

**UKID****UPPER KENILWORTH**
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Summer 2025

NEWSLETTER

Dear Residents

A very warm welcome to all the new residents who have moved into the area in the past few months. We invite you all to [visit the website](#) for information on the Upper Kenilworth Improvement District and to read past newsletters to familiarise yourself with who we are and what we do.

We concluded this quarter with our Annual General Meeting, which was held at Greenfield Girls' School on the 25th of November. A huge thank you to the school for making their hall available to us, and to those of you who were able to attend and contribute. If you missed it, the [minutes are on the website](#).

Through the diligent commitment of Naiema, our Executive Manager, and the volunteer contributions from the directors, we have established a firm operating cadence that adheres to the City's strict guidelines for operating a CID. We are committed to being diligent stewards of your contributions. It is easy for many of the UKID actions to pass by unnoticed, but speaking to anybody who has lived here for a few years will confirm the massive difference that the UKID Improvement District has made since its inception. Hopefully, this newsletter will help to shed some light on the less visible aspects of what we have achieved.

The Upper Kenilworth area continues to be a sought-after place to live and work. We love it here, and we hope that you do too.

We wish everyone a happy and productive year, and we are looking forward to working with you all to make the UKID even better in 2026.

Warm regards,

The Upper Kenilworth Improvement District Management Team

CLEANING & GREENING

Princeton Cleaners

Mr Haroun and his cleaning team from Princeton continue to patrol the neighbourhood in sections, tackling a different street or area each day, and they pick up thousands of bags of rubbish and debris. They focus on the relevant problem areas after bin collection days, and they cover the entire area systematically, but if you notice any dumping or areas that need specific and urgent attention, please reach out to Naiema, and she can let them know.



Station Parking Area

Margareet has been putting in so much work into the station, and it is really starting to look nice. If you drive past, have a look at all the lovely alocs that were donated. Hopefully, we will see some colour from them in Winter. This is all managed by her as a volunteer and with the help of a small handful of other volunteers. Keeping the plants watered is the biggest challenge, and she is in desperate need of a

few more people to volunteers to spend a couple of hours there watering. There is already a roster of 6 people who have signed up to water, but with a few more people on the list, it will mean everybody only has to help a couple of times a year. Please reach out if you can assist, and I will put you in touch with her.

Making Public Space, well, Public

The Harfield Park has been a great success. Thank you to Ynor, Melanie, and others for tending the plants there.

There are two more city-owned erven that we are hoping to make available to residents. The first is the full plot on the corner of Summerley & Thomas roads, and the other (currently being looked after by Caraden Gardens) is on the corner of Pine & Harfield roads. We are still in discussions with the City and neighbouring residents on the best way forward, but we would love to hear from you about what you think the neighbourhood needs. My vote for the Summerley plot is for an allotment garden for the residents in flats who want to grow things.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Community Safety Update

As we look back over the final quarter of 2025, our UKID security team and Princeton controllers have remained steadfast in their commitment to keeping Upper Kenilworth a safe place to live and work. We haven't recorded any serious incidents for a while, and so the couple of disturbing events in the last few months (an attempted hijacking and a stabbing) do come as a shock. Thanks to Jarrod (our Security Manager) and his team's diligent work, and through a combination of proactive CCTV monitoring, patrols, and rapid response to resident alerts, arrests were made in both of these cases. A significant success in removing criminal elements from our streets.

Quarterly Highlights & Successes

- **Swift Apprehension for Attempted Hijacking:** In early October, following a WhatsApp alert regarding an attempted hijacking on Baker Street, UKID vehicles and CCTV footage helped track a suspect vehicle. This lead directly to SAPS intercepting the stolen vehicle and apprehending the suspects in Grassy Park.
- **Zero-Tolerance for Shoplifting:** Our foot patrol officers demonstrated exceptional alertness at the Astron Garage, where they chased down and caught a suspect on foot after a theft. The individual was handed over to Claremont SAPS for formal charging.
- **Removal of Violent Suspect:** In November, after midnight, a suspicious individual spotted by CCTV controllers on Kenilworth Road was found to have just robbed and stabbed a motorist. UKID officers secured the suspect immediately, ensuring the victim received help and the perpetrator was arrested by SAPS.
- **Persistent Follow-up on Theft:** After a resident on Cumnor Avenue reported a theft of a light from the property wall, there was initially some confusion, as the suspect appeared to be mentally disturbed. Our teams utilised a "BOLO" (Be On the Look-Out) approach, and the suspect was successfully located and arrested a few days later near Main Road, proving that our team doesn't stop looking once the initial report is filed.

