

COUNCIL NEWS

APRIL 2014



KNYSNA Municipality

WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE PROSPER

Help Build South Africa's Future – Exercise Your Right to Vote



On the 7th of May 2014, South Africa will go to the polls for the 5th National and Provincial elections. The day has been declared a special public holiday and Executive Mayor Cllr Georlene Wolmarans says these are historic elections. "They mark the 20th anniversary of our freedom from apartheid, and give residents the opportunity to participate in the making of South Africa's future."

Ms Wolmarans says that the 7th of May should not only remind all South African's how far we have come, but also how far we have to go in building a better future for South Africa. "Democracy offers us all the opportunity to make our voices heard. The best thing we can do is to work together by exercising our right to vote."

Voter registration closed on 25 February 2014. To check your registration status, ward number and voting station location, visit www.elections.org.za, or sms your ID number to 32810 (R1 per sms). You can also contact the local Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) office in St Georges Street, phone 044 382 3608, or email iec@elections.org.za for more information.

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Knysna Municipal Draft Budget Tabled for Public Comment

The 2014/2015 draft budget was tabled during an ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 27 March 2014.

The anticipated final outcome of the current 2013/14 budget is that Council will end with a surplus after all transfers of R47.3 million. This compares to the original budgeted figure of R42.2 million. The operational budget for 2014/15 projects R536.8 million operating revenue, R544.1 million operating expenditure, R39.4 million capital transfers and a surplus of R32.2 million. Capital expenditure is budgeted at R67.6 million. The capital expenditure emphasis remains on electricity, water and sewerage infrastructure. Of the R21.3 million allocated for MIG projects in 2014/15, R3.9 million is earmarked for the upgrading of the community nodes in Rheendal and Smutsville, and R1.8 million has been earmarked for labour intensive sidewalk and pavement projects.

Executive Mayor Cllr Georlene Wolmarans says the annual draft budget is available on the Knysna Municipality website and at all Knysna libraries for public comment. "We encourage all residents to take this opportunity to review the budget and voice their opinions about it - we will consider each submission made before the final budget is tabled in May 2014. Anyone who would like to submit a representation regarding the draft budget may submit it to the Municipal Manager, or email it to budget@knysna.gov.za before the closing date for submissions on Friday, 2 May 2014."





eWaste Recycling Project Launches



Did you know that eWaste - electronic appliances like mobile phones, computers, and televisions - contains toxic materials like mercury and lead which have the potential to leach into our soil and water?

This is why it's important to dispose of your e-waste properly, and Municipal Manager Lauren Waring says the municipality is taking steps to make it easier. "On 20 March 2014 an open eWaste Disposal day was held at the Sedgefield Town Hall, and from 18 March a free collections container where you can drop off your eWaste will be available at the Transfer Station in Knysna. This will be available for 6 months and we want to thank Valley Containers who have provided the container, and Ma'bone, the service provider who will collect the waste on a regular basis free of charge. We especially thank the public for participating."

Baboon Action Plan



include Knysna Municipality, Cape Nature, SANParks, the Knysna Animal Welfare Society, as well as private participants that have successfully dealt with Baboons on their properties, e.g. at Pezula and Simola. Its main objective will be to put together an integrated and holistic baboon management plan for Knysna in order to resolve human/baboon conflict through both short- and long-term measures. The forum will develop public awareness campaigns and a strategy and protocols for dealing with repeat baboon raiders."

Ms Waring said whilst there is no direct allocation within the local 2013/2014 budget as this is an unfunded mandate, the municipality has agreed to work with the Knysna Baboon Action Group to put together a motivation for a grant from external funders.

Every winter from June to August we experience an increase in baboon activity in residential areas as troops are tempted into our neighbourhoods in search of food.

Municipal Manager Lauren Waring says to assist the public in dealing with the problem; a Baboon Management Forum has been formed together with the Knysna Baboon Action Group. "This will

Residents are urged to make use of the programme by reporting baboon sightings to Knysna Municipality by contacting 044 302 6551 during office hours and 044 302 8911 after hours.

Sedgefield Receives New Firetruck



The Fire Department in Sedgefield have a new water tanker truck. Purchased on tender from Shorts Nissan in George at a cost of R823 000 (including VAT), the new truck was delivered on 28 February 2014 to replace the very old 1988 Isuzu FTR water tanker truck.

