

## Increases on electricity & services in Kouga

Kouga residents and businesses – the latter already trying to cope with the increases in VAT this year are facing rates increases.

The proposed tariff increases, which hit the middle classes and the poor, the hardest, are:

- 7.5% for property rates
- 11.5% for water
- 9% for sanitation
- 9% for refuse
- 0% for Environmental Management Fee
- An average of 6.84% for electricity, subject to approval by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (Nersa).

Public meetings will be held in all wards so residents can air their views and complaints. The dates are alongside. Otis is open for disgruntled residents to attend these meetings.

The final budget and IDP will be tabled to Council for adoption before the end of May and implemented from 1 July.

The draft capital budget, which includes several projects aimed at improving the lives of the very poor R71.595-m, which is 3,11% more than the 2017/18 Adjustments Budget. It will be funded from South African national government grants and subsidies.

Draft capital projects include R23.7-m to upgrade the Sea Vista Waste Water Treatment Works for new RDP houses to be built in the area.

R10.2-m will be spent on the electrification of houses (informal settlements) while R2.8-m is for the bucket eradication programme.

A further R4.4-m will be used to upgrade sports facilities and R1.5-m has been set aside for informal traders.

The draft operating revenue for 2018/19 totals R732.962-m. This is an increase of 6.38% compared to the 2017/18 Adjustments Budget.

The main revenue sources are electricity (33.58%), property rates (23.55%), operating grants and subsidies (16.8%), water (9.24%) and refuse (5.94%).

The draft operating expenditure for 2018/19 totals R786.146-m - this results in a 4.07% increase compared to the 2017/18 Adjustments Budget.

The main expenditure items are employee-related costs (34.64%) and bulk electricity purchases (25.56%) and depreciation (9.39%).

The mayor, Elza van Lingen maintained that the Council is keeping the tariff hikes as low as possible, but struggling businesses and the poor are not amused. Some have vented their spleen on social media.

### Dates for Public meetings - to voice complaints

Kouga residents can ask related questions or complain at public meetings on the draft budget and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the 2018/2019 financial year.

The budget covers Sea Vista Waste Water Treatment Works, bucket eradication and the electrification of informal areas.

The meetings will be held at the cortian times in v all areas in April and May, as mentioned below and capital projects are due to start 1 July this year.

The draft budget and draft IDP were adopted by Kouga Council at the beginning of this month.

The meetings nearly all start at 6pm ; there is one exception.

- Ward 1: 16 April at the Oyster Bay Hall and 17 April at the Sea Vista Hall
- Ward 2: 18 April at the Pelitrus Hall
- Ward 3: 19 April at the Newton Hall
- Ward 4: 23 April at the Baptist Church Hall
- Ward 5: 24 April at the Krustfontein Hall

- Ward 6: 25 April at the KwaNomzamo Hall
- Ward 7: 26 April at the Lorie Hall and 30 April at the Katrin Felix Hall
- Ward 8: 2 May at the Newton Hall
- Ward 9: 3 May at the Vusumuzi Landu Hall
- Ward 10: 7 May at the Dan Sandi Hall and 8 May at Andrieskraal
- Ward 11: 9 May at the Newton Hall
- Ward 12: 10 May at the St Francis Village Hall, 14 May at 3pm at the Dutch Reformed Church hall in Paradise Beach and 15 May at the Humansdorp Country Club
- Ward 13: 16 May at the Weston Hall
- Ward 14: 17 May at 10am at the Marina Martinique Hall and at 6pm at the Tokyo Sexwale Club House
- Ward 15: 21 May at 3pm at Ons Tuiste, Humansdorp, and 22 May at the Humansdorp Country Club.

Enquiries can be directed to the municipality's IDP manager, Colleen Dreyer, at [cdreyer@kouga.gov.za](mailto:cdreyer@kouga.gov.za) or on 042 200 2200.

## 257 Thornhill residents receive houses

A total of 257 Thornhill residents received title deeds for RDP houses on Human Rights Day at the local community hall.

Among the first to receive homes were 73 year-old Patronella Stuurman and 77 year-old Shadrack Nyoka. Beneficiaries were delighted that they received their homes on Human Rights Day. Beneficiaries who could be at the

community hall to receive their title deeds were asked to collect them from the community hall the following day. Some beneficiaries have passed on and their descendants have been asked to contact the Municipality's housing office department so necessary arrangements can be made for these homes to be transferred to the correct heirs.

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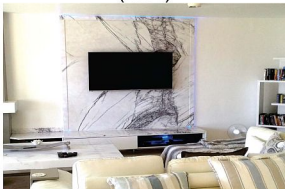
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