

# Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

## STABILITY AND INTEGRITY THE CORNERSTONES FOR THE FUTURE

In a directional speech for the annual preparation of the municipal budget and review of the integrated development plan (IDP), Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie reported that changes to the Municipality's mission statement will be proposed to reflect the importance of political stability and the Municipality's endorsement of ethical values and behaviour.

### Notable development initiatives proposed for 2013/14 include:

- the development of infrastructure maintenance plans for water, roads, solid waste and storm water;
- infrastructure provision through an updated 20 year infrastructure plan;
- the creation of a conducive environment for local economic development;
- maintaining the Municipality's good governance performance through amongst others the ward committees, continued pro-active communication with our stakeholders and organisational stability;
- social upliftment concentrating on early childhood development and engaging with social partners for a sustainable solution for a shelter for the homeless;
- contributing towards creating a safe and healthy environment for the Overstrand community, through law enforcement, fire fighting and disaster

management;

- the continuation of sound financial management to ensure municipal service delivery to the community within the scope of the resources available; and
- striving to attain a clean audit opinion by the 2013/14 financial year.

She reported that the Western Cape Minister of Local Government cited Overstrand's IDP as well structured, realistic and implementable, but pointed out areas of enhancement specifically related to the sectoral plans.

The Mayor said central to the review of our IDP for 2013/14 is the valued participation and inputs of ward committees, the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF), sectoral departments, the administration and Council. Strategic sessions were held and will continue during the next few months in order for Overstrand Municipality to table a credible draft IDP review and Budget at the end of March 2013.

In closing Cllr Botha-Guthrie pointed out that living out the Municipality's vision 'to be a centre of excellence for the community' requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders. She said she was confident that by working together the Municipality will be able to deliver on its 5 year IDP within its financial means.

## BUDGET PREVIEW AT OMAF

A well attended Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF) meeting on Thursday, 6 December 2012, not only received a preview of the draft capital budget and an update on the Municipality's 20 year Infrastructure Plan, but also an evaluation of the effectiveness of the ward committee system.

Cllr Ben Solomon, Chairman of the Finance Portfolio, said in his analysis of the situation regarding the Capital Budget proposals for 2013/14 that requests from both the ward committees and the municipal directorates amounted to R291 million, of which R97 million could be accommodated in the proposed budget so far.

Among the projects not provided for, are the upgrade of Hermanus Taxi rank (R9m), maintenance on the electricity network in addition to current budget (R7m p/a), a new office building (R30m) and storm water drainage (R3m p/a). The office space is required for an archive, a municipal court and additional space to increase productivity.

Cllr Solomon said there are various

reasons why there are not sufficient funds to address the needs of both the community and the Municipality. The current economic situation is not conducive for land sales, the budgeted increase in income for the current year amounted to only 9%, compared to the average of 18,8% at other municipalities and maintenance costs increased because of additional facilities and old infrastructure.

The way forward, according to Cllr Solomon, is to continue to focus on increasing productivity, to ensure that money is not spent on 'nice to haves', to increase efforts to obtain more funds from national and provincial government and to explore opportunities to attract investments into our town.

Mr Henk Kleinloog, Director of Finance, told the OMAF members that the Municipality is planning to procure external loans to finance projects for electricity (R14,5m), water (R15,9m) and sewerage (R9,6m). Revenue surpluses of R10m will be used to fund vehicles (R4,7m), information technology (R0,8m),

the construction of a landfill cell in Gansbaai (R1,4m), the Hermanus Parallel Road (R1,7m) and minor assets of R1,3m.

Other external funding available for specific projects are the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) of R17,9m and a housing grant of R29,2m.

In his briefing on the updated 20 year Municipal Infrastructure Plan, Mr Stephen Müller, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, said the 2011 Census figures ranked Overstrand Municipality 7th nationally and 3rd in the Western Cape in terms of population growth from 2001 to 2011. The population increased with 46 per cent from 55 000 (2001) to 80 400 (2011). In terms of population Overstrand is the 146th largest municipality in the country and 13th in the Western Cape, which is more or less average.

Population growth is putting pressure on the Municipality in terms of urban expansion, urban densification and the replacement of aging infrastructure.

Mr Müller highlighted the

Overstrand Municipal Growth Management Strategy, which overall objective is to provide a set of appropriate, area specific policy guidelines which can be used by the Municipality to proactively direct and manage growth through the implementation of urban densification and related measures that is sensitive to the character of the various towns and settlements.

Mr Roderick Williams, Director of Community Services, presented an evaluation system to measure the efficiency of ward committees based on information from the Municipality's electronic document management systems. This will be used in a campaign to inform communities about their ward committees.

He said the ward committee system, although enacted as a national best practice, is still facing a number of challenges, including the report back to constituencies, the recognition of ward committees as formal liaison bodies of communities and timeous submission and revision of Ward Committee projects.

# SA'S MOST PRODUCTIVE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Overstrand Municipality emerged as South Africa's most productive local municipality in the sixth annual Municipal Productivity Index released at the end of November by Municipal IQ, a specialised local government data and intelligence service.

Cape Town was the top performer amongst the metropolitan areas.

This index combines financial and non-financial data to assess the ability of individuals to engage with local economies, the conditions in which residents live, the vibrancy of the local economy and the municipality's contribution towards this.

