

Municipality to host housing imbizos

The municipality will be hosting housing imbizos in various wards to inform community stakeholders about the progress on housing projects in their areas.

At the inaugural meeting held in Sedgefield, Knysna Executive Mayor Elrick Van Aswegen said, "I am always happy to attend such events and take note of areas of concern as different communities share some of their challenges. As well as engaging them on community-generated solutions where possible."

"Also critical is that not only are community stakeholders afforded a platform where they can ask questions and communicate with us, but they are encouraged to become part of the solution as their views on different matters are collected and included in documentation that end up being tabled before Council for discussion and resolution."

The first imbizo was held at Sedgefield Community Hall on 21 September, wherein challenges and key issues in that area were tabled.

The housing department also announced projects that are in the pipeline for Ward 1. Approved projects include The Brickfield site (16 Breaking New Ground projects), Rooikrans Avenue (10 BNGs), Oestervanger Street (42 Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Program projects), Oestervanger Street (100 BNGs) and the Gardenia Street project (42 FLISPs).

They also reported on the recently completed project, the provision of Interim Basic Services in Slangepark, Onderste Gaaitjie and Skool Gaaitjie.

Some of the challenges that were mentioned include, but are not limited to, the availability of suitable and developable land to accommodate the housing backlog of more than 100 families, the provision of interim basic services to informal dwellers and growth in the numbers of informal structures between 2018 and 2020 (600-900), as well as strategies to contain this spread.

These include the protection of the dune by the residents, availability of services (upgrade of bulk services with each development), access to social facilities within walking distance and the availability of funding for services and housing top structures.

The next imbizo will be in Hornlee Wards 6 and 11. Details will be shared in due course.

ENDS
