



HDC NEWS



Economic Development Strategy

At the last Planning and Finance Committee meeting the draft Economic Development Strategy was approved for consultation. This strategy has been a long time coming.

The general principles of economic development listed in the strategy include the statements that:

- * Economic development influences the growth and restructuring of an economy to enhance the economic well being of a community. It usually also increases the wealth of people over time.
- * It typically comes from a variety of influences - social, economic and environmental - that achieve specific objectives like creating jobs and improving the overall quality of life.
- * Objectives usually involve coordinating initiatives that are targeted to expand infrastructure and increase the volume and/or quality of goods and services produced by the community.

In short this means that Council sees economic development as a good thing as it is likely to improve the quality of life of our communities and that Council must work to create an environment which encourages business growth.

The key themes for the district are seen to be our reliance on the primary sector, tourism and the balancing of development and environment. Council sees it has a role in Economic Development because it is seen as a public good and no private sector organisation is able to undertake the work proposed. Council is seen as a leader, facilitator, advocate and provider.

A business survey that was conducted in June last year identified issues which need attention. There should be motivation for growth, removal of barriers to growth, better information and improved communication technology, improved marketing and enhanced district pride. There was also a need for the improvement of business skills, equity of rating of business premises and infrastructural issues need to be addressed.

Cutting to the chase, suggested actions for Council to implement the objectives of the strategy include:

- * A business response team to coordinate access to services and assistance
- * Increase visitor numbers through supporting the marketing of tourism opportunities
- * Increase the number of residents through marketing the district's strengths
- * Support the establishment of a model dairy farm -for research, demonstrations, training and marketing of district strengths
- * Make explicit contributions to economic development from all activities in the district, even those that do not have a perceived economic component (such as small holdings).

If you wish to go through the draft strategy to see if you want to make a submission you can get a copy from any council office.

Elected Members' Diary

Week 4th March to 10th March 2002:

* Monday 4th March:
Ward Committee meetings, considering the estimates for next year: all elected members.

* Tuesday 5th March:
Water and Waste Consultative Committee: Des Johansen, Ian Troughton, Sel Baker, Mary Carmine, Bronwyn Wightman.

Audit Committee: Basil Morrison, John Tregidga, Mary Carmine.

Mayoral Relief Fund trustees meeting: Basil Morrison, John Tregidga, Sel Baker, Mary Carmine.



Rocket Park Traffic Safety

A good look at the traffic safety issues at Waihi's Victoria Park (or Rocket Park) by elected members, the roading manager and Opus traffic engineers has resulted in a recommendation for some minor work around the park. The work, which includes the erection of safety barriers to stop cars being driven across the verge and kerb directly on to the road and the placement of give way signs and no parking signs, is estimated to cost around \$12,000.

One of the main aspects of the work is to put a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road at the Kenny St/ State highway 2 junction and to continue down Kenny St with median road markings which have a proven effect elsewhere to slow traffic. Recent surveys of traffic speed in the area clocked a number of vehicles travelling at 100k/h down Kenny St in the vicinity of the park.

West Forest Harvest

The harvesting of the remaining 8 hectares of the Council's West Forest is now due to start this month. Wet weather has delayed a number of harvesting programmes around the region which has shifted our harvest time from December to February. The delay has suited Council as it is felt that the internal forestry roads would not have stood up to the vehicles during the wet weather of December and January.

Net sales revenue is expected to be less for this block than the previously harvested blocks due to increased harvesting costs. The block is in steep terrain and all retrieval of timber has to be up hill. Due to the nature of the terrain the block has not been as extensively thinned as the other blocks so the value of the logs is expected to be less as well.

Redundant Tank

With the opening of the new Sewerage Treatment Plant in Paeroa there is a large old tank at the old plant that is surplus to requirements. The tank is concrete and is not able to be removed from the site but if anyone has a use for it they should contact Council with a proposal. Councillors were told at the last Water and Waste Consultative Committee that it was suitable for almost anything except potable water. So if you have some rather large goldfish who need a new home, or any other innovative scheme, let us know.

