



HDC NEWS



Balancing The Budget

Council has just completed its budgetary round of meetings to approve the estimates for next financial year for inclusion in the draft LTCCP, which will go out for public consultation. Some of the matters that were raised in these discussions we will summarise here so that you can be forewarned about what will come out in the LTCCP.

Overheads will increase this year. This comes as no surprise to councillors when they consider the huge increase in administration recent legislation has placed on Councils. The overhead increases include rates overheads which have increased due to Environment Waikato now doing its own rate demands. This means that, although the cost of sending out the rates remains approximately the same we have no revenue coming in from EW. Of course the ratepayer gets a "double whammy" because as well as our rates going up they also have to pay EW's rate overheads in their account. The other main item in the overhead increase is a payroll increase of 2.3%. Some of that is an increase in wages but most is an increase in staffing. This increase is in several areas: to cope with the responsibilities of the new Act, greater OSH demands, and an improved level of service in the customer contact area. This last is to improve response time to customer inquiries, an area where there are often complaints if problems are not attended to promptly. The other staff increase is in the building and subdivision consent area but this is offset by increased revenue from these activities.

While overheads are not the only thing to go up there are unders and overs throughout the rest of the budget. Ratepayers may be pleased to note that councillors' pay has dropped with the new pay scale adopted last year. This, however, may not be encouraging to those who are considering standing for election this year.

The bottom line is that Council needs \$93,000 more than last year to meet expenses. This would equate to an increase in the District General Rate of 1.69%. However, if put onto the UAGC, it would raise that to \$255. In view of the recent revaluations, with particularly sharp rises in coastal properties, it was considered that increasing the UAGC was the fairer way to go.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the
15th to 21st March 2004

Tuesday 16th March
- Water and Waste Consultative Committee
Thursday 18th March
- LTCCP Extraordinary Meeting.



Reminder

- HAURAKI PLAINS MEMORIAL WALL - cut off date for this terms inscriptions is this Friday 19 March.
- Inscription application forms are available from the Council service centres.
- FUNDING EXPO - Thames Civic Centre this Thursday 18 March 10am~2pm and 6pm~8pm.

Gambling Policy

Council heard submissions on its draft gambling policy recently and adopted its policy with suitable amendments to take into account the submissions received. The 2003 gambling Act placed a requirement on Councils to formulate and enforce a policy relating to the use of Class 4 gaming machines, commonly known as "Pokies".

The objectives of Hauraki's policy are to ensure Council and the community has influence over the location of new Class 4 gambling and New Zealand Racing Board venues in the Hauraki District while:

- ❖ Allowing those who wish to participate in pokie machine and NXR gambling to do so within the Hauraki District, and
- ❖ To restrict the growth of gambling by:
 - Restricting the number of Class 4 gambling venues in the Hauraki District, and
 - Restricting the total number of pokie machines in the Hauraki District.
- ❖ To allow time for research into the social impacts of gambling.
- ❖ Eventually to restrict the number of machines in Hauraki District to meet the national average of machines per head of population.

Essentially the policy places a cap on venues and machines allowed within in the district. This approach was adopted because of the relatively high number of machines in our district compared to the national average.

There has been some criticism throughout the country at the haste with which local bodies have had to do the consultation required in order to enact this policy within the time frame allowed. This has not given time for the research needed to meet the requirements of the Act but Hauraki and probably many other councils have got round that by signalling that research will be done later. It is hoped that the required research in Hauraki can be done in association with other bodies such as the Waikato District Health Board.

Throughout the country, a wide range of approaches have been adopted, from laissez faire to capping or reduction of the numbers of gaming machines. It appears that Hauraki comes within the latter of the two extremes.

Waste Water Charges

Legally, Council must keep its sewerage account balanced. It cannot spend sewerage rates on anything else and it cannot spend other income on sewerage disposal. It is Council's policy to charge the same rate for waste water disposal wherever the service is available. At the present rating structure, the account would be in deficit for a number of years and we would be likely to get into trouble from Audit NZ. The deficit would occur because of extra facilities required to meet greater environmental standards, particularly in Waihi and Waitakaruru. To get closer to balancing the budget Council has agreed to raise the sewerage rate by \$40. This may have to rise again in future years.

The Process

The estimates will be included in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), the draft of which will be considered by Council at an extraordinary meeting on the 18th March. The draft will then become available to the public to look at in detail and you will be able to get a copy at Council offices and libraries at some time after this date. You may make submissions on any aspect of the plan that you wish, either to support or object. We will give you details of the submission process when the plan is available. Council will hear any verbal submissions on the third of June and then will decide whether to amend the plan in accordance with the submissions. The final plan has to be in place by the 30th June.

Flood Relief Fund

After an initial donation of \$500, Council considered what more it could do towards the relief of those affected by the terrible floods in the lower North Island. It was decided that \$10,000 be granted to flood relief and that a subcommittee of the Mayor, Basil Morrison and the Chairman of the Planning and Finance Committee, Mary Carmine, together with the Chief Executive should decide which of the many relief funds the money should be paid to. Council is appreciative of other Councils' support whenever there has been a disaster in our area such as the subsidence in Waihi and floods in Paeroa in the past.

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



GILMOUR LAKE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT
CONCEPT PLAN PRESENTATION
COUNCIL SERVICE CENTRE
SEDDON STREET WAIHI
10:00AM to 2:00PM
SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2004

Members of public are invited to view plans and information, discuss the project with Councillors, staff and Boffa Miskell (designer). This is your reserve, your comments about it are valuable and will enable the reserve development to be community driven - come along and have your say!

Joy Mickleson
COMMUNITY FACILITIES MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME FUNDING FOR LOCAL ARTS

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ARTS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED.

THE SCHEME FOCUSES ON PROJECTS THAT INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN THE RANGE AND DIVERSITY OF ARTS, WITHIN THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL OFFICES AT:

WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA
SEDDON STREET, WAIHI
ORCHARD ROAD, NGATEA

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4:00pm
WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2004

For further information contact:

John McIver
Hauraki District Council
07 862 8609
Toll Free within District 0800 734 834

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 March 2004.

An Extraordinary Meeting for the purpose of considering the draft LTCCP to be held on Wednesday 10 March 2004 at 9.00am will now be held on Thursday 18 March 2004 at 10.00am in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2004 10.00AM

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.

LD Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE