



Winter 2025

NEWSLETTER

Dear Residents,

With Winter truly having set in, we are pleased to bring you the latest news and updates from the Upper Kenilworth Improvement District (UKID) in our Winter 2025 newsletter. It has been a productive quarter, and we are excited to share some significant developments with you.

One of the most noteworthy achievements is the appointment of a dedicated Law Enforcement Officer for the UKID, who will commence their duties on 1 July 2025. This is a massive step forward in our efforts to enhance safety and address bylaw contraventions. The officer will also be able to liaise directly with the City of Cape Town's social services to provide assistance where needed.

We extend our sincerest thanks to our Ward Councillors, Mikhail Manuel and Richard Hill, and the committee members and staff whose support was instrumental in making this possible. This new appointment will significantly strengthen our safety plan for all residents and visitors.

In this edition, you will also find important safety alerts regarding recent incidents in and around our area. We urge you to remain vigilant, particularly when walking in public spaces.

Our cleaning and greening teams continue to work tirelessly to maintain our public spaces, and we offer some creative suggestions for how residents can get involved in beautifying our neighbourhood even further.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are making Upper Kenilworth a safer, cleaner, and more connected community.

Warm regards,

The Upper Kenilworth Improvement District Management Team

Kenilworth Musings

A note from the editor

Our local street names often hold fascinating stories, connecting us to the people and places that shaped our neighbourhood.

Murray Road, for instance, was named after Dr Charles F.K. Murray, a prominent Irish doctor who married Caroline, daughter of Sir John Molteno, the first Prime Minister of the Cape Colony. After their marriage in 1876, the couple lived in "Greenfield House".



Dr Charles F.K. Murray

This was an extension of the Molteno family's original grand home, Claremont House, which stood where Grace Road is today before it was destroyed by fire.

Greenfield Girls' Primary School was later built around "Greenfield House," and the Murrays eventually moved to Kenilworth House, which is now part of Akeso on the corner of Greenfield and Kenilworth Roads.

The Bisset family were also key figures in the area. James Bisset, a Scottish-born architect and engineer, became the Mayor of Wynberg and was instrumental in many early infrastructure projects, including Cape Town's first railway line. His sons were also notable: one became an international rugby player for South Africa, and the other a Test cricketer who captained the national team.

It's remarkable to think of the history that lies beneath our feet and around our corners.

If this has piqued your interest, you can explore our neighbourhood's past using the incredible archive of historical maps on the City of Cape Town's online map viewer: <https://citymaps.capetown.gov.za/EGISViewer/>

Do you have old photos, family memories, or interesting facts about Kenilworth's past to share? Every story helps us build a richer picture of our community's journey. Contact Toast at toast@ukid.co.za

Sources:

*[S2A3 Biographical Database of Southern African Science](#)
[Wynberg and Kenilworth Street Names](#) by Peter Hart (available at the Wynberg Library)*

CLEANING & GREENING

Kenilworth Station Gardens Continue to Bloom

A big thank you to Margareet and her team of dedicated resident volunteers who have continued their fantastic work at the Kenilworth Station gardens. Their efforts in cleaning, planting, and maintaining the flowerbeds have made a visible difference, creating a more welcoming entrance to our area. Thanks to everyone else who has contributed here.



One of the beds planted by Margareet and her team

Gardening in the station's parking lot, however, remains a challenge. The lack of public toilet facilities leads to predictable consequences for many of the beds. This is a discussion that needs more input, and hopefully a solution.

Many of the plants have simply been pulled up, and sex workers, vagrants, and other people who loiter in the parking area simply drop their rubbish, despite the installation of municipal green bins that our cleaning team service regularly.

Unleash Your Inner Guerrilla Gardener!

Inspired by the transformation at the station, we are looking at other neglected public spaces that could do with a touch of green. There are several unattended flowerbeds in the area, such as those on Kenilworth Road above the station, that are ripe for a community-led makeover.

"Guerrilla gardening" is the act of cultivating plants in a public space that the gardeners do not own. It is a wonderful way to reclaim and beautify overlooked patches of land. It can be as simple as a few residents deciding to plant some hardy, water-wise flowers or herbs in a neglected municipal bed. It fosters community spirit, improves our shared environment, and can even provide a small harvest of herbs for the neighbourhood to share.

If you and your neighbours are interested in adopting a flowerbed, please reach out to us for guidance and support.

A Wild Visitor and Our Urban Wildlife

It's not every day that our suburban streets play host to a visitor from the wilder parts of our city, but that's exactly what happened on the morning of Friday, 20 June. Local WhatsApp groups were abuzz with reports of a young male baboon wandering through Kenilworth. While not an unusual sight in areas closer to the mountain, his appearance here was certainly a rare and thrilling experience for the residents who spotted him.



