



# HDC NEWS



## Elected Member Education - By-laws

An opportunity arose recently for elected members and staff to gain further information on the implementation of the new Local Government Act, which controls how most of Council's operations function. A seminar was held in Wellington on regulation and enforcement - basically about the use of by-laws. Five Councillors attended the seminar and one staff member along with the Mayor, who was there in his role as President of Local Government New Zealand.

All current by-laws now expire after five years. As some of them are very old, inherited from the amalgamating authorities, that is probably a good thing. In any case, it encourages councils to review all their by-laws before that expiry date. The first thing councils have to do is to determine whether a by law is the most appropriate way of controlling the activity that needs controlling. It may be that there are other laws that will do the job and that by-laws are superfluous or it may be that a non-regulatory approach will work just as well or better. An example, which has become legendary, is that of the Christchurch City Council, who had had complaints about youths congregating in a certain area of the Central Business District and creating a nuisance. The Council resolved the situation by broadcasting classical music in that area, causing the immediate dispersal of the problem youths.

Hauraki has around twenty by-laws that it will have to commence reviewing shortly. The process is likely to take much staff time and will therefore be quite costly. When decisions on whether a by-law is necessary have been made, a draft proposal will be drawn up and this will then go through the new special consultative procedure.

The need to establish new by-laws will also have to be considered when any new problem arises. One such example given at the seminar was that of the Prostitution Law Reform. The question to be considered is, 'Is there a problem?' It may be that there is no need for action where Hauraki is concerned. At the recent Planning and Finance Meeting a resolution was passed recommending to Council that the Hearings Committee be authorised to consider a draft policy on prostitution reform prior to its presentation back to the P&F Committee. There are also likely to be new policies required when the Responsible Gaming Bill is enacted. All these policies will be put out for public consultation so you will all have a chance to have your say.

## Sister City Exchange

The retired principal of Waihi College, Mr Harry Shepherd, is in Jiading advising its education system on the teaching of English. It is reported that he has to travel to work on a bicycle, which in the traffic of the Shanghai district must be somewhat hazardous. Those of us who have been to Shanghai have an interesting mental picture of the silver haired European gentleman cycling through those clamorous streets to the interest of the locals.

A community group has been formed to drive the sister city activity in the community. The draft strategic plan will be adopted at the first meeting due late July of early August. Council will have two representatives on the committee.

## GRAFFITI



The Community Facilities Manager presented a report to the Planning and Finance Committee on the presence and control of graffiti throughout the district. Although Council graffiti guard most of Council property that is likely to be graffitied the cost of this is great and some products work better than others on different surfaces. Much graffiti appears on private property and Council has no input on whether this is removed or not.

The report gave instances of what other councils have done on the subject. Tauranga City budget quite a large sum each year to remove graffiti and usually just paint over it. They have a policy that all graffiti is to be removed within 24 hours of it being reported. This includes any graffiti that appears on private property visible from the road. If the graffiti is on power or telephone poles, the utilities company is billed for its removal and if it is on private property, the owner is sent an advice of how much the removal cost. The owner is then invited to make a donation of half this sum. This is not enforced in any way but it is left up to the owner's civic pride whether they contribute or not.

Councillors were impressed with this approach and passed a recommendation to Council for a draft Graffiti Management Plan to be developed and presented to Council. Elected members were in general agreement that it is important to keep removing the writing as soon as it appears to discourage the writers repeating the process.

## Noise and Vibration

The Manager of Planning and Environmental services reported to the Planning and Finance Committee recently that preparations for enforcement action against Newmont Waihi are well advanced. The rock breaking machines - used to reduce the size of loose rocks prior to crushing have been relocated to the bottom of the pit, which has helped reduce the noise problem. The company reports that it is to down size the operation shortly as it concludes the removal of most of the waste rock from the pit.

Blasting vibration levels continue to be exceeded, frequently with no explanation from the company. These events are being added to the Council's case against the company to be taken to the Environment Court.

Meanwhile a number of Councillors made a tour recently of various residences where the inhabitants consider themselves impacted by the mine. They observed cracks in concrete and walls and chimneys, slumping lawns dust covered internal surfaces and felt the effect of blasting from a property near the mine pit. Most, while acknowledging the problems, felt that it was impossible to say whether the causes were mine related or not.

## Library Report

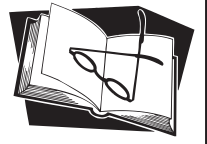
The Planning and Finance Committee were presented with a report on library statistics at its last meeting. Issues are down slightly overall this year but those at Ngatea are up, particularly the children's section. More shelving is to be added at Ngatea and the Waihi library is feeling short of space... The Waihi library's exterior is to be painted during this financial year and a report will be brought back to Council later in the year on what can possibly be done towards an extension and refurbishing of the interior.



## Land Offers

Council has been offered a couple of pieces of land from two different sources. A piece of land in Paeroa adjacent to "Leach's Field" was offered for sale but the Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that the offer be declined as they could see no immediate advantage from Council owning the land. The other land, offered by Transit NZ, is part of a disused quarry at Komata off State Highway 26 and is covered in regenerating bush. This was of greater interest than the other land and councillors suggested that we express an interest perhaps in exchange for a section of land Transit are likely to want to realign the road in future.

## Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week: 28th July to 3rd August 2003  
 Sunday 27th July - Wednesday 30th  
 Local Government Conference -  
 Queenstown.  
 Thursday 31st July - Full Council Meeting.

## Safety Improvements

At Waihi's Rocket Park, a right turning bay is being constructed this month for completion by the end of July. Other improvements for traffic safety around the park are planned. Transit NZ has contributed \$10,000 towards the improvements.

The opening of the new supermarket in Waihi has also necessitated a look at the safety of the Silverton Rd/Kenny St intersection. Improvements to the intersection have been made using road markings and raised pavement markers. Now that the supermarket is opened, a traffic movement survey will be undertaken to see if any further work is necessary. At the completion of the survey a proposal will be submitted to Council confirming the extent of any further intersection improvements.

## SITUATIONS VACANT



The Hauraki District Council is a progressive local government organisation serving the Waihi, Paeroa and Plains areas.

The Council is currently seeking to appoint a full time:

Corporate Planning Assistant

This position based in the Paeroa office is part of the Planning and Environmental Services Department. The core duty of the role will be to provide administration assistance to the Corporate Planner.

The successful candidate will have strong administration skills enabling them to provide assistance with co-ordinating the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan together with formulating Asset Management Plans. Proven research skills would also be an advantage. The ability to adapt to change and have a creative and flexible approach to work are also essential.

If you have sound computer skills in a variety of applications including word, excel, access and ideally framemaker and the ability to quickly adapt to new programmes together with the skills outlined above we would welcome your application.

Prospective applicants for this position should obtain the application form from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi, from the Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or phone Penny Cutler, Human Resources Advisor on (07) 862 8609.

Applications for this position should be at the Council by 4pm Monday 11 August 2003.

Hauraki District Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer