

KRA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During this past year our association has raised a number of matters with the Knysna municipality. While we would like to accentuate the positive, we are bound to protect our members' interests – so need to question possible mismanagement of public money and resources, maladministration, abuse of resources by officials, tenderpreneurship, false qualifications, etc.

We have had a few meeting with the Mayoral Committee to discuss our concerns. After not getting much response we went to the press in July 2015 to hopefully get more reaction. We are having a further meeting with the Mayoral Committee on 21st October.

Our principal concerns have been the non-adherence to supply chain rules for tenders, the present monitoring of planning applications and a wastage of money. Among the items we raised with the council were all the items in our last years report plus the following:

1. the parking and traffic problem for 70 vehicles at the proposed mosque site, which will only lead to chaos.
2. the siting of the Oakhill School alongside the proposed bypass and despite the poor condition of the access road, Welbedacht road and the lack of infrastructure to service the needs of the school
3. The appointment of the Municipal Manager without sight of his qualifications and paying him in excess of the legal limit. We have had to refer this to the minister due to a lack of response from the Mayor.

4. As regards the new Municipal Planning By-Law we have requested the council to appoint independent tribunals, that allow all parties to state their case in development applications.

All of last year's items were referred to the Municipal Public Accounts Committee for further Investigation. Regrettably they proved inept in sorting anything out.

We are concerned at the escalating crime rate as can be seen in this morning's newspapers, countrywide murders are up 5% and aggravated assault 8.5%. The Knysna SAPS do an extremely good job bearing in mind their shortage of resources, manpower and vehicles. Nevertheless, we had a meeting with local SAPS Station Commander where we requested an investigation of an illegal arrest and theft of property of the jailed individual – but it came to naught. We are told that the Station Commander has been replaced. Drug related crimes have increased dramatically and assault and murder in our homes is now happening.

Regrettably the dissatisfaction with RDP housing continues. Due to problems with tenders, housing delivery has been slow and is delayed by six months. In addition there's little control on illegal sales of houses.

I wish to thank Lisa Titley, Richard Thorpe, Graham Greenwood, Andrew Joubert, Mick Hudspith and Graham Macdonald for their work throughout the year, as well as our legal advisor, Susan Campbell, who has led us through a minefield of legislation.

Also thank you to the Knysna Bowling Club for the use of their venue. The KRA has had a positive impact on Knysna's governance and trust that the coming elections will provide us with capable councillors to sort out all the mounting problems.

Ian Uys
Chairman