



UKID

UPPER KENILWORTH  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Autumn 2026

# NEWSLETTER

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Dear Residents,

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 edition of the Upper Kenilworth Improvement District (UKID) newsletter.

With the season bringing a few welcome long weekends, we wish all our residents a safe and restful break. Whether you are observing religious holidays, travelling out of Cape Town, or simply enjoying some downtime at home in Kenilworth, we hope it is a peaceful time for you and your family.

It is wonderful to see the visible improvements in our infrastructure recently. A number of our roads have been resurfaced and repainted, which has significantly enhanced the aesthetic of our area.

However, maintaining our village requires everyone's effort in keeping streets clean, especially on rubbish collection days. While we lack an official recycling program, we encourage you to use the nearby Wynberg waste drop-off centre.

The UKID is here to support you, but our success depends on active citizenship. This is a community-led effort, and your input is invaluable. If you have any suggestions, skills to contribute, or would like to get involved in our various projects, please do get in touch with Naiema at [naiema@ukid.co.za](mailto:naiema@ukid.co.za).

A reminder that you have until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April to comment on the [City's draft Budget 2026-2027](#), and to register any objections to your property valuation on the [GV2025](#) roll.

This edition includes updates on security interventions, the work of our cleaning teams, and reminders for keeping Upper Kenilworth safe and connected.

Enjoy the read, and we wish you a healthy season ahead.

Warm regards,

**The Upper Kenilworth Improvement District Management Team**

## CLEANING & GREENING

### **Tree Collapse on Kenilworth Road: A Lucky Escape**

On February 17, 2026, an old tree on the Akeso property fell onto Kenilworth Road, crushing a passing vehicle. Fortunately, both the driver and passenger escaped unharmed. City teams quickly diverted traffic and cleared the debris. This incident underscores the hidden dangers in urban forests, particularly the threat from the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) beetle.



Photo from Summer de Nobrega

### **The Threat of the PSHB Beetle**

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer is an invasive beetle that burrows into living trees, spreading a fungus that disrupts the flow of water and nutrients. This can cause even seemingly healthy trees to become structurally weak, brittle, and prone to sudden collapse. In our village, where many of our beautiful trees are decades old, the impact of PSHB can be devastating and hazardous. There have been recent reports of similar trees that appear likely to fall at any moment, with many already dropping branches dangerously.

To enhance safety, the community is encouraged to report dead, dying, or damaged trees.

- **Public Trees (Pavements & Parks):** Report compromised trees via the City of Cape Town e-Services portal or the CCT App, or notify your Ward Councillor for tracking.
- **Private Trees:** For concerns about unstable trees on neighbouring properties, email [complaints@ukid.co.za](mailto:complaints@ukid.co.za). The UKID team will follow up with property owners for assessment and necessary action.

### **Active Citizenship Saves Lives**

Keeping Upper Kenilworth safe and attractive is a team effort. When you take a moment to log a service request or alert us to a possible hazard, you help prevent future accidents.

Important Contacts:

- City of Cape Town Service Requests: [www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests](http://www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests)
- UKID Operational Queries: [complaints@ukid.co.za](mailto:complaints@ukid.co.za)
- UKID Patrol Vehicle: 021 448 9030 (Princeton Security)

## 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.

### Human Sprinklers Required

Please let us know if you are able to join the “Irrigators” team, who take turns watering the Station plants every weekend. With a few more volunteers on the roster, this would mean a commitment of only a couple of hours every 6 months or so. You can contact me on 083 586 9335

### Harfield Playground

If you have visited or driven past the playground opposite the Harfield Station, you will have noticed the soft matting that has been placed under the play equipment. This should keep it looking good and make it safer for those inevitable falls.



### Harfield Station

One of our Directors, Debbie, along with some volunteers, have worked for weeks to clean up the stream and open area at the Harfield station. A huge thank you to the local residents who volunteered, as well as volunteers from U-Turn, and to Councillor Mikhail Manual, who arranged for all the cuttings (mounds of branches) to be moved across the road, where the City can collect them.



This is going to be an exciting space once we get it cleaned up. From what I understand, it is a very unique habitat and holds great potential to revive some special fynbos species. It also just makes the whole area a much nicer place to walk through. We still have a few things to do there, such as protecting a storm-water drain.

