

RABIE PLEDGES TO UPHOLD HER 3C STRATEGY: COMMUNICATE, CURB CRIME AND CUT COSTS



Overstrand's new Municipal Council for the next five-year term was inaugurated on Wednesday, 17 November 2021: Annelie Rabie was elected Executive Mayor, Cllr Lindile Ntsabo Deputy Executive Mayor and Cllr Grant Cohen Speaker.

On delivering her inauguration address, newly elected Mayor Annelie Rabie remarked that even though Overstrand has received its eighth consecutive clean audit and carries an annual budget of R1,4 billion, she remains concerned that Overstrand may become – or might perhaps already be – a very expensive local authority.

"Soon, Council will have to have those hard talks as to whether our citizens can afford the tariffs we levy," she said, going on to state that increasing tariffs is of no use if all it accomplishes is an increase in the percentage default payments.

With reference to the delivery of basic municipal services, Rabie said she was appalled by the inconsistency she uncovered in the course of the "listening tours" she conducted in the run-up to the elections. "In consultation with the Municipal Manager, we will engage on a journey towards consistent delivery of basic services. If that means that for one or two financial years we do nothing else than getting our primary constitutional mandate right, then so be it," she proclaimed.

"Not getting the basics right will not attract investors or visitors. Likewise, we owe it to everyone who resides in Overstrand to create as neat and tidy a town as possible.

"Thus, the sooner we clean up the area, the sooner we can start moving up the delivery ladder.

"Maintaining the environmental integrity of Overstrand will be a non-negotiable objective during my term of office," the Mayor said. To this end, a civilian-driven Environmental Advisory Committee will be established to ensure that the environment forms the baseline and backdrop for development and governance in the Overstrand.

"I foresee the establishment of a full-time position on the Mayco to deal with all environmental matters including, but not limited to, climate change, our carbon footprint, alternative energy, the protection of ecosystems and utilising our environmental assets – land, sea and air – in a sustainable manner to enhance tourism and entrepreneurship.

"As much as we wish to preserve our environmental integrity, though, one of the key challenges facing Council is creating opportunities for the growing number of unemployed people, especially women and young people, in our area to find work and earn an income.

"This begs the question: Where do we protect and where do we develop? My view is that these are not mutually exclusive options. Here we need to look to the rest of the world to learn how they went about creating cohesive environmental/developmental interfaces and, perhaps, the time has come to turn to smart city methodology when we conduct our business.

"Clearly, there is a lot to be done, all of which can only be accomplished if we stick to the three Cs that underpin immediate strategic intervention."

The three Cs, according to Rabie, include:

1. Communication: All decisions taken by Council and the administration must be conveyed in simple language by whatever means to as many people in the Overstrand as possible. Furthermore, all members of staff need to be reminded that they are servants of the people, not the other way around. In other words, they need to behave in a respectful and accommodating manner where and whenever they interact with those they serve – be it the public or their colleagues. Councillors and senior managers need to strengthen their skills to engage and listen. For this reason, council meetings will be rotated between the major towns and members of the Mayco as well as senior managers will be required to make themselves available on predetermined dates to address issues and/or concerns relating to local government affairs that have been raised by the public and/or the business fraternity

2. Crime prevention and law enforcement: Not addressing issues such as land invasion, irregular building activities and illegal dumping will no longer be tolerated. Furthermore, having dragged on for more than twenty years, the time has come to stop the unbridled reaping of Overstrand's marine resources. To this end, the Mayor pledged that all involved – be it the Department of Community Safety, the SAPS, or the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment – will be held to account if law enforcement officers are not managed productively and empowered to do their job. They must not be left to their own devices.

3. Cost and ease of doing business with Overstrand: Here, the Mayor cautioned that the attitude will have to change from a perceived one of "no, you cannot" to one of "let us see how we can make it work". To this end, the Infrastructure and Town Planning Departments will have to revise their business processes so as to eliminate duplications and unnecessary approvals and/or interfaces with provincial governments and to speed up the time required to attend to objections/representations, to approve building plans and to conduct building inspections. Waiting as long as 18 to 24 months to get a final answer on a development proposal will no longer be acceptable.

