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# Auroville Bulletin 48

## **'One Year On' gathering, Crown Road work, Update on maintenances**

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A Summary of Events Happening in Auroville Today

December 3d, 2022

*Note: There are important actions to take at the end of each Bulletin, if you are reading on your phone you may need to click 'see more' to view the entire bulletin.*

**Please find a glossary of acronyms and terms used in this bulletin [here](#).**

## Urgent actions needed

- **Reminder to complete the survey on restorative processes:** The RA working groups created a survey to assess the community's perspective on a restorative process between the RA, GB & IAC. The deadline is **midnight, 4th December**. Please find the link to more information [here](#).
- **BCC calls for support for Aurovilians on bridging maintenances:** At least 20 Aurovilians have been moved onto a bridging maintenance with no warning, while they are still working for Auroville. Please see [here](#) for more information, and email BCC on [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services) or [bccauroville@gmail.com](mailto:bccauroville@gmail.com).
- **Financial support for legal fees:** If you can donate towards legal and delegation fees, please email [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com). Please see [here](#) for more information about why further financial assistance is necessary.
- **Help with the AVC room vigil :** Please participate! For nearly 5 months the community has held a 24/7 vigil in the AVC room in Town Hall. **More people are needed** to ensure the round-the-clock presence. Please contact [avcouncil@auroville.services](mailto:avcouncil@auroville.services), WhatsApp 94430 03617 to sign up. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Join the Wednesdays for Auroville meetings:** There is a weekly community meeting held at the Tibetan Pavilion, every Wednesday 5:00-6:30pm. The poster is [here](#).

## Hot topics

### 'One Year On' community gathering event

A group of residents are organising an event to mark the 1-year anniversary of the demolition of the Youth Centre, to "celebrate our unity and enjoy creativity, music,

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**Auroville**  
**COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**December 4th**  
**2021 - 2022**

It all started one year ago...

Let us collectively reflect upon these questions at Town Hall coming Sunday, December 4th. Flowers and candles are welcome, there will be a potluck and food, musicians bring your music, peace dances and a banner inviting you to write your thoughts.

**At Town Hall**

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**Sunday 04.12.2022**  
**From 4:30 onwards**

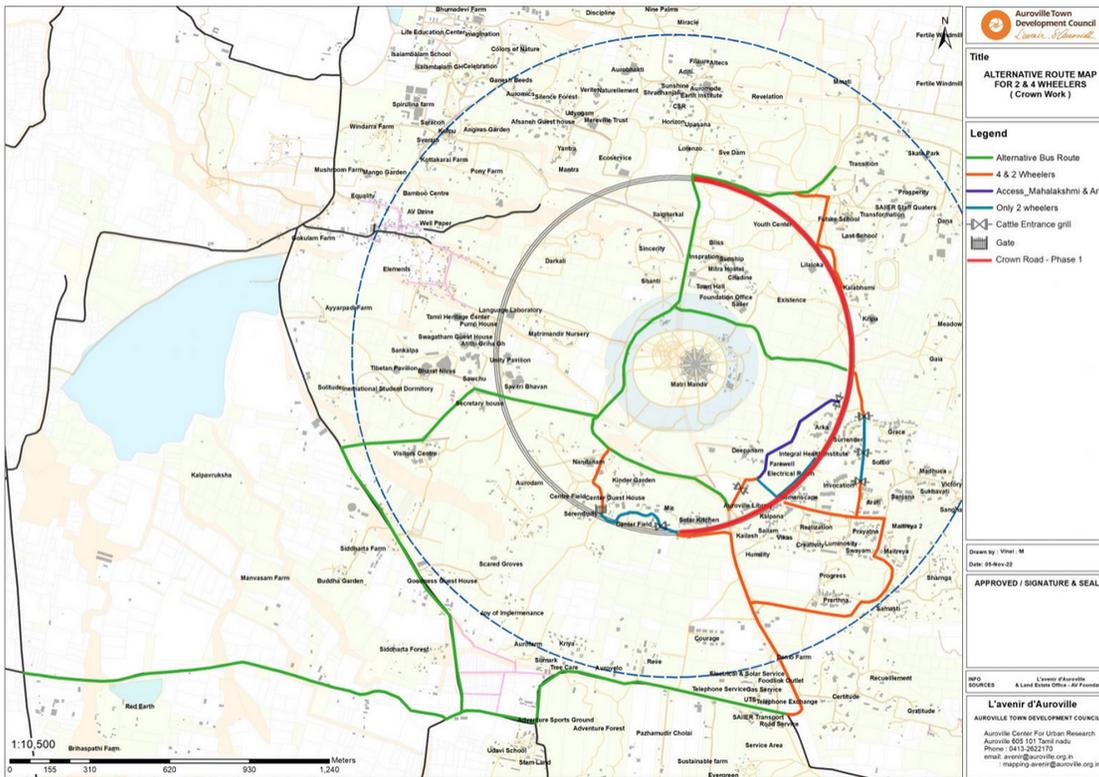
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This event is for Aurovilians, Newcomers and Volunteers