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## SAFETY & SECURITY

### Community Safety & Vigilance Update

As we move into the autumn months, the UKID remains committed to maintaining Upper Kenilworth as a safe area. Our security partner, Princeton, continues to provide a proactive presence, working closely with SAPS, local law enforcement, and emergency services to address incidents and maintain order.

While our neighbourhood remains very stable compared to areas on our boundaries (as detailed in stats from the Community Policing Forum meetings), we urge residents to stay vigilant, as community safety is a collective effort.

### Quarterly Highlights & Successes

- **Armed Robbery & Medical Response:** On 10 March, a serious incident occurred at the corner of Greenfield Road and Silverhill Crescent when a delivery courier was robbed by armed suspects. A courier sustained a stab wound to the arm during the altercation. SAPS and ER24 medical services were swiftly on the scene. UKID immediately issued a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) and flagged the suspect vehicle on our camera networks. Suspects in a matching vehicle have been subsequently apprehended. *We strongly encourage residents to be alert when receiving deliveries at their gates.*
- **Vehicle Theft & Security:** Theft of and out of motor vehicles remains a point of concern. On 15 January, a motorbike was stolen on Main Road; our control room is assisting with CCTV footage for the SAPS investigation. Later, on 22 March, a suspect was identified via CCTV in Gwalia Road after breaking into a vehicle.
- **Attempted Break-ins:** Proactive measures and alarm systems continue to be highly effective. On 22 January, an attempted break-in at a property on Indian Road was thwarted when the resident's alarm scared off the intruder, who fled in a vehicle. UKID and ADT units were on the scene within minutes.
- **Theft Apprehensions:** Our teams continue to support local businesses and residents. On 22 February, UKID officers assisted security at the Pick n Pay centre with the arrest of a shoplifting suspect. Additionally, on 8 February, a suspect linked to the theft of a gas cylinder in Blackheath Road was successfully apprehended at the Astron garage after being spotted by our patrollers.

- **Fire & Urban Safety:** UKID's scope goes beyond just crime. In the early hours of 2 February, our controllers identified a bush fire along the railway line near Harfield Road. UKID units were dispatched to assess the danger, and the City Fire Department arrived promptly to extinguish the blaze before it could spread to residential properties.
- **Public Order & Road Safety:** Our officers are frequently called to mediate disputes and assist at accident scenes. In late March, UKID units and SAPS safely defused a heated dispute between a taxi driver and passengers on Main Road. We also attended to several motor vehicle accidents this quarter, including the tree falling on a car at Kenilworth Station on 17 February, where our units assisted with traffic flow and medical coordination.

## A Reminder on Vigilance

While we celebrate these arrests, we urge residents to remain proactive.

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](mailto:cid.manager@ukid.co.za)

[ukid.co.za/ukid-incident-reporting/](http://ukid.co.za/ukid-incident-reporting/)



## MANAGING EXPECTATIONS & THE LAW

This is a repeat from the last quarter's newsletter, but judging from many of the reports and comments on the Crime Now group, I feel it needs repeating.

### 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 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."

### 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 (although it might make you uncomfortable, it's not a crime). 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 Officers and Princeton Security Officers can and will act when specific crimes are committed or bylaws 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.

## 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. Around 700 UKID vouchers were redeemed at the U-Turn service centre in the last 3 months.

### 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.

A number of residents have visited the U-Turn service centre in Claremont. If you are interested in learning more about the program and seeing the centre, then please message Naiema and she can arrange a tour ([naiema@ukid.co.za](mailto:naiema@ukid.co.za)).

## 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

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### **UKID Security and Manager - Jarrod Levendal**

064 881 3078

[cid.manager@ukid.co.za](mailto:cid.manager@ukid.co.za)

### **UKID Executive Manager - Naiema Isaacs**

082 407 8680

[naiema@ukid.co.za](mailto:naiema@ukid.co.za)

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### **Ward Councillors**

#### **Ward 58**

Richard Hill  
083 455 6297

[richard.hill@capetown.gov.za](mailto:richard.hill@capetown.gov.za)

#### **Ward 59**

Mikhail Manuel  
072 800 3013

[mikhail.manuel@capetown.gov.za](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:complaints@ukid.co.za)