

Sunninghill's land plans

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With the right plans and enough enthusiasm, much good can come from an open piece of land.

With that in mind, members of Sunninghill Community residents association hold thumbs that Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) awards them the lease for the ground opposite Sunninghill Village Mall on Maxwell Drive, where they plan to develop a community centre.

"We've wanted to do this in the area for many years," said association member Linda Gildenhuis. "There are approximately 5 000 homes and plenty of businesses in the area, but no facility for AGMs, sector meetings, domestic forums and so on.

"We want a similar setup to that of the Field and Study Centre in Parkmore, where we can hold adult education classes, or even give people a place for a Bridge club."

But that's only the beginning.

Gildenhuis said further down the line they hoped to set up additional facilities like a coffee shop, indoor cricket or hockey, and tennis courts to inject additional funds into developments at the centre.

"We submitted our proposal several months ago, but have received no feedback from JPC."

Local councillor Annette Deppe said she was behind Sunninghill Community's proposal, and had submitted a letter of approval to JPC.

Two additional organisations have also put forth proposals for a mosque and a Freemason base.

"If there is more than one applicant, procedure dictates that JPC puts the lease out to public tender, but it's still up to JPC to decide."

Deppe added that to garner support for the community centre, representatives had approached Eskom, still the rightful owner of the land as Sunninghill was once an Eskom township.

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HOPEFUL: Sunninghill Community member Linda Gildenhuis at the open ground where residents plan to build a community centre, should the lease be awarded in their favour.