Dear Reader,

It has been two short months since the new Knysna Municipal Councillors have taken their seats and already the establishment of ward committees and our new five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) has kicked off with enthusiasm.

Various public meetings are currently taking place in all 11 wards to allow you, our residents, to add your voice to the planning, budgeting, resource allocation and decision-making processes within your communities. Since the socio-economic, infrastructural and environmental dynamics and needs of our communities are ever changing, the IDP is reviewed on an annual basis.

The new Council sees the public participation process as a critically important fact-finding mission through which they can identify the real issues within communities, as well as what residents expect from their municipality. The process will also provide communities the opportunity to engage with their councillors and various critical municipal officials.

As with the establishment of the IDP, ward committees are also an important channel of communication between the municipality and its citizens in relation to their needs, priorities, and challenges.

The IDP is an opportunity to have your say about the future of our town, so let your voice be heard.

Eleven Ward Committees are currently being established to ensure community participation in the development objectives of our municipality, IDP, budget and performance management processes.

These committees play a significant role within the communities they serve. Once again I encourage community members of Greater Knysna to participate in the affairs of local government through these committees. I hope that you will take this opportunity and participate in electing people who are going to represent the needs of your communities.

I look forward to working closely with our communities and their chosen leaders to ensure that the Greater Knysna is the best run municipality in the country.

I encourage all citizens to actively participate in critical processes such as the IDP. This process allows for effective, two-way communication between council and its various constituents.

Eleanore Bouw-Spies

“It drove home, personally, the value of early detection and education and intervention” – Janet Napolitano on detecting her breast cancer early.

Source: www.healthline.com
ESTABLISHMENT OF WARD COMMITTEES IN KNYSNA

As with the IDP, Section 73 of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998, states that each municipality must establish ward committees following every Local Government Election for the duration of the new Council’s term.

In line with this legislation the Knysna Municipality is currently in the process of establishing these committees in all 11 wards of the Greater Knysna. Representatives from sectors and/or geographical areas within the Greater Knysna municipal area who wish to represent the needs of their communities are encouraged to partake in this process. Community members should elect representatives from within their wards who they are confident will correctly represent them to council.

Criteria for ward committee members:
The Constitution for Ward Committees of the Knysna Municipality will be followed in selecting the Ward Committee members.

- They must represent a sector or geographical area that is involved in some formal activity within the ward;
- They must be elected by community members from within the sector/geographical area in which they will serve; and remain in good standing as a member of his/her sector/geographical area.
- It is important that the representative is not indebted to the municipality for a period longer than three months, unless he/she can prove that arrangements for the settlement of the account have been made;
- A Ward Committee member may not be an employee of the local or district municipality;
- The committee member must be a person of sound mind who has been declared so by a competent court and
- A police clearance certificate will be applied for for all nominated Ward Committee members.

Following the last ward committee public Meeting on Tuesday, 25 October, an item regarding these Ward Committees’ establishment will be put before Council. The provisionally selected Ward Committee members will be published in the local media to allow for public comment or objections. Following this, the item will again be presented to Council for approval, if approved the Ward Committees may then legally operate.


INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THE IDP

In accordance with the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 2000, a new five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is currently being implemented.

This year marks the fourth-generation of the IDP which requires a new Municipal Council to map out their objectives at the beginning of their five-year term. This plan then becomes the vehicle with which to drive the development for the residents of the Greater Knysna.

After the current public participation process is completed, the Knysna Municipal Council and its administration will apply their minds to prioritising issues that have arisen during these public meetings. The issues raised will assist the municipality in developing strategic objectives that, in turn, will determine the budget. The Municipal Council will align the findings from the IDP and prioritise these with the key performance areas.

IDP documentation is available on the municipal website:


A WARD COMMITTEE IS:

An important channel of communication between the municipality and its constituency in relation to the needs, preferences, and problems faced by communities. The mandate of a ward committee is to ensure grass root participation in the development objectives of the municipality as per the IDP, budget and Performance Management process.

- After every local government election, ward committees are also elected for the duration of that Council term.
- Each ward has a ward committee.
- Each ward committee member represents the needs for a sector/geographical area in the ward.
- Each member reports back to his own sector/geographical area.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WARD COMMITTEES

Ward committees:

- consist of a ward councillor and not more than ten people who are elected from the ward.
- are advisory bodies, they can make recommendations to the municipal council, but do not have the power to make decisions on their own.
- should be an effective way of spreading information concerning what communities need from municipal council and what council is doing.
- co-ordinate all community queries, complaints and requests received from residents in the ward.
- must meet at least once a quarter, but preferably once every two months.

ROLE OF WARD COUNCILLOR

Ward councillors:

- chair the ward committee meetings.
- are responsible for organising meetings and setting the ward committee agendas.
- report issues and/or developments raised by ward committees at council meetings and the municipality.
- provide feedback from the municipality to communities through report back meetings.
- work with the ward committees to ensure that the Ward Committee Operational Plans (activity plans) have been developed annually.
- identify and initiate projects to improve the lives of people in the wards.

PARTICI/PATORY DEMOCRACY

COMMUNITIES

WARD COMMITTEES

COUNCILLORS

COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION

Knysna Mayoral Charity Golf Day

STORY FOLLOWS OVERLEAF >>>
MESSAGE FOR MATRIC LEARNERS

You have put your heads down and done so well to get where you are in your academic life right now, well done for reaching this important milestone.

The pending matric exams are probably the most crucial and important examinations you will ever write, an exam that will play a critical role in the lifelong career path you choose.

I encourage you to give it your all and study hard for the remaining few weeks of your high school life.

May your dedication and hard work be rewarded with success beyond your wildest dreams. You are the leaders of tomorrow and completing your school career is the first stop towards realising your potential and contributing to a prosperous South Africa.

Good luck to each and every one of you. Give it your best and the rest will take care of itself.

KNYSNA MAYORAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

In magnificent weather, 104 golfers gathered at the Simola Golf Course on 14 October to participate in the annual Knysna Mayoral Golf Day to assist in growing the Mayor’s Social Relief and Bursary Fund.

Bouw-Spies thanked the golfers for their support and said that this fund was close to her heart. “This fund assists Greater Knysna residents between the ages of 13 and 54 years-of-age who are in need of funding.” She added that “nobody is ever too young or too old to broaden their horizons.”

The Winning fourball, Team Sonqua Consulting - Lawrence Luiters, Patrick Grootboom, Euan Wildeman and Andrew Zeelie arrived back in the clubhouse with an astounding 102 points. On 95 points were runners-up, Mayoral Team - Andile Tebekane, Ralph Stander, Clive Wildeman and Graham Jansen. Messrs. Henry Hendriks, Eben Philips, Petrus Jaantjies and Krisjan Leen took third place on 91 points.

IDP FIVE-YEAR PROCESS

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4TH GENERATION IDP
KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY 5-YEAR VISION

ANTIFRAUD & CORRUPTION HOTLINE

STOP CORRUPTION

0800 21 47 64

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water your garden at dusk between 17:00 and 18:00 on designated days.
Houses with even numbers: Mon, Wed & Fri
Houses with odd numbers: Tue, Thu & Sat