

# COUNCIL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2013



WARD COUNCILLOR MIGIEL LIZWANI AND DAM-SE-BOS RESIDENT MR HENDRIK BRITZ CELEBRATE THE LIFE-CHANGING PAVED ROAD. PICTURE: DESMOND SCHOLTZ.

## NEW ROAD MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

For countless years Dam-se-Bos resident, Oom Hendrik Britz, has been negotiating a really rough dirt road to be able to visit his family on the other side of the neighbourhood. Until recently that is when a neat stretch of paving has made all the difference.

Funded by R200 000 of the Knysna Municipal Council's ward-based budget and R300 000 from the Upgrading Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) of the National Department of Human Settlements, 230 metres of road was paved from the Chris Hani Community Hall.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said the road was a main arterial through the community for 30 years and paving even a short stretch improved the quality of lives.

"Mr Britz, who uses crutches to get around, told our Manager Integrated Development Plan (IDP), Mr Eben Phillips, that the new paved road meant he could visit his children and grandchildren more. To some people this road may only be 230 metres of cement bricks, but to people like Mr Britz it is life changing.

"This road, which was identified by this community as a priority during the IDP process, is proof that the IDP process works. It may not always feel like the fastest way, but it does finally deliver in direct relation to the community's needs," said Wolmarans.

## WATER ALERT!

Water storing facilities in Knysna are running low. Please use water sparingly. Read more on Page 3.



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## CHANGES IN COUNCIL

The Knysna Municipal Council made three changes to accommodate the replacement of former Speaker, Mr Richard Dawson, who announced his intention to resign from the position last November.

At a Special Council Meeting on February 12, former Deputy Executive Mayor and Chair of the Governance and Economic Development Committee, Councillor Michelle Wasserman, was appointed the new Speaker.

Proportional Representative and Chair of the Finance Committee, Ms Esmé Edge, was appointed the new Deputy Executive Mayor.

Mr Dawson remains Ward 10 councillor and takes the place of Councillor Wasserman as Chairperson of the Section 80 Committee for Governance and Economic Development.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NEW SPEAKER CLLR MICHELLE WASSERMAN, NEW DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR CLLR ESMÉ EDGE, EXECUTIVE MAYOR GEORLENE WOLMARANS AND NEW CHAIRPERSON GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CLLR RICHARD DAWSON.

## VEHICLE TESTING STATION CLOSED

The Knysna Municipality temporarily closed its vehicle testing station on 19 February to review and upgrade its systems. Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the systems review could not take place while the centre was operating and would therefore be closed until further notice. The relevant press release is available on the new municipal website [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za)

## FEATURING WARD 5: COUNCILLOR MAGDA WILLIAMS

Much has been happening in Ward 5 where Councillor Magda Williams has been involved in a range of projects and negotiations.

"The needs of the people in my ward are very diverse as it includes relatively affluent areas such as Belvidere and Brenton-on-Sea while others, such as Rheenendal and Bibbieshoek, include some of the poorest communities in the municipal area."

At the beginning of every financial year (July) wards are allocated R300 000 each, of which R100 000 can go towards operational projects such as clean-ups and events while the remainder is meant for capital projects.

Ward projects are identified via the Integrated Development Programme (IDP) process, which involves ward councillors, ward committees and the community.

In Ward 5, ward allocation money went towards a new walkway to the beach at Brenton-on-Sea, guard rails along dangerous bends in the road, toilets in private homes and

public toilets at the clinic in Rheenendal. The operational budget has gone towards job creation projects in which locals assisted in the clearing of alien vegetation and neighbourhood clean-up operations.



**COUNCILLOR MAGDA WILLIAMS GETS A THANK YOU HUG FROM OUMA HESTER JANTJIES, AGED 77. THANKS TO WARD ALLOCATION MONEY, AND A LOT OF PERSISTENCE FROM MS WILLIAMS, OUMA HESTER AND HER HUSBAND, ADAM, AGED 82 FINALLY GOT A BATHROOM AND TOILET BUILT ONTO THEIR LITTLE HOUSE IN RHEENENDAL LAST YEAR. FOUR OTHER FAMILIES ALSO RECEIVED BATHROOMS ONTO THEIR HOMES.**



THE NEW BRENTON-ON-SEA WALKWAY DOWN TO THE BEACH WAS PAID FOR BY WARD ALLOCATION MONEY.



