

To the Masi Working Group, an update following from our meeting with Cllr van Minnen:

Last week I emailed Cllrs Purchase and van Minnen with the request that they formally ask the Province to withdraw directive for the fence. Cllr van Minnen is apparently on sick leave at the moment but Cllr Purchase said she believed that the officials were looking at the request to see how to proceed. I also emailed Levona to ask her for an update as soon as she is able to give us information.

I also took the liberty of emailing Mr A Parker the City's new water catchment management for the Far South for his departments opinion on the feasibility of excavating a canal along the edge of the wetland settlement to create a physical boundary between the settlement area and the wetlands. He responded immediately to say the matter would be investigated. I do not know where this is on his list of priorities but will follow up with him.

After our first working group meeting in Fish Hoek, I met with Jaclyn Smith of SANParks – she is the operational manager of our area. She confirmed that SANParks had sold the 11 hectares of land to the City to help with the land crisis in Masi. She did express very real concern about how to ensure that the boundary of the park would be respected so that new people looking for land did not settle in the park. She also said that all the authorities including SANParks were concerned about the increasing pollution of the water in the wetlands. This is an issue that impacts on people's health and the health of the environment.

Finally as you probably all know Phase 4 next to Houmoed Road is presently under construction. The services are being built now and the housing units will be built over the next 2

years. The total project is on the approved budget for 3 consecutive years. The Masi Dev Framework – still not a public document - apparently does have concept plans for housing and urban development on the portions of the 11 hectare site above the flood lines. (The health and safety risks of flooding and living on a high water table must not be ignored.) I hope that by the next Masi Working Gr meeting the document will be released. Note that it is a planning framework and is not likely to give rights. Hopefully it will provide good concepts for housing and community services and open the process to start the necessary planning, public participation and funding.

Allthebest,
Kim