

NOTICE 18 of 2021

HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE

UPDATE ON WUPPERTHAL

1. Wupperthal is a Heritage Area in terms of Section 58(11) read with Section 31 the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) and is accordingly protected by the NHRA.
2. At the end of 2019, various dwellings and buildings on the historic werf were destroyed by fire. Since then Heritage Western Cape (HWC) has been engaging with various stakeholders regarding the rebuilding of these historic buildings.
3. HWC's mandate is derived from NHRA and is concerned with the protection of heritage resources such as the approval of permits. HWC is not mandated to directly fund or rebuild heritage resources.
4. HWC established a special sub-committee which has assisted with the approval of the necessary permits to enable reconstruction in line with heritage principles.
5. Presently, the historic werf has successfully been restored using traditional heritage practices to maintain the authenticity and preservation of the Heritage Area.
6. Unfortunately, there have been some deviations to the plans which were approved for the rebuilding of the homes. These approved plans were signed by all parties. These deviations must be assessed to establish if the heritage character of Wupperthal has been negatively impacted, and whether it is possible to mitigate these impacts.
7. HWC notes that some occupants of the residences have concerns regarding the use of thatch due to its cost and from a fire safety perspective. However, these matters are not heritage related and are being addressed through engineering mechanisms and funders who have offered their assistance.
8. HWC has on several occasions been to site and engaged with the community. Meetings have also been hosted via online platforms to address the above with all related parties.
9. Moving forward, the building work for the reconstruction of the homes can commence according to the approved building plans (also with the required approvals from the local authority) as permitted by HWC.