The Mayor concluded by saying, "elections are about government contracting with the citizenry. Whilst the DA was successful in taking 17 of the 27 seats in this Council, there is also an expression of other political views that we as the Council collective need to respect and engage with.

"I also wish to join hands with the general public to hold us accountable for how we use your tax money and how we protect your immediate environment. Therefore, I kindly request you to play your part in engaging your ward councillors, give your input on matters, attend public meetings and express your opinion on the IDP and budget. "In anticipation, I also wish to thank our municipal manager and our staff members for playing their part in achieving our objectives. "Behind me is a Council of diverse members, but we all got elected on a similar ticket: We would like Overstrand to be an Overstrand for all. My government will strive to be the best in achieving this as we will get things done!" **The full transcript of the Mayor's inaugural address is available at www.overstrand.gov.za**



WARD COMMITTEES:

Residents' direct say in local government affairs

Ward committees are regarded as the ultimate vehicle to promote good governance at local government level since it involves communities directly in planning, budgeting for, and monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects.

Even though Overstrand Municipality is renowned for the smooth functioning of its ward committee system, this system can only be maintained and even improved if the community is involved in the election and functioning of these committees.

Following on the 2021 local government elections, new ward committees have now been established for each of Overstrand's 14 wards (see map).

These committees are comprised of the Ward Councillor and up to ten other persons who have been duly nominated and elected to represent organisations/sectors, geographical blocks and other stakeholders (i.e. residents) within the boundaries of the particular municipal ward.

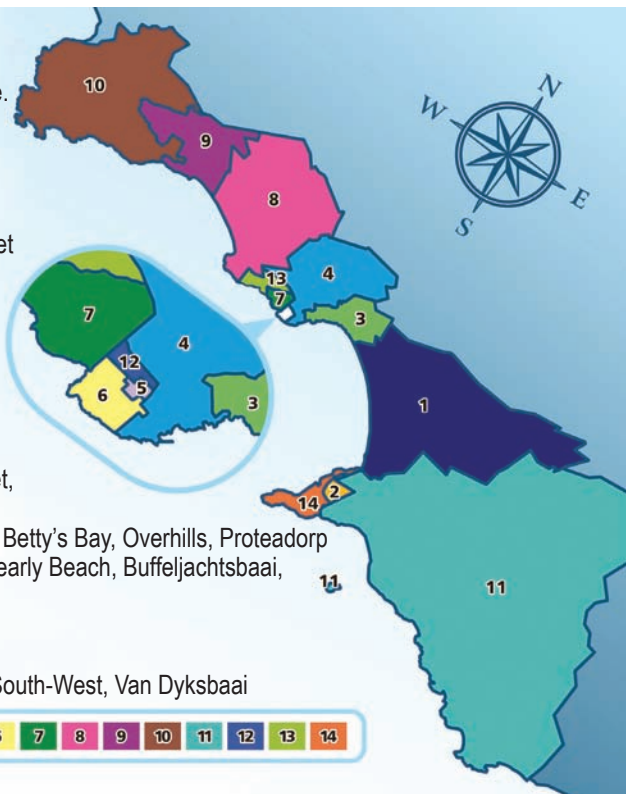
Together with the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF), these committees will act as the official liaison mechanism regarding all strategic municipal matters affecting that particular ward. For more information on the members elected to serve on your ward's committee, contact your Ward Councillor.

OVERSTRAND WARDS

Overstrand Municipality is located in the Overberg District, Western Cape.

