BELLVILLE CBD BULLETIN

CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

VRCID VOORTREKKER ROAD
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

THE GREATER TYGERBERG PARTNERSHIP

October 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Welcome to the second edition of the Bellville CBD Bulletin, where we cover precinct management improvements, infrastructure projects and development initiatives forming part of Bellville's Precinct Development Programme.

If you would like to **receive future editions**, please **click here** to **subscribe**.

Please share this newsletter with anyone that might be interested in staying up to date on matters in the Bellville CBD and surrounds.

For any queries or suggestions, or if you would like to update your details, please email **BellvilleCBD.Precinct@capetown.gov.za**

City and GTP support entrepreneurs in Bellville



The City of Cape Town has **funded the Greater Tygerberg Partnership** to support work aimed at growing Bellville's economy, attracting investment and improving the urban environment. The investment builds on an already significant economic base of around **3 500 SMMEs and 250 industrial businesses**.

A recent City Business Hub activation in the CBD assisted **31 local entrepreneurs** with compliance, funding and business support -

turning investment in Bellville into practical opportunities on the ground.

Bellville rallies together after storm



When severe storms hit Bellville in May 2026 - causing flooding, debris, fallen trees, and infrastructure damage - the City's Precinct Management team played a key coordinating role between the community, partners (including GTP and VRCID), and City departments.

By monitoring affected areas, escalating urgent issues, and supporting response efforts, the team helped ensure a swift and coordinated recovery. This demonstrates the value of strong precinct management in times of crisis. The collapse of a section of Church Street due to a burst pipe was made safe and swiftly repaired by the City's Water and Sanitation Directorate. More than 150 bags of debris were cleared within days.

Bellville Ambassadors step up for safety



In June 2026, 22 Bellville Ambassadors completed a six-day Integrated Neighbourhood Watch Leadership Training programme. Through practical exercises and collaborative learning, participants strengthened their leadership, conflict resolution, trauma support, communication, teamwork and wellbeing skills. The Ambassadors returned to their communities better equipped to support residents, promote peace and strengthen community safety across Bellville.

Organisation spotlight: UWC invests in CBD



UWC's continued investment in the Bellville CBD for student accommodation demonstrates strong confidence in the area's future. With the **addition of 5 120 new student beds in 2026**, the university now provides 16 147 accommodation spaces, serving 76% of its student population. The provision of accommodation for students close to the Bellville CBD results in increased activity, economic stimulation and social activity in the vibrant centre.

CBD personality: Esmeralda van Rooyen



Senior Superintendent in the City's Urban Waste Management Directorate, Esmeralda leads a team of 280 staff across three shifts to keep Bellville clean, safe, and functional. Under her leadership, the team delivers essential cleaning and sanitation services.

Esmeralda introduced the 3-shift system, to ensure that the busy Bellville CBD was cleaned up for morning commuters as well as evening businesses, resulting in a cleaner space at all hours. She pioneered an organic waste composting initiative that reduces landfill waste. Passionate about people development, Esmeralda also invests in growing her team's skills, careers, and personal aspirations.

Response to local protests since 30 June



Since national protests began on 30 June 2026 against foreign nationals, there have been reports of protests in the Bellville CBD whereby foreign national informal traders were forcefully stopped.

The City's local Bellville CBD Precinct Management team has been coordinating with safety and security agencies and stakeholders. The City is committed to getting permitted traders back on their trading bays. Anyone with a valid permit may trade, regardless of nationality. The City is busy with **informal trader permit verification**, regular enforcement checks and advocating Home Affairs checks. Continuous efforts are being made to find a peaceful resolution.

Women with influence, focused on Bellville



Senior women from some of Cape Town's biggest organisations are putting their collective influence behind Bellville. Announced by GTP at its Annual Mayor's Dinner with Executive Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis in May 2026, the **Northern Collective** includes more than 16 leaders from Sanlam, UWC, CPUT, V&A Waterfront, Mediclinic, Metropolitan, Old Mutual and others.

The focus is on connecting decision-makers who can open doors, share resources and create opportunities for local SMMEs, traders and entrepreneurs — and get more organisations actively involved in Bellville's future.

SAPOA and UCT property development course focus on Bellville



The **Property Development course run by SAPOA and UCT's Graduate School of Business between July and August 2026**, tasked students with preparing comprehensive development proposals for a site along Charl Malan St in the Bellville CBD.

A range of creative, practical development concepts were showcased, demonstrating opportunities to unlock the site's strategic value and contribute to revitalisation. It is encouraging to see current and future property professionals engaging with Bellville, as a precinct worthy of focus for ongoing investment, research, and urban development.

Revitalising the Elsieskraal River together



GTP has secured City grant funding to expand community-led **restoration of the Elsieskraal River at Elizabeth Park**. The project aims to create a healthier and more resilient urban river environment. It will introduce indigenous vegetation to improve water quality and biodiversity, while community clean-ups and awareness initiatives encourage local stewardship. A river clean-up day in April 2026, led to the removal of over 312 kg of waste, showing the positive impact of volunteer efforts.

Local learners attend career expo



Through the City's Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme, 120 learners from Bellville Technical High School and Bellville South High School attended the CTICC Youth in Action Career Expo in August 2026.

The programme formed part of a larger initiative that enabled 1 255 learners and 35 educators from schools in urban regeneration corridors to attend the expo, with transport, supervision, and welfare support provided free of charge by the City.

A day at the opera for Bellville seniors



In July 2026, the City's Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme (MURP) facilitated a cultural outing for 20 senior citizens from Bellville CBD to attend Cape Town Opera's The Cunning Little Vixen at the Joseph Stone Auditorium in Athlone. Working with local partners, MURP coordinated participation, transport, and catering, providing older residents with the opportunity to enjoy a world-class performance while promoting social inclusion and community upliftment.

Useful numbers

- **Bellville CBD emergencies and security (24/7 – VRCID):** 072 792 7168
- **City of Cape Town Emergency Services (Police, fire and ambulance):** 021 480 7700
- **VRCID Social Development:** 084 017 5315
- **City of Cape Town Services:** 0860 103 089 | contact.us@capetown.gov.za | www.capetown.gov.za/servicerequests |

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