



HDC NEWS



Submission Hearing

Council heard the submissions to the Long Term Community Plan, which includes this year's Annual Plan, at an Extraordinary Meeting on Thursday the 3rd June. Around twenty people or organisations wished to be heard in support of their submissions.

Many submissions were complimentary of the plan, as was a letter tabled at the meeting from the Auditor General's office. Audit New Zealand's letter included the following:

"Overall we compliment Council on the 'readability' and layout of the plan. The community outcomes are clearly spelt out and linked to proposed actions...

...Particular strengths of the document are:

- Good disclosures around community outcomes
- The diagrammatic representation showing how Council contributes to achieving community outcomes.
- The detail and quality of the significant assumptions surrounding the financial forecast information and service delivery planned."

This comment can be contrasted with a couple of extracts from submissions which said - "This would be the most difficult Draft Plan produced. It is repetitious, difficult to understand and so hard to read that most ratepayers would not make head nor tail of it." And - "It's hard to comment with so little information... .. Much more detailed information and some explanation would help."

However, these two were a definite minority and the quality of detailed submissions indicated that many of the public were able to read and understand the Plan and to respond accordingly.

While it is difficult to categorise some of the submissions there were some definite grouping into categories possible:

- As this was the first LTCCP many of the submissions were from organisations or Government Departments wanting inclusion or recognition in the Plan. These included Transit New Zealand, DoC, Historic Places Trust, Health Board and others.
- A number of submissions could be regarded as service requests asking for straightforward things to be done. Some of these will be attended to while not necessarily being included in the Plan. It is fine for people to use the Plan process to ask for things to be done but service requests can be made at any time. You do not have to wait for the Annual Plan or LTCCP.
- There were a number of requests from community organisations for funding or increased funding. In general, there are some rules that should be adhered to when asking Council for money. If it is in the Annual Plan process keep your requests fairly low. Large sums added to the plan at the submission phase are not likely to be looked on favourably as they have not allowed the rest of the community an input into the decision. Be quite specific what you want the money for. It is important that councillors know what the ratepayers are going to be getting for their money. General requests for support for organisations, unsupported by evidence for the need, and exactly what the money is to be used for are not likely to be successful. A copy of the organisation's annual accounts is usually required. In this year's group, additional funding was granted to the Bay of Plenty Lifesaving group to extend the service they give in surf life saving in Whiritoa. This submission was well supported by evidence of the need for additional personnel and for extension of the days over which the service operates.
- Requests for large facilities or improvements to facilities. These included extra lighting on the Paeroa Domain, new turf for the Ngatea Astroturf and a new swimming pool for Waihi. While these items are too large to be added to the Plan at this stage they have been signalled for consideration and consultation for future attention.
- Community Development - These included submissions from Positive Paeroa and Positively Promoting the Plains for continued support and by individuals with ideas to improve the environments of our major towns.
- Requests to hold rates at their present level. There were a small number of these submissions. It is very difficult to strike a balance between acceding to the needs and wants of large numbers of people and at the same time keeping rates down. To keep the rates at the present level Council would have to do less physical work than is now done as other costs have been imposed upon us by legislation that we cannot avoid. A far greater number of submissions are for doing more work not less.

As a result of these submissions the Draft Plan was amended to include planning for Paeroa's main street upgrade, mention of the possible heavy traffic by pass of Paeroa, an increase of funding for the Whiritoa Surf Life Savers and a number of other wording changes to incorporate matters that submitters raised.

Gilmour Reserve Proposal

The Waihi Ward Committee at its last meeting resolved to defer the decision on accepting the revised plan on Gilmour Lake until after the LTCCP hearing as there were a number of submissions to the LTCCP mentioning Gilmour Lake. Most of these were related to the money proposed to be spent on the project.

The revised plan, which is yet to be adopted has taken into consideration the submissions received during the special consultative procedure on the proposal. Changes from the original plan include:

- the removal of the secondary entranceway,
- the removal of the boardwalk in the wetlands,
- the retention of the pine trees and an arborists report for future management of these trees,
- Concentration of lighting on the entranceway/main path/viewing platform area
- Identification of specific planting areas, which can be undertaken at any future date.

Should the Council adopt the revised report detailed design drawings will then be prepared for final approval with detailed cost estimates. It will be then that a timeframe will be decided on. When the time frame is decided, which could well be over many years, preparation of technical specifications and tender documentation will commence according to the timeframe decided.

Liquor Ban Bylaw

As well as hearing submissions to the LTCCP at the extraordinary Meeting on the 3rd of June Council had to consider submissions to the draft liquor ban bylaw. New legislation has made this necessary and submissions had been called for. The only place in Hauraki that has had a liquor ban in the past has been Whiritoa. The bylaw sought to retain the previous level of liquor ban for public holiday weekends, and the period around Christmas and New Year. There were more submissions on this issue than on the LTCCP, numbering over sixty.

The majority were supportive of bylaw but many requested that the hours be extended to a twenty four hour ban for the days proposed. It was mentioned that Whiritoa was the only resort in the area which did not have a twenty four hour ban and that drinkers were likely to travel there for the hours that the ban did not exist.

Council, in response to these submissions, resolved to increase the hours of the ban to twenty four hours per day over the holiday periods.

Firewood Aplenty

At the risk of labouring the issue of the Waihi gum tree, we have one more interesting piece of trivia for you. At the time of the last Council meeting it was stated that 60 tonnes of firewood had been removed from the site and 20 tonnes still remained to be distributed. If you are a recipient of any of the wood make sure it is split immediately as gum goes very hard when dry. The advantage of gum is, however, that it will burn green and it gives a very hot fire.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 14th June to the 20th June 2004:
Thursday 17th June - Hearing



Waihi Ward Matters

- The Waihi Ward Committee has agreed to provide a rubbish bin in the new financial year for the car park at the mine viewing area. It was considered that as this is a major tourist venue, it is important to keep it clean.
- The Waihi Ward Committee has granted the Whiritoa Tennis Club a remission of its Club day rental fee for the tennis courts in Whiritoa. The sum was so insignificant that it was considered uneconomical to collect.
- Councillors were pleased to hear that, following requests from the Ward Committee to improve its building, the Waihi Cricket Club has water blasted and painted the exterior, removed rubbish and has repaired the windows. The work has greatly improved the appearance of the building which is situated on the council owned Morgan Park.

PUBLIC NOTICE



REMINDER:

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.

LIQUOR BAN BYLAW

Pursuant to section 86 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given that following the submission process and extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2004 the Liquor Ban Bylaw has been adopted. The Liquor Ban Bylaw will come into force on Friday 1st October 2004.

A copy of the bylaw can be viewed at the libraries and Council offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi, downloaded on the Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or obtained by calling 07 862 8609.

LD CAVERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE