

**Question 12 has 40 answers (Open Text)**

**“Do you have any specific feedback or suggestions on how the Chamber can improve its services as a collective, better than you can as an individual?”**

Jaco Montgomery said:

"We have a major problem with our local Municipality. We need some assistance to get them to simply do the job. 1) Our roads are starting to fall apart. 2) They need to fast track some sort of electrical project so we can get out of load shedding. 3) Our water systems and dams are in such a state that water is regularly brown. 4) More and more homeless people are setting themselves up on our street corners. (Policing services are deteriorating) 5) The cost of services is spiraling out of control due to poor / no management. 6) We need better waste management. Illegal dump sites are popping up everywhere. 7) Crime is on the increase."

Folkert Kingma said:

"I am just interested in the activities of the Chamber "

Knysna Education Trust said:

"Coordinate current local QCTO accredited FET service providers such as Knysna education Trust with other local training initiatives to prevent duplication of infrastructure and training services and to enable leverage of training provision for learnerships and skills development for local market and in particular tourism needs. "

Elizabeth Vertue said:

"Volley as a collective for improved services and management of the municipality and its entities"

[Johan Pretorius](#) said:

"The subcommittees must just start to get momentum."

[Erika Rautenbach](#) said:

"Central improvements districts"

[Elmay Bouwer](#) said:

"Not sure what the true role of the chamber is at the moment being a membership organisation. Who are the current board members and chairman?"

[Zwelidumile \(Zet\) Mlisana](#) said:

"No"

[garth.bock03@gmail.com](#) said:

"Not at present moment "

[Helenbarnes1972@gmail.com](#) said:

"No"

[Henk de Bruin](#) said:

"Not seeing any activities but keen to participate"

[Johanita Henning](#) said:

"Better communication with new members re meetings. More structured meetings / get togethers."

[wayne@acrobranch.co.za](#) said:

"Finding a solution to make certain type of products from businesses more affordable to the local clientele, specifically regular returning local clientele."

[Lester Day](#) said:

"Need regular input from members to ensure Chamber has relevance"

Unknown contact said:

"We are an NGO, one of many in Knysna. It would be great to hear their voices too."

Unknown contact said:

"I think start doing things ourselves, and not fight / wait on the municipality to get things done..... I think maybe practical things like the Revive Knysna - one can only criticise and moan so much when the municipality does nothing.... but then take the credit for the good work done..... for example - local businesses to donate money to fix potholes in their streets / neighbourhoods, and then clearly market that the pothole was fixed by the members of the business chamber.... I'm happy to donate a few hundred rand to fix a pothole in our street, then there should be a board, or even spray paint on the road stating "fixed by GKBC" :-)"

Elaine Hannah said:

"No"

Veronique Leach said:

"Putting more pressure on Muni to do its job & service delivery to our town Sort out with Muni the dump which is in chaos!! Again look at Plett- rehabilitated dump site Accountability for non performance & legal representations on illegal positions in muni More pressure on law enforcement for zero tolerance on illegal behaviour Get rid of all non compliant nonregisterered bib so called car guards- a real.nuisance in town Plett does not have these problems. Why tolerated in knysna?? More & better Engagement with All Knysna NGO's & churches & Businesses to save Knysna & solve one & for all the Vagrant so called "homeless" people in our streets. Drug problem- get them off our streets! Again you do not see this in Plett !! Why tolerated in Knysna? Unite Knysna! "

Unknown contact said:

"I've been trying to resolve the sewerage spillage issue on a client's property at The Heads by myself but to no avail. There is a KM pump station at the bottom of their property that services the entire Eastern Heads. Often there are manholes left open

which is a danger to the community. With heavy rains and at every spring high tide the sewerage leaks/runs out. The pumps don't function during load shedding exacerbating the problem. This sewerage spillage is running directly into the Estuary near Green Hole. I forwarded my concerns to the KM and SANParks with photographic and video evidence, but nothing was done. They visited the site on a hot day at low tide and saw nothing happening. I then decided to forward my concerns to the Chamber via Mr. Richard Sohn but have had no response yet. The sewerage issue is getting worse, but the KM just keep shrugging it off. After the rain that we have had over these past few days, I would hate to see what's happening there now. The Owner does not want to be blamed for not resolving the issue, but it is a KM pump station on their property that is not being managed or maintained properly by the KM. The Owner is proposing, at his own expense, to erect a solar system or generator to power the pump station during load shedding in an effort to be proactive to resolve the situation. However, it is the managing and maintenance of the pump station that needs to be addressed by the KM."

Chantal Bruwer said:

"1) Please share a list of all the businesses listed with the chamber so that we can support them if possible. 2) Please offer an opportunity for each business to get a feature on the email newsletter in order to advertise their products/services."

Unknown contact said:

"I am not a member of the chamber."

Unknown contact said:

"None"

Unknown contact said:

"Must become very collaborative with members showing interests in supporting and building sustainable business models, as well as assisting the public sector in their challenges - BUT the public sector MUST be willing to engage"

Unknown contact said:

"Chamber needs to remain a-political and focus on business opportunities, networking and investment in town that can lead to job creation."

Unknown contact said:

"Pressure on council regarding local issues - of which I have not seen lots of success."

