



HDC NEWS



So You Think You Might Like To Stand For Office

If you have a real interest in your community and want to become more involved in the decision making of that community you may feel that you should stand as a candidate in this year's election. People, who are active in their communities, have sound common sense, and a reasonable amount of time available would be ideal candidates.

Many people may not be aware that the role of councils has changed dramatically over the years. It is not now just involved in fixing potholes and providing water and sewerage systems. Council has a governing role over its local community and is responsible for providing vision and responding to the wishes and needs of the community.

If you are interested in standing for office, as a councillor or Mayor, now is the time to become familiar with the work of the Council. A good start would be to obtain a copy of the draft LTCCP, or preferably the final version, when it has been adopted at the end of June. This will give you a clear picture of the work Council does. It is easy to read and, if you are really interested in your community, should not be regarded as a cure for insomnia. The next step would be to attend some of the Council meetings or Committee meetings. These are all open to the public. There are always plenty of seats at the back of the room so you can sit quietly and take in the functioning of Council. Normally Council meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, although this week it is on Wednesday because of other commitments. Council meetings, however, are not where the main debates on issues occurs. Most of the real discussion is held at the Committee stage. The committees then make recommendations to Council who then often pass the recommendations with little comment. For this reason, it may be more instructive for potential candidates to attend the Committees day. This is held on the second Thursday BEFORE the Council meeting. Check the Elected Members' Diary on this page each week. The Works Committee starts at 10:00 am and deals with issues to do with drainage, roads, rubbish, sewerage and water. The Planning and Finance Committee is held at 1:00pm and deals with property issues, finances, policy and regulatory matters. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

So, how much time is needed to fulfil the role of councillor or Mayor? Basically the Mayor's job is a full time one. While you may not work eight to five every day, there are many evening functions and weekend work as well. You need to be available most days of the week to attend functions and meetings and to meet with ratepayers on various issues. Technically, the role of Councillors has a time commitment of one Council meeting a month and usually two or three committees per month. These meetings are usually half a day. In actual fact it is much more demanding than this, with many other subcommittee meetings, meetings with ratepayers, both individuals and groups, and extraordinary meetings which crop up from time to time.

In a Council the size of Hauraki pay rates are not high for councillors so you will need to have another job. It is unfortunate that this may mean that some people who may have made good elected members may feel they are not able to commit themselves to being a councillor because of their other work commitments. Hauraki has had some councillors who have had full time jobs in another area but it is not easy and you will need an understanding employer who is prepared to give you time off for meetings as normally most meetings are during the day. The new Council, when elected, will recommend to the Remuneration Authority the rates of pay of councillors and committee chairs within the guidelines laid down by the Remuneration Authority, which includes the total that can be spent on salaries. With the current situation a small salary is paid, together with a meeting allowance and expenses, but it is up to the new Council to determine whether this system continues or perhaps a salary only is paid.

Further details are available at Council offices and we will give you more information in this column closer to the time that nominations are to be accepted. Nominations are open on July 23rd so start thinking now about whether you would like to stand or if you know someone else you would like to nominate.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 31st May to the
6th June 2004:

Monday 31st May - Ward Committees

Tuesday 1st June -

Water and Waste Consultative Committee

Thursday 3rd June -

Extraordinary Meeting to hear submissions to the LTCCP



Council Elections

The Local Body elections are to be held later this year, just in case you had not caught up with that fact. The election is a postal one for both councillors and Mayor and the final day when votes will be counted is Saturday 9th October. Hauraki has decided to stay with the first past the post voting system for this election and all eligible voters will be able to vote for their ward councillors and the Mayor. The Plains Ward needs to elect four ward councillors, the Paeroa Ward also elects four and the Waihi Ward elects five councillors. The Mayor is elected 'at large' over the whole district.

All residents who are eligible to vote in the general elections can vote in local body elections. In order for you to be able to vote in the election you need to ensure you are on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for this area. If you are a ratepayer in the district but live outside the district, and so are on another electoral roll, you must enrol separately for the Hauraki District Council Ratepayer Roll. Application forms are available from Council offices. If your property is jointly owned only one of the owners can vote. You must nominate which individual will exercise the voting right.

