COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME

A town where people and nature prosper can only exist where steps are taken to ensure that our most vulnerable, yet most valuable, members of the community are afforded the opportunity to provide for their families.

The Community Work Programme is taking the necessary steps to provide opportunity for many of our people. In partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Dhladhla Foundation, we will provide 500 individuals with the opportunity to create a decent life for them and their families with regular, part-time work.

The number of job opportunities per ward are as follows:

Wards 1, 2 & 5: 50 workers each
Wards 3, 4, 7 & 8: 55 workers each and Wards 6 & 9: 65 workers each.

This community driven project, while labour intensive, will provide invaluable hours of work experience and potentially favourable references. This means that participants who make the most of this opportunity will be able to apply for permanent, gainful employment at the end of their temporary work – with an employment offer from Knysna Municipality.

In this way the Community Work Programme will not only provide temporary employment, but will create the potential for real eradication of poverty with the possibility of permanent employment awaiting candidates upon completion of this programme.

LET US IN TO READ YOUR WATER AND ELECTRICITY METERS

As far as practically possible, all water and electricity meters are read on a monthly basis. Our meter readers are at times not able to read your water meter due to the following:

- Locked gates
- Vicious dogs
- Meters covered with soil, water or vegetation
- Property owners denying them access.
- Vehicles parked over meters, etc.

The non-reading of your meter will result in an estimate of your consumption and, in turn, a demand for payment or under billed accounts. Kindly note that in terms of our Water Bylaw, you as the property owner or tenant cannot deny our meter readers access in the execution of their duties. In the future, the meter reader will leave a note in your post box to inform you of the non-reading of your water meter. A fee will be charged to your account should there be no response to our request for access.

Our meter readers are easily identifiable by their uniforms, or ask to see the ID card that will be in their possession at all times.

We would like to make a friendly, yet urgent, appeal to all consumers to ensure that their meters are accessible to be read at all times. You are welcome to contact the municipality’s customer accounts or meter reading sections for any queries at 044 322 6558, 044 322 6557 or 044 322 6408.

Consumers can also take their own readings and phone in to the aforementioned numbers.

WASTE REMOVAL DAYS

Monday: Sedgefield Greenwite area
Tuesday: Sedgefield Central, Bibby’s Hoek, Rheenendal
Wednesday: Sedgefield Island, Smutsville area
Thursday: Karata
Friday: Zeegezight, Extensions 3 and 4, Cola and Myoli Beach

NOMINATE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KNYSNA MUNICIPAL PLANNING TRIBUNAL

Knyansa Municipality invites nominations for members of the public to be appointed to the Knyansa Municipal Planning Tribunal (KMPT). The KMPT will consist of municipal officials and external members who have demonstrable knowledge, experience and preferably qualifications in any of the disciplines of spatial planning, land use management or land development, or the laws relating thereto. The period of appointment will be three years and a person is welcome to nominate him/herself.

While it is expected that the KMPT will meet once every two months, or once a month by exception, members are expected to spend between eight and sixteen hours on the KMPT every second month. This will include preparation for the meetings, site visits and the meeting itself. An hourly remuneration rate will be determined by Council, based on government guidelines.

Nominations must be submitted on the prescribed nomination form by 26 February 2016. Submit nominations to the Office of the Director: Planning & Development, Mr. Mike Maughan-Brown, via e-mail at mmbaughan-brown@knysna.gov.za or via post to PO Box 23, Knysna, 6570. The prescribed nomination form may be obtained from the director’s office at the corner of Main- and Church Streets, or downloaded from www.knysna.gov.za. For further information, contact the office of the Director: Planning & Development on 044 302 6351.

From the Mayor’s Pen

Climate change is affecting the world, but closer to home prolonged droughts are causing havoc. Towns are without water, crops totally destroyed – a bleak picture and one that we will feel the effects of for some time to come as the country will most likely have to import food, and that means increased prices.

As with every dark cloud, there is always a silver lining, and in this case it must be the public jumping in, working together and helping where they can. Water Shortage SA is one example. A spontaneous initiative that sprung up on Facebook, it gained over 22 000 likes and has already delivered two million litres of water in 20 days.

Their motto is “Never sold, never bought, never sponsored, only donated by South Africans for South Africans”. They said the word was spread via social media, where people could both make an appeal for aid and also respond to calls for assistance.

How it works is that people post on Facebook they have water to donate and someone else would reply saying they are passing through that area. No one in charge - the leadership has come from people wanting to help. I was very proud to see residents in the Greater Knysna area also contributed.

It’s not just water that was donated, I’ve also seen numerous pictures of truckloads of donated feed for animals transported to drought stricken areas all over South Africa.

I believe these initiatives are showing the true hearts of the majority of South Africans, not the cheap racial slurs that we’ve seen in the media recently. We are a rainbow nation with the ability to stand together, help each other and if we can continue the momentum in all aspects of our lives, we will truly create the country Nelson Mandela envisaged.

In Knysna we are fortunate not to have water shedding as yet, but the continuous heat is wreaking havoc with our supplies, so please use water sparingly! Think how you can save, re-use and be wise water. We have started the construction of a new water reservoir which will give us more storage capacity, but that will only be finished later in the year, and our rivers are running low.

Municipal elections are around the corner and voter registration is open. As important as Ubuntu is for building a country to be proud of, so is democracy. This is the time where your voice can contribute to the future of the country. Every vote counts and all residents, but especially the youth, must realise that decisions made now will influence your future – be part of it! Make sure you register and vote, it is your constitutional right!

Voter registration will take place on 5 & 6 March 2016 – let’s also work together in this process to create a place where people and nature can prosper!