

Dear **Westcliff** Residents,

Please find the latest **Westcliff Security Group (“WSG”) newsletter**. It’s both a helpful reminder for existing residents and a warm welcome to those who’ve recently joined our community. Inside, you’ll find insights into the purpose and structure of our dedicated security group, highlights of what we’ve accomplished together, ways you can get involved, and a look at what’s coming next.

Overview of WSG

- **WSG was established in 2017** in response to a rise in serious contact crimes in our suburb — particularly home invasions and driveway hijackings. Our mission is to protect public spaces and act proactively: detecting and deterring threats before they reach the private boundaries of our homes.
- Our primary focus is on preventing violent or traumatic incidents, rather than addressing minor or petty crimes.
- **WSG** is a not-for-profit initiative focused on security and maintenance within a defined area of Westcliff — bordered by Westcliff Drive, Pallinghurst, Jan Smuts, and Loch Avenue. This also includes the Parktown West sections of Pallinghurst, Garrett, and Escombe.
- WSG operates independently from the Westcliff Residents Association, which focuses on broader community matters such as zoning and development.
- Since WSG’s inception on 1 April 2017:
 - Westcliff has consistently maintained lower crime rates compared to similarly sized areas in Johannesburg.
 - Over the past three years, our crime rate has been ~23% lower than comparable suburbs.
 - As of 17 July 2025, we’ve had 609 consecutive days free from violent crime, and 3,014 such days since the area launched.
- **WSG is funded through monthly contributions from residents**, and members benefit from a discounted CAP armed response rate. Currently, only 53% of households (123 out of 231) are contributing. Increasing participation is a top priority for the WSG committee, as it ensures that the costs of maintaining a safer suburb are shared more fairly among all who benefit.
- **Importantly, contributions to WSG qualify for a Section 18A tax certificate (SARS), making them tax-deductible.** By increasing resident support, we can continue to improve the safety of our community.

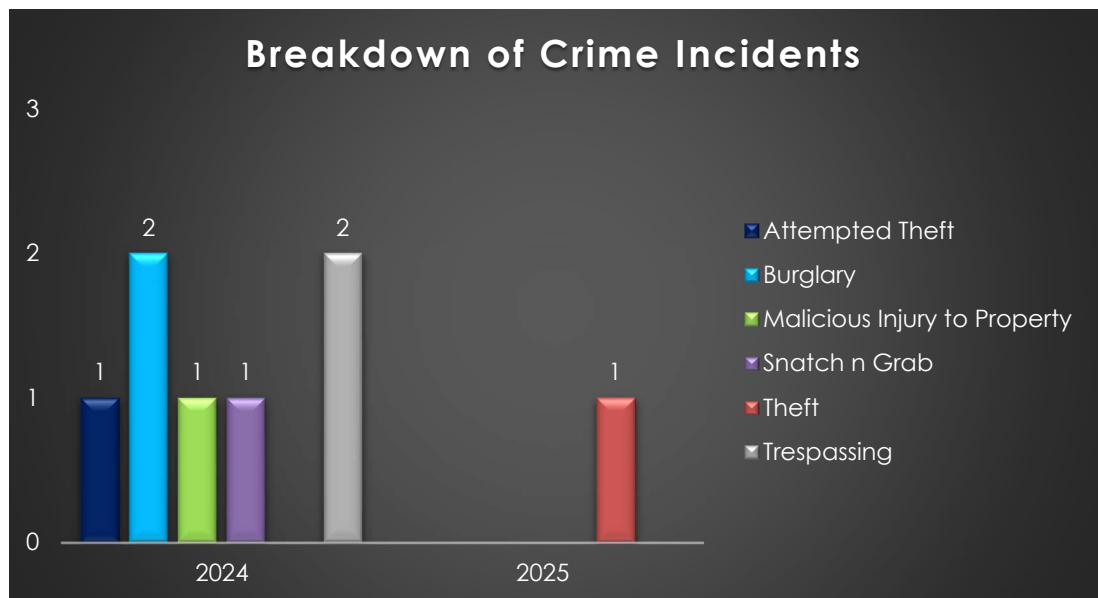
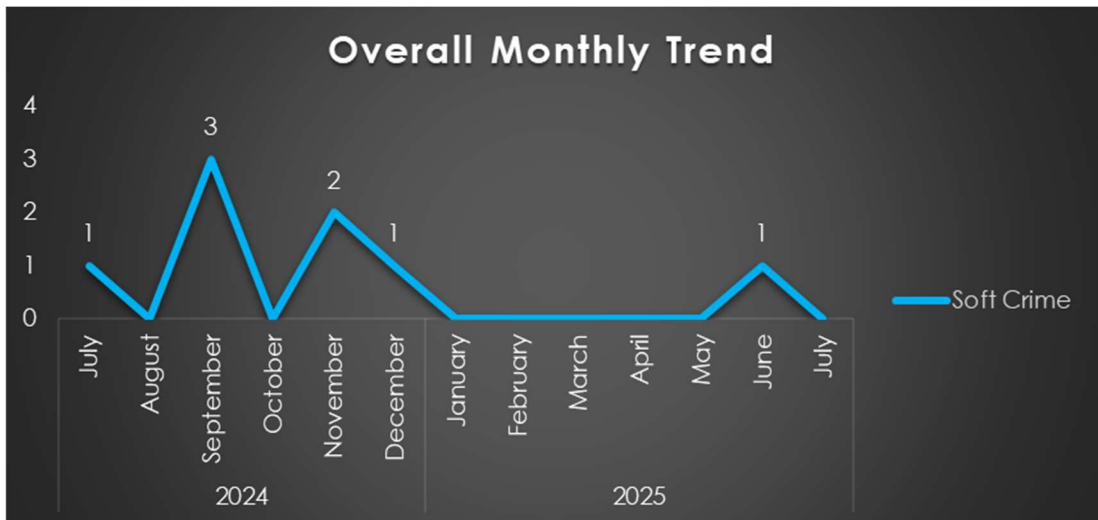
- **The WSG committee is led by Chairperson Charles Pettit**, with committee members Herman Bosman, Matome Moremi, Victoria Barrow, and Jonathan Sinden. We are a team of dedicated volunteers, and we always welcome offers of help from fellow residents who are passionate about making our suburb safer and stronger.

