



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 15 June 2015
EMBARGO: Immediate

Knysna Municipality discusses way forward for Grey Street

Knysna's Municipal Manager, Mr Grant Easton, has commented on the re-construction of Grey Street. Mr Easton said, "The Municipality is acutely aware of the potentially negative effect this vital work may be having on the businesses and residents of Grey Street and the immediate surrounds, and we apologise for the inconvenience."

The work required entails the upgrading of the bulk sewer line, and ultimately the re-tarring of the road. The poor state of the under-lying infra-structure and the continual breakages in the pipeline was contributing to an increasingly unacceptable situation above and below the ground. Mr Easton stated that the work was critical and Council has dedicated a large portion of its roads budget for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 to the upgrade of the road. "We need to bite the bullet and get it done. Otherwise the road will continue to deteriorate rapidly and sewerage will leak out and spill with concomitant effects."

Work commenced on 28 May 2015 and was intended to be fully complete, with all tarring done, on 20 July 2015. However, once the contractors and consultants started work it became clear that the work required was far more rigorous than originally anticipated. The sewerage lines, in place four and a half metres deep, were so strong they were defying all attempts to be "cracked". Now we are having to dig them out. In order to meet the original timeframes, and to ensure the road is in good working order for the Knysna Oyster Festival, two additional teams have been employed to expedite the work. Mr Easton has confirmed that the road will be in full working order by the time of the festival.

"Work from Gordon to Rawson Streets and Nelson Street to Main Road will be completed by the end of June in time for the Festival. The last day of work is scheduled to be on the 29 June 2015 when tarring for the section between Trotter and Rawson Streets will be done. Between 29 June 2015 and 2 July 2015 the Contractor will prepare to leave the site and ensure that it is left in an acceptable condition. The Contractor will return to site on the 13 July 2015 to complete the work between Rawson and Nelson Streets."

The Executive Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans, confirmed the time-frames set out by Mr Easton. "I have given very firm instructions that, despite the unforeseen complexities and the intricacies of this type of work, as well as the need to ensure that the utilities housed within the road are not hampered, Grey Street must be fully operational for the festival, to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike."

ENDS

Picture: Fleming Photography

Knysna Municipality Communications Department
P O Box 21. Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa
Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)
Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail communications@knysna.gov.za