

Promoting Community Spirit in Arcadia!

• Heritage Preservation • Planning & Zoning • Environment & Recycling • Crime & Security • Civic Pride •

ARRA EXCO & SUB-COMMITTEES REPORT 2018-2019

Since the last AGM in March 2018, your Committee has been focused on the many issues that have the potential to pose significant challenges and/or threats to our community. In particular, to counter these threats, ARRA is focusing on: (1) Heritage Preservation/Protection; (2) Spatial Planning/Re-Zoning Contraventions; (3) By-Law Enforcement; (4) Crime & Security; (5) Environment & Recycling; (6) Service Delivery; and (7) Community/Civic Pride issues.

(1) The ARRA Committee (ExCo)

Since the last AGM, the ARRA Executive Committee (ExCo) met twelve times over the year. The outgoing Executive Committee members are:

Officers		Sub-Committee Chairs	
- Chair	Linda Tyrrell	- Crime & Security	Flor Healy
- Vice-Chair	Flor Healy	- Heritage	Linda Tyrrell/Claus Schutte
- Secretary	Francois Burger	- Planning & Zoning	Ina Roos
- Treasurer	Helen Rakotamalala	- PR, Social & Fundraising	Penny Blersch
		- Recycling & Environmental	Rita Ribbens-Burger
		- Scout Hall & Scout Group	Christel Engelbrecht
		- Service Delivery	Peter Blersch
		- Ward & Electoral	Francois Burger

The outgoing Management Committee members comprise the Executive Committee plus the Street Representatives (outlined below). The ARRA Management Committee convened on two occasions since the last AGM.

(2) The Street Representatives

The Street Representative initiative is an important network for ARRA in ensuring that each Street (or complex) in our neighbourhood has direct access and representation on the ARRA Management Committee, where important street-specific issues are addressed and followed-up effectively. In 2018, greater emphasis will be placed on reactivating the Street Rep network, which has not been active for some time in the manner envisaged for the role. Currently, there are 18 Street Rep roles, one for each street (or complex), notably:

Street	Representative	Street	Representative
Balmoral Avenue	Trevor MacIntyre	Lisdogan Avenue	Helena McLeod
Beckett Street	Linda Tyrrell	Merton Avenue	Erin Tansey
Blackwood Avenue	Chris Szabo	Percy Avenue	Helen Rakotamalala; Penny Blersch
Dumbarton Avenue	Vacant	Pine Street	Dan Berglund
East Avenue	Francois Burger	Thomas Avenue	Laura Eady von Vieregge
Eastwood Street	Jozua Viljoen	Walter Beckett Avenue	Helen Rakotamalala; Penny Blersch
George Avenue	Martie Hofmeyr	Complex: The Falcons	Karin Hammel-Louw
Government Avenue	Ina Roos; Flor Healy	Complex: Clarendon Court	Vacant
Harcourt Avenue	Elizabeth Voigt	Complex: Twentyman Court	Natalie Swanepoel

The Street Representative acts as an 'ambassador' for ARRA in each street, ensuring that all residents are familiar with ARRA and are willing to support ARRA as members. Street Reps also help in identifying the key issues of concern for residents and relaying them to ARRA for follow-up, including issues relating to:

- Promoting Community Pride in the street (and in the wider community)
- ARRA Membership aspects, including new member introduction and welcoming new residents in the street
- Service Delivery issues in the street (e.g. street lights, water supply, refuse collection, street cleaning etc.)
- Monitoring House Sales, and the regular 'mis-selling' of residential properties by agents
- Planning & Zoning breaches, and related problems from illegal/non-permitted property use by businesses, communes etc.
- Crime & Security problems and issues, including membership of the ARRA-Quatro CSI
- Environmental & Recycling issues

(3) 2018: Yet Another Year of Poor Service Delivery for Arcadia by CoT

In 2018, the Committee continued to focus on the evident non-enforcement of the by-laws of the City of Tshwane. ARRA witnessed another year of poor service delivery, especially as far as power and water supply was concerned. Once again, it was very clear that CoT was unable to enforce the municipal by-laws or to significantly alter the way the officials in the council function. It appears that the process to discipline officials who do not perform is almost impossible. The ExCo continually raised these concerns at various fora throughout 2018, but with no significant result.

It is indeed a pity that our hopes of improved service delivery from the CoT have been dashed, as we are experiencing continued power outages, water leaks and very poor service delivery from CoT, along with little by-law enforcement. This is compounded by a lack of communication and updates from CoT on progress, leaving communities 'in the dark' on what is being done to resolve these issues. Both the residents and the Committee are constantly monitoring what is going on in the area, reporting suspicious behaviour and suspect properties to CoT officials, often escalated through the Councillor(s). The only evidence ARRA sees of 'action' is for CoT officials to forward e-mails internally to each other, with no follow-up or no accountability evident – this is tantamount to 'passing the buck' within CoT. ARRA engages with the Councillor(s) on the matter and has met with senior-level CoT officials on occasions, to be told that CoT is still experiencing organised sabotage, corrupt and incompetent officials (as a legacy from the previous administration), and/or a lack of funds due to a break-down of financial management systems. While ARRA understands that these issues are persistent and challenging, it is now time for a more proactive and transparent approach to addressing by-law enforcement and service delivery issues involving the community and the network of residents' associations, who are more than willing to assist and in solving this crisis. CoT must therefore, become more transparent, accountable and engaging in its approach to serving its ratepayers and in enhancing service delivery for all.

