



## Somerset West Community Police Forum

### **Minutes of Somerset West CPF Public meeting held at 19H00 on Tuesday 20th<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at the Somerset West Library Hall.**

#### **1. WELCOME**

Mr Smith welcomed everyone attending. He also welcomed Councillor Peck and Station Commander Col. Mary Ann Williams.

#### **2. OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Ms Ellen Esau.

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Alderman Pringle and Ms Sue Buckland.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

Mr Smith said he was involved with two families recently and it involved children taking drugs. If children wanted drugs, they would find them – no matter how much police work was done. He asked the public to be aware, and if they saw any signs of drug taking, to take action. He appealed to parents to know where their children are and who their friends were.

Mr Smith said that there was a high incidence of fraud reported to Somerset West station. He said that many people, especially the elderly, were falling for investment schemes which promised high returns – and then their money was gone. He said people should always be careful with their money. He said that often the people who perpetrate the fraud live amongst us. He said that ATM fraud was also on the increase.

#### **5. CRIME REPORT BY CST M KOEN**

Report for December to mid February..

Contact Crime is the only category that increased.

Assault Common and Robbery were up.

With respect to property related crimes, in December these were down 16% and in January were down 27%

He said that commercial crime it was up and down. With ATM fraud, he said that the key to preventing this was not to be distracted.

With respect to Trio crimes (residential robberies, business robberies and car-jacking, Over the two and a half months, it was slightly down.

He said that sector 2 was the biggest contributor to crimes followed by sectors 1 and 3. He described the various sector areas.

Hotspots were Sir Lowry's Pass, Rastakamp and Sun City. Most crimes were committed on Saturdays and Mondays.

He gave a description of the modus operandi for recent residential robberies

In answer to a question from Councillor Peck about markers used by criminals, Cst Koen replied that there had been many discussions and he said that he thinks that this may be true. He said that criminals most often surveyed their prospective victims and were highly organised. Ms Marais mentioned an incident that happened in her area. There was further discussion on this topic.

Mr Smith thanked Cst. Koen for his contribution. He also complimented our station for bringing down burglaries by 27%. *Applause from the audience thanking the Station Commander and her team.*

Mr Smith encouraged people to join their Neighbourhood Watch, as they do an important function.

## 6. **General**

Mr Shand asked if there was any good news in terms of convictions. Mr Smith mentioned a case in Sir Lowry's Pass, where a suspect was found guilty of armed robbery and received a sentence of 15 years.

In answer to a question from Mr Poole about resources, Col. Williams said that Mr Smith had written to the Provincial Commissioner about the lack of detectives and vehicles at Somerset West, and had received a positive reply, saying that we would be getting more personnel and vehicles. She said that they had achieved very good successes in spite of their shortages.

Mr Smith said that if there were any service delivery problems, they must send an email to him.

In answer to a question by Ms Finger, Councillor Peck said that speed bumps will not be implemented residential areas and will only be placed in the area of parks, high traffic crossings and at schools. He said that they will soon be putting up an LPR camera in Lourentia Park and it will be monitored by HCW's control room.

Mr Smith thanked all for being at the meeting and requested the attendees to fill the hall with friends and neighbours next time. There was further discussion on drugs and how this affects the community and families. It was decided to get a specialist talker on drugs at the next meeting.

## 7. The meeting closed at 20H00



Bill Smith  
Chairman

