

Chapman's Peak Conservation & Restoration Workshop

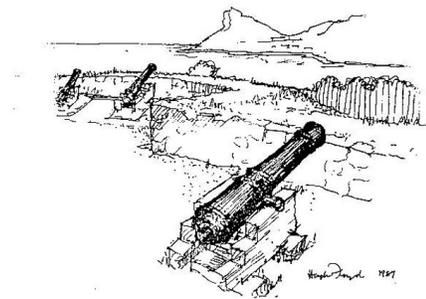
Hout Bay
5th June 2001

Vision Statement.

This vision statement reflects the accord of the participants of the workshop on the 5th of June 2001 and recommends the following in the interests of our heritage conservation, the expansion of tourism and the stimulation of employment opportunities in our Province.

That the Chapmans Peak Restoration Contract be extended to include:-

The creation of a Gateway into the Cape Peninsula National Park
The restoration of the historic East Fort c.1782 and its precincts.



This broad Vision Statement encompasses the following and recommends that the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape should consider the following points for incorporation into the Chapmans Peak Project:-

1. That in collaboration with the Cape Peninsula National Park, a Park Gateway be constructed immediately South of East Fort to control and emphasise the conservation status of the route and its protection.
2. That urgent consideration be given to the restoration of the East Fort historic site and that it be sensitively upgraded to accommodate visitors as a destination in its own right.
3. That the Fort be developed as a "living museum" in collaboration with the Hout Bay Museum and the Hout Bay & Llandudno Heritage Trust as community "stake holders", in accordance with the stated Missions of SAHRA , CPNP and the HB&LHT.
4. That the toll facility (if any) be sympathetic to the above and as far as possible integrated in order that the three facets (Gateway, East Fort & Toll) provide synergy so that the shared resources can provide a sustained 24hr presence on site.
5. That consideration and permission be given for the establishment of a fynbos garden in and around the Fort precincts to illustrate and interpret the floral biodiversity of the area and that paths be constructed to enhance the experience for visitors.
6. That the Fort be reconstructed in such a way as to accommodate numerous interpretative displays which acknowledge the international historic importance of the Cape Peninsula which was and remains where "East meets West".

6.1 That the role of the Fort in the historic development of South Africa be expressed in the context of the "Military History Trail" presently being developed. starting at Cape Town Castle, and planned to include Fort Wynyard, the Chavonne Battery, the Lion Battery (Noon Gun), Kloof Nek signal guns (Camps Bay Drive), the WW2 Apostle Battery 9.2" guns (Llandudno), East and West Forts in Hout Bay, the Scala and lower North Batteries at Simonstown, the Simonstown Naval Museum and the Martello Tower Simonstown.

6.2 That the Geological importance of Chapmans Peak and its environs be interpreted in full, to include the historic significance of the local manganese mine and the interpretation of rock formations of international significance.

6.3 That the historic background to Chapmans Peak Drive be illustrated and its construction be highlighted in the context of the time in which it was originally built.

6.4 That the flora and fauna of the area be fully described to include the fynbos, Afro montane pocket forests, birdlife, small mammals, whales, and dolphins.

7. That a hiking "node" be incorporated to integrate with the CPNP's proposed hiking network, and that overnight accommodation for bona fide overnight trail hikers be incorporated and administrated through the SANParks Booking System.
8. That the toll facility be designed and be modelled on a late 19th century "Post House" which was a common sight on all mountain passes of that era.
9. That where possible, the local Table Mountain sandstone which has been accumulated as a result of rock barring and natural rockfalls on the southern sections of the road be used in any reconstruction work at East Fort and elsewhere.

It is believed that the incorporation of these suggestions into the Chapman's Peak Restoration Project will have a significant benefit for tourism and the economy of the Western Cape over and above the reopening of the road and will encourage SA residents to revisit this most beautiful part of the world.

We believe that the participants of the workshop represent an informed lobby, many of which may be considered experts in their respective fields. We feel that the premium to be paid, over and above that of the CPD restoration process, will be minimal, compared with the overall cost, and that this unique opportunity to boost tourism in the Cape will never again be repeated.