

Talking about the ISDF



The Community Interaction phase of Knysna's new generation Integrated Strategic Development Framework (ISDF) was launched on 9 September 2013.

Knysna is the first municipality in South Africa to initiate the new generation ISDF, a framework far more extensive than the former Spatial Development Framework (SDF) which in the past mainly focussed on development borders and zoning. Integrated Strategic Development Frameworks are 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.

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The Knysna Municipality appointed Knysna Creative Heads Consortium (KCHC) earlier this year to develop the town's new ISDF. The Community Interaction Process is one of the first phases of this project and is scheduled to run until at least November next year (2014). Mostly funded by the National Treasurer, the Framework process is expected to take about two to three years and will be investigating options for the greater Knysna area for at least the next 20 to 30 years.

Speaking at the launch, KCHC project leader Chris Mulder said this type of framework was new to everyone and required the people of Knysna to think outside the box. "We need big ideas from everyone – no matter how big or how small, no matter whether it is economic, environmental or developmental. Everything will be considered.

"The end result must be a holistic planning and development framework with detailed, implementation-orientated interventions that may be big or small and that will be prioritised according to researched and sound criteria and data."

An ISDF centre, called a Connection Café, has been set up at the Knysna Town Library in Woodmill Walk Centre (the old Edgars) in Long Street. Interested parties can register there and post written-up ideas into specially provided

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boxes. An online Café (website) will be available from the end of September 2013. Several workshops, exhibitions and data collection exercises are planned for the Community Interaction Phase – information of which will be available at the Knysna Library, in the media or via the ISDF website.

Mr Mulder also invited all communities, organisations and associations wanting to engage face-to-face, to set up a time for a 'Road Café' in which the ISDF team will travel to any place within the Knysna Municipal Area to inform, collect information and share ideas. Interested parties can phone 044 382 6732 or mail info@knysnacreativeheads.co.za

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Featuring Ward 4: Councillor Nkosinathi Litoli



Things are looking up in the communities of Ward 4 where Councillor Nkosinathi Litoli spends much of his time working towards a better life for his people. Having lived in Knysna all his life, Nkosinathi is passionate about his community and believes that things are getting better, even though it doesn't always happen as quickly as the people want it.



GUARD RAILS SUCH AS THESE HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ALONG ROADS IN STEEP AREAS ACROSS WARD 4.

"Although they sometimes get frustrated with the timeframes, the people of Ward 4 are cooperative and supportive. When we get the opportunity to speak face-to-face, most understand that we are not sitting around and doing nothing and that the big changes they want cannot happen overnight.

"Yet, if you look around you, there are many things in this ward that have improved over the last

WHILE THE INTERSECTION BENEATH HIS FEET HAS BEEN PAVED WITH WARD ALLOCATION MONEY IN THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR, COUNCILLOR LITOLI WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STEEP ROAD BEHIND HIM IMPROVED IN THE COMING YEAR.



THE SOCCER FIELD HAS RECENTLY BEEN GRADED AND BRAAI FACILITIES BUILT IN STRATEGIC PLACES. A MULTIPURPOSE SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE IS PLANNED FOR THE SITE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

year or so. Several guard rails have been installed across the ward, which has increased the safety of residents significantly. Road intersections have been paved, a play park put up and improvements made at the soccer field, including installation of braai facilities. Several flush and septic toilets have been put in, and electricity is currently being installed in Qolweni and Bloemfontein.

"We are also looking forward to the building of a multi-purpose sport and recreation centre, which is due to commence in the near future. The R200 000 ward allocation funds for this financial year will go towards the paving of roads that are in particular bad state"

Ward 4 consists of the neighbourhoods of Flenters, Witlokasie, Bloemfontein, Greenfields, Qolweni and Upper Old Place. Contact Councillor Litoli at 083 717 1951 and wlitoli@knysna.gov.za

New weir addresses Sedgefield water supply issues



An innovative weir that will contribute towards clean and safe potable water for the wider Sedgefield area until at least 2030 was officially opened in the Karatara River recently.