School Safety Works

Reports on the safety of school children coming to and from school identify some issues with Miller Avenue and Paeroa Central Schools. At Miller Avenue, the report recommends a threshold effect at the point where students cross Norwood Rd, using road marking and signage. A Kea Crossing is recommended near the site of the existing bus stop, which will require relocation. Any work to be done will need consultation with the school, Police, Bus Company and Council and money for the project will need to be placed in the annual plan. Such projects are usually paid for partly by the school concerned, partly by Council (from rates) and partly by Transfund.

At Paeroa Central School the school is concerned about the congestion that is evident when cars and buses are parked on both sides of the street leaving a very narrow corridor for vehicles to use. The report recommends the construction of additional parking facilities and traffic calming measures, along with a monitored school crossing and support signage to improve pedestrian safety.

Surplus Land

Council owns a piece of land in Bush Rd Ngatea that was gazetted for use as stock pound. It is not used for that purpose now and is grazed by a neighbouring farmer. The Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that the land be declared surplus to requirements. When this is done, the land then will be offered to the Office for Treaty Settlements. If they do not require the land then the neighbour, who has expressed an interest, may have the opportunity to purchase it.

Turua Church

The old Turua Church was vested in the ownership of the Hauraki District Council on behalf of the community by the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish when it was no longer required by the parish. The free gifting of the building was on the basis that it should not be disposed of by the community within ten years of acquisition. It was to be used by the community for community purposes. Currently, it is not used and the upkeep of the building is taken care of by the Turua Hall and Domain Committee. The ten years of ownership by the community is up and some repairs and maintenance required on the property to the tune of \$20,000 have prompted a public meeting to decide the future of the building. The outcome of the meeting was to advise the Council to dispose of the property.

Because the church is listed as a building of local historic interest in the district plan a resource consent will be necessary if the church is removed or modified. The Planning and Finance Committee, which deals with Council property, agreed to recommend to Council that the property is put up for tender with the land and building sold either together or separately. Proceeds from the sale would go into the Hauraki District Council consolidated account and the equivalent amount of money would be spent at the discretion of Council in Turua with input from the Turua community.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following extra meetings will be held during the month of March 2002.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa.

KOMATA NORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Monday 25 March 2002, 10.30 am

OPUKEKO DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Monday 25 March 2002, 1.30 pm

TIROHIA-ROKOHU DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 26 March 2002, 1.30 pm

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROAD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council, for the purpose of an event organised by **Thames Valley Car Club Inc**, proposes to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

During the proposed period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road: no traffic shall be held up for a period exceeding 30 minutes.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of his objection and grounds thereof in writing before 22 March 2001 at the office of the Hauraki District Council at William Street, P.O. Box 17, PAEROA.

Road proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic:

Golden Valley Road WAIHI

Period of proposed closure:
Sunday 21 April 2001 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

L.D.Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER



HILLARY COMMISSION COMMUNITY SPORT FUND 2002

Does your sport club or active leisure organisation need funding?

TE MAHI NGAHAU ME TE TAKAARO
WHAKARITE MO TENEI WAHI

MO NGA ROOPU KEI TE PIRANGI
MONI AWHINATIA MO NGA MAHI
NGAHAU ME TE TAKAARO

Applications for financial assistance under the Hillary Commission Community Sport Fund are now being called for.

A total of \$21,000 is available for distribution to sport, fitness and physical leisure groups. Funds are available as a subsidy, with the main focus being the development of local sport, fitness and physical activity.

Applicants should be resident in the Hauraki District Council area and apply for funds for sport, fitness and physical leisure purposes only.

Application forms and further information are available from:

Community Liaison Officer
Hauraki District Council
PO Box 17, PAEROA

Ph 07-862 8609, Fax 07-862 8607
or
from the Council Service Centres

Applications close 4pm 28 March 2002