

Thursday, 26 March 2015

Waihi Ward Reflections

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Whiritoa "lucky" but emergency plans ready

Huge surf generated by Cyclone Pam pounded Whiritoa on March 15 and 16, damaging all the beach access ways to varying degrees. The force of the water smashed sand-ladder slat timbers and even broke sections of the metal chain linking them together – impeding rescue boat access across the beach in front of the surf club.

But while the repair costs will add up to several thousand dollars, the community was "lucky not to get heavy rain as well", says Council Parks and Reserves Manager Steve Clark. Seawater came right up to the road at Moray Place, and at the north end of the beach spilled out of the lagoon, but stopped short of flooding any houses. At least there was no sand issue – unlike in July last year, when a severe storm blew hundreds of cubic metres of sand from the lagoon and surf club areas and dumped 12 truckloads over the Fishermans Bend carpark.

"This time the wind was mostly off-shore, and there was virtually



HIGH SEAS: a local watches the big surf at Whiritoa as Cyclone Pam passes the coast.

no exposed sand because it was submerged by the sea," says Steve. "It was the first time I've even seen waves reaching the playground, and locals said the same."

The dramatic conditions showed that standards such as house setback from the beach are appropriate;

and highlighted the relevance of the recently released Whiritoa Community Response Plan.

As well as constant monitoring at Whiritoa during the cyclone risk period, the Council "had an evacuation plan ready and welfare centres set to go", says Steve.

Sustainable access bagged

Plastic shopping bags are something we usually want to keep off our beaches. But at Whiritoa, 200,000 of them have been welcome – in the form of 10 beach access signs installed by Council staff this summer.

Each recycled plastic bollard contains the equivalent of 20,000 supermarket bags – not that you'd guess from appearances. The bright blue posts marking walkways to the beach fit attractively into the coastal vista, and won't rot or crack in the sun or salty air.

The markers, customised for the Council by a specialist recycled plastics manufacturer, were competitively priced and were also a breeze for us to install. So they're all-round winners, and more such 'furnishings' could enhance District reserves in the future!



Togs hung to dry painting gear ready

Our community swimming pool at Waihi College will soon be completely re-painted ready for summer – that is, next summer! The work needs to be done while the weather permits, because the specialised pool paint requires warm temperatures to 'set'. It will then last for three to five years.

A bumper pool season came to an end last weekend. The Waihi pool recorded 10,554 admissions up until the end of February, almost 1000 more than last year.

While the prolonged hot weather has been a key factor, we're continually striving to make our pools an attractive, affordable, healthy and fun all-age asset; and we hope that people who have enjoyed taking the plunge in Waihi will be back in November!

New Economic Development appointment shows Council getting it right

If new business enquiries were raindrops, Council's Economic Development Manager David Fielden may well have been forced to build an ark last year. Luckily, this year he has a new assistant to help keep his head above water.

For Mayor John Tregidga the new appointment is an indication that Council is getting things right.

"One of my commitments at the last election was to see more activity around economic development – particularly around job creation. Due to the amount of activity we are now creating, we've seen the need for a further appointment to support the Economic Development Manager," he says.

Joining the team in January this year, Paula Trubshaw moved to Waihi from

Tauranga with her young family 15 years ago and still can't think of a nicer place to live. Her passion for the Hauraki District, coupled with previous experience in journalism, small business, and local government communication make her the ideal person to help keep the positive momentum going.

Paeroa Ward Councillor and Council's Economic Development Committee Chairperson Toby Adams, credits Council's proactive approach to business for the increased activity.

"We've worked hard to create a business friendly Council that promotes ready-to-go opportunities throughout the District and this has resulted in an increased number of enquiries about a diverse range

of projects and sites, including the building of an ice cream factory in Kerepehi by Chinese investors," he says.

The District's reputation as a great place to live and do business is undoubtedly growing, along with interest in the Hauraki Rail Trail. Adding value to the Trail by encouraging new business initiatives alongside and around it is an area Paula is taking a particular interest in. Mayor Tregidga says the Hauraki Rail Trail is unique to our District and could showcase the region even more.

"It attracts thousands of cyclists and walkers every month, many who are looking for places to stay and eat. On top of that we know they are looking for experiences along the

Trail - whether that means adventure activities like abseiling or kayaking, or interacting with local artisans and craftspeople. The bones are there. If we can add more value to the Trail and flesh it out with great experiences that reflect the character and uniqueness of our District, our visitors will keep coming back."

Thinking about starting a new business or expanding an existing business in the District?

CONTACT:

Economic Development Manager
David Fielden 021 921 914

or

Economic Development Support Officer
Paula Trubshaw 021 190 5878

PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER RESTRICTIONS

From 16 February 2015
Notice to all residents of the Hauraki District

Unless the recent rainfall is followed up by further rain, river levels are expected to soon fall back to previous low levels. At present caution is called for, and it is still necessary to continue to restrict the use of water. This is in accordance with Council's Water Supply Management Plan relating to its consents to take water from rivers and streams.

For Waihi, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake until further notice a ban remains in place on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hoses may be used until the situation improves.

