

MARINA DA GAMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25 JULY 2016

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – BOUDJE GILJAM

Your outgoing Excom has continued to build on the work of the previous committees; what we do is very much an evolutionary process. Having a full committee of 12 persons meant that the load could be spread and shared – and fresh ideas generated.

The members' survey undertaken early in our tenure, in which a gratifying 500 odd responses were received, provided the direction for the portfolio holders and our decision making. The survey also fed directly into the strategy document, which is intended to be a living document to generate and capture ideas for Excom to fulfil its brief, and to set priorities and budgets. The document suggests a simple measure to direct our activities – **the increase of value of house prices in the Marina.**

Informed by the direction provided by the survey, the portfolio holders have made a great deal of progress. Of particular interest are Security, Standards, Parks and Gardens, and Communications.

Security was acknowledged as the most important issue, and you will be aware of the efforts of many, many residents in improving security in their part of the Marina. Robin Carlisle's initiative is to build on the existing security structures to bring us up to the levels of the surrounding areas, a task that will take time and a great deal of effort.

The work of the Standards portfolio is critical to the maintenance of property values. Our team has made significant inroads in the number of standards breaches, and several long standing problems have either been resolved or on the way to resolution. We have appointed a law firm to assist us in enforcing standards.

We are privileged to have large areas of Public Open Space in the Marina which can be enjoyed by all residents. This, however, also brings its own problems in this time of reduced budgets. We believe that the maintenance of the open spaces is key to maintaining Marina values, and propose to make further investments in this area.

Our communications team has made a great deal of progress in developing new platforms for communicating with our residents. Communications have evolved dramatically over the last few years, and we need to take advantage of the benefits of the new technologies. Communications is also a large component of the security initiatives.

Details of the portfolio holders' activities appear in the portfolio reports which follow, and have also been communicated to you in our new publication, [ExCom@Work](#).

Unfortunately I must also report that Excom was hampered by in-fighting, which inhibits service delivery, and which to this day has not yet been resolved. Too much energy was expended in trivialities and unproductive matters, which could have been put to much better use.

The only constant in life is change, and naturally we had some changes during the year.

Peter Ferry, our auditor for 36 years, almost since the inception of the Marina, has decided that it is time to hand over to somebody else. We give special thanks to him for his services and appreciate his guidance and dedication to the affairs of the Marina over the many years. After 30 years in the Marina, it was a new experience for me to see a set of audited accounts without Peter Ferry's signature!

Tony Kiley was appointed to the chair of Archcom, but due to pressure of work was forced to relinquish the position. We thank him for the new insights and input he gave Excom and Archcom during his tenure. Alan Hepple returned to Archcom as chairman to replace Tony. We thank both

Alan and Eduardo Nunes for the time they spend ensuring that our built environment keeps its unique Marina look and feel.

Two Excom members, Steve Padmore (Uitsig portfolio) and George Ellis (Strategy portfolio), moved away from the Marina during the year and therefore resigned from Excom. Both deserve our thanks for the energetic and professional way they handled their portfolios.

Dave D'Alton, our ward councillor, has announced that he will be retiring when his term of office ends in August. Dave has been very supportive of Excom and our residents, and has walked many a problem through the Council offices on our behalf. Thanks go to Dave for his support and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Fortunately, two roles have not changed. Marcia continues to be a treasure in the office, managing the day to day affairs of the Marina with competence and without drama. Thanks to her for making my role simpler. Richard has proved his value since his appointment 18 months ago, and does a difficult job with tact and understanding, and with a smile.

We have continued to build our relationships with the Council employees responsible for our area, and we thank them for their support and assistance – we are very aware of their challenges in terms of resources and budgets.

A year is a short time in the life of Excom, and there are outstanding issues remaining for the attention of the incoming committee. I believe we have established a direction for Excom, and trust that the incoming committee will take up the projects that are ongoing. Thanks to the members of Excom for their support over the last year.