The issue of Differential Rates for properties that are operating illegally has been a great disappointment thus far to ARRA. It is unfortunate that CoT has not managed to drive this process successfully, as we have evidence of selective and inconsistent inspections by CoT officials and to-date, only a few cases have been processed and the major offenders remain 'untouchable'. In following-up with CoT, we are advised to resubmit our List of 'Non-Permitted Use' Properties, as officials suspiciously claim to have no record of these reported cases. It is clear that CoT is unable to enforce the by-laws effectively, and in some cases, unethical or corrupt practices are suspected. ARRA recently met with senior CoT officials and made representations on the extent of the problem in our area, and the basis on which by-laws should be enforced to raise very significant rates and taxes for the benefit of the Municipality and residents. While ARRA (and OPERRA) has received assurances that CoT will act on applying Differential Rates on 'non-permitted use' properties, which we have heard before, it now seems that ARRA (with OPERRA) will be forced to take legal action against CoT, at some stage in the future, in order to force the Municipality to implement the by-laws.

Unfortunately, unscrupulous individuals are very creative and constantly find new ways to subvert the by-laws. Therefore, we must stand together and be resolute – we must invest together in our future as a residential community! Similarly, CoT must now become more accountable, transparent and engaging in addressing the persistent service delivery and by-law enforcement issues that are evident. We call on CoT to partner more effectively with the community in resolving the challenges encountered and to significantly improve communications and dialogue to better manage expectations for professional service delivery and by-law enforcement.

(4) Service Delivery Issues (Sub-Committee Chair: Peter Blersch)

There have been major issues with service delivery, in particular, electricity supply and the lack of any means to obtain feedback on progress with repairs from the CoT Call Centre, which have been experienced for several months. A meeting was held with the Member of the Mayoral Committee for Utility Services, Cllr. Darryl Moss, at which our Ward Councillor was unfortunately absent.

It seems that the multiplicity of systems in the Call Centre still appears to be a problem, despite this having been highlighted as a problem by the Mayor at a function attended by the ARRA Committee over a year ago. Various contact numbers were obtained, and we are receiving feedback, but the problems are continuing. The situation is being closely monitored and a follow-up meeting will be arranged to expedite the matter.

Service delivery has improved in some areas. Response times to potholes, water issues and stormwater blockages have improved, and some stormwater drains in Government Avenue, that had been blocked for several years, have at last have been unblocked. Streetlights remain a problem, however. We rely on the community to report issues and contact details for specific issues can be provided to residents on request.

Residents are also urged to contact our Ward Councillor with the specific reference numbers of faults that are not being addressed.

The issue of service delivery will continue to be a priority focus for the Committee in 2019.

(5) Heritage Issues (Sub-Committee Chair: Claus Schutte/Linda Tyrrell)

Arcadia, and in particular the area above Stanza Bopape Street, is the oldest precinct in Pretoria. With the declaration of the Union Buildings as a national heritage site in 2013, it is critical to ensure that the surrounding heritage precinct is protected from unplanned and unsympathetic development and is respectfully preserved for future generations to enjoy. The Union Buildings precinct stretches from Stanza Bopape Street North to Meintjieskop and East from the Union Buildings along Government Avenue to the Bryntirion Estate. The area between, which is predominantly zoned residential and/or diplomatic, is a critical area that requires special attention in terms of its discernible and definable area and its evident heritage legacy.

The Tshwane Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) for future planning and rezoning and consent-use applications recognises this aspect when it states: *"That in terms of the cultural heritage of the city, certain areas are identified as unique areas, including the Union Buildings Precinct, Church Square, Marabastad, Bryntirion/Lisdogan Park, Eastwood..."*. This implies that there is a mandate to protect and preserve this special area of Arcadia in Pretoria.

On the heritage front, there is some good news. UNESCO has identified the Union Buildings as a proposed World Heritage Site listing. A consultative meeting was held on 14th January at the Pilditch Stadium. The National Heritage Council as well as representatives from the CoT were present. There are 9 other sites in the country that have also been identified, and they are all focused on recognising and celebrating Mandela's journey to freedom. This journey produced a whole set of heritage sites, of which the Union Buildings is the most important. According to the NHC, the Union Buildings is a heritage shrine. UNESCO plans to visit the site soon and to engage with the communities and stakeholders. Hopefully, if this is indeed successful, it will strengthen our hand, in all the matters of concern about maintenance of the Union Buildings Presidential Precinct.

In 2018, unfortunately as a community, the many flagrant breaches and challenges to preserving this important heritage in our area continued. The situation with the PHRA-G¹¹ has worsened, as their resources have been drastically cut, virtually rendering the body non-functional. Reports of damage to heritage properties and sites are ignored and the damage continues unabated. If this lack of action is allowed to continue, then there is a serious threat to the tourism interests in the area. No answers, as yet, have been given to ARRA as to why the demolition of the unique and irreplaceable Glass Houses on the Union Buildings precinct was allowed to happen. The 'restoration' of the *Vredehuis*, also on the Union Buildings precinct, was stopped by the SAHRA¹² after ARRA contacted SAHRA regarding the damage that was being done to the historic building (in terms of removal of original roof tiles and adjustment of the profile of the roof). Unfortunately, often the PRAH-G and SAHRA do not act speedily enough and end-up hand-wringing with claims of shortage of resources and money. We need to be able to influence these bodies so that these dreadful detrimental decisions that affect our heritage are not taken without proper consultations with the heritage experts that exist amongst ARRA members and the members of OPERRA.

ARRA has made repeated presentations to the Department of Public Works (DPW) with regard to the on-going problem with the Union Buildings Bells, which have fallen silent for more than six years now. While the clock mechanism has been repaired, there appears to still be some delay and sadly we do no longer enjoy the sound of the bells ringing out over Arcadia and the city.

(6) Urban Planning, Re-Zoning & By-Law Enforcement Issues (Sub-Committee Chair: Ina Roos)

The Sub-Committee experienced a frustrating year again, with little success on the issues of non-permitted land use and building contraventions. Our aim with all these efforts is to preserve the residential character of the unique and conservation-worthy area, North of Stanza Bopape Street, on behalf of our members and the residents in the wider community. In terms of spatial planning and zoning, the issue of 'Non-Permitted Use' (Differential Rates) by-law enforcement is a critical issue that remains selectively, if not, negligently enforced by CoT and very significant revenues are lost to CoT in a time of crisis.

