

Bylaw to conserve town's character



over the past decade has had implications on the aesthetic value of the town. From solar panels and satellite dishes to advertising banners and elaborately painted buildings, the profile of the town has changed and hence the old Bylaw had to be adapted to address new challenges. **Read more on p3.**

The Bylaw on the Regulation of Outdoor Advertising, Heritage and Building Aesthetics was approved by Council on 28 November 2013.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the bylaw sought to conserve the character and aesthetic quality of the built environment in the greater Knysna.

“Development and growth

IN THIS ISSUE



- RULES OF SUMMER
- FESTIVE SEASON MESSAGE FROM MAYOR
- MUNICIPAL CLOSING TIMES
- WATERWISE RESTRICTIONS
- HOW TO BE PART OF THE RECYCLING PROGRAMME

Knysna gets a clean audit

The Knysna Municipality has received a clean audit for the 2012/2013 financial period.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the clean audit was a result of the conscientious pursuit of good corporate governance and sound financial management. “While the clean audit is an outstanding achievement for the municipality, these are objectives we strive to achieve as a matter of course in the day-to-day workings of the municipality rather than a pursuit to just tick the boxes.

“Tied to our audit and our operations in general is of course the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and its subsequent reviews, which have been commended by the Western Cape government as one of the best, and subscribed to others as

‘best practice.’ Overall we are satisfied with municipality’s achievements despite harsh socio-economic circumstances and will continue to pursue this goal in coming years.”

According to The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) an entity that has a clean audit opinion has strong financial management, sound internal controls and a robust budgeting process.

The Knysna Municipality’s audit was performed by Ernest & Young.

The audit result for the 2012/2013 Financial Statements was tabled at a Special Council Meeting on 12 December 2013 and are available on the municipal website.

Featuring Ward 9: Councillor Michelle Wasserman

Ward 9's Ward Councillor, Michelle Wasserman, acknowledges that her ward includes communities that have distinctly different needs. "Having very wealthy and very poor suburbs in one ward presents challenges, but also great opportunities for communities to work together in order to really make a difference in the lives of those who need it most."



Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman and ward committee member Dinah Alkaster on the newly lit pathway in Hornlee.

Wasserman says she is pleased that 103 government-built houses in Hornlee West were fixed this year. Through a R5.4 million rectification project which was funded by Provincial Government, houses that were in desperate need of repair got the attention they needed. "It's a good start but we can't stop here. There are hundreds of houses in Hornlee that still need to be repaired. The structural problems with these houses mean that people are living in unacceptable conditions. A survey has been conducted of all the houses in Hornlee that need repair and a list has been sent to Provincial Government with a request for further funding."

Another successful project this year is the brand new high mast light that was erected between Agterstraat and Seeperdijestraat. "This was a dark and dangerous pathway where women and children were victims of crime. Now the light shines brightly at night, making the pathway that links these roads much safer. We have also replaced the wooden walkway making it much safer and more attractive."

A project close to Wasserman's heart is a Municipal collaboration with SAPS, Isis Legal Centre for Women and Children and FAMS to present domestic violence workshops in Hornlee. "Through these workshops we provide information to people, especially women and children, about their rights and how to put those rights into practice. We also emphasise the important role that the community plays in speaking out against violence against women and children and in supporting those who are the victims of domestic violence." Wasserman says she was especially encouraged by the support for the workshops given by the Hornlee church elders. A very successful first workshop was held in November and more workshops will be rolled out in 2014.

The festive season is upon us and residents and visitors to



Michelle Wasserman, together with community members, put their culinary skills to the test preparing a special breakfast for the residents of Vermont Old Age Home.

The Heads can look forward to this tourist attraction being upgraded and beautified this year. "I have been working closely with the Heads Residents Association and we have identified areas that need attention. With tourism being one of Knysna's main economic drivers we want our visitors to keep coming back, so it's important to keep this Knysna icon looking her best."

Wasserman thanks the many businesses, charity organisations, NGOs and individuals who have been so quick to respond to her calls for help. A special word of thanks goes to Fruit and Veg City for their ongoing support of Auntie Sally's Soup Kitchen in Hornlee West that feeds needy children. "And a special thanks to my mom who worries that there are children in my ward who might be cold, and so knits a nonstop supply of jerseys that I am so proud to hand out to kids in need."

Ward 9 is home to residents from a portion of Hornlee, Pezula, the Heads, Leisure Isle, Hunters Home, Rexford, Fisher Haven and Thesen Island.

She can be contacted on 074 112 2752 and mwasserman@knysna.gov.za



Playtime in Hlalane

The Hlalani community celebrated the opening of the neighbourhood's new playgrounds recently. The play park was paid for by municipal ward allocation funding. Pictured here are Hlalani community members with Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans (front middle) and Ward 6 Councillor Clive Witbooi (front right).

Message from the Mayor Festive Season



The Knysna Municipality welcomes all our visitors to the greater Knysna area, and of course our locals who know there is no better place to be!

2013 had its challenges and you have chosen the perfect place to relax, unwind and connect with nature. We trust that your time off will be rejuvenating, peaceful and safe.

Of course, the essential services do not stop working when you stop. Everything is in place to ensure that you can celebrate without stress. I thank in advance the people who will be working behind the scenes to keep our town running the way it should. I also appeal to visitors to assist in preserving

the things that make our municipal area so special: the natural environment and its people. You can help by using water and electricity sparingly, and by abiding traffic rules and municipal bylaws such as not littering and not drinking on beaches and at public amenities.

