

Max Price's call to the community

There is no longer a place in the modern world for a university that isolates itself socially and intellectually from the community within which it finds itself.



**Dr Max Price,
UCT Vice-Chancellor**

On the contrary, there is a critical need for a vibrant engagement between "town and gown", as the university and its local community draw from - and give to - each other in various ways and at different levels.

The University of Cape Town's teaching and research facilities cover a significant footprint within this community. Our staff and students live here and contribute in diverse ways to the economy of this area.

I believe, therefore, that the time has come for UCT to begin to redefine our role and responsibility within the local community. That requires meaningful dialogue between the university and our external stakeholders. It also demands credible partnerships which recognise our interlinking and, occasionally, divergent sets of interests.

While UCT brings great value to the areas surrounding the university, we acknowledge that we also contribute to many of their challenges. These include the very serious problems of crime, grime, transport and housing, which affect all of us in this community.

It is this need - and serious intent - to forge a new social compact with local businesses, property owners and residents, that has brought UCT into the partnership of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District (GSCID).

We want to be a good corporate neighbour and encourage our students to be good citizens of this area. We want to contribute towards a precinct which is safer, cleaner and more enjoyable for residents, businesses and visitors alike. We want to facilitate urban renewal along the Main Road business districts through appropriate redevelopment opportunities.

These approaches will affirm UCT's objective to be a world-class university and, in turn, augment the university's value as a member of this community.

We look forward to partnering with you in the GSCID.

Dr Max Price, UCT Vice-Chancellor

Davies to head formation of improvement district

UCT move to establish the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District (GSCID)



**Anthony Davies,
Urban Management
Consultant to the
GSCID**

Anthony Davies, former Executive Manager of the Claremont Improvement District Company (CIDC) has been appointed by UCT to lead the formation of the GSCID.

Davies was instrumental in establishing the CIDC where, thanks to the partnership between CIDC and City of Cape Town, under his watch a R46 million public transport interchange and the impressive Claremont Boulevard were constructed. In addition, in excess of R2.5 billion in new building development for all to see took place. After 10 years in the saddle, in May 2009 Davies was awarded Civic Honours by the Protea Sub-council in recognition of his exceptional work done in the Claremont community.

"I've been working with UCT over the last several months regarding the development of this very exciting, new challenge. This initiative, spearheaded by UCT, aims to address the issues of crime, grime, homelessness and other urban upgrade initiatives in the greater Groote Schuur area. We have formed a steering committee, including respected community leaders, who are guiding the process of forming the GSCID," said Davies.



**John Critien, Executive
Director: Properties and
Services, UCT**

UCT's Executive Director of Properties and Services, John Critien confirmed that UCT has set aside funding to initiate the process. "We are looking forward to a partnership with the business community in our area and working together to make Groote Schuur great," said Critien.

These matters will be open for discussion at the Public Meeting on 4 February 2010.

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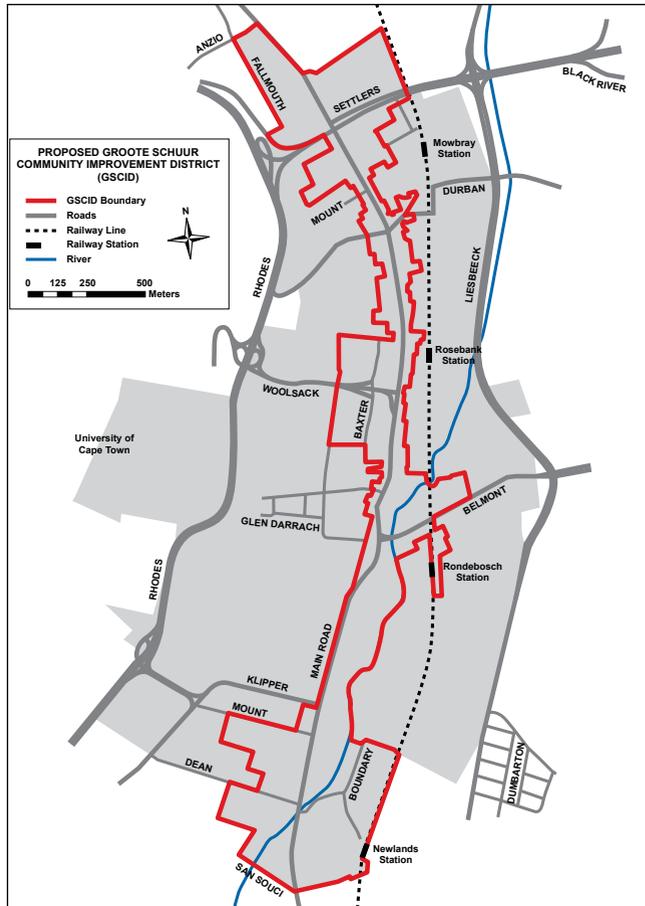


UCT invites you to make your Groote Schoor neighbourhood great



Please support the GSCID (Groote Schuur Community Improvement District)

Proposed boundaries of the Groote Schuur Improvement District (GSCID)



Public Meeting 4 February 2010

The areas outlined in red are the proposed Groote Schuur Improvement District (GSCID) boundaries under consideration which is situated along the Main Road from Dean Street in Newlands to Anzio Road in Observatory. All commercial properties and the public within these boundaries will be invited to attend a public meeting on 4 February 2010.

Please watch the press for details.

What is a Special Ratings Area (SRA)?

- A levy is collected from rate payers by the City of Cape Town and paid to the management board of the GSCID within its own SRA.
- The funds raised are dedicated to improving services within the GSCID, such as security, cleansing and other urban upgrade initiatives.

Why do we need the SRA?

- It will reduce crime, grime and homelessness
- It will reduce prostitution and drug dealing
- Better management of public transport (including taxi's)
- It will provide a safer, cleaner and friendlier public environment
- Public space will be upgraded
- Property values tend to increase within SRA's

How does it work?

- An SRA provides 'top up' services to those provided by the City of Cape Town
- The levies may only be used for services stipulated in the business plan as agreed to by property owners in the area at a public meeting.
- Levies in the case of the GSCID are paid by commercial and educational property owners.
- Levies include VAT which may be reclaimed by VAT vendors.
- An SRA provides property owners with a direct say in the management of their own public space.



What are the problems?

Research conducted by UCT, in the area revealed the following results:

Safety and Security:

- 61% of people don't feel safe in public

Cleanliness:

- 61% of people feel that cleanliness is a concern

Social issues:

- Homelessness: 88% say this is a problem
- Drug abuse & drug dealing: 42% state that it is a problem
- Informal Traders: 56% have raised this as a concern

Parking:

- 85% of respondents say parking is serious problem
- 34% of people perceive car guards to be threatening and annoying.

