



PO Box: 559, Kloof, 3640
Tel: 082 882 5520
Fax: 031 570 1048
E-mail: admin@gillittspark.co.za



8th July 2010

To all businesses and residents in the Upper Highway Area

Our Gillitts Park Association was formed to counter the very high crime rate in our area in August last year. We have been very successful to date and feel proud to be viewed as an urban pilot project for SAPS Community Policing project. You can find more about us from our website at www.gillittspark.co.za

One of the key security breaches in the area is the Gillitts Railway station and railway line. To this end we approached Transnet with the view to leasing the station primarily as a security hub for various police units, security companies, and emergency services looking after the Upper Highway. They do not need much space and there is room for community initiatives which will work for the public good and promotion of our entire area.

The underlying issue though is that **nothing at all** will succeed on this site without a strong security presence with safe parking and safe access for all. Transnet like what we are thinking about and agree that the station cannot continue to remain derelict, so have put out a public tender for bids to renovate and lease the station.

The key features of our proposal are as follows:

1. To restore the station to its original glory and to that end we have approached Umgeni Steam Rail for advice. We really want the station to be re-instated as a significant historical landmark and used for its original purpose as part of a provincial railway tourism initiative.
2. The building would be utilised as follows:
 - Ablutions, including shower facilities for Police units.
 - Lounging area with informal seating and tables, with facility to make coffee/tea etc. This would be a public area and stand down area for Police and emergency services, especially at night.
 - A meeting / training room. The kinds of courses we see as taking place are:
 - i. Security initiatives such as: Workers against Crime, How to handle emergencies, CPR, Designing out crime garden courses
 - ii. Beadwork and craft training, upliftment courses for the public.
 - A community desk.
 - A counter / desk where local tourism can be promoted, and could be used for rail tourism ticket sales.
 - A display area for various local art work, small exhibitions, and local railway station memorabilia.
 - If space permits, a control room for monitoring of CCTV cameras for the area.

3. The lease from Transnet also includes some 4500m2 of land in a thin strip alongside the railway line. This we propose to develop into:
- Secure parking, and gardens,
 - An area where a small regular craft market can operate, especially over the weekends. There is a possibility of acquiring/creating a suitable wood and iron structure which would serve as shelter for this market and open meeting area.
 - There is also a Shembe community who pray there regularly and they can easily be accommodated in the gardens.

Funding:

As a community we have been advised that the only way we can make this work is by creating a Section 21 company for the Station if we are awarded the tender. In this way we can approach the business and residential community for financial support to restore the station and precinct. Transnet want to lease it "as is", so there is a lot of work that needs to be done to make the premises habitable!

Thereafter we would rely on regular support from advertisers who would benefit from having signage and therefore good exposure, at the station. We would also generate a website specifically for the Gillitts Station initiatives which will also generate revenue.

If this becomes an outlet for your initiative, then a contribution from you, and/or your members would also help pay for the running costs and proposed rent that Transnet may impose. We envisage that as this is a complete community initiative, we trust that the rent would be simply to cover rates and essential costs.

Support:

We already have several letters expressing support and interest from Security Companies, various emergency services and members of the Thousand Hills Tourism Association.

If you would like to support this community initiative as well, we would be grateful if you could distribute this to anyone you might be interested. It would be most helpful if we could have as many letters of interest and support from the business community and residents. These we will add to our proposal which needs to be submitted before 12 noon on the 13th July. Please email these letters directly to me as I am compiling the Proposal Pack for submission.

Yours truly



JILL CLARK

Chairman,
Gillitts Park Community Association.