

**PRESS STATEMENT BY JODY AUFRICHTIG**

**TRUSTEE AND SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LIESBEEK LEISURE PROPERTIES TRUST (LLPT)**

**21 August 2020**

***River Club redevelopment given green light by Western Cape Government***

We are pleased to announce that the River Club redevelopment in Observatory, Cape Town was yesterday given the go-ahead by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

The planned mixed-use development will be a significant boost to the economy and people of Cape Town in the aftermath of the national Covid-19 lockdown. It will create over 6 000 direct jobs, including 5 239 jobs during the construction phase. This will provide a critical lifeline to the construction industry, which has seen the loss of more than 25 000 jobs this year, as a result of the economic recession, which has been exacerbated by Covid-19. The project will also create more than 13 000 indirect and induced jobs. Further employment will be created by the tenants that will occupy the offices, residential and retail spaces that will form part of the development.

The project will also serve as a first-of-its-kind landmark in the City for the First Nations people to reclaim, memorialise and share their heritage with the greater public. The planned Heritage Cultural and Media Centre will be operated by the First Nations people and will provide critical job opportunities to members of these communities. This initiative follows extensive and constructive engagements with the senior Indigenous Khoi and San leaders comprising the First Nations Collective.

The First Nations' rich history will be further commemorated through the inclusion of symbols central to the First Nation narrative in the landscaping, architectural iconography and educational signage in the open spaces. The project will also include an indigenous medicinal garden that will be planted, cultivated and used by the First Nations people, as well as a Heritage-Eco trail and garden amphitheatre for use by the First Nations and the general public, which will provide an ideal platform to celebrate this heritage.

A large part of the development will consist of safe recreational public spaces including running and cycling pathways, public viewing areas and seating areas along the rehabilitated and clean riverbank. Twenty percent of the development will be allocated to residential use, of which one fifth will be dedicated to developer-subsidised inclusionary housing.

The development will provide a range of socio-economic benefits for surrounding communities. It will provide an opportunity to address the injustices of Apartheid spatial planning and to rehabilitate the current degraded, inaccessible private space into a publicly accessible amenity in an urban park environment, with significantly enhanced ecological value. It will also create significant employment opportunities, anchored by major tenants, and restore and celebrate the First Nations' rich heritage and history

In this tough economic climate, we look forward to delivering a development that presents many exciting opportunities for the people of Cape Town and the Western Cape.

**PRESS STATEMENT BY JODY AUFRICHTIG**

**SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LIESBEEK LEISURE PROPERTIES TRUST (LLPT)**

**18 September 2020**

***City of Cape Town resoundingly approves the River Club redevelopment***

We are pleased to announce that the rezoning application for the River Club redevelopment in Observatory, Cape Town was unanimously approved by the Municipal Planning Tribunal today, after considering submissions from the applicant, interested and affected parties as well as officials representing the City of Cape Town recommending the approval.

In an unequivocal victory for the people of Cape Town, the City approved the detailed redevelopment application, with Municipal Planning Tribunal members stating that the project was “desirable”, “sustainable”, “trend-setting”, a “win-win situation for both the City and the public” and would result in a “catalytic development that is in the public interest”.

This is a major milestone in a comprehensive, open and transparent development approval process for the planned mixed-used development by the Liesbeek Leisure Properties Trust that has spanned four years. This catalytic and world-class project will convert the current underutilized private golf driving range, with limited public benefit, into a sustainable, inclusive and publicly accessible space for all Capetonians to enjoy as they live, work and play in the revitalized space.

The project will provide a range of socio-economic benefits for surrounding communities including the creation of 5 239 critical jobs during the construction phase and the provision of developer-subsidised inclusionary housing. It will also see the major rehabilitation of the current degraded, inaccessible private space, including the rehabilitation of the water courses, and will include 8.4 hectares of publicly accessible open areas – the equivalent of 13 soccer fields - and 6 kms of safe running and cycling pathways.

The redevelopment will also restore and celebrate the First Nations' rich heritage and history through the creation of a first-of-its kind Heritage Cultural and Media Centre in the City of Cape Town. The centre will be operated by the First Nations and will provide critical job opportunities to members of these communities. The project will also include an indigenous medicinal garden, Heritage-Eco trail and garden amphitheatre for use by the First Nations and the general public.

The detailed rezoning application that was submitted to the Municipal Planning Tribunal for consideration included comprehensive and independent specialist reports that meticulously assessed the biodiversity, hydrology, socio economic, visual and heritage impacts of the project. This followed extensive public participation processes with interested and affected parties over many years.

Our project team has worked hard to deliver an exemplary redevelopment plan, and we welcome the decision by the City's Municipal Planning Tribunal to give our River Club project the green-light after considering their extensive reports.

We are proud to be delivering an inclusive development that presents many exciting opportunities for the people of the Western Cape. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to grow jobs, and develop a beautiful and inclusive space that is accessible for all Capetonians to enjoy.