

# MIND

(MAKANA INDEPENDENT NEW DEAL)

## JOCK

## McCONNACHIE



# WARD 8 MANIFESTO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 1 NOVEMBER 2021

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**MIND's** slogan is "Let's fix Makana".

We are a grouping of independent candidates with the following aims, objectives and principles:

- To promote the election of public representatives in their personal capacities who are **directly** accountable to the constituency which they serve.
- To achieve effective local government in Makana by ensuring that elected representatives are diligent in working for the interests of their constituents.

**MIND** asserts the autonomy of local government as a separate sphere of government.

**MIND** will resist efforts to encroach on local government and to erode the autonomy of the locally elected Council.

**MIND** asserts the authority of the Local Council over municipal staff in all categories of employment; its right to insist on competence and diligence in the performance of their duties and to pursue fair disciplinary action in the event of under-performance, malperformance or misconduct by municipal employees.

**MIND** aims to overhaul the present system of local government in Makana with a plan of action for each of the following areas:

- A. Quality of councillors.
- B. The functioning of Council.
- C. Municipal operations; and
- D. Municipal finances.

**A FULL COPY OF MIND's MANIFESTO IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

## **MY PERSONAL MANIFESTO FOR WARD 8:**

I am a practising advocate (formerly a teacher and journalist), a committed Grahamstonian through-and-through, and a resident of Ward 8. My particular interest is local history and I am keenly involved in local matters and in fixing our municipality for the benefit of everyone who lives here.

Ward 8 incorporates the city centre and is the most important of Makana's 14 wards, contributing the most to Makana's local economy. As the Ward 8 councillor I will work closely with local business to stimulate the local economy and to promote their interests.

Ward 8 also has a large scholastic (Victoria Girls High School, Victoria Girls Primary School and PJ Olivier High School) and residential component which includes the Sunnyside, Hillsvue and Fort England areas. They will all get my equal attention.

The problems affecting Ward 8 are a microcosm of the problems affecting all parts of the city and requires the Ward 8 councillor to have his/her finger on the pulse of many issues which has not been happening with our current councillor.

I am fully aware of all of the issues affecting Ward 8.

Top of my list of priorities will be to address urban decay:

- Property owners (including the municipality itself), must be encouraged to properly maintain their buildings.
- The filthy state of the city centre and adjacent areas cannot be allowed to continue. Street cleaners must be fully trained and adequately equipped to do their job.
- Adequate and accessible public ablutions must be installed and maintained in a hygienic state.
- The hazardous state of roads and pavements must become a thing of the past.
- Street traders must be properly provided for.
- Car-guards must be organised and controlled and minibus taxis cannot be allowed to do as they please without regard to road rules or other road-users.

- By-laws must be enforced within the city centre, particularly as regards noise nuisance and the defacement of buildings etc with offensive advertising stickers promoting illegal abortions, penis enlargements etc.
- The problem of wandering animals is prevalent both in the city centre and in the residential areas of Ward 8. Cattle must be branded as the law requires so that stockowners can be identified and fined for not controlling their animals. They have access to a very large commonage and there is no reason for animals to be found within built-up areas, trampling gardens etc and causing a danger on public roads.
- The traffic department must become more active and visible within Ward 8 and speed traps in George Street must be prioritised.
- The traffic lights on Church Square are an irritation and should be scrapped or adjusted to facilitate the steadier flow of traffic.
- Virtually the whole of Ward 8 comprises Grahamstown's official Conservation Area which is in a neglected state. Our conservation by-laws must be properly implemented and the Aesthetics Committee must again become fully functional to ensure adherence to the signage regulations and to combat unsympathetic alterations to buildings.
- Tourism has virtually died in Grahamstown and the owners of historic buildings and the residents of historic precincts such as Artificer's Square and Stockenstroom Village, must be encouraged and incentivised to respect and maintain the character of their neighbourhoods to make them attractive for tourists.
- The conversion of residential properties for business use or for multi-tenanting without complying with rezoning requirements and without planning permission is also a growing problem in parts of Ward 8, particularly in the vicinity of Market Square. If elected as the councillor of Ward 8 I will take active measures to combat this problem and to safeguard the rights of neighbouring property owners.

There is much to do in Ward 8 but I am fully up to doing what must be done and will always be available to hear residents' complaints and to do something about them.

**MIND NEEDS YOU.** Please, Makana voters, support *MIND* candidates, including myself, in the 2021 local government elections to ensure a new era of prosperity for our municipality in which we can all share.

**“LET’S FIX MAKANA”**