

but also critically contributes to desperately needed economic growth and job creation.

All city processes are open and transparent, and are governed strictly by myriad different pieces of planning and environmental legislation. They are subject to vigorous legal scrutiny and open to public debate.

Therefore it is quite astonishing that your paper can claim democracy is being undermined in the city – when in form, deed and fact quite the opposite is true.

It is high time then that the Cape Times came down off its pedestal and actually grappled with, and understood, the complexities of the issues at hand, rather than misleading its readers on the reality of the situation.

**Councillor Garreth Bloor**

Mayoral Committee Member for Economic, Environmental & Spatial Planning in the City of Cape Town

CAPE TIMES 2.8.13

## Old thinking

THE SQUABBLE about whether Philippi land remains agricultural or gives way to another low-cost housing estate refers. The arguments by mayor De Lille and her antagonists in the fray are technical in nature: whether agriculture trumps housing or whether housing trumps agriculture. As a concerned ratepayer of this city, I feel they have lost sight of a bigger picture.

The only vision the mayor and her opponents have is how to get hold of cheap land when it comes to housing for poor people. No substantive vision or plans involve creating housing opportunities for middle- and low-income groups closer to the heart of Cape Town and thus begin to build an integrated community that reverses the apartheid-designed city.

Why is it that development planning for Fort Wynyard and the military land on Signal Hill can only be thought of as development for the super-rich?

Labour in South Africa spends more time on public transport than elsewhere in the world. They also spend more money on transport than elsewhere, all so that poverty and its consequences are out of sight of the comfortable and rich.

Even in conservative England, new housing, private middle-income estates included, has to have a component of

social housing for lower-income groups. Not here! We perpetuate the past, which will one day cost us dearly, not in monetary, but in racial terms.

Are there no political parties that can lead the way towards a real reversal of the past? Not by trumpeting empty slogans and not by telling us it's all unaffordable.

**Horst Kleinschmidt**

St James

## Burger queen

OUR ESTEEMED mayor, Patricia de Lille, sees fit to support the junk food industry by giving Burger King the “key” to the city while at the same time proposing to destroy “the most productive (farmland) in the country”, the Philippi Horticultural Area.

We all know, or should know, that obesity is a major risk factor for all chronic diseases. As reported in the Cape Times of August 7 (“More South Africans are becoming obese”), we have become a nation of fat people; children are getting the diseases of age.

Type 2 diabetes used to be known as adult onset diabetes, but it is now being diagnosed in children. This is all due to our lifestyles and diets high in refined and junk foods.

We need to eat more vegetables and fewer burgers and chips.

I hear people say that it is expensive to eat healthily, but for some reason it seems that they can afford Burger King, as evidenced by the long queues. I am baffled at this decision taken by the DA mayor to the detriment of the health of our city.

**Beatrice Rabkin**

Nutritional therapist

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## Social engineering

SUZAN Nkomo, the “expert witness” testifying in the case brought by Correctional Services employees (“Equity target for SA, not province,” Cape Times, August 6), is arguing in favour of imposing national demographics on the Western Cape employees. I think she has a bit to learn about South African history.

She says that Western Cape demographics “were a direct result of