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MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA • MUNICIPALITY

NUUSBRIEF IPHEPHANDABA NEWSLETTER

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Van die Burgemeester From the Mayor

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Liewe Inwoners

Ons begin almal stadig maar seker gewoond raak aan 'n nuwe normaal. Daar lê nog baie onsekerheid voor oor wat als gaan gebeur in die volgende paar maande en wat die invloed daarvan op ons en ons inwoners gaan wees. Dit is vir my wel verblydend om te sien hoe ons dorpe stadig maar seker weer begin lewe kry. Die skole het pas weer begin en selfs van die universiteitstudente maak ook hul terugkeer.

Nuwe Direkteur

Dit is vir my 'n groot plesier om Mnr Anthony Barnes, ons nuwe Direkteur vir Beplanning en Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling, aan u voor te stel. Mnr Barnes het baie waardevolle ondervinding. Hy het vir 9 jaar by die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning gewerk as die Hoofdirekteur vir ontwikkelingsbeplanning. Welkom in Stellenbosch Mnr Barnes!

Ons het die grendeltyd baie goed gebruik en die agterstand van beplanningsaansoek grootliks afgewerk. Mnr
Craig Alexander wat in hierdie tyd waargeneem het, het 'n uitstekende taak verrig en ons se dankie vir die dubbele las wat hy gedra het.

Appèlprosesse

Ek sien op sosiale media dat daar onsekerheid is oor die appèlproses in beplanningsaansoeke. As 'n aangeleentheid deur amptenare goed of afgekeur word, gaan die appèl eers na die Munisipale Bestuurder. As die partye ongelukkig is oor daardie besluit kan hul na die Burgemeester appelleer. Ook aansoeke na die Beplanningstribunaal is

Dear Residents,

Slowly but surely, we are all getting use to the new normal. There is still a lot of uncertainty ahead about what we can expect over the next few months and what impact it will have on our residents. I am however happy to see how that our towns are slowly but surely coming back to life. The schools have just reopened and even some of our university students are returning.

New Director

It is my great pleasure to introduce our new Director for Planning and Economic Development, Mr Anthony Barnes, to you. Mr Barnes brings a lot of valuable experience to the job. He worked at the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as Chief Director for development planning, for 9 years. Welcome in Stellenbosch Mr Barnes!

We also used the lockdown period well and have managed to greatly reduce the backlog of planning applications. Mr Craig Alexander, who acted in the position of Director during this time, did an excellent job and we say thank you to him who carried a double burden during this time.

Appeal Procedures

I see on social media that there is some uncertainty about the appeal procedures when it comes to planning applications. When a matter is approved or rejected by officials, the appeal first goes to the Municipal Manager. If the parties involved are not happy with that decision, they can appeal to the Mayor. Applications to the planning tribunal can also be appealed to the Mayor. In all appeal applications both parties or their legal representatives can provide inputs in writing

SPAAR WATER
SAVE WATER

COVID-19 Bl 2/ Pg 2

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appelleerbaar na die Burgemeester. In alle appèllaansoeke kan beide partye of hul regsverteenwoordigers skriftelike inspraak maak en selfs aansoek doen om persoonlik aangehoor te word. In die meeste gevalle is daar dan ook prokureurs of advokate betrokke. Ek is uiters dankbaar vir my regsagtergrond, want hierdie aansoeke is gewoonlik baie kompleks en verg meestal navorsing in regspraak. Indien ek egter steeds onseker is, vra ek regshulp aan. Hierdie appèlle word nie, soos sommige mense dink, met ander raadslede of politici bespreek nie. Dis 'n onafhanklike proses wat eintlik klein hofsake is. Jare as praktisyn op en voor die regbank het die beginsels van onafhanklike denke en audi alteram partem (albei partye moet gehoor word) voorop gestel in enige besluit wat ek neem. Juis daarom verskil ek soms van die amptenare wat 'n beplanningsaanbeveling doen wat nie gefundeer is, in regspraak nie. Enige party tot so 'n aansoek sal kan getuig daarvan dat ek verseker dat almal hul kans kry tot behoorlike insette.

Uiteraard stop die proses nie hier nie en kan enige party dit na die howe neem as hul oordeel dat my besluit foutief is.

COVID-19

Soos ons besiger raak en meer uit ons huise en tussen ander mense beweeg, moet ons meer paraat wees as ooit te vore en seker maak ons doen alles moontlik om onsself en ons geliefdes te beskerm teen COVID-19.

