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BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A "NEW RETREAT" ON A PORTION OF PORTION 11 OF FARM 1674, PAARL
CHAND REFERENCE NO: 03005
DEA&DP Pre-Application Reference Number: 16/3/3/6/7/1/84/12/1086/20

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

DATE: 01 February 2021
VENUE: New Retreat Site
TIME: 11h00 - 12:00

FULL NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL	SIGNATURE
Gregory Viljoen	Stell Municipality	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	<i>[Signature]</i> Feb 01/2021
Charles Manuel	Stell Mun			<i>[Signature]</i>
Manette Perwardin	Chand			<i>[Signature]</i>

Meeting with Local Ward Councillor: 01 February 2021
Boschendal: Retreat 03005

11 February 2021

**THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A "NEW RETREAT" ON A PORTION OF PORTION 11 OF FARM 1674, PAARL
CHAND REFERENCE NO: 03005**

DEA&DP Pre-Application Reference Number: 16/3/3/6/7/1/B4/12/1086/20

**SITE MEETING WITH WARD COUNCILLOR
Minutes of Meeting_Draft**

DATE: 01 February 2021
VENUE: New Retreat Site
TIME: 12:15 – 13:45
FACILITATOR: Ms. Marielle Penwarden

1. Attendees

FULL NAME	INITIAL	ORGANISATION
Gregory Viljoen	GV	Stellenbosch Municipality
Charles Manuel	CM	Stellenbosch Municipality
Marielle Penwarden	MP	Chand Environmental Consultants

Note that Mr. Malcom Johnson was also invited but could not attend.

2. Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Description of the Proposed Development
- Description of the Basic Assessment Process and Status
- Advice on Local Community Groups who could be I&APs
- Feedback/Discussion
- Other
- Close

3. Discussion

3.1 Welcome and Introduction

3.1.1 MP thanked all attendees for their time and introductions were made all around.

3.2 Description of the Proposed Development

3.2.1 MP provided an explanation of the proposed development, noting the following key aspects thereof:

- i. The existing cottages would be re-developed to support a new Bertha Retreat, and the proposed development footprint and services infrastructure has been devised so as to remain as close to the existing buildings as possible;
- ii. The development footprint and services would remain outside of the ecologically sensitive areas/freshwater features as much as possible so as to keep adverse impacts to acceptable limits (i.e., to keep them low);
- iii. The proposed landscaping would respect the historical central gathering space of the site and that the gardens would be a combination of kitchen gardens and fynbos rehabilitation;

- iv. The design of the proposed buildings would be done sensitively and to intentionally respond to the cultural landscape and social history of the site and area.
- v. *MP provided attendees with hard copies of the plans and maps which were included in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Draft Basic Assessment Report that was circulated for public comment. Attendees were also provided with hard copies of the English and Afrikaans Executive Summaries.*

3.3 Description of the Basic Assessment Process and Status

- 3.3.1 MP explained that she is the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) from Chand Environmental Consultants cc (Chand) who has been appointed by Boschendal in order to make application for Environmental Authorisation to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), as well as the necessary application to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).
- 3.3.2 MP added that the application must be made because the proposed development is located near environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., the river and wetlands) and so approval is needed under the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) and the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998), as amended (NWA).
- 3.3.3 MP also noted that applying for such approval is done through a process of assessment and public engagement, hence the current Basic Assessment process for the proposed development.

3.4 Advice on Local Community Groups who could be I&APs

- 3.4.1 MP explained that, as part of the process described in 3.3, Chand would like to engage with key Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) from the community who the Councillors believe would be interested in the site and/or the project, and therefore requested information of said parties from CM. MP added that she would like to invite them to a Focus Group Meeting (FGM),
- 3.4.2 CM stated that the people or their remaining relatives (likely their children who would be in their 40s or 50s at present) who used to live in the cottages would be key affected parties and confirmed that he would be able to liaise with them to support arrangement and attendance of an FGM. He advised that the meeting should ideally be held after standard working hours to ensure those who work during the day can also attend. MP agreed and said that this would be arranged.
- 3.4.3 MP asked whether it would be acceptable and appropriate to them to meet on site and CM confirmed that he believed it would be and that they would likely appreciate meeting on-site.
- 3.4.4 CM also explained that many members of the community would not typically have the confidence to speak up or protest if they are in disagreement with something and so the creation of a space where they feel heard and comfortable is important. MP noted this and added that it is the intention of the proposed FGM to do so.
- 3.4.5 MP asked whether there were any additional community/civic organisations within his community which would be interested in an invitation to the FGM and CM confirmed that there are no such organisations within his community.
- 3.4.6 MP confirmed that the meeting would be set up as soon as possible and that Chand would make the arrangements, with CM confirming that he would gather the local parties and inform them of the meeting.

3.5 Feedback/ Discussion

- 3.5.1 GV suggested that the story of the site and memory of those who lived on site could be told through the placement of information boards, which could even contain photographs, throughout the site.
- 3.5.2 GV also suggested that plaques could be put on each cottage to note the families who lived there.
- 3.5.3 CM noted that there were two rockeries established on the site by the residents who used to live there, with the most obvious remnants thereof still being present in the central gathering area of the site.
- 3.5.4 CM recommended that the fynbos rehabilitation of the site make use of the topsoil and the local plants in the area. MP confirmed that, during construction, the Environmental

Management Programme (EMPr) requires that the top-soil be treated differently, and that indigenous vegetation would be used on the site.

- 3.5.5 CM advised that there could be many snakes found on site and that he used to often see puff adders and Cape Cobras, adding that these snake usually move through their community when there are fires in the area.

3.6 Other

- 3.6.1 CM noted that he grew up on the site and would often visit his "aunty" who lived in one of the cottages.
- 3.6.2 CM told of how there were always chickens, geese, and "bunnies" on the site.
- 3.6.3 CM shared another memory of living on the site whereby the community used to walk through the wetlands and swim in the rivers and wetlands, and they also used to do a lot of mountaineering.
- 3.6.4 CM noted that the people and community did not have a say in the fencing off of the farm and added that he believes the fence has restricted the access of the community to the mountains and rivers.
- 3.6.5 CM mentioned that he used to be a tour guide for the area and worked across the farm.
- 3.6.6 CM told of a birth ritual in his family (who are locally known as "The Cannons") whereby the umbilical cord of the new-born baby would be cut and buried at a location in the local mountains. He added that he knows where his and that of his sister are buried, but that the restricted access to the mountains has restricted their access to this place, and their ritual.
- 3.6.7 CM also noted his disappointment in not being able to freely visit places he grew up in or lived in and in being cut from past experiences in his life.

3.7 Close

- 3.7.1 MP thanked all attendees for their time and closed the meeting at 13:45.