Unknown contact said:

"We as a chamber should be responsible in identifying the top industries in Knysna and understanding the skills needed for their future growth is essential for developing effective strategies and attracting educational institutions. As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, here are some key industries in Knysna and the skills that may be needed for their future development: 1. Tourism and Hospitality: • Skills Needed: Customer service, hospitality management, digital marketing, languages, cultural awareness, event planning, sustainability practices. 2. Agriculture and Agribusiness: • Skills Needed: Agricultural sciences, agribusiness management, sustainable farming practices, technology integration (precision agriculture), supply chain management. 3. Forestry and Timber Processing: • Skills Needed: Forestry management, timber processing, sustainable forestry practices, machinery operation, wood engineering, safety management. 4. Information Technology (IT): • Skills Needed: Software development, cybersecurity, data analytics, IT support, cloud computing, digital marketing, project management. 5. Healthcare and Wellness: • Skills Needed: Nursing, medical practitioners, allied health professionals (e.g., physiotherapists), healthcare administration, wellness coaching. 6. Retail and Local Artisan Products: • Skills Needed: Retail management, e-commerce, product design, marketing and branding, customer experience, supply chain management. 7. Renewable Energy and Sustainability: • Skills Needed: Renewable energy technologies (solar, wind), environmental science, sustainable construction practices, energy management, waste management. 8. Education and Training: • Skills Needed: Teaching, educational leadership, curriculum development, e-learning, vocational training, adult education. 9.

Creative Arts and Crafts: • Skills Needed: Visual arts, crafts, graphic design, marketing for artists, event planning, art curation. 10. Marine and Aquaculture: - Skills Needed: Ma"

Unknown contact said:

"1. Lead business 2. Lead KLM 3. Attract investment for KLM 4. Influence IDP of KLM 5. Representation"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"What is the way forward? - who is in the new board ? Who is the new chair "

Kersten Paulse said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Skills development"

Unknown contact said:

"I think this is the wrong question. I would prefer the Chamber to also focus on services, activities, actions that will benefit me as a business, and not only to speak or advocate on my behalf."

Martin Hansson said:

"Just keeping the KM accountable and help them when they need. "

Unknown contact said:

"A quarterly meeting to provide news and feedback for all members. Ditto sub-committees. Leaders to set up regular report back meetings to ascertain progress on projects. Chamber should place ads in local media at least twice a year - The Herald, Action Ads, Knysna Facebook page. Relations with local govt need to be improved and I suggest the Chamber sets up a "meet and greet" function for the whole municipality and all the Chamber members. I am sure we could get sponsorship for such an event from the Chamber members. NB: Not to be a hostile gripe meeting but rather an opportunity for all parties to have better communications and support

development projects for Knysna as a whole. A Letter of Introduction should be given to all sub-committee members - "to whom it may concern" acknowledging that the member is participating in XXX project and is asking for support and co-operation on behalf of the Chamber. The validity dates should be stated, with suitable disclaimers, and signed off by the chairman."

[Greg Billson](#) said:

"We have only attended one event since joining the Chamber. We were really impressed with the participation at the event. Since Covid, businesses and people really want to participate in these types of events - its human nature and we see the Chamber as understanding this need. It adds significant value to all."

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Great job!"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Business and individuals to work together to achieve the common goal of making the town to live and work in."

[neilvandeenter@gmail.com](mailto:neilvandeenter@gmail.com) said:

"More social events that are fun, even if it's just entertainment. Create awareness with community. The more members and support, the more power you have to do what is needed. I create a support network for people with talent, drive and passion, but lack business skills. The garden route is full of succesfulp retired entrepreneurs that would be more than willing to guide such people"

[Richard Sohn](#) said:

"being more direct with KM"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Regular meetings for updates on projects."

[Gillian Dyer](#) said:

"I haven't been a member long enough to say but my opinion is that we should be informed what is going on in council as their decisions impact tourism and the well being of the town."

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### Question 13 has 51 answers (Open Text)

#### **“What issues would you like to be addressed by the Chamber this year?”**

[Jaco Montgomery](#) said:

"We need to address all of the above in order to ensure we stay a destination of choice for travelers. "

[pennyp@mega.co.za](#) said:

"Roads, George Rex Drive, Municipality "

[Zwelidumile \(Zet\) Mlisana](#) said:

"Fight corruption and nepotism in our municipality "

[sarah@bollardbayhouse.com](#) said:

"The state of George Rex Drive "

[tina@acrobranch.co.za](#) said:

"Infrastructure. Mainly Road quality."

[Sherlee Taylor](#) said:

"United voice for the representation in important issues affecting residents eg. municipal budgets, etc"

[Knysna Education Trust](#) said:

"1. Hold the municipality to including ECD centre provisioning & development in their IDP plan, especially in under serviced areas. 2. Support ECD formal registrations by



zero basing Health, Fire & Safety Certificates in order to support job creation and safe and quality ECD PROGRAMME implementation, though the legal ECD establishment to achieve government registration and funding for sustainability. Knysna Education Trust currently supports over 130 ECD centres to achieve registration employing over 500 women and schooling over 8000 children. High Muni certification costs hampering this job creation process. 3. Help create free Wi-Fi zones in the township and outlying area to support ECD and community development. 4. Advocate to muni to Zero rate NGO land zoned for community development and Early Childhood Development with regards to Rates & Taxes."

[Elizabeth Vertue](#) said:

"Management of our town ie The Lagoon and general deterioration of the infrastructure of the town whilst our levies and rates keep climbing"

[Erika Rautenbach](#) said:

"Lack of skills and motivation to get problems solved."