## Crown Road Work - Update

The AVFO 'ATDC' [announced](#) that the Crown Road work will restart with a stretch of the Crown (marked below in red) inaccessible until the end of December 2022. Since 29th November, teams of road workers have restarted dismantling the existing road. To allow traffic flow to continue, cycle paths have been widened in several places to now allow for motorised vehicles. The situation has [raised concerns](#) from the School Board "for the safety of all the children cycling to and from schools," as children are now forced to share the narrow pathways with motorised vehicles. Several community members have expressed anxiety at recently seeing young children sharing the cycle paths with fast moving motorised traffic on the narrow cycle paths during the morning and afternoon 'rush hours'. There are no proper signs on display

The AVFO's 'ATDC' [sent a reply](#) to the School Board stating that the “only solution” would be to allow children to continue cycling along the Crown road that is currently in the process of being dismantled and under construction. The road has been completely removed in sections along the Sante-Solar Kitchen stretch and is very uneven, and the children would have to share the road space with construction vehicles such as JCBs. They also asked the School Board to request “parents to drop/ pick their children [...] while the works are going on”, which would raise complications for those who work, whilst also placing the responsibility for children's safety entirely on the shoulders of the parents. In a notice on [Auronet](#) the AVFO's 'ATDC' did not address the safety concerns related to the roadworks, stating that “we take this opportunity to hereby urge all parents to stop giving motor vehicles to children who hold no driving permit”.



There appears to be a lack of clarity about the legality of cutting trees to make way for the Crown Road. The report by the Joint Committee only considers the Darkali stretch, and is still under deliberation. According to the markings, some of the service trees planted between Solar Kitchen and Santé are in danger of being cut down. The RA WCom reached out to the relevant authorities to notify them of the need for an environmental assessment before the road works continues. They have been assured that tree cutting is not permitted and therefore ask community members to notify the RA WCom immediately by email and/or by calling their office (+91 413 2623 770) or one of their members if any trees are cut along the Crown, as noted in their latest

The RA TDC has also posted an announcement in which they note that the work is:

- still in contravention of the RAD to 'Pause all work on the Crown'
- does not incorporate any elements of the community-led Dreamweaving initiative
- endangers existing trees by ignoring their root protection area
- endangers a project done only 2 years ago, in collaboration with the TDC, to plant new trees along the Crown.

Their original email and its attachments are [here](#) and [here](#)

Paul Vincent Baptiste, a long-term Aurovilian knowledgeable about land assets of Auroville, noted on [Auronet](#) that by prematurely pushing ahead with the Crown construction, the AVFO 'ATDC' is putting GOI-funded assets onto private lands. Currently, only one stretch of the Crown is leased by the Foundation, while other stretches are not in Auroville's possession, or owned by Friend of Auroville Michael Bonke. This situation could potentially lead to private developments inside the Auroville City Area, as the proximity to the Crown Road increases the area's value for tourism-related businesses.

## Update on Maintenances

In the past 3 months, 25 Aurovilians (mostly those working for the RA working groups) were notified by either the AVFO's 'BCC', or the Accounts Officer of the Auroville Foundation, Mr. Sathyanarayan (also a member of the AVFO 'FAMC'), that they were being put on a Bridging Maintenance for 3 months. This implies that after December, they would no longer receive support from the City Services Fund while they still work for Auroville and, in many cases, are dependent on a maintenance to cover their basic needs. The RA BCC sent out an [update](#) this week regarding their efforts to coordinate support for the Aurovilians affected. They emphasised that cutting these maintenances is "a grave breach of Auroville's core values and ideals". They shared that some donors have already come forward, however more assistance is needed.

Anyone wishing to help contribute can get in touch with the RA BCC via email on [bccoffice@auroville.services](mailto:bccoffice@auroville.services) or [bccauroville@gmail.com](mailto:bccauroville@gmail.com), drop-in during their open hours at the AV Council room on Tuesdays 10:30 am—12 noon, or make an appointment for a private meeting on Tuesday afternoons.

Last month, the RA BCC [published](#) the City Services (CS) budget that they had prepared for 2022-23, which included a 10% increase for all CS maintenances. This week, the AVFO's 'BCC' announced that the 10% increase will go ahead from next month, while also stating that "to partly compensate for this additional cost, we have

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it is very short notice for people and units to budget for an increase in the CS contribution.

## Attempts to withhold visa of long-term Aurovilian

Peter A. has lived in Auroville since 1972 and is now 80+ years old. In recent years, he spent longer periods of time in his home country to receive necessary medical treatment for an ongoing health condition. In November, Peter contacted the AVFO's 'WCom' to check on his visa application recommendation, which had been pending for several months. In response, he received an [email](#) from Tine on behalf of the AVFO's 'WCom'. She questioned his need for an entry visa, saying that "since you are living in Berlin and come to Auroville only for a short visit in the winter months since quite some years already, we thought you may just take care of your visa yourself and apply for a tourist visa".

