

May / Mei 2016

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This issue of the Swartland municipal newsletter focuses on service delivery while also keeping you informed of all municipal activities.

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Pro-poor budget

The municipal budget for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 focuses on spending that will stimulate economic development and growth.

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Klipkoppie damaged by vandals

The misuse of Klipkoppie causes material damage for indigenous renosterveld and other vegetation.

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Focus on ward committees

Now's the time to let yourself be heard. Become involved in municipal matters that affect your ward by availing yourself for the coming ward committee elections.

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Ignorance of the law is no excuse

Municipal residents should familiarise themselves with the content of municipal laws, or run the risk of huge fines and other penalties.

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Pro-poor budget for 2016/17

Swartland Municipality's recently adopted budget in respect of the 2016/17 financial year focuses on spending that stimulates economic development and growth whilst also addressing dignified living conditions, keeping in mind the impact of increases in service charges, slower growth and a tighter resource envelope. This formed the cornerstones of this pro-poor and responsible budget whilst also giving effect to financial sustainability. Below are some budget highlights.



SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY BUDGET 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

FREE BASIC SERVICES

to qualifying households,
subject to criteria
in Council's Policy

VISIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT

centred around
citizen priorities

DISCOUNT

to owners 65
and older raised to
R300 000

QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY

backed by dedicated
and appropriately
skilled staff

PROPERTY TAX & TARIFF INCREASES ON HOUSEHOLDS:

PROPERTY RATES **-13.77%**
SEWERAGE **10%**
WATER **9.95%**

ELECTRICITY **7.64%**
REFUSE REMOVAL **6%**

CAPITAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



**ROAD
INFRASTRUCTURE**
R17 176 000



**SPORT FIELD
DEVELOPMENT**
R11 056 800



**WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**
R9 615 349



**SEWERAGE
INFRASTRUCTURE**
R8 834 200



**ELECTRICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE**
R7 320 000



**PARKS &
AMENITIES**
R6 299 000



**HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT**
R3 020 000



**STORMWATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**
R1 149 000

PHOTO: ABBOTSDALE LIBRARY with caption: Construction of the Abbotsdale Library is progressing fast. It is estimated that this library, which is built over two financial years with funding from Provincial Government, will be operational in January 2017.

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Join us on Facebook!

Our Facebook page was started on Friday 30 October 2015. Since then, the page has grown substantially. The number of likes on our page reached the 1 000 mark by 13 December 2015, 1 500 by 10 February 2016 and 2 000 by 26 April 2016.

We post inserts on topics such as the following almost on a daily basis (and some days more than once):

- Our water restrictions and the weekly level of Voëlvei Dam
- Awards won by the Municipality
- Information on emergency numbers and numbers where transgressions can be reported
- Water and power outages
- Necessary work to municipal infrastructure that may inconvenience residents
- Advertising of vacant posts
- Visits by VIPs to our area
- Public information meetings
- Traffic and law enforcement's safety-awareness campaigns
- The clean audit
- Long-service certificates for employees
- Large festivals and events in our area
- Office hours and swimming pool hours on holidays
- Youth outreach actions
- The municipal election

Visit our Facebook page if you haven't done so already. The link is www.facebook.com/SwartlandMunicipality/.

And if you are one of those people who are weary or critical of Facebook, keep in mind that a Facebook **page** differs from a private Facebook **profile**. A Facebook **page** is strictly controlled and only information of interest to Swartland's residents is placed there.

So, when you visit our Facebook page, remember to like the page. This will ensure that you don't miss anything in future.

Help Save our Klipkoppie renosterveld

People's use of the well-known and much-loved Klipkoppie in Malmesbury for all kinds of purposes, including quadbiking, bicycling and the harvesting of plants, is of great concern to us. We require the public's assistance by reporting irregular conduct at Klipkoppie, since there is no proper policing in place to prevent potential damage to the biodiversity at the site.

Please note that although Klipkoppie has not yet been proclaimed as a conservation area, it does have conservation status. When Klipkoppie is registered under the Protected Areas Act as a conservation area, it will qualify for the highest status because it is classified as a Critical Biodiversity Area owing to the Critically Endangered Swartland Granite Renosterveld present at the site, which includes many rare and threatened species.

We are soon going to put up signage to make the public aware of Klipkoppie's conservation status, but we already want to caution people to stay on the Klipkoppie routes that currently exist so that we can prevent erosion and other damage to the highly threatened natural vegetation at the site.

PHOTO 1 caption: Critically Endangered Swartland Granite Renosterveld on one of the granite outcrops on Klipkoppie, with a view of Kasteelberg in the distance.

