



Jong ontwerper

Hierdie moderne klaskamer, wat van 'n skeepshouer ontwerp is, is verlede week aan die Primêre Skool Vissershok buite Durbanville oorhandig. Die klaskamer, wat deur die skool vir die graad R's gebruik sal word, is die produk van die wenontwerp van Mashaarn Brink, 'n gr. 10-leerling van die Hoërskool Stellenberg, in 'n kompetisie as deel van die Woolworths Making the Difference Through Design-program. By hom is die argitek, Y. Tsai, wat die skeepshouer volgens die ontwerp herbou het. Berig op bl.3. Foto: Carina Roux

City busy reviewing its policy

Cell mast doubts

ESMÉ ERASMUS

While the City of Cape Town has renewed its land lease agreements for existing cellular masts in several northern suburb neighbourhoods last week, the City is in the same breath reviewing its policy about cellular and radio masts.

In a draft policy the City is proposing add public safety measures such as that companies who apply to install telecommunication masts must first declare the radio frequencies and electromagnetic energy levels to the Municipality.

The draft policy also discourages telecommunication infrastructure in places where it may negatively impact on environmental and heritage resources, as well as habitable structures.

This draft policy is now available for public comment.

Cellular masts in residential areas and

specifically near schools are increasingly the subject of public outcry due to suspected health hazards caused by the radiation of electromagnetic fields.

St John's College in Johannesburg decided in June to have a cellular mast on the school premises removed after two of its scholars did research on the health effects.

Last Friday about 250 residents protested at the Constantia Waldorf School against a Vodacom cellular mast which is being put up near the school. (See article on page 2.)

An application to allow the installation of a cellular mast at the Dutch Reformed Church Bergsig-Durbanville on the corner of Protea Road and Boland Street has also been met with resistance.

The Durbanville Community Forum (DCF) submitted an appeal on Monday against a decision the Koeberg Subcouncil took earlier to approve the application.

According to Sydney Saayman, church manager, the Vodacom cell mast will be

concealed among a grouping of pine trees. Saayman said a representative from Vodacom said the mast will pose no risk outside a radius of 2m.

The church already has a cellular mast of Cell C, which is currently attached to the church tower.

George Sieraha, chairperson of the DCF, said they appealed to the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning against the Subcouncil's decision.

"There have been various press articles in the past few months of residents opposing cell masts that are placed on school grounds and other institutions like church grounds.

"This monstrosity is metres away from residential houses.

"The DCF is concerned about public safety with powerful transmitters in the heart of a residential area," he said.

● To page 2.

We're joining the world of www today!

Today at 12:00, TygerBurger's much anticipated website - www.tygerburger.co.za - will go live.

TygerBurger's online version will feature selected articles from all 12 of our editions, multimedia content, blogs, the weather forecast, events and information about our communities. While anyone, anywhere can browse the site, those who register on the website as users will also be able to comment on stories and interact with us and each other on the website. Entertainment venues, clubs and individuals will be able to upload event listings. Groups and schools can also set up their own social pages.

To celebrate the launch, TygerBurger will be giving away plenty of prizes on the website over the next week.

- The first person and the 100th person to register on the site as a user are definite winners. The grand prize, awarded to our first registered user, will be a three-night cruise for two to Mossel Bay in an ocean view cabin on the MSC Melody (sponsored by MSC Starlight Cruises). The MSC Melody cruise to Mossel Bay will depart Cape Town on 8 December. The prize includes port charges and insurance, but excludes service charges.

- The 100th person to register will win a weekend's accommodation for two in a luxury loft apartment at the Ruslamere Guest House in Durbanville, inclusive of their full buffet breakfast and a couple's Swedish massage at the Ruslamere Spa.

- The first 100 people to register on the site will also each receive 50% off a massage at the spa.

- There will also be different prizes up for grabs every day over the the next week on the website's competition page and we will be giving prizes to some of the people who comment on content on the website. These prizes include tickets to see Emo Adams and Pieter Koen live in Kraaifontein on 17 September and Steve Hofmeyr at GrandWest Arena on 5 October, a Canal Walk gift voucher, a meal voucher and venue hire at Oakdale Club, movie tickets and more.

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Selfoonmaste kry teenkanting

MARANA BRAND VAN HULSTEYN

Reg oor die wêreld kry die oprigting van selfoonmaste toenemend teenkanting.

Die jongste voorbeeld op eie bodem het die naweek koerante gehaal toe sowat 250 inwoners van Constantia in gietende reën teen die oprigting van 'n selfoontoring naby 'n plaaslike skool betoog het. Ook in Durbanville gaan stemme teen selfoonmaste op.

Die redes vir die ontevredenheid is veelvuldig en sluit in estetiese redes, maar meer kontroversieel is die besware wat gegrond is op aannames dat selfoonmaste se elektromagnetiese bestraling gesondheidsgevaare vir mense inhou wat naby dié torings woon.

Mense wat naby sulke torings woon, koppel simptome soos hoofpyn, duiseligheid, sinus, hartkloppings, moegheid, veluitslag, skerp spierpyne en spysverteringsprobleme op die kort termyn aan die bestraling van die torings.

Op die lang termyn word aangevoer dit verhoog die kans op kanker.

