

STANFORD CONSERVATION

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

BUZZY BEEZ GETS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE



And a new use!

MEMBERSHIP

As can be seen in this informative newsletter, reflecting the activities of your committee, we encourage Stanfords to join Stanford Conservation. Membership fees are only R200 per year, per individual or family. The Trust is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) run entirely by unpaid volunteers. We raise funds through outside grants, donations and membership fees, as well as specific fundraisers like 'Think & Drink'. These funds are used to support the various SCT environmental, architectural and social initiatives. Paying your fees enables volunteers to continue making the village a safe and beautiful place to live! For more information, please visit our website on www.stanfordconservationtrust.org.za

Exactly five years after the Stanford Conservation Trust (SCT) and its Heritage Committee were first informed of the possibility that the 100+ year-old Buzzy Beez building on the Okkie Smuts Primary School grounds had fallen into such disrepair that the Department of Education (DoE) intended to demolish the building and replace it with two new face-brick classrooms, the grand old lady is now entering her final stages of restoration.

As the building is older than 60 years and is situated on highly graded heritage site, the demolition was stopped by the SCT. Liz Hochfelden, chair of the heritage committee, played an instrumental role in convincing the DoE and the Department of Public Works to move the new classrooms to a more appropriate area – thus 'saving' the Buzzy Beez building and the

playground in front of it. In addition, they agreed to re-design the classrooms to adhere to the Stanford Style (refer to the photograph).

In return for this win-win situation, the school's governing board undertook to restore Buzzy Beez, whilst the SCT pledged to source funds for the most expensive part of the restoration – replacing the thatch roof.

The SCT approached the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust for possible funding – as it did 10 years ago when it received R80 000 to restore the St Thomas Church on the market square. Once again, the application was successful and after going through all the necessary DoE and heritage approvals, the replacement of the roof started on 16 September.

Anton Duivestein, owner of Walker Bay Construction, has volunteered his professional time and will be donating some of the materials required. Supervision of the project will be overseen by Stanford Heritage Committee member, architect Gregg Goddard, who, with the help of Katie Smuts (archaeologist) and Louis Roodt (engineer), drew up a detailed project report used for the funding application. Gregg subsequently spent many pro bono hours drawing up a measured plan of the building, as well as obtaining the necessary approvals.

The roof structural repairs, waterproofing and painting on the roof flashing and ridge will be done by Stanford Builders (Pty) Ltd, is a company set up by Anton Duivenstein to employ and train selected people that were born locally and have grown up and lived in Stanford. These long-standing members of the community benefit by means of a profit-sharing formula. Elim Thatchers, a family-owned business with close ties to Stanford, will do the actual thatching.

The intention is to use the building as a much-needed library, and a recent grant from the Grootbos Foundation will make this dream come true and the library ready for the 2020 school year.





Liz Hochfelden (left), Anton Duivenstein and Amelia de Villiers (the first person raise the alarm on the plight of the Buzzy Beez building) standing in front of the already repainted building. The two new classrooms (which would have been ugly face-brick) can be seen in the background.

VILLAGE NEWS

MARKET SQUARE UPDATE

Good news is that the dust problem on the streets adjacent to the market square will soon be a thing of the past. A final proposal on the type of road surface, traffic flow and parking bays has been submitted by the SCT to the municipality. This will now be discussed by means of a public participation process, first with the affected property owners, and then with the general public. This is all part of the Stanford Revitalisation Plan proposed by SCT and adopted by the municipality as part of its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

