



Open Letter to the City of Cape Town from Chilli Ultimate Club

19 January, 2023

Dear Sirraaj Slamang and Councillor Riad Davids,

RE: Concern over the City's announcement regarding the Pinelands community sports clubs proposal.

Chilli Ultimate Club wishes to express our concern over the announcement made via email on the 27th October 2023 by the City of Cape Town regarding the Pinelands community sports club proposal. Chilli Ultimate Club wishes to have it on record that none of our concerns raised in earlier communications have been met, and specifically none of those raised in our open letter to the City (30 May 2023). Alarming, there was no indication from the City of Cape Town that it had engaged with our collective voice, which is in direct contradiction to the City's announcement, and a deep violation of the public trust. Chilli Ultimate seeks an urgent explanation for such failings, that border on negligence and abuse of power by the officials involved.

In June 2023 Chilli Ultimate Club and other stakeholders formulated detailed, thoughtful responses to the initial proposal made by the Hockey Club. In it, our club confirmed that it wishes to be part of a sustainable, central multi-sport entity which manages the Pinelands facility to be used to its full potential and benefit of all members, in line with City policies and guidelines. However, the Club also raised *significant and legitimate* concerns over parts of the proposal, including:

- that the proposal misrepresented the current activity and requirements of our club.
- that the proposal contained several points of concern for the sustainability of our club and sport.
- that many elements of the proposal lacked the necessary due diligence to confirm that they are feasible, legal, aligned with City policies, agreed by stakeholders, and in the best interest of current and future beneficiaries. Yet, the city declined to entertain counter-proposals on these same grounds.

Chilli Ultimate Club would like it to go on record that *these concerns were largely ignored first by the Hockey Club and then by the City's announcement*. It is clear that this is also true of concerns raised by other major stakeholders.

Furthermore, Chilli Ultimate Club formally objects to the process which has unfolded, facilitated by the City, since the Hockey Club proposal was tabled, with concerns including:

- that the City declared that the initial Hockey Club proposal and responses (submitted by June 23 2023) were the start of an open, iterative dialogue in which the proposal would be reworked until alignment was reached. This has not occurred.
- that following submission of initial responses to the Hockey Club proposal, Councillor Riad Davids and Sirraaj Slamang stated they would return an updated draft proposal incorporating stakeholder comments. This has not occurred.

- that the announcement made on 27 October 2023 grossly oversimplifies the Hockey Club's proposal, which amounts to far more than a proposal to "erect an astroturf on the bottom oval". The response to all other aspects is unclear.
- that communication has been inadequate. In addition to the lack of detail and clarity in the 27 October announcement, there has been no follow up since, and emails requesting clarity go unanswered.

Therefore, Chilli Ultimate Club would like to reiterate that there remain *significant and legitimate concerns* over parts of the proposal that *need to be addressed in a participatory manner and adequately communicated by the City*. In summary, we feel that the City is neglecting their responsibility and abusing the public trust by prematurely announcing decisions of any kind, and **we demand that the City shows that it has engaged with the proposal in an appropriate manner and clearly outlined a way forward before making any further decision.**

We await your response.

Sincerely,

Chilli Ultimate Club

Three examples of issues from the Hockey Club proposal that the City of Cape Town needs to provide clarity on. Failure to do so amounts to negligence of the duty of a public servant.

Example 1: Cannon's Creek is a private, independent school. Chilli Ultimate Club would like to know how a private entity can apply for the lease of public land and build on it for private use.

Example 2: The City has only commented on the building of the astro and upgrading of the clubhouse. Therefore, the City has failed to acknowledge that the Hockey Club's proposal includes far more than the astro and the clubhouse.

Page 21, Section 8: Project Overview / Site Development Plan

The Hockey Club proposal includes, in addition to the building of an astro, a *“plan of upgrades / facility developments...outlined as follows:*

1. Project 1 - Pinelands Hockey Astro Turf & Floodlights
2. Project 2 - Upgrade of lights on Top Oval
3. Project 3 - Padel courts
4. Project 4 - Installation of Floodlights on Bottom Oval
5. Project 5 - Pinelands Sports Club - Central Clubhouse
6. Project 6 - Squash courts
7. Project 7 - Multipurpose indoor sports centre
8. Project 8 - Athletics track”

Response required from the City: The City must make it clear which aspects of the proposal are being approved, and which are not, and on what grounds. This process should take into account the needs of already existing clubs.

Example 3: Chilli Ultimate Club notes with alarm that the Hockey proposal includes a statement that the Hockey Club could potentially seek to build the astro on the bottom or top oval field. This is in direct contradiction to the statement made by the City.

Response required from the City: Chilli Ultimate Club seeks clarity from the City on whether the Hockey astro could be built on the top oval, and, if so, why this was not communicated explicitly in the stakeholder meetings.