What We Currently Have in Place

- **Security Enclosure:** Booms and/or gates are installed at all entrances, operating outside of peak commuting hours (see the next section for updated times).
- **24/7 Tactical Patrol:** Tactical vehicles, manned by experienced CAP officers, to detect and deter crime before it occurs.
- **Smart CCTV System:** Advanced cameras use intelligent algorithms to flag suspicious activity in public areas, enabling rapid evaluation and response.
- **License Plate Recognition (LPR):** All incoming vehicle registrations are checked against CAP and SAPS watchlists for potential threats.
- **Trained Spotter:** A trained spotter is stationed at the Jan Smuts / Valley Road entrance to monitor traffic and coordinate responses as needed.
- **24/7 Command Centre:** Residents can report suspicious activity at any time by calling **0861 227 227**.
- **Resident-Led Oversight:** A volunteer committee oversees all operations and continuously adapts our approach to meet evolving needs.

Crime Snapshot: A Positive Year

- **Zero contact crimes** were reported this year — a significant achievement for our community.
- **Soft crime dropped by 86%** compared to the previous year, showing the effectiveness of our current security measures.
- All soft crime incidents occurred between **Wednesday and Saturday**, mostly during the early hours (00:00–08:00), with one exception at 14:40.
- These incidents were limited to **property theft**, such as a case involving gardening equipment stolen from a property bordering Jan Smuts Avenue.
- Notably, **half of the soft crime incidents** involved suspects exploiting neighbouring properties **outside the enclosure**, where security is less robust.
- Suspects included both **pedestrians and vehicles**, with most incidents taking place along **Pallinghurst Road and Escombe Avenue**. Commonly stolen items included **bicycles, electronics, and gardening tools**.



Wider Crime Trends in Johannesburg’s Northern Suburbs

While Westcliff has seen a significant drop in serious crime, broader trends in nearby suburbs remain a concern:

- **Robberies in public spaces** continue to target pedestrians for valuables like cellphones, handbags, and jewellery — often in driveways or while walking.
- **Follow-home robberies** are on the rise, particularly targeting individuals wearing high-end watches after visits to malls, restaurants, clubs, or airports.
- **Armed robberies** have been reported during peak traffic hours along Jan Smuts Avenue (between Conrad Drive and Bompas Road), with suspects on foot targeting vehicles.

- **Theft of gate motors** is increasing sharply, typically occurring late at night or early in the morning, often involving vehicles.

