

KOMMETJIE SHOPPING MALL MEETING REPORT

A follow-up meeting with Kommetjie people to continue consultations on the new shopping centre and see the plans will be towards end of January or early February – watch this space.

At the first meeting on 20 December several assurances were made by the business owner, Tim De Wet, also speaking for the developer.

And it was agreed to invite a group of Kommetjie architectural experts to have a look at the site development plan designs.

At the meeting Tim, who has worked for Spar retail since 1981, explained to an audience of about 60 that he would be the SPAR business owner with no interest or say in the general housing element at the easterly end of the site near the garage.

The new shopping centre will be developed by the Western Group Properties Company who had developed 18 similar centres, mainly in the Eastern Cape. Tim assured the meeting that he had no equity stake in the development company, but could nevertheless speak on behalf of the developer who would express similar sentiments to his own.

The concept is for a small community shopping centre, called The Milkwoods, in keeping with the Kommetjie lifestyle: a single storey building, with low impact lighting, low impact signage and environmentally conscious. One of the conditions is to provide landscape gardens.

The total development footprint, including 62 parking bays, is 5500 sq m and 1400 sq m (the size of three large houses) will be the gross lettable area. The scale of the Spar would be similar to Spar Vallyland, about 1000 sq m, but aesthetically different. Plans include a restaurant of about 100 sq m, a TOPS bottle store of 150 sq m, and 150sq m to be divided up.

Trading hours are likely to be 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday (7pm summer months) and from 8am to 1pm on Sundays. Other businesses could include a pharmacy. If all goes to plan, it could be open by December 2019.

Building materials will not be prefabricated and effort will be made to ensure that it fits in with the architectural idiom of Kommetjie. After more questions and a suggestion it was agreed that a group of Kommetjie architects could form a sub-committee to review designs envisaged and the site development plan to ensure the best possible final draft. The project architect had already been appointed: KIU Architecture <http://kiuarchitecture.co.za/> with offices in Cape Town and PE. If you're an architect and want to join this group please email committee@kommetjie.org

Safety and security are being considered as well as traffic implications. Various environmental issues related to the development have been raised and agreed on to date including:

- renewable energy installation
- rain-water storage

- bicycle and pedestrian friendly facility
- Spar will have no plastic carrier bags and will have recycling facilities
- search and rescue for plants threatened by development footprint and removal of alien plants

TAKE BACK THE MOUNTAINS

Kommetjie folk are invited to a meeting about Preserving the Safety of the Mountains and Beaches of the Peninsula with a talk by Taahir Osman of the group Take Back the Mountain Activists. It's at the Clovelly Golf Club at 10am on Thursday 10 January. RSVP to fishhoektourism@gmail.com

THE STORY OF KOMMETJIE

Three long-time locals Duncan Duffett, Marilyn Metcalf and Roger Bain are creating a beautiful, new, quality coffee table book on the history of our village that you will treasure for life. To cover the cost of printing, support their fund-raising and buy a special limited edition 'Legitimate Kommetjie Local' coffee mug at R90 each. Various colour combos. Contact the authors: Roger bainwaves@telkomsa.net or WhatsApp 084 454 8503, Marilyn komduke@gmail.com WhatsApp 076 371 0358 or Duncan outerkom@absamail.co.za WhatsApp 084 983 4912.