While the weir was primarily built to keep salt water out at the abstraction point, its design also addresses other issues such as the need for more fresh water storage capacity and reduced risk of flooding at the nearby low water bridge. The brilliance of the solution lies with two stainless steel gates that open and close automatically depending on water levels and salinity. The risk to human life is also reduced as no manual operation is needed during flood conditions.

Situated about 10km outside Sedgefield near a low water bridge also known as Jan Sak se Drif, the weir is an integral part of the long-term supply plan of potable water for Sedgefield and surrounds – an area which serves an estimated 11 200 permanent residents and up to an additional 14 000 visitors in the peak summer season.

Seventy-five percent of the R7,1-million weir was paid for by a Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and the remainder by the Knysna Municipality.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said issues surrounding potable water supply had become increasingly prominent with the economic boom of the Garden Route from 2002 onwards. "The sources of water in the Knysna municipal area are all rivers, which are always vulnerable,

especially in times of drought. On-going growth of our towns and the region placed additional strain on our resources and investigations into various options had been initiated."

The municipality initially considered the building of a dam in the Karatara River, but the financial implications (R130-million estimate in 2008) and environmental impacts rendered it not viable. A more integrated solution finally included several boreholes, a desalination plant and the multi-purpose weir that also traps enough fresh water to supply the entire Sedgefield community for 10 days – and with it sufficient time to activate the town's other conjunctive water sources should it become necessary.

Prelim statements show service delivery improvement

The Knysna Municipality's preliminary Annual Financial Statements for the 2012/13 financial year (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013) was presented in Council on 30 August.

According to the Municipal Finance Act, all municipalities have to present their Annual Financial Statements to the Auditor General before the end of August each year. The Auditor General then reviews the financials and prepares an audit report by end of November. The final audited statements are expected to go before Council in December.

Knysna Municipal Manager Lauren Waring said the 2012/13 preliminary statements reflected good financial practice and an improvement in terms of service delivery via 107% expenditure (R75,1-million) of its capital budget expenditure. "What this means is that we delivered on infrastructure, spent all our government grants, and used unspent funding from the previous financial year to pay for even more service delivery priorities.

"Taking into consideration that we only spent 70% of our capital budget the previous financial year, the municipality is particularly pleased that it managed this past year to speed up the processes that would ensure that projects were completed on time - and thereby ensuring that we did not forfeit national government grants because we could not spend it in time.

"On the operational side, the municipality spent 98% (R493-million) of its budget, which is a good indication of effective application of financial resources.

"Overall, the past financial year is an improvement from the previous year, our cash position is still sound and our debtors have improved. Knysna Municipality has received unqualified reports from the AG for the past six years and we believe that we will once again receive a generally positive report from the Auditor General," said Ms Waring.

The preliminary Annual Financial Statements 2012/13 is available on the municipal website:

www.knysna.gov.za/information-centre/document-library/financial-statements/

Have a say in your community

The second year review of the third generation Knysna Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is currently underway, and includes public participation meetings in all ten wards in the Knysna municipal area.

The IDP, which was finalised last year and plans for a five-year period from 2012 to 2017, identifies and prioritises needs and projects in each ward. The Plan is reviewed annually to determine the status of the identified projects for the previous year and whether the remaining projects are still relevant and priority.

Residents are encouraged to get involved

as the IDP is linked to the municipality's budget and capital and operational projects on the IDP are much more likely to become a reality on the ground.

Residents should come to meetings prepared with a list of the projects they consider essential to their neighbourhood's development and list them in the order they would want to see them happen. These needs can then be considered and possibly placed on the IDP projects list.

