

OPPOSITE Modderdam Station in Belhar is a massive dump heap, much larger and higher than the station itself.

This is the rubbish pit where the factories from the surrounding areas (Elsies and Parow) dump their unwanted dirt ranging from scraps of paper and material to scraps of food.

For the past few months, bare-footed and hungry people, especially children have been collecting the waste food from the pit. Local residents feel that it is because of the high rents in the new sections of Belhar that people are driven to seek food on the dump heap. In addition the pit gives off an unbearable sour stench and attracts rats.

When the Civic approached Divco about the dump heap in March they simply replied that they would refer the matter to the Engineering Department.

People in the area say that the factory bosses are now also creating dump heaps where we live. Belhar demands that they seek an alternative place to dump their rubbish, and that the present pit be cleared.

# Belhar says no to dump heaps



## 'We demand better service'

SINCE its establishment, the Belhar Civic Association has been tackling the poor bus service in the area.

For a population of

more than 35 000 the present bus service is irregular, inadequate and badly organised.

Besides peak hours,

busses in the area run every 1½ hours.

Furthermore bus routes both into and out of the area are cut

halfway so that a double fee has to be paid for short trips.

The transport problem is aggravated by the

stations being far from where people live. Also thick bush surrounds the three stations serving Belhar and this makes people reluctant

to use trains.

Tramways were officially approached by the Civic to improve the bus service. Several promises were made — none of which were kept.

### Survey

These included starting direct services, building a temporary terminus and starting work on a permanent terminus at Unibell Station.

Proposed bus services and fare scales were sent to the Civic for endorsement, asking that they not be made public.

"With these promises they hoped to satisfy us," said a spokesperson for the Civic.

Months passed and the poor bus service was not improved although Tramways itself gave February 1982 as its deadline for an improved service.

After a survey was done to establish the exact transport needs of the community, the Civic realised the

urgency of an improved bus service.

Letters were sent to Tramways demanding an explanation for the unfulfilled promises. The excuses started coming.

"At first they told us that a service cannot be introduced if only a few people use the service.

### Unsuitable

"Next they said that plans for new routes had to be passed by the authorities. They told us that roads in sections of Belhar were poorly constructed and unsuitable for the use of busses.

"The standing excuse is that they are waiting on a subsidy from the Road Transportation Board. The issue is now being taken up at house meetings.

"The Civic endorses the fact that transport is a basic necessity and demand that it be controlled by the state and not by a profit-seeking monopoly company."

## Campaign to re-open day hospital

THE Bonteheuwel Civic Association have started a campaign to have the Day Hospital re-opened in the area.

The Day Hospital was closed down in 1976. Only a room for dressing wounds remained open — and this was closed last year.

The BCA has held a number of house meetings on the issue and the people's response has been very positive.

The need for a day hospital was acutely felt during the pink eye epidemic.

People had either to travel outside the area for treatment or pay the high fees charged by private doctors.

The BCA also consulted with the Rocklands Residents Association who have been campaigning some time for a day hospital for Mitchells Plain.

The BCA will follow the Rocklands example and hold a survey in Bonteheuwel on the question of the Day Hospital.

Another area in which the BCA has been active is making

contacts with other civic organisations.

On Saturday June 26 the BCA and the Avonwood and Avon Estate Civic Association held a meeting.

People were broken up in discussion groups to talk about:

### Draw in

- The functioning of the two bodies.
- Their relationship with Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC).
- How to draw in more members and to

maintain membership.

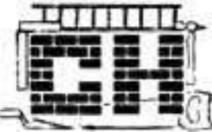
• Common problems affecting all areas.

People could easily respond to points because they were all affected.

People realised that the structure of a community organisation could do much to ensure a democratic, mass-based organisation.

Some members were not very clear what CAHAC was, and after being informed about CAHAC's role, realised how important CAHAC was as an umbrella body.

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