



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Greater Knysna roads to be fixed**

The Knysna Municipality will spend a whopping R31.1 million on improving the quality of many Greater Knysna's roads during this financial year.

According to Knysna Acting Municipal Manager, Bevan Ellman R 16million has been allocated towards resurfacing; R7.6 million for re-gravelling (topping up gravel on existing gravel roads); R4.5 million for potholes and patches and R2.947 million for repairs to other roads and related infrastructure such as signs, fences, kerbs, etc.

"Our roads, given a set of assumptions such as traffic, growth, use and conditions, were designed to last a predetermined number of years. Depending on a number of variables many of these roads may or may not reach that design lifespan. For this predetermined road's lifespan to be reached the road must be resurfaced at set intervals otherwise the lifespan decreases," explained Ellman.

"The Operating Budget will be used to repair potholes, patch the surface, fix defects such as cracks, repairing roads after water breaks and resurfacing of roads. The Capital Budget will be implemented with the creation of new roads. This budget will also be used to improve / upgrade roads; i.e. to widen roads or to pave previous gravel roads. With regard to the Capital Budget, currently Gray Street has been approved for upgrading. This will consist of the improvement / upgrading of the intersections from a tarred surface to a paved surface.

A planned Council workshop, on Thursday, November 10 will determine which streets will be resurfaced, how the funds for potholes and patches will be distributed between wards. Following this workshop a list of the roads will be created in order of fixing priority. This list will be used to determine the sequence of maintenance.

Should the workshop prove fruitful, a document pertaining to the maintenance of the roads will be compiled and made available on the Knysna Municipal website. The planned document may indicate (per Ward) the roads in most need of attention and an estimated time that work will begin.

"The Pavement Management System (PMS) is a computerized system that forms a data base for the Municipal Technical Department's maintenance and road information. This is compiled by visiting every street, picking up all the defects and recording the condition of the street. This information is then prioritized by the computer system based on pre-set criteria in line with the

guidelines and a standard set by the National department of Transport. The process of updating our PMS by means of a grant from the Provincial Government will start this week coming (November 1)," Ellman said.

This PMS is used to guide and inform council as to where the needs lie, and what sort of interventions should be made with regard to the state of the roads. It also lists the streets in order of priority of rehabilitation and resurfacing needs and offers an indication of the condition of other streets that may need resurfacing in future but may only require minor attention immediately. It is important to note that the PMS is a purely scientific and objective tool.

Ellman added: "We have also recommended to Council that we need to put funds towards rehabilitation of severely damaged roads. To do this it might be necessary to take funds from another budget."

A tender for the fixing of Greater Knysna roads has been advertised and work will commence during January 2017 and completed before Easter 2017.

"We need to be mindful that we do not have all the funds to accommodate all the needs in one year and will therefore have to prioritize the condition of the roads," concluded Ellman.

**ENDS**

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