



HDC NEWS



Ward Estimate Meetings

On Monday 4th March, the Wards considered the estimates for the coming financial year. This is the time to consider new initiatives and decide what is to be done in the year starting at the beginning of July. Both the Paeroa and Waihi wards struggled with trying to keep budgets down although the Waihi ward had little new work to consider. The problem in Waihi is the DISP (depreciation) on the projects that have come before. As soon as something is built, even if the initial funding does not come from rates but from other sources, depreciation has to be funded each year to pay for its replacement. This is a legal requirement and councils cannot simply decide not to do it.

Another issue is the continuing demands for the funding of community organisations. Waihi sets aside funds for a number of organisations that deal in social issues and has many other requests for more. Much discussion was had over a request to fund the accommodation costs of the CAB to the tune of around \$5,000. This organisation was seen by all as a fulfilling a very valuable role in the community but, mindful of the fact that every \$7,000 on the ward rate represents an average increase of 1% on people's bills, a compromise figure was reached.

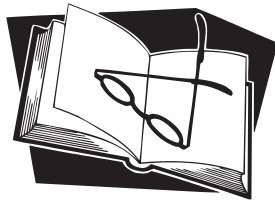
Paeroa ward also spent most of its lengthy meeting trying to prune the budget. The ward has large projected costs on the Freshlook 2010 project but these will not affect this year's budget. The difficulty was that most of the figures seemed essential. The capital item of the domain lights got the red light but the ward is still expecting a large increase. It should be noted that none of the wards actually has much room for movement when it comes to the budget as most of the costs are relatively fixed and are things that have to be done.

The district estimates have also been considered on the 11th and 12th March by the full council and will be reported on in next weeks HDC News.

Elected Members' Diary

Week 18th March to 25th March 2002:

Thursday 21st March: Hearing,
John Tregidga, Mary Carmine,
Bruce Gordon, Mike Hayden



Swimming Pools Closed

Now that daylight saving time has ended the Paeroa and Ngatea public swimming pools are closed. They will reopen late November weather permitting.

Sewerage Rating for Schools

The Rating Powers (Special Provisions for Certain Rates for Educational Establishments) Amendment Bill, formerly known as the Educational Establishments (Exemptions from Certain Rates) Bill, has been through its committee stages in parliament. This was also known as the Donnelly Bill, which is very much easier to say. The original object of the bill was to reduce sewerage rates for schools. Some councils have, in the past, had rather punitive rates on schools for sewage because of the large number of pans or urinal space that they had. The original bill made a calculation and then cut the rate by 80% which was rather unfair on the rest of the ratepayers as schools would not really have been paying their fair share. Hauraki worked out a system based on the number of pupils at the school, which we thought was a fairer way of doing things and we also made a submission on the bill to this effect.

The new version of the bill has picked up this technique but modified it. The bill now requires councils using a pan tax (as we do) to charge on the following scale:

- 1-4 pans full charges
- 5-10 pans 25% remission
- 11 or more pans 50% remission

The number of pans, however, is not what is actually there, but a notional number calculated by dividing the number of students and staff by 20.

This method of charging will become mandatory when the bill is passed and unfortunately for Hauraki schools is somewhat less generous than the Hauraki District was. It will therefore result in a rise in sewerage rates for all schools in the Hauraki District.

Liquor Licences Delegated

At its recent Council meeting Council voted to delegate all unopposed applications for liquor licenses to the general manager to approve. Up until now, the hearings committee has dealt with these but if there is no problem from the health inspectors or the police there is really nothing that the committee needs to consider. Any license applications where there are reservations expressed by the other authorities will still go to a hearing but the unopposed ones will not.

Official Handbook

Council reviewed its official handbook at the last Council meeting and found a few things to alter. The handbook is a summary of the details of the district and the Council and is available from all Council offices and libraries for anyone who is new to the district or who wants the statistics of the district. The new updated version will be out shortly.

