



HDC NEWS



Two New Statements

Included in the new Local Government Act is the requirement for Councils to produce a Governance Statement before the end of this year. A governance statement is a collection of information about the ways in which a local authority engages with its community, makes decisions and the way citizens can influence those processes. In other words it is formalising what Council does in terms of governing and putting it down on paper for everyone to see.

It should contain all the council's responsibilities and local legislation, the electoral system and representation structure together with members' roles and conduct and the governance structures and processes that are in place. As well as this it should have meeting processes, consultation policies, management structures and processes, the EEO policy, key approved planning and policy documents, systems for public access and procedures for dealing with official information. Most of these already appear in the annual plan and/or annual report but this will focus them all together. It can be quite summarised but should give reasons for processes as well as stating what is in place.

You will note that this statement contains mention of members' conduct. Council operates under "standing orders", a set of rules for meeting procedure. Standing orders may cover members' behaviour during meetings but it does nothing to indicate the standard of behaviour expected of members outside meetings. The new Act requires Councils to adopt a Code of Conduct as soon as possible after the 1st of July this year. While our council may not see the urgent need for this, as all our councillors are pretty well behaved and do not abuse each other, this is not always the case throughout the country, and of course it could change here with a change of membership. The Code of Conduct is an attempt to bring into line members of some fairly dysfunctional councils throughout the country who spend a lot of time abusing one another instead of getting on with the task they are entrusted with. Unfortunately, while the code of conduct may allow errant councillors to be censured for bad behaviour it really has no "teeth" to make a great deal of difference. The only "teeth" available are the votes of the community every three years. It is to be hoped that the Code of Conduct, however, will focus the public's attention on disruptive behaviour of councillors so that action may be taken at the ballot box.

Sports Field Maintenance

The District's sports fields are due for maintenance. A report from the NZ Turf Culture Institute has recommended a programme, which includes fertilising for most fields, weed spraying for Waihi's Morgan Park and "vibramoling" for the Ngatea Domain and Centennial Park 1 and 2 fields.

Fertiliser to be applied is ammonium sulphate and calcium ammonium nitrate. As well as adding nitrogen to the soil to promote grass growth, these fertilisers keep the soil pH low (acid), which restricts weed growth. The sprays used are brush killer and codacide oil to kill flat weeds.

MAF Sustainable Farming Fund

Applications are now invited for projects for 2003/04 year. The Sustainable Farming Fund supports projects that will contribute to improving the financial and environmental performance of the land-based productive sectors. Application forms are available from HDC office Paeroa and the Paeroa Public Library. For further information contact the Council's Economic Development Officer - Chris Hale.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the Week 21st - 27th April
Thursday 24th April - Full Council Meeting

Hauraki Plains Memorial Wall Unveiling of Inscribed Panels
FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2003 12.15PM - ALL WELCOME

Solid Waste

Kerb-side newspaper collection

Council received six responses to its request for expressions of interest in a kerb-side collection of newspaper and cardboard. Two of these were from receivers of the product saying that they would be happy to take the paper. Of the other four, all wanted to collect the paper at the Council's cost. As the collected paper has to be transported to Tauranga or Hamilton there is a cost to the collection. It therefore seems unlikely that there will be a free collection of newspaper and cardboard in our district unless there is a desire expressed from the community and that ratepayers are happy to pay for this service.

Kerb-side collection

A recent study has found that the kerb-side collection removes 1,500 tonnes annually from 5250 properties. It has also been found that the average rubbish bag weighs 6.8kg and that kerb-side collection currently costs around \$120 per tonne. Only three-quarters of households in the urban area use the service.

Consideration may be given to changing the system of payment for kerb-side collection from an annual sum in your rates to a pre-paid bag. This would be in keeping with the Council's policy on user pays for waste disposal. This is only an idea at this stage as Council grapples with ways to implement its solid waste strategy. The strategy calls for reduction in all forms of waste particularly green waste. Recent increases in charges to move more towards a user-pays system it is hoped will focus people's attention on recycling and composting. Ironically after the charge increase the volumes of green waste received at the Paeroa Transfer Station increased. The amount received at the Waihi station dropped though and it is expected that there will be a reduction in volumes over time although not in line with the Council's target of 50% reduction by 2005.

The Utilities Manager is looking for ideas and comment from councillors and the community on how to achieve the targeted reductions in the waste stream. If you have any ideas give him a ring or drop him a line - Barry Somers 0800 734 834.

Fragments of Waste from the Consultative Committee

Sewerage

Environment Waikato Audits

Environment Waikato has recently undertaken compliance audits on the sewerage treatment plants. Hauraki's results are as follows:

- Kerepehi - full compliance
- Ngatea - high level of compliance
- Paeroa - partial compliance
- Turua - partial compliance
- Waihi - high level of compliance
- Whiritoa - high level of compliance

The Paeroa sewerage treatment plant is operating satisfactorily but had a few minor transgressions relating to high nitrogen levels and a higher than permitted discharge during last winter's long storm. The nitrogen issue has been corrected with a change in plant operation. A new consent for Turua has been applied for with an upgrade of the facility proposed.

Waitakaruru upgrade

The Ministry of Health has made a positive and supportive response to Council's preliminary application for a subsidy to build a new treatment facility at Waitakaruru. The Manager of Utilities reported to the consultative committee that we had received a positive letter back from the Ministry but that the final result was likely to be dependent on the deprivation index value of the community. In other words, how poor our community is in comparison with the others that have applied for similar subsidies. In our favour is that we have the money for our part of the project whereas some other communities may be struggling.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ANZAC DAY 2003 COMMEMORATION SERVICES

Citizens are invited to attend Public Commemoration Services to be held in the Hauraki District on **FRIDAY 25 APRIL, 2003**

Paeroa: 9:15am War Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 9.00am

Waihi: 11:00am Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 10:45 am; Wreaths will be laid at the Services Cemetery following the service

Ngatea 11:15am Ngatea War Memorial Hall, preceded by Parade at 11.00am

Kaihere/Patetonga 9.30am Kaihere Hall

B. J. Morrison JP.

MAYOR

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2003-2004

Pursuant to sections 95 and 281 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given to the public that Hauraki District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2003-2004 has been prepared. Public submissions and comments are invited. A summary of the draft document will be mailed to all Hauraki District ratepayers. Complete copies of the draft document are available from Thursday 17th April at the Council offices and libraries at:

- William St, Paeroa.
- Seddon St, Waihi.
- Orchard Rd, Ngatea.

This document can also be viewed on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Submissions close at 4.00pm on Monday 19th May 2003. Submitters will have the opportunity to present submissions at a Special Council Meeting to be held in Paeroa on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th June 2003.

Council staff are available to discuss the content of these documents during the submission period. Clinics with interested groups or individuals can be arranged by contacting Jolene Corbett, Council's Corporate Planner, on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

LD Cavers
GENERAL MANAGER

LIQUOR BANS 2003

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 possession 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 AND ANZAC 2003

During the Easter and Anzac public holiday period being Thursday 17th April 2003 to Monday 28 April 2003 inclusive, and the hours of 4:00pm to 4:00am daily.

PENALTIES: ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBITION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO \$500.00

POWERS OF POLICE: ANY CONSTABLE MAY ARREST ANY PERSON ACTING OR ABOUT TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PROHIBITION.

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