

Gordon gets things done

HEATHER WALKER

A year since Gordon Mackay was elected Ward 90 councillor, the *Gazette* investigated whether he had delivered on his election promises.

At the beginning of his term Mackay vowed to work to overcome service delivery and infrastructure challenges, which he identified as key issues in the ward. He reflected that it hadn't been a perfect year, but he had made significant progress, such as:

- New street lights to be erected in Parkmore
- Marie Street to be opened up at Sandton Drive to improve traffic flow
- Drainage and kerbstones for Empire Place in Sandhurst
- 8km of roads resurfaced
- Cleaning up vacant properties with the co-operation of the Environmental Health Department
- Traffic calming measures in Riepen Park.

"The work and support of my energetic ward committee has been invaluable. It helped make the Hyde Park Island makeover a reality, with phase two to come next year. This could be the first time a ward

committee has worked with private business to achieve a goal at ward level."

During his campaign the councillor emphasised the importance of communication.

"The best way to deal with problems is to discuss them face to face, so I spend about two evenings a week chatting to residents at their homes or coffee shops. SMSes or e-mails are the best methods of reaching me, as I also have a day job and am not always able to answer calls. I've received about 4 300 e-mails from residents over the past year, which is 25 percent of the ward," he said.

Mackay attends the Reea River Market in Craighall Park every month to engage with community members.

He continues to tackle ongoing challenges of by-law enforcement and billing, while further plans include setting up a new community clinic, extending recycling projects to every suburb, and a voter registration drive for the 2011 municipal elections.

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Gordon Mackay on a Jan Smuts Avenue pavement that was a broken mess when he started as councillor, but is now fixed.

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