



Dear GPNW Member:

The GPNW EXCO are pleased to send out this update on key initiatives by the GPNW. The newsletter includes important information on a variety of topics:

1. [2020 Six-Month Review: Update on GPNW Activities To-Date](#)
2. [Update on Buzzer](#)
3. [Personal Safety: Pepper Spray & Upcoming Personal Safety Webinar](#)
4. [Letter to the City of Cape Town on Illegal Structures](#)
5. [Bradley Braithwaite Helps Start New Neighbourhood Watch](#)

2020 Six-Month Review

While the past six-month period has not been without its challenges and distractions, it has been a particularly successful period for the GPNW.

The current GPNW EXCO took office at the end of February and identified the needs to **grow membership** and to **increase member engagement and participation** as the most important priorities for 2020. To achieve this, we identified the need to increase the GPNW's relevance to members and the community.

As part of that process, the GPNW adopted a new Mission Statement, which expanded the objective of the GPNW to include increased emphasis on police accountability.

We are pleased to report that our **membership grew from 249 in April to 306 at the beginning of October, a 23% increase.**

It is not known whether all of our members still qualify for membership of the GPNW. Members who have moved out of Sector 1 cannot, according to the GPNW Constitution, continue to be members of the GPNW, but unless they notify us that they have moved we do not know that they have ceased to be valid members of the GPNW.

As part of the upcoming membership renewal process outlined in the Constitution, members will need to confirm that they live, work or own property in Sector 1 as part of the process of reapplying for membership. **We hope that all current members who still qualify will decide to reapply for membership in the GPNW.** In further good news, a **record number of members have contributed financially** to the GPNW in 2020!

This financial support has allowed us to go ahead with a number of strategic projects:

- The **introduction of Buzzer** to the area represented a significant expansion of the channels available to report criminal and suspicious activity; with an annual cost of

R32,400 this represented a significant financial commitment which would not be possible without the financial support of you, our members.

- The **redesign of the GPNW website** to update and expand the information and resources that will be available to members. The new website should be ready for launch in the near future.
- The completion of much-needed **maintenance of the GPNW Radio Network**.

We also increased the **frequency of our communications** to members and held our **first ever webinar** on smart security camera systems. Regrettably, distractions over the past three months reduced the frequency with which we were able to communicate with our members.

The webinar on smart security cameras was well received (a recording of the webinar will be available on our new website) and we are pleased to note that a number of residents have collaborated to install smart security cameras in their street.

We were planning on launching **Zone Patrols** but the COVID Lockdown and the aforementioned distractions have not allowed us to focus on setting up the process and protocols needed to get these going. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to re-focus on what we believe is an important initiative to improve security in our area.

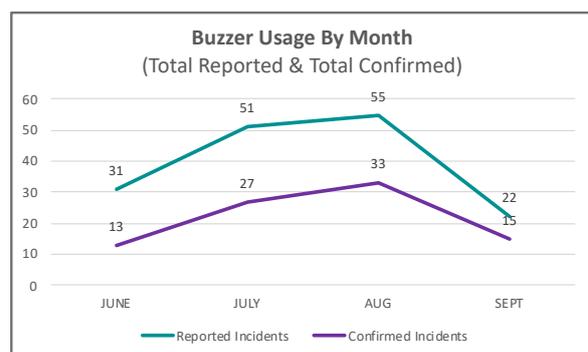
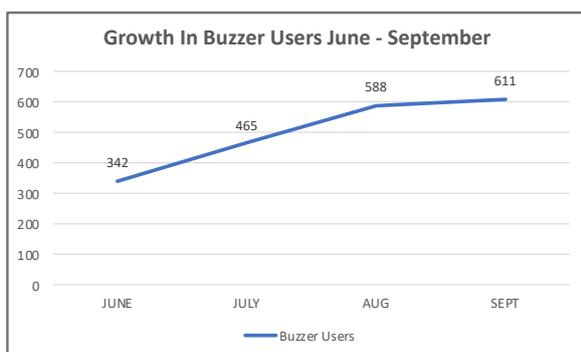
Buzzer Update

Committing to pay for Buzzer to be fully supported in Green Point, Three Anchor Bay and Mouille Point was a major step for the GPNW. Jacques Weber had been instrumental in arranging for the area to be “unlocked”, but the GPNW EXCO believed that, if the app was going to be of real benefit to members of the community, it needed to be fully supported and monitored at all times.

The GPNW signed a licensing agreement starting in June, and we were able to get Avenue Response to agree to host and monitor Buzzer’s Control Room module. This represented a significant financial commitment on the part of the GPNW; the monthly cost in license fees is R2,700. We want to thank all the GPNW members who have paid their 2020 membership dues – **YOU are supporting Buzzer in the area**.

We took the decision to try Buzzer for a six-month period, and to then decide whether it was worth supporting and whether the GPNW could afford the cost going-forward.

We believe that the app has proven its value as an additional channel for members of the public to report crime. There has a steady increase in users in the area with a total of 611 people who have installed the app on their phone.