The following issues are among those reported to the City of Tshwane (CoT) in the past year for follow-up:

- Arcadia Street: where ARRA objected to an application for the establishment of a spaza shop. This issue has been resolved – the spaza shop has closed-down, but ARRA received no communication from CoT in this regard;
- Arcadia Street: A list of 10 businesses contravening land-use regulations was sent to CoT in 2017, with no action or feedback;
- Blackwood Street: where on-going noise disturbances and suspicious activities at a property continue (reported numerous times since 2011). This is also the property where a Court order to demolish illegal structures is being ignored. The situation remains extremely problematic;
- Blackwood Street: ARRA objected to the rezoning of a property from Residential 1 to Boarding House and had a meeting with the owners (an NGO) and their town planner. We have had no feedback to date;

- Blackwood Street: ARRA has not received any feedback regarding a rezoning application that was made by the owners to extend the floor area ratio, coverage and height of the building. ARRA has objected and two members attended and presented ARRA's case at the hearing;
- East Street: where an application for rezoning for boarding house purposes has been made by the owner. ARRA, as well as several neighbours, have objected against this rezoning;
- Government Avenue: where an illegal structure was erected on the roof of a double-storey property. Several letters were sent to and fro between ARRA and CoT, but without any effect on this building contravention;
- Government Avenue: This neglected property was inhabited by the owner's son, who had no income and who squatted there for many months, preparing food on fires in the back yard. The son was deported to his home country and the owner is back, but the property remains derelict;
- Government Avenue: where the Palestinian Embassy in Government Avenue moved out and the property was advertised as ideal for business purposes. ARRA convinced the estate agent to advertise it differently. It is still for sale;
- Herbert Street: where a business has been established alongside one that has been there for a while. ARRA sent a number of complaints to the City Council and our Councillor(s), whereafter a contravention notice was served in August. The owner then applied for rezoning of this property for business rights. ARRA, and a number of affected neighbours, sent objections to the rezoning to CoT, together with a paper trail of complaints of traffic congestion, noise disturbances and littering. The application for rezoning was withdrawn and a new application made in January 2018, to which ARRA and the affected neighbours are again strongly objecting to the rezoning. No communication has been received regarding our objections and the business is still operating from the premises, with the same problems as before;
- Pine Street: where a property was sold and the new owner made unapproved alterations to the boundary wall and to the exterior and interior of this heritage property, which is older than 100 years. PHRA-G and CoT Heritage were informed, and a Stop Order was issued by PHRA-G, but the alterations were still carried-out despite the instruction to cease activities. CoT has not done anything to stop this unpermitted land use;
- Stanza Bopape Street: where an illegal crèche and 'motel' have been established and are operating illegally. The case of the crèche appeared in the Magistrate Court but was struck-off the role because a Chinese interpreter could not be found. The 'motel' is causing unacceptable noise disturbance to neighbours in Thomas Avenue;
- Thomas Avenue: ARRA met with the town planner who is submitting an application to CoT for the rezoning of a property to establish a guest house. ARRA objected to the application.

ARRA sent Mr Chris de Lange of CoT a revised and update list of the most pressing 54 properties and land use issues in our area we suspect and/or know of contraventions to the City's by-laws. The undertaking was that he would follow-up by 15 March 2018. It was copied to Cllr. Siobhan Muller, at her request. She followed-up on this in April and May, and so did ARRA. A reply was received in June, with unsatisfactory feedback to our concerns and no regard for our comments. ARRA's list of these 54 properties, which were prioritised according to the seriousness of cases, have been sent to Councillors numerous times during the past year, with little action evident.

The list was also sent to Cllr. Mare-Lise Fourie, MMC for Finance who undertook to follow-up regarding non-permitted use/differential rates, and to MMC Randall Williams, who is responsible for economic development and spatial planning. ARRA received no response.

On 31 August, ARRA had a meeting with Mr John Mokoena, new Regional Head for Region 3, and MMC Fourie. Mr. Mokoena also had meetings with OPERRA on 15 October and 15 November, during which concerns of all the affiliated residents' associations were discussed. No further feedback has been received. The ARRA Chairperson has asked for a follow-up meeting several times, but this has not taken place yet.

ARRA has tried again, but has not been successful, in arranging a drive-through of our area by relevant Councillors. Our hopes that the implementation of Differential Rates on 'non-permitted use' properties by owners who contravene the by-laws have not been met and this is especially frustrating. From an ARRA perspective, we are of the view that 'non-permitted use' properties in residential areas present challenges and threats to the community, as follows:

- Over-utilisation of community facilities (water, sewer, traffic) placing undue burden on old/damaged community resources/facilities;
- Fraudulent mis-representation through use of residential properties to conduct business enterprises, most of which contravene the by-laws in terms of legality and density requirements;
- Attraction of non-residents and others to the area, contributing directly/indirectly to increased incidents of crime and security issues;
- Illegal parking and nuisance, often creating traffic congestion and/or noise disturbances at all hours, including very early/late and on weekends;
- Noise disruptions and litter, created by visitors and others engaged in anti-social behaviour;
- Illegal access points introduced, often damaging kerb stones and pavements;

- Threats to heritage properties, illegally converted to office use at the expense of the residential character of the property, and the neighbourhood. (In Arcadia, around the Union Buildings precinct, many properties are 100+ years old and beyond the standard 60 years to qualify as heritage properties);
- Organised criminals, and 'suspect' businesses (often evading taxes and commercial rates) establish in residential properties, in the full knowledge that by-law enforcement is non-existent and if addressed, will take years to conclude through the courts and/or through CoT;
- Non-enforcement of the 'Non-Permitted Use' By-law (Differential Rates) loses very significant revenues to CoT which could be deployed to regulate criminality, non-permitted/illegal property uses and preserve spatial planning/development for the benefit of the City and its communities;

ARRA again contacted the CoT Urban Forestry Division regarding the state of Jacaranda trees in our area. We were promised that an inspection of the trees would be undertaken, and we still await an update on this matter.

