

Wednesday 31 August 2011

Waihi Ward Reflections



Long Term Plan

Planning the Plan: Waihi Ward Councillors

Last month we covered a number of topics relating to the new Long-Term Plan including what's happening to prepare for the Plan, Community Outcomes, and what the Council would like from you in the way of feedback.

So where do the elected members come into all this? Your councillors and Mayor have been elected by you to make decisions on your behalf. They represent the whole community and they are committed to do the best they can for the benefit of that community, not just a section of it. This means that when you give your feedback to Council on an issue, it is up to councillors to sort through all the issues and arguments and to make decisions after taking everything into consideration. Your Waihi ward councillors are your voice, so please use the contact details on this page to have your issues heard.

Every three years there is the ultimate consultation with the community in the form of an election. Here you have the final say on who you want to represent you. If the community feels that the councillors have not been representing them well they will certainly not vote for them.

In terms of the Long-Term Plan that we are preparing, we have a Council Advisory Group, consisting of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and councillors Carmine, Milner and Tubman. This group meets with staff regularly to look at all suggestions for the format of the new plan and to review what is to go in it before these details go to the full Council. Their feedback may then mean that things may be modified, removed or added before the full Council discusses and decides. Councillors are making these decisions on what is to go into the draft, considering what is put forward by staff and what their experience in the community tells them should be there. They are acting as advocates for the rest of the community, and, remember that they are all members of that community too.

However, all councillors need views to be expressed from the rest of the community to help them. No councillor can act in a vacuum, nor can they be everywhere to know what is going on in all places. They are all keen to find out what is needed, so please do not be shy in approaching any councillor to tell them your views.

When you have given your views on the draft, either in these early planning stages, or later in the formal submission phase, the elected members will make the final decisions taking into account all the arguments that have been put forward and the practicalities and affordability of what has been proposed.



Elected Members' Diary

September 2011 meetings

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise advised.

Waihi Ward Committee

Tuesday, 13 September 2011 - 2.30pm

Hearings Committee (if required)

Monday, 5 September 2011, 9.00am

Monday, 19 September, 2011, 9.00am

Council Meetings

Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 9.00am

Wednesday, 28 September 2011, 9.00am

District Plan Committee

Monday, 12 September 2011, 9.00am

Waihi Mine Development

As you may know, Newmont Waihi Gold released its plans last week for exploration within the current Martha Mine and the creation of a new underground mine in Waihi East. These developments, if they go ahead would extend Newmont's mining operations in Waihi to 2020 and beyond. Below we have outlined Council's role in these proposals to give you an idea of what happens next.

The proposed Correnso project

'Correnso' is the name that has been given to the major project, a proposed underground mine in the Waihi East area. This mine would follow the existing Favona and Trio underground mines. It is proposed to be 126 metres or deeper below the surface, and would potentially be operating for six plus years.

Newmont has told us that it will submit an application for Resource Consent in February or March. Until then Council will not know the details and likely effects of the mining proposal. When the application is received by the Council it will be reviewed by our staff to make sure all the necessary information is there. Then it is most likely to be advertised for public submission. This will be your opportunity to comment either for or against the proposal. It is likely that the Council will appoint independent commissioners and perhaps one local councillor to hear the proposal and submissions. It is the job of these commissioners to weigh up the proposal along with the submissions from the public. Following this, the commissioners would decide whether to give approval to the consent. If they do, they will also set out the conditions that should be put on Newmont to minimise the effects on the environment and the public.

There are around 46 properties either above or immediately adjacent to the ore body that Newmont has advised it wishes to mine. The Council held a meeting for these property owners and occupiers last Thursday night. This provided an opportunity for these homeowners to give their views, concerns and ask any questions regarding the proposal. The Council will take any community concerns to Newmont Waihi Gold so that it can address them before its lodges the resource consent application.

Mayor Tregidga has assured the community that they will have an opportunity to have their say as soon as the resource consent application is lodged with the Council early next year.

Martha Exploration Project

The proposed development of the current Martha Mine would consist of an underground tunnel (imagine a downwards spiral) under the northern wall of the current pit rim. It is expected that the project would operate until the end of 2014 and would determine the feasibility of an underground mine at Martha.

Newmont believes that this project comes within the current approved mining licence and that it will only require a Variation to the licence to proceed. Until Council can see the application it is not in a position to agree or not whether no resource consent is needed. We have been told that Newmont plan on submitting an application for this Variation shortly. This may not require a Council process but is essentially an application to the Government to vary the existing licence to allow underground exploration. There will be an opportunity for members of the public to object to this and we will keep you informed as to when you can do this.

At this stage we have had the same notification as you have regarding the proposals. Full details will only become available to us when Newmont lodges its application early next year.

The plans for the proposed projects are available to the general public at the information office set up by Newmont in the Waihi town centre, located next to the Memorial Hall. This information office will be open until the end of September, so if you have any questions about the proposal, pop in and speak to a staff member there.

If you have any queries regarding the consent process and the Council's role, please use the contact details for your local councillors on this page. Alternatively, you can email the Council on mineinfo@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.



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Deputy Mayor

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Waihi Ward Councillors



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**Civil Defence,
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