The five factors used for the index are:

- Poverty levels and the municipal response to poverty (access to indigent support);
- Access to basic municipal services;
- Economic "intelligence" (infrastructure used by residents to participate in the economy) and the make-up of the economy (skills level, education, employment);

- Financial governance and expenditure levels by a local council; and
- The vacancy rates in a municipality.

The new census data was taken into account.

According to Municipal IQ's news release the MPI does not reflect directly on municipal competence, but rather how spending patterns of a municipality reinforce and affect socio-economic contexts.

Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said she is glad for the recognition given to the excellent systems and the hard work of officials to make an actual difference to the lives of poor people. The survey is an important independent yardstick to measure productivity and enable the municipality to compare its performance

**TABLE: TOP 10 LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ON 2012 MPI**

Name	Rank	2012 score	Local ave
Overstrand (WC)	1	59.1	41.9
Stellenbosch (WC)	2	58.3	41.9
Bitou (WC)	3	57.9	41.9
Knysna (WC)	4	57.8	41.9
Merafong City (Gt)	5	56.9	41.9
Saldanha Bay (WC)	6	56.9	41.9
Drakenstein (WC)	7	56.6	41.9
Gamagara (NC)	8	56.5	41.9
Mossel Bay (WC)	9	56.4	41.9
Steve Tshwete (Mp)	10	56.0	41.9

with those of other municipalities.

"Although we are proud of our position it is clear that there is space for improvement," she said.



At the certification ceremony were seated from left Councillor Moira Opperman, Protection Services Portfolio Committee chairperson, Director of Protection Services Neville Michaels, Chief of Traffic & Law Enforcement Rudi Fraser, Senior Inspector Zingani Tshetu and Regional Inspector André Lucas.

## BY-LAW AWARENESS ENHANCED

On Tuesday, 4 December, officers of the Gansbaai Neighbourhood Watch as well as municipal law enforcement officers and baboon monitors received certificates for attending a course on by-laws of the Overstrand Municipality.

This course is an outreach program of the Municipality's Protection Services Directorate to improve the knowledge and understanding of municipal by-laws amongst community members who are in roles where they can use them.

While some local authorities make use of road shows to educate their communities, the Overstrand Municipality decided to teach certain community groups in-depth so that they, in turn, can educate others, says Senior Inspector Zingani Tshetu, who co-ordinated the training.

The Baboon Monitors and Law Enforcement officers were trained at the municipal offices in Onrus and the Neighborhood Watch officers at the Gansbaai municipal offices.

During the three day course the by-laws on the Keeping of Cats and Dogs, Streets, Public Places and the Prevention of Public Nuisance, Solid Waste and Community Fire Safety were covered. Although it is not expected of the candidates to enforce the by-laws (that is the task of Law Enforcement Officers) they are now extra eyes and ears and help to spread awareness of the by-laws in their communities. The next courses will be for groups from the Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Watches.

## FIRST OAK CONCERTS FOR 2013

The 2013 OAK calendar in the Auditorium of the Overstrand Civic Centre starts off with a concert by Norwegian Pianist Rune Alver on Saturday, 12 January, at 19:00. The ever popular Zappa Mainolfi Duo (cello and piano) will give a recital on Sunday, 10 February, at 15:30.

Tickets are R100 (R50 for scholars) and bookings may be done at BELLINI GALLERY in Shop No 33 Village Square on 028 312 4988. For further enquiries please contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.



In November 2012 Overstrand Municipality won the title of the 2010/11 National Greenest Municipality at an Award Ceremony in Kempton Park. The trophy, a certificate and a cheque in the amount of R3,5 million were presented to Council at its last meeting of the year. From left are Johan van Taak, Manager of Waste Management Planning, Stephen Müller, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, Municipal Manager, Coenie Groenewald, and Roderick Williams, Director of Community Services.

## AWARDS IN 2012

- National winner of the Greenest Municipality Competition (2010/2011).
- At the Western Cape leg of the Greenest Municipality Competition for 2012 Overstrand Municipality won the category for Water Management. A Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for an Innovative Project was received for the Kleinmond Housing Project.
- Overstrand Municipality's Rates Department was awarded the Environment Trophy for excellent service with the issuing of electronic clearance certificates by Korbitec, a company used by conveyancing attorneys nationwide regarding electronic applications for rates clearance certificates. Over the past two years electronic transfer of rates clearance certificates increased with 78 per cent.
- Blue Flag status for Grotto (11th year), Hawston (7th year) and Kleinmond (4th year) beaches for the 2012/13 holiday season. Grotto is the beach with the longest uninterrupted Blue Flag status in South Africa.
- Blue Drop awards in the 2012 evaluation:
  - The Franskraal Water Purification Works near Gansbaai received the national award for the most impressive smaller plant.
  - Overstrand Municipality as a whole received 96,82 per cent in the assessment and was placed 12th on the national list and fifth in the Western Cape. It is a remarkable improvement on last year's 90,56 per cent and 24th position nationally.
  - The plants that received Blue Drop awards this year were Hermanus (Preekstoel), Gansbaai (Franskraal), Buffelsrivier (Hangklip), Kleinmond and Pearly Beach.
  - Silver awards were given to Franskraal and Buffelsrivier for receiving the Blue Drop for a second consecutive year.
- Finalist for the Wilson Award of the Water Institute of Southern Africa for Waste Water Treatment Plant Management.
- Overstrand Municipality's Finance Directorate was the runner-up in its category of a competition for municipalities using the SAMRAS Financial System.