THE ALIEN VEGETATION CLEARING PROJECT DOES NOT ONLY PUT MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS BUT ALSO IMPARTS SKILLS TO LOCALS WHICH THEY CAN USE TO BE RE-EMPLOYED IN SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE.



COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS (FAR LEFT) WITH JOHN MOOS, THEMBELE MAYEDWA AND ELIZABETH PHILLIPS, WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED BY TIMBER MERCHANTS PG BISON TO KEEP THEIR CATTLE ON THE MERCHANT'S LAND.



COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS WITH STAFF OF THE ECO-COFFIN JOB CREATION PROJECT. AN OLD TOOL SHED, WHICH BELONGS TO EDEN DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, IS NOW THE BASE OF THE PROJECT.

## WATER UPDATE

The Knysna Municipality is asking users throughout its municipal area to conserve water and will be stepping up the enforcement of water restrictions.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said that while there was no crisis, economical use of water would prevent the situation from getting out of control. "South African summers are long and hot, and we want to ensure that we have sufficient reserves. The main sources of water in the Knysna Municipal area are rivers, and are therefore vulnerable in times of extreme heat or drought. Not only do people tend to use more water when it is hot, but it also increases evaporation."

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the town's only real storage facility, the Akkerkloof Dam, had been depleted during the bumper holiday season and ongoing heat was contributing to increased evaporation. "Water in the dam has dropped to below 50%, which means the town only has about a month and half's 'extra' water in storage."

In Sedgfield the construction of a weir in the Karatara River requires that the river be temporarily diverted. Reduced water use will assist in supply management during its construction over the next few months.

In Rheenendal and Buffalo Bay water is sourced from the Homtini and Goukamma Rivers, which may also become vulnerable if the heat persists.

Municipal water restrictions have been in place across the Knysna Municipal area since November 2011: Residents with even street numbers may water their gardens in summer from 6pm-7pm on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. Residents with odd street numbers may water their gardens from 6pm to 7pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Persons watering outside restriction periods may be fined R1000 per incident. Reports of illegal watering can be made to 044 302 6551 or 044 302 6337.

## NEW BY-LAW ON LIQUOR TRADING DAYS AND HOURS

Licensed liquor traders in the Knysna municipal area may now trade on Sundays and for extended hours, depending on the nature of their business, following the promulgation of the new By-law on Liquor Trading Days and Hours in December 2012. The relevant press release and bylaw is available in the Information Centre of the new municipal website [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za)

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Knysna Municipality launched its new website in February. Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the new website was aimed at better communicating the services of the municipality as well as fulfilling legal requirements regarding the Municipal Finance Management Act and the Municipal Systems Act.

"The website is meant to be dynamic and will be systematically expanded to incorporate as many of the municipality's services and projects as well as all relevant documents, forms, policies and by-laws."

The online account system has also been upgraded. Register your online account by clicking on the Account Login button on the far right on the main menu of the new website.

The website address [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za) remains the same.



## COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE MUNICIPAL MONIES



THE KNYSNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL APPOINTED ITS MUNICIPAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (MPAC) AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 12 FEBRUARY. MPAC, WHICH IS COMPLEMENTARY TO THE MUNICIPALITY'S AUDIT COMMITTEE AND INTERNAL AUDIT CAPACITY, SERVES AS AN OBJECTIVE POLITICAL OVERSIGHT REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC MONEY AND ASSETS. CHAIRED BY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN DE VRIES (BACK RIGHT), THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES (BACK LEFT) COUNCILLOR RAY BARRELL AND (FRONT FROM LEFT) COUNCILLORS MERTLE GOMBO, IRENE GROOTBOOM AND BEAUTY TYOKOLO.

## NEW DIRECTOR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Mr Mike Maughan-Brown was appointed Director Planning and Development in February. The town's former Manager Town Planning and Building Control has been acting in his newly appointed position for most of last year in addition to his duties as manager. His appointment is effective immediately and is, like all senior management posts at the Municipality, a five-year contract position.

