

## HOUSING ISSUE & PROTEST ACTION

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**Ward 2 Forum**  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

**Ward 2 Forum Team**  
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## HOUSING ISSUE & PROTEST ACTION

Some weeks after the housing protest in Greyton there is a complete lack of information from the authorities:

- Why are a number of protesters still in custody, after repeated postponement of cases against them?
- Assuming that expectations of getting council housing are reasonable, and based on Government policy, but are never met, and satisfactory explanations are never made, is this acceptable behaviour by the Authorities?

As serious as the alleged offences are, and as intimidating as their behaviour was (some bystanders were traumatised), the protesters are not responsible for the underlying causes of the rioting. Various meetings with various authorities have been inadequately reported, but the ongoing lack of agreed plans means that the housing backlog will get worse rather than better as the number of migrant labour increases

With specific reference to the Cape Times Article of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the ensuing Social Media utterances on the matter it has becoming increasingly obvious that tensions are still running extremely high within the community of Ward 2.

Whilst the right of free speech and the encouragement of open debate are wholeheartedly supported and encouraged to its full potential, we as a community will still ultimately be responsible for finding workable solutions to these critical challenges. The reliance on the local authority and politicians has thus far proven to be of little worth. The opportunity for them to contribute significantly has been ignored. That is a shame.

The tragedy of the current situation is that we are a community at “war” with each other and we are merely regurgitating the same rhetoric therein venting our frustration at the symptoms of the challenges and not addressing the critical issues head on.

The time for consolidation, reconciliation and honest open debate is now critical. A unified and consolidated approach is required to identify potential solutions and ensure that they are implemented urgently. Above all else, the facts and figures must be openly and transparently discussed. Responsibility for the current apparent impasse must be admitted, and there must not be the threat of further violence or legal action by any of the parties.

Clearly, areas that have been identified by the local authority as potentially suitable for housing. Temporary structures on serviced erven may be made available urgently, whilst the more lengthy process of developing full plans for council houses is followed.

As the land transformation issue in Farm 39 still remains in contention, there must be progress on this matter before the housing problems in Ward 2 can be resolved finally. Undoubtedly, this will be in the interests of the whole community.

The continued tendency for personal attacks and name-calling merely serves to further divide and polarise our community allowing the local authority to play the “divide-and-rule” game to the detriment of the Ward 2 community as a whole.

As an interested and affected party, the Ward 2 Forum's position has always been that the bail application of the incarcerated "protesters" should be reviewed on legal merit and not be opposed by any party.

It is our plea and hope that efforts will be made by all toward an honest and open debate that encourages a positive contribution to the eventual sustainable wellbeing of the Ward 2 community as a whole.

Ward 2 Forum

On behalf of Ward 2 Forum