

# New move over Grey Street residential development

Municipal Reporter

THE Management Committee is to ask the Durban City Council to invite the Minister of Community Development, Mr S. F. Kotze, to visit the Grey Street Indian area to consider a policy change on residential development.

The move follows repeated calls from the Grey Street Indian Local Affairs Committee for the removal of the restriction on residential development.

The Director-General, Community Development and State Auxiliary Services, Mr L. Fouche, said in a letter to the Town Clerk he had carefully considered the LAC's request.

He said the proposed removal of restrictions on residential development had been exhaustively investigated and "considered in the past."

He referred to various representations lodged with the Government, which were turned down without exception.

The administrative secretary of the then Minister of Community Development had advised the council last August that he could not accede to the request. It would not have been "reconcilable with sound community development planning to allow residential development."

Mr Fouché therefore felt it would serve no purpose for him to have any further discussions with the LAC.

Mr K. T. Manjee, chairman of the Grey Street ILAC, last night welcomed the move to invite the Minister to visit.

"I am pleased the city council is now taking the matter up with the Minister, particularly in view of the negative response received from Mr Fouché.

"The restriction on residential development is the single most important issue for the development on Grey Street and it is vitally important that this restriction be removed.

"If it is not I see the future being one where the area will gradually be denuded of its existing residential property and become a slum."

He felt there was no moral justification for retaining the restriction. "We believe it has the effect of in fact hindering viable development and in our view is tantamount to virtual discrimination."

The population had dropped from 13 000 in 1973 to about 6 500 because of the uncertainty over the future.

He hoped the city council would go along with Manco's recommendation and "take a clear stand on the issue".

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