

Confirmatory Notes on the Suiderstrand (Community, Conservation and Fire Prevention) Association meeting with Cllr Dr Eksteen and Mr Briers (CAM) on 27 October 2023 regarding the CAM Draft Policy on the Clearing and Maintenance of Vacant Erven

Present:

Cllr Dr Andries Eksteen (Chairperson)
Mr Myburgh Briers (CAM)
Linda Steyn (Suiderstrand Association)
Geoff Nichols (Suiderstrand Association)
Klaas Steyn (Suiderstrand Association)
Giel de Kock (Advisor)

The Suiderstrand Association requested a meeting through Cllr Eksteen for a meeting with the relevant CAM representative(s) regarding the Draft Policy on Plot Clearing. Mr Myburgh Briers attended to represent CAM. Mr Giel de Kock was invited to the meeting as a neutral advisor based on his extensive experience in Nature Conservation and intimate knowledge of the vegetation types occurring in the Agulhas National Park and the Suiderstrand area.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT POLICY

The Suiderstrand Association requested clarity on specific definitions (Section 1), terms (Section 2) and the 'prescribed standards' (Section 7) in the Draft Policy.

Mr Briers indicated that the Suiderstrand Association was welcome to contact Ms Chandré of Overberg District Municipality who is currently finalising the document, however that the timeline of the policy finalisation is critical and that the intention is for it to serve before council before the end of the year.

Action: Suiderstrand Association to contact ODM (Ms Chandré) urgently to give its further inputs to the draft policy as discussed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY (AFTER APPROVAL)

Mr Briers committed to having the policy implemented in such a way that suits the unique requirements of Overberg Dune Strandveld and that the Suiderstrand Association will be brought onboard to inform CAM's inspector as well as the appointed contractors on what the specific requirements of Suiderstrand's habitat is.

Action:

1. After approval of the (new) Policy, Mr Briers will brief the Inspector as well as ensure that the contractors are well informed regarding the unique requirements of Suiderstrand.
2. Mr Briers will inform the Inspector and contractors of the Suiderstrand Association and that its members may give them further specific guidance, on the ground, regarding the clearing of vegetation and the identification of indigenous versus invasive alien vegetation.

CAM CONTROLLED AREAS IN SUIDERSTRAND

Mr Briers undertook that all CAM controlled areas will be managed so as to meet the conservation wishes of the Suiderstrand Association. The caveat is that CAM has limited resources in terms of

labour and equipment and that the 'bossiekapper'; 'chipper' and his team will only be able to be made available as it fits into the CAM schedule.

The Suiderstrand Association offered assistance to CAM in the implementation of the Invasive Alien eradication 'project'. Mr Briers offered to supply herbicides needed for alien vegetation control.

Action:

1. Mr Briers will supply the Suiderstrand Association with herbicide that they can apply on alien vegetation stumps after cutting down.
2. CAM supports and approves the Suiderstrand Association's initiative to clear alien vegetation on CAM controlled property and will make the "Chipper" available as and when they are able.
3. Suiderstrand Association to gather felled alien trees and bushes at a central position(s) so as to assist access for the Chipper team to chip the branches.

ANNEXURE B: TABLE OF CONSERVATION AREAS

Erf 484 and 485: These plots are not indicated in the Conservation Area Table at Annexure 2 (pages 22 & 23) although the Environmental Authorisation for the development of this area prescribed that this should be rezoned to Private Nature Reserve. This was also raised during the Spatial Development Plan review in May 2023. Mr Briers supplied the Suiderstrand Association with the contact details of Ms Sunel Nel who we are to contact to follow-up on this.

Erf 396 (CAM POS): This area was also identified as a potential conservation area to be included in Annexure 2 due to the well-established natural vegetation and it being home to a Black-crowned Night Heron roost.

Action:

Suiderstrand Association to contact Ms Sunel Nel regarding the updating of the SDP as well as Ms Chandré for the updating of the Conservation Area Table at Annexure 2 of the plot clearing and maintenance policy.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Briers committed to sending the most up to date Fire Management Plan to Geoff Nichols of the Suiderstrand Association.

Mr Briers also suggested that the Suiderstrand Association approach Mr Reinhardt Geldenhuys of ODM regarding the supply of another firefighting trailer.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE TO CAM

Geoff Nichols offered his professional assistance to Mr Briers in the of Horticultural advice with respect to Amenity Horticulture in the Overberg region. The CAM would have to agree to pay his travelling costs i.e. petrol. Mr Briers to follow-up with Geoff regarding this.