PHOTO 2 caption: Severe soil erosion at Klipkoppie caused by misuse of the area by vehicles and quadbikes/motorbikes.

Do's and don'ts for municipal employees

The Code of Conduct for municipal staff members in terms of the Municipal Systems Act stipulates the rules which employees must adhere to in order to avoid disciplinary action against them.

In general, a staff member must at all times –

- loyally execute the council's policies;
- perform his functions in good faith, diligently, honestly and in a transparent manner;
- act in the best interest of the municipality, and in such a way that the credibility and integrity of the municipality are not compromised; and
- act impartially and treat all people equally without favour or prejudice.

In particular, a staff member may not –

- use the position or privileges of a staff member, of confidential information obtained as a staff member, for private gain or to improperly benefit another person;
- take a decision on behalf of the municipality concerning a matter in which that staff member, or his/her spouse, partner or business associate, has a direct or indirect personal or private business interest;
- be engaged in any business, trade or profession other than the work of the municipality except with the prior consent of the latter;
- be a party to or beneficiary under a contract for the provision of goods or services to any municipality;
- without permission disclose any privileged or confidential information obtained as a staff member;
- unduly influence the council or a structure or functionary of the council, or a councillor, with a view to obtaining any appointment, promotion, privilege, advantage or benefit, or for a family member, friend or associate;
- be involved in a business venture with a councillor with the prior written consent of the council;
- request, solicit or accept any reward, gift or favour for – inter alia – persuading the council or structure or functionary with regard to the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty;
- use, take, acquire, or benefit from any property or asset owned, controlled or managed by the municipality to which that staff member has no right;
- participate in an election of the council of the municipality, other than in an official capacity or pursuant to any constitutional rights.
- embark on any action amounting to sexual harassment.

Should you be aware that an employee of the municipality is in breach of these rules, please report full particulars of the alleged conduct to the office of the internal auditor at 022-487 9400 for investigation.

Restrict water usage

Until such time that the water situation in the Swartland improves dramatically, the so-called Level 2 (20%) water restrictions remain in place.

The use of potable water for the watering/irrigation of gardens and for the filling of swimming pools is prohibited. Similarly, the use of hose-pipes, e.g. to hose down hard-surfaced or paved areas and to wash vehicles (including recreational vehicles and watercraft) is not allowed.

We thank all our residents for their efforts and dedication to help save this precious resource.

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Election of ward committees

Communities and residents have the right and the responsibility to participate in the decision-making processes of the municipality. The ward participatory system, whereby ward committees were introduced, aims at establishing a credible system through which citizen participation in local governance is expected to take place.

After the local elections in August this year, SM's residents will once again have the opportunity to elect people to ward committees to represent their interests in the wards. Legislation requires that one ward committee be elected for each of the 12 wards in SM's jurisdiction.

Purpose of ward committees:

Ward committees are regarded as the most important cornerstone to encourage and extend participative democracy in local government matters. The primary goal is to advance better and more efficient communication channels between residents and the Municipal Council. It will further also play an important role in delivering input and/or identifying needs for the Integrated Development Plan and municipal budget, which must be reviewed annually.

What status do ward committees have?

Ward committees are advisory forums that are tasked with advising their ward councillors about matters that affect their wards. They are not political platforms, but committees representing the community who have to carry out their duties without fear, favour or prejudice.

How is a ward committee constituted?

A ward committee consists of: -

- a ward councillor, who is *ipso facto* the chairperson of the committee in terms of the Structures Act, and
- ten other persons who will represent interests.

[BLOCK: Equitable representation of gender, diversity of interest and geographic representation must be pursued at all times.]

The following have been identified as interest groups:

Organised business chambers and/or associations; taxpayers' and/or community and/or resident associations; tourism associations; environment conservation-oriented organisations; informal trade associations or any other enterprise with an interest in trade and industry or tourism; social welfare organisations; non-governmental organisations; churches; organisations and/or associations representing the youth; organisations and/or associations representing women; institutions and/or organisations promoting education or any other organisation with an interest in welfare; community safety forums or any other organisation with an interest in safety; farmer associations, agriculture-based organisations, companies, close corporations; small farmer associations; farmworker associations or similar organisations that claim to have the interests of farmworkers at heart and are fairly representative of farmworkers; any sports, recreation and/or cultural organisation, association or society.

Who qualifies to be elected to the ward committee?

Persons who are nominated –

MUST be registered on the voters' roll of the Municipality (for this purpose the newly updated national voters' roll available on the Independent Electoral Commission's database will be used to determine whether or not a person is registered as a voter)

MAY NOT be a member of the council, or an employee of SM or the West Coast District Municipality or be indebted to the municipality for more than three months.

