



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **The legacy of East Head Café continues**

During a Knysna Council meeting on December 6 Council granted the right to use, manage and control the capital asset of East Head Café. In essence they agreed that the iconic Knysna business, East Head Café will continue to trade under the management of the current owners. A decision that was supported with the massive benefits for jobs, investment and tourism.

Mayoral Committee Member, Chairperson Finance, Governance & Economic Development and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Peter Myers explained: "I have confirmed that oral representations were made to the Mayoral Committee regarding compliance with policies and regulations prior to the Council meeting.

"This is normal and happens in almost every case involving complex issues around law and governance. The issues were thoroughly examined and there can be no doubt that all policies and regulations have been complied with in the granting of the lease."

Cllr Myers added that the extension of this lease is far from, what has been referred to as a "controversial issue".

"This is definitely not a controversial issue. The public should remember that a very detailed written report was included in the item that served before Council, and this item provides a very visible record and reference."

Prior to Council's approval of the extension of the lease, no lease agreement was in place. "The Council has authorised the administration to enter into such a lease on the terms contained in the resolution - this will now be done," said Cllr Myers.

With regard to the many rumoured "irregularities" Cllr Myers added that there is only one accurate story which shows the municipality acting legally, competently and in the interests of Knysna.

"We are proud that the council has decided to take this course of action. I can say unequivocally is that the decision to extend the lease was advised by the administration and supported by a majority of the Council," Cllr Myers.

East Head Café not only offers an invaluable tourist attraction, and employs and uplifts many locals, it further supports the naturally Knysna initiative, Go Local sustaining local and responsible suppliers.

They have been reported as saying that in their “never-ending pursuit of sourcing quality local produce, we place great trust in our suppliers. Whether farmer, artisan or merchant, these people are passionate about their products, we would like to thank them for providing us with quality local ingredients.”

Cllr Myers concluded in saying: “There is definitely no fruitless and wasteful expenditure in granting this much-loved establishment a short term lease. In fact they will be paying a market related rental for the duration of the lease, giving the municipality much needed capital return on one of the investment properties.”

**ENDS**

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