Ek wil u tog aanmoedig om soveel as moontlik by die huis te bly. Verskeie plekke van aanbidding het ook weer heropen, maar die hoeveelheid mense wat dienste mag bywoon word beperk tot 50. Kuier by vriende en familie word steeds nie toegelaat nie in vlak3. Dit is vir ons almal die moeilikste deel van die inperkingstyd, maar dit is ook die nodigste. Deur die hoeveelheid mense waarmee ons in kontak kom te beperk, help dit om die verspreiding van die virus te stop. Dit is regtig 'n slinkse virus en ons moet alles binne ons vermoëns doen om die verspreiding te beperk.

Wanneer u dus uitgaan vir werk of inkopies doen asseblief die volgende dinge om u self en u geliefdes te beskerm:

- Dra gesigsmaskers wanneer u tussen ander mense en in openbare ruimtes rondbeweeg. Ek is bly om te sien dat al ons winkels die dra van maskers vereis. Dit is ook verpligtend wanneer u ons munisipale kantore besoek. Geen persoon sal toegang tot ons geboue verkry sonder 'n gesigmasker nie.
- Behou 'n fisiese afstand van ten minste 1,5 na 2 meter tussen u en ander mense. Al ons winkels is baie oulik met die kolle en strepe wat hulle aangebring het om mense daarmee te help. Dit beteken ook dat ons vir eers nie mense kan drukkies gee of bladskud wanneer ons bekendes in die winkels raakloop nie. Respekteer asseblief mense se spasie.
- Was gereeld u hande met seep of gebruik 'n waterlose alternatief. Die Wêreld Gesondheidsorganisasie beveel reinigers aan met 'n sterk alkoholbasis. Was en steriliseer ook gereeld alle werk- en huisoppervlaktes.

Die Kaapse Wynland is deur die nasionale minister van gesondheid geïdentifiseer as 'n brandpunt vir COVID omdat daar

and can even apply to be heard in person. In most cases there are lawyers and advocates involved. I am very grateful for my legal background because the applications are usually very complex and requires research in case law. If I am however still unsure, I ask for legal advice. These appeals are not, like some people think, discussed with other councillors or politicians. It is an independent process that is almost like a kind of mini court case. Years in practice on the bench as well as in front of it, have put the principles of independent thought and audi alteram partem (both parties must be heard) foremost in any decision I take. That is why I sometimes differ from the officials who make planning recommendations that is not based in case law. Any party to an application like this will testify that I make sure everyone involved gets an opportunity to deliver inputs.

Of course the process does not stop here and any party can approach the court if they feel my decision is not correct.

Covid-19

As we become busier and we leave our homes more frequently to move among other people, it is important that we are more prepared and aware than before. We need to do everything possible to protect ourselves and our loved ones from COVID-19.

I want to encourage you to please stay at home as much as possible. Various places of worship have reopened, but the amount of people allowed at services are still restricted to 50. Visits to friends and family are still not permitted under level 3. That is the most challenging part for most of us during the lockdown period, but it is also the most essential. By limiting the amount of people with which we come into contact, we help prevent the spread of the virus. This really is a sly disease and we must do everything in our power to prevent and restrict its spread.

When you go out for shopping or go to work please take the following steps to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Wear facemasks when you are around other people or when you move around in public spaces. I am happy to see that all our shops require the wearing of a mask. It is also compulsory at our municipal offices when you come to see us. No person will be granted access if they do not wear a facemask.
- Maintain a physical distance between yourself and other people of at least 1,5m to 2 metres. All our shops have been really efficient with dots or lines on their floors to assist people with social distancing. This also means that we should not hug or shake hands with the people we know when we run into them in the shops. Please respect people's space.
- Wash your hands regularly or use a waterless alternative. The World Health Organisation recommends a sanitizer with a strong alcohol base. Wash and sterilise office and home surfaces regularly too.

The Cape Winelands District has been identified as a COVID

so baie gevalle in ons streek is. Die Munisipaliteit, soos die meeste besighede en organisasies, het ook nie die virus vry gespring nie. Van ons personeel en raadslede het positief getoets vir die virus en ons het ook 2 persone (ten tye van die skrywe) aan die dood afgestaan. Ons betuig graag ons innige en diepe medelye met hul families.

U kan verseker wees, ons het baie goeie en streng protokolle in plek en met die bewuswording daarvan het ons die nodige dekontaminering van alle werkspasies en oppervlakte gedoen, en het ons alle persone wat moontlik in kontak was met die betrokke persone opgespoor, in kennis gestel en aangemoedig om te self-isoleer. Die veiligheid van ons inwoners en ons werknemers is vir ons 'n absolute prioriteit.

