The CBD renewal programme will uplift areas which are underdeveloped, not being used to their full potential or in need of urban upgrade. Key elements are to repair, upgrade, beautify and add to the functionality and form of areas within Knysna’s CBD.

The objective is to build, restore and renew the CBD and enhance it as central to Knysna’s future economic and social success as a destination for tourism and business, and as an attractive, liveable space. Our internal programme steering committee focuses on key aspects including safety, security, traffic and law enforcement, technical and infrastructure services, planning and urban design, aesthetics and signage, and cleansing, beautification and landscaping.

One of the first outputs of this programme is the renewal of the Grey Street precinct, from the Main Road to Waterfront Drive intersections. We are finalising an urban design framework, which is key for the detailed infrastructure and urban design upgrades which need to take place.

Priority infrastructure upgrades include issues of traffic, street widening, signage, bins and paving – and can only be finalised once we have input from affected businesses, property owners and CBD users. We held two public open days on 20 and 21 February 2018 at the Knysna Log Inn Hotel in Grey Street to get feedback on the draft Grey Street Urban Design Framework.

We want to involve stakeholders to make sure that we take all views into consideration.

We value your input. We also welcome inputs from community members in the wider CBD who are working on projects that contribute to urban renewal. Look out for public participation sessions that will be taking place.

For more information on the programme please contact Ilse van Schalkwyk | ivanschalkwyk@knysna.gov.za
WANTED: NEW YOUTH LEADERS TO SERVE ON KNYSNA YOUTH COUNCIL

Nominations to serve on the Knysna Municipal Youth Council are now open.

The municipality’s Youth Desk is excited to announce the nomination process for new members to the Youth Council.

Youth from Greater Knysna are invited to participate in the nomination and election process. Nomination forms are available at all Youth Centres and must be submitted on or before close of business on Tuesday 27 February.

Greater Knysna youth can nominate their peers who they feel will best represent their needs. The criteria for nominees are as follows:

- must reside in a ward within the boundaries of the Knysna Municipality
- must be between 14 and 35 years of age
- must be nominated by 20 youths within the ward on the prescribed nomination form, and
- must have a clean criminal record for the past five years with no pending cases.

“The new Youth Council will continue with the vision of mobilising the youth of Knysna to act as change agents for active citizenship, meaningful community participation, entrepreneurship and the improvement of their own lives and the lives of those around them” – Eleanore Bouw-Spies, Knysna Mayor

For more information please contact the Youth Desk on 044 302 6442 or visit the Youth Centre closest to you.

BE WATER-WISE EVERY DAY

We thank those residents who are taking proactive steps to reduce their water usage. Current water statistics indicate an improvement in river flow, and the off-channel Akkerkloof Dam is 46% full.

Locate your property’s water meter to monitor your daily consumption

Install a water-saving shower-head and take shorter showers. Turn the shower OFF when soaping

Rinse dishes and vegetables in a basin of water, NOT under a running tap

Level 3 water restrictions include:

- Do not water gardens or wash vehicles or boats
- Municipal potable water for human consumption only
- Use 20kl or less per month. A 75% penalty will be added if you use more
- Water recycling systems to be implemented
- All residents are requested to install water-efficient devices
- Water features must ONLY use recycled water

For more information visit knysna.gov.za
Knysna has been plagued with water pipe breaks in the last few weeks. Knysna Municipal Manager, Kam Chetty said these were caused by severe weather conditions and ageing infrastructure. “The drought conditions have an effect on the soil. Water pipes are cement-based and as the soil expands and contracts, the pipes break.”
He said the water infrastructure in the CBD was installed over 50 years ago. “This infrastructure has reached its lifespan. In engineering terms the lifecycle of water infrastructure is 30 years.”

An urgent Mayoral Committee meeting was held on 18 January to address the problem, and the following resolutions were taken:
- A valve replacement programme commenced in February to enable the municipality to isolate smaller areas.
- A cost estimate will be done to replace the entire CBD water network.
- Funding for these interventions will be discussed in Council.

The valve and UPVC pipeline replacement can no longer be postponed. Chetty said that they are committed to finding solutions “I apologise sincerely for the water outages and the discomfort it causes. We are working around the clock to fix it. We are also working on short- and long-term interventions.”

Water leaks and pipe bursts should be reported quickly and accurately so that they can be repaired timeously. Please report water and sewerage leaks to 044 302 6331 and water abuse to WhatsApp on 060 998 7000.
Knysna Municipality’s Solid Waste and Environmental Departments held a successful clean-up campaign in Brenton-on-Sea on 2 February in celebration of World Wetlands Day. Supported by local businesses, non-profit organisations and residents, the area around Brenton-on-Sea’s dump-site was cleaned. All illegally dumped waste was removed. Recyclable material and building rubble were separated and removed.

Knysna Municipality thanks the Brenton Ratepayers Association, Brenton residents, Bio-Wise, Metelerkamps, Wendy Dewberry, Knoetzie residents, Eden District Municipality’s EPWP team and Ward 5 Contractors for their efforts in keeping our beautiful town clean. We invite other residents and businesses to do their bit to preserve our precious environment.

For the latest news on the Garden Route Rebuild Initiative visit their website at: gardenrouterebuild.co.za

DEMELI-LEIGH NEL-PETERS GETS KEY TO THE TOWN OF KNYSNA

Our local golden girl, Miss Universe 2017 Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, received a warm welcome during her homecoming parade in Sedgefield on Sunday 28 January. Knysna Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies presented Demi-Leigh with the Key to the Town in front of her hometown crowd on the Sedgefield Primary Sports Field. She said: “Congratulations Demi-Leigh! We are all so proud of you! You have shown the youth of our town that everything is possible and dreams do come true. Sometimes all we see is the glitz and glamour, never really taking note of all the hard work behind the scenes. You have worked hard and are now reaping the benefits. Bringing the title of Miss Universe back to Knysna is an immense boost to our spirits and morale. Thank you for bringing the crown home.”

BRENTON-ON-SEA HOSTS WETLANDS DAY

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2018 MUNICIPAL MEETING DATES

1 March Mayoral Committee
29 March Ordinary Council Meeting
21 March Human Rights Day