If you see water leaks or excessive usage or wastage of water in your area, please report this to Council.

Information regarding ways residents can conserve water can be found on the Hauraki District Council website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Click on the SmartWaterUse logo.



It may be necessary to increase the level of restriction if the dry weather period is extended. Your cooperation and efforts to conserve water now contribute to ensuring that water is available for essential and emergency needs.

For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the Hauraki District, no cell phones).

Ken Thompson
District Engineer
Hauraki District Council

CHANGES TO KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

EASTER

Due to Monday, 6 April 2015 being a statutory holiday, all collections scheduled in the Waihi Ward for the week 5 to 11 April 2015 will be carried out a day later than normal.

The schedule below shows the changes to the collection day.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Tuesday 7 April	Refuse only
Waihi	Friday 10 April	Refuse only
Waikino		Refuse only
Karangahake		Refuse and recycling

Collection days will be back to normal starting Monday, 13 April 2015.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

what do you think?

Have your say!

Hauraki District Council welcomes your feedback on the Consultation Document, supporting information and the additional Statements of Proposal currently out for consultation.

**The submission period closes
22 April 2015 at 4.30pm.**



2015-25 Hauraki Consultation Document

Hauraki District Council has released its Consultation Document for the proposed 2015-25 Hauraki Long Term Plan, as well as four additional Statements of Proposal for public consideration. The submissions period is now open and the Council wants to hear your feedback on its proposed approach for the next ten year period.

The Council encourages you to browse its Long Term Plan focussed web pages at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp where you can download a copy of the Consultation Document, the Statements of Proposal, and view the background information that supports the Council's proposed direction for 2015-25.

Key highlights of the Consultation Document

What's happening to our population

The current District population of 17,811 (2013 Census) is not projected to change much in the next 30 years. Our population is also ageing; Hauraki has a higher proportion of residents in the 50-64 and 65+ age groups than the rest of the country. The number of people aged 65+ could increase to 43% of the population by 2045. For people in the District aged 15 years and over, 44% have an annual personal income of \$20,000 or less. These, and many other factors, mean that Council must give careful consideration to the demographics of our communities when it plans for the future. Affordability could be an issue for some, with less of our population still of working age, a high proportion of our residents on low or fixed incomes, and the everyday costs of providing our services will continue to rise regardless of efficiencies realised. In the future it will be increasingly important for the Council to provide its essential services in a cost effective way.

Our financial situation now and into the future

Just like running a household, the Council needs to prepare budgets, and think about what is coming up so that it can best prepare itself financially for what lies ahead. The Council has given thought to its approach for the future, to ensure the business is run in the most efficient and financially prudent way possible.

Overall the focus on Council's recent infrastructure upgrades, and the associated debt and interest costs, has placed some pressure on rates. **Rates** (excluding water) **increases** are projected to **average 3.7%** over the life of the Long Term Plan, with a **3.6% increase in 2015/16**. For **water rates**, the average projected **increase is 2.0%** over the life of the Long Term Plan.

The Council has detailed its proposed financial approach in what is called the Hauraki Financial Strategy 2015-25. Go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp to view.

Options for the future development of the District's economy

The Council would like to help change our outlook and shape a different future by investigating and possibly funding new initiatives that will attract new business development to the District, facilitate the growth of our existing businesses and attract more people to visit, live and work in Hauraki District. The Council may reprioritise existing programmes to ensure anything it spends on economic development initiatives is the best value for money possible and will deliver the results the District needs.

The Council currently spends approximately \$1 million per year on various economic development initiatives. How that current funding is spent is detailed in the Consultation Document. To move forward the Council would like to invest in new initiatives such as the development of a **'Food Hub' at the Kerepehi Industrial Park** - to encourage and assist new business to move to Hauraki, and the **Kaiaua to Kopu section of the Hauraki Rail Trail** - completing the Trail and making it a true multi day ride to maximise economic benefits to the District. There are various options for how the Council may invest in new initiatives; funding those new initiatives solely through rates is not a preferred approach for the Council. We would like your feedback on those options. For further information, view the Consultation Document and supporting information online at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp

Key Waihi Ward projects

Project	Year	Total funding
Waihi Cemetery fencing, new berm and ashes garden	2016/17 and 2017/18	\$48,000
Morgan Park redevelopment	2016/17	\$512,000
Gilmour Lake - lake edge footpath, signage, BBQ and parking on George Street	2015/16, 2016/17	\$70,000
Pohutukawa Reserve changing rooms conversion, outside shower, and surf club toilets		\$20,000
Victoria Park installation of bike rack and notice board, removal of tunnel at the play area, remove or revamp skate bowl and seating area, and upgrade dump station at toilets		\$21,000
Waihi kerb and channel	2015/16 - 2024/25	\$639,000
Waihi new footpaths		\$464,000

Additional Consultation

The additional Statements of Proposal that are also available for feedback at the same time as the Consultation Document are:

- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Rates Remissions Policies
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Proposed Fees and Charges for the 2015/16 year.

Go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hltp for further information on these proposals.