

**Join us in a protest on the 12th November at the Liesbeek River to coincide with the end of COP26**

Dear Friends and supporters of the Liesbeek Action Campaign

As you know, our nomination of the Two Rivers Urban Park for provincial heritage status in early 2020 was only processed by Heritage Western Cape in July this year. However, the HWC Council, when it met in July, agreed that the site is so important, that they put it forward to the South African Heritage Agency (SAHRA) to declare the entire park, which include the River Club development site, a national heritage resource. SAHRA are currently in the process of grading the area, whilst the developers continue to barrel ahead with construction, pouring concrete as fast as possible, before our court action to interdict the development and review the approval decisions in the Cape Town High Court. Our interdict, lodged jointly by the Observatory Civic Association and the Goringhaicona Khoi-Khoen Indigenous Traditional Council, will be heard on the 24th and 25th November.

We have an excellent legal team, which includes Cullinans attorneys, some super advocates and Tembeka Ngcukaitobi as our silk.

We believe we have a strong case based on the clearly adverse impacts on heritage (approval declared unlawful by Heritage Western Cape) and the multiple violations of environmental policies involved.

So, we are still campaigning against the development.

And that's the reason I am writing to you.

The World is currently going through its Climate Change mitigation theatre with COP26 running at the moment. We know that the River Club development is not only destructive of a sacred heritage resource but it is deeply contrary to Climate Change mitigation policies. Yet

Jeff Bezos, former CEO for Amazon, who are the anchor tenant for the development and whose commitment underlies the project, is reported to think Climate Change is worth investing \$2bn from his Earth Fund restoring landscapes and transforming food systems. We don't understand the logic of destroying a sacred landscape in Cape Town and then performing on a world stage as a great philanthropist for Climate Change mitigation.

So, on the 12th November, we plan to hold a placard/banner demonstration along Liesbeek Parkway and a ceremony at the Liesbeek River to coincide with the end of COP26.

I am writing to invite you to participate in the event. We would like to be able to populate the entire length of Liesbeek Parkway from the Salt River bridge near the Silo to the plaque opposite Hartleyvale with supporters holding banners or placards. We will hold the demonstration from 3 to 4pm and will then move to a ceremony at the plaque including poems, music, talks and a traditional cleansing to mark the day from 4 to 5pm.

If you are able to assist on the day, can you please:

Alert Tauriq at [tauriqishere@gmail.com](mailto:tauriqishere@gmail.com) so we can plan accordingly (number of people likely to participate)

Bring a placard of your choice and making, if you wish – themed appropriately around Climate Change and our campaign against the River Club.

Alert us of any other assistance you might be able to give

We will gather at the TRUP mound (corner of Observatory Rd and Liesbeek Parkway) at 2.50pm.

Please also share this with any other organisations and colleagues you think might be interested in participating.

Lastly, if you are able to make a donation to our campaign, please consider doing so, since, while we have raised a modest amount of funding to date, we still need substantial further funding for our legal fees.

Any donations will be able get a tax rebate under Section 18A and we will provide a tax certificate in line with SARS requirements.

Donations can be made at our backabuddy fundraising site or directly via EFT here.

Please feel free to share this with anyone else you think is interested.

Further, if you have suggestions for other sources we might approach for funding our court challenge, please feel free to suggest by writing to [info@Liesbeek.org](mailto:info@Liesbeek.org).

You can find much more information at our website and at our petition site and you are welcome to follow the Liesbeek Action Campaign on twitter: [@LiesbeekAction](https://twitter.com/LiesbeekAction).

I realise there will be many calls on you for good causes, especially during the COVID-19 epidemic, but I am hoping this is one you will be able to support because we are up against well-monied and politically influential Goliaths who are ruthlessly exploiting an investment opportunity. For why this development is not consistent with Sustainable Development you can watch a webinar at the OCA's YouTube channel.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Leslie London