Besorgdes is veral bekommerd oor die invloed van die bestraling op kinders, wie se brein en sentrale senuweestelsel nog nie klaar ontwikkel het nie, maar buitendien meer sensitief is vir enige bestraling as volwassenes. Daarom word dikwels teen selfoontorings in die omgewing van skole of creches geïnterresseer.

Ook sekere navorsers voer aan dié soort bestraling breek kinders se immunitietstelsel af wat tot vatbaarheid van verskeie ander siektes, sowel as kanker, kan lei.

Dié bekommernisse het goeie gronde. In Mei vanjaar het die kankernavorsers van selfs die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie aangekondig dat hy elektromagnetiese velde van selfone én ander bronne klassifiseer as "moontlik kankerwekkend by mense", en het veiligheidsmaatreëls voorgestel.

Hoewel daar baie navorsing reg oor die wêreld oor die selfoonmas-aangeleentheid gedoen word, is dit in hierdie stadium nie beslissend nie – niks kan 100% bewys word nie, maar niks kan ook 100% ontken word nie. En dis hier waar die knoop lê.

Om veilig te wees, het lande in die algemeen

regulasies oor wat die vlak van bestraling van die selfoontoring moet wees, hoe ver van woongebiede en veral skole en kleuterskole torings opgerig mag word en voorwaardes vir lisensiering.

Suid-Afrika het egter géén regulasies oor waar selfoonmaste opgerig mag word nie. Plaaslike selfoonmaatskappye klou vas aan die feit dat die nadelige uitwerking van die bestraling nie onomwonde bewys kan word nie. Hulle sê ook dat hulle torings wel aan die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie en verwante internasionale organisasies se aanbevelings oor die vlakke van elektromagnetiese bestraling voldoen.

Hierdie aanbevelings is meestal ouer as tien jaar.

Dat daar bestraling is, is 'n voldonge feit, en nie net van selfoonmaste nie, maar ook van selfone self, koordlose skootrekenaars, stofsuiers, mikrogolfoonde, radiotorings en vele ander. Of die vlakke van die bestraling van selfoonmaste spesifiek nadelig is vir mense op die kort termyn, is debatteerbaar, ook omdat daar baie ander faktore in 'n mens se omgewing is wat fisieke ongemak kan veroorsaak. Ongelukkig kan die langtermyngevaare van dié bestraling ook nog nie onomwonde bewys word nie.

Hoewel selfone self meer bestraling verskaf as selfoonmaste, is dit nie so aanhoudend as in die geval van 'n selfoonmas nie.

Dit het Europese lande soos Oostenryk, Frankryk, Duitsland en Swede nie gekeer om

inwoners aktief aan te moedig om selfoongebruik tot 'n minimum te beperk nie. Hulle stel voor mense gebruik die selfone eerder "hands-free", dat mense selfone weg van hul lywe hou en dat dit nie in 'n motor gebruik word sonder 'n eksterne antenna nie. Die gebruik van selfone by kinders word afgeraai.

Wêreldwyd is howe tot dusver huiwerig om protesteerders teen die oprigting van selfoonmaste gelyk te gee, juis omdat daar nie waterdigte bewyse is nie. In 2009 egter, het 'n Franse hof beslis 'n selfoonmas moet afgebreek word, omdat daar ook nie bewyse tot die teendeel bestaan nie.

• Bronne sluit in Wikipedia, *Natural Medicine* magazine, www.emrsa.co.za en verskeie ander webtuistes.

City renews leases on old masts

• From page 1.

"There is no current conclusive evidence that there are no adverse affects on health," Sieraha said.

The City has agreed to renew five-year land leases with Cell C, MTN, Vodacom and Sentech for their cellular and radio masts in Durbanville (adjacent to the power substation on Fairtrees Road in Amanda Glen and at the GlenGarry reservoir off Brackenfell Boulevard), Bellville (at the Welgedacht reservoir in Viola Street), Kuils River (at the reservoir off Church Street), as well as in Mamre and Galwills Hill.

The City also approved new applications for cellular and radio masts respectively at the Western Province Motor Club (off Potsdam Road) and on the clubhouse of the Atlantic Beach Golf Club.

These decisions were still taken under the City's policy on cellular telecommunication infrastructure, which dates back to May 2002.

However, the revised policy may come into place as soon as its has been approved following the public participation process, which ends at end of August.

Lungiswa James, mayoral committee member for health, said in a media release



This cellular mast among residences in the Belvedere Estate in Durbanville is only about 150m away from Durbanville High School. Photo: Esmé Erasmus

should any telecommunication infrastructure be placed within 50 metres of habitable structures."

"The rapid development of technology has obliged the City to look at a much wider field than just cellular communication.

"The draft policy aims to facilitate the expansion of new and existing telecommunications systems in the city without negatively affecting the health of the surrounding community," she said.

Copies can be viewed at all Sub-council offices and public libraries or downloaded from www.cape-town.gov.za.

Residents can also request a copy by email to ti.policy@cape-town.gov.za

Enquiries by email to ti.policy@cape-town.gov.za or call Ronelle Clarke on 021 400 6534 (mornings only).

Comments on the draft policy must be submitted on or before 31 August as follows:

- By post to The Manager, Environmental and Heritage Management Branch, PO Box 4529, Cape Town, 8000;
- By fax to 021 425 4448
- By email to ti.policy@cape-town.gov.za

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