ARRA (with OPERRA) is also monitoring the development of the UP 'Living Campus' development, where University of Pretoria is seeking to expand its campus and 'spread its risks' to the wider community in relation to student housing, security and services etc., which otherwise would be the role of UP to provide within its campus. This has enormous unforeseen implications for our residential area if left unchecked.

(7) ARRA-Quatro Crime & Security Initiative (Sub-Committee Chair: Flor Healy)

ARRA continues to work closely and in partnership with Quatro in providing the successful area-based armed response service to members on a 24-7-365 basis.

A. Reported Crime Incidents in 2018

In 2018, there were 53 reported incidents over the year (23 night, 30 day), a decrease of 5% on the previous year. There were 5 arrests made, representing a 9% arrest rate, with special mention of patrol officer Collen Hlungwane for 3 arrests. The patrol vehicle is proving effective and we thank Collin, Maxwell and Tefu for their vigilance and proactivity in preventing crimes in our area, as well as Das Meerholz, Quatro Regional Manager for his on-going support.

The Overall Year-on-Year Situation can be reflected as follows:

Year Rank	Street	2019*	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Total	Overall Rank
	Balmoral			3	4	7	10	14	5			43	(4)
1	Beckett	2	12	6	17	2	7	10	2			58	(1)
	Blackwood			4		1		1	1			7	(13)
	Dumbarton		3	3	4	1	3	5	2			21	(9)
	East	1	3	3	4	2	5	11	7			36	(5)
	Eastwood	1	3		2	1	6	1				14	(10)
	Eastwood: Clarendon						1					1	(17)
	Eastwood: Falcons						1					1	(17)
	George			3		1	1	3	2			10	(12)
3	Government		8	10	14	5	9	7	4			57	(1)
	Harcourt			1	1	1	2	4	2			11	(11)
	Herbert & W. Beckett			2	3	1			1			7	(13)
	Lisdogan	1	2	2	2	3	5	4	2			21	(9)
	Merton	2	2	6	5	1	7	5	4			32	(8)
	Percy	2			1							3	(16)
	Pine	2	3	2	8	2	7	7	3			34	(6)
3	Thomas		8	5	5	3	5	4	3			33	(7)
2	Other	2	9	6		2		1		26	4	50	(3)
TOTAL		13	53	56	70	33	69	77	38	26	4	439	
% Change Year/Year			-5%	-20%	112%	-52%	-10%	103%	46%	n/a	n/a		
Arrests Made		2	5	1	3	5	7	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	
% Arrest Rate		15%	9%	2%	4%	15%	10%	13%	0%	0%	0%	8%	

- In 2018, the Streets with the worst record were: (1) Beckett with 12 incidents; (2) Stanza Bopape with 9 incidents; and (3) Government and Thomas jointly at 8 incidents each. All others have less than 3 incidents.
- Overall, since the process began in 2010, the Streets with worst records are: (1) Beckett and Government jointly with 57 incidents; (2) Stanza Bopape at 48 incidents; (4) Balmoral at 43 incidents; (5) East Avenue at 36 incidents; (6) Pine Street at 34 incidents; and (7) Thomas Avenue at 33 incidents. The Other Streets drop significantly in incidents reported.

- In 2019, so far, there have been 13 incidents and already, 2 arrests have been made.
- The break-down of crime incidents in 2018 is as follows:

Break-in House/Flat	7			
Yard Theft/Damage	6			
'Inside Job'/No Break-in	3	16	House Theft	
Car Theft	2	2	Car Theft	
Attempted Break-in or Intruder/No-Theft	6	6	Attempted Break-in/No Theft	
Scout Hall Theft	1	1	Scout Hall	
Bins Theft	5			
Electricity Sub-Station/Cable Theft or Manhole Covers	9			
Light Fitting/Brass Numbers	4			
Mugging or Serious Incident	5			
Street Incident	2			
Suspicious Activity	1			
Fraudulent Misrepresentation	1	27	Street Incidents	
Noise Disturbance	1	1	Noise Disturbance	
Total	53	53		

- The focus of break-ins/thefts in 2018 is as follows:

Laptops	4
Cellphone	4
TV/Electrical	1
Cars/Car Contents	2
Bike	1
Gate Motors	3
Plumbing/Fittings	1
Garden/Contractor Tools	3
Art Equipment	1
Jewellery	1
Total	21

Note:

- Items marked red require attention/focus!
- Street Incidents collectively are the greatest sub-set of incidents reported!
- House Thefts are down on 2017 generally.

B. Membership of the ARRA-Quatro CSI

Currently, there are 183 individual members of the scheme (up on 2017) and 5 Guarding Contracts (3 within the CSI area and 2 outside the residential area). New members are always welcome and at R440 per month (or R15 per day), this represents exceptional value-for-money for a quality-assured rapid-response service that secures the area and gives peace of mind to members of the scheme. There is no better alternative that provides such value-for-money and evidenced-based results!

C. Wider Initiatives and OPERRA

An on-going concern is the increase in communes and illegal businesses in the area, with increasing evidence of organised crime syndicates operating in the area, contributing to increased opportunist crime incidents, prostitution and drug-related crimes. ARRA and Quatro, through the Sector/Community Policing Forum, endeavour to work with SAPS in addressing these issues, but it is through our own vigilance, and the concerted efforts of Quatro, that we really rely on for crime containment and prevention. In many cases, crime incidents were prevalent where alarms were not primed or installed, with the rapid-response of the Quatro patrol vehicle being a major deterrent to more serious incidents. While the trend of crime is manageable, it is also one which needs constant vigilance and support from the community, with the support of the police (SAPS and TMPD) and the Sector/Community Policing Forum (CPF).

