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Fichardtpark Neighbourhood Association & Fichardtpark NA NPC 2012/203121/08 ta Fwa.FNA

**Our reference:** PSHB Committee

Good day

**You are invited to an Information Session on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB): 16 October 2019**

1. Urgent attention is required to address the challenge of the PSHB which is destroying indigenous as well as exotic trees at an alarming rate in urban as well as rural areas of South Africa and has recently made its appearance in Bloemfontein.
2. This information session aims to inform the public as well as governmental institutions on the threat that we are facing from PSHB and how to address this challenge.
3. Attached, please find the agenda of the information session and some additional information on PSHB

Kind Regards

Duart Hugo



## **PSHB INFORMATION SESSION**

Venue: 9 Altona Crescent

Fichardt Park

Bloemfontein

Time: 18:00

### **Proposed AGENDA for 16 October 2019**

**Programme Director: Mr. Jacques Meiring FNA General Manager**

1. Welcome: Mr. Kobus Olivier, Chairperson FNA
2. Feedback from previous information session: Duart Hugo, FNA
3. PSHB information session and possible control methods: Prof Wijnand Swart, Free State University.
4. Extent of PSHB challenge on Agriculture and Forestry: Dr Gert Marais, Free State University
5. Responsibility of local government: Dawie Coetsee, Mangaung Metro Municipality
6. Perspectives from other areas: Hilton Fryer, "Tree Survey"
7. Discussion Session; The Way Forward: Programme Director
8. Closure

## **Information Session on the Polyphagous Shot Hole borer (PSHB): 16 October 2019**

Ornamental trees are dying in parks, private gardens and on pavements throughout most of South Africa. The cause of all this destruction is a small 2-mm beetle, originating from Southeast Asia, known as the Polyphagous Shot Hole borer (PSHB) (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) and its associated fungal partner (*Fusarium euwallaceae*).

It was first reported in South Africa in February 2018 and has since spread like wildfire throughout Gauteng. Numerous cases have been reported in other cities such as Cape Town, Durban and more recently Bloemfontein.

Scientists from seven universities in South Africa are currently collaborating through a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research network to find a solution to this problem. The University of the Free State is part of this network.

The Fichardt Park Neighbourhood Association (FNA) in Bloemfontein has taken the initiative to inform and educate its members and people residing in the greater Mangaung Metro about the danger this beetle poses and ways to prevent its spread in Bloemfontein.

A public information session on PSHB will thus be held on 16 October 2019 at 18:00 at the Fichardt Park NG Church Hall, Altona Crescent 9, Fichardt Park, by two plant scientists from the UFS, Prof Wijnand Swart and Dr Gert Marais. In addition, Mr. Hilton Fryer from "Tree Survey" in Johannesburg will also provide perspectives as to the spread of PSHB in Gauteng.

Please phone Mr Duart Hugo from the Fichardt Park Neighbourhood Association (FNA) for more information regarding time and venue (Cell: 082 789 4615).