



HDC NEWS



Dogs - Menacing or Dangerous

The new dog legislation makes provision for a different category of dog called "menacing". In the past, any dog that so much as threatened or frightened anyone could be declared dangerous. Now that sort of category is classed as menacing. Council had its first appeal against a menacing dog classification recently after persistent complaints against a number of dogs in Waihi. Council is adopting a precautionary approach to such matters and upheld the classification.

Under the legislation "menacing" dogs must be muzzled in public, de-sexed and micro-chipped. There is provision under the legislation for all dogs of certain breeds, including American Pit-bulls, to be declared menacing. Council's problem lies with cross-bred dogs with varying amounts of these breeds. Again it is probable that we will start with a precautionary approach by declaring all dogs, whose breed is undetermined on the registration form, menacing. If owners feel that this is wrong and that the dog is actually a Pekinese-poodle cross, staff will inspect the dog and amend all obvious errors.

Economic Development Conference

It has been Council's policy to send someone to the annual Economic Development Conference. The conference is in Wellington this year and will be attended by Councillor Mike Hayden. Matters that will be discussed at the conference will be:

- Moving up the value chain
- Attracting international markets
- Adding commercial value to existing products
- How creativity can drive productivity
- Communities, culture and commerce - EDAs making a difference
- Building a new understanding of creativity in the commercial sense.

The conference takes place on the 15th and 16th March.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 8th to 14th March 2004 -

Wednesday 10th March:
(Extraordinary meeting to receive the final draft of the LTCCP postponed to Thursday 18th March.)

Thursday 11th March: Morning -
Works Committee
Afternoon -
Planning and Finance Committee



Turua Jetty

Plans for a jetty at Turua are proceeding with the Ward Committee approving the lodging of a resource consent application after perusal of the concept plans. The proposal is for a floating jetty at an estimated cost of \$130,000, which is a little higher than was originally budgeted for. Some of the cost will be met by community fund raising and some from Council.

Land Status for Ngatea Service Centre

An enquiry from the Plains Ward Committee about the possibility of changing the status of the land on which the Ngatea Service Centre stands met with considerable discussion at Council's February meeting. The request centred on the desire to ensure the land stayed in Council's ownership for future incorporation into the Domain. As the present underlying zoning is light industrial it was feared that this may encourage future Councils to sell the property into private ownership.

A District Plan change would require some valid reason and should not be used simply to provide a constraint on future councils, councillors were told. A change to the plan would allow the existing use to continue but would limit the scope of the use of the existing building - any slight change of use of the building would prompt the need for a resource consent.

Council noted the Ward Committee's comments and referred the matter to staff to report back on non statutory ways of preserving the land for public use. Under existing legislation public consultation would have to take place before anything could be done in disposing of the property.

Thresh-hold for Paeroa?

The Paeroa Ward committee is keen to see a "thresh-hold" established at each of the entrances to Paeroa along the State Highways similar to those in Ngatea and many other towns. Applications have been made to Transit for this type of facility both this year and in previous years. We await developments.

New Road Safety Initiatives

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) is launching a new road safety education programme aimed at improving experienced drivers' knowledge of the road code and road rules. People will be issued with the ten question tests when they renew their registration, warrant of fitness or drivers licence. The test is voluntary but it is hoped that if people score badly they will feel the need to brush up their knowledge of the road code. If you score nine or more out of ten you can enter a draw for a major prize.

Meanwhile, in England, a prototype of a new device is being tested to detect drivers under the influence of drugs. Instead of measuring certain substances such as alcohol, it measures driver impairment and can detect whether a person is safe to drive or whether they are under the influence of drugs or even just fatigued. At least two years of testing is needed to determine whether the device is ready for the streets and decisions will need to be made on whether its results would be admissible in court.

Wild Flowers

The decision to plant wild flowers on the bank at Walnutt Park in Waihi was questioned at the Waihi Ward Committee meeting last month, as the display has been disappointing to say the least. A collection of weeds and some cornflowers seems to be all that has eventuated from the spring planting, which was designed to produce a fresh display of flowers over the summer holiday period. It was noted that the wildflower project on the Auckland Southern Motorway was unsuccessful this year and councillors suggested that an earlier planting may get a better result and perhaps a different selection of varieties such as colourful Shirley poppies. Despite the limited success of this year's crop of flowers councillors liked the idea of wild flowers on the bank and were keen to give the project one more year to prove itself.

Meanwhile the parsley in the Paeroa planters continues to thrive although the coloured silver beet has finished and has been replaced by highly coloured annuals.

Dickeys Flat Parking

The Waihi Ward Committee has asked that parking problems at Dickeys Flat be brought to the attention of the Department of Conservation for their comments on how the matter might be addressed and that staff report on appropriate solutions to the traffic issues which have eventuated because of the attractions of the area provided by DoC. The development of the Crown and Dubbo tracks has made the area even more popular and it is becoming known as a superb camping area for families wanting a cheap family holiday. During the summer period the car park at Dickeys Flat was frequently full and random parking on the roadside and turning area caused congestion.

Land ownership issues are also being discussed with DoC as much of the area is, in fact, road reserve owned by Council and it may be an advantage to stop some of the roads along the river bank and transfer them into DoC ownership.

Improvement of the lower end of Dickeys Flat road is on the Ward's list for seal extension but will have to take its turn among other priorities throughout the district. There is some thought that too much improvement of the road will result in the spoiling of the nature of the area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GRAZING TENDER - 246 KAIHERE ROAD, NGATEA

Council invites tenders for the grazing of approximately 39.83 hectares of farmland situated at 246 Kaihere Road, Ngatea, for a term of 2 years from the 1st June 2004. Part of the area currently offered for lease may over time diminish and Council will adjust or review the lease accordingly when land is resumed.

Details of the tender are available from Council's Paeroa Service Centre, Williams Street, Paeroa or by phoning Dennis Lees on (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 within the District.

The last date for receipt of tender is Friday 19th March 2004 by 4.00pm. Council reserve the right not to accept any or every tender submitted.

GRAZING TENDER - CORNER STATE HIGHWAY 2 & TOWN ROAD, KEREPEHI

Council invites tenders for the grazing of approximately 14.13 hectares of farmland situated at the Corner of State Highway 2 and Town Road, Kerepehi, for a term of 1 year from the 1st April 2004. Part of the area currently offered for lease may over time diminish and Council will adjust or review the lease accordingly when land is resumed.

Details of the tender are available from Council's Paeroa Service Centre, Williams Street, Paeroa or by phoning Dennis Lees on (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 within the District.

The last date for receipt of tender is Friday 19th March 2004 by 4.00pm. Council reserve the right not to accept any or every tender submitted.

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 an event organised by Thames Valley Car Club 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: Sunday 14 March 2004 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Pukewera Road, Waihi (from Murphy's Bridge to the Taieri Road junction)

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic: No traffic shall be held up for more than 30 minutes.

It will be an offense 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.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of discussing the Long Term Council Community Plan is to be held in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa at 10:00am on Thursday 18 March 2004.

L.D. Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE