Parikh Gobrie has been appointed as Knysna Municipality’s new Director of Financial Services and joined the administration at the beginning of November.

The position was previously held by Mr Grant Easton who vacated the position to head up the administration as Municipal Manager. “A chartered accountant with ten years’ broad based financial management experience, her business experience covers a range of industries from mining and aviation to tourism and the public sector,” said Easton.

Gobrie was previously elected to represent South Africa on the United Nations Board of Auditors for the UN peacekeeping operations in Haiti. She has also performed internal control reviews and accompanied external and internal audits of many of South African Tourism’s branch offices abroad.

Originally from Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal, Mrs Gobrie has moved to Knysna with her husband of two years. “I first came to Knysna a couple of years ago on a vacation,” she explained. “My husband and I fell in love with the area – especially the scenic beauty, wide open spaces and tranquility of the area.”

She explained that she applied for the position as she believes that her skills and experience will add value to the running of the department. “Knysna Municipality has a proud record of clean audit reports and outstanding service delivery that needs to be sustained. With ever-changing legislative and statutory requirements and a government under pressure to stretch its resources, we will have to constantly adapt our internal policies and business processes to both comply and do more with less money.”

“I believe that my main challenge will be to do more with less, for instance increasing the return on municipal expenditure so that more services can be rendered to the community, while also investing in upgrading municipal infrastructure,” she said. “Further challenges include stimulating economic growth and job creation.”

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HOSTS BASIC BUSINESS SKILLS PROGRAMME**

The Economic Development Department held several workshop projects in the Greater Knysna area in October, one of which was the Basic Business Skills Training which was held at Knysna Town Library and Smutsville Community Hall from 15 – 23 September. Forty one participants completed the course and received their certificates.

The Department also arranged for a Market Day to be held at the Sanlam Mall in Nekkies on the 3rd of October. The entrepreneurs and locals in support of the Market Day were officially welcomed by Ward 3 Councillor Migiel Lizwani. 19 entrepreneurs attended and proudly exhibited and marketed their various businesses.

The SARS Tax Workshop was held at Honnilee Library from 28 – 30 September. The aim of the workshop was to provide taxpayers with information that would create a basic understanding of the various tax types, how these taxes work and what is expected of taxpayers in order to be tax compliant at all times. All participants were happy to receive the training and due to this they will be able to apply their new-found knowledge come tax season.

**Council News**

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**From the Mayor’s Pen**

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**Hosepipe Time Change from December**

The use of hosepipes for gardening and other purposes and the use of irrigation systems are permitted from 17h00 to 1800 until the end of November. From December watering times will change to 18h00 to 19h00 until May, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for residents with even street numbers, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for residents with odd street numbers.

**Dates to remember**

Council Meetings:
- 19 November: Ward Committee Meeting: Ward 7
- 26 November: Mayoral Committee Meeting
- 10 December: Council Meeting

Commemorative Days & Events:
- 28 November: Knysna Marathon Club Cross Country
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