



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Council snippets

Update – Disposal of Erf 65, Buffalo Bay

The Knysna Council has opted for an auction to dispose of the three subdivided portions of Erf 65 in Buffalo Bay. The auction is scheduled for the Easter weekend in April. Acting Municipal Manager Grant Easton said an Auctioneer will be appointed in terms of the Supply Chain Management Policy. "We felt that auctioning these properties will be the most beneficial process to the Municipality. This is a relative fast option and best price can be obtained due to the competitive nature of the process."

Easton will also attend the auction and act on behalf of the Municipality.

New housing developments in line for 2015

Council approved various development proposals at the last meeting which will add much needed housing to the Knysna Municipal area.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said that as housing is one of the country's biggest challenges, this is good news. "The development in Hlalani will include 273 houses and 2 church sites with access to the N2 via the Noetzie Road. This site, part of which was originally a dump site has been problematic for some time and I am very happy that the formal development plan has been approved. The area is situated on relatively steep slopes and shows signs of erosion. In normal circumstance this would not be an ideal property to develop. However, there is already an established community that have been living here for several years.

This site drains via both the Bigai River into the Knysna estuary, and also into the Noetzie River. Proper sanitation and provision of water and waste collection will ensure healthier living conditions to residents but also improve the water quality, biodiversity and environmental health of the catchment area," continued Wolmarans.

The Ethembeni informal settlement in Concordia will also be upgraded and 200 housing opportunities for members of the community who are already occupying that land will be provided.

Wolmarans said another exciting development is the Happy Rest development, also in Concordia. It will provide housing opportunities for 102 households as well as 1 general residential erf, 7 public open spaces and 2 public streets. "These areas have been identified as higher density areas where a maximum number of units can be achieved by creating even platforms with semi-detached double storey units. The general residential erf will make provision for double storey walk ups that could be used as Council rentals units. There will be 18 units on this erf for people who do not qualify for a housing grant. The layout also makes provision for a church site and a sport field."

In Sedgefield a group housing development of 14 units in the CBD area was approved.

Public feedback required on delimitation of Wards

The Knysna Municipality will hold a public meeting in the Hornlee Community Hall on the 9th of March at 10:00 to discuss the report of the Delimitation of Wards by the Municipal Demarcation Board.

Mayor Georlene Wolmarans said that this is an important matter, and the public should voice their opinion. "This matter will have a direct influence on the various communities and it is essential that their voices are heard in the process. Everyone is welcome to give their input on decisions which will be implemented by the 2016 elections."

Municipal court for the Knysna Municipal area on the cards

Acting Municipal Manager Grant Easton will lodge an application with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to establish a Municipal Court for the Knysna Municipal area. Easton said the establishment of the court will enable the municipality to act much faster on certain matters. "Traffic fines and by-law infringements are the main issues we would like to deal with in a fast and efficient way. Enforcing by-laws have been problematic in the past as we have no legal capacity to punish offenders - this court will change that."

Upgrade of CBD sewer reticulation to start

The planned R4,2 million upgrade of the Knysna CBD sewerage reticulation will start shortly. Acting Municipal Manager Grant Easton said it would relieve the pressure on the existing aging system. "At the moment we are experiencing regular blockages as a result of system overload. The current system carries approximately 5100 households from the CBD and Northern areas. The upgrade will not only improve the quality of life for the residents, but it will also contribute towards keeping the estuary clean as we will have improved management of what flows into the estuary and the ground water."

Easton said to properly manage the volume of current and future waste entering the system, the existing gravitational main to a larger diameter pipeline and the intake at the main pump station in Waterfront Drive will also be upgraded.

"Residents may experience temporary traffic disruptions during construction and the municipality apologises for any inconvenience caused," said Easton.

It's budget time – send us your tips!

Based on the successful "Tips for Trevor" campaign run by the then Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans is inviting the public to forward their comments and suggestions for the upcoming budget.

Wolmarans said Mr Manuel's campaign had proved to be very successful. "1500 South Africans submitted their tips in the fifth year. Many gave technical advice on tax issues and spending while others found the time to think through innovative and creative suggestions. He even met with some of them to discuss their ideas. As the municipal budget is money spent to improve our service delivery to you, who better to comment than our residents?"

Constructive ideas and suggestions can be emailed to tips@knysna.gov.za or you can send an sms to 44453.

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