Overstrand's wards are as follows:

1. Stanford, Thembelihle
2. Gansbaai North-East, Masakhane
3. Hermanus, Voëlklip and a portion of Westcliff east of De Goede Street
4. Mount Pleasant, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley and a portion of Westcliff west of De Goede Street
5. Zwelihle
6. Zwelihle
7. Sandbaai
8. Fisherhaven, Hawston
9. Kleinmond, Mountain View, Palmiet, Beverly Hills, Extension 6
10. Pringle Bay, Rooi-Els, Mooi-Uitsig, Betty's Bay, Overhills, Proteadorp
11. Baardskeerdersbos, Eluxolweni, Pearly Beach, Buffeljachtsbaai, Franskraal
12. Zwelihle
13. Onrus, Vermont
14. Blompark, De Kelders, Gansbaai South-West, Van Dyksbaai



WARD NO. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

WORTH NOTING

- A ward committee must meet at least monthly, except when Council is in recess.
- All meetings must be open to the public, and any citizen may address the committee.
- Meetings may not be longer than two hours, except publicly announced quarterly report-back meetings which may not last longer than three hours.
- All quarterly report-back meetings must be conducted after municipal office hours.
- Ward Committee members or the person they seconded will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with the tariff schedule as developed and amended from time-to-time for this purpose.
- The municipal administration provides various forms of administrative and technical support to enhance the ward committee system.
- A ward committee's term of office coincides with that of Council.

NEWSFLASH:

RECYCLING BACK ON TRACK

Back in August this year, *Bulletin* reported on the progress being made with the construction of the new materials-recovery and public drop-off facility in Hermanus and the appointment of a contractor to operate this facility.

The good news is: That facility is now fully operational.

This means households in Greater Hermanus and the Hangklip-Kleinmond area can once again leave their recyclables in a clear plastic bag on the pavement for collection on the designated refuse-removal day.

For every clear plastic bag placed out by a household, a new one will be supplied as replacement.

If you are not a permanent resident (i.e. use your property as a holiday/weekend home), visit your nearest municipal office to get a clear plastic bag or two so you can get started. Thereafter, replacement of these bags will be automatic.

All paper, cardboard, tin cans, glass bottles and plastic can be placed in the clear plastic bags.

In this regard, keep the golden rule in mind: Wet waste goes in black bags, recyclables in clear plastic bags.

To prevent injury to our refuse collectors, please wrap any broken glass in newspaper before placing it in a bag or wheelie-bin.

May we also kindly remind all residents, holidaymakers and weekenders that refuse bags/containers should not be placed out before 07:00 on the day of collection. No wheelie-bins or refuse bags may be left on the pavement overnight. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in hefty fines, especially in problem-animal affected areas.

If you have to depart before the scheduled collection day, please drop your household waste off at the nearest municipal facility or make arrangements with a neighbour/the rental agency to take care of the bags on your behalf.

For more information on scheduled collection days and recycling, contact your nearest municipal office or send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

YES! These go into a clear bag:

PAPER / CARDBOARD	GLASS	PLASTICS	CANS
Newspapers, magazines, paper, cardboard and boxes	Bottles and jars. No other glass (window panes, windscreens etc)	Cold-drink, water and milk containers, yoghurt and ice-cream containers, bubble wrap, plastic bags	Cold-drink and food cans, deodorant and hairspray cans, cans containing household cleansing aids

NO! These go into a black bag:

FOOD WASTE, SCRAPS AND PEELINGS	DISPOSABLE NAPPIES, TOOTHPASTE TUBES	WET OR FOOD-SPOILED PAPER & CARDBOARD	OLD CLOTHING AND SHOES

RARE HONOUR BEFALLS GROTTO: FIRST TO HOIST BLUE FLAG FOR THE SEASON 2021/22



BLUE FLAGS A-FLYING: Overstrand's Grotto, Hawston, Kleinmond, Onrus and Castle Beach have earned Blue Flag status for the upcoming 2021/22 holiday season. Pictured at the National Blue Flag Season launch are (back l-r) Dr Andrew Baxter, CEO of WESSA, Ward 3 Councillor Kari Brice, Area Manager: Hermanus Anver Wyngaard, Mayor Dudley Coetzee, Area Manager: Gansbaai-Stanford Francois Myburgh, Blue Flag co-ordinator Lauren Rainbird and Deputy Director-General: National Tourism Shamilla Chettiar. In front are Hermanus' Whale Crier Bulelani Ngidi and Hangklip-Kleinmond Administration's Dencil Arendse.