We are determined to enter 2014 with new energy and a positive attitude. We have a solution-orientated mindset and are excited by our challenges and the work we need to do to face them.

I wish you joy and peace for this holiday season and for the year ahead. May Christmas be a blessed time, filled with love and may you make beautiful memories. May you return to your



places of work truly rejuvenated and inspired.

Georlene Wolmarans
Executive Mayor

All-Hours Emergency Number: 044 302 8911

Rules of Summer

To this end, the Knysna Municipality has taken several measures to ensure the safety of its residents and holiday makers during the upcoming summer holiday season.

- DO:** Do enjoy the beaches and public amenities.
Do respect the property and privacy of homeowners in the areas where you party.
- DON'T:** Don't drink alcohol and drive.
Don't drink alcohol on beaches and at public amenities.
- WE WILL:** Place lifeguards at beaches.
Have extra fire fighters on duty.
Have extra traffic and law enforcement officers on duty.
Enforce all municipal bylaws strictly without exception.
Work together with the SAPS, neighbourhood watch and private security to maximise public safety.

WE WILL NOT ALLOW:

- Busses in areas of limited space.
- Tents or overnighting on public land.
- Loud music from private sound systems in public spaces.
- Waterside revelling to spill onto the properties of private homes.
- Drunkenness and associated unruly behaviour in streets and public places.

BLUE FLAG RULES:

- Buffalo Bay and Brenton-on-Sea are Blue Flag beaches. Please respect the conditions of this international accolade, which applies from 1 December 2013 to 31 January 2014.
- Please walk dogs outside designated swimming areas before 9am and after 5pm.
- Dogs must be on leashes at all times.
- Normal access routes may be used to both beaches.
- Please clean up after dogs and dispose of bags in the correct bins.

Bylaw to conserve town's character

From Page 1

"The new Bylaw will work towards a well-maintained and attractive townscape and landscape, conserve and enhance the historic and traditional character of the town, address communication needs, contribute to the conservation of tourism resources, and promote public safety and welfare. The long term results will include a proper platform from which Knysna can be marketed and a sustainable settlement which may ultimately lead to increased property values and economic investment."

While an outdoor advertising levy will apply to all properties where business is conducted, up to 100% of the levy could be waived if businesses comply with stipulations in the bylaw. Cost of the levy will be determined and applied in the 2013/2014 budget and applicable from July 2014. Until then, application for signage tariffs remains.

The Bylaw is applicable throughout the jurisdiction of the Knysna Municipality. Once Gazetted, the Bylaw will be available in the 'Document Library' of the 'Information Centre' on the municipal website www.knysna.gov.za

Municipal Closing Times

Please note that the offices of the Knysna Municipality will close at 12pm on Tuesday 24 December 2013 and reopen at 07.30am on Thursday 2 January 2013.

The Customer Pay Centre in Main Street, Knysna, will be open on 30 and 31 December 2013 between 08am to 12pm.

All essential and emergency services will be rendered. For enquiries or emergencies, please contact the Knysna Fire Department at 044 302 8911.



Changing the face of Knysna



Be green this summer

The natural surroundings of our area are one of the many reasons why thousands of people flock here every holiday. Knysna was one of the first municipalities in the country to introduce a recycling programme as part of its waste collection schedule and have been doing so since 2000.

It is very easy to recycle in Knysna.

Collect transparent bags at:

Waste Management Department
Clyde Street Municipal Offices

Sedgefield Municipal Service Centre,
Tarentaal Street

Public holidays - Knysna Fire Department,
Waterfront Drive, Knysna

Public holidays - Sedgefield Fire Department,
Main Street, Sedgefield

Garden refuse bags are blue and can be obtained from municipal service centres at a cost of R58 for a packet of ten heavy duty blue bags. Only two blue bags filled with garden waste are permitted per property per week. Enquiries at Waste Management on 044 302 6405.



Waterwise

While the Garden Route has had good rains over the past few months, the main sources of water in the Knysna Municipal area are rivers, and are therefore always vulnerable. Municipal water restrictions remain in place:

Even street numbers 6pm-7pm
on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays.

Odd street numbers 6pm to 7pm
on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Municipal water leaks can be reported to 044 302 1601.



Shape your future



The country's first Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) was initiated in September 2013 to ensure better coordination between the municipality's different strategic plans including the Human Settlement Plan, Spatial Development Framework, Environmental Plan and the Economic Development Strategy.

Incorporating the longest public participation process ever undertaken by a local government for this kind of project, the ISDF is intended to incorporate all aspects of town and infrastructure planning including economic development, environmental integrity, provision of housing and facilities, bulk infrastructure, as well as a range of social issues associated with development.

Status quo reports on different aspects of Knysna's current status are available on the ISDF website at www.isdf.co.za or on the ISDF page of the municipality website at www.knysna.gov.za (homepage left below news flash).

The Workshop and Road Show phases of the ISDF have also kicked off. If your organisation or association wants the ISDF to come to you, as long as you are in the Knysna municipal area, they can make a plan. Phone 044 382 6732 or email info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za to make an appointment for such a visit.

It is not too late to register as an interested and affected party. Fill in a form at a library near you or click the 'register' link in the ISDF section on the homepage of the municipality website. You can contact Knysna's Manager Economic Development Ilse van Schalkwyk: 044 302 1646 or ivanschalkwyk@knysna.gov.za or the facilitators Knysna Creative Heads: 044 382 6732 or info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za