[Elmay Bouwer](#) said:

"Keeping our local municipality to task and bringing interesting symposiums to Knysna like the Energy Summit from which businesses can benefit from"

[Zwelidumile \(Zet\) Mlisana](#) said:

"Knysna oyster festival should focus in the location area also"

[Dave Davies](#) said:

"Problems with issuing Trading Permits by KM"

[Henk de Bruin](#) said:

"Municipal services in Knysna"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Please don't stop promoting Knysna and it's business to all new residents from "up country". "

wayne@acrobranch.co.za said:

"Infrastructure. Specifically the condition of the roads. It is one of an areas biggest assets. There is no use trying to get more tourists to your area if your roads are in a terrible state. Yes, the tourist will come have a great time, whether they visited a shopping center, mall, hotels, resorts, adventures, activities, etc. For a return visit these will be kept in mind but also that areas infrastructure. Ask yourself the question next time you go on holiday. Will I come back to this area and did their infrastructure have any input on the choice that was made."

Lester Day said:

"Homeless Road upgrades ( not patches) Retuculation upgrades (not matches)"

Unknown contact said:

"You have done a good job of addressing current issues "

Unknown contact said:

"Deterioration of our town: crumbling infrastructure, and physical appearance make it less attractive than before for both visitors as well as potential investors;  
(Mis)management of municipal budget: following the above, Municipality's focus should be on (maintenance and) upgrading current infrastructure; Business education for entrepreneurs and small businesses: if we want to grow our town we need to grow the income base. "

Unknown contact said:

"Maybe interesting talks from other successful business men / operators, or like the Sooliman talk? "

Elaine Hannah said:

"Rates Budget Services Roads"

Unknown contact said:

"Please continue holding the municipality accountable."

Veronique Leach said:

"Dump site is a complete mess not managed by Muni properly Homeless people & yellow bib car guards on streets need to be removed ( none in Plett) & disgusting waste by rail! To be moved or fenced in just like in Plett. Vagrants should not be living on waste by rail site. In humane!! Where is the health department, settlement Muni councillor on this ???!!! Put pressure on Muni workers & mayor to come on sites to see the mess!! Clean all water main drains holes- they are full of plants, soil, rubbish litter"

[mujacenterprises@gmail.com](mailto:mujacenterprises@gmail.com) said:

"Youth unemployment Youth study opportunities"

[Chantal Bruwer](#) said:

"1) Hold the Municipality accountable and get results for: - road conditions - waste removal solution for all the delays - constant rioting in Nekkie - homeless persons assistance - How can we get the dump that keeps burning resolved - Constant water supply issues and water quality issues 2) Let's network some more 3) Advertise the business chamber to get the brand out there and more effective amongst locals"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Roads (Potholes). General Town Appearance. "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"We are new to the Chamber, we will raise issues as and when they come up."

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Municipal infrastructure and business support initiatives"

[Catherine Booysen](#) said:

"Getting our municipality to go under administration so we can get this corrupt mayor out of our town "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"To stimulate the economy of the town which will in turn help create jobs. "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE POOR GOVERNANCE OF THE KNYSNA TOWN COUNCIL AND POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY."

Unknown contact said:

"Re-ignition of some kind of Tourism programme and Destination marketing"

Unknown contact said:

"Council stability"

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Energy security. Demand side management. Less party politics and more collaboration between Business-Municipality-Community representatives to the benefit of all Greater Knysna community, our area, environment and ultimately making a contribution towards reaching SA's sustainability goals."

Unknown contact said:

"Municipal service delivery"

Alan Bell said:

"Knysna vision 2024, Oyster Festival, waste management, energy resilience, active citizenry / citizen science, community inclusiveness, company incubation, learnerships, estuary stewardship, urban sprawl, "

Unknown contact said:

"Sort out the above starting with Chamber self"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"In General the business chamber should be taking our ineffective council to task! "

Unknown contact said:

"The cleaning up of the town. EG: Potholes, refuse removal, Vagrants, traffic control, creating an enabling environment for businesses to deal with KM."

Kersten Paulse said:

"Main road of Knysna face-lift Homeless shelter "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Actually focus on the services advertised, marketed and promised above, networking, skills development, business development, learning, etc. Anything would be better than nothing."

Penny Rice said:

"Roads"

Unknown contact said:

"A feedback session in November to discuss all issues. EG: power, water, roads etc"

Greg Billson said:

"Just to continue holding events on topical issues allowing members and non-members to participate in information sharing sessions"

Unknown contact said:

"Taking the Municipality head-on regarding the no/poor service delivery in respect of infrastructure maintenance ie pot-holes, storm water system, curbs & side-walks, public open spaces etc"

jacquesbrink55@gmail.com said:

"Egos"

Unknown contact said:

"Waste management"

neilvandeenter@gmail.com said:

"Crime and infrastructure"

Richard Sohn said:

"sorting out the KM which is dysfunctional"

Unknown contact said:

"Road repair"

[Leon Scheepers](#) said:

"The issues are not issues the chamber can solve - only the government can solve them."

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**Question 17 has 77 answers (Open Text)**

**“Has your business suffered any losses due to load shedding this year? If ‘Yes,’ please specify”**

[Jaco Montgomery](#) said:

"We had to install an inverter system at huge cost in order to ensure our guests have a comfortable stay and that the booking agents continue to utilize us. This cost is a massive loss due to load shedding. In addition, Load Shedding is now causing major issues with water quality and supply. To counter this we now have to install our own water filtration systems. And probably a bore hole in the next year. All major financial losses for us in order to do what our Municipality / Government should have provided as basic services."

[gillian@gatewaytowellness.live](#) said:

"Yes"

[pennyp@mega.co.za](#) said:

"No really, BUT THE TAXIS STRIKE had a HUGE impact, we cancelled 90 guests."

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"no"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"Yes.buying of fuel for generators and damages on equipment ."

markdwp@gmail.com said:

"Loss of productivity."

Peter van Diepen said:

"Closure due to loadshedding"

Folkert Kingma said:

"No"

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"Yes, a business is planned to operate with electricity meaning any business that has planned this way would have suffered losses."

