



## Hermanus Baboon Action Group

### **Newsletter: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

The Hermanus Baboon Action Group was initiated by a small committee of residents who believe a solution to the escalating baboon issues is possible, but needs be addressed urgently. The group established a Facebook page in early April, launched a website in mid-May, held a public information meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May, and held a meeting with the Overstrand Mayor and his 'team' on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Media statements are regularly issued in the local Village News, Hermanus Times and on the Facebook page, @hermanusbaboons. The current impasse by authorities to issue a mandate for managing baboons, and thus facilitate the funding of the service by Overstrand Municipality, continues after more than 5 years. Meetings held by HBAG with local authorities have been frustrating, lacking urgency or intent.

The HBAG compiled a comprehensive document highlighting the dilemma faced by the residents of affected areas in Hermanus. The document includes research reports associated with the potential for spreading of diseases, evidence of costly damage to property, significant impact of the withdrawal of the baboon monitors more than 5 years ago, on tourism, property values, and people's ability to live in a safe and healthy environment.

Survey forms and hundreds of incident reports are still being received and collated as a trail of evidence to be submitted to authorities. These statistics and patterns of behavior will enable authorities to ascertain the true impact on the baboons, residents and the economy.

HBAG has expressed deep concerns about the current dilemma in Hermanus to Alan Winde, Premiere, Western Cape; Dr. Ernst Baard, Cape Nature; Anton Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape; Solly Fourie, Head, MEC, Economic Development and Tourism; Barbara Creecy, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries, amongst others. These authorities have been provided with the document of evidence for their reference. HBAG requested meetings with Cape Nature and with Minister Bredell to escalate the community's concerns. HBAG will continue to keep you advised. Thank you for your interest. Please stay connected. Email [info@hermanusbaboons.co.za](mailto:info@hermanusbaboons.co.za) for further information or to report incidents.

Hermanus Baboon Action Group [www.hermanusbaboons.co.za](http://www.hermanusbaboons.co.za) Email: [info@hermanusbaboons.co.za](mailto:info@hermanusbaboons.co.za)