



HDC NEWS



Development Contributions

With the advent of the new Local Government Act a new tool has been given to Councils to raise funds for the infrastructure required for growth. It is called "development contributions". Councils are now able to levy developers, when they subdivide land, for contributions towards the infrastructure that that development will need. Now this may sound similar to what is there at present under the Resource Management Act in the shape of roading contributions and the CRFC (community recreational facilities contribution) but the new provision is more flexible. Councils with rapid growth are struggling, not only to contain that growth, but to keep up with the demands for sewage plants with greater capacity, water supplies, roading, rubbish disposal, street lighting and many other things which councils need to supply.

Some Council's, such as the Far North and North Shore City, who are faced with such problems have already put policies in place to levy developers for these works. At a recent seminar on the topic, which was attended by a number of Hauraki Councillors, the subject was covered in full. The councils who had gone ahead with using these provisions were happy with the result and said that developers were happy to pay the levies, which ranged from one or two thousand to twenty thousand per section. Where there is a considerable demand for sections the charge went on to the price of the section and was paid by the buyer.

Hauraki councillors were a little less enthusiastic about the use of the tool in our district as Hauraki wants to encourage growth and it was seen as a disincentive for developers. This could change if the property boom really hits our district and the population starts to increase rapidly, putting pressure on existing infrastructure. Council has yet to discuss the issue formally.

Road Safety Improvements

A report from the Land Transport Safety Authority, released recently, highlights the decrease in fatalities on our roads in the last ten years. Statistics show that we have improved from 2.9 deaths per 10,000 vehicles on the road in 1992 to only 1.5 last year. This is still 0.3 more than that of the United Kingdom but we are moving in the right direction and the gap is closing. Our death rate is now lower per 10,000 vehicles than that of the United States.

Part of the reason for the decline is seen as the successful advertising campaigns against speeding, drink driving and more recently "Take another look at intersections". The series of campaigns recently won the top prize at the national advertising awards for sustained success.

As well as this, the graduated driving licence system and school based programmes are also considered to be a factor in reducing the road toll, along with improvements to road engineering, vehicle safety standards, and better enforcement through more vigilant highway patrols.

This year the road toll is up about 10% on last year but then last year was the lowest ever and statisticians think that we have got to the point now where small random fluctuations can account for a significant part of the total and the toll will now oscillate up and down.

The National Road Safety Committee is looking at recommending lowering the legal alcohol limit still further and urging an expansion of the speed camera programme to press on with further reductions in deaths.

Geotech Peer Review

After a long wait, it was reported at the last Council meeting that the report from the peer reviewer on the geotechnological study on the stability of Waihi's historic pump house is to be presented to the November full council meeting on the 27th. Council called for a full report after conclusions were presented to Council without the background research that they were based on. The conclusions were that the pump house was likely to collapse within a very short time frame. Councillors wanted another opinion on the subject so called for the information, which was sent to our own expert to review on existing infrastructure. Council has yet to discuss the issue formally.

Elected Members Diary

Thursday 27th November - full Council meeting.

Miranda Stopbank

The hearing for the consent for the Stopbank from Hot Springs to the District Boundary was held on the 10th of October and the consent has been granted by Environment Waikato. The conditions imposed are acceptable to the Western Plains Drainage Committee and the matter is in its appeal period. The issue has gone on for some time and came to a hearing as DoC objected to the project. Provided there are no appeals the work should start promptly as, in anticipation, contract documents have been drawn up to enable works to be carried out this summer.

Ngatea Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade

The Ngatea Sewerage Treatment Plant has been upgraded and was switched to the new system on the 30th July. Testing of the main factors in the effluent discharged into the Puhanga Canal indicates a huge drop in phosphorus, suspended solids, faecal coliforms and BOD. BOD or biological oxygen demand is a measure of the micro-organisms that use oxygen in the water. In other words the water is much cleaner, which is highly satisfactory.

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN



Following the adoption of a Graffiti Management Plan, Council is gearing up to take an active role in graffiti control.

The Graffiti Management Plan outlines the role and actions that Council will take to co-ordinate the control of graffiti on public and private property. The intention is to take a realistic planned approach in order to achieve control in a realistic, cost effective manner.

"Council recognises that graffiti is an unwanted element within the community, producing negative effects such as damage to property, visual pollution, an increase in rates due to greater maintenance and repair costs, and the creation of ill-feeling" said Joy Mickleson, Council's Community Facilities Manager.

A key feature of the plan is the process for co-ordinating community resources such as service groups, businesses and Council in the control methods.

Starting next week, and continuing on, Council will be taking calls on the Freephone number 0800 734 834 about graffiti, and passing these onto various group for removal.

To coincide with this, Council will also be 'Cleaning up' many public assets that have been graffitied.

'Graffiti is a community problem, not just a Council problem - if the Graffiti Management Plan is going to be successful, everyone has to contribute towards overcoming it' says Joy.

You can help by phoning Council and reporting any graffiti you see.

For more information, please contact:
Joy Mickleson
Community Facilities Manager
Hauraki District Council
Telephone 07 862 8609
Mobile 021 763 980

One or Two Steps Closer

One of the long-term problems of Council has been that of what to do about Waitakaruru sewerage. The present system is environmentally unacceptable and in order to get a new consent, needs to be replaced with a new system. Attempts over the years to find a system that will work under the conditions prevailing in Waitakaruru and that would not be totally out of the range of affordability, have been fruitless until recently. The system we have settled upon involves each property having its own holding tank and the liquid effluent only being pumped to a central treatment plant.

Two events have brought the construction of this system closer. They are the granting of a consent from Environment Waikato and the announcement that we have received a subsidy for the project from the Government. When the Government's subsidy system for small communities' sewerage systems was announced, the council saw the opportunity to gain some financial benefit in what would otherwise be a very expensive exercise. An application for the subsidy was lodged and has been approved. The subsidy amounts to \$350,000 or 50% of the cost whichever is the lesser.

The scheme will include the 16 existing properties on the sewerage and around 22 new connections including the school. It is hoped to have the new system constructed before next winter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Santa Parade organised by Positive Paeroa Inc. the following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road.

Period of closure: Saturday 29 November 2003 from 11:00am to 12:00pm.

Road to be closed: Normanby Road and Belmont Roads between Arney - Princes Street and Station Road Paeroa.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: Divert to Station Road and Thames Road/Arney Street Paeroa.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

LD Cavers
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