Sherlee Taylor said:

"No due to addition of inverter and solar which is increased running costs"

Chanel Georgiou said:

"Yes , when our generator packed up. We could not trade during loadshedding. "

Knysna Education Trust said:

"Yes. The organisation has had to install an inverter at huge expense to enable tenants to keep operating to and to enable the organisation to keep meeting project and programme deadlines and reporting requirements to retain contracts. "

Elizabeth Vertue said:

"Yes, we have amassed massive costs relating to fuel to keep operating"

Johan Pretorius said:

"No but we had to invest heavily in the workplace to achieve that."

[Erika Rautenbach](#) said:

"Additional cost for fuel"

[Elmay Bouwer](#) said:

"YES. Tour operators find it easier to book with bigger hotels that all the plan B's in place for FULL operation during load shedding. So we loose a lot of potential bookings"

[Andre Jonker](#) said:

"Yes cost of diesel "

[Zwelidumile \(Zet\) Mlisana](#) said:

"Yes, our raw products don't last long anymore "

[Helenbarnes1972@gmail.com](#) said:

"Not really. I work from home and have adapted my schedule to work around loadshedding "

[Henk de Bruin](#) said:

"Nagative reviews from guest visiting the hotel. "

[Issaquena Heights](#) said:

"Not able to trade as per normal"

[Andrea Norval](#) said:

"No."

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Admin functions, i.e. printing, laminations, binding etc. of proposals to clients were not always possible."

[wayne@acrobranch.co.za](#) said:



"Yes, to be very blunt and direct. A business uses electricity to operate properly, which insinuates if there's loadshedding the business is no longer operating at its full potential."

Unknown contact said:

"productivity of our admin staff "

Unknown contact said:

"Not really, but working hours have shifted to align with loadshedding."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - extra expenses to acquire batteries and inverters and solar panels - just to try and keep the lights on - computers crashed and blown mother boards due to loadshedding - our profits now go into keeping the lights on rather than to the employees who work hard too. We work a lot with the municipalities, the municipalities are off line during loadshedding, municipal staff tend to stay home during loadshedding, hence productivity and service delivery of the municipal officials have gone down the drain, which directly affects our business. It takes WAY Longer to obtain decisions on land development applications from the municipality"

Elaine Hannah said:

"Not quantifiably"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, guests are seeking accommodation that is unaffected by load shedding. We are still working on an additional power supply."

Unknown contact said:

"Impact on equipment which affects service delivery."

Veronique Leach said:

"Yes! It affects tourism & Agriculture sector More spending on inverters, solar panels etc..."

[mujacenterprises@gmail.com](mailto:mujacenterprises@gmail.com) said:

"My business depends on electricity at more than 70% Loadshedding caused me to lose 80% revenue on a monthly basis."

[Siyabulela Tembani](#) said:

"No"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Yes. Work hours."

[knysnagrainmill@gmail.com](mailto:knysnagrainmill@gmail.com) said:

"no"

[Liesl Meunier](#) said:

"No"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"initially productivity. Have since installed solar and have been able to operate independent of the grid."

[Chantal Bruwer](#) said:

"Yes - equipment failure and replacement costs - beer production is heavily effected as we cannot maintain constant stock levels which means we cannot produce more and grow as a business as we cannot plan production with the loadshedding constantly changing its stages and times. - Sales are effected as our customers all suffer and cannot spend on our products - Lack of tourism means we cannot grow feet to our business - We cannot plan for events to help increase sales "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"I do assessments (motor and non-motor) for the insurance industry who do not have any regard for load shedding. I therefore have to work around the shut down to keep receiving work. "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Yes - Financial implications of running costs of generator"

Jaco Montgomery said:

"Water filtration system. JoJo Tanks and water pumps."

Esme Jefferys said:

"Put in a hybrid inverter/solar system to the value or about R200 000"

pennyp@mega.co.za said:

"Yes, had to install inverters and solar to keep Wifi and business running."

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"no"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"Yes.by procuring generators "

Unknown contact said:

"Air B&B guests won't book with me without alternative electricity supply"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes we have lost production time but the most affected is the staff moral, they have lost all enthusiasm for work."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - as I travel extensively and encounter many challenges on this front"

Catherine Booysen said:

"Yes. I need electricity to work my machine and with the longer loadshedding hours my inverter cant cope "

Unknown contact said:

"yes . loss of power to sawmill and kilns "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, less accommodation bookings"

Unknown contact said:

"COST OF DIESEL AND MAINTNENNACE OF GENRATORS"

Unknown contact said:

"Gate Batteries and Fridge "

Gordon Schutte said:

"Not directly - some loss of time"

plantpowered.karen@gmail.com said:

"Yes, I offer astrological consultations online, and loadshedding frequently means I have to postpone and reschedule consultations. "

Hunters Village HOA said:

"no"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, loss of revenue"

Unknown contact said:

"We had increased cost - no losses suffered"

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Not really applicable "

Unknown contact said:

"Patients who's oxygen concentrators didn't work without power"

Unknown contact said:

"Loss of future bookings"

Johan Botha said:

"Yes, added more than a month to two client jobs, but the secondary effect is worse to deal with than no power. Which is the unregulated noise pollution of cheap generators. Hard to work when you can't hear yourself think."