Elektroniese Raadsvergaderings

Met die regeringsregulasies en noodsaaklikheid van fisiese afstand moes ons die tegnologie inspan om ons te help om ons werk te doen en ook deursigtigheid te bied aan ons gemeenskap vir die besluite wat ons neem. Ons het dus reeds ons eerste elektroniese Burgemeesterskomitee vergaderings en Raadsvergaderings gehad. Wat 'n interessante ervaring! Ten spyte van 'n paar groeipyne het die vergaderings glad verloop en kon ons ook die begroting vir die nuwe finansiële jaar so goedkeur. Die vergaderings word via die internet uitgesaai aan inwoners en nogal baie het daarna gekyk. Vir eers sal raadsvergaderings in hierdie formaat voortgaan totdat die regulasies ons weer toelaat in groepe te vergader.

Begroting vir 2020/2021

Soos ek reeds genoem het, het ons tydens ons eerste elektroniese raadsvergadering die begroting vir 2020/2021 finansiële jaar goedgekeur. Hierdie begrotingsproses was 'n besondere moeilike een vir my. Ons het so hard gewerk die afgelope paar jaar om al die basiese fondasies in plek te sit sodat ons kan begin met groter en lekkerder projekte. Die vernietigende impak van COVID-19 op die plaaslike, nasionale en internasionale ekonomie het ons egter gedwing om alles te herevalueer. Die drastiese impak op ons inwoners het 'n groot impak op ons verwagte inkomste en verskeie beplande projekte moet vir eers uitgestel word. Ons moes ook sny aan die begroting van ander projekte om seker te maak ons boeke klop. Gedurende Junie en Julie gaan die Nasionale en Provinsiale departemente ook aanpassings maak aan hul eie begrotings en daarom sal ons weer in September 'n aangepaste begroting voorlê vir die 2020/2021 finansiële jaar wat sal toelaat om impak van COVID-19 beter te antisipeer.

Ons begroting vir 2020/2021 fokus daarop om so effektief moontlik te wees met die hulpbronne tot ons beskikking wat ons moet nou meer regkry met minder hulpbronne. Ons bly dus gefokus op dienslewering as ons kern doel. Die meerderheid van ons kapitale begroting word geïnvesteer in die onderhoud en uitbreiding van krities belangrike infrastruktuur soos rioolsuiweringsaanlegte, elektrisiteitsnetwerke, paaie en watervoorsieningsinfrastruktuur. Dit is alles uiters noodsaaklik vir goeie en volhoubare dienslewering. Ons maak ook voorsiening vir veiligheid en sekuriteit en het R3,5miljoen begroot vir straatligte, beligting vir openbare spasies en kringtelevisiekameras.

hotspot by the national minister of Health because we have so many cases in our region. The Municipality, like most organisations and businesses, have not escaped the virus. Staff and Councillors have tested positive for the virus and we also lost two people (at the time of writing this) due to the virus. We are deeply saddened by this and our sincere condolences go out to their families.

You can be assured that we have very strict protocols in place and as soon as we are informed of cases, we decontaminated the relevant workspaces, vehicles and surfaces. We also tracked and traced all people who might have been in contact with the individuals and encouraged them to self-isolate. The safety of our residents and staff is an absolute top priority for us.

Electronic Council meeting

With the government regulations about the importance of social distancing, we had to make use of technology to help us do our work and also to provide transparency to our community about the decisions we take. We have therefore had our first ever electronic Mayoral Committee and Council meetings. What an interesting experience! In spite of a few hiccups, our meetings have gone very well and we also approved the budget for the new financial year. The meetings were conducted via the internet and was streamed so that residents could also see it. There was a lot of interest! For now, Council Meetings will continue in this format until regulations allow us to assemble in larger groups.

Budget for 2020/2021

As I mentioned, we approved the budget for the 2020/2021 financial year during our first electronic council meeting. This budget process was a particularly challenging one for me. Over the past few years, we have worked so hard to lay the basic foundations so that we can begin with larger and nicer projects. The destructive impact of COVID-19 on our local, national and international economy however, forced us to re-evaluate everything. The drastic impact on our residents has had a major effect on our expected income and various planned projects must be postponed for now. We also had to cut the budget for other projects to ensure that we balance our books. During June and July the National and Provincial Departments will present adjustments to their own budgets and that is why we will also present an adjustment budget in September for the 2020/2021 financial year that will allow us to better assess the impact of COVID-19.