A total of 159 incidents have been reported from June-September; we are able to confirm that at least 88 of these were confirmed reports (some reports were from people testing the app, and no details were provided for others so we do not know whether these were real issues.)

The number of false positives seem to be decreasing, with at least 70% of the reported incidents being confirmed incidents in September.

The response to all of the confirmed incidents was good to excellent, from both Avenue Response and from other users who responded in app to the reported incident.

More importantly, Buzzer directly led to the arrest of at least one suspect, led to the recovery of stolen property, and recently saved a user from a GBV incident that could easily have turned out worse than it did.

Buzzer will not replace the Crime & Emergency WhatsApp group; each channel has its advantages and disadvantages. Rather we see Buzzer as an additional channel for reporting criminal and suspicious activity to be used side-by-side with the C&E alert group and GPNW's Radio Network.

But there is no question that supporting Buzzer in 2021 will be a financial challenge; EXCO is exploring ways in which we can raise contributions from Buzzer users who are not GPNW members and from local businesses.

If you are not a Buzzer user please download it and install it on your smartphone.

Pepper Spray & Upcoming Personal Safety Webinar

Earlier this year we secured a supply of pepper spray at a very favourable cost and we still have a limited quantity of both direct spray and fogger units available.

We have 40 ml direct stream and 40 ml fogger spray; the direct stream is best for use outdoors, while the fogger is a better option for in-home use (the fog is inhaled by your attacker making it more effective.)

The 40 ml direct spray or fogger is R100 for GPNW members and R120 for non-members. Please email office@greenpointwatch.co.za with orders (include your name, a number we can WhatsApp you at and the quantity and type you want and we will send payment details to you.)

We would like to make webinars a regular part of the value GPNW provides the community and are finalizing details for our next one which will discuss options and useful tips for staying safe in public spaces. Details will be sent out shortly.

Letter to the City of Cape Town Regarding Illegal Structures

The GPNW notes with concern the number of illegal structures that have been erected along Helen Suzman Boulevard (near Hill Road) and along Bill Peter Drive (opposite SAPS.) We recently sent the following letter to Interim Ward Councilor Matthew Kempthorne and to Mr. Wayne Aldridge of the City of Cape Town expressing our concerns on behalf of our members:

Dear Sirs:

I'm writing on behalf of the Green Point Neighbourhood Watch (GPNW) to express our concern about the increase in informal structures being erected by homeless individuals along Helen Suzman Boulevard and Bill Peter's Drive.

We recognize that homelessness, in and of itself is not a crime, but we are concerned that the situation is beginning to threaten the safety of the community. While most of the homeless resort to sleeping rough through no fault of their own, and many would embrace opportunities to get off the streets, there are those for whom homelessness is a choice and who prey off of members of the community either through aggressive begging or petty crime.

We have seen a noticeable increase in muggings and attempted muggings in recent months and while we cannot directly attribute this to the increase in the number of homeless in the area, there is widespread belief amongst members of the community that the two are related.

In addition, we notice that there has been an increase in the number of homeless structures in the area between Main Road and Helen Suzman Boulevard in the vicinity of Hill Road. We have reason to believe that one or more of the street people encamped there were involved in the brutal assault of a male individual (this is also the area where a homeless person was found murdered last year.) The encampment is situated next to the Pinocchio Creche which we believe endangers the safety of the children there.

The situation is becoming a serious risk to the safety of both residents in the area and passers-by along Main Road. We request that the City pay urgent attention to the situation before it deteriorates further.

Sincerely

Peter Flentov
Chair GPNW

EXCO has been in regular communication with Dave Bryant, our now former Ward Councillor, over the past six months with respect to dealing with illegal structures in the area. These efforts go largely unnoticed by members and by the community.

Councillor Bryant was always responsive to our concerns and arranged for numerous clean-up operations. We wish to thank Dave for his care and commitment to the Green Point and Three Anchor Bay communities; he has continued intervening on our behalf even after he took his seat in Parliament. Thank you Councillor Bryant and good luck in your new position. We are sure you will look after the interests of all South Africans as diligently as you did for the members of our community.

Bradley Braithwaite Helps Start New Neighbourhood Watch

Charles Scheltema, our Treasurer, recently had the pleasure of catching up with Bradley Braithwaite when he and his wife Claudia visited the Addo National Park in the Eastern Cape. Bradley founded the GPNW and was the driving force behind the neighbourhood watch for many years before moving back to Port Elizabeth. He and his partner run a guest house in Summerstrand.

Bradley has been in touch with Charles and Peter and they reported to us that Bradley was asked to help start a neighbourhood watch in Summerstrand. Support for the new watch has

been overwhelming; we understand that over a hundred people attended the founding meeting.

Membership fees were set at R300 for pensioners, and either R50/month (R600 if paid annually) or R100/month (R1,000 if paid annually.) Bradley reported that they raised over R45,000 in ten days.

The GPNW EXCO can only be envious of the enthusiasm and commitment from the members of the Summerstrand community.

EXCO has sent a message of congratulations and support to Bradley and the Summerstrand NW.

Please be vigilant and report all suspicious and criminal activity.

GPNW EXCO