For twenty-one years running, Grotto has been recognised for its excellence in safety, amenities, cleanliness and environmental standards – earning this beach the right to fly a Blue Flag year after year.

In recognition of this achievement, WESSA (the national operator for Blue Flag South Africa) chose Grotto for the official launch of its 2021/22 Blue Flag season.

Officiating at this event were Ms Shamilla Chettiar (Deputy Director-General of the National Department of Tourism), Ald. Dudley Coetzee (Executive Mayor of the Overstrand Municipality) and WESSA's CEO, Dr Andrew Baxter.

In general, the consensus was that the tourism, hospitality and entertainment industry has suffered a tremendous blow as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are all in agreement that everything possible should be done to help get these industries back on their feet in the interest of safeguarding the livelihoods of coastal communities like the Overstrand where we largely depend on an income derived from tourism," Coetzee said.

With this objective in mind, Coetzee pledged that Overstrand Municipality will do all it can to help ensure that the integrity of its beaches is maintained – no matter what.

Baxter reiterated this sentiment, stating that WESSA is committed to continue working with municipalities and tourism operators to build the Blue Flag programme in an attempt to expand on the conservation of marine and coastal environments, raise environmental awareness and increase sound environmental practices amongst tourists, coastal communities and beach managers. As pointed out by Ms Chettiar, the national goal is to hoist a hundred of the coveted Blue Flags by 2030.

All counted, that figure currently stands at just over sixty. However, around thirty-three pilot sites have been recognised this season for their efforts towards attaining Blue Flag status and every effort will now be made to get those pilot sites to become fully Blue Flag compliant, she said.

Apart from Grotto, the Blue Flag will yet again be flying this season on Kleinmond Beach, Hawston Beach, Castle Beach and Onrus Beach.

LET IT FLY! Shamilla Chettiar (Deputy Director-General of the National Department of Tourism) lends a hand to Tony Blankenberg (regional inspector for specialist services) while Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Dr. Andrew Baxter (WESSA's CEO) looks on.



ONRUS CARAVAN PARK A FAVOURITE AMONGST CAMPERS



Congratulations to the Onrus Caravan Park team for earning kudos from the camping public! Pictured here are (back from l-r) Floors Moses, Patrick Mrubata, Brian Olivier, Gracian Boto, Malloy Swartz and Gloria Dalasile. In front are Selvin Hans, Sharon Tito, Dané Laing and Deon Cupido.

As part of a recent survey conducted by Die Burger, readers were asked to vote for their favourite camping site.

Turns out, Onrus Caravan Park came a close second to Hartenbos ATKV with Yzerfontein in third place.

The team responsible for operating the caravan park would like to thank all the regular campers who voted for them: "Ranking right up there with the likes of Hartenbos and Yzerfontein is a huge honour. And to all the camping sites who partook in this year's battle for first place, thank you for keeping us on our toes. Better luck next time!"

Only a cliff path separates campers at the Onrus Caravan Park from the ocean, and it takes a mere ten minutes to walk from the campsite to the beach and lagoon. On top of that, those who do not want to brace the ocean can splash to their heart's content in the protected natural tidal pool right next to the campsite.

The grass-covered stands, each with its own braai complete with a grid, are all level and shielded from sea breezes by milkwood trees.

The ablution blocks are pristine, have hot water and are disabled-friendly.

To book your next camping holiday, call Onrus Caravan Park on 028 316 1210/1704/5618 or e-mail resortonrus@overstrand.gov.za

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Support this campaign by being an activist in your home, in your community and at your place of work.

What you can do:

Stop abuse:

- Do not engage in abusive activities and become an abuser.
- Change harmful behaviours: Seek personal help to put an end to alcohol and substance abuse.

Reject and report abuse and abusers:

- Don't look away! Act!
- Denounce cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequalities.
- Make a personal pledge against gender-based violence.
- Teach children the values of gender equality, and shield them from exposure to violence and harmful content on the Internet and social media.
- Support your local Community Policing Forum or Neighbourhood Watch.
- Be sensitive and supportive to victims of abuse: Share helpful information and support causes near you.