Unknown contact said:

"Reduced productivity Staff on short time Increased cost - petrol for generators"

debra@dimension-design.com said:

"yes loss of work time / productivity due to no wifi connection and laptop battery dying"

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"Yes , stock damage and the expenses of buying new equipment to enable us to continue operating. There have been various extended power and water interruptions, "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Kersten Paulse said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Equipment lost due to power surges when power returns"

Martin Hansson said:

"Cost of running a generator plus some utilities that was not cover by insurance.. "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes. Unable to meet timelines in respect of business projects due to loss of working hours and being unable to access our network during business hours."

Greg Billson said:

"No - we have inverters and solar"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - as with everyone else, it is impossible to run a business effectively "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

jacquesbrink55@gmail.com said:

"Yes"

neilvandeventer@gmail.com said:

"No"

Richard Sohn said:

"needed to arrange and pay for alternative power sources to keep things going"

Leon Scheepers said:

"Yes - Cost of 3phase diesel generator and diesel to run it"

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"no"

Gillian Dyer said:

"Upset people mostly. People phone around to see if your business is 100% loadshedding proof. We are to a degree but no 100%."

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Have had to invest in a new inverter - this relates directly to profit off the "bottom line". Potential guests are now requesting whether facilities have back up power or not. I believe people are choosing accommodation with back up power over those that don't have. "

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**Question 18 has 88 answers (Open Text)**

**“Have you had any additional expenses this year to curb load shedding and run your business successfully? If ‘Yes,’ please specify”**

Jaco Montgomery said:

"Water filtration system. JoJo Tanks and water pumps."

Esme Jefferys said:

"Put in a hybrid inverter/solar system to the value or about R200 000"

pennyp@mega.co.za said:

"Yes, had to install inverters and solar to keep Wifi and business running."

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"no"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"Yes.by procuring generators "

markdwp@gmail.com said:

"Alternative energy supply costs"

Sandra Norval said:

"Yes, had to purchase Magneto lights, gas stoves and installed solar power inverter system. Also had to install security beams around the property for extra security."

Adrian Zeeman said:

"I had to install a solar system at my own cost"

Peter van Diepen said:

"Purchase of an inverter and batteries"

[yolsjo@telkomsa.net](mailto:yolsjo@telkomsa.net) said:

"Yes had to install solar"

[sarah@bollardbayhouse.com](mailto:sarah@bollardbayhouse.com) said:

"Installed Solar panels"

[Folkert Kingma](#) said:

"No"

[tina@acrobranch.co.za](mailto:tina@acrobranch.co.za) said:

"Yes, the purchase of a generator, the constant fuel purchases, the constant services of the generator and any and all other electronic equipment, etc..."

[Sherlee Taylor](#) said:

"Yes - added solar and inverter"

[Chanel Georgiou](#) said:

"Yes , diesel expenses for our generator"

[Knysna Education Trust](#) said:

"As above."

[Elizabeth Vertue](#) said:

"Fuel to keep the generators running as we are dependent on ovens, fryers etc"

[Johan Pretorius](#) said:

"Yes. Invertor and battery space of about R100 000."

[Erika Rautenbach](#) said:

"Fuel for generator"

[Elmay Bouwer](#) said:

"YES. Replacing equipment, appliances, had to buy generators"

[Andre Jonker](#) said:



"Yes , diesel and solar"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"Yes having to buy fuel in these times is expensive just to run a generator for a business for long hours, this happening whilst we haven't had any tenders/work this year."

Dave Davies said:

"Installed inverter system."

Helenbarnes1972@gmail.com said:

"No"

Henk de Bruin said:

"Yes, diesel account is sky high"

Tandy Calder said:

"Yes, R80K spent on diesel generator and approx R10K per month spend on fuel. "

Issaquena Heights said:

"Yes, Installed inverters"

Johanita Henning said:

"Yes, had to rely on generator back up at an extra cost of R1 m per annum."

Andrea Norval said:

"Yes, we've had to purchase inverters, gas stoves, Magneto lights, install solar and battery system and install security beams around the property."

Unknown contact said:

"Had to install inventers and solar panels in order to manage load shedding better.

Approximately R110 000.00 "

wayne@acrobranch.co.za said:

"the purchase of a generator, the fuel needed to be able to operate a generator and services of the generator to continue working at its full potential. The buying of energy saving lights so that your clients can actually see you and your product/service."

Lester Day said:

"R300k to install off grid power"

Unknown contact said:

"No, MG Car club donated a small second hand inverter to keep our phones and WIFI on, in July this year."

Fred Van Heerden said:

"Yes Had to implement solar and inverter"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes: batteries, and coffee at hotspots in town which have power during loadshedding. Investing in solar panels is not financially viable (yet)."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - solar panels, inverters, batteries, generators, blown computers"

Elaine Hannah said:

"Purchase of 2x inverters and battery packs for alarm systems"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, minor changes, like load shedding light bulbs, gas oven and stoves. We are still waiting for approval on our alternative power supply. "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes to keep at least the telephone system operational - critical to be able to keep in contact at any time. "

Veronique Leach said:

"Inverters, generators, diesel solar panels! A small fortune!!"

mujacenterprises@gmail.com said:

"Yes. we spent an enormous amount of cash to acquire gas equipment and back-up lights, and yet the business still suffers, as we must still recover our outlay, and the turnover is 50% slower. "

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes. I had to buy a 3kVa inverter and battery."

Liesl Meunier said:

"Yes- installed Solar and backup "

Unknown contact said:

"As above - installation of battery/solar"

Chantal Bruwer said:

"Yes - Fuel costs for the generator"

Unknown contact said:

"No. I do intend going off the grid early 2024."