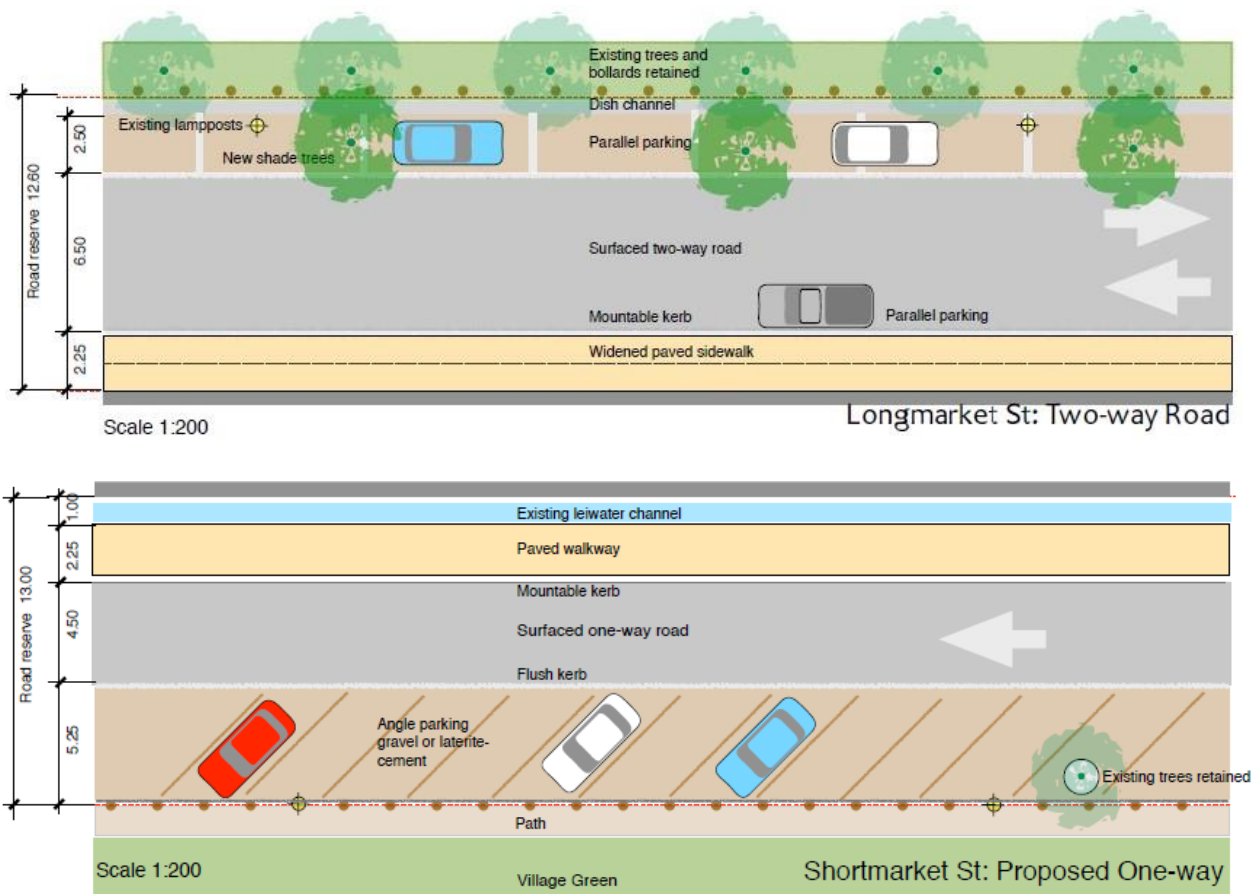
It has always been the intention to surface these sections of Longmarket and Shortmarket Streets, but budget restraints have always been the issue. Mayoral funding (external income not raised by means of rates and taxes) has now become available for this to hopefully start in 2020.

As the two sections are not proclaimed roads but part of one erf (which includes the village green) and has a Heritage 3A status, the roads do not need to adhere to strict municipal road specifications. The proposal is therefore to narrow the roads, pave the surface with an aggregate brownish paver and provide enough parking to alleviate the constrained parking requirements for businesses in the village centre.

The proposal is for Longmarket Street to allow two-way traffic and provide parallel parking on the village green side. It is further proposed that Shortmarket be a one-way from Queen Victoria to Morton Streets, with diagonal parking on the village green side. This will allow motorists who cannot find parking in the main road to turn into Shortmarket Street, where ample parking will be available.

The proposal will require Heritage Western Cape approval, and the Stanford Heritage Committee has agreed to assist the municipality to obtain this approval as quickly as possible once the final engineer's drawings are available.

Part of this approval process will also be the proposed relocation of the post boxes to a 'to-be-determined' place behind the municipal offices; thus opening the vista from Queen Victoria Street to the village green – as first proposed by then Stanford resident, the internationally acclaimed architect Michael Sutton in 1996. The wheel may grind slowly, but it does!