Our budget for 2020/2021 focuses on driving efficiencies and to do more with the reduced resources we have at our disposal. We are therefore focused on service delivery as our core function. The majority of our capital budget is invested in the maintenance and expansion of critically important infrastructure such as waste water treatment works, electrical networks, roads and water infrastructure. We also make provision for safety and security and have budgeted R3,5 million for street lights, lighting of public spaces and CCTV cameras.

Because we are not yet certain of what the final impact of the national lockdown will be, we have drastically cut back on loans, projects from our reserved funds have been stropped and the

Omdat ons nie weet wat die uiteindelike impak van die COVID grendeltyd gaan wees nie, is die lenings egter drasties teruggesnoei, projekte uit ons reserwefonds is gestop en die uitgawe begroting is ook drasties ingekort.

Al ons onderhoud en ander planne gaan egter niks beteken as ons nie al ons inwoners se volle samewerking kry om ons bestaande infrastruktuur asook nuwe infrastruktuur te beskerm teen vandalisme nie. Ek soebat u om asseblief nie vandalisme te duld nie en dit onmiddellik by die Polisie of by ons wetstoepassingseenheid aan te meld. Ons gaan almal ons geldjies baie versigtig moet tel en ons het dus nie fondse om te spandeer of te mors op onnodige herstelwerk as gevolg van vandalisme nie. Dit geld ook vir onwettige storting. Sekere gebiede word geteiken deur misdadigers wat hulle rommel onwettig stort in oopspasies. Meld dit aan asseblief en help ons om die skelms vas te trek.

Besighede geraak deur COVID

Ek wil laastens net vir elkeen van u sê hoeveel empatie en bekommernis ek het oor elke besigheid en individu wat geraak word deur COVID - 19. My hart gaan uit na elkeen wat harde werk en geld bestee het om ’n besigheid te bou en nou as gevolg van COVID-19 baie swaar kry. Ek lê baie nagte wakker en wonder hoe ons u kan help, binne ons vermoëns. Ten einde ’n beter begrip te kry vir wat u probleme is, het ek gevra dat ons ’n webinaar of aanlynbyeenkoms reël om u insette te verkry. Ons almal moet hierdie verskriklike terugslag probeer bekamp en ek wil graag van ons besighede, wat die werk skep hoor hoe ons kan hande vat. Sal u asseblief laat weet wie van u belangstel in so n gesprek. U kan die kontakbesonderhede op ons webblad kry of skryf vir my kantoor by Mayor@stellenbosch.gov.za.

Ek moedig u aan om asseblief veilig te bly en verantwoordelik op te tree in hierdie tyd. Kyk asseblief mooi na u self en u gesinne. Met die winter wat nou hier is, word ons makliker siek en moet ons nou meer paraat wees as ooit. U is vir my so kosbaar!

Bly Veilig.

Beste Wense
Burgemeester Gesie

expense budget has been drastically reduced.

All our maintenance and other plans means nothing if we do not get the cooperation of residents to protect existing as well as new infrastructure against vandalism. I am pleading with you to not tolerate any form of vandalism. Please call the Police or our law enforcement unit immediately when you see any vandalism taking place. All of us will have to be extra careful with how we are spending our money and we do not have funds to waste on unnecessary repairs because of vandalism. This is also the case for illegal dumping. Certain areas are targeted by criminals who illegally dump their waste on public spaces. Please report this immediately and aid us in apprehending the guilty parties.

Businesses affected by COVID

Lastly, I want to say how worried I am and how much empathy I have for every business and individual who have been affected by COVID-19. My heart goes out to every person who has worked hard and invested money into a business that is now suffering because of COVID-19. I lay awake many nights and wonder about how we can assist within our abilities. To gain a better understanding of the problems you are facing, I have asked that we organise a webinar or online meeting to get more inputs from everyone. All of us have a part to play in countering the immense fallout of this disease and I want to hear from our businesses, who are also the job creators and providers, about how we can work together. Please let me know if you are interested in a discussion like this. You can get contact details on our website or write to me at Mayor@stellenbosch.gov.za.

I encourage everyone to please be safe and act responsibility over this lockdown period. Please look after yourselves and your families. With the winter finally here, we fall ill more easily and it is necessary for us to be more alert than ever. You are so precious to me.

Stay safe.

Best Wishes
Mayor Gesie