Unknown contact said:

"Generator diesel and UPS devices on 10 devices"

Unknown contact said:

"2 x WI FI Back Ups 1 x Battery Pack for Gas Geyser 2 x New Clothes Irons 1 x New Vacuum Cleaner "

Unknown contact said:

"Petrol for a small generator"

Unknown contact said:

"Put in Solar and Batteries a couple of years ago"

Unknown contact said:

"yes two inverters and gas appliances"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - supporting solar initiatives at home base"

Catherine Booyesen said:

"no"

Unknown contact said:

"yes . purchasing a larger inverter and batteries "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, we added solar to our property"

Unknown contact said:

"Additional costs for inverters etc. "

Unknown contact said:

"Inverter batteries"

Gordon Schutte said:

"Install inverters"

plantpowered.karen@gmail.com said:

"Yes, I have spent R11 000 on inverters and batteries that don't work. I finally settled for a R900 mini ups that keeps my router on so that I can work on my phone when I am unable to work on my desktop."

Hunters Village HOA said:

"yes inverter"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, excessive fuel costs"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes Fuel costs"

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Yes, backup power and inverter "

Unknown contact said:

"R700K generator + R40K in diesel for generator each month + maintenance + R100K inverter"

Unknown contact said:

"Installed Solar Inverter System"

Johan Botha said:

"Busy designing a more efficient generator, since with Stage 6 and up, inverters and batteries aren't the best option"

Unknown contact said:

"Initially paid staff when they couldn't work Additional cost of fuel to run generators Additional over cost to manage workers when we allow them to make up lost time "

Unknown contact said:

"yes plenty range from Security to additional energy resources"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"Needing to constantly replace damaged and burnt out equipment due to the power surges "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes Cost of generators Cost of diesel"

Kersten Paulse said:

"Vast diesel expense for generator. "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, batteries, generators and fuel"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, upgrade backup systems, acquired new batteries and inverter"

Penny Rice said:

"Yes install inverter "

Ypie Kingma said:

"Yes, purchase of inverter as alternate power during loadshedding. "

Martin Hansson said:

"Diesel "

Greg Billson said:

"The capital infrastructure cost related to solar and inverters"

Unknown contact said:

"The installation of additional batteries into the backup system, approx cost R 60 000.

The original system (added last year) cost around R 100 000."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - installing of back up power supply"

Unknown contact said:

"No as we had already invested in PV panels and batteries."

jacquesbrink55@gmail.com said:

"Petrol"

neilvandeventer@gmail.com said:

"Yes, installed solar and backup"

Richard Sohn said:

"Yes buying a generator at substantial cost"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes. Batteries and inverter"

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"no"

Gillian Dyer said:

"Yes. Had to buy inverter, batteries and generator."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, we installed inverters in our units to run wifi and Tv as well as replaced all electric stoves with gas stoves"

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**Question 19 has 55 answers (Open Text)**

**“Would you like to become more involved with the Chamber, such as volunteering or serving on sub-committees? If ‘Yes,’ please provide your contact information: Name, email, and contact number”**

Jaco Montgomery said:

"I am already in the Waste to Energy subcommittee."

pennyp@mega.co.za said:

"No"

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"no"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"No at the moment as I'm currently fighting for survival my be"

markdwp@gmail.com said:

"Considering"

Peter van Diepen said:

"Have been involved in sub-committees, but not much has happened over the last 6 months or so. Unless perhaps I was not informed. Currently a bit disillusioned with the Chamber."

Denise Lindley said:

"Yes. Denise Lindley denise@foodandfinewine.co.za 0823775228"

Folkert Kingma said:

"No"

tina@acrobranch.co.za said:

"No."

Sherlee Taylor said:

"Unfortunately I am a one-woman business owner and manager and unable to spare any time at this point"

Chanel Georgiou said:

"No thank you"

Knysna Education Trust said:

"Education and skills development sub-committee: Gina-Lee Nel; ginalee.nel@icloud.com; 0718901160."

Elizabeth Vertue said:

"Unsure at this stage"

Johan Pretorius said:

"I am fairly involved already."

Elmay Bouwer said:

"Yes on a sub committee"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:



"No"

garth.bock03@gmail.com said:

"Yes. Garth 0645485369, garth.bock03@gmail.com "

Henk de Bruin said:

"Henk Henk@belvidere.co.za 0828055881 "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Unfortunately no spare time at the moment"

Unknown contact said:

"Not at the moment. When circumstances change, then definitely!"

Unknown contact said:

"No not at this stage - will support and advice where I can, but right now do not have the time and capacity to take on more responsibilities."

Elaine Hannah said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Veronique Leach said:

"Yes fungy@mweb.co.za 0837537762"

mujacenterprises@gmail.com said:

"Yes I would like to serve on your subcommittee My email is jacksimonsd@gmail.com "

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"Yes"

Unknown contact said:

"No. Too involved in Sedgefield already"

Unknown contact said:

"Not sure"

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Have done so"

Nico Gordon said:

"Nico Gordon drnicgor@gmail.com 0834420799"

Unknown contact said:

"I am already involved..."

Gordon Schutte said:

"Not presently"

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Yes, Waste and Energy sub committee "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Johan Botha said:

"I'm not sure how that works, but tentatively yes. Johan Botha,  
johan@fluffybluecow.com"

Unknown contact said:

"Paul Theron paul@cxsteel.co.za 0824473421"

Alan Bell said:

"alan.bell.za20@gmail.com 083 269 7796"

Unknown contact said:

"NA"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"No - I have already done my time there and feel it is time for others to get involved "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Kersten Paulse said:

"In 2 years, yes. "

Unknown contact said:

"I have"

Unknown contact said:

"Already a member of a committee, however, no meetings has been held as yet."

