**Media Release**

**Public Meeting regarding consultation process of the Pinetown Urban Upgrading**

**March 8, Pinetown Civic Centre**

A public meeting to discuss future planning and consultation for the development of an upgraded Pinetown CBD precinct will be held at the Pinetown Civic Centre on Wednesday, March 8 at 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Residents, ratepayers, business-owners, people working and all interested are invited to attend the meeting.

Now as the GO!Durban dedicated bus lanes are nearing completion, the eThekwini Municipality is embarking on a consultation process to discuss the urban design upgrades of the area.

The upgrade forms part of a greater vision for the City together with the development of the bus rapid transit lanes and new road systems in Pinetown for the first phase of GO!Durban which will link the CBD to KwaMashu’s Bridge City. Pinetown residents and business owners, shoppers and workers, can also look forward to a vastly improved urban environment, which would ultimately be a major catalyst to stimulate the economy in this area.

The upgrade of the area has the potential to boost property values and stimulate investment as well as promoting sustainable business.

The public meeting which will be hosted by eThekwini Municipality will provide details on the vision of GO!Durban and its benefits as an integrated rapid public transport network, as well as the land use framework for the first route being constructed for GO!Durban from Pinetown’s CBD to KwaMashu’s Bridge City. The various work packages that outline the geographical spaces being renewed as part of the re-imagining of the nodes along the route, as well as the Urban Improved Precinct (UIP) framework will be discussed at this meeting. The focus of this meeting will however be on the process of consultation, and how the City hopes to involve relevant and affected stakeholders in the creation and development of these new nodes.

“We are inviting stakeholders to become involved in this major re-development of one of the most important economic hubs of the City,” says Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr Zandile Gumede. “Pinetown/New Germany represents one of the strongholds of employment for our citizens, and we believe that through collaboration between private sector and government along with the public, we will be able to make significant and important changes to the area. We hope to help inject a positive milieu to stimulate economic confidence and growth.”

The meeting takes place at the Pinetown Civic Centre on Wednesday, March 8 at 5.30pm to 7.30pm and is open to all.