

## **RERA INFORMATION CASCADE – 16 NOVEMBER 2019**

GOEIE MORE/GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO THIS RERA INFORMATION CASCADE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR US ALL IN THAT IT WILL SET OUT THOUGHTS AND PROPOSALS ON ROOIELS AS A POTENTIAL PART OF THE KOGELBERG BIOSPHERE BUFFER ZONE AND ROOIELS AS PART OF THE OVERSTRAND HERITAGE PROTECTION OVERLAY ZONE. BOTH OF THESE INITIATIVES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT ON ALL OF US WHO ARE PART OF THIS SPECIAL HAMLET. WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT WE WILL ALL GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR WHAT THIS INVOLVES AND TO GIVE OUR FEEDBACK AND INPUT AS TO WHETHER WE SUPPORT THE PROPOSED INITIATIVES ON THOSE TWO KEY MATTERS.

I MUST FIRST MAKE A DISCLAIMER SO THAT THERE IS NO CONFUSION ABOUT MY ROLE HERE TODAY. I AM HERE TO FACILITATE PROCEEDINGS HAVING BEEN ASKED TO DO SO. I AM NOT A RERA COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANY OTHER ROOIELS ENTITY OR GROUP. ANY COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS I MAKE ARE ENTIRELY MY OWN VIEWS AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF RERA OR ANY OTHER ROOIELS ENTITY OR GROUP.

TODAYS PROCEEDINGS ARE THE CULMINATION OF AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK, EFFORT AND TIME PUT INTO THESE PROPOSALS BY THE WORKING GROUPS THAT WERE TASKED WITH THIS PROJECT. IT ALL STARTED OFF IN JULY AT AN OPEN RERA MEETING WHEN A GROUP OF ROOIELSERS FUNCTIONING UNDER THE BANNER OF “FRIENDS OF ROOIELS” CHALLENGED THE RERA COMMITTEE ABOUT THEIR APPROACH TO ISSUES IN ROOIELS ON BOTH THE TOWN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRONTS. IT WAS IN MY VIEW NOT THE RIGHT FORUM OR MANNER IN WHICH TO PUT THESE ISSUES ON THE TABLE. I SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS SO MUCH COMMON GROUND IN TERMS OF WHAT WE ALL WANT FOR ROOIELS AND ITS ENVIRONMENT THAT IT WOULD BE FAR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE FOR FRIENDS OF ROOIELS AND RERA TO ENGAGE AND SEEK OUT THAT COMMON GROUND RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON ANY DIFFERENCES IN VIEW AND APPROACH. THAT IS PROBABLY WHY I AM STANDING HERE TODAY. I DO HOWEVER WANT TO SAY THAT IN MY OPINION THE RERA COMMITTEE THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE IN OFFICE IS DOING AND HAS DONE EXCEPTIONAL WORK FOR ALL IN ROOIELS OVER THIS PAST YEAR AND THEIR EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT IN THIS REGARD ARE COMMENDABLE AND APPRECIATED.

FOLLOWING THE JULY MEETING THERE WERE 3 SEPARATE WORK GROUPS FORMED TO FOCUS ON THE CORE ISSUES THAT YOU WILL GET FEEDBACK ON TODAY. I WAS NOT AN ACTIVE PART OF THIS PROCESS AS I HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS THAT WERE TAKING UP A LOT MY TIME BIT I DID ATTEND SESSIONS WHEN I COULD. I CAN THEREFORE SAY WITHOUT ANY BIAS THAT THE EFFORT THAT HAS BEEN PUT IN BY THE WORKGROUPS HAS BEEN REMARKEABLE. MANY, MANY HOURS OF MEETINGS, DISCUSSIONS AND RESEARCH HAS GONE INTO WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED TODAY.

GIVEN HOW THIS PROCESS STARTED IT HAS BEEN QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT TO GET TO WHERE MATTERS ARE NOW IN TERMS OF ASKING YOU TO HEAR THE PROPOSALS AND THEN GIVE YOUR INPUT AND FEEDBACK FOR WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED FOR ROOIELS. APART FROM THE TIME GIVEN TO THIS PROJECT BY THE WORKGROUPS, THE ROBUSTNESS OF THE DISCUSSIONS HAS REFLECTED THE PASSION THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE FOR ROOIELS. THERE HAVE BEEN VERY DIVERGENT VIEWS AND OPINIONS AT TIMES AND SOME FRANK AND DIRECT CONVERSATIONS BUT THROUGH THIS PROCESS THE GROUPS HAVE REACHED THAT COMMON GROUND THAT THEIR COLLECTIVE PASSION FOR ROOIELS ENABLED. WHERE NECESSARY COMPROMISES IN VIEW AND OPINIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE PARTICIPANTS IN ORDER FOR THE OVERALL WELL BEING OF ALL IN ROOIELS TO BE MADE A PRIORITY AND FOR THIS I THANK THEM ALL.

I THINK WE MUST ALL APPRECIATE THAT WE ARE LIVING IN A CHALLENGING TIME FOR THE COUNTRY. FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE CONSTRAINED AND THE INEQUALITY GAP IN THE COUNTRY AND IN FACT GLOBALLY IS WIDENING. WE CANNOT LIVE IN A BUBBLE AND MUST BE AWARE OF THE PRIVILEGED POSITION THAT WE ARE IN IN HAVING A PLACE LIKE ROOIELS TO CALL HOME WHETHER IT IS AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT OR A VISITING RESIDENT. THAT ALSO PLACES ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ON US IN TERMS OF HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND AS PART OF THIS UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT.

THE PRINCIPLES AND THE INTENTIONS BEHIND THE ROOIELS HPOZ AND THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS ARE UNDERSTOOD AND I AM SURE IN KEEPING WITH THE BROAD VISION THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOR ROOIELS. THAT IS TO PRESERVE ITS NATURAL CHARACTER AND TO BE A PLACE WHERE ALL CAN LIVE IN AND VISIT WITH A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE RIGHTS TO ENJOYMENT OF THE ROOIELS ENVIRONMENT THAT ALL ARE ENTITLED TO. THIS DOES PLACE OBLIGATIONS ON HOMEOWNERS AND RESIDENTS TO RESPECT AND UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE RIGHTS TO ENJOYMENT MEAN. PART OF THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE COMMUNITY OF WHAT THAT MEANS IN TERMS OF ALLOWING OTHERS TO ENJOY THE ENVIRONMENT IN A MANNER THAT IS RESPECTFUL WITHOUT BECOMING OVERBEARING. REGULATIONS ALONE ARE NOT GOING TO ACHIEVE THAT.

IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO CALL ON ALISON VIENINGS, RERA CHAIRPERSON, TO GIVE A BACKGROUND TO THIS INFORMATION CASCADE.