Unknown contact said:

"Already participating"

Greg Billson said:

"No sure if being based in Port Elizabeth would be practical. We do service clients on a national basis. I am the current Audit Committee Chair to the Kouga and Sarah Baartman Municipalities and past Honorary treasurer of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber for 7 years. "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"No"

jacquesbrink55@gmail.com said:

"No"

neilvandeventer@gmail.com said:

"First thought, Yes, whether I have the time, unsure"

Richard Sohn said:

"already am involved"

Unknown contact said:

"Already on a sub-committee"

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"Siyabulela Tembani , shekinahunlimited@gmail.com, 0783232330"

Gillian Dyer said:

"Difficult when you run a guesthouse."

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**Question 20 has 53 answers (Open Text)**

**“The Knysna Municipality spends significantly on consultants. Would you be prepared to work on clearly defined projects with the municipality to improve services at lower costs? If ‘Yes,’ please state your area of expertise and provide your name, email address, and contact number”**

Unknown contact said:

"Civil and Structural Engineering Tony Liebold Tonyl@sgrass.com "

Jaco Montgomery said:

"My area of expertise is IT Service Management"

pennyp@mega.co.za said:

"NO"

[tina@acrobranch.co.za](mailto:tina@acrobranch.co.za) said:

"no"

[Zwelidumile \(Zet\) Mlisana](#) said:

"My own personal experience with the municipality every thing is fraud.no moral even with those consultants the way the approve shoddy work in northern areas is shocking.Lack of oversight from councillors at large "

[markdwp@gmail.com](mailto:markdwp@gmail.com) said:

"Business process engineering. Analytics. Solutions architecture. Software design and programming. Determining accountability, cost and quality control. Technical works and engineering plant efficiencies and quality. [markdwp@gmail.com](mailto:markdwp@gmail.com)"

[sarah@bollardbayhouse.com](mailto:sarah@bollardbayhouse.com) said:

"Yes . Logistics"

[Folkert Kingma](#) said:

"No"

[tina@acrobranch.co.za](mailto:tina@acrobranch.co.za) said:

"Unfortunately I don't have the extra time available."

[Knysna Education Trust](#) said:

"Early Childhood Development Provisioning and Skills Development: Gina-Lee Nel; [ginalee.nel@icloud.com](mailto:ginalee.nel@icloud.com); 0718901160."

[Johan Pretorius](#) said:

"Professional Valuer [johan@kmvaluers.co.za](mailto:johan@kmvaluers.co.za) 082 888 1195"

[Erika Rautenbach](#) said:

"Yes Hospitality - Erika Rautenbach, [gm@featherbed.co.za](mailto:gm@featherbed.co.za), 0833758701. "

Elmay Bouwer said:

"NO"

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"No"

Henk de Bruin said:

"henk@belvidere.co.za 0828055881"

Johanita Henning said:

"Yes, leadership development, management, budgets. Johanita Henning, manager@ppehoa.co.za, 0824603373"

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Lester Day said:

"Financial lesterday@icloud.com 0829019175"

Unknown contact said:

"Knysna Sedgefield Hospice will help where they are able"

Unknown contact said:

"Same..."

Unknown contact said:

"yes and no. The municipality does not pay their bills very well. so no purpose in working / consulting to them and they dont pay you, or pay very late..... you end up paying the VAT on invoices, for money that you only receive 3 / 4months down the line.... then I'll rather work for the private sector that pays on time..... I am on their data base. Town Planning consulting services marike@vreken.co.za 082-927-5310"

Elaine Hannah said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, but I have no idea where or how I could assist."

Veronique Leach said:

"Yes but get rid of consultants & get the muni workers to do their jobs properly? 8am to 5pm!! Surely economics 101!! Debt collecting Be the Eyes on the road- report pot holes, clean ups, blocked main water drains Train the cleaning teams in town & garden street maintenance Bring back a sence of pride & good work ethic"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes. Architecture. Tracey Mills of Tracey Mills Brink Architects (Pty) Ltd t/a TMBA (Pty) Ltd, tracey@traceymillsbrink.com, 082 922 6775"

Unknown contact said:

"Not at this time."

Unknown contact said:

"Not sure "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes - if they are willing to use our specialised service offerings, skills, expertise and experience"

Unknown contact said:

"They are a law unto themselves , controlled by politicians who have made a mess of our town. "

Unknown contact said:

"Perhaps on the financial side but not at reduced costs. If they pay our normal rates our clients pay then one can consider it, but I already put in plenty hours into chamber, need to also focus on work that puts food on the table."

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, Hospitality"

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Noelene Jorgensen noelene@enj.co.za 084 513 9630 "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Johan Botha said:

"No, but I'm happy to lend my skills to track down details about where the bulk of the budget get wasted. "

Unknown contact said:

"EPWP, civil engineering, skills development Paul Theron paul@cxsteel.co.za"

Alan Bell said:

"Yes. Multiple skills"

Unknown contact said:

"Doing that already"

Evelyn Pepler said:

"Tourism and tourism & destination marketing "

Kersten Paulse said:

"Not my area of expertise. "

Unknown contact said:

"I already supply the municipality with free services"

Unknown contact said:

"Please focus less on municipal activities and more on promoting the town and supporting businesses in town. "

Penny Rice said:

"Tourism, hospitality and social media"



Greg Billson said:

"Our company specialises in Government (DTIC) and local government financial support measures and Incentives. We assist Industry in accessing these benefits, together with have a large network of existing and past industrialists whom we continue working with. "

Unknown contact said:

"No"

Unknown contact said:

"No "

jacquesbrink55@gmail.com said:

"Yes Tourism "

Unknown contact said:

"Yes, Tourism, Colleen Harding, info@hideaway.co.za, 083 260 6644"

neilvandeventer@gmail.com said:

"No"

Richard Sohn said:

"Yes law, property development and injection moulding (business is Seaqual)"

Unknown contact said:

"Yes. Architects Frankenfeld & King Architects andrew@fkarchitects.co.za 0823389210"

Siyabulela Tembani said:

"Yes, arts and entertainment, sound, stage, lighting, AV, power solutions Siya , shekinahunlimited@gmail.com, 0783232330"

Gillian Dyer said:

"If you estimate how much time this would take?"

