

cc. Ward 17 Ratepayers Assn.
c/o Geoff Backley

29 September 1986

The Town Clerk
Cape Town City Council
(Town Planning Branch)
P O Box 298
CAPE TOWN
8000

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS : WESTLAKE WETLAND AND ZANDVLEI BIRD
SANCTUARY AREA

We refer to proposals to re-zone as Public Open Space certain areas as set out in your letter P.37/27 of 1 September addressed to Lakeside property owners.

As you know, the Cape Bird Club has been closely involved with the establishment and maintenance of the Zandvlei Bird Sanctuary for many years. Whilst not objecting to the zoning proposals, we would like to put on record our concern that this area should be subject to as little disturbance as possible.

The Lakeside wetland area is one of the last remaining wetlands in the Peninsula and it forms an important breeding area for many of the aquatic species of the adjacent bird sanctuary.

We fear that the declaration of the area as a Public Open Space may lead to pressures for increased public access, with inevitable disturbance and degradation of the area as a breeding habitat for birds. This would be to the great detriment of the Zandvlei Bird Sanctuary and indeed the Zandvlei area as a whole.

We therefore urge that the area should be maintained as a wildlife refuge with strictly limited and controlled public access, as proposed in the City Engineer's Report for the Amenities and Health Committee No. 24/81 Ref. F11/4/2A.

The Peninsula's few remaining wetland areas are vital to the conservation of many of our bird species and for other wildlife as well, and although we realise that the Council has a responsibility to provide recreation areas for the public, we feel strongly that this should not be done at the expense of the natural environment. We trust that the Council shares this view.

Yours faithfully,

J.A. Hobbs (Miss)
Hon. Secretary