

White Water Meadows General community meeting held on Sunday July 13, 2025

Quick recap

The community meeting covered a range of topics including financial updates, infrastructure issues, and the election of new executive members. Discussions focused on community development plans, addressing local concerns such as drainage problems and road conditions, and the importance of resident participation in community initiatives. The conversation ended with the announcement of election results for various positions and a transition in leadership, emphasizing the need for continued community engagement and support.

Next steps

- Karim: Assume role of Acting President and seek legal clarification on authority
- Devon & Kalia: Lead special projects initiative for multipurpose facility development after 6-month break
- Executive Team: Make representation to relevant authorities regarding sewage and drainage issues in Stanhope area
- Karim & Team: Follow up on land distribution and housing initiative discussed with Mark
- Executive Team: Find Assistant Secretary to support Jesanya in secretarial duties
- Residents: Support tag drive fundraising effort to reach \$1 million target
- Devon: Organize and coordinate the walkthrough scheduled for the 27th with residents
- Residents: Volunteer to participate in community walkthrough on July 27th or August 3rd
- Dillon: Create a flyer with key talking points for resident interactions during community walkthrough

- Devon/Legal Team: Get legal advice on the authority and powers of an acting president position
- Leon Royal & Janeen Taylor: Manage external and internal communications respectively
- Clifton Thomas: Consider taking on the Safety and Security portfolio
- Karim: Share Kurt Matthews' constituency development plan document with community members
- Jesanya: Prepare training materials/pointers for residents participating in the community walkthrough
- Rona Harris Campbell: Take over treasury responsibilities from Peter Hutchinson
- Devon: Make representation to relevant authorities regarding the sewage overflow and drainage issues in the Whitewater area
- Devon: Follow up with authorities about the maintenance and cleaning of the storm drain system near Sydenham

Summary

Meeting Setup and Participant Management

Devon plays music and shares his screen with Jesanya, who confirms she can hear the song. They briefly discuss an upcoming report and meeting logistics. Devon mentions he will ask Karen to be a co-host to help manage participant access. As they wait for more attendees to join, Devon informs those already present that the meeting will start in about 4 minutes.

Community Proactive Engagement Meeting

Devon opened the community meeting with a prayer and emphasized the importance of organizing a proactive community. Karim provided a recap of the previous meeting in May, highlighting financial updates, feedback on events like the cake sale, and ongoing infrastructure issues such as roadwork and perimeter wall construction. Devon urged residents to stop dumping items at the front of the community and encouraged them to communicate with neighbors about maintaining cleanliness. The conversation

ended with a plea for community cooperation to address littering issues.

Executive Team Engagement and Updates

Devon opened the meeting by acknowledging the consistent efforts of the executive team and expressing gratitude for their volunteer work over the past four years. He noted that Kimberly, the sitting secretary, has expressed her desire not to continue, and encouraged anyone who has served with her to speak up. Devon discussed the low attendance at the meeting and emphasized the importance of engaging with politicians to understand their plans and potential benefits for the community. Captain raised concerns about the low number of attendees and questioned whether the meeting could be held virtually, to which Devon confirmed that it had been done during the COVID-19 period. The financial update for the year ending July 31, 2025, was briefly mentioned, with reports up to July 31 to follow.

Community Financial Update and Fundraising

Devon presented a financial update, noting that the community has approximately \$765,000 in total funds, with \$235,000 allocated for the wall project, which is currently on hold due to pending legal issues. The general pool of funds is around \$530,000, and Devon emphasized the need for increased contributions from residents to improve the community. Kurt Matthews, the caretaker for the area, joined the meeting and commended the community association for their efforts, expressing his availability to participate in future activities and fundraising initiatives.

St. Catherine Community Development Challenges

Kurt discussed various community issues in St. Catherine, including the relocation of sugar workers, challenges faced by farmers, and concerns about an incinerator's impact on a farming community. He highlighted the need for better zoning practices and addressed issues such as flooding in Hill Run, poor garbage collection, and road conditions in different communities. Kurt emphasized the importance of equitable resource distribution and representation for all communities, noting that his group has provided scholarships across political divides since 2020. He

expressed a desire for better infrastructure and drainage improvements to benefit all residents.

