From the Mayor's Pen

Dear residents,

Thank you for all your well wishes. Your support is helping me through this health scare, and I appreciate your concern. I am on the mend and hope to make a full recovery soon.

I was quite literally heartbroken at not being able to join in all the fun of the Knysna Oyster Festival. The festival and its many events were a great success by all accounts. In its new guise as a festival driven by locals, for locals, it is sure to provide many years of fun for all those involved – and a welcome injection into our local economy.

A heartfelt thank you to the organisers and sponsors of the events, all the workers and, very importantly, to all of you who supported and enjoyed the festival.

We are committed to listening to our residents and working on continuously improving our service delivery. Our very visible example of this is the laying of new piping to improve our provision of safe drinking potable water. While it does cause temporary frustration on the roads where work is taking place, these roads will be ressealed, an added bonus making for a better road surface in the affected areas.

Nelson Mandela International Day, as we know it, Madiba Day, once again celebrated this great man’s legacy on 18 July. The Madiba Day campaign message is: “Nelson Mandela has fought social injustice for 67 years. We’re asking you to start with 67 minutes.”

Every one of us has the innate potential to change the world. Even if we change only one person’s world, we can make an impact. Mandela Day asks us to spend 67 minutes of every 18 July volunteering in service of the community. Whilst Mandela Month gives us the opportunity to actively do good during the entire month of July, we surely should all be fighting poverty and promoting peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity every day. Thank you for doing your part in building an inspired, innovative and inclusive Knysna.

Reflecting on the past financial year

In our previous edition, we introduced the 2019/2020 budget for Greater Knysna. But what happened the previous year? one may ask. Today we wish to highlight a few outstanding triumphs achieved by the Knysna Municipality during the 2018/2019 year.

All top management positions have been filled with the appointments of directors Community, Corporate Services and Technical Services, and Dr Vatala as Municipal Manager.

We are thrilled to announce that our Parks Department has acquired a new sport club house for the Horney club and water-wise to provide insects and wildlife opportunities. As a top-tourist destination, Knysna has an amazing tapestry of natural areas, pristine beaches, beautiful open spaces and recreational parks – all designed to create an important relationship between its people and nature.

The beautification and improvement of public spaces, relationships between its people and nature. The municipality is inspired and excited by its role in the economic development of Knysna.

The beautification and improvement of public spaces, beaches, beautiful open spaces and recreational parks – all designed to create an important relationship between its people and nature. The beautification and improvement of public parks and gardens will no doubt play a crucial role in the economic development of Knysna.

The Knysna Municipality aimed to create 324 employment opportunities under the Expanded Public Works Programme. This target was exceeded and the 500 opportunities created earned the Municipality an Accolade for Excellence from the Western Cape Department of Public Works.

The construction of a new, R2 million sport clubhouse in Hornlie is soon to be completed.

Parks department transforming municipal gardens

We are thrilled to announce that our Parks Department rejuvenated over 50 municipal garden beds and has planted more than 130 trees under the department’s new ‘greening’ initiative. The initiative aims to invest in the natural and recreational areas, with plans to extending into outlying areas such as Brenton, Belvedere and Sedgefield, in time to come.

The Heads’ water network was upgraded at a cost close to R4 million. This will ensure that future generations inherit a town that is more vibrant, more beautiful, and more inclusive than before. It is important to remember and consider that the community is not living in isolation from nature. We are integrated into our natural environment and need to celebrate and respect our natural heritage of incredible biodiversity. For this reason, 98% of species selected are indigenous and water-wise to provide insects and wildlife with a source of forage.

The Parks Department will continue with tree planting and garden bed rejuvenation, extending into outlying areas such as Brenton, Belvedere and Sedgefield, in time to come. Greened and rejuvenated spaces will inspire and develop a sense of pride in the town that we call home.

Creating new neighbourhood playgrounds and greenery is not just for today – these efforts will ensure that future generations inherit a town that is more vibrant, more beautiful, and more inclusive than before. It is important for the municipality, property owners and other private partners to be innovative and collaborative in developing gardens and open spaces that will continue to hold significant future value.

Garden spaces which have recently been rejuvenated need to be respected and given the chance to establish. All municipal by-laws guarantee littering and nuisance of pets need to be adhered to by all community members to allow these spaces to develop as best as possible.

As a top-tourist destination, Knysna has an amazing tapestry of natural areas, pristine beaches, beautiful open spaces and recreational parks – all designed to create an important relationship between its people and nature. The beautification and improvement of public parks and gardens will no doubt play a crucial role in the economic development of Knysna.

The municipality is inspired and excited by its Parks Department’s ongoing prioritization of the town’s gardens and public open spaces. It is important to remember and consider that the community is not living in isolation from nature. We are integrated into our natural environment and need to celebrate and respect our natural heritage of incredible biodiversity. For this reason, 98% of species selected are indigenous and water-wise to provide insects and wildlife with a source of forage.

The Parks Department will continue with tree planting and garden bed rejuvenation, extending into outlying areas such as Brenton, Belvedere and Sedgefield, in time to come. Greened and rejuvenated spaces will inspire and develop a sense of pride in the town that we call home.

Creating new neighbourhood playgrounds and greenery is not just for today – these efforts will ensure that future generations inherit a town that is more vibrant, more beautiful, and more inclusive than before. It is important for the municipality, property owners and other private partners to be innovative and collaborative in developing gardens and open spaces that will continue to hold significant future value.

Garden spaces which have recently been rejuvenated need to be respected and given the chance to establish. All municipal by-laws guarantee littering and nuisance of pets need to be adhered to by all community members to allow these spaces to develop as best as possible.

Phase two of the Roads Maintenance System is underway.

Our vehicle fleet has expanded with the acquisition of a new fire engine and refuse truck, valued at R13.6 and R2 million respectively. The investment in the refuse truck has cut costs significantly as this function was previously outsourced at great expense.

Smme Incubator successfully growing small business, boosting the economy and creating jobs

Contact Ntombekezile Sibali at 044 302 6359 or email nsibali@knysna.gov.za for more information on the SMME Incubator programme.