

The Golden Jubilee Hive - Project Brief & TimeLine



The Hive: Auroville's Golden Jubilee project for our 50th Anniversary in 2018... a central outcome of one of our largest community processes – The Auroville Retreat, which took place in early 2015. This is a community project, held by various youth and advisory mentors as it is a collective project to build a space for the youth, by the youth.

The project is placed in the International Zone because it includes: a Hostel for visiting international youth, an office for YouthLink service, Caretaker 'housing for work', Kitchen for Cooking School, and small display area for Youth made products. The Cooking School is temporarily hosted at PTDC, and YouthLink temporarily at Auromode. The Hive Team has worked with IZCT, GB, IAC, WC, TDC 2015, iTDC 2016, RAS, AVC, KOODAM, AVI, and the Pumphouse Residents, meeting regularly to discuss this topic over the last 2 years.

Please note that this timeline excludes a lot of work for the Hive project done over the last 2 years. The following document only marks the most evident dates and community process followed. We hope this helps bring clarity and supports to realise this space for Auroville. Thank you for taking the time to read this summary. If you would like any further information please feel free to contact us for clarity.

In service of the Auroville dream,

The Hive Team
a project under the YouthLink Umbrella

Who are the Hive Team?	What is YouthLink Service?
 <p>Project Holders: Kavitha (YouthLink) & Louis & Alok (Advisory) Architects: Sindhuja & Michael: IMAGO. Contractors: Anan, Peter, Kevin: SUMARK & Eternal Builders. Hive Client Body: Aurovilians: Abhimanyu, Natasha, Kowsalya, Chris. Newcomers: Michael, Arul, Sathish, Ramanan, Kalvi, Serena, Madhu. Representatives from Schools: Aloe, Mitia, Tara. Working Group Advisory Members: Inge, Divya, Mandakini, Ole. <i>*Hive is to be included in the 50th GOI and/or in the Auroville annual budget.</i></p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- an Information platform for AV & RAV & NC Youth Integration in Auroville.- an Umbrella that helps Incubate youth-led Initiatives.- a Space for Networking with International Youth.- focusing on the age group between 18-35, with flexibility.- working closely with many mentors in Auroville. <p><i>*YouthLink is supported partly through BCC and through PCG from Stichting de Zaaire, Netherlands.</i></p>

2015

March: Auroville Retreat: Common agreement that youth need a voice and space in Auroville to integrate in community development in meaningful ways. Youth topic connects to all areas of the Retreat - Economy/Growth/Education/TownPlanning/Bioregion/. Topics of Housing, Employment, Education and Youth Empowerment/Integration/Inclusion where emphasised. The Hive project represents a space for this all to happen, including a strong central aspect, which is based on networking and connecting to the world.

June: YouthLink conducts voluntary weekly meetings inviting youth & mentors to join and think of initiatives projects based on Housing, Employment and Education.

June: Visioning Committee's News&Notes call for 2018 proposals: They indicated an example "if the youth wanted to celebrate, this could be accompanied by the construction of infrastructure." Thus, with this encouragement, we began weekly design meetings at YouthLink inviting youth in Auroville to participate.

July: Proposal Submitted Draft 1 to Visioning Committee.

August: International Youth Day public event at Bharat Nivas, including public presentation of project and invite to join.

September:

- Presentation of the project to IZCT with details and discussion on ideal location possibilities. IZCT was in contact with TDC regarding this, from which the current plot was preferred, due to its ideal proximity to Tamil Heritage Center, CIRHU, Unity Pavilion, and Language Lab.
- The only strip for 'integrative projects' in IZ is along the Crown Road, as the rest of the zone is reserved for Pavilions. Integrative project examples: Language Lab, Unity Pavilion, Savitri Bhavan etc.

October:

- Presentation to Governing Board (GB) & International Advisory Council (IAC): Advised to finalise designs before their next visit in March 2016 and begin construction by summer of 2016. It was in this meeting that Dr. Karan Singh suggested the name 'Golden Jubilee' for the Hive project.
- October 7th Site Application Submitted to TDC.
- Hive representatives attended all 50th Anniversary Planning Workshops.

December: IZCT recommendation to L'Avenir d'Auroville for Hive plot.

YouthLink continued to conduct weekly meetings to engage youth in the process of design and implementation. Invites to join have been regularly posted in N&N, Auronet, Facebook and Whatsapp.

2016

January:

- Auroville Community Presentations for 50th Anniversary projects, inviting all community members. The Hive project was presented here again.
- Weekend Youth Workshop to present project and invite more youth involvement. This was a very well attended session at Unity Pavilion by many youth.
- News & Notes No:633, Publication for Site Application for Hive Plot in IZ by iTDC, project details included and location described as "Proposed Site Location: International Zone, along the Crown Road, opposite Unity Pavilion/ new Language Lab."

February: Hive presentation to Aurovilians & Auroville International (AVI), very well received.

March: Second presentation to Governing Board(GB) & International Advisory Council(IAC), very well received.

April: Pumphouse Neighbours put up new fence, without TDC permission, through middle of Hive plot with new 'Pumphouse Community' sign board on the new fence. (Map below for reference).

May: The Hive team hears that the neighbors were not informed and that they are upset. So immediately the RAS, iTDC and Hive make a request to visit to Pumphouse neighbours. We visit with Jesse (RAS), Divya (iTDC), Sindhuja, Michael, Kavitha (Hive) and have a discussion about the Design & Maps in hand, also walking the land together. The meeting felt very positive as their questions were answered and a new road access was identified together.

