

Draft Integrated Waste Management Plan Available For Public Comment

The Municipal Manager, Dr Sitembele Vatala, announced this week that the draft Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) is open for public comment. “The plan will be published in all the local media and is available at all municipal outlets for easy perusal. The aim of the plan is to highlight shortfalls in current waste management activities and to formulate waste management objectives for the next 5 years.”

Legislation states that the plan must be reviewed every 5 years and Vatala said the current IWMP was approved by Council in 2014. “We believe that it is crucial that we tackle waste as a region, rather than an individual Municipality, and entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Garden Route District Municipality for a combined tender process for the development of a plan for all B Municipalities. GIBB Consulting Engineers from Port Elizabeth was appointed to review the IWMP's of the District and individual municipalities.”

GIBB Consulting Engineers conducted a workshop with Councillors in September and valuable inputs, comments and suggestions were made which have been incorporated in the draft IWMP. “Comments from the public and internal and external stakeholders will also be incorporated in the final IWMP, which will then be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for endorsement by the MEC of Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.”

The plan includes a status quo analysis, strategic objectives and an implementation plan. Items that are considered include demographics, waste characteristics, existing waste management strategies, systems and practices, economics and finances, organisational structure, a gap and needs assessment and then strategic objectives in terms of waste treatment, disposal, collection and transport.”

Vatala concluded by saying the public's input is of the utmost importance to find a plan that truly address the needs of Greater Knysna. “Please have a look at the plan and give your input between 6 December 2019 and no later than 14 January 2020. It is crucial that we dispose of our waste in a sustainable and responsible manner, and your input Waste is valuable and important in this process.”

Hard copies of the plan will be made available at the municipal offices in 5 Clyde Street, Knysna or Flamingo Street Sedgefield. The plan will also be available for viewing on the municipal website at <https://www.knysna.gov.za/live-here/utility-services/garbage-and-refuse-removal/>

ENDS
