

UCT to finance improvement district

The University of Cape Town committed itself by word and finance to the establishment of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District.

The decision to back the drive was made at a public meeting held on Thursday February 4, at Rustenburg Girls' Junior School. ("CID on cards for Mowbray, Rondebosch", Thursday January 28)

Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UCT (Vice-Chancellor in Dr Max Price's absence), as the owners of 53 commercial properties and sectional title units within the boundaries of the proposed GSCID, signed consent forms supporting the formation of the GSCID.

Professor Nhlapo said the university wanted to become good neighbours in the immediate community.

"The establishment of the GSCID shows a long-held desire by UCT to become a better citizen in a responsible and concrete way. We are passionately committed to being part of the solution to the problems experienced in the area," he said.

Anthony Davies, co-ordinator of the establishment of the GSCID and former founder and Executive Manager of the Claremont Improvement District Company, said a survey conducted by UCT had shown that residents had concerns about crime and grime in the area.

"The survey reflected that crime, grime, drug dealing, prostitution, the management of the homeless, and bringing order to traffic management were all concerns shared by business people and residents in the area," he said.

Mr Davies congratulated UCT on its investment in the establishment of the GSCID. He pointed out that the Mayoral Committee of the City of Cape Town had recently stated that rates would possibly not be able to keep pace to cover service delivery to communities.

He went on to say that worldwide it had been shown that communities needed to take action and form organisations to provide "top up" services to those provided by local authorities, hence the value of establishing the GSCID.

Special Ratings Area's (previously known as CIDs) are established in terms of a City of Cape Town By-Law.

In the case of the GSCID, levies will be charged to commercial property owners in order to fund this work.



■ Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo (seated) signs the first consent forms on behalf of UCT as the first commercial property owners to show their support for the establishment of the GSCID. On his left: Anthony Davies (Urban Management Consultant to UCT), and, right, is John Critien (UCT Executive Director of Properties and Services).

Residential property owners will not be required to pay the levy, but Mr Davies pointed out that they would benefit from a cleaner, safer, more pleasant environment.

UCT has committed R4.5 million to the initiative.

"This is a significant and generous gesture by the University," said Mr Davies.

Mr Davies said the benefits of the GSCID includes enhanced property values and responsible development in the area to significantly improve the public environment. At the meeting a steering committee was elected comprising John Critien of UCT, Neil Fraser, Evelyn Holtzhausen, Professor

John Cartwright, Gregg Huntingford, Jonathan Hobday, and Anthony Davies.

Following on the meeting commercial property owners will be canvassed for their support of the establishment of the GSCID.

For information visit: www.gscid.co.za or contact Anthony Davies on 021 671 9462.