Community Support & Medical Assistance

Safety isn't just about crime; it's about being there when our neighbours are most vulnerable. This quarter, your UKID teams assisted in several non-criminal emergencies:

- **Medical Response:** Officers stood by and coordinated with City Medical Services for a resident who suffered a fall on Salisbury Road, as well as a medical emergency at a local congregation on Richmond Road.
- **Fire Safety:** UKID officers were first on the scene for a vehicle fire at the corner of Tennant and Main Roads, securing the area until the CCT Fire Rescue could extinguish the blaze.

A Reminder on Vigilance

While we celebrate these arrests, we urge residents to remain proactive. In several instances this quarter, suspects were released, or cases could not be pursued because complainants chose not to open official SAPS cases.

We cannot stress enough that opening a criminal case is the most vital step in ensuring a perpetrator is removed from our streets permanently. If you are a victim of a crime, UKID will support you through the process, but we need your statement to make the arrest stick.

How you can help:

- **Report all incidents** via the UKID Crime WhatsApp group or directly to Jarrod..
- **Open a case** with SAPS, even for "minor" thefts; this helps build a profile on repeat offenders. We realise that this process can be daunting. If you require assistance in opening a case, please let us know, and we can support you through the process.

Report all crimes:

SAPS Control Room: 10111

Wynberg Police Station: 021 799 1300

Claremont Police Station: 021 657 2250



Report all incidents, criminal or not:

Jarrod: 064 881 3078

cid.manager@ukid.co.za

ukid.co.za/ukid-incident-reporting/

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS & THE LAW

Balancing Enforcement with Reality in Our Urban Village

Living in Upper Kenilworth means enjoying a vibrant, connected neighbourhood, but it also means facing the complex realities of an open, urban environment that is sandwiched between commercial districts and is, in many ways, a thoroughfare. We know that many residents are concerned about the visible presence of sex workers and persistent begging in our area. We hear your frustrations when reports seem to result in little visible change, or when the same individuals return minutes after being "moved on."

To help bridge the gap between expectation and reality, we want to share exactly what our Princeton Security Officers and City Law Enforcement partners can and cannot do within the current legal framework.

Why "Moving Them On" Doesn't Always Last

A common report we receive involves individuals loitering or begging. Residents often ask, "**Why are they back ten minutes after Princeton attended?**"

- **Limited Powers:** Private security officers (Princeton) have no power of arrest for infractions like loitering or non-aggressive begging. They can only request that individuals leave the area, and these individuals are under no obligation to comply.
- **Public Space Rights:** Under the Constitution and current City by-laws, individuals have the right to be in public spaces unless they are committing a specific crime or threatening safety. Being homeless or poor is not a crime, nor is begging.
- **Specific Crimes:** Our Law Enforcement Officer and Princeton Security Officers can and will act when specific crimes are committed, or by-laws are transgressed. This is not an exhaustive list, but these would include:
 - Touching you or your possessions without consent.
 - Act in any way that you feel is meant to intimidate you into giving money.
 - Continue to beg from or follow you after a negative response to the begging has been given.

In these cases, in order for any practical action to be taken, the victim would need to open a case and report the details personally.

The "Revolving Door": When officers intervene, they often disrupt the activity temporarily. However, without a substantive criminal charge to justify an arrest by SAPS, these individuals are free to return once the patrol vehicle leaves.

The Complex Issue of Sex Work

The presence of sex workers in Kenilworth is a structural issue that has existed for decades. Addressing it requires more than just a patrol vehicle.

The Legal Deadlock: The most significant operational constraint facing law enforcement in Kenilworth stems from the [2009 Western Cape High Court judgment](#), where the Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Task Team (SWEAT), on behalf of sex workers, secured an interdict against SAPS and City Police. The court ruled that law enforcement agents in the Cape are restrained from making arrests of sex workers where the express purpose is not prosecution or further investigation leading to prosecution.