Several community members raised concerns about this action in [blogs on Auronet](#), noting the breach of trust it would constitute to leave an elderly Aurovilian absent from Auroville due to health problems, without a status. In response, the AVFO's 'WCom' posted a [clarification](#) that stated: "a personal email was sent to Peter with suggestions in consideration of Peter's actual record of in-Auroville residence periods annually over a decade and more" and that Peter's visa would now "be forwarded accordingly". The AVFO 'Wcom' claimed that Tine's email was 'personal' however, she clearly stated that she was writing on behalf of the AVFO 'WCom'. It seems there is an increasing pressure being put on residents who have not left Auroville for good but have been out of station for a while for health reasons or family complication

## Other Updates and Information

### Another potential land exchange - AuroAnnam

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members, in an apparent assessment of land for potential land exchange.

Community member Mawite has written a testimonial on the unsettling interaction, which you can find [here](#). Additionally, several rumours are circulating on additional land exchanges which have been completed lately, or are in process. If you have any evidence of these, please inform us at [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).

## Update on the open letter to the GB Chairman

As announced by the RA WCom in a [massbulletin](#) update, the open letter to the Chairman of the Governing Board (GB) was re-sent to him and other GB members with a total of 477 verified signatures from residents. The signatories were all Aurovilians, Newcomers and Auroville youth who were verified through the current Master List by a group of volunteers.

Many community members felt moved to write personally to the Chairman. The RA WCom received a significant number of letters which were forwarded to him and other GB members after the meeting on 7th November.

## Deep Dialogue with Raghu A. - 2nd Round

Raghu Ananthanarayanan, who was asked to explore the possibility of a deep dialogue by Dena Merriam (IAC chairperson) with support of the Secretary, presented his analysis of the current situation to the community on Monday 21st November.

The 'Synthesis Auroville' group communicated, [via email](#), another round of community interaction with Raghu on Saturday 3rd December, 4.30-6.30 pm (venue to be confirmed). They request attendees to watch the video of Raghu's presentation and subsequent dialogue with the community, which can be found [here](#), and come with questions and reflections.

## Thank you for donations over the past year

Those involved would like to express deep gratitude for all the donations, small and big, that have been sent to support the legal and diplomatic actions this past year. It is heartwarming to see this expression of goodwill from such a diverse section of our community. In the current climate, we refrain from releasing the exact amount fundraised - however, as the legal and diplomatic work goes on, continued financial help is very welcome and if you are able to offer support, please contact

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## The Delta Programme initiative in Auroville

A group of 70 Aurovilians have committed to be part of [the Delta Programme](#), a 7-week online course offered free of charge by [Gene Keys](#). The aim of the course is to allow groups of 7 individuals to deeply introspect and take a step towards a collective consciousness. The opening event will take place on Monday 5th December, at 5 pm at the Unity Pavilion in which Richard Rudd, founder of Gene Keys, will interact with the community via Zoom. All are invited to attend.

**Welcome**  
to the  
**Delta Programme**  
A tool for collective transformation

5th December 2022  
at 5 PM  
Unity Pavillion

**Richard Rudd** and **Pia Mark**  
(Founder of Gene Keys)                      (Head of the Delta)

**will address the community as the first  
wave of Auroville Delta flyers take off!**

Everyone is welcome to join in this initiation. The event will be followed by a soup dinner.

## Media & Social Links

- [Auroville is being robbed: Part 1](#) & [Auroville is being robbed: Part 2](#): a series of videos prepared by Auroville Media Liaison on the ongoing land exchanges.
- [Road to the future spawns discord within Auroville](#). (The Hindu)
- [Dravidian outfit claims TN Guv Ravi holds 'office of profit,' approaches HC](#). (The Print)
- [Madras high court moved to disqualify R N Ravi from holding post of TN governor](#). (Times of India)
- [Lakshmi of the Pondicherry Ganesh temple dies](#). (India Today)

## About us

We are a group of Aurovilians who are actively involved in understanding the current crisis situation in Auroville in order to find a way forward together.

We stand for:

- Respecting our community processes for decision-making
- A collaborative approach in developing Auroville using integrated methods such as the Dreamweaving initiative
- Transparency and fairness in the organisation of Auroville
- Creating unity with our diverse voices

Please note that the website <https://standforaurovilleunity.com/> contains a great deal of information and a detailed timeline.

With regard to future actions, those who have particular skills such as writing, social media, film editing etc. are welcome to write to [evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:evolvinggalaxy@gmail.com).

**Please also share your thoughts and suggestions** by replying to this email.

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closer together to the beautiful dream of human unity in Auroville. We can do it ... together.

For those who have had previous technical problems receiving the Bulletin, the list of all previous Bulletin issues is accessible here: <https://linktr.ee/evolvinggalaxy>

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