**GREEN COLUMN: STARTING A MOVEMENT – CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE**

There’s an event in nature called The Flamingo Phenomenon, where, when a flock of flamingos migrate, about three or four of the birds fly up and flap and squawk, but this doesn’t capture the attention of the flock, so they settle back down and talk amongst themselves. A few days later, about nine or ten of them fly up, flapping and squawking again—and but this is still not quite enough, so they settle back down and talk further. Another few days later, about 25 of them fly up and do the same, but this time their collective calling is enough to get the whole flock interested, and off they fly as a group. Taking a lesson from this, BioWise has introduced a “Champions of Change” approach at the Knysna Municipality as part of the recently launched Waste Nothing Knysna programme. ‘Champions’ have been identified in each department to be the drivers of change in the workplace, inspiring and empowering others to follow in turning out the ‘trash’ when it comes to the use of our resources. They’ll learn how-by actually doing it.

The main municipal building is itself to become a ‘flapping flamingos’ as we undertake, over time, to turn it into a bio-wise building that is energy-efficient, where no drop of water is wasted and where all waste is turned into a resource. The municipal Champions of Change will work together on this and apply the lessons learned back in their own departments. We’ll follow their journey and share their lessons along the way.

Waste Nothing Knysna was launched earlier this month and the same champions approach will be used for business and tourism establishments as well as the 15 schools that have entered the BioWise school competition. They will all become our ‘flapping flamingos’, helping to get the ‘bio-wise’ groundswell movement going!

Anyone interested in becoming a Champion of Change, please contact Sue on sue@kwisewa.org.za and let’s start flapping.

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**KNYSNA EXECUTIVE MAYOR’S PEN**

KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY’S DRAFT BUDGET TABLED

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies tabled the Draft Budget for Knysna Municipality during a Special Council Meeting on March 29.

“The total funded capital projects for the 2018/2019 financial year amounts to R148 million, with the main focus on the following – water infrastructure – R38.6 million, electricity – R30.4 million, sanitation – R27.7 million, refuse removal – R8.1 million and roads infrastructure R10.7 million. The budget capital will be funded by means of grants from National Government to the amount of R65.9 million and own funding to the amount of R82.9 million.”

The Executive Mayor also highlighted the proposed tariff increases. “Revenue sources remain under strain and, in an attempt to maintain service delivery with affordability, proposed tariff increases have been limited as follows: electricity 6.83% (as confirmed by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa), water 7.5%, refuse removal 5.9%, and assessment rates 2.7%.”

The draft budget is now accessible for public comment in all wards across Greater Knysna, allowing submissions to be made by all communities. The final budget will be presented to Council towards the end of May for consideration and approval.

**BUDGET & IDP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Knysna Municipality has embarked on a public participation process in respect of its 2018/2019 Draft Budget and draft five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The Draft Budget and draft IDP documentation is available at the municipal offices, libraries and on the municipality’s website (www.knysna.gov.za). Communities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content.

“I urge all members of the public, ward committees and other relevant stakeholders to ensure they attend the public meetings, participate fully and make meaningful and valuable contributions to the budgeting process. It has been brought to my attention that certain groups have previously not participated in the municipal’s transparent engagement processes in the past and opted to utilise the media to share their input. I cannot stress the importance of our residents’ input enough and therefore encourage all to participate in these public engagements. Your voice is important and I look forward to hearing it,” says Knysna Executive Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies.

The schedule for the public meetings is available under Dates to Diarise of this newsletter or the Bouw-Spies voice is important to us and I look forward to utilise the media to share their input. I

**WATER WEEK CHANGES MINDS**

Celebrating National Water Week, Knysna Municipality’s Environmental Management Department hosted a number of educational activities at local primary and high schools. This year National Water Week was celebrated from 18 – 24 March, with the theme ‘Access to safe water by 2030 – possible through nature.’

Everyone can make a difference; including children. It does not matter how big or small the effort. We need to start initiating behavioural change in relation to water conservation and an early age is ideal that the department has targeted young people for this campaign,” said Mayoral Committee Member for Technical Services, Cllr Lewis Davis.

Activities included a guided tour of the Water Treatment Works on Thursday 22 March for Concordia High School learners, whilst on Monday 26 March, learners from George High School were treated to a fun filled educational theatre show. The production focussed on water conservation.

Davis said, “We would like to remind our residents that water restrictions are still in place. We appeal to everyone to use water sparingly and help us to extend the availability of the existing supply of water.”

National Water Week is an awareness campaign that serves as a powerful mechanism reiterating the value of water, the need for sustainable management of this scarce resource, and the critical role adequate water supply plays in our communities.

**REPORT LEAKS: 044 302 6331**

**DON’T rinse dishes under running water**

**DON’T run taps when brushing your teeth**

**Report water abuse**

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**MUNICIPAL MEETINGS**

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<td>24 April</td>
<td>Continuation of Finance &amp; Governance Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>25 April</td>
<td>Special Council Meeting</td>
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<td>7 May</td>
<td>Mayoral Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>30 May</td>
<td>Ordinary Council Meeting</td>
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<td>27 April</td>
<td>Freedom Day</td>
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<td>1 May</td>
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**COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS**

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**DATES TO DIARIZE**

- 17 April: Cemal Hall, Leisure Isle
- 19 April: Ward 9
- 20 April: Brenton-on-Sea Community Hall
- 23 April: Ward 6
- 24 April: Khayelitsha Hall
- 2 May: Ward 3
- 3 May: Ward 6
- 26 May: Concordia High School