



Dear GEKCO Members and Supporters

Town planning session, Saturday 11 October - Please diarise!

Andrew Barker, town planner and development consultant, will be facilitating a planning session for the GEKCO area and all residents and businesses are invited to attend to get an update on the status of development planning in our area. Your input is needed to develop a plan for the area to give input into the City's policies. You need not be a member of GEKCO or a Residents' association to give input - all views are welcome.

Some of the topics to be covered are:

- Feedback on K56, PWV5 & PWV9 roads
- Status of roads planning for internal roads
- Status of sewage line applications
- Biodiversity study
- 'Hot spot' issues
- Development plans on the conservancy borders
- Adding value – Presentation on how Bishop's Court sustained large properties in Cape Town.
A model for the GEKCO area?
- Preparing a plan for the GEKCO area to guide future development

Saturday 11 October 8:30 – 11:00
Cherry Country Lodge 56 Pine road, Kyalami A.H.

Roads Plan – your input is needed!

Do you want roads tarred or to remain as dust roads? Would you like to see access control or traffic calming? GEKCO and representatives from Kyalami and Glenferness have had discussions with JRA who indicated the current roads plan is outdated and a new 10 year plan is needed. Please give your input to the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NWXB8GM>

A roads plan can be used to motivate for road improvements, traffic calming or access control measures and to make our roads safer for horses and riders, cyclists and wildlife.

Kyalami / Crowthorne sewage line – application for Water Use License

Comments due by 30 September

The Retail Africa development has applied for a Water Use License for the bulk sewage line to service their proposed shopping centre, showrooms and mixed use development on the corner of Main road and the R55. <http://gekco.co.za/developments/crowthornekyalami-sewerage-line/>

If you would like to submit comments to this application please register as an Interested Party and submit comments to Leap Environmental Consultants by 30 September 2014:

Gwen.Theron@telkomsa.net or Jitske@telkomsa.net.

GEKCO is submitting comments in line with our appeal submitted to the environmental decision. **You may also add your name to the GEKCO submission by registering here:** <http://gekco.co.za/developments/crowthornekvalami-sewerage-line/>

K56 Update

A number of residents have expressed concern that the K56 is 'going ahead' without concern for the community or environmental issues. Please note, this process is still underway and we are waiting for the Draft EIA to be released. There will be an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIA before the final is presented. GEKCO remains committed to stopping this road from destroying the area. It would bring with it a move of the Urban Development boundary and densification which would not only do extensive environmental damage, but would destroy our ability to retain space for equestrian properties. We know when we stand together as a community we can achieve this. If you have not already done so, please sign the petitions on the GEKCO website which will be delivered directly to the Gatueng Department of Roads and Transport.

This road set a record with the number of registered objections, in the region of 1,500. This prompted the consultants to complete a social impact study to understand the impact the K56 would have on residents and businesses in the area. Should you wish to submit comments or register as an interested party please contact lizelleg@mweb.co.za.

'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' Edmund Burke

Gauteng Environmental Management Framework

Gauteng is consolidating and updating all Environmental Management Frameworks (EMF's) into one EMF for the Province. GEKCO attended a focus group session with the consultants compiling the report and submitted the inputs below. The Draft GEMF is open for comment until 30 September. You may view GEKCO's submission here: <http://gekco.co.za/gekco-submission-to-gauteng-environmental-management-framework-gemf/>

Bullfrog season

The Bullfrogs are here! Look out for frogs on the road at night, especially during the rains. Here is an interesting article with input from in the Fourways Review on the status of Bullfrog conservation, which is looking bleak in Gauteng if development continues unabated. There are some important breeding sites in the GEKCO conservancy which indicate healthy wetland system and also provide habitat for the endangered Grass Owls. <http://fourwaysreview.co.za/181834/bullfrog-season-begins/>

The Importance of Wetlands

The word wetland usually conjures images of areas with tall reeds, open water and lush green vegetation. Although this image is true for the typical floodplain type wetland, this is just one of a variety of wetland types. Wetlands provide significant economic, social and cultural benefits. They are important for primary products such as pastures, timber and fish and support recreational and tourist activities. Wetlands also help reduce the impacts from storm damage and flooding, maintain good water quality in rivers, recharge groundwater, store carbon, help stabilise climatic conditions and control pests. They are also important sites for biodiversity. Read the full article on the GEKCO website <http://gekco.co.za/wetlands/>

Recycling Update

Here is an article on Pikitup's efforts to promote recycling. The partnership with the Diepsloot Recycling Buyback centre has provided an economic benefit for the Bontle ke Tlhago cooperative and has given residents in the area a free collection service. <http://fourwaysreview.co.za/181879/pikitups-tips-to-promote-recycling/>

