

SMALLHOLDING SECURITY: tips before you fence!

(Please also research George municipal regulations regarding maximum heights and permeability of barriers, etc.)



When the access gate is on the road and suspicious-looking guys are standing right there... they are within their rights. The road verge is public space.

When a wall or fence is erected along the boundary of a large property, (red line) it is often OUT OF SIGHT from the house and therefore easily scaled or cut through without the home owner seeing or hearing.

Should you have an intruder, the police or neighbourhood watch has a HUGE area to search and the likelihood of apprehending the suspect is dramatically reduced.

If you have dogs, they are likely to bark at passers-by on the road and you begin to ignore their barking. Plus, your dogs are more at risk of being poisoned by criminal elements as the dogs are away from the house and out of sight. And, the larger the fenced area, the higher the chances of dogs coming across snakes with possible fatal consequences.

Motion-triggered, sensor lights are far more effective in scaring off intruders than exterior lights that remain on all night.. and more environmentally sensitive as well!

If every property is fenced along the boundary, wild life will die. Not enough natural areas will remain for bushbuck, porcupines and other to feed or breed! Consider low cost, environmentally friendly options like aloes, thorny Num-Num hedges, etc.

ALTERNATIVELY if the security fence/wall is CLOSER to the house (see red line):

Should suspicious people be hanging around your gate, they are now TRESPASSING! Just hooting will chase them off or call the neighbours, your security company or police.

Not only is the security wall/fence visible from the house, but it is now easier to protect with sensor lights and security beams.

Dogs are better protected from poisoning, snakes, etc.

Wildlife will have room to roam between homes, providing thrilling sightings and helping to preserve the privilege of living in Wilderness.

Horses can be retained on the rest of the erf by 4 strand wire fences (not barbed wire) which also allow wildlife movement.

Final security tips:

- Your erf number must be prominently displayed at the road entrance.
- Provide a turning circle for a fire engine in case of fire.
- Put a sprinkler system on the fence where there's the greatest danger of an approaching berg-wind driven fire.
- Maintain a fire break just outside your fence to allow firefighter access, or join with your neighbours to create a firebreak protecting several smallholding.
- Contact your local Neighbourhood Watch and Fire Management Unit for more information on security and fire prevention in your area.

These security tips are provided by the Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association in the interest of residents' security while also preserving the natural beauty of Wilderness and therefore the value of properties in this stunning area.

