

Thursday, 1 May 2014

# Waihi Ward Reflections

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## You can 'Have Your Say' on...

### Hauraki Long Term Plan Pre-consultation

Your local Waihi Ward Councillors are getting out and about in May. Hauraki Long Term Plan pre-consultation meetings have been scheduled for your local community, to give you an early opportunity to feed into the next ten year plan – before it's developed!

The Hauraki Long Term Plan sets out the future direction of our District, for the ten year period 2015-25. It details the projects and services that the Council will provide for local communities over the next ten years. It is a key strategic planning document that is developed every three years, so input at the right time is a must!

These informal community meetings should encourage participation in this process and good quality feedback. The Waihi Ward Councillors are interested in hearing about what works well in your local community, what isn't working, what you would like included in the Plan, and what you see for your community in the future.

The Waihi meetings are as follows:

- **Waikino:** Tuesday, 20 May - 7.00pm at the Victoria Hall.
- **Waihi:** Wednesday, 21 May - 10.00am at the Waihi Memorial Hall.
- **Waihi:** Wednesday, 21 May - 5.30pm at the Waihi Memorial Hall.
- **Whiritoa:** Thursday, 22 May - 7.00pm at the Whiritoa Emergency Management Centre.

*"This is an opportunity for all to help shape the future of the Waihi Ward" together.*

### Accessibility Action Plan

How easily can Waihi residents or visitors park their vehicles? Use footpaths and community halls? Access pensioner housing, libraries, online information, reserves, playgrounds and other recreational amenities?

This information is key to our upcoming audit of Council facilities, mobility spaces, footpaths, kerb ramps, crossings, street furniture, tactile aids, and temporary traffic management work – being carried out in liaison with CCS Disability Action and a specialist accessibility auditor.

#### We're also seeking input from local experts: You.

So as part of our Accessibility Action Plan to provide for the coordinated improvement of Council-owned assets and activities, **we're hosting an open invitation community meeting in the Waihi Memorial Hall tea room next Wednesday, 7 May, from 10.00am to 11.30am.** Our independent auditor will give a short presentation, and a town map will be provided to enable people to pinpoint specific areas of concern.

While the focus will be on the town centre within a 'cordon' of about 500m, key areas outside that may be included in the official audit that takes place shortly afterward.

The Waihi meeting and two others in Paeroa and Ngatea follow informal discussion groups in the three communities last September, which resulted in a number of issues raised by residents being incorporated in the Accessibility Action Plan.

Your ongoing views and feedback are important, so mark your diary with this opportunity to contribute to the auditing process. RSVPs are not required; but anyone with queries can contact Charan Mischewski on 0800 734 834 (from within the District), or email [charan@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:charan@hauraki-dc.govt.nz).



### Waihi Councillors hit the streets

Cracked footpaths, a former rubbish dump site, wastewater treatment, water treatment – they're not what most people would want to see on a town tour. But for Waihi Councillors, looking first-hand at Council 'core business' and work priorities was exactly the point of a recent ward tour.

It was an orientation opportunity for new councillor, Pam Keall, and a chance for the more experienced councillors to refresh their knowledge, says Waihi Ward Chairman Harry Shepherd.

While Morgan Park, Gilmour Lake and even the sewerage treatment plant may have been familiar ground, "amazingly, none of us had visited the water treatment plant before."

Some stops were included because of issues raised by locals; others in view of upcoming projects there – like the Salvation Army carpark where it's proposed to site a retired underground bogger. Another focal point was land in Hazard Street near the old Pye factory, where planned sealing would help the building owner to promote small businesses.

Councillors also inspected work recently carried out, such as the resealing of the Waihi Events Centre floor, the filling and rehabilitation of the former dump site. The new library was on the itinerary, too.

"We all felt that it was a very useful exercise, which we hope to repeat at least annually," says Harry.



### Hundreds remember our soldiers

War veterans and supporters paraded to a packed Waihi Memorial Hall for the town's Anzac Day public commemoration service last Friday.

Mayor John Tregidga said that "every single year more and more people are acknowledging this day [at dawn parades and citizens' services]" – and a growth in understanding and involvement by school children and young people is particularly encouraging.



## Thinking of starting a business?

### Ask us for help

Planning to start a business in Hauraki? Then make the Council a first port of call – just as you'd consult with your solicitor, accountant, or builder.

As a business friendly council, we encourage development in the District, especially in the hospitality sector where demand from Rail Trail users is continuing to grow after the opening of the Waihi to Waikino leg.

"It's an exciting time. We've been getting a number of inquiries from people interested in starting enterprises," says Council's new Senior Planner Wendy Harris. "If you're thinking about this, you'll need to find out about things like the zoning of the property, and District Plan and Building Act requirements. We can help you with this."

We invite you to spend half an hour with one of our friendly economic development or planning team members, who are available in our Waihi and Paeroa offices (it's best to make an appointment). Our services are free!

"We can advise you on choosing a site, and the best zones for your type of business," says Wendy. "And remember to get a LIM report from us before purchasing property. It's a \$200 investment that could save you thousands of times more, and a lot of future stress."

Even if you don't have a site in mind, we can outline the issues you'll need to address and link you up with other Council staff who can help, such as engineers or building inspectors – all under one roof.