July: Koodam facilitated session (Elvira) with neighbours, iTDC member (Sheba, Tom) and Hive Project Holder and Architects present (Kavitha, Sindhuja, Michael).

August: International Youth Day public event at Unity Pavilion: Including presentation of Hive and invite to anyone in community join.

2017

January: The Hive team approached Restorative Circle(RC) team at the end of January to request a RC with the Pumphouse neighbours. In the circles we were joined by many members from the IZ, AVC, etc. including Poppo, who had a dream for a future project on the same site. We visited Poppo's work at Tamil Heritage Center to understand his situation better.

February: Kavitha visited the plot, with tree-house friends Filip & Luke, to see the trees and imagine future tree houses in the area. We stood on the road, outside the Pumphouse fence. Soon the Pumphouse residents showed up angry and verbally aggressive, and in the presence of Meena, Laxshmi, Arunkumar, Nagappan, Luke, Filip - Grace threatened to kill Kavitha if she ever came back again. A report was filed to the AVC/Security/IZCT/AV Foundation/WC regarding this threat of violence. Grace later admitted to the threats she made in meetings with the AVC/WC/TDC, but no written apology was made and no agreement was made to inhibit this behavior in the future.

March:

- Restorative Circles continued until March, after which the process was handed over from the RC to the Auroville Council(AVC). As the Hive project Holder had been threatened, so the conflict resolution was taken up by the AVC since then.
- The WC, AVC and TDC met several times to study and compile a document with FACTS, CONSIDERATIONS and DECISIONS regarding the situation - the decision was shared with all stakeholders, but Pumphouse refused to acknowledge the decisions that were made.
- AVC has been in continued conversation with Pumphouse members since.

October: We are now ~4 months from Auroville's 50th Anniversary and the Golden Jubilee Hive project is still on hold.

Conclusions

- 1) The International Zone Coordination Team have been in conversation with Pumphouse neighbours for many years before the Hive was proposed, as they live in the 'international zone', not the 'residential zone'. It is well understood in Auroville that residents in IZ should have a housing-for-work agreement. Members of IZCT have been involved in many years of discussion with these residents before, and after, the Hive was proposed in this regard. The Pumphouse residents were never asked to move for the Hive. The IZCT / TDC have been incredibly patient with the Pumphouse, even though they regularly build GuestHouse/Fence/Shed without permissions.
- 2) YouthLink is an outcome of a large community process, from the Auroville Retreat in early 2015. Since then the Hive Team have followed all due community processes to the best of their ability inviting and informative the community at every step of the way.
- 3) The Hive team made only one mistake for which we apologised. When the IZCT told us not to worry about the neighbours, we missed approaching the neighbours personally in time. We assumed that because the Pumphouse neighbours were part of the IZCT group, mailing list that they would have known about what was happening in their zone. As soon as we discovered that they were upset, the Hive team went to visit them immediately with members of RAS & TDC to clarify and apologise.
- 4) We apologised repeatedly over the last 2.5 years for this one mistake, at every meeting held with the neighbours (at Koodam, at several Restorative circles, at AVC/WC/TDC meetings), but they refuse to hear our apology and they refuse to hear the apology from TDC. Many members of IZCT/RC/AVC/WC/TDC and many Aurovilians have approached the Pumphouse neighbours in person over the last 2 years to try and discuss a way forward them in person as well.
- 5) The Hive project has been re-designed 3 times to address the Pumphouse neighbour's fears. The Pumphouse neighbors have been invited repeatedly to sit with the architects for a design session together, but they refused to attend. The Hive is 35 meters from the closest house of Laxshmi/Meena/Induja and more than 35meters from Grace&Nagappan/Arunkumar/Prachita house.
- 6) The YouthLink & Hive team has been repeatedly publicly defamed on Auronet and by emails by Grace. We have been accused of being drug addicts, of organising wild parties, of trying to destroy their homes, ...and many more unjustified, horrible, accusations. Grace has also publicly threatened to kill Kavitha. Grace admitted to these treats in meeting with AVC/WC.
- 7) Grace has tried to demanded 'Project Holder' position for herself of the Hive. The Hive project is visioned as a youth-designed, youth built, youth managed space for Auroville, so this is not possible.
- 8) Both Pumphouse families have youth (in their 20s, still living with their parents). We have invited them to meet us, but they never came. They are welcome to join the YouthLink team and take up a responsibility if they wish. We have also offered them priority caretaker apartments to their youth as housing-for-work. If they do not want this, YouthLink is also open to help them find youth-accommodation in other youth-housing projects in Auroville, should they ever need our help. We are not asking them to move - we are offering them space for their youth.
- 9) The Hive team is doing its best to create a new form of development in Auroville. We are not turning to activism, or threats, and we are not trying to victimise ourselves. We are not against the Pumphouse, and we are not against Working Groups. We stand for the positive development of the community as a whole - in collaboration with all stakeholders.



April 2016: New Fence Built on Hive Plot by Pumphouse Residents, without Permission from TDC.



35 Meters from Closest Pumphouse Neighbor.
Safe Road Access identified by TDC for Pumphouse & Hive

We welcome any feedback / questions to whatsapp +91 8778312841 or youthlink@auroville.org.in or imago@auroville.org.in.