This ruling was directly aimed at eliminating the historical practice of police using arrests purely as a tool of intimidation and deterrence, a measure the judge identified as a "**form of social control**" targeting the public manifestations of sex work rather than the inherent illegality.

[Please read Councillor Manuel's letter here.](#)

What Is Criminal: Although the act of solicitation is in itself not practically enforceable, [many of the associated behaviours very much are](#). Public indecency (nakedness) and exposing yourself are crimes, as are public defecation and urination, littering, and creating a public disturbance. When it comes down to it, these are really the behaviours that we are trying to stop.

Building Cases Takes Time: Our strategy has shifted from short-term displacement to long-term case building. This means gathering substantive evidence of criminal behaviour (such as public indecency or harassment) rather than relying on quick fixes that don't stick. We must formalise an explicit, documented protocol for evidence collection that strictly exceeds the basic threshold for by-law violations. This protocol must be developed in formal collaboration with our Concillors, SAPS and the NPA to ensure all evidence (including long-term surveillance logs, coordinated client identification, and detailed witness statements regarding commercial intent) meets the standard required for successful prosecution. Adherence to this protocol is the only mechanism for executing arrests while remaining compliant with the 2009 SWEAT interdict. This is not a quick process.

The Complex Issue of Sex Work...

What We Are Doing: The national legislation dictates that both the buyer and the seller transgress the law equally, and so we cannot focus unfairly solely on the sex workers themselves, who are often exploited and left with little choice. We are researching several projects to make doing business difficult and to reduce demand. These include improved lighting and CCTV cameras at the Kenilworth Station Parking lot. To do this, we need the assistance of Akeso and PRASA. Jarrod and our security team are also identifying other places in the neighbourhood where this business is conducted so that patrols can be done accordingly.

Operating Strictly Within Our Boundaries

It is important to remember that UKID funds are legally ring-fenced for the Upper Kenilworth footprint only. This creates a hard operational line.

- **The Boundary Rule:** Our Princeton vehicles cannot respond to incidents or patrol streets outside our official boundary.
- **Why this matters:** If a sex worker or beggar moves just across the road, say below the railway line or past Aliwal Road towards Wynberg (outside UKID), our jurisdiction ends. We cannot follow them beyond our borders. This can be frustrating to watch, but we must adhere to the regulations that govern City Improvement Districts.

Our Stance: Compassion with Vigilance

We must balance the enforcement of by-laws with a humanitarian understanding of the socio-economic crisis in Cape Town. We will continue to enforce the law where applicable, target criminal behaviour, and protect our residents, but we cannot police our way out of poverty.

Please continue to report aggressive behaviour, harassment, immediate safety threats, and public indecency.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our social responsibility mandate continues to focus on a dignified and effective approach to helping vulnerable individuals in our community.

The cornerstone of this strategy is our partnership with **U-Turn** and the promotion of their Mi-Change voucher system over direct handouts. Giving cash or food directly often provides only a short-term fix and can fuel the cycles of addiction and chronic homelessness. In contrast, **U-Turn** vouchers provide a hand-up, connecting people to a comprehensive support system that includes meals, clothing, shelter, skills development, and rehabilitation services.



U-Turn have a solid track record when it comes to assisting unhoused and vulnerable people and we fully support them.

Your Role in Making a Difference

We urge you to stop giving cash or food directly and instead use Mi-Change vouchers. Your consistency sends a clear message of compassionate, responsible giving that supports long-term, positive change. You can purchase vouchers at several local businesses, or get complimentary UKID vouchers from Bootleggers, Vida, PnP, Elk, and Astron. They are also available for purchase at Oakhurst. Thank you to everyone who has already embraced this approach.

As many of you may know, the U-Turn organisation opened their new homeless service centre in Wynberg (72 Church Street) a few months ago. They are hard at work providing vital support and pathways off the streets.

To support their ongoing operations, the UKID is appealing to our community to help them with donations (new or good condition second-hand) of clothing, household goods, and office supplies. You can [contact them directly](#) to find out their specific needs, and they will even come and collect the donations from you.

Thank you for your generosity! Let's help keep this centre well-stocked.

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