Health Promoter @ School Programme to come to Knysna



On 19 March 2014, representatives of the Knysna Municipality Community Services Directorate and the Speaker, Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman, met with Mr Anton Titus, principal of Knysna Secondary School and caretaker principal of Concordia High School, and Mr Nicholas Njozela, principal of Percy Mdala High School, to discuss the Health Promoter @ School programme.

Part of the Health Promotion South Africa Trust®, this is a non-profit organization that provides information and training in health and hygiene. The principals were very excited about the programme being implemented in their schools and said it will meet a great need in our communities that is not currently addressed. Executive Mayor, Cllr Georlene Wolmarans said this initiative has her full support. "The opportunity to bring the Health Promoters programme to Knysna will be a great benefit to all."

Essential refurbishment of the Red Bridge (Rooibrug), including replacement of corroded elements and overall corrosion protection, means the bridge will be closed from Monday 14 April 2014 until at least 5 September 2014. The final date for reopening will be subject to completion of the works, which could be affected by weather conditions and unexpected delays.



Road Hierarchy

The road network in the Greater Knysna Municipal area is under severe pressure and needs attention urgently. As funding is not readily available the municipality developed a Pavement Management System (PMS) to prioritise spent on the maintenance of both gravel and surfaced roads. The Council-approved policy refers to a 'roads hierarchy' which will channel the funds to roads in order of importance and maximum impact, resulting in an equitable distribution of funds across Greater Knysna.

The budget for the current financial year for all wards is:

- Resealing of streets: R3 000 000
- Regraveling: R1 842 850
- General road maintenance: R2 500 000

The PMS will be updated every 3 - 5 years. In terms of the hierarchy no work will be done on a road lower down on the list as long as repairs are needed on roads first on the list as these serve the larger community. The more traffic a particular road gets, the higher on the priority list it will be scheduled. Main public transport routes are most likely to be addressed first.



This applies to resealing, road patching, regraveling and general road maintenance, while normal internal blading operations will continue on a cyclic basis outside the hierarchy. No temporary repairs will be done and only long term permanent solutions will be allowed to minimise the need for repeated repairs.

A seasonal approach will be followed - from March to May for road patching; from May to September for stormwater maintenance and temporary road repairs like plugging of potholes; from September to December for road patching; and from January to March for resealing.

For more information on the PMS, visit the Knysna Municipality website <http://www.knysna.gov.za/resident-services/roads/>



A project to paint street names onto kerbs has been launched and Ward 9 Councillor Michelle Wasserman says the campaign is now well underway. "Before the 2011 municipal elections I did a lot of door-to-door campaigning in Hornlee and discovered that Hornlee hardly had any street signs. Thanks to this campaign, most streets now have their names painted on street kerbstones in striking yellow and black."

Human Rights Day Celebration



Human Rights Day was celebrated on 21 March 2014 at the Hornlee Sports Field with a Soccer Tournament co-sponsored by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Knysna Municipality. Young and old came together to watch 16 teams give their best performance on the field.

by Knysna's Executive Mayor Ms Georlene Wolmarans. Ms Wolmarans said this is an opportunity for all South Africans to take stock of the progress made to promote, develop and protect human rights in this country.

Mr Alan Winde, Western Cape Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, addressed the crowd and was joined

“Although we have made significant gains, we still have a long way to go. We must always remember the high price that was paid in our country, a sacrifice that has made yesterday's dream of human rights today's reality.”

Upcoming Events:

- **Freedom Day** will be celebrated on 27th April with a music and entertainment day at Chris Hani Community Hall, Dam-se-Bos, hosted by the Knysna Municipality
- **The Rotary District 9350 Conference**, hosted by the Rotary Club Knysna, will take place 1-3 May
- **The Globeflight Pink Loerie Mardi Gras and Arts Festival** will celebrate its 14th year to the theme of “Funky Town” 30 April – 4 May
- **The Jaguar Simola Hillclimb**, sure to entertain speed lovers from all across South Africa, will take place 16-18 May. The Hillclimb will be preceded by the Knysna Motor Show on 11th May, and a Speed Festival Charity Golf Day on 15th May

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