

GROTTO/ PIET SE BOS PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2014 AUDITORIUM HERMANUS OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY

The meeting held on 18 January 2014 and attended by 90 people as per the attendance list was chaired by Mr. W Zybrands.

Please note that the following minutes as presented is a summarised version of the event and a copy of the verbatim minutes is attached as reference.

The meeting can be divided into 4 issues discussed at the meeting:

1. The legality of the public participation process followed during the Basic Assessment Review Process (BAR).

The Grotto Action Group contended that the public participation process was flawed. The group obtained legal advice on the matter and the opinion of its legal representative is that the process was flawed. One of the main issues was the fact that e-mails were not accepted by the Environmental Practitioner. During the discussion the Environmental Practitioner indicated that he will accept e-mails provided it has an attachment containing all legally prescribed reference information. It was suggested by the Chairman that the Municipality obtain a legal opinion in response to GAG's legal opinion.

2. The proposed Amphitheatre:

The vast majority of the audience made it clear that an amphitheatre in any format was not acceptable. The main concerns revolved around issues such as:

- noise pollution;
- traffic congestion;
- inadequate parking;
- late night events, and
- alcohol abuse.

3. Wetland rehabilitation:

No objection was raised against the proposed rehabilitation and related matters such as the extension and partial relocation of the boardwalk, the protection of the caves ("grottos"), the planting of more milkwood trees, the re-introduction of fynbos in certain areas and the rehabilitation of the discharge point of the canal on Grotto beach. It was however suggested that large trees be planted and/or thatch style gazebos be erected in the picnic area in order to provide shade for picnic sites and that the braai facilities be upgraded and moved to the area outside the proposed boardwalk. Plant material must be endemic to the specific area in question and done in collaboration with the Hermanus Botanical Society.

4. Restaurant:

The majority of the attendees felt that the existing 'Dutchies' must be extended and upgraded to fulfill the function of a restaurant and that there was no need for a restaurant on the "Old Nautilus" site. Concerns were raised regarding the "Nautilus" site such as climate change, the 1:100 floodline and the setback line. The proposed building was excessive in bulk and height. It was suggested that the site be rehabilitated to a milkwood forest. It was also suggested that the possibility of making the road from Tenth Avenue to Dutchies a two way road be investigated.

It was mentioned that the "Dutchies Building" did not comply with the existing Health and Safety legislation and was built as a shop and uses that could be accommodated in the existing building were shop and storage purposes and the security personnel during high season.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that in terms of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning guidelines the proposed restaurant does not need to go through a BAR process, since there was commencement of activities before 1998.

The Chairman concluded the meeting indicating that the minutes would be made available to all interested and affected parties.