Waihi Sewerage Consent

The two submissions against the Waihi sewerage treatment resource consent have been resolved by talking to the affected parties and resolving the issues. The latter of the two, from Fish and Game, was withdrawn after a meeting was held to discuss the consent. There will not now need to be a hearing on the consent.

A meeting has also been held with Environment Waikato, the consent authority, to work through issues relating to nutrients in the discharged effluent. The existing pond was not designed to remove nitrogen and any nitrogen removal is by uncontrolled processes. The existing pond together with the proposed Jetflote process will remove 83% of the nitrogen but it is seen as a weakness that there is no control over this removal. Phosphorus, however, is the limiting nutrient and reductions in phosphorus levels will mean that the levels of nitrogen are not that critical.

Sewerage Plant Opened

The need for a new sewerage plant in Paeroa was recognised some years ago, even before the need for a new consent made it vital. The problem was, not just with the existing plant, but with the reticulation in Paeroa, which was old and appeared to have many cross connections with the stormwater system. This meant that in times of heavy rain, so much stormwater flowed into the system that the sewerage plant could not cope and raw sewerage was escaping to the river. Attempts were made to fix some of the worst areas of reticulation but the more investigation took place the worse the problem seemed to be and the cost of removing the stormwater from the sewage system was found to be huge.

It was then decided that the cheaper way to go was to build a sewerage treatment plant that was big enough to take the stormwater along with the sewerage. The replacement plant was therefore built that was big enough to treat sewerage from a population of 12,000 people.

On Tuesday 5th March, the new plant was officially opened, although it has been functioning for a couple of months. The brief ceremony started with a prayer by Iwi elder, Tewi Nicholls. Speeches by the Mayor, Basil Morrison, and the Chairman of the Regional Council, Neil Clark followed, and a cutting of the ribbon, a task that was shared by the Mayor and the Chairman of the Water and Waste Committee, Des Johansen. The public, including most of the elected members, neighbours, contractors and designers, were then invited to tour the plant.

The treatment process has almost minimal odour except adjacent to the initial screening process. It has been found the initial screening is releasing odours that are building up in the effluent while being pumped to the treatment plant. Investigations are underway on determining the best way to reduce these odours.

After the initial screening process, the effluent is treated in a three stage pond system. It is then passed through eight large flat beds of Glenbrook Steel Mill slag, where it trickles through to remove phosphorus and algae. After this half the effluent is sprayed over a special slag filter where bacteria convert ammonia to nitrates, before returning to the last pond for further treatment. The other half of the flow is disinfected by ultraviolet light before being discharged via a rock filter to the Waihou River.

Visitors were impressed by the size of the plant and the technical precision of the process.

PUBLIC NOTICES



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

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

TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2002 WARD COMMITTEES

PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 1.00 PM
WAIHI 3.30 PM

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2002 10.00 AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2002 (if required) 9.00 AM

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2002
9.00 AM WORKS COMMITTEE
1.00 PM PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2002,
(if required) 9.00 AM

EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 22 APRIL 2002, (if required) 10.00 AM

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2002, 10.30 AM

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2002, 10.00 AM

LIQUOR BANS 2002

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 709A Local Government Act 1974 that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possessions of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS

Whiritoa

All Beach and Reserve areas.
The roads – Fishermans Bend, Kon Tiki Road,
Tuna Place and Moray Place.

Dates and Times

EASTER WEEKEND 2002.

During the Easter weekend public holiday period being Thursday 28th March 2002 to Tuesday 2nd April 2002 inclusive, and the hours of 4.00pm to 4.00am daily.

PENALTIES: ANY PERSON WHO COM-
MITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBI-
TION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO
\$500.00.

POWERS OF POLICE: ANY CONSTABLE
MAY ARREST ANY PERSON ACTING OF
ABOUT TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE PROVI-
SIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION.

ANY CONSTABLE MAY SEARCH ANY PARCEL,
PACKAGE, BAG, CASE OR OTHER CONTAIN-
ER IN POSSESSION OF ANY PERSON
INTENDING OR ABOUT TO ENTER ANY PLACE
DESCRIBED IN THIS PROHIBITION.

L D Cavers General Manager