Under OPERRA, ARRA also explores closer collaboration with contiguous RRAs in Rietondale, Colbyn, Clydesdale and Sunnyside East to determine interest for synergies and cost-saving initiatives in increasing scope and coverage of patrolling, information-exchanges and more effective collaboration with SAPS, TMPD, CoT and the CPFs.

Similarly, under OPERRA, the role of the CIDs is under constant scrutiny, as there have been previous attempts by some CIDs to encroach illegally into residential precincts in an attempt to spread business costs, with risks to established private residential security initiatives. This matter is being actively monitored.

D. Community Policing Forum (CPF)

As regards the CPF (Sector 1)¹, the following issues are of significance:

- Paul Magnuson (Colbyn Residents Association) is CPF Chair; Dan Berglund (ARRA) is Vice Chair; Cathie Steyn (ARRA) is Secretary. This results in a strong representation on the CPF by ARRA and Colbyn;
- The forum mostly meets once per month, on the first Monday of each month, together with stakeholders and the SAPS, alternating meetings between Colbyn (Management) and the Arcadia Scout Hall (Community) every second month;
- Continued vigilance by residents, security patrollers and SAPS is required to maintain the status quo and hopefully increase our security even more;
- SAPS is inviting RRAs to assist them in identifying the extent of CCTV in their catchment areas, which can be used to gather evidence of incidents locally – SAPS will work with the private security companies and RRAs, through the CPFs. An exercise will be co-ordinated through the CPFs in due course;
- One sorely lacking contributor to the forum is the TMPD whom are continuously invited but never attend – this needs to be addressed urgently as TMPD is responsible for by-law enforcement as well as community policing support;

(9) Ward & Electoral Issues (Sub-Committee Chair: Francois Burger)

In August 2018, an informative information session was organised by the City of Tshwane for residents of Wards 59 and 92, with all the MMCs of the Council. It was unfortunately very poorly-attended and more residents should have taken notice of the problems the DA-led Council experience with service delivery in the city. Many promises were made by various Councillors to improve services to the residents. Very few of these promises, however, materialised if one takes the many streetlights throughout the city that are not working, the many stormwater drains that remained blocked, on-going cable theft, the missing and stolen manhole covers that are replaced by ill-fitting covers etc. into consideration.

Another noteworthy event was the resignation of the Executive Mayor, Mr. Solly Msimanga earlier this year as he was nominated as the DA election candidate for Gauteng Premier in the upcoming election in May. His position has been filled by Mr. Stevens Mokgalapa, who has embarked on an energetic start with the cancellation of the *GladAfrica* contract and a restructuring of his team of MMCs. It was noted that our Ward Councillor, Mr. Abel Tau was appointed in this reshuffle as MMC Utilities, alongside his additional role of DA Gauteng Regional Chairperson. While we congratulate Cllr. Tau on his appointment, this situation also now leaves Ward 92 in an awkward position with a Ward Councillor that is involved in an extremely challenging environment in the City Council, as well as being drawn-into internal DA political issues in Gauteng, while also having to attend to Ward 92 service delivery issues as an elected Councillor.

In spite of various communications made by ARRA to the City Council regarding illegal land use, service delivery, differential rates and other matters, very little response from the City Council has been forthcoming and escalating of these matters by the Ward Councillor, as it is customary in other Wards, was not forthcoming. ARRA has requested the elected Ward Councillor to attend to the outstanding issues and to make arrangements for his workload to be addressed and followed-up more professionally and satisfactorily.

ARRA is still in favour of well-functioning Ward Committees, but very little progress was made in this regard by the City Council. ARRA believes that many of the frustrations regarding liaison with the City Council could be resolved if the Ward Committee could start functioning and we keep on hoping that progress will be made by the new Executive Mayor concerning this aspect.

(10) Recycling & Environmental Matters (Sub-Committee Chair: Rita Ribbens-Burger)

E-Waste: On Saturday, 9 March we had another successful E-Waste collection at the Scout Hall. This event takes place more or less every three months and is supported not only residents of Arcadia, as it is advertised widely from all over the city. It is too early to know how many tonnes of waste was collected, but over the years this action has played a role in items not being dumped in one of our fast-filling landfills.

Curbside: It is common knowledge that collection from our homes is a service that should be provided by Tshwane Metro. The Head of *Landfill Management and Operations* recently reported to me that the necessary preparation (by-laws etc.) regarding separating at source is in place but that the plan has not come to fruition. The upshot is that as responsible citizens we must do it ourselves. At the beginning of the year, the company (*Wastegroup*) that has been providing curb-side collection on Friday mornings for a number of years informed us at very short notice that they would no longer be able to continue with this service.

¹ Sector 1 CPF includes Hatfield, Colbyn, Bryntirion and parts of Arcadia

In 2017, there were 44 households in Arcadia that were participating in this venture, for 2018 they (w)could not provide me with figures nor addresses and now in 2019 they have withdrawn. Residents who participated paid less than R200 per annum for their services. *Wastegroup* was the third venture that has not been able to sustain their services. One of the reasons is the expense of sorting items that go into the single bag that is picked-up from the curb outside our houses. The companies provided bags for residents. The rising price of petrol may also be a factor. Another reason mentioned by one of the previous recyclers was that 'informal recyclers' accounted for theft of the most valuable items from the pavements.

Some solutions to prevent items from ending-up in one of our landfills: According to the NEMA Act (2008), Shopping Centres must provide space for recycling, while some Churches collect plastic, glass and paper. One could take newspapers to vets, magazines to our Carnival in May (Magazines will be taken to places where residents can no longer afford to buy magazines).

