



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 20 September 2016
EMBARGO: Immediate

New council, new IDP

The Knysna Municipal Council was inaugurated on Monday, 15 August and as required by the Local Government Municipal Systems Act 2000, the process of developing a new five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will be set in motion from Thursday 22 September and conclude on 20 October.

To comprehensive IDP public participation process will be undertaking in all 11 Greater Knysna Municipal Wards during 13 public meetings.

The IDP is a process through which municipalities prepare a strategic development plan that extends over a five-year period. It includes the planning, budgeting, resource allocation and decision-making processes within the municipality. Since the socio-economic, infrastructural and environmental dynamics and needs of the communities are ever changing, the IDP is reviewed annually.

This year marks the fourth generation of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The new Municipal Council is therefore required to map out their objectives and this IDP is the vehicle that they use to drive the development for residents of Greater Knysna.

The new Municipal Council sees the public participation process as an important fact finding mission during which they can establish the real issues within communities, as well as what residents expect from their municipality. The process will also afford communities the opportunity to have direct interaction and contact with their Councillors and municipal officials.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies said, "We call on all residents and other stakeholders to actively participate in this process. The IDP is an opportunity to have your say about the future of this town, so let your voice be heard."

Bouw-Spies explained the importance of resident participation, "I have not only emphasised, during my mayoral campaign the importance of public participation and communication, but have also stressed the significance thereof in the past. I have always encouraged our people to

actively participate in all municipal processes such as the IDP. This process allows for a two way discussion between council and its constituents.”

After the public participation process, Knysna Municipal Council and its administration will apply their minds to prioritising issues that arise during these public participation processes. These issues will then enable the municipality to develop strategic objectives that in turn, determines the budget. The Municipal Council will then align the findings and prioritise these with the key performance areas.

ENDS

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