



HDC NEWS



That Plan

Anyone who has been reading this page regularly will now be familiar with the term LTCCP. For those who are not, it stands for Long Term Council Community Plan and the reason we have been stressing it (and possibly stressing over it) recently, is that it is a very important document as it outlines all the things that Council does and all the things it plans to do over the next ten years. In the new Local Government Act, the LTCCP replaces the Annual Plan and is produced every three years. Hauraki is producing its first LTCCP this year. Next year there will be an Annual Plan again but it does not have to be as detailed as Annual Plans used to be, as all the detail is in the LTCCP. The three year interval is carefully chosen. The Plan is produced before an election so if there is a complete change in elected membership after the election the new Council cannot radically change the direction of Council without rigorous consultation with the community. The idea is to promote stability in decision making.

Council considered the first draft of Hauraki's LTCCP recently and were impressed by the readability of the document that the staff had produced. It is expected that the final document will be a useful tool for new staff and prospective new councillors to come to grips with the functions of Council. It is well set out with lots of questions and answers, diagrams and graphs. As "Alice in Wonderland" would say, "Plenty of pictures and conversations." Council receives the final draft at an extraordinary meeting on the 5th of April and hopefully will approve the document for publication at that date. The plan will then be made available to the public so you should see a public notice to that effect on this page next week and it will be available on the internet from that date. You can get a copy from Council offices and libraries from the 8th April.

We recommend that you read the LTCCP, or at least the parts of it that interest you, and you may be surprised at how interesting it is. **Submissions on the plan will be called for and will close on the 19th May. Council will consider those submissions, may amend the plan accordingly, and will adopt the final plan on the 24th June.**

More on Balancing the Budget

Part of the LTCCP is, of course, the budget for the year and projected expenditure for future years. A couple of weeks ago we mentioned that this year we needed \$93,000 more than last year. We apologise that we gave the wrong impression that that amount could be raised by adding \$5 to the UAGC with no increase in the general rate. This was not correct. A \$5 increase would still have meant a 1.5% increase in the district general rate. What councillors have now decided is that the extra amount should be raised by increasing only the UAGC, with no increase in the general rate, but this will mean a \$15 increase in the UAGC. The reason for this decision is two-fold. Firstly, Council has a policy to increase the UAGC to as close as possible to the 30% maximum limit that is allowed by law as it is felt that this is fairer to the community as a whole. With the extra \$15 the UAGC will stand at around 27.7% of the rate take. Secondly, with revaluations having taken place last year, there are a lot of movements in values throughout the district, which will shift the proportion of the rate take that different sectors will pay. By adding the increase to the UAGC, rather than the general rate, there is greater stability.

The other change that came from the LTCCP meeting was a decision regarding the sewerage rate. In recent years the sewerage rate has gone up \$50 per year as it is necessary to get to a higher level to balance the sewerage budget. Remember, we cannot use money from any other source to pay for sewerage and we cannot use sewerage money to pay for anything else. Although we announced that the sewerage rate would rise by \$40 this year, it was noted that the rate varied throughout the district and in keeping with our policy of having the same fee throughout the district councillors decided to raise everyone's sewerage rate to \$415 this year. This will mean differing increases for different sewerage schemes but no one will pay more than a \$50 increase and it will get everyone in line.

You may have your say on this and any other matter raised in the LTCCP by making a submission before the 19th May 2004.

Summer Water Pressures

It is hard to remember the dry days of January after the wettest February most of us can remember but before our request for water savings brought the rain, a problem was developing on the Hauraki Plains in various areas with very low water pressures.

The Hauraki Plains water supply was never meant to be an "on demand" supply. Farmers have always been asked to provide 24 hours storage on their farms. In recent years there has been a growing tendency to move away from on farm storage because of a feeling of security with the current supply. It is, however still necessary for each farm to have its own 24 hour storage particularly during dry periods to ensure a 24 hour service. Increased stocking rates and even an increase in

What The Long Term Council Community Plan Is Not

The LTCCP defines and describes the services that the Council will provide over the next three years in detail and the subsequent seven years in summary form.

In delivering these services Council will be seeking to achieve the community outcomes as detailed and to further improve the (social, economic, environmental and cultural) community well-beings.

Over the life of the Plan the Council will still be required to follow the democratic decision-making process after carefully considering all views on any particular issue.

It clearly will not be able to satisfy all sectors at the community and it must remain responsible for balancing competing interests and finally making decisions.

Community Safety Initiative

With the withdrawal of government funding from the Safer Community Councils (SCC's) in favour of funding crime prevention projects, Council has changed the structure of 'Safer Hauraki' to be a sub-committee within Council. From recommendations from Safer Hauraki, Council's Planning and Finance Committee has recommended to Council a structure for the Community Safety sub-committee consisting of:

- * A councillor from each ward
- * Representatives from
 - Police
 - WINZ
 - CYFS
 - The Probation Service
 - Community Health
 - Schools
 - Other community groups
 - Iwi

The Community Safety Sub-committee will report to the Planning and Finance Committee, which reports to Council.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 29th March
to the 4th April 2004:



No meetings scheduled!!!

houses due to subdivision in some areas, such as Turua, mean an increased demand. What was happening during the last dry spell was that farms at the extremities of the supply were finding that, even with storage, their tanks were not filling during the night. This was because farms closer to the supply that do not have a pressure problem were taking all the water. It is therefore important that these farms also have storage to even out the demand and allow everyone a fair go.

The Kerepehi plant has only six to eight hours of storage. For this reason maintenance on the plant is done only during the winter when demand is at its lowest. Council is looking at various options to improve the situation, including the provision of more water storage at the plant. Some research could well be an advantage to gain information on herd densities, likely demand for horticultural practices and changing farming patterns. Meanwhile make sure you have the required 24 hour storage on your farm before next summer.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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 April 2004.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, William Street, Paeroa.

MONDAY 5 APRIL 2004 WARD COMMITTEES
PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 1.00 PM
WAIHI 1.30 PM (Hauraki Room)

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
MONDAY 5 APRIL 2004 12.30PM - 1.00PM

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES
TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2004 10.00 AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2004 9.00 AM

THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2004
10.00 AM WORKS COMMITTEE
1.00 PM PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

HAURAKI COROMANDEL DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2004 10.00AM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2004, (if required) 9.00 AM

EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2004 10.00 AM

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2004, 10.30 AM

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2004, 10.00 AM

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Crime Prevention Projects

With the new structure of a Community Safety Sub-committee, comes the responsibility for proposing and evaluating projects that may qualify for funding from the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU).

The Committee has recommended application to the CPU for funding for four projects.

- Family at Risk - This project is about public awareness identifying behaviour types, consequences related to behaviour and helping agencies or services that can be involved with assisting individuals to modify their behaviour.
- Theft Vehicle - This project is aimed at raising public awareness of the need to secure vehicles and their contents and to mount spontaneous but organised patrols by identified community patrol members in high risk areas.
- Burglary - This project is targeted at raising awareness for owners to take responsibility in securing their property then to raise the profile of community groups that patrol the streets.
- Drug Awareness - The project is to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to information sharing between agencies and the community in order to overcome the poor liaison or lack of understanding between government, non government or community based organisations on the drug issue. The CPU decision will not be known until late June.