

THE SYDHA TEAM

Siddha Yoga Dulwich Hill Action Team

Proposal – Project One

6 January 1997

It was proposed to establish an ongoing new Sydney Ashram Siddha Yoga Team – The SYDHA Team. This stands for *Siddha Yoga Dulwich Hill Action Team*. This Team would specifically focus on the expansion of facilities and resources at the Sydney Ashram and surrounding community around the Ashram.

1. Primary Objective

The Primary Objective for this team was submitted to the inaugural meeting of the Team on the 17 December 1995 for general consensus and approval of the team members. The Team, at that time, was made up of Anatole Kononewsky, Dr Trevor Williamsz and Chaitanya Mathews.

The original objective was: *“To produce a clearly defined proposal for consideration by the Australia Board of Trustees outlining a Staged Development Plan for creating a strong Siddha Yoga residential community at Dulwich Hill specifically for supporting the ongoing expansion of the Global Vision of Siddha Yoga and completely attuned to the Guru’s Grace.”*

The Team considered the following points at its inaugural meeting:

- The fact that the Sydney Ashram was opened by Gurumayi was seen as a very significant event and should be treasured as a real blessing. The thought of selling the Ashram (at one point considered after the 1991 Tour) was definitely NOT one of the Team's options.
- The Sydney Ashram has been highlighte as a possibility for becoming the Gurukula for the South Easter Asian region. We felt this had the potential for attracting more and more international guests to the Ashram.
- It was pointed out what an honour it was to be able to spend time in the Ashram, no matter how far you have to travel.
- As international guests start to come to the Ashram, this will highlight now relative it is, in considering location and travel to the Ashram as an issue by some people in Sydney.

Main Steps

- The Team believed the first phase would need to be major improvements and enhancements to the Ashram. (This has largely commenced in preparation for Gurumayi's Tour).
- The first target would be to reach full utilization of the existing facilities before considering further expansion.
- The relationship with the councils and parking requirements would need to be seriously considered in all development plans. We should look at following-up contacts within Marrickville and Canterbury Councils.
- The purchase of the block of flats directly behind the Ashram was considered as a viable first acquisition. This would accommodate international and local guests while generating an income for the Ashram.
- Parking options considered included:
 - The other side of the bridge – possibility of renting.
 - Trees along railway line:

We should check with any development plans under-way.

- Behind Dulwich Hill station.
- We should investigate availability of aerial plans of area.
- We need to consider value and strategies for purchase of homes in area.
- It was felt devotees would be attracted back into the area once a clear decision was made to focus on the existing Ashram for the long-term.
- The team subsequently decided to suspend all action during 1996 and focus efforts on preparing for the Tour.