KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY

YOUR MONTHLY INFO ON WHAT WE DO, MAKING PEOPLE AND NATURE PROSPER

WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE WATER SECURITY

The water situation in the greater Knysna Municipal area has reached critical levels, with reserves of this precious resource dwindling day by day.

Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said: “Knysna is on high alert. We appeal to all residents of the greater municipal area to make a conscious effort to conserve water and cut consumption to ensure that we get through this thirsty time.”

The situation is dire, with the Akkerkloof Dam (the main reserve facility for Knysna) and the Glebe Dam both at critically low levels. “Each and every one of us needs to think twice about how we use water,” she said. “The reality is that we need to cut our consumption in half to meet sustainable targets and make our reserves last longer.”

The consumption target for the greater municipal area, which has been widely published, is 8 megalitres of water per day. We are currently using significantly more – 12.8 megalitres per day. Sedgefield’s target is 1.9 megalitres, while the current consumption stands at 2.4 megalitres.

“Unless all our residents work together we run the risk that our taps will run dry within the next couple of months,” said Wolmarans. “We have reached the point where we need to implement desperate measures to avoid a serious disaster situation.”

The municipality is considering a range of measures to address the issue, including:

- the implementation of punitive tariffs to curb wasteful usage;
- the roll-out of a water awareness campaign aimed to inform, educate and motivate;
- strict enforcement of water restriction measures such as the installation of meters with a water management device that limits water supply to properties; and
- a water leak repair programme.
- If we fail to reduce consumption, the municipality will have to institute water “shedding” and rationing.

“It has become clear we cannot rely on rainfall to save us. We are doing everything we can to address the state of affairs, but each and every one of us can do our part at home as well,” she said.

Tips to reduce water consumption at home:

- Take a short shower instead of a bath.
- Only flush the toilet when absolutely necessary (preferably using a dual-flush system).
- Set your appliances to economy mode (such as washing machines and dishwashers).
- Water your garden only at dusk (18:00 to 19:00) on designated days (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for houses with even numbers, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for houses with odd numbers).
- Use grey water (run-off from the washing machine, sink, shower etc.) in the garden if possible.
- Don’t brush your teeth, wash the dishes or shave with the tap running.
- Wash your car with a bucket and not the hose.
- Don’t top-up the swimming pool for the time-being.

Other, more extensive measures can also be considered like installing catchment tanks to store rain water, drilling a borehole or digging a well.

“We are confident that if we come together as a community, we can prevent the drought that has devastated the rest of South Africa from affecting our beautiful town,” Wolmarans concluded. “It is only by working together toward this common goal that we can attain success. Let’s show the rest of the Garden Route - and the country - how it is done.”

Please report any misuse of water to 044 302 6331. For water saving tips visit the municipality’s website: http://www.knysna.gov.za/be-water-wise.

Please report any misuse of water to 044 302 6331. For water saving tips visit the municipality’s website: http://www.knysna.gov.za/be-water-wise.

Please report any misuse of water to 044 302 6331. For water saving tips visit the municipality’s website: http://www.knysna.gov.za/be-water-wise.
The #FeesMustFall student movement took a new direction the last few weeks. Student protests began focussing on languages at local universities and, more specifically, Afrikaans. The closing of some of our main universities due to student unrest, burning of buildings, vandalism of precious historical artworks and other acts of unruliness was a sad turn of events.

At the same time a group of students at the University of Pretoria, or Tuks, started a group promoting peace across racial lines and religions. They wanted to show that violence is never the answer. This initiative quickly spread to other universities and the group numbered more than the politically violent groups on the various campuses. This movement was not about religion or race, but about the unification of all South Africans.

Politicians became involved in talks with all stakeholders and amicable agreements were soon reached, once again showing the power of sitting around a table discussing problems rather than resorting violence and intimidation.

We are all South Africans, no matter what our colour or belief system, and we will not be able to build the country we want with protests, intimidation and violence. Our history must remind us of mistakes made in the past - and persuade us not to make them again. We cannot change the past, we can only build on the future.

Human Rights Day on 21 March is a reminder of what the new South Africa represents. Everyone has a right to life, equality and human dignity. All persons have a right to citizenship and security. Persons and groups are entitled to freedom of assembly, association, belief and opinion, and expression. The Bill of Rights also specifies the rights of persons belonging to cultural, religious or linguistic communities. It is up to us to live according to this Bill of Rights, to embrace it and to use it to inform our actions and decisions.

It is a time to reach out, to get to know the different cultures that constitute the rainbow nation. When you understand why people feel the way they do, there is a much better chance of acceptance. Let us celebrate our diversity rather than fight it. Let us use it to our advantage as we build our future - without corruption, without intimidation and without aggression.

Also showcasing our wonderful diversity are the religious holidays coming up. Roman Catholics are in the middle of Lent, which is a period of introspection. The Easter period is coming up at the end of the month for all Christians and our Jewish community is celebrating Purim. All of us are different, yet the same in many ways. I wish you all a blessed time, a time to celebrate and rejoice in your diversity. And when you celebrate Human Rights Day, celebrate our Bill of Rights and the freedom it gives us.

Georlene Wolmarans • Executive Mayor

New Delegations to speed up service delivery

Earlier this year Council approved a new system of delegations to accommodate the new planning system under the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) and to aid in speeding up service delivery.

