

Plenty of plans for SLP village

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The report from Area Economic Development (AED) on this month’s agenda of the Subcouncil 24 meeting mentions the Informal Urban Agriculture Project in Sir Lowry’s Pass Village, which seeks to address the relocation of informal farmers.

The farmers are currently occupying the Transnet site, and the plan is to relocate them to a more appropriately zoned site and at the same time initiate the development of an Economic Precinct Management Plan for Sir Lowry’s Pass village.

Speaking of what this project entails, Ward 84 councillor Stuart Pringle stated its objective is to develop a scoping document and associated plans and resources to assist in addressing the needs for the relocation of informal urban farmers.

Pringle has engaged with several departments in the City of Cape Town, including Spatial Planning and Property Management, to identify possible relocation sites and secure access to alternative properties belonging to the national Department of Public Works.

“The outcomes of the project include securing of appropriate land and the identification and planning of infrastructure requirements for regularised urban livestock farming that is in compliance with environmental health and spatial planning requirements,” said Pringle.

A survey of farmers currently occupying the land has been finalised, he added, and six of the 36 farmers cannot be traced. The site for the farmers has not been occupied as yet and the number of farmers remain unchanged, except for one farmer who indicated she has ceased farming.

“The process of identifying a service provider from the panel of service providers is underway, of which an appointment will be made shortly,” Pringle explained. “Various internal stakeholders have been engaged on the

project and have expressed the intention to be involved throughout. Consultations with other departments is also under way including City Environmental Health and Human Settlements.”

A more detailed timeline will be forthcoming from this process, Pringle related, particularly the acquisition of alternative land once identified.

Speaking on the Economic Precinct Management Plan for Sir Lowry’s Pass, Pringle said that during previous financial years the community has been identified as an area in need of support from the AED.

“Specifically, this is with regard to support to the informal sector. For this financial year and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, AED have allocated resources and budget for the initiatives,” he pointed out.

“The objective of the project is to improve the economic viability of the train station precinct in Sir Lowry’s Pass

village, with particular focus on informal trading. This will be achieved through improving the economic environment for informal traders and formal businesses that are

active or hope to be active in the precinct. It will be in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, notably the City’s Spatial Planning Unit, which is already on board. The key output of the project is an approved, well thought and extensively consulted precinct management plan that will pave the way for a rationalised way forward for sustainable economic development of that precinct.”

Pringle also mentioned that a draft list of affected properties is being compiled to streamline the process. A list of stakeholders is being consolidated for onward forwarding to the consultant and control documents are to be finalised by end of November.

At least one stakeholder engagement session is anticipated within the next few weeks.

“A detailed report will be submitted to the subcouncil, which will include a detailed project plan and proposed milestones at the subcouncil meeting in March,” concluded Pringle.

“**Improve the economic viability of the train station precinct at Sir Lowry’s Pass**”