Mr Mike Maughan-Brown holds a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning (UCT) and has 32 years' experience

in related fields including managing the first community-based informal settlement upgrade project in Cape Town and directorship of the UK-based multi-national, multi-disciplinary consulting company Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick.

# LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS BENEFIT FROM SMME INCUBATOR PROJECT

Twenty-four entrepreneurs from the greater Knysna area received a boost to their fledgling businesses following training and a donation of equipment worth R250 000, which formed part of a Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) incubator project initiated by the Knysna Municipality and supported by Nedbank.

Designed by the municipality's Economic Development Unit to develop entrepreneurs, the incubator project is in its third cycle and has assisted 51 SMMEs over the past three years. Candidates are carefully selected based on their potential to succeed and then undergo extensive business skills training. Following successful completion of the training, entrepreneurs are given equipment specific to the needs of their business. The municipality continues to provide support, guidance and access to a client network to ensure long-term sustainability and growth.

## PENGUINS, PUPILS AND A BOY NAMED KNYSNA

Life is certainly interesting when you are Mayor of Knysna. In addition to all the meetings and functions she has attended since the start of the new year, Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans also visited schools, supported the plight of penguins and met a boy named Knysna.



THE MAYOR WELCOMED PENGUIN PLODDER, DAVE CHAMBERLAIN, TO KNYSNA IN JANUARY. THE CAPE-TONIAN STOPPED OVER IN SEDGEFIELD AND KNYSNA DURING HIS RUN FROM WALVIS BAY IN NAMIBIA TO PORT ELIZABETH TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN PENGUINS. THE MODIFIED PRAM CARRIED NECESSITIES FOR HIS TRIP. SEE [WWW.VIDAMAGO.ORG](http://WWW.VIDAMAGO.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



GERMAN COUPLE WOLFGANG AND CONSTANZE SIGLER HEARD THEIR SON'S FIRST HEARTBEAT IN KNYSNA IN 2009 AND DECIDED TO NAME THEIR FIRSTBORN AFTER THE TOWN. THE TWO-YEAR-OLD MET THE MAYOR ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO KNYSNA SINCE HIS BIRTH.



(FROM LEFT) LOCAL ATTORNEY LIZELLE HARKER, A FORMER BENEFICIARY OF THE PROGRAMME, NEDBANK GEORGE ACTING BRANCH MANAGER JUALETTE DE KLERK, INCUBATOR BENEFICIARY FRANCIOS SMITH, KNYSNA EXECUTIVE MAYOR GEORLENE WOLMARANS, MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ILSE VAN SCHALKWYK AND PROJECTS OFFICER ALLAN RIVER.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF LAGOON PLAN GOING WELL

The implementation of the Knysna Estuary Pollution Action Plan is well underway and is starting to show positive results.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring, who is also the chairperson of the Knysna Estuary Pollution Control Task Committee, said several projects within the Plan were completed while on-going programmes were starting to prove successful in reducing contamination into lagoon.

"The first phase of the Knysna Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), which included the installation of superior mechanical and electrical equipment, is very near completion and is already delivering excellent results. The second phase, which includes sludge dewatering equipment, is expected to be completed in May (2013) at which time the plant will meet operating standards in terms of the National Water Act."

Other sewer-related projects completed include the upgrade of three critical pump stations and removal of sludge in the eastern wetland at George Rex Drive.

The town's River Health Programme is starting to show tangible results as especially river clean-ups are reducing the concentration of pollution that flows into the estuary. This programme also incorporates environmental education, provision of proper waste disposal facilities and improved weekly waste collection to reduce dumping of waste into rivers.

Installation of communal flushing toilets in informal areas are being completed and a gravity outfall sewer is currently being laid through Nekkies, Dam-se-Bos and Hlalani to reduce the use of 'long drop'-toilets, which are major contributors to underground river contamination.

The major stormwater-related project, which entails a property-to-property inspection of all stormwater and sewerage lines, is expected to commence shortly.

Keep up to date with lagoon information by clicking the link at the bottom of the homepage on the Knysna Municipality website at [www.knysna.gov.za](http://www.knysna.gov.za)