What You Can Do

- **Avoid displaying valuables** (e.g., watches, cash) when walking in public.
- **Stay alert when driving home** from malls, restaurants, or airports. If you suspect you're being followed, call CAP for an escort.
- **Be aware in traffic:** keep a safe distance from other vehicles and stay alert to your surroundings.
- **Support the WSG initiative:** While violent crime has been largely eliminated in Westcliff since 2017, only 53% of households contribute. Increased support is essential to maintain and improve our safety standards. *Your family's safety depends on this initiative — and the initiative depends on you.*
- **Register all construction projects** with CAP by calling **0860 332 332** or emailing care@capcommunity.co.za. This allows for background checks and targeted surveillance. Neighbours should ensure nearby sites are registered.
- **Report all suspicious activity**, no matter how minor, to CAP at **0861 227 227**.
- **Strengthen your home security:**
 - Secure gate motors
 - Install electric fencing, alarms, and outdoor lighting
 - Dogs are effective deterrents

Use the **4 Ds of Home Security**:

- **Deny:** Strong physical barriers
- **Detect:** Alarms, electric fencing, alert pets
- **Deter:** Make your home appear secure
- **Defend:** Have a safe room for your family if needed

Not sure if your home is secure? **Ask CAP for a free inspection.**

Changes to Boom Gate Operating Times

We've received **provisional approval** from the City of Johannesburg for a **four-year extension** of our road closure. We are waiting for the final approval and once finalised, the following updated boom times will apply:

These changes aim to balance **security** with **traffic flow**, especially during peak hours.

Location	Current Operating Times	New Operating Times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Valley Road at Intersection with Jan Smuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hour automated manned boom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 hour automated manned boom (no change)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrett Road at the intersection with Loch Avenue The Valley Road at the intersection with Westcliff Drive Waterfall Drive at the intersection with Westcliff Drive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates left open between 06:00-19:00 Booms upright between 06:00-09:00 and 15:30-19:00 (weekdays) Booms operational via automation between 09:00-15:30 (weekdays) Booms operate via automation on weekends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates left open between 06:00-19:00 (no change) Booms upright between 06:00-08:00 and 15:30-18:00 (weekdays) Booms operational via automation between 08:00-15:30; 18:00-19:00; (weekdays) Booms operate via automation on weekends; school holidays and public holidays

Maintenance Initiatives

We've made several infrastructure improvements to enhance safety and reliability:

- **Boom Gate Power Supply Upgrade.** Improved battery efficiency ensures continued operation during load-shedding.
- **Radar Installation on Boom Gates.** Reduced accidents from approximately three per week to only occasional minor incidents.
- **Swing Gate Motors.** Hinges and gate arms have been replaced for smoother, more reliable operation.
- **Fibre and Camera Maintenance.** Our 61 cameras stream live via fibre, but the lines are frequently damaged. These black, 3mm fibre lines run above ground — please take

care during tree trimming or construction to avoid damage.

Value-Adding Community Projects

We've also invested in broader community improvements:

- Ongoing **road marking and kerb stone repainting**
- **Monitoring** of informal settlements at The Valley/Westcliff intersection
- **Restoration of 22 stormwater drains**
- **Streetlight safety lid installations**
- **Security upgrades** in the Pallinghurst alleyway (gates, fencing, cameras, lighting)
- **Fencing and stair rail restoration** at the Escombe Road cul-de-sac
- **Sidewalk pole restoration** on Pallinghurst Road
- **Refurbishment of 29 City Power boxes/substations**
- **Repair of six major potholes**
- **Ongoing rubbish removal and de-weeding** in key areas

Upcoming Projects

- Sidewalk repair and resurfacing
- Completion of kerb painting
- Signage simplification and refurbishment
- Replacement of damaged or missing manhole covers

Support These Initiatives

All of these value-adding projects are funded through **once-off donations**, not monthly fees. To contribute, please use the regular WSG account with the reference "**Capex**".

Funding and Administration

Our goal is to maintain public safety while keeping costs manageable for residents. We've kept monthly contributions flat since 2020, despite:

- Rising inflation and service provider costs
- Increased infrastructure maintenance due to road closures
- Delays in VAT refunds from SARS *

We urge all non-contributing households to join.

Contact stacey.schultz@mhmanagement.co.za to sign up via EFT or debit order. If you're already contributing, please encourage your neighbours to do the same — shared responsibility makes the initiative more sustainable.

Currently, **only 123 of 231 households (53%)** contribute

** We would like to express our gratitude to Lydia Miller (resident of the Valley Road) who has provided us with considerable time and expertise to assist in resolving the delays we have been experiencing with VAT refunds from SARS. This has resulted in several historic refunds being received.*

WSG Committee Volunteers – We Need You!

To keep our efforts effective and sustainable, we aim to rotate committee roles every two years. We're currently looking for volunteers to assist with:

- **Fundraising**
- **Operations**
- **Database Management**
- **Community Projects**

If you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to us at info@westcliffsecuritygroup.co.za. Let's continue working together to keep **Westcliff one of Johannesburg's safest suburbs**.

Westcliff Security Group.

 www.westcliffsecuritygroup.co.za