

Thursday, 27 March 2014

Waihi Ward Reflections

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Hauraki District Council Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan

From the Mayor

The Hauraki District Council has adopted its Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan. The 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan is largely based on the projected programme for

2014/15 detailed in the 2012-22 Hauraki Long Term Plan (HLTP) but specifically addresses proposed changes to this. Council now seeks your views on whether you support, oppose or would like to suggest changes to the proposed amendments to the programmes, activities and services that were programmed for the 2014/15 year in the 2012-22 Hauraki Long Term Plan.

The Draft Annual Plan shows a total rate increase (excluding water) for the 2014/15 year of 3.56%. (The HLTP 2014/15 forecast increase was 4.51%). Water charges are programmed to rise by 3.2% for the 2014/15 year (the HLTP 2014/15 forecast increase for water was 6.0%). This outcome is the result of a significant amount of work undertaken to meet the service level needs of the community in an affordable, prudent and sustainable way.

In arriving at the rating figure the Council has tried to strike a balance between the costs (particularly interest charges) for developing new infrastructure and the ability for the works to be sustainably funded into the future.

The Council has identified some key community issues relevant to the 2014/15 year, including the rescheduling of the water supply capital works programme and the development of the Kaiaua to Kopu section of the Hauraki Rail Trail. These are outlined in detail within the summary and full Draft Annual Plan documents which are available in Council offices, libraries and on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

The Council is also currently considering the possible development of a 'food hub' on its available industrial land at Kerepehi, and the possible options for provision of suitable wastewater treatment for 'wet' industries. This could mean an amendment to the 2012-22 Hauraki Long Term Plan. A separate consultation process will be undertaken in the 2014/15 year if the Council proceeds with this proposal.

Please take the time to read either the full Draft Plan or the summary document and let us know what you think; we look forward to hearing from you.

JP Tregidga, JP, MNZM
Mayor, Hauraki District

What is planned for the Waihi Ward in 2014/15?

As proposed in the 2012-22 Hauraki Long Term Plan, a number of projects are planned for the Waihi Ward for the 2014/15 year. These include:

- **Repaint the Waihi swimming pool** - \$18,000.
- **Waihi Street streetscape** – street furniture and lighting renewals - \$16,000.
- **Gilmour Park** – walkway renewals and repairs - \$22,000.
- **Waikino swing bridge car park** - \$88,000 (was scheduled for 2013/14 but has been deferred to 2014/15 and is dependent on the results of a traffic study by Council and New Zealand Transport Agency).
- **Waihi footpath replacements** - \$4,000.
- **Memorial Hall** – general maintenance and exterior painting - \$23,000.
- **Victoria Street toilet** – internal painting and surface repairs - \$30,000.

What's coming up beyond 2014/15?

- Renew components of the Waihi Events Centre in 2016/17.
- Renew components of the Victoria Park playground in 2016/17.
- Renew the Whiritoa playground in 2018/19.
- Replace the Morgan Park public toilets in 2015/16.
- Renew the Gilmour Reserve public toilets in 2015/16.

Note: The full list of capital works for the 2014/15 year can be found on page 129 of the full Draft 2014/15 Annual Plan.

What's proposed to change?

The following provides an overview of the amended projects proposed to change in 2014/15 in addition to the unchanged projects listed above:

- The Waihi Events Centre floor resealing was completed in 2013/14 (was scheduled for 2014/15).
- The re-leveling of the Morgan Park netball courts does not need to occur in 2014/15 as stated in the HLTP as the courts are not in need of the work at this time.
- Unbudgeted funding is required for the Victoria Street public toilets in Waihi due to vandalism (\$30,000 in 2014/15).

We want your feedback!

Consultation... have your say!

The Draft Annual Plan is open for consultation from 21 March to 23 April 2014. This is when you can have your say on what is proposed in the Draft Plan.

Where can I get a copy of the Draft Plan?

