



**OURS.** The Parkhurst Village Residents Association has declared it holds the rights to the old Parkhurst bowling club. *Picture: CNS.*

## Residents' association stakes claim in city bowling club

### HEATHER WALKER

THE arm wrestle over the old Parkhurst Bowling Club in Johannesburg took a dramatic turn as the Parkhurst Village Residents Association (PVRA) staked its claim as the rightful lease holder.

The grounds, vacant for several years since the club closed, are home to a forest of weeds and vagrants have taken over the clubhouse.

None of the many ideas to develop the site, such as a soccer club and community garden, have come to fruition.

But a visit by councillor Bafana Sithole, a member of

the Mayoral Committee for Community Development, looked set to change this.

He toured the city council-owned property by invitation of Kim Lugli, representing the Lower Parkhurst Residents Action Group and was shocked at its state.

Auckland Park's Julie Kieser then claimed she had signed the lease for the property.

"I tried to get the lease from city council for five years, without success. So I eventually signed a short-term lease through the Department of Sports and Recreation, which is applying for a full lease from the Joburg Property

Company (JPC) on my behalf. I was told that this lease would be valid until then."

Zaheera Walker of the JPC, however, confirmed it had issued the PVRA with the lease which will expire when the property is awarded after a public tender process.

The PVRA intends to turn the property into a 24-hour police contact centre, said Parkview police's Nanda Moodley.

"The centre will enable faster response times, especially to further parts of our precinct like Craighall and will be a base for security companies." – CNS.