*Our visitor "skorelling" in the bins, reportedly from Heatherton on Main Road.
Source Unknown*

This healthy and adventurous primate took a grand tour through Kenilworth, Claremont, and into Rondebosch, where he eventually settled for the night in a tree at Mayfield Park. Throughout his journey, he was closely and professionally monitored by a dedicated team from the SPCA, working alongside the Cape Baboon Partnership, who ensured his safety and that of the public. The following morning, he was safely darted, captured, and relocated to a more suitable natural habitat. A big thank you to the teams involved for their expert handling of the situation.

The baboon's visit is a wonderful reminder of the rich biodiversity that exists on our doorstep.

Beyond such rare sightings, Kenilworth is home to an array of fascinating urban wildlife. Many of you may have been lucky enough to spot the magnificent Black Sparrowhawks, and Peregrine Falcons that sometimes hunt in the area or the impressive African Harrier-Hawk (*Gymnogone*) with its distinctive grey plumage and bare yellow face, often heard calling and seen raiding nests in our gardens.

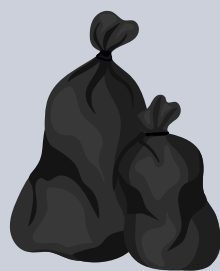
A Note on Recycling and Bin-Scratching

We continue to encourage residents to take an active role in managing their waste, particularly when it comes to recycling. While the UKID and ward councillors are exploring options for a formalised neighbourhood recycling programme, there is a significant benefit to separating your recyclables (paper, glass, and plastic) and dropping them off at the Wynberg Solid Waste depot on Rosmead Avenue yourself.

Not only does this greatly reduce your household waste and contribute to a cleaner environment, but it also helps to minimise the number of people who enter our area on bin days to "skorrel" through refuse. While we recognise that many rely on this for an income, it unfortunately creates a mess and has been linked to opportunistic crime.

By managing your own recycling, you help create a cleaner, safer, and more secure environment for everyone.

Our Streets are Cleaner Thanks to Princeton's Hard Work!



The dedication of the Princeton cleaning team plays a vital role in keeping our Upper Kenilworth area looking its best. Over the past year alone, their consistent efforts have resulted in the collection of nearly **15,000** bags of litter from our streets. This impressive figure highlights their commitment to maintaining a clean and pleasant environment for all residents and visitors.



The Wynberg recycling depot, at 40 Rosmead Avenue, is open until 17h00 on Saturdays and Sundays



SAFETY & SECURITY

New Dedicated Law Enforcement Officer for UKID

We are thrilled to announce that after extensive collaboration with the City of Cape Town, a Law Enforcement Officer will be dedicated exclusively to the Upper Kenilworth Improvement District, starting from 1 July 2025.

This officer, paid for by us, will be tasked with addressing a wide range of municipal by-law contraventions in our area. They will serve as a crucial force multiplier for our existing security, providing a direct link to City resources. A significant advantage is their ability to work directly with the City's social services to ensure that individuals in need of assistance receive the appropriate support.

While the officer will work fixed hours, we will have the flexibility to deploy them outside of these hours for special operations as required. We are confident that this will be a powerful addition to our existing security strategy, providing a more robust and responsive service to keep our community safe.

AWARENESS ALERT: Pedestrian Robberies

Residents are urged to stay vigilant due to recent robberies targeting pedestrians in the surrounding areas, particularly during morning and afternoon commutes. Suspects are using two white sedans with three occupants. Keep valuables out of sight and share this warning with others. UKID patrols are actively monitoring the situation and collaborating with all crime prevention stakeholders to catch the suspects.



Princeton are our official security provider, but we are grateful for FADT's commitment to the area and SAPS's dedicated service through both the Wynberg and Claremont stations

OUR SECURITY TEAM IN ACTION

Our Safety Officers from Princeton have once again proven their worth over the last three months. We cannot thank them enough. We also need to send our gratitude to the SAPS officers who serve our area, our UKID security managers Rob and Jarrod, and all the residents who continue to report suspicious behaviour.

Positive Arrest and Recovery of Stolen Goods

On 9 June 2025, a UKID officer noticed a person tampering with a gate motor on Greenfields Road. The individual claimed to be chasing an intruder, but after checking camera footage, UKID officers identified him as the intruder. The suspect had stolen a drone and other items. After being apprehended, the intruder showed officers where he had hidden the stolen items next to a property on Murray Road. The suspect was arrested by Claremont SAPS.

Stolen Vehicle Retrieval

On 12 April 2025, UKID officers investigated an abandoned vehicle on Thomas Road. After noticing the registration plate and vehicle licence disc did not match, they investigated further and discovered the vehicle had been reported stolen. It was also confirmed that the vehicle had been involved in three shootings in Grassy Park. The vehicle was subsequently towed and taken to Bellville South by Wynberg SAPS.

Retrieval of Lost Property

During a stop-and-search on Thomas Road on 8 April 2025, UKID officers found an individual with a lost bank card and mobile phone. SAPS were able to contact the owner, who confirmed she had forgotten the items on the roof of her car.

Medical Assistance

On 14 April 2025, a UKID officer found a man having seizures on Aliwal Road. The officer assisted the man until a Metro Ambulance arrived and transported him to Victoria Hospital.