Who may vote for ward committee members?

Any voter who: -

- is 18 years or older, and
- is registered on the voters' roll of the ward for which the committee is appointed, may vote during the election for ward committee members.

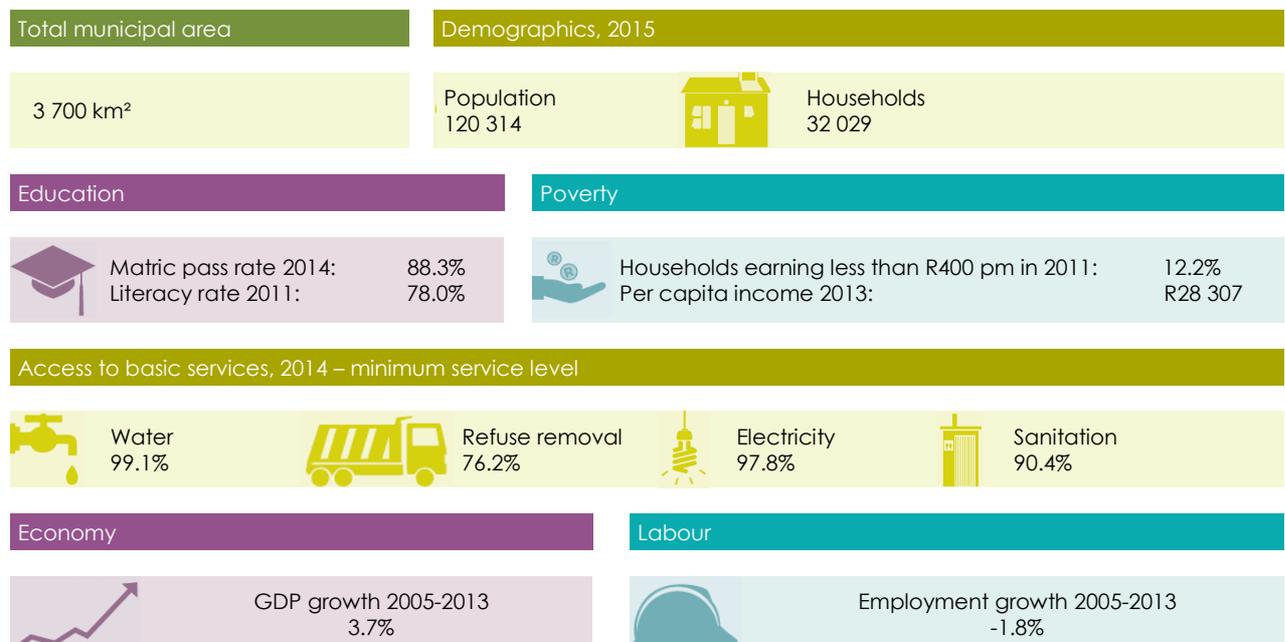
Make use of the chance to make your voice heard!

Where citizens participate actively in community life – quality of life is better!

Watch the press and our website for details of the ward committee elections.

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Swartland municipal area at a glance



Three largest sectors

| | | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Finance, insurance, real estate and business services 35.7% | Manufacturing 20.1% | Agriculture, forestry and fishing 14.3% |
|--|------------------------|--|

Health, 2015

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
|  | Primary health care facilities 5 | Immunisation rate 74.9% | Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) 0.0 | Teenage pregnancies - delivery rate to women U/18 8.2% |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|

Safety and security – actual number of crimes in 2014/15

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
|  | Residential burglaries 721 | Driving under the influence 125 | Drug-related crime 1 708 | Murders 29 | Sexual offences 176 |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|

New municipal legislation

To effectively regulate its constitutional functions, the Municipal Council recently passed the following bylaws:

- **Events:** To regulate all events held in the municipal area and to determine the application process and requirements for various event categories, i.e. small, medium, large and very large. Enquiries: Madelaine Terblanche
- **Informal trade:** To regulate informal trade in public roads and venues and, inter alia, to regulate the removal and protection of goods, as well as the selling thereof. Enquiries: Philip Humphreys
- **Boundary walls and fences:** To regulate walls and fences with the aim of safeguarding residents and visitors. It prescribes, inter alia, the heights of walls and fences, and the material to be used. Enquiries: Alwyn Zaayman
- **Parking:** To institute provisions in terms of the provision, regulation and control of parking in the municipal jurisdiction. Enquiries: Philip Humphreys

All of the above by-laws are available in both English and Afrikaans. Copies can be requested via the e-mail link provided on the municipality's website.