CALL ONE OF THESE HELPLINES FOR SUPPORT:

- 24-hour Gender-based Violence Command Centre: 0800 428 428
- Childline: 116
- Department of Social Development: 0800 220 250
- Lifeline: 0861 322 322
- People Opposed to Women Abuse: 011 642 4345
- Stop Gender Violence: 0800 150 150

In addition, the Tears Foundation provides access to crisis intervention, counselling and prevention education for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Contact their free SMS helpline by typing *134*7355# or email info@tears.co.za

REPORT ABUSE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Call Crime Stop anonymously on 08600 10111
- In case of an emergency, dial 1011 immediately
- Speak to a social worker via the Gender-based Violence Command Centre: Call 0800 428 428 or send a "please call me" to *120*1876#

NEWSFLASH: OVERSTRAND BABOON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – FEEDING OF BABOONS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Overstrand Baboon Management Programme is the mandated responsibility of the Overstrand Municipality, but the Western Cape Government through CapeNature still regulates the feeding of baboons in public areas in accordance with the Wild Animals Regulations (Provincial Notice 955 of 1975), Regulation 42A read with Section 86(1)(d). The two organisations therefore would like to make the following information available.

A) FEEDING OF BABOONS: Many residents enjoy having wildlife in their gardens. In order to protect wildlife and ecosystems from the negative impacts of attaining human-derived food, wildlife in general and especially baboons must not be fed. Due to the large amount of sugar, sodium and various preservatives in many human-derived food items, the baboons' health is negatively impacted. These easily accessible food items attract the troops into the urban areas. Baboons in urban areas are also exposed to possible harm from dogs, traffic, electric cables, garden poisons and decaying or hazardous refuse. They may suffer long-term injuries from pellet guns or other weapons used by frustrated residents. Baboons often cause damage to property, and humans may be at risk of injury when holding food items when a baboon approaches. It is best practice not to display foodstuffs and to make use of proven baboon-proofing mechanisms to prevent entries into homes.

According to the current Baboon Management Guidelines of the Western Cape, a baboon who continues to break into homes and cause damage to property may be classified as a "damage-causing animal". This could lead to the removal of the animal from the troop. Feeding of baboons is illegal. Natural vegetation in protected areas surrounding our urban edge provides a much safer natural and healthy habitat and foraging environment for our baboon troops.

The table below advises on common attractants in residential gardens and how to mitigate attracting baboons:

COMMON BABOON GARDEN ATTRACTANTS FOR BABOON



ITEM	WHAT YOU CAN DO
Birdfeeders: commercial bird seed, fruit and nectar bottles	Remove fruit, birdseed feeders and nectar bottles as these are highly desirable to baboons. Rather plant indigenous flowering plants to attract birds all year round. Nectivorous birds are important pollinators to many fynbos plant species and should not become dependent on sugar water bottles as it impacts the ecosystem. Nectar bottles may harbour bacteria causing suffering to birds. Shallow basins or birdbaths with fresh water are sufficient for birds to bath and drink from daily.
Pet food bowls	Feed pets inside or do not leave cat/dog food bowls outside with food in them.
Compost heaps	A sealed composting container modified to be baboon-proof is the best solution. Always cover fresh kitchen scraps with a thick layer of mature compost and soil and then with black builders' plastic. The black plastic retains heat and moisture and will improve composting time.
Fruit/food put out for wildlife	Do not feed any wildlife. It creates dependency on exotic or human-derived foods, negatively impacting each animal's essential role in the ecosystem.
Food specifically put out for baboons	Feeding baboons is illegal. Offenders will be prosecuted.
Fruit and nut trees	It is best to remove fruit and nut trees entirely. Alternatively, harvesting ripe fruit and/or nuts will deter the baboons, but they do not always wait for fruit to ripen.
Vegetable Gardens	Secure within a baboon-proof greenhouse-type construction or sturdy wire mesh and poles.
Domestic Waste Management	Utilise an approved animal-proof waste container (bin) as stipulated in the Overstrand Integrated Waste Management Bylaw (2021). Transgressors will be prosecuted.

