

# **FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

*(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)*

**P.O. Box 22125, Fish Hoek 7974**

**Web : <https://www.fishhoekratepayers.com/> Facebook : [www.facebook.com/FHVRRA/](https://www.facebook.com/FHVRRA/)**

**Heritage Western Cape: Conservation Body**

**TO: G. KIEWIETS, SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER, WESTERN CAPE REGION, PRASA**  
**SUBJECT: PROPOSALS FOR SAFETY OF SILVERMINE METRORAIL BRIDGE  
BETWEEN FISH HOEK AND CLOVELLY**

## **1. DISCUSSION**

From meetings held on 27 August 2019 on-site and in the City of Cape Town's Sub-Council 19 Chambers in Fish Hoek, the members<sup>1</sup> agreed to send our proposed solutions for the approximately ten "rough sleepers" under this bridge to each other. The fact that people sleep under this bridge is a safety concern for all of us. That the frequent raids by the South African Police Service stationed 230 meters away<sup>2</sup> has resulted in the recovery of stolen property and substance abuse drugs is testimony that this group of criminals has no business being in our environment. The main problem with raids is that they only temporarily dispatch the "residents" from the area, who merely return after SAPS have left the area. This group has been alleged to have terrorised tourists<sup>3</sup> and other nearby residents while walking on the beach.

### **Proposed Solution**

Our members have demanded that these rough sleepers be permanently locked out of this particular area. Their proposal is strong fencing. It must be noted that fencing below the bridge has some challenges and will push this group towards the road bridge nearby. Thus, the road bridge would need to have a similar structure at the same time.

### **Structure Specification Suggestions**

Although a razor-wire fence might be adequate temporarily, with time, this can be cut and removed. The railway bridge has a lot more cross-sectional underpass spaces than the road bridge for river flow. We think that just the side, redundant sections need to be permanently closed allowing the river to flow through the middle section. Specifications for a fence therefore includes a more robust, heavy duty bar structure, such as the rebar (reinforcing steel) found in cement floor construction. The gaps between bars in a grid must be sufficiently wide to allow the river to flow, not collect floating plastic, but small enough to prevent humans from entering. Note there is a gap between the two tracks that also needs to be considered. The structure needs to be assembled and welded together. Due to the salt water and air in this environment, a suitably durable, possibly such as hot dip galvanized, coating would need to be applied to prevent rusting. Otherwise, the rebar would need a higher nickel content to prevent corrosion.

The footings for the structure must not allow the river flow to undercut the existing bridge and electrical pylon footings during 100 year floods.

### **Civils and Construction**

- 1 Sub-Council Chair: Cllr Patricia Francke, Western Cape Region Metrorail Special Project Manager: George Kiewiets, SAPS Fish Hoek Station Commander: Lt Col Johnson, Fish Hoek Community Police Forum Chair: Andre Blom, Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association Chair: Brian Youngblood, Vice-Chair: Matthew Gray, Historical Portfolio: John Shaw and BID Portfolio: James Ricketts
- 2 <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/-34.1325111,18.4376404/Saps+Fish+Hoek,+Main+Rd,+Fish+Hoek,+Cape+Town,+7974/@-34.1371203,18.4287144,16z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x1dcc401968c2588f:0xbff7a0b1f647fa27!2m2!1d18.4352158!2d-34.1332368!3e2>
- 3 <https://www.falsebayecho.co.za/news/prevent-crimes-of-opportunity-30481789> and nearby: <https://www.falsebayecho.co.za/news/south-shore-hedge-a-hide-out-for-vagrants-26805117>

The channels would need to be cleared of sand. The cement forms would need to be built and concrete poured while the coated, pre-constructed structure is lifted into the freshly poured concrete base. Attaching to the existing bridge might be done by boring the concrete and then cementing the holes and rebar. It should be possible to complete both sides simultaneously. Also, the attachment of rebar between the rails is needed to secure the area.

### **Security**

SAPS would need to clear the area of rough sleepers to allow construction and setting of the concrete.

### **Social Services**

The City's Social Development Services Department would need to assist the displaced, legitimately destitute "street people".

### **Road Bridge**

The road bridge would need to be done in a similar fashion at the same time to prevent its occupation by the then displaced rough sleepers.

### **Straining Fences**

Other fences could be erected further from the structure proposed to catch the floating plastic. Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) labourers could remove the plastic from these outer fences periodically to prevent build-up before reaching the main structure. EPWP labourers clear the vleis at Stranfontein of reeds by hand in the ponds.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

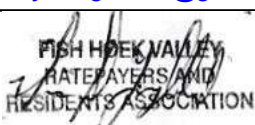
This proposed solution requires several entities to work together. We suggest the following:

The City already employs Civil Engineers who would probably be best suited to design a suitable fencing structure.

PRASA needs to approve the City's design, thus giving authority to build this structure on their property.

SAPS would need to clear the street people and protect the site during the construction phase.

Project management, artisans, labourers and funding are unknowns to us. We are approaching another tourism season.

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<b>SIGNATURE / DATE</b>	 FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION on 30 August 20