

Six year project nearly complete with building of multipurpose hall

A R26.5 million sports complex development, donated by developers Garden Cities to the residents of Sunningdale and surrounding suburbs on the West Coast near Table View, is close to completion with the current construction of a multipurpose hall.

The project started six years ago on five hectares of land set aside for the purpose by Garden Cities. It is a part of the 91-year-old company's social responsibility programme as a 'new town' developer, which includes providing infrastructure that includes school, hospital and retail sites. The sports complex provides for a wide selection of sporting codes and is under the administration of the Sunningdale Sports Club.

The club's chairman Robert Rothig said the facility was a huge asset for the residents of Sunningdale and surrounding suburbs, and currently included the only baseball facility in the greater Table View area. It has the added distinction of two AstroTurf courts for five-a-side soccer and will also be the home of the first Ajax Cape Town Soccer School, which will be launched for five to 13-year-olds early in October in conjunction

with Fives Futbol.

Aside from football, the facility offers softball and baseball, bowls and cricket. The hall will accommodate basketball, badminton and other indoor sports, as well as every conceivable community activity.

Renier Smith, Garden Cities' Operations Manager says residents are thrilled with the sports club. 'We have had a huge vote of approval. It's not surprising, as just the hall alone will have a highly positive effect on their lives. They will be able to use it for community projects, charity events, performing arts and just about everything else. Already we have received an enormous number of enquiries from the community to hire the hall.'

The complex was planned at the earliest stage of the development of Sunningdale and is in close proximity to the hospital and the popular regional shopping centre, West Coast Village, that were also part of the overall planning to provide infrastructural facilities for the residents of the suburb.

Because the sports complex hosts all-season sporting pursuits, Garden Cities has also installed state of the art lights for evening events and practices, particularly

in winter.

He said that where residents' concerns arose related to the lights and other features of the complex, these had been (or are in the process of being) addressed. The lights would not be used after nine at night, each mast was individually controlled and they would seldom all be in use at one time. Perimeter planting of tall trees would also help to mitigate light spilling into neighbouring areas. 'This is an asset for an enormous number of people in the area and we are at pains to ensure that it provides pleasure for everyone,' said Smith.

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