Current practice: Fortuitously, I heard that the residents of Lukasrand had enlisted the services of a student who was prepared to pick-up from a central point early in the morning once a week. This man was dubbed "the Man with the Van" and his name is Obakeng Rankhumise. At present, Obakeng comes to the Scout Hall on a Saturday morning to pick up at 11:00hrs. Residents may drop-off earlier when they come to buy organic herbs and vegetables, bread and raw honey from the Scout Community Garden.

The residents In Lukasrand have provided Obakeng with a uniform and have taken him on-board as a community project. You can read more about this at www.blueprint.org.za/obakeng-recycling. On the Internet, it is stated that Blueprint is "A space for entrepreneurs to work, engage and build their enterprises." It provides for hands-on mentorship, networking and training. The purpose is to help develop entrepreneurs under guidance of the Blueprint organisation. Obakeng has a fund-raising goal of R3,000 of which R1,500 has already been donated. Perhaps ARRA could consider contributing towards this?

(11) Financial Report & Fundraising (Sub-Committee Chair: Helen Rakotomalala)

11.1 Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT: Revenue & Expenditure Statement (01.03.2018-28.02.2019)

2019-2019	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET	2017-2018
Membership Fees & Donations	18,600		18,600	25,600
Community Carnival	14,734	3,250	11,484	14,229
Art Exhibition	14,990	3,203	11,787	3,335
Year-End Garden Party, December 2017	18,755	16,083	2,672	2,022
Film Night			0	80
Scout Hall/10th Pretoria (Arcadia) Scout Group	135,030	94,574	40,456	-902
Expenses 2018 AGM		3,710	-3,710	-2,130
Maintenance ARRA website (R300/month) & Hosting		2,903	-2,903	-1,800
"Arcadian" x 1 (June 2017)		2,000	-2,000	-5,883
Quatro Patrol Drivers - Christmas/Arrests Bonuses		5,100	-5,100	-1,250
Bank Interest and Charges		2,322	-2,322	-1,470
Donation Received for No. 2 Account			0	4,238
Total Operating Cost	202,109	133,145	68,964	36,069
Sound System		7,783		0
50 Stacking Chairs		15,350		0
6 Folding tables		4,194		0
Lawnmower and Trimmer		2,999		0
ARRA Stencil		190		0
Extension Cords		1,098		0
Total Purchases of Reusable Equipment	0	31,614	31,614	0
Net Income over Expenditure	202,109	164,759	37,350	36,069

11.2 'Fighting Fund'

In 2015, ARRA established a 'Fighting Fund' in an effort to challenge and defeat the illegal property use onslaught, undertaken by property speculators, unscrupulous property agents and/or inept or corrupt public officials in CoT. Legal recourse is a last option and is achievable through an interdict or court order for very serious breaches of the by-laws and to prevent further degradation of the heritage legacy of the precinct.

To-date, the Fighting Fund has accumulated funds amounting to R5,400 in the fund, but big pledges have yet to be called-in. Your support is needed if we are to succeed in the future, where significant fundraising will have to be undertaken to build-up the fund to realistic and meaningful levels.

In order to make contributing to the 'Fighting Fund' more targeted and attractive for residents, it was proposed to divide the residential precinct into 4 distinct zones, as follows:

Zone 1: Pine Street; Blackwood Street; Twentyman Court Complex;
Zone 2: Government Avenue; Percy Street/Walter Beckett Street; Percy Avenue; Upper Eastwood Street/Tom Jenkins Drive; Falcons Complex;
Zone 3: Beckett Street; Osborne Avenue; East Avenue; George Avenue; Merton Avenue; Thomas Street;
Zone 4: Eastwood Street; Clarendon Court Complex; Harcourt Avenue; Lisdogan Avenue; Balmoral Avenue; Dumbarton Avenue;

This structured approach will make the 'Fighting Fund' more transparent in terms of where money is coming from and where the money is being spent. Similarly, it will give residents the option of contributing to a specific zone, in which they have a direct interest, or alternatively to contribute to the overall general fund, if preferred.

In 2019 onwards, ARRA (with OPERRA) may adopt a more effective strategy in challenging heritage breaches, planning/zoning contraventions and by-laws non-enforcement through a collective approach under the 'umbrella' of OPERRA. This will prove more representative, more cost-effective and likely to get more attention, based on the extent of representation and the type of case taken. Increasingly, OPERRA, and ARRA, are of the view that a legal challenge will need to be taken against CoT for by-law non-enforcement (especially for Differential Rates) and against PHRA-G and SAHRA for dereliction of fiduciary duty and care in protecting irreplaceable heritage resources that are destroyed on their 'watch'.

(12) Membership (Sub-Committee Chair: Helen Rakotomalala)

ARRA represents the wider Arcadia catchment area but is specifically focused in the precinct located North of Stanza Bopape Street containing approx. 397 stands² and which is predominantly residential in nature. Within that catchment area, the ARRA-Quatro Crime & Security Initiative represents 185+ individual members and 5 guarding contracts, in provision of 24-hour armed response security services to members.

Currently, for 2018 year, the paid-up membership stands at 95+ members. We require more paid-up members! The current Membership Subscription stands at just R200 per annum (or 0.50c per day!).

ARRA needs the support of all residents and ratepayers in the area in order to become more effective in representing the community on the key issues of service delivery and spatial development that affect your area and your community. Your support in this regard is of critical importance in securing your interests also.

(13) Publicity & Information-sharing - *Arcadian* and Website (Sub-Committee Chair: Penny Blersch)

The *Arcadian* has gone completely digital and was produced twice in the last year. Everyone is encouraged to participate by sending in articles of interest.

The ARRA website (www.arra.co.za) was re-launched and is being updated regularly. Online information and use of social media can extend the reach of ARRA to all residents, and the website in particular, can serve as a real-time source of information, as well as a repository of archive materials and links to other important sources of information.

ARRA also uses SMS and WhatsApp messages to inform members and residents of important alerts and notifications.

