

**SUBMISSION TO THE GRADING AND DECLARATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – 24 November 2016**

SUBMITTED BY: Heritage Protection Unit

DATE: 16 November 2016

FILE REF: 9/2/209/014

ENQUIRIES: T.Tshivase / H.Weldon / M.Seetelo

ITEM: Proposal for National Heritage Site Declaration: Chris Hani’s Gravesite and the Chris

Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance

**A1. BACKGROUND**

A1.1. Chris Hani was a charismatic leader, both in the South African Communist Party and Umkhonto we Sizwe. His dedication to the strategic armed struggle led to structural changes within the ANC through the drafting of the “Hani Memorandum”. Committed to a negotiated transition, he was vital in ensuring that the armed struggle was abandoned. His assassination almost threw the country into chaos and tested the commitment to a peaceful transition. His death hastened the negotiations and agreement on a date for the first democratic elections.

A1.2. He was buried at the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park in Boksburg, formerly known as the South Park Cemetery. The Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance were unveiled in 2015.

A1.3. The grave and memorial commemorates and honours the role Chris Hani’s work and death had in bringing about a democratic South Africa. Hence the site deserves national acknowledgement and declaration.

**A2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A2.1. Chris Hani was undoubtedly one of the most popular and influential leaders during the armed struggle and transition negotiations in the early 1990s. His gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance commemorate his life, work and sacrifice in bringing about a free and a democratic South Africa. His grave and death mark a pivotal point in our history in which the leadership and commitment to peaceful transition was proved.

A2.2. Ekurhuleni Municipality unveiled Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance, located near his gravesite in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Garden, on 10th April 2015. The memorial was constructed in honour of the work and role played by Chris Hani in the liberation of South Africa. During the unveiling the President, Mr Jacob Zuma, announced the grave of Chris Hani as a National Heritage Site. Therefore, the site was nominated by the City of Ekurhuleni for National Heritage Site declaration in response to the president’s statement and graded as a Grade 1 site by SAHRA’s Council on 29th April 2016.

A2.3. It was not deemed necessary to hold any public meetings as the declaration of the site would limit impact on any local residents or businesses, due to the site’s location within a formal cemetery. Letters of notification were sent to the Chris Hani Family, the Municipality and other relevant interested and affected parties on the 11 November 2016. Therefore the 60days notice period will expire on the 11 January 2016.

A2.4. The site is managed by the Ekurhuleni Municipality. The Municipality has submitted a full conservation management plan for the site as well.

Contents

1. Purpose of the Submission
2. Landowner’s Details and Attitudes towards Declaration
3. Public Participation and Notification
4. Official Description of The Site
5. Description of the Area to be Declared (Site Boundaries)
6. Conservation Management of the Site
7. Condition Assessment and Potential Threats
8. Site Utilisation
9. Recommendation
10. PURPOSE OF THE SUBMISSION
    1. The purpose of this submission is to request the approval from the Council to declare the Chris Hani’s Gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and the Walk of Remembrance located in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park, Boksburg, Ekurhuleni as National Heritage Sites.
11. LANDOWNER’S DETAILS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS DECLARATION
    1. The Hani family are considered the custodians of the Chris Hani Grave site and are represented by Mrs Limpho Hani. The City of Ekurhuleni has previously engaged with Mrs Hani regarding the declaration of the site and she had indicated her support in those discussions, however, no formal response has been received from her to date.

Details: Mrs Limpho Hani

**Mrs Limpho Hani**

Per Email: [limpho@limphohani.com](mailto:limpho@limphohani.com)

* 1. The Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance is located near the grave of Chris Hani in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park. The cemetery is under the custodianship of the local municipality, the City of Ekurhuleni.

Details: Mr Vincent Campbell (Head of Department: Sports, Recreation, Art and Culture)

**Mr Vincent Campbell**

No 41 Old Magistrate Court Building

Cnr Van Riebeck and Gerrit Maritz Street

Alberton North

1456

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND NOTIFICATION
   1. It was determined that there was no necessity to hold a public meeting as the sites are located within a municipal cemetery there will be no direct implications on residents or local businesses in the area. Therefore only notification letters were sent. These were sent on 9th and 11th November 2016 (those that required the Chairperson’s signature) to the following interested and affected parties:

The Chris Hani Family

South African Communist Party

The African National Congress

Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Authority

The City of Ekurhuleni

* 1. No responses have yet been received; however the 60 days notice period will only lapse on the 11 January 2017.

1. OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
   1. The grave of Chris Hani and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance are both situated in the “Hero’s Acre” section in the Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park on Heidelburg Rd; Dawn Park; Boksburg; Ekurhuleni.
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA TO BE DECLARED (SITE BOUNDARIES)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site name** | **Cemetery** | **Province** | **Town** | **Municipalities** |
| Gravesites of Chris Hani | Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park | Gauteng | Boksburg | City of Ekurhuleni |
| Chris Memorial and Walk of Remembrance | Thomas Nkobi Memorial Park | Gauteng | Boksburg | City of Ekurhuleni |

1. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE
   1. Chris Hani’s Gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial, and Walk of Remembrance are situated in the Thomas Nkobi Cemetery and it is managed by the City of Ekurhuleni.
   2. The City of Ekurhuleni has a full Conservation Management Plan in place already.
2. CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL THREATS
   1. The site is well maintained by City of Ekurhuleni and it is in good condition.

* 1. Potential threats stem from uncontrolled crowds attending burial ceremonies within the in cemetery where low and unintentional vandalism may occur. Mitigation of this threat is proposed in the Conservation Management Plan by introducing interpretation and education programmes around the site to enhance the understanding of its significance.

1. SITE UTALIZATION
   1. The site is mainly used as a memorial both to Chris Hani and to the victims of the Struggle.
   2. The annual Commemoration of Chris Hani’s death takes place at the grave and memorial in the month of April.
2. RECOMMENDATION
   1. It is recommended that the declaration of the Chris Hani Gravesite and the Chris Hani Memorial and Walk of Remembrance is recommended to Council for approval.