Section 80 Committees which include Community Services, Finance, Governance and Economic Development and Planning Development and Infrastructure have been granted certain powers to make decisions that can be immediately implemented. This will shorten the decision-making process for certain burning issues and pressing matters that need to be addressed urgently.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans said, “The delegation of powers has a profound effect on the speed, cost and the manner in which services are delivered. This resolution is a step in the right direction to ensure that we fast-track delivery of services and will assist in our vision of building a town where people prosper.”
Ward 9 Councillor Mark Willemse acknowledges that his ward consists of communities with very diverse needs. “My ward has communities that are wealthy and others that are very poor. Since I took on the mantle of councillor in July 2015, it has been challenging to try balance the needs that are so distinctly different. Dealing with the very demanding situation of the Hornlee area, which requires basic needs, and providing service delivery to the other wealthier communities, challenges one to find a balance. The needs of both communities are of great importance to me and I welcome the diverse challenges of finding a level playing ground to be able to serve both communities equally.

The community of Ward 9 actively participated in the Integrated Development Plan process. The following has been achieved:

- In November 2015 an emerging contractor was appointed for bush clearing (alien vegetation) in Rooi Els Street, Hornlee West. The project, which amounted to R13 500, was implemented for environmental and safety reasons.
- The community in Hornlee can look forward to the upgrading of sidewalks in Pyramid Street. This project is still in the planning phase and an amount of R75 000 has been allocated to this project.
- Another project that has been identified by the community is the installation of a tourist information board at George Rex Drive and a layby area for vehicles to park. A budget of R75 000 has been allocated to this project.

HELPING LOCAL SOCCER TEAM TO PROMOTE A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY:

Sports participation is beneficial for both the physical and social/psychological development of all young people. Sports programmes promote responsible social behaviours, greater academic success, confidence in one’s physical abilities and an appreciation for personal health.

It keeps the youth off of the streets and decreases their chances of being exposed to drugs and alcohol. It is against this background that some of the ward allocation funding will be utilised for providing two sets of sport kits (jerseys, shorts and socks) to Super Strikers in Hornlee. The management of the Super Strikers had written a letter requesting sponsorship and Councillor Willemse responded favourably.

Council’s Ward Project programme continues to better the lives of Knysna’s communities.

The programme, which was established in 2011, has achieved great success. These successes have contributed positively to the quality of life of Knysna’s communities.

A tangible outcome of this programme is the creation of job opportunities and its contribution to the economy of our town. We are leveraging our service delivery programmes to create short-term work opportunities, providing a much needed source of income in many households.

Some of the 2015/16 projects completed to date include:

Ward 2: A contractor commenced work in October with the upgrading of electricity network cables in Sedgefield. The project was completed in December 2015. Upgrade work on Sedgefield East intake cable commenced in October and was completed in December 2015.

Ward 3: Paving of 7de Laan commenced in January 2015 and was completed by the following month. The electrification of Glebe dam commenced in September 2015 and was completed by February 2016.

Ward 7: Paving of Gwai Street commenced in December 2015 and the project was completed by February 2016. The paving of a street in Rhobololo commenced in December 2015 and was completed in February 2016. Construction on the upgrading of sidewalks commenced at the end of November 2015 and took only one month to complete. The project was completed by December 2015.

Ward 8: Upgrading of sidewalks commenced in January 2016 and was completed by February 2016. Upgrade work of sidewalks in the Northern Areas commenced in November 2016 and was completed by February 2016.

Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Funding:

The rehabilitation of sewers in the CBD commenced in February 2016 and was completed by the following month. Installation of transformers commenced in September 2015 and work was officially completed by November 2015.
The Green Column

In order to reduce our waste-to-landfill volumes Knysna Municipality employs a multi-bag system for disposal of household refuse.

Clear bags are available free of charge to all residents for the disposal of recyclable waste, which is collected and taken to a recycling facility. The following general categories of waste can be disposed/deposited in these bags:

- Dry paper and cardboard products
- Clean/rinsed plastics products
- Clean/rinsed tins & cans
- Clean/rinsed glass

Only blue bags purchased from the Customer Care Centre may be used for garden refuse. The purchase price covers the cost of transportation to a composting site.

Black bags may be used for all other household waste intended for landfill disposal.

Please help us to protect our environment by reducing, reusing & recycling. For enquiries contact 044 302 6405.

Update on Expanded Public Works Programme

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a government initiative which is aimed at reducing the levels of poverty and unemployment in communities. This is achieved by:

- giving unemployed people access to temporary work;
- assisting unemployed people through skills programmes and work experience;
- ensuring that unemployed people receive an allowance for any work they have completed as part of the EPWP;
- enhancing EPWP participants’ chances of finding jobs or starting their own businesses.

One hundred individuals have been employed in the greater Knysna municipal area since July 2015. Community members were placed in different sectors and worked on various projects which received a total budget of R2 970 000.

The breakdown of the projects is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>Project Budget in 2014/15</th>
<th>Funding from EPWP grant</th>
<th>Number of work opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management</td>
<td>R1 336 500</td>
<td>R450 900</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road and Storm water system</td>
<td>R594 000</td>
<td>R200 400</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and beautification</td>
<td>R350 700</td>
<td>R350 700</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATES TO REMEMBER - MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Ordinary Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>Ward Committee: Ward 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Economic Development Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATES TO REMEMBER - COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 – 27 March</td>
<td>Sedgefield’s Slow Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Local Design &amp; Food Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Family Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>WP Blood Transfusion Service Blood Drive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>