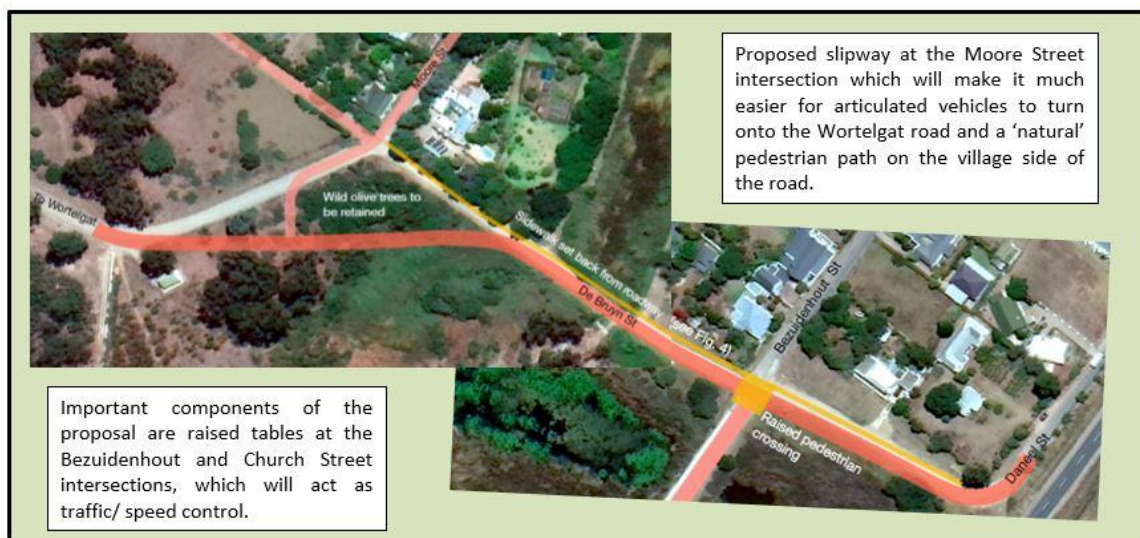
TARRING OF DE BRUYN STREET

After years of lobbying by the SCT and Stanford Ratepayers, as well as the unwavering support of our Ward councilor, mayor Dudley Coetzee, funds have been made available for the tarring of De Bruyn Street.

A proposal on how the road should be aligned was presented to the ward committee on 12 September, and this was extremely favourably received. The proposal was drawn up by local resident, landscape architect and SCT member Bernie Oberholzer. The most important components of the proposal are raised tables at the Bezuidenhout and Church Street intersections (which also acts as traffic/ speed control), a slipway at the Moore Street intersection, which will make it much easier for articulated vehicles to turn onto the Wortelgat road, and a 'natural' pedestrian path on the village side of the road.

On the more technical side it was requested that there is no channeled storm water runoff on either side of the road to prevent surface oil, petrol and diesel from polluting the Willem Appel dams and the Mill Stream. The request therefore was for a flush concrete edging to allow the grass to grow to the edge of the road and thereby to 'absorb' most of the polluted run-off. It will also assist with the November/December migration of the endangered Western Cape Leopard toadlets who are too small to jump up and over any other type of kerb and ending up dying from heat and exhaustion.

The proposal was extremely well received by the municipality. R2.5 million has been earmarked for the tarring of the road – the greatest expense being the crossing at the Mill Stream.





TRAFFIC CIRCLE GETS A RURAL APPEAL

Thanks to the tenacity of two community organisations and three Stanford residents, quite a few landscape changes have been made to the engineering plans for the circle at the entrance to the village.

When the consulting engineers presented the final plans for the circle at the Stanford Ratepayer's AGM earlier this year, members of the community were aghast that some of the most pertinent requests made during the public participation process were not taken into consideration in the final design. The design is typically what one would find in a suburban area, with no consideration of the rural context in which this traffic circle is situated. Picture the circle at the Hermanus Marine Hotel/ Woolworths intersection, but just worse because the brick pavement was designed to be right next to the single lane circle with no protection to pedestrians at a major provincial road intersection.

Bea Whittaker and Bernie Oberholzer (SCT) and Louis Roodt, chair of Stanford Ratepayers and an experienced roads engineer, subsequently set up a successful meeting with Brian Domingo from EFG Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd, which was awarded the contract to build the road in a joint venture with Haw & Ingles and many other sub-contractors. The only condition requested was that the proposed changes would not have any negative effect on the cost of the contract.

Although nothing could be done to the design of the circle itself (a road with broad shoulders narrowing to a single lane circle), Brian agreed to discuss the proposed SCT landscape changes (specifically with regard to pedestrian safety and the rural context) with the Western Cape Roads department. These changes were favourably received, and Stanford needs to thank Louis Roodt for assisting in re-drawing the engineering plans to incorporate the SCT proposals.

