



Knysna

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

MEDIA RELEASE

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Heidevallei Precinct Development signals a new era for Knysna

The long-envisioned Heidevallei Precinct Development is gaining momentum, marking what Council leaders describe as the dawn of a new era for Knysna's growth and spatial transformation.

Chairperson of the Strategic Services & Integrated Human Settlements Committee Cllr Neil Louw explained that the groundwork for this catalytic project was laid when Council approved the Precinct Plan in 2018. "Building on that foundation, we co-hosted a development workshop in September 2025 alongside the Provincial Department of Planning, bringing together national departments and the Greater Knysna Business Chamber to refine the vision and strengthen partnerships."

KRMS Consulting was appointed as a transactional advisor for the project. The firm is currently conducting a pre-feasibility assessment and presented its preliminary findings to the committee on 23 April 2026.

"Early indications suggest that this development could deliver more than 2,000 housing units within a vibrant mixed-use precinct," said Louw. "The draft proposal outlines a balanced, inclusive development featuring housing across upper-, middle-, and lower-income segments, as well as essential and community-enhancing amenities and tourism activities."

These would include, amongst others, a school, religious facilities, a hospital, a shopping centre, a heritage site, a hotel, and an expansive greenbelt inspired by New York's Central Park.

Louw emphasised that the project represents a critical step toward addressing housing demand while stimulating economic activity and investment in the region. "This is a transformative project for Knysna. The Heidevallei Precinct has the potential to reshape how we live, work and connect as a community. It is not just about housing numbers, but about creating an integrated, sustainable environment that serves current and future generations," Louw said.

Acting Municipal Manager Dr Richard Martin underscored the municipality's commitment to transparency and inclusivity throughout the development process. "Wide engagement with all stakeholders, including local communities, government departments, land claimants, and the business sector will form a core part of this process to ensure transparency and inclusivity," confirmed Martin.

"As the pre-feasibility phase progresses, further stakeholder consultations and technical assessments will guide the refinement of the precinct plan. We are committed to ensuring that the development aligns with Knysna's long-term spatial, social, and economic objectives," he concluded. "The Heidevallei Precinct Development stands as a bold step toward building a more inclusive, connected, and sustainable Knysna."

ENDS

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