IDP public participation meetings have been taking place since 16 September. Details for the remaining meetings are:

Date:	Time:	Ward:	Councillor:	Venue:
Wed. 25 Sept.	6pm	7	Ms Titi Gombo	Khayalethu Hall
Thurs. 26 Sept.	2pm	5	Ms Magda Williams	Belvidere Church Hall
	5pm			Brenton Community Hall
Mon. 30 Sept.	5pm	10	Mr Richard Dawson	Council Chambers Clyde Street
Tues. 1 Oct.	7pm	3	Mr Migiel Lizwani	Brackenhill Community Hall
Wed. 2 Oct.	6pm	8	Ms Ntombizanele Sopeki	Thembitsha Primary School
Thurs. 3 Oct.	7pm	6	Mr Clive Witbooi	Hornlee Community Centre
Mon. 7 Oct.	7pm	9	Ms Michelle Wasserman	Sundridge Primary School
Wed. 9 Oct.	5.30pm			Cearn Hall Leisure Island
Tues. 8 Oct.	2pm	5	Ms Magda Williams	Buffalo Bay Church Hall
	7pm			Rheenendal Community Hall
Thurs. 10 Oct.	6pm	3	Mr Migiel Lizwani	Chris Hani Hall



Good start for e-waste

The Knysna Municipality had its first e-waste open day on 22 August and made a good start in getting rid of the town's electronic and electric waste. Just under a tonne's waste was collected and disposed of by contractor Ma'bone. The municipality plans regular e-waste open days in future – watch the media for details.

Pictured from left are Director Community Services Dawie Adonis, Mabone staffer Ephraim Mukhufi (back), Community Services Portfolio Councillor Magda Williams, Mabone CEO Francois Kriel, Solid Waste Manager John Jaftha and Gerdiaan Fritz of Mabone.



Bee a great speller !

The first ever Knysna Municipality Library Services Inter-schools Spelling Bee was held in Dam-se-Bos earlier this month. Some 523 learners from nine schools in the greater Knysna municipal area participated. Aimed at improving language skills and encouraging reading, the competition hosted learners from Grades Four to Seven who competed in IsiXhosa, English and Afrikaans. Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Old Mutual, the competition will be held annually for at least the next three years. Spellers each received a certificate of achievement and a goody bag of school supplies.



Breakfast treat for elderly

Knysna Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman and her ward committee treated residents of Vermont Old Age Home in Hornlee to a cooked breakfast recently. Originally intended as a Mandela Day excursion which did not pan out at the time, the Ward 9 committee decided to go ahead with their plans anyway - living up to the slogan 'make every day a Mandela Day.' Accompanied by Hospice volunteers, the group cooked bacon, eggs, toast and tomato for 51 elderly people who live at the home. Councillor Michelle Wasserman (second right) was assisted by Hospice staff and volunteers Charleen Speelman, Sister Terry Foster and Leonie van Jaarsveldt .

ISDF launch (from page 1)

Speaking at the launch of the Community Interaction phase of the ISDF at the Knysna Library in Woodmill Lane Centre, Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans emphasised that the Framework was about putting heads together to ensure the very best future for Knysna and everyone who lived here.

“Among us live some of the best brains and experience the world has to offer, and the process we are launching here tonight is aimed at harnessing all that knowledge and expertise for the greater good of our municipal area. I encourage you to spread the news about this process and ask that you participate constructively with all our town's people in mind.”

She added that the municipality was well aware of the commotion surrounding the appointment of KCHC as service providers but emphasised the municipality's confidence that the KCHC team's skills and experience, combined with their unconditional passion as locals of this town and region, were exactly what Knysna required to plan its future.

“We are very proud to be the very first municipality in South Africa to tackle a new generation ISDF process, and we are going to do everything in our power to ensure that it is representative and sustainable.

“We remind all interested parties and stakeholders that the ISDF process is public and that locals wanting to contribute must participate – all the way through.

“This Framework is about way more than just determining boundaries and zones. It is about looking at the bigger picture and finding workable solutions for a wide range of factors. These include economic development, environmental integrity, provision of housing and facilities, bulk infrastructure, and a whole range of social issues associated with a town where the very rich and the very poor live side by side every day.

“We know that our issues are complicated and diverse. We know that it is going to take time, and we know that not everyone is going to agree. And that's OK. We need to start somewhere...so here we are.”