Dear residents,

I'd like to start this newsletter by thanking each of you who participated in the public participation process of our 2019/2020 Budget. This phase has now ended and we value every input we have received. The final budget will be tabled during the Council Meeting scheduled for 30 May. I believe that this budget will allow us to facilitate local economic growth by providing the necessary economic infrastructure.

Residents having their say during the public participation process was vital to the finalisation of the budget document. Many of us took part in what you might call another very important public participation process recently – that is voting during the general elections of 8 May, which ran smoothly in Knysna. This was the sixth time that all South Africans have been encouraged to elect their national and provincial governments. While it is every citizen's right to vote, it is also a privilege and a responsibility. Thank you to everyone who exercised this right responsibly.

The young people in South Africa form a large section of the voting population and, by casting their votes, they shape our future. Indeed our youth has played a very important role in shaping our democracy as a whole and the month of June celebrates and commemorates those efforts. Youth Day not only remembers the fateful Soweto uprisings of 1976, but honours the past, present and future contributions that our youth make toward a free South Africa. Their vision and involvement are also crucial ingredients to an inspired, innovative and inclusive Knysna.

I invite you to join the Knysna Youth Day Celebrations at Leerie Park on Sunday 16 June. Some of South Africa's top DJ's and entertainers will perform at a free concert as a celebration of our youth and their valuable influence on our democracy and society. Please watch the press releases over the coming weeks for further details.

June also rings in the school holidays and the Knysna Oyster Festival. Thanks to the support, experience and cooperation of the municipality and local organisers, plans for this ever-popular festival are well underway. Now in a refreshing, locally inspired format, the new Knysna Oyster Festival will still present favourites like the Knysna Cycle Tour MTB and Road Races, Flavours of Knysna and the Knysna Forest Marathon. Keep an eye on the press and www.oysterfestival.co.za – the extensive programme is continuously updated with new events as they are confirmed.

The Knysna Oyster Festival is not only Knysna in name, but Knysna in nature: run and managed by locals, it needs to be supported by locals too. I hope that those who can, make the most of this family time and maybe we can enjoy an oyster or two together!

Appreciate one another, stay safe, and stay warm.

"Til next month...

MARK WILLEMSE, EXECUTIVE MAYOR

KNYSNA EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME EXCEEDS TARGETS

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EWPW) is one of the largest public employment programmes in South Africa. Knysna Municipality has already exceeded its annual EWPW target of 153 work opportunities by the start of the 4th quarter, thanks to the diligent project management of the various implementing departments.

One of the key programmes is the Knysna River Health Programme, coordinated by the Environmental Management Department. This focused on employing more than 50 women and youths, a strategic outcome of the EWPW programme. Preparations are underway for the 4th phase of the EWPW with an increased focus on training and development opportunities for EWPW beneficiaries.

YOUTH DESK CALLS ON GREATER KNYSNA YOUTH FOR INPUT

The Knysna Municipality Youth Desk, in partnership with the Knysna Youth Council, will be hosting a Skills Development Summit in July this year.

All people aged between 16 and 35 years and living within the Greater Knysna area are encouraged to submit input and ideas on what training needs and skills development opportunities should be discussed at the Summit. These submissions must reach us by no later than 30 June.

"For the youth to succeed in the midst of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, a new approach to skills development is needed," said Community Services Chairperson Councillor Salaze. "The Skills Development Summit will incorporate developing skills, creating jobs and growing the local economy."

"For this to be a success and truly beneficial to our youth, we need your input. Think of an industry that you would love to work in; think of the skill you need for that business you have always wanted to start and tell us what it is so that we may create a programme to suit your needs."

All written suggestions on training and skills needs may be submitted to ssigula@knysna.gov.za or Delaine@knysna.gov.za. We would love to work in; think of the skill you need for that business you have always wanted to start and tell us what it is so that we may create a programme to suit your needs.

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BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH HANDOVER OF TITLE DEEDS

The lives of over 30 families were changed immeasurably on 26 April when Knysna Executive Mayor Mark Willemse presented them with title deeds to their subsidised properties. The beneficiaries, mostly from Concordia in Ward 8, have been waiting to receive ownership for many years.

Willemse acknowledged the history of property ownership in South Africa. Owning an asset such as a property can lead to better financial security and opportunities for growth.

"This is an important programme for us because of the positive impact it has on our community. With the support of the Provincial Department of Human Settlements we will continue to process and hand over title deeds to beneficiaries. We will expedite this process through our Title Deeds Restoration Project," Willemse said.

A consumer education workshop followed the official handover. The workshop was designed to create an understanding of the value of ownership, what the asset is worth and the responsibilities of being a homeowner.

TITLE DEED RESTORATION PROJECT ACCELERATING TRANSFERS

Knysna Municipality, supported by the Department of Human Settlements, recently initiated the Title Deed Restoration Project (TRP).

The aim of the TRP is to address title deed backlogs. Residents living in homes completed between 1994 and 2014 now have access to formal title deeds, granting them ownership of these properties.

Thanks to financial, policy and consultative support from the Human Settlements Department, the Municipality may now effectively deliver the transfers of properties to beneficiaries. A continued effort will be made to ensure that title deeds are speedily transferred to beneficiaries upon completion of construction.

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

Thursday 30 May

Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 4 June

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5 June

Governance & Economic Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday 11 June

Committee of Council

Tuesday 25 June

Standing Committee

Wednesday 26 June

Technical Services Committee Meeting

Thursday 27 June

Planning & WIS Committee Meeting

Enjoy Knysna from the other view, go township eating!!!

A DIFFERENT VIEW

Chef Melyn Mene has more than 19 years experience in the industry, including working under Gordon Ramsay at the One&Only in Cape Town, as well as at the super busy CCITC kitchen. Knysna born and bred, he can do lunches, platters, Melvyn's famous braai, High Teas, Dinner & Private Chef Services!

SMME INCUBATOR SUCCESSFULLY GROWING SMALL BUSINESS, BOOSTING THE ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS.