



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **New Municipal Planning system now in effect**

KNYSNA – The new Municipal Land Use Planning By-Law for the Knysna Municipality came into effect as from 1 June 2016 as per the Western Cape Land Use Planning Act (Act 3 of 2014).

All land use, development, rezoning and other town planning applications are now a function of the local municipality.

According to the municipality's By-Law on Land Use Planning, all new applications will either be considered by the Authorised Official (applications in-line with all legislation and policies with no objections raised) or the Municipal Planning Tribunal (applications that are not consistent with policies and / or have received objections). Even projects and developments of national or provincial interest and supported by national organs of state need to be approved by the local municipality in order to proceed.

In all cases the Executive Mayor of the municipality will serve as the Appeal Authority in respect to any challenged decision. In considering any appeal, the Executive Mayor may consult with an advisory panel consisting of the mayoral committee member responsible for planning as well as two other members of council or the administration.

The list of applications that can be made is extensive, ranging from rezoning to subdivisions, consolidations to removal of title deed restrictions, from closure of public open spaces and public roads, to home owner association establishment, as well as transfers, street naming and the issuing of zoning certificates.

Under the new legislation, all applications are submitted following a single procedure, minimizing duplication, cutting costs and streamlining the process. The maximum time for approval has been set at 180 days. Applications submitted before 1 June do not need to be resubmitted and will be dealt with according to previous legislation (e.g. Land Use Planning Ordinance, Removal of Restrictions).

For pre-application meetings and consultation, please contact Seretse Mthembu, Senior Town Planner for Knysna Municipality, via e-mail on [smthembu@knysna.gov.za](mailto:smthembu@knysna.gov.za) or by phone on 044 302 6341.

For any other general enquiries, please contact Hennie Smit, Manager: Town Planning and Building Control via e-mail on [hsmit@knysna.gov.za](mailto:hsmit@knysna.gov.za) or by phone on 044 302 6319.

**ENDS**

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