In accordance with the Wild Animals Regulations (Provincial Notice 955 of 1975), Regulation 42A(1) read with Section 86(1)(d), "no person may feed or attempt to feed any baboon (*Papio ursinus ursinus*) or vervet monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) in a built-up area or public place". The first fine associated with this transgression is R2 500 and thereafter, read together with Section 86(1)(d), a fine of R40 000 or a prison sentence of one year or both and a fine of up to three times the commercial value of the fauna involved.

B) WASTE MANAGEMENT: Overstrand Municipality's Integrated Waste Management Bylaw of 2021 stipulates that each home owner or tenant/occupier must use animal-proof containers in all problem-animal areas, and the municipality may institute legal proceedings against the owner if the following waste management activities are not complied with.

Section 11(5): Visitors that leave before collection day must place their refuse in animal-proof containers supplied for the area for that purpose or take their refuse to the nearest waste handling facility as directed by the municipality.

Section 13(5)(d): Receptacles must be placed outside the entrance to the premises before 07:00 on the day of the week specified by the municipality for waste removal and taken back inside before sunset on the same day or such other location or times as required by the municipality in terms of a written notice to the owner or occupier of the premises.

Section 13(1): The municipality will collect domestic waste placed in approved domestic waste containers and business waste placed in approved animal-proof business waste containers from a location and in a condition as determined in the bylaw or any notice in terms of this bylaw. Waste placed in a location not meeting the prescriptions of the municipality or a receptacle not approved by the municipality will not be collected.

Section 13(5)(C): Receptacles are to be kept closed to avoid animal and insect interference and wind-blown litter in a clean and hygienic condition.

Section 13(10): Only animal-proof containers may be used by residents in areas which the municipality has declared as problem-animal areas, and these containers are, at cost, obtainable from the municipality or an approved vendor.

Section 13(11): If an owner or occupier of premises in a problem-animal area is using a receptacle that does not comply with the requirements of the municipality, he/she will be instructed to obtain an animal-proof container either from the municipality or an approved vendor and, in cases where the municipality is of the opinion that more than one animal-proof container is needed due to the volume of waste, the owner or occupier will be compelled to purchase such additional container or containers.

➤ **"Animal-proof container"** means an approved waste container of suitable design with a locking mechanism that prevents problem animals (wildlife or domestic) from gaining access to waste in a waste container, as required by the municipality in specific areas.

➤ **"Problem-animal areas"** means areas identified from time to time by the municipality, as listed and amended as required from time to time on Overstrand's website, where animals behave in a way that creates problems.

Please note that this letter serves as a request to comply with Part A) and Part B) of this letter. If it is found that any transgression in relation to the above continues on your property, the municipality will request that CapeNature investigate and prosecute under the regulations. If Overstrand Municipality's Integrated Waste Management Bylaw (2021) is not adhered to, the matter will be referred to the Overstrand Law Enforcement Department who will investigate the matter and who may issue a fine to the transgressors.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated. For any queries, please contact Overstrand Municipality's Environmental Management Section at 028 316 3724.

A CALL ON ALL DOG OWNERS TO BE "GOOD AMBASSADORS"

Soon our towns will be inundated with visitors from all over, and we would like to call on everyone to ensure that their dogs are kept on a leash at all times in public areas, including beaches, cliff paths and hiking trails.

Dog walkers should stick to designated trails, respect the rules and be considerate towards other users, which implies that they should pick up after their dogs.

Note, too, that no dogs will be allowed on any of Overstrand's five Blue Flag beaches whilst the flag is flying.

The new Blue Flag season will commence on Wednesday, 1 December 2021 and will run till 16 January 2022 for Hawston, Kleinmond, Castle Beach and Onrus. For Grotto, this season will be extended until 31 March 2022.

