

Luxury retirement hotel planned for Muizenberg

STEPHEN KIHN

THE PLAN to convert the four historical homes in Muizenberg – designed by Sir Herbert Baker – into a luxury retirement hotel will not adversely affect activities at The Lindbergh Arts Foundation, according to Elizabeth Lindbergh, director of the foundation.

“I don’t see it greatly affecting the arts foundation, other than there being more people. If anything, the hotel could enhance the foun-

dation, as we think the residents will enjoy some of the activities we have,” she says. Lindbergh says that the foundation will continue to host art exhibitions, music performances, poetry readings and other functions from its current premises at Swanbourne, 18 Beach Road. Should plans for the St Leger Retirement Hotel be realised, the foundation will share a dining room and kitchen facilities with the residents.

Masiphumelele Properties is behind the project; they officially declared the availability of the hotel’s 25 apartments to the public

on Thursday, 24 April. The prices currently range from R450 000 to R900 000 for an apartment.

One of the original Baker houses, Sandhills, has a completed example of what the hotel rooms will look like. The renovators say they aim to preserve the history of the buildings to maintain an upmarket, genteel ambience.

So far, Masiphumelele Properties has purchased 14 Crawford Lea on the corner of Beach and Boveney Road. Dealtry Pickford, of Masiphumelele Properties, says the idea

for a retirement hotel was inspired by a discussion he had with his 85-year-old father in February last year.

“Initially we were thinking of buying one of the homes to use as a personal property. My dad and I went up to one of the top rooms to look at the view of the ocean. He then began to reminisce about how he used to surf in Muizenberg,” he says.

Pickford then approached the foundation and received support for the project. Pickford says that once 16 of the 25 units have been sold, work will begin on the buildings.