Going Organic

Council has been trialling organic spray for controlling weeds in the drains on the Hauraki Plains. It has been reported that the effectiveness of the sprays has been very good as far as weed control is concerned and there has been considerable cost saving due to the reduction of chemicals used.

Paeroa Domain Lease

The lease with the Thames Valley Rugby Union for the Paeroa Domain facilities is to be renewed for a further three years. Concern has been expressed though that the announcer's box is in a dilapidated condition and does not fit in with the new building for the athletic club. The Paeroa Ward Committee has resolved to ask the Rugby Union to upgrade the announcer's building immediately and to relocate it at the end of the season. In its present position it means that the athletic club, who have the use of the domain for the summer months, cannot see the finish line from their new building, something that they find awkward.

PUBLIC NOTICE



TO ALL DOG OWNERS REGISTRATION 2004/2005

Pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 the Hauraki District Council by resolution of Council on 29 April 2004 fixed the dog control fees for this registration year 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

	FEES	DESEX REBATE (Certificate Required)	MINIMUM FEE	PENALTY IF PAID AFTER 31/07/04	MAXIMUM FEE
Working Dog	\$40.00	\$12.50	\$27.50	\$20.00	\$60.00
Rural Dog	\$40.00	\$12.50	\$27.50	\$20.00	\$60.00
General Dog	\$80.00	\$12.50	\$67.50	\$40.00	\$120.00
VOL Dog	\$40.00	\$12.50	\$27.50		\$40.00
Replacement Tag	\$4.00				

(Note: Failure to register by 31 July OF ANY YEAR DISQUALIFIES VOL STATUS)

Fees include GST

RATING INFORMATION DATABASE

The Rating Information Database for Hauraki District Council is available for public inspection during office hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday at the Council offices at Williams Street, Paeroa, Orchard Road, Ngatea and Seddon Street, Waihi.

The Rating Information Database is also available on Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz under Customer Services, Rates.

The Rating Information Database records all of the information required to set and assess rates on every rating unit.

Ratepayers may object to information in the Rating Information Database where information is incorrect or has been omitted. Objections must be made in writing and posted to Rating Information Database Objections, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa.

LIQUOR BAN BYLAW HEARINGS Change of Extraordinary meeting date

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, public notice is given that the hearing of submissions for the Liquor Ban Bylaw have been brought forward and now will be held in the Hauraki District Council Chambers, William St, Paeroa beginning at 2.00pm on Thursday 3rd June 2004.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2003 CITIZEN AWARDS

The Hauraki District Council invites nominations for deserving nominees to be considered for Council's 2003 Citizen Awards. To be eligible, nominees must satisfy the specified criteria. Further information on eligibility and nomination forms can be obtained from Council's Service Centres in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea, or by telephoning Customer services at 07 862 8609 (or 0800 734 834 within district).

Nominations should be addressed to the Community Liaison Officer, Hauraki District Council, P O Box 17, Paeroa, to be received no later than 4.00pm on 18 JUNE 2004.

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LTCCP

The hearing for the submissions to the LTCCP, which this year contains the Annual Plan, is to be held on Thursday of this week. Fifty six submissions have been received. Many are generally supportive and unlike other years many come from organisations and government agencies wanting to be included as 'stakeholders' in the district's planning processes. Some are asking for rates to be held and work to be deleted from Council's plans but others are requesting money for organisations doing community work or requests for increases in services or facilities.

After listening to those who wish to speak to their submission, Council's elected members will have to decide which items should be altered in the plan.

Aquatic Feasibility

The Plains Ward Committee is looking at the feasibility of an aquatic centre in Ngatea. The drive for such a feasibility study has come from the community, in particular from the Plains Promotions Group. Ward members have agreed that there is a need to look at the feasibility study very closely and to investigate the most appropriate options and requirements. Members will have to look at other aquatic centres around the country and to analyse costs, in particular, the ongoing costs to the community in the form of rate increases that such a centre would generate.