Dear Reader,

Welcome to our ‘Good news’ newsletter. Your new council has now been in the hot seat for 100 days and as promised during our campaign, we have delivered on many of our promises.

I am sure that many of you will remember that in my inaugural speech on 15 August I stated: “The proof of our delivery will be in our action, and you (the public) will, starting today, for the next five years, hold us accountable, judge us, criticize us and even praise us.”

During that speech, I told you that your new council can deliver a town of opportunity and that we can make this a more inclusive Greater Knysna. I encouraged you to attend public meetings so that you can make first-hand informed judgments of our performance.

Within our first 100 days, we have done a great deal with the intention of creating more opportunities and jobs within Greater Knysna. We have streamlined the SMME Development Unit, increased accessibility of SMME entrepreneurial support through an SMME web portal and entrepreneur ICT hub. We are also developing more economic spaces within informal CBD areas through a container park model as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) and have undertaken a Business Unit Survey to develop a reliable business database.

Further, we have rolled out the Broadband policy implementation plan to provide increased ICT accessibility. In partnership with the Western Cape Government and Office of the Premier, we are currently in the process of establishing a Cape Access e-Centre in the Hornlee library, which will be officially opened on December 7. Our Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) policy is in place and the EPWP unit is functioning well within the municipality. All the above was done to create more opportunities and jobs.

We are currently looking at implementing a CBD Renewal Strategy.

Furthermore, we are boosting tourism with Greater Knysna’s Brenton-on-Sea and Buffels Bay beaches once again flying their Blue Flags high. The Thesen Islands marina was also awarded a Blue Flag Marina for the 5th consecutive year.

There are so many great initiatives that we have started within the 100 days that I am unable to elaborate on them all here. In brief, we are developing a Substance Abuse Policy, establishing a Local Drug Action Committee, are in the final stages of establishing Ward Committees in all 11 wards of Greater Knysna and have held comprehensive Integrated Development Plan (IDP) public participation meeting in all 11 wards through 13 public meetings.

Eleanore Bouw-Spies
As we head into the warmer and dryer season, Mayoral Committee member: Technical Services, implement conservation measures and adhere to municipal water restrictions. Despite recent rains in Greater Knysna, we are appealing to all residents to continue to use water wisely, economic development, and job creation.

The annual Blue Flag Awards celebrate the most Blue Flags in the country. Blue flag status resulted in this province receiving Blue Flag Marina for the 5th consecutive year. The Thesen Islands marina was also awarded a Blue Flag Marina for the 5th consecutive year. Jubilation ran high when the announcement was made during the WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) national Blue Flag launch event held at Marina Beach on the Kwa-Zula Natal South Coast on Friday, October 7.

Greater Knysna’s Brenton-on-Sea and Buffels Bay beaches once again can fly their Blue Flags high. The annual Blue Flag Awards celebrates the long-standing partnership that WESSA has built with the Knysna Municipality, who has recognized the value of Blue Flag not just to environmental management and education, but also to tourism, economic development, and job creation.

We were announced the second runner up in the category Best Informal Settlement Upgrading Project for its Dam-se-Bos South, Vision 2002 project, during the 2016 Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards ceremony in Cape Town on Friday the 23rd of September 2016. The Govan Mbeki awards take place annually with the aim to honour those who have performed best in the Human Settlements sector of local government. Since the launch of the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards in 2008, Knysna Local Municipality has received four accolades up-to-date.

Knysna’s target water usage is currently 8Ml/day but residents are utilizing a whopping "Our consumption is still too high and it is vital that it is curbed to enable our water reserves to be replenished. Knysna’s target water usage is currently 8Ml/day but residents are utilizing a whopping..."
12.2Ml/day. Although Sedgefield residents are more water-conscious, their daily water usage of 2.11Ml is still above the target of 1.9Ml/day,” he said.

The water restrictions in place require residents to only water their gardens at dusk between 17:00 and 18:00 on designated days: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays for houses with even numbers, and Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays for houses with odd numbers.

Water saving tips are available on the municipal website: http://www.knysna.gov.za/be-water wise. Water abuse or leaks can be reported to 044 302 6331 or via Whatsapp on 084 534 6084.

**TEAM SANLAM PAINTED WOLF PUTS KNYSNA ON THE MAP!**

Congratulations to Greater Knysna’s own Adventure Racing Team, Team Sanlam Painted Wolf! They competed in the Adventure Racing World Series in Australia as a team without a world ranking and finished an amazing fourth! “We are all so proud of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for flying, not only South Africa’s flag high but Greater Knysna’s as well,” said Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies.

*Team Painted Wolf: Mark Collins, John Collins, André Gie & Robyn Owen.*

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**E-WASTE FACILITY IN KNYSNA TRANSFER STATION**

The E-Waste facility in the Knysna Transfer Station is now operational weekdays from 08:00 – 16:00. This facility is free of charge to all businesses and residents of Greater Knysna. Electronic and electrical waste includes information and communications technology (ICT) equipment, consumer electronics, small and large household appliances.

Mayoral Portfolio Chair for Community Services, Cllr Cathy Weideman, explained the importance of using these facilities to end the illegal dumping of E-Waste. “Illegal dumping is a reoccurring problem. We have recently commenced with a campaign aimed at addressing illegal dumping and urge you to be our eyes on the ground and please Whatsapp 081 556 9374 us with details of where you have noticed illegal dumping. It would be ideal if a photograph of the perpetrators could accompany your tip off.”

All persons who wish to dispose of their electronic waste are requested to liaise with the transfer supervisor, Jonathan Salmans, on 044 302 6477 or at jsalmans@knysna.gov.za.

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**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