by the CKN members and also have much faster response times for those members that link their alarms to the Dowry control room. When you hear a noise at night or press your panic button, you want to know someone is coming quickly and that the person responding is armed.

CKN is in a position, thanks to your help and support, able to provide such a service which is not seen in many other areas. We have two cars actively patrolling, that do not leave the area and are our dedicated cars.

Of course these cars are for those who pay towards their running. Only fair but every one in the area does benefit from their visible patrols.

AGM

We held our AGM in early February. The committee was elected, as is, except for our vice

chairman who stepped down due to work commitments.

Minutes of the AGM can be found on our website.

From me, a big thank you to the committee members for all the time they put into CKN. We would not be as effective without your time and energy.

Keith – newly elected vice chairman

Nicole – distribution of the newsletters

Magda – treasurer

Henry – patrol rosters

Anne – minutes of meetings and other letter writing

Jenny – website and database

Surine – assistant treasurer

Lorin – the trick or treat event – what a great time / fundraising

Joy – domestic watch

Then I wish to thank the following and also show you what happens in our neighbourhood. I only hope I have not left any out.

Frik in Bamboes Street – cutting and cleaning all over CKN.

Allan in Boomgom Street – sponsored guard house at Albert Street.

Mel in Lichus Street – sponsored spot lights for the patrol cars.

Ron in Bamboes Street – sponsored printing of flyers and newsletters.

Mike in Bamboes Street – for sponsoring of the painting of the palisade fence at the bottom of Bamboes Street along with sponsoring the razor wire on the fence.

Anton in Kroton Street – sponsoring of the painting of the fence along Kroton Street.

Kenneth in Bamboes Street – sponsoring of the fire-extinguishers in the cars. (They were used on a number of occasions!)

Keith in Okkerneut Street – installed the cameras at cost.

Jaco and Marissa – the use of their facilities for meetings

Ingrid our local councillor – she does a lot that goes un-noticed.

Whenever I have asked for something, there has always been someone who answers the call.

Let's not forget the many that give the reaction officers, hot drinks, cold drinks, snacks and meals.

Nonnas Pizza who gives the guys pizza every Friday night.

Communication

Communication remains our biggest weapon in the fight against crime. Knowing what is going on in and around CKN is critical. We may not always want to know of the crime but one can certainly not ignore it. I believe we do not have to be paranoid but we must do the basic crime prevention.

I send out regular emails and it often happens that when a mail does not get received regularly, I am questioned if everything is ok?

Mails can take time and hence the BBM and Whatsapp groups. Communication is instantaneous and we have all been able to connect in CKN. The groups are for members only and we keep the chatter to a minimum. These groups have been ever so important when we have had water and electricity problems. Between our councillor and other contacts we have been able to keep you informed of times water will be on or off and the same for electricity.

Over time I and other residents have been able to build up contacts within many council areas and these people are happy to help when situations arise that frustrate so many of us.

Area Maintenance

Frik and Lucky work every week in CKN to help maintain the area. It involves cleaning the park, cutting and cleaning our open area, clearing drains, putting down weed killer in roads and removing rubbish. Please help support them by not dumping and also by keeping your pavement clean. We will do the rest.

All our initiatives in the area have seen an average increase in our house prices by some 10 percent in the past year.

Dowry and Why? How CKN and Dowry Work

Many years ago CKN started with dedicated patrol cars from a security company as our own patrols were not sufficient and many folk in the area work. CKN pays for the cars to patrol and we as an association contract the company, so we can hold them accountable for the service provided and we can also provide the actions we want undertaken, e.g., active patrolling, escorts, what to look out for and other pro-active security measures.

When we asked residents what they wanted in our service provider, some of the items mentioned were:

Constant visibility

Quick response times – two minutes or less

Reliability

Trust worthy

Staff treated with respect

Competent technical support

Costs

Escort service

So CKN contracted Dowry and they are our preferred service provider and many folk have come to understand the quick response they provide and so have linked their alarms to the company as well. Dowry will not sign you up unless you are a CKN member. Only fair?

I have been involved in some form of crime fighting for many years now and I have seen trauma too great to mention, heart ache, death. I do not want that in my neighbourhood. We want to know that if something does happen, remember we want to keep the criminal element out of CKN, we want help fast and the responding person is armed.

Crime is becoming more and more violent.

I believe in pro-active crime prevention and hence our dedicated service provider.

Subs

Our subs for 2015 will remain unchanged at R250 per month but this amount is not written in stone.

We are accommodative of financial circumstances and so open to compromise. We are not a security company with a take it or leave it attitude. We want you as a member.

Money always remains a touchy subject and we have tried to keep our subs affordable and along with a negotiated alarm monitoring fee from Dowry, we have something that is by en-large affordable. A pity there are those that are prepared to put a price on safety!

When we looked around for a new security provider, it was interesting to see the difference in alarm monitoring fees across a number of companies. The lowest I saw was R165 and the highest R1000.

Of course the cars riding around do come at a cost and I feel we need to keep these cars in the area. They do make a difference. So the more we have contributing, the more affordable we can keep our subs.

Plans for 2015

Two issues were seen as priority for 2015. To grow our members and reduce our burglaries.

Our meetings are kept to a minimum but please join us now and again. It is also a time to meet you

as I cannot always get to meet you as time does not always allow walking the streets.

Do you know your neighbour, remember you may need to call on them in an emergency and they can keep an eye on your home and report anything suspicious.

Know all the relative emergency numbers.

In closing, I am asking for all those non-members to please consider joining CKN. Only together can we make a difference and we have a neighbourhood that is very special. I have been asked to document some of the goings on which I will do. The stories I can share are heart-warming and certainly does make one feel part of something that not every area has.

Stay safe

John