You will be able to read either the full version of the Draft Plan or a summary of the Plan on the Hauraki District Council's website – www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or you can pick up a copy from the Council service centres and libraries in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi.

How can I have my say about the Draft Plan?

Council encourages you to provide feedback on the Draft Plan. A submission can be made by either writing a letter to the Council or by using the Council's submission form. For convenience, you can also make a submission online via the Council's website. To make a successful submission, please ensure you:

- clearly state 'submission to the Draft Annual Plan' at the top of the page.
- provide your **full name**, postal **address** and daytime **phone number**.
- indicate if you **do or do not wish to speak at the Hearing of Submissions** to be held at the Council Chambers in Paeroa on 28 and 29 May 2014 (times to be scheduled later).
- clearly indicate what **issue or topic** you either support or oppose, or wish to amend.

What happens next?

The Council will consider all submissions (both written and verbal) and make its decisions on those submissions at the Hearings of submissions meeting to be held on 28 and 29 May 2014.

Following this, the Draft Annual Plan will be amended accordingly, and Council will adopt the final version of the Annual Plan in June 2014.

All submitters will be advised of the outcome of their submission in writing.

Remember submissions close 4.30pm 23 April 2014



Above: Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon and retired councillor Sel Baker open the new Waihi library and service centre.

The facility also got a big thumbs-up from Waihi Central School year 5 and 6 students, who cheered as the ribbon was cut and were among the first library users.

"I'm coming back here after school," said one pupil.

New Waihi Library worth the wait

Sel Baker retired as a councillor five months shy of the opening of the new Waihi Library he long worked for. But last Friday, he was honoured to cut the ribbon with Deputy Mayor Bruce Gordon – despite being on crutches to support a new ankle.

Sel recalled being badgered about an upgrade more than 10 years ago by then-Library Manager Norma Aken. He "first envisaged moving a wall or two [of the old Seddon Street library]. This building far exceeds what either of us imagined."

Combining the library and Council service centre under one roof in a central location has resulted in an asset that "does the community proud", said Sel. While the front access is from Rosemont Road, the Silverton Road entry where the ribbon was cut is "not a back door. It's a real entrance, with a public carpark right outside."

Bruce said it was first estimated that a basic update of the old library would cost \$265,000. "\$1.6 million later, we have this outstanding building. It's the first stage in upgrading our libraries across the District, with Paeroa next and then Hauraki Plains."

Waihi Ward Chairman Harry Shepherd said a councillors' tour of South Waikato and Bay of Plenty community facilities six years ago was a turning point. "On the way home we stopped at the Waihi Library, and all the councillors agreed a new library was needed."

He said the decision to build on the chosen site wasn't taken lightly, and a lot of people deserved recognition for years of spadework – from past and present councillors and staff through to enthusiastic library volunteers.

"The end result is a magnificent, technology-friendly amenity that's also a Council service centre, and as Kaumatua Tim Ainsley described it when he recently blessed the building, a 'whare of the people.'"

Former councillor Mary Carmine and retired Community Services Manager Gary Paterson were among the special guests at the opening, together with Norma Aken who travelled from her home in Whangarei to cut the celebratory cake.

Norma started work as a Waihi Library Assistant in 1980, under Waihi Borough Council administration. She became Head Librarian two years later after Dorothy Carbutt retired, and Hauraki District Libraries Manager in August 1999, until her retirement in August 2006.

She remembers the former bank premises in Seddon Street being distinctly chilly in winter – one day, a thermometer brought from home recorded nine degrees. So the installation of heat pumps which doubled as air conditioners in summer was extremely welcome. An extension of the very compact building in the late 1980s to provide a new children's and reference area was "quite exciting", she says.

"I'm totally amazed to see this new library in my lifetime. The bright carpet and window seating, especially, make it light and airy and accentuate the spaciousness."

Current Libraries Manager Sue Lean said a lot of extra seating is a particular welcoming feature. She was delighted that a large number of locals took part in the opening event – many of whom commented on how roomy the building is inside.