(14) Social Events & Fundraising (Sub-Committee Chair: Penny Blersch)

The social and fundraising events of 2018 were generally well supported and, apart from raising much needed funds, serve to showcase our beautiful suburb and generate a sense of community. In 2018, the following events were held:

² This figure is made-up of: (1) 289 individual stands (across 14 streets); (2) 80 units in the Falcons Complex; (3) 20 units in the Twentyman Court complex; and (4) 8 units in the Clarendon Court complex.

1. We started the year with a very successful **ARRA Community Carnival** at the Scout Hall in May. It was a wonderful family day and the children, in particular, had a great time.
2. Our annual **Art Exhibition and Auction** was held at the lovely Ca Ira Guesthouse on Saturday 6 October. We were very fortunate this year to have one of our residents and acclaimed pianist, Prof Wessel van Wyk, entertaining us whilst we admired the art, enjoyed the delicious snacks and drinks and chatted to friends and neighbours. After the opening address by art collector and resident, Harrie Siertsma, the auction of donated artworks was held under the hammer of Nic Coetzee.
3. The annual **Halloween 'Trick or Treat'** is always a highlight for the many young Arcadians. Once again, we divided the children into two groups and spent a wonderful hour walking the streets of Arcadia. The residents are extremely generous with their treats and every child went home with an overflowing bag of goodies.
4. Finally, the **End-of-Year Community Garden Party** in December is a fitting way to end the year. The beautiful weather, garden setting and delicious food all combined to make a wonderful evening.

In 2018 the following events are planned

❖ Saturday, 11 May	ARRA Community Carnival
❖ Sunday, 18 August	Community Picnic
❖ Saturday, 12 October	Art Exhibition
❖ Saturday, 26 October	Halloween 'Trick or Treat'
❖ Friday, 6 December	End-of-Year Community Garden Party

(15) Scout Hall & Scout Group Activities (Sub-Committee Chair: Chris Baron and Christel Engelbrecht)

The Scout Hall community project was taken-on by ARRA in October 2015. The vision was that the hall should become a community hub, with an organic garden and a play area for kids. The renovation to the hall was substantial, and greatly supported by donations, the rest was covered by ARRA. The goal was for the project to be self-sustaining after 3 years. This has largely been the case with the play area and the garden. Hall usage is regular and frequent.

The ARRA- Arcadia Scout Group partnership agreement continues to work well. ARRA manages the tenants of the hall, pays the cleaner and has invested in 40 chairs, 6 tables, a lawn mower and an edge trimmer. The monthly contribution to the Scouts, from the income of the hall was R5830-00 per month. ARRA employed Tendai as a cleaner for 1 day a week since August 2018.

The 10th Arcadia Scout and Cub groups are very active, with regular meetings on Friday evenings, as well as weekend scout activities. They currently have 28 scouts and 12 cubs. Chris Baron and his team continue to manage and support the troop with unfailing dedication and commitment. The Scouts were very successful in regional competitions last year: Kontiki 2nd overall, winning 4 trophies and at the Field day 4th overall. The group currently have 3 Springbok Scout candidates.

The Scout Hall is being used for the annual ARRA community market, Halloween "trick or Treat" and the National Garden picnic day, as well as a wide range of community initiatives in the area. E- waste collection happens every 6 months. We recently started a weekly recycling collection initiative on Saturdays.

Regular Community-related activities, make a contribution to overall facility costs:

- Art Classes by Carl Jeppe: a group of talented artists meet once a month for a drawing or painting weekend, arranged and tutored by the well-known Pretoria artist Carl Jeppe.
- Aftercare by Carmen: Carmen offers an aftercare facility to children aged 6 to 13 from 14h00 – 18h00 every day of the week. Cell No: 081 324 3956
- Ninjitsu Classes: Riku Sensai the experienced instructor is giving classes for adults on a Tuesday and a Thursday each week at the hall from 18h00 to 20h00. Cell No: 081 285 3870
- Kickboxing: Peter and the jungle warriors meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 18h00 to 19h30. The classes are for children. Cell No: 082 494 8555
- Moms' & Kids' Group, Arcadia: This group was formed in October 2015, and has become a wonderful social network for parents with young children living in Arcadia and surrounds. The playground has become a lively, safe community space, where the children play and parents socialise on **Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings**. The yearly contribution of R250-00 by 9 families paid for the upkeep of the play area. Axel and his brother built a beautiful rocket made of recycled tyres and poles. The group invites all the families living in the ARRA area to join on **Thursday afternoons 3h00-5h00 and Saturday mornings 9h30-11h30 am**. Come play!

- Community Vegetable Garden & Compost Project: the organic herb and vegetable garden has become self-sustaining. ARRA paid for Lawrence the gardener's salary up to and including December 2018. The project is managed by Christel Andersen. We supply fresh organic herbs and vegetables weekly, to a number of regular customers, including Harries pancakes famous restaurant. Sales happen on **Thursday afternoons 3h00-5h00 and Saturday mornings 9h30-11h30 am**. A compost project is also established and receives grass/garden cuttings from residents in the area.
- Community Carnival: The Community Carnival is planned for 11 May, and this will be hosted at the hall. Many exciting activities are planned for this day and can be easily carried-out in the fenced-off and safe environment.
- Public Meetings: On an ad-hoc basis, the hall is used to host public meetings for the community, such as the ARRA AGM, as well as public meetings arranged by the COT to engage with the community in a series of public consultation processes, such as the RSDF.
- Quatro Base: The hall is also used by Quatro to change over shifts, as well as for the security guards to use the facilities.
- Birthday Parties, Business Presentations, Meetings and Training: have also taken place at the Scout hall during 2018 on a limited basis, restricted to residents and/or legal and/or community-sensitive initiatives. The hall has also been used as an Examination Venue on a regular basis.