Theft of Motorbikes

There were two separate motorbike thefts reported:

- On 19 May 2025, a motorbike was stolen from outside Bootleggers in Kenilworth by two suspects who were seen on camera.
- On 23 April 2025, a motorbike was stolen from 6 Kenilworth Road while the owner was at a doctor's appointment.

URBAN MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Exciting Progress on the Harfield Road Play Park

We are delighted to announce that the UKID has officially been granted permission by the City of Cape Town to develop the open public space opposite Harfield Station into a play park for our community's children.

This has been a long-term goal for the UKID, and we are thrilled to finally be able to move forward. The next steps will involve installing fencing to ensure the area is secure, followed by the installation of basic, durable play equipment. We believe this park will become a valuable asset, providing a safe and enjoyable space for local families to connect and for children to play.

We will keep the community updated as the project progresses.

A Visit from the Friends of the Arderne Gardens

We were honoured to have Francois Krige, chairperson of the Friends of the Arderne Gardens (FOTAG), attend our recent board meeting. He shared some inspiring updates on the incredible work FOTAG has done to preserve and enhance this botanical treasure.

The Arderne Gardens, a provincial heritage site, is home to one of the largest collections of exotic trees in South Africa, including the famous Wedding Tree.

Although the Arderne Gardens are not officially within the UKID boundary, they are a phenomenal resource right on our doorstep. We can all show our support by visiting the gardens for a picnic, a peaceful stroll, or by attending one of their events.

FOTAG is currently exploring options for the gardens to be incorporated into a City Improvement District to ensure its long-term safety and maintenance. We look forward to continued collaboration with them.

<https://www.ardernegardens.org.za/>



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The focus of our social responsibility mandate continues to revolve around supporting U-Turn in our area and we continue to advocate for residents and visitors to not give handouts but rather to offer support in the form of a Mi-change voucher.

U-Turn is a fantastic organisation that's making a real difference in the lives of homeless individuals in Cape Town. They offer a comprehensive program that helps people transition off the streets and become self-sufficient. This includes providing basic needs like food and shelter, as well as support with rehabilitation, skills development, and finding employment.



One of the ways U-Turn helps UKID fulfil its social responsibility mandate is through their voucher system. Residents can purchase these vouchers and give them to people begging instead of giving cash. The vouchers can then be exchanged for food, clothing, and other essentials at U-Turn's service centre. This system helps to ensure that donations are used responsibly and also provides an opportunity for homeless individuals to engage with U-Turn's support services.

U-Turn's approach aligns perfectly with UKID's goals of creating a safer, cleaner, and more inclusive community. By supporting U-Turn, we're not only helping to address the immediate needs of vulnerable individuals but also contributing to long-term solutions to homelessness.

It's a partnership that benefits everyone in Upper Kenilworth.

The UKID has been distributing U-Turn vouchers for a few months now, and we are seeing continued growth in the number of vouchers being redeemed at the U-Turn service centres.

214 UKID vouchers were redeemed with U-Turn in April, and 224 in May. We will label the vouchers further to enable us to trace the exact shop from which the vouchers originated.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

City of Cape Town Emergency:	021 480 7700
toll free cellphone:	112
toll free landline:	107
SAPS Control Room:	10111
Crime Stop:	08600 10111
Ambulance Services:	10177
Wynberg Police Station:	021 799 1300
Wynberg SAPS van:	082 378 7747
Claremont Police Station:	021 657 2250
Princeton:	021 448 9030

UKID Security and Manager - Jarrod Levendal

064 881 3078

cid.manager@ukid.co.za

UKID Executive Manager - Naiema Isaacs

082 407 8680

naiema@ukid.co.za

Ward Councillors

Ward 58

Richard Hill
083 455 6297

richard.hill@capetown.gov.za

Ward 59

Mikhail Manuel
072 800 3013

mikhail.manuel@capetown.gov.za

KEEP IN TOUCH

WhatsApp is currently the most convenient way for us to communicate quick announcements and updates to you. A [UKID WhatsApp community](#) exists for this purpose.

The parent group, UKID Community Announcements, is where admins post important information. There is a general UKID Residents Group and individual street or block groups. Please only ask to join other groups that you would logically be a member of. For example, if you live in Smithers Road, don't request to join the Cumnor or Crescent groups. The business forum is for businesses in the business precinct. The messages in these smaller groups remain private for members of those groups.

There is also a UKID Crime NOW group. This is strictly for immediate or urgent security-related issues. Discussion is not permitted to keep the channel clear for quick responses to any incidents.

Although all residents can join the relevant groups, for logistical and security reasons you may need to be vetted before you are admitted.

Download the City Of Cape Town app to keep informed and to easily submit service requests.



You can also submit service requests on the website ([Click Here](#)) or by calling 0860103089

Please forward reference numbers and an explanation of the service issue to the UKID Executive Manager at naiema@ukid.co.za so that they can be tracked and followed up on.

If you would like to report something directly related to the operation of the UKID or the behaviour of any of our contracted suppliers or their employees, please email complaints@ukid.co.za