The result is that the pedestrian walkways will be a safe distance from the circle and follow a much more rural pattern, as can be seen in the sketch below. The brown indicates the now natural pedestrian walkway, which otherwise would have been a brick-paved sidewalk right next to the road.

Notes:

1. Walkways separate from road verge except at crossings and taxi bays.
Finishes in exposed concrete with laterite-cement with pre-cast concrete edging.
2. Low level water-wise planting to landscape architect's specification.
3. Tree planting at entrance to village to landscape architect's specification.
4. Portion of existing roadway to be retained as cycle way.
5. Rumble strip in brick paving to slow traffic at cycle and pedestrian crossing, and to mark the entrance of the village.





HERITAGE UPDATE

- **SPAR Plans submitted for Re-building**

The Stanford Heritage Committee has been liaising with the Architectural Technologist since the end of July, when she first presented concept ideas to the committee. The 'PrSArchT' in turn was given insight into the Stanford Revitalisation Project recently accepted and put into place by the Overstrand Municipality and provided with the Stanford Style Guidelines, recently updated. These explain the parameters of building within the Stanford Proclaimed Heritage Area. SHC received digital working drawings on 17th September and has responded unfavourably.

The submission is expected to go to Heritage Western Cape and we eagerly await their response. Only then is the Overstrand Municipality Building Department able to approve the building plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rehabilitation of wetland**

Our application for grant funding from the Table Mountain Fund via Whale Coast Conservation to create a family friendly picnic area and rehabilitate the wetland below the dam wall, has been approved. Work will begin in late October.

- **Donation from Grootbos foundation**

A donation of 30 trees (15 yellowwoods and 15 cabbage trees) from Grootbos Foundation was received. A big thank you to Phil Murray at the Grootbos Foundation!



Trees donated by Grootbos Foundation for the upgrading of the Wandelpad!



Our new Wandelpad logo is proudly displayed and worn by our team!



The newly termed 'Mountain View' trail (new cemetery/old rugby field) is still generating goodwill and the work is ongoing. Rocks were collected from Stanford Hills for the landscaping and pathways. Thank you to Neil McKenzie and Ernest Sithsa who work extremely hard maintaining our open spaces and Wandelpad trail. It has become an interesting and enjoyable part of the Wandelpad. New benches, signposts and rubbish bins will be installed shortly.

SCORE

SCORE welcomes Jake Uys, Veronica Carter, Sue James, Helga and Anna Mae who is returning for duty.



The good news is that SCORE Swop Shop have been awarded R28 500 by the Municipality in the form of the Grant-in-Aid programme. An anonymous donor has renewed her pledge to donate through Rotary and our application for vouchers from PEP Stores was successful in that SCORE can spend R3500 by the end of October 2019 on items such as toiletries, school uniforms and underwear.

The re-packaged dog and cat food is proving to be very popular with Swop Shop customers. It is gratifying to see many of the children queueing up to buy food for their pets. Veronica, Claire and Helga are enjoying the opportunity of engaging with the children and discussing animal matters with them, which is a plus for everyone!



Our team member, Denise, in charge of the Junktique, has been preparing our stock of goods to sell at the forthcoming Junktique Markets which start again in September.

Soap, deodorant and Vaseline are always needed. If Stanfordinians buy some of these toiletries when they shop,

Stanford Tourism will gladly accept the suitably marked bag and let a SCORE member know to fetch same. Clothes and household linen and other items are always in great need.

An article was written for The Village News and a posting added onto their Facebook page, requesting donations of children's clothes, unbranded school uniforms such as grey pants, white shirts, black shoes, etc. from people in Hermanus and the Overberg region. Hermanus Tourism have kindly agreed to act as a drop-off point for the donated goods and to alert us for collection.

THANK YOU once again to all who so generously donate to the Swop Shop. As it is at present, the Swop Shop is very popular with customers and is serving a great need in the lower economic community in Stanford.

THINK AND DRINK

Our first quiz evening at Stanford Hills was held at the end of August and it worked extremely well. We had a record number of 61 people.

The venue size took care of the space problem and Andrew Herriot supplied a microphone which resolved the noise factor. Up to 100 people can be accommodated into this space with ease, and we are hoping to grow it to that size.

The food was outstanding and the service excellent. The feedback so far has been extremely positive. A group of 22 youngsters have become a permanent fixture at the quiz evenings and they were in fact the quiz masters for the event at the end of September.



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Marian and Simon continue to assist every month, by finding the quiz masters, buying the prizes and bringing all the equipment needed to the venue. Big thanks to them for their contribution.

