



HDC NEWS



Creative NZ Creative Communities Scheme

The Hauraki District Council Assessment Committee consisting of Councillors Gillian Munro (Chair), Valda Laurich, and Bronwyn Wightman, community representatives Anne Leonard, Judy Parker, John MacReady and Iwi representative Winn Brownlee along with the Council administrator met twice (11 November 2003 and 16 April 2004) during the current financial year to consider applications for funding under the above scheme. Under its agreement with the Creative New Zealand, the Council administers the scheme, meeting all costs except promotions. Five percent of CNZ allocation is made available to cover district promotions. The arts activities requesting assistance this round revealed a total of \$43,489.00. Only \$14,708.72 was available for distribution.

Twenty one applications were successful and receive financial assistance relevant to their requests; other applicants either did not provide sufficient details or

were of a low priority considering the amount of funds available.

The successful applications and the amounts were: Class Act Opera Trust \$750.00, He Waka Eke Noa Charitable Trust \$630.00, Paeroa Pipe Bands Tattoo Committee Inc. \$1,500.00, Paeroa Society of Arts \$693.00, Waitakaruru School \$200.00, Waihi Summer Festival Inc. \$1,000.00, Paeroa Community Support Trust \$1600.00, Paeroa Skate & Leisure Centre \$1,000.00, Children's Art House \$525.00, Go Waihi \$1500.00, Hauraki Country Music Club \$200.00, Waikino Spring Arts Festival \$400.00, Ebenezer Community Trust \$250.00, The Miscellany Ensemble Community Orchestra \$1,250.00, Kerepehi Brass Band Inc. \$2,000.00, SOAR@Paeroa \$1,000.00, and the Paeroa Country Music Club \$200.00.

The next allocation round for the scheme begins in October 2004.

Financial Health

The year before last, it was reported that Council was about to go into deficit and would have to borrow. Council had all the contingency plans in place for this occasion but it has never eventuated. There are two reasons for this. The first is that some of the large capital work that was about to be done has been deferred (mainly, the Waihi Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade). The second is that the property boom has resulted in large amounts of capital coming into the coffers from the sale of property - residential and industrial sections at Waihi and Ngatea, and freeholding leased sections at Waihi Beach.

The result of all this is that Council finds itself in a healthy position as far as available funds are concerned. As at the 31st of May we held approximately \$8 million in short term investments and had a healthy working capital. The expected steady decline towards the rating installment in May did not eventuate due to a number of property sales.

The Waihi Beach sections that are contributing to this position are a remnant from the Waihi Borough days and were transferred to the Hauraki District as part of the asset base of the Waihi Borough at amalgamation in 1989. They can only be sold to the lessees and as prices have been increasing, more lessees have been free-holding, rather than paying the large increases in ground rental. Council has only thirteen of these sections left in its ownership.

Community Safety

Council's Planning and Finance Committee considered a report from the Community Liaison Officer regarding the Safer Community Council at its last meeting. The Council and Safer Community Council had submitted four projects to the Ministry of Justice Crime Prevention Unit for funding but had received approval for only one of them. The top priority project "families at risk" was not accepted but the "theft from cars" was accepted, attracting funding of \$9,900. Councillors considered the preventative value of the families at risk project was greater and could eventually lead to a reduction in all crime levels by early intervention taking away some of the causes of criminal behaviour.

The Committee therefore recommended to Council that it advise the Ministry of Justice that reluctantly Council will decline to accept the approved project on the grounds that that project alone does not warrant Council setting up an administrative structure to promote and oversee the Community Safety Initiatives programme as had earlier been envisaged. Further, that the Council will not be continuing with involvement in the programme and will utilise the budgeted funding allocated for the support of the Community Safety Committee for other safety related projects that Council considers necessary.

Councillor Qualifications

Local Government New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment and the New Zealand Planning Institute have been working for some time to develop an education scheme for elected members who are on hearings Committees that hear resource consents. The scheme is aimed at delivering a consistent level of competence and professionalism in their consideration of resource consents applications under the Resource Management Act.

The scheme involves attending training workshops and participants will be given workbooks which they will be required to complete and which will be externally assessed. Certificates will be issued and must be updated every three years. The scheme starts after the coming Local Body elections and Hauraki's Planning and Finance Committee has resolved to send all the councillors appointed to the Hearings Committee to the course to become certificated.



Dogs Again

The Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council that the Draft Dog Policy be released to the public for consultation and Council has accepted this recommendation. This policy has now become available to the public for perusal and submission. The new policy was necessary due to changes in the legislation controlling dogs.

The Hearings Committee has heard another two objections to the classification of dangerous and menacing dogs. During the hearing, comment was made about the problem in our towns of dogs that rush from properties and harass passers by. These dogs may not be dangerous but under the new legislation can be classified as menacing. The public have a right to walk the streets without being annoyed or frightened by wandering dogs.

Up until now, Council has been classifying these dogs as menacing and has not prosecuted the owners. However, it has the right to prosecute the owners for not having their dogs under proper control and substantial fines can result. It is in the owners' interest to keep the dogs confined within their own property, as the law directs, so that they do not become a nuisance to the passing public.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 28th June to the 4th July 2004:
No meetings scheduled



Oral History Project

The move to record the oral history of the district by recording interviews with elderly long term residents is progressing with considerable work having been done in the Plains area by the Historical Society of Hauraki Plains. Work is about to start in the other areas of the district and to facilitate this Council is to purchase a recording device for the project. A grant of \$2000 is also to be made to the Hauraki Plains Historical Society towards the printing of the interviews that have already been recorded.

Power Tender Accepted

Council has accepted the tender from Genesis Power Limited for the supply of power to the Council. The tender is for supply of power to general installation at 6.95 cents per kWh any time and for 6.02 cents per kWh for street lighting. The contract period is for three years. This was considered a fairly attractive offer. The only other alternative Council had was to buy energy at spot market rates and the risk associated with this approach was considered too great and likely to result in increased costs.

PUBLIC NOTICE



DOG CONTROL POLICY

Pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act, notice is given that the Hauraki District Council has prepared a Statement of Proposal for a DOG CONTROL POLICY as required by the Dog Amendment Act 2003.

The Statement of Proposal and supporting documents will be available from Tuesday 29 June, 2004 at the Council offices in Paeroa, Ngatea and Waihi or by calling 07 862 8609.

They can also be viewed on Councils website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Submissions close at 4.30pm on Monday 9 August 2004. Submitters will have the opportunity to present submissions in person at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held in Paeroa at the Hauraki District Council Chambers 12.30pm on Thursday 26 August 2004.

Council staff are available to discuss the proposed policy during the submission period. Workshops with interested groups or people can be arranged by contacting Jolene Corbett on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the district.)

HAURAKI COMMUNITY PLAN (LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN)

Pursuant to section 84 of the Local Government Act 2002, notice is given that following the submission process and the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2004 the Hauraki Community Plan has been adopted at an ordinary meeting of Council on Thursday 24th June 2004. A copy of the plan 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 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

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