All in all, the Scout Hall project has been a great success, and the vision has certainly been realised. We are very grateful for the monthly donations from community members. We urge the community members to support the regular activities that are happening at the Scout Hall and to spread the word about these activities to other interested parties.

For usage of the hall please contact Linda Tyrrell or Christel Andersen 082 3967806.

(16) OPERRA (Representatives: Linda Tyrrell & Flor Healy)

ARRA is a founding member of OPERRA (the Old Pretoria Residents' & Ratepayers' Alliance), which now represents 14 residents' associations. OPERRA provides the individual associations with the advantages of strength in unity and a pool of expertise and experience not available to smaller groupings. ARRA is represented on OPERRA and the ExCo by Linda Tyrrell and Flor Healy.

The ExCo meets once per month and is comprised of 9 members i.e. Linda Tyrrell, Chair (ARRA); Richard King, Vice-Chair/Service Delivery Sub-Committee (WHA); Rossouw van Aarde, Secretary & Communications (RIBHO); Flor Healy, Treasurer (ARRA); Carin Thirion, Crime & Security Sub-Committee (RHOARA); Annemarie Loots, Planning & Zoning Sub-Committee - Spatial Development (RHOARA); Joan de Villiers Heritage Sub-Committee (BEACA); Dirk Kotzé, Electoral & Ward Issues Sub-Committee (CVA); Steve Mitchell, Environmental & Recycling Sub-Committee (RHIBO).

On behalf of its RRA membership base, which includes ARRA, OPERRA has been extremely busy since the previous AGM arranging many meetings with councillors, MMCs (Member of the Mayoral Committee) as well as the newly appointed RED (Regional Executive Director) of Region 3. At a public meeting held on 3rd July 2018, MMC Williams undertook to intervene with the illegal land use issues. OPERRA requested again that all the RRAs in Region 3 re-send the lists of illegal land use for a follow-up by the MMC. Sadly, this action offered no result to-date.

OPERRA attended the MEC's Independent Tribunal Hearing regarding the Indian High Commission illegal demolition of the boundary wall on the 20th November 2018. This tribunal was also attended by Adrian de Villiers, Chief Architect for the DPW (Department of Public Works), in his personal capacity. Proceedings continued for the entire day and, to-date no feedback has been provided to OPERRA or to ARRA.

On the 15th November 2018, a meeting was held with John Mokoena, RED of Region 3. This was well-attended by OPERRA members and was a good meeting. All the frustrations that we experience with the officials at the council was high-lighted, and we were assured that the RED was very aware of the various service delivery issues in the region. All agreed once again that part of the frustration is the lack of communication from the CoT on municipal issues.

On 29th January 2019, an extended Exco meeting was held to discuss the proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site listing of the Union Buildings. Guests from the NHC (National Heritage Council) as well as the RED and DPW attended. This proved to be an important informative meeting. The NHC left the meeting with many additional suggestions and recommendations by some of the experts that sit on the OPERRA committee. Dirk Kotze, a political scientist, suggested that something slightly broader should be conceptualised, incorporating other monuments complementary to the site itself. Claus Schutte, the architect of the Conservation Management Plan for the Union Buildings also attended. The value of this report was commended by the NHC. Once again, the point we wanted to demonstrate was that the CoT can only benefit by working with the constituent RRAs in OPERRA, as we are willing to assist with the process. A task team will be put together and hopefully the CoT will take us up on the offer to assist.

An extended OPERRA Committee meeting was held on 26h February 2019, at which 5 Councillors also attended i.e. Cllrs. Shawn Wilkinson, Phillip Nel, Siobhan Muller, Clive Napier and Anru Meyer. The committee did not pull any punches and the truth about the situation as experienced by the RRAs in OPERRA was told in no uncertain terms. The track record thus far for the present Council was definitely not up to standard. In fact, service delivery was exceptionally poor compounded by a lack of follow-up and communication/updates.

OPERRA requested some background on the new Executive Mayor and were heartened to hear that his specific focus area is going to be service delivery. A stern warning was issued that if this does not improve drastically, voters will look elsewhere in the upcoming election.

Concern was raised about the fact that the Ward Councillor for Ward 92, Cllr. Abel Tau, was not performing well in ward 92, yet he has been made the Regional Chair as well as the MMC for Utilities, replacing Cllr. Darryl Moss. A letter of concern was sent to the Executive Mayor and the DA Chief Whip, outlining our concerns and requesting a formal explanation. PR Councillor (Proportional Representative) Cllr. Anru Meyer has already been assisting in Ward 92, and the suggestion is that he steps in to assist the residents where the elected Cllr. Abel Tau cannot. A few issues have already been addressed in this manner. As residents, we deserve to be heard and we wish to establish professional and accountable engagements between the elected councillor and the wider electorate. We deserve better attention and focus on follow-up actions. The lack of communication is once again at the forefront of many of these issues we see raised, yet again.

(17) Other Issues

ARRA issues a warm welcome to our new residents in the area and we look forward to engaging with you on the many issues that affect our area over the coming year and beyond.

Thank you also to the hard-working ExCo Committee/Sub-Committee members and the Street Reps for their dedication and on-going support throughout the year.

Ultimately, as your Residents' Association, we cannot operate alone or in isolation. As your ARRA Committee, we need your active feedback, support and encouragement as we work on your behalf to protect your homes and investments, while preserving our unique neighbourhood heritage for future generations to come.

There is much to be done in 2019 and many challenges to be confronted and grappled-with over the coming year, some of which are likely to require direct legal action and financial-related expenditure and expense. This will require us as a community to stand together and to commit to investing in our future as a community in protecting our lifestyle, and by protecting our properties (in terms of security and value).

We must defend our heritage and community spirit, which is hard-earned, and which is under serious attack from seemingly unscrupulous property developers and the challenges within CoT in enforcing the by-laws, despite the community's efforts to report on-going breaches in this regard.