**Question 21 has 24 answers (Open Text)**

**“Please type any further comments you may have, here.”**

Jaco Montgomery said:

"You simply need to listen to one of these Municipal meetings in order to hear for yourself the grave managerial incompetence in our senior structures. The challenge is to get competent people into the governing roles. With that said, it is impossible to get things done without getting pulled in politically. Good luck."

Zwelidumile (Zet) Mlisana said:

"I have a concern about how this municipality has turned into a gangster town.I bet you at no time people’s lives will be at stake "

sarah@bollardbayhouse.com said:

"The Chamber does not seem to have a focus on the Tourism sector"

Folkert Kingma said:

"I live in the Netherlands, but am concerned about the Economic development of the Knysna community"

Henk de Bruin said:

"Can add value in Risk mitigation projects"

Wendy du Toit said:

"Cannot complete the survey as We are retired and I am a member. We support and thank you for what you’re doing in Knysna. "

Unknown contact said:

"Good Job, keep on doing what you do as there are many new residents in the area. "

Lester Day said:

"How can the Chamber become more representative through participating in Ward meetings"

Unknown contact said:

"Thank you!"

Unknown contact said:

"Thank you for the good work you do! "

Unknown contact said:

"Great work, keep doing it, and thank you for your time investing into the chamber. "

Unknown contact said:

"Thank you for all you are doing for the business and general community of Knysna!"

Veronique Leach said:

"Hours of work 8am- 5pm! Bring back a Work Ethic in Muni Ethos & value system ,  
respect! Maintenance of structures, clean lagoon, the dump & waste by rail Fix George  
Rex road! "

Unknown contact said:

"Thank you for the great work you do for everyone in the greater Knysna area."

Unknown contact said:

"None"

Unknown contact said:

"The Energy Summit was great! Chamber should do more of those types of  
interventions. The commentary etc. on the budgets should also be done in a way that  
the KM gets and appreciates the input and effort, and not see it as a negative criticism,  
that just creates animosity. "

Gordon Schutte said:

"I feel this year the chamber has become more visible and relevant. Well done to all those who put in the hours to achieve this."

Noelene Jorgensen said:

"Work in contract consulting space, not really an environment for an intern. I am happy to play a role in mentoring young energy or environmental learners should this be required"

Johan Botha said:

"Since joining there has only been one event, which was a braai that I only found out about after the event. (Email was sent earlier that day)"

Unknown contact said:

"I forgot to mention this before: We as a chamber should be responsible in identifying the top industries in Knysna and understanding the skills needed for their future growth is essential for developing effective strategies and attracting educational institutions. As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, here are some key industries in Knysna and the skills that may be needed for their future development: 1. Tourism and Hospitality: • Skills Needed: Customer service, hospitality management, digital marketing, languages, cultural awareness, event planning, sustainability practices. 2. Agriculture and Agribusiness: • Skills Needed: Agricultural sciences, agribusiness management, sustainable farming practices, technology integration (precision agriculture), supply chain management. 3. Forestry and Timber Processing: • Skills Needed: Forestry management, timber processing, sustainable forestry practices, machinery operation, wood engineering, safety management. 4. Information Technology (IT): • Skills Needed: Software development, cybersecurity, data analytics, IT support, cloud computing, digital marketing, project management. 5. Healthcare and Wellness: • Skills Needed: Nursing, medical practitioners, allied health professionals (e.g., physiotherapists), healthcare administration, wellness coaching. 6. Retail and Local Artisan Products: • Skills Needed: Retail management, e-commerce, product design, marketing and branding, customer experience, supply chain management. 7.

Renewable Energy and Sustainability: • Skills Needed: Renewable energy technologies (solar, wind), environmental science, sustainable construction practices, energy management, waste management. 8. Education and Training: • Skills Needed: Teaching, educational leadership, curriculum development, e-learning, vocational training, adult education. 9. Creative Arts and Crafts: • Skills Needed: Visual arts, crafts, graphic design, marketing for artists, event planning, art curation. 10. Marine and"

[Evelyn Pepler](#) said:

"On a whole I feel like so much momentum has been lost and I am completely disheartened by the state of our town "

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Apart from focusing on municipal issues, very little else has actually happened so it is impossible for me to make any other suggestions. Communication has slowed down, no movement has been seen on renewal of activities, or even events. I cannot recommend membership where there are no membership benefits. It seems the chamber has become fixated on fixing the municipality and therefore all other matters have fallen by the wayside. At the beginning of the year committees were formed, but no evidence of any changes are evident, no work has been delivered, no events has been held that did not deal with municipal issues, it really does not give one much to go on. I also find the questions in the survey extremely biased and not providing alternative options that encourages communication or feedback. For example - if no events were put on the last year, how can one vote for attending such activities?"

[Unknown contact](#) said:

"Right now, there does not appear to be any unity within the GKBC and confusion as to who is running the show. When Ypie Kingma as Administrator of the BC, communications were excellent. Now comms are poor!"

[neilvandeventer@gmail.com](mailto:neilvandeventer@gmail.com) said:

"Well done on an amazing job"