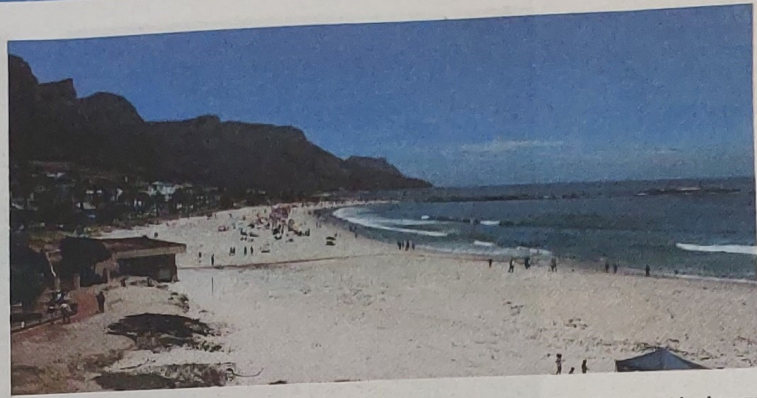




■ Camps Bay Beach is one of eight Cape Town beaches awarded Blue Flag status by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.



■ The Camps Bay sewage pumping station caused a stench in February last year when an electrical fault knocked out the pumps.

Blue flag lowered in event of pollution

From page 1

However, environmentalists have criticised the Blue Flag status given the widespread reports over the years of pollution in waterways and beaches across the city.

Professor Leslie Petrik, group leader of environmental and nano sciences at UWC, said the Blue Flag was a commercial venture and not a scientific verification of beach safety.

"Pollution testing is too infrequent to declare any beach safe. They also only rate for a few months of the year."

Jean Tresfon, a marine conservation photographer, believes it's a marketing tool and not an indicator of water quality.

"It's a joke. The testing window is tiny and is only done over a couple of months in the height of summer when the wind is mainly offshore. At Camps Bay, only half the beach has Blue Flag status as there is a sewage pump station on the other half, but they don't tell the public that."

Ms Van der Ross said the entire Camps Bay Beach had Blue Flag status.

"The pump station is not contrary to standards and is, in fact, critical infrastructure that is reflected on the bathing water profile for the beach," she said.

However, she added that only a portion of the beach was a designated bathing area.

"This area is demarcated by lifeguards with red and yellow markers and the presence of lifeguards as reflected on the Blue Flag board. The operational times and season of the beach are also visible on the beach Blue Flag board, mounted on the wall at the main abluition block adjacent to the lifeguard tower at Camp's Bay and at the railing of the beach entrance at Clifton."

Dr Jo Barnes, the senior lecturer emeritus in the faculty of medicine and health sciences at Stellenbosch University, said any form of oversight of beach and sea safety should be welcomed, but the Blue Flag rating system was more about tourism than water safety.

"There are many aspects counting towards points under the system that have little to do with water safety. Unfortunately, the crucial sampling under the Blue Flag system happens only a few times over

a three month summer period and easily misses episodes of sewage contamination, etc. In some cases, the authority directly responsible for poor sanitation (i.e. a municipality) is also directly involved in deciding where and when samples should be taken," said Dr Barnes.

In a statement, the City said the Blue Flag season would run from December 1 to January 31, 2024 at all of the accredited beaches, except Camps Bay and Muizenberg, where it would be in effect until the end of March 2024.

In the event of sewage pollution at a Blue Flag beach, the

blue flag would be lowered, Ms Van der Ross said.

"The Blue Flag is lowered immediately and is kept lowered until the pollution event has been responded to, contained and rectified; subsequent water testing indicates that the pollution event is over; and permission is given to raise the flag; the national operator – WESSA – is informed; the aforementioned Blue Flag board is updated with the details of the pollution event and subsequent water quality results."

Tevya Lotriet, the senior sustainability programme manager for WESSA, said that by Decem-

ber they hoped to be able to display all water quality results on their website as soon as they received them from the respective municipalities or independent labs.

"Our national jury have recently put together proposed stricter criteria for South African Blue Flag beaches, which will be voluntary for the upcoming season and compulsory for the following season.

"It will require water quality testing at least every two weeks. That being said, the City of Cape Town already do test much more frequently than monthly," said Ms Lotriet.



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NOTICE OF FINAL PUBLIC MEETING: ESTABLISHING A CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ("CID") FOR CAMPS BAY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. Spencer McNally, the registered owner of Erf no. 675, 28 Shanklin Crescent, Camps Bay, Cape Town, intends to apply for the establishment of a City Improvement District in terms of the City of Cape Town: City Improvement District By-Law, 2023 (the "By-law"), read with the City of Cape Town's: City Improvement District Policy, 2023 (the "Policy").
2. The proposed Camps Bay CID will include all non-residential and residential properties in the area within the following geographical boundaries: **Northern Border:** Kloof Road; **Southern Border:** Erf 2802 boundary Oudekraal; **Eastern Border:** Camps Bay Drive, boundary of Woodhead Glen, green belts behind Hely Hutchinson Avenue, Theresa Avenue and Erf 2802 boundary; **Western Border:** Atlantic Ocean / Victoria Road / Lower Beta and Beta Close.
3. Following the public meeting on 23 August 2023, certain changes have been made to the draft business plan to address comments from the local community. The purpose of the upcoming public meeting is to discuss the final business plan and elicit further comment in terms of section 6 of the By-law, before it is submitted to Council as part of the CID establishment application.

DATE: 6 November 2023
 TIME: 18h00
 VENUE: Camps Bay Primary School
 ADDRESS: 11 Dunkeld Road Camps Bay

ALL PROPERTY OWNERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE PROPOSED CID ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT:

1. All property owners are automatically entered in the Interested Parties Register for the CID establishment in terms of clause 9.3 of the Policy (the "register"). Other members of the local community who wish to register as interested persons must contact the applicant at tel.: 083 628 8500 or email: connect@campsbaycid.org.
2. The final business plan is available for download at www.campsbaycid.org and available for inspection at the Camps Bay Public Library, The Drive Camps Bay 8005.
3. Any written comments on the final business plan and proposed application must be submitted to the applicant as appears in para 1 above by 6 December 2023.
4. If you are not the registered owner of the affected property, kindly forward this notice to the registered owners immediately. Alternatively, kindly inform connect@campsbaycid.org of the registered owner's contact details, so that he/she may relay the contents of this notice.



Contact our Manager today!
 Razier Stegmann
 021 434 9521 • RStegmann@cpoa.org.za