Creative Class Economic Development Plan

Kurt discusses plans for the constituency, focusing on the concept of the "rise of the creative class" and the development of a creative cultural economy. He proposes transforming Old Harbor into a vibrant area with increased nightlife and business opportunities. Kurt also mentions plans to develop a state-of-the-art recreational park with creative and cultural offerings instead of a previously proposed prison. He emphasizes the importance of building a stronger economy through creative and cultural initiatives, mentioning a potential billion-dollar investment earmarked by party leader Mark Golding. The discussion concludes with residents expressing mixed opinions about the appropriateness of using the community platform for political discussions.

Road Development and Park Plans

Kurt discussed plans for road development to connect Old Harbor Road with the highway and Upper St. John's, as well as the creation of a recreational park in the area. He addressed concerns about road conditions and the need to resolve bureaucratic issues related to road maintenance. Kurt also mentioned a scholarship program for first-born children and the importance of enhancing community parks to support creative and cultural industries. The meeting participants asked questions about park development and funding for a multipurpose complex, to which Kurt provided information on available resources and opportunities.

Community Development and Engagement Initiatives

Kurt shared his vision for community development, emphasizing the importance of social events and talent showcases to foster unity and improve living standards. He mentioned plans to publish a constituency plan that will outline strategies for community fundraising and talent promotion. Devon highlighted the need for residents to appreciate the value of community projects and governance, expressing a desire to educate the public on the significance of political and civic engagement. The conversation ended with a discussion on a tag drive

initiative aimed at raising funds for community development, with Devon urging residents to participate actively in selling tags and supporting the cause.

Community Walkthrough and Elections Planning

The community association discussed the upcoming walkthrough scheduled for July 27th, with Devon appealing for 20-21 volunteers to help cover the scheme more effectively. Dillon suggested creating a simple flyer with interaction pointers for the walkthrough, and the possibility of moving it to August 3rd was considered due to scheduling conflicts. The association also addressed the need for new executive members, with Jesanya presenting on the upcoming elections and the importance of community involvement.

Community Election Results Announcement

The meeting focused on the announcement of election results for various community positions. Jesanya presented demographic data from voter questionnaires, noting that most respondents were female and over 50 years old. The results showed Karim Sewell as President, Devon as Head of Special Projects, and Jesanya as Secretary. For other positions, Dillon Mclaughlin and Clifton Thomas were elected as Vice Presidents, Ronia Harris Campbell as Treasurer, and Leon Royal as Public Relations Officer with Janeen Taylor as Assistant. Clifton Thomas was selected as Safety and Security Chair. The conversation ended with a discussion about the responsibilities of the Public Relations positions and a request for participants to turn on their cameras for identification purposes.

Devon's Departure and Karim's Leadership

Devon announced his departure as President and will take up a new role focused on a multipurpose project, which requires \$100,000 for land surveying and will involve seeking sponsorship over the next six months. Karim agreed to serve as Acting President until a permanent replacement is found, with Devon emphasizing the need for community support to ensure Karim's success. Captain raised a legal concern about the acting presidency, prompting Devon to promise to seek legal advice on the matter. The conversation ended with Devon urging residents

to increase attendance at future meetings and expressing gratitude for the support he received during his tenure.

Stanhope Storm Drain Overflow

The community discussed ongoing issues with a storm drain in Stanhope that has been receiving sewage overflow and dead animals, particularly from Sydenham villa development. The group learned that the drain serves as an overflow for the sewage system and connects to several communities, with Captain explaining that the drainage system was designed to handle overflow but is now overwhelmed. The residents agreed to make representations to authorities about the problem, with Petrena noting that previous attempts to contact agencies have been unsuccessful due to weekend overtime restrictions.