



HDC NEWS



Having Trouble Getting Through?

If you have phoned the Council recently you may have been frustrated at not being able to get through. We earnestly apologise for this but a number of factors came together to cause a communication block for a time a couple of weeks ago. When it was discovered that the number of dropped calls had suddenly leapt to ten times the normal number a rigorous search was undertaken to find the problem.

Two factors were found. Firstly it was discovered that there were major cable breaks in Telecom's cables into the building. Secondly there were some internal faults in the rather old phone system which has done good service since 1991. While Telecom fixed their problem, devices inside were also replaced to get things back to normal. At times during this process the whole system had to be shut down and calls were diverted to the after hours service.

In discussing the matter of the replacement of the internal phone system with more up to date technology, Council's Planning and Finance committee were adamant that Council should not have an automated system which tells you a list of numbers to press depending on what you are ringing about. Council is committed to keeping the personal touch, so even if you may have to wait a little, you can be assured that when you ring Council you will eventually get one of our friendly, helpful operators.

Vibration Problems

Council is charged with the task of ensuring that resource consent holders keep to the conditions of their consent. In the case of the Waihi mine two aspects have caused concern over the past few years. These are noise and blasting vibration. After exceedance problems with noise levels, Council resolved to take the Gold Company to court, but has not done so as yet, due to a mitigation plan, which appears to be working reasonably well. The legal question is not absolutely "cut and dried" when it comes to noise, as the determination of whether the noise is entirely from the mine is difficult, particularly in windy conditions. While it may be clear to residents that the excessive noise is mining noise, Council is reluctant to take a case to Court if there is some chance that clever lawyers may have the case thrown out.

Vibration is another matter. It is absolutely clear when the vibration levels from blasting exceed the consent limits. It is expected that there will be an occasional exceedance, due to various factors, and one every few months is considered acceptable when the company gives valid reasons why it may have occurred accidentally. However, a number of exceedances in the last fortnight in April was not considered at all acceptable and Council's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that it prosecutes the company for breaches of its consent.

Economic Development Comment

The Plains Promotion Group under the leadership of Ross Harris have been meeting regularly during the past year to progress activities for Ngatea. They have been responsible for the Christmas Parade, the new Ngatea Post Shop, Plains signage, developing a website and working with Council to keep Ngatea a great place to live. Current activities include a logo and signage, an ATM and upcoming events for the Plains. The Annual General meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 April at 7.30pm in the Ngatea War Memorial Hall. The business community and interested ratepayers are invited to attend.

District Physical Activity Plan

As in everything these days, there has to be a plan. Sports Waikato is busy at present producing a Regional Physical Activity Plan and Councils are charged with the production of District Physical Activity Plans. The object of the exercise is to get you out there off your chairs and exercising. Nationally, it is hoped that we become the most active nation on earth.

Hauraki's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that we combine with Thames Coromandel District Council in the development of a Physical Activity Plan and that the Chairman of Planning and Finance, Mary Carmine, be involved in the development of the plan.

Council's present commitment to its community's physical activity involves sponsoring the Sports Waikato coordinator for the district and by providing plenty of good facilities for people to do the exercise of their choice. In this district we are singularly fortunate in also having a wonderful natural environment in which to take your exercise, if organised sport is not your thing. So even without a plan there is nothing to stop you getting out there and active. Start by taking one of the wonderful and gentle walks in the Karangahake Gorge.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 26th April to the
2nd May 2004:
Thursday 29th April -
Full Council meeting.



Hauraki Community Plan Summary Errata - Plains Ward

Please be aware there is a misprint on page 5 of the summary that was delivered to your mailbox last week. The table outlining the rating examples for the Plains COMMERCIAL sector should have listed \$105 for the UAC Business for 2003/04 and \$258 for 2004/05. There is now UAC Business charge for the residential sector in the Plains Ward as shown in the summary.

Dog Fees to Rise

Council's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that a slight rise in dog registration fees of 5% be implemented in the coming financial year as projected expenditure is greater than receipts from dog registrations this year.

There are 3,624 dogs in our district and the minimum fee for working dogs and for VOL owners in the urban area is to be set at \$27.50. To qualify as a voluntary owner (VOL) your section must be fenced and you must sit a small test to ensure you are a good dog owner. Your dog also must be de-sexed to allow the minimum fee to apply. Other urban owners with de-sexed dogs will pay \$67.50. If your dog is not de-sexed you will pay \$80 in the urban area and \$40 for a working dog. A penalty will apply if fees are not paid by the 31st July and failure to register by the 31st July will disqualify any voluntary owners.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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 May 2004.

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

MONDAY 3 MAY 2004 WARD COMMITTEES
PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 1.00 PM
WAIHI 3.30 PM

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES
TUESDAY 4 MAY 2004 10.00 AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 6 MAY 2004 (if required) 9.00 AM

THURSDAY 13 MAY 2004
10.00 AM WORKS COMMITTEE
1.00 PM PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

HAURAKI COROMANDEL DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 18 MAY 2004 10.00AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 20 MAY 2004, (if required) 9.00 AM

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2004, 10.30 AM
(Hauraki Room)

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2004, 10.00 AM

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Don't Forget that Plan

Council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) is now available so do not forget to make a point of either getting a copy or having a look at it on the website. This is the community consultation phase and its success depends on whether the community takes advantage of it, reads the plan, and tells us what it thinks. You are part of that community and we need to hear from you.

If you do not think you are up to reading the whole plan you should have received a summary in the mail. Maybe when you have read that, you may be encouraged to have a look at the whole document.

More Thanks for Service

We recently reported some thanks received for prompt remedying of complaints. Thanks for a job well done reached a more tangible level when a resident of Ngatitangata Rd, in the Waihi Ward, sent a delicious carrot cake to the council's committee day recently. Ngatitangata Rd, for those who do not know, is one of the roads that winds up into the hills overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The top part of the road has always been difficult - narrow and winding with many blind corners. Recent subdivision has increased the number of residents up there and access to a walking track down to Homunga Bay means that tourists also use the road. Recently Council cut back a number of banks and improved visibility on the corners to greatly improve the safety of the road, which prompted the thank-you cake. The cake was greatly enjoyed by both councillors and staff.