



HDC NEWS



Community Survey

In October and November 2004 a market research company conducted the survey Council holds every three years. There were two agreed themes of the survey: to ask the community what it wants to see achieved in the Hauraki District for their future well being and to explore a number of key issues relating to perceptions of satisfaction with and performance of the Council. The results of the survey will assist Council to initiate community outcome identification process and to manage the provision of services in the short and longer term.

Five hundred telephone interviews with a random sample of residents from each ward were completed and 300 of the 500 respondents were additionally randomly asked questions on the future well being of the district. Quotas were enforced according to age, ethnicity and gender to ensure that a proportionally representative sample of the population was obtained. Respondents were all aged 18 years or older. 57% of respondents were urban based and 43% were rural based. The overall results have a margin of error of +/- 4.4% at the 95% confidence level. There were five key themes on the future well being questions:

- Economic development especially the encouragement of new industry and improved levels of employment.
- Tourism encouragement to improve the economy - promotion of the district as a desirable place to both live and visit.
- A sense of community. Included here was the provision of facilities for recreation sport, cultural, social and entertainment and including enhancing existing facilities. This sense of belonging also extended to caring for each other through neighbourhood watch and voluntary support for different groups in the community and also to high levels of consultation and connectivity through strong communication networks.
- Improvements to standards of infrastructure such as roads and footpaths as these were identified by respondents as a vision for a prosperous district. Respondents were also likely to value improvements in the availability of public transport.
- Quality medical services. Desires for improvement in current services after hours and emergency services and the recruitment and retaining of medical staff.

When it came to satisfaction with Council's services most respondents were satisfied with each of the Council services and activities which were the subject of the survey. The highest levels of satisfaction were with parks and reserves, street lighting and public libraries. The highest levels of dissatisfaction were with the quality of footpaths (29% dissatisfied), dog control (23%) and quality of roads (22%). However, when the remarks made by respondents are looked at, it is clear that a number of those who expressed dissatisfaction with the roads were talking about the State Highways which are not under Council control. Council cannot, however, avoid criticism of the footpaths and the lack of footpaths and unsuitability of some footpaths for mobility scooters is clearly something Council needs to be aware of and to rectify.

Other interesting points to come from the survey include the desire of over 75% of the population for Council to be involved in recycling of rubbish but that the majority of these did not wish to pay for such initiatives. Almost three quarters of respondents felt that rates should not be raised to allow for the requisite increased levels of Council involvement in additional activities.

In the Waihi ward 92% of those surveyed believe that gold mining provides economic benefit for Waihi and 82% feel that they are not adversely affected by mining operations. Of those that were, the common themes were vibration, pollution, noise, and property devaluation.

Code of Conduct

Council's Code of Conduct is an accord made by the elected membership stating what relationships and behaviours, built on mutual respect and trust, will exist when dealing with other elected members, staff and the general public.

The obligation on a local authority to adopt a Code of Conduct is relatively new in this country but the provision for a code of conduct has for some time been part of the local authority obligations in the UK. Council adopted its Code of Conduct in November 2003. As this is the beginning of a new term of office for councillors it was seen as an opportune time to review the Code of Conduct to see if it fulfils current needs.

At its meeting in early December Council passed the review over to the Remuneration Sub-committee to look at and to come back to Council with a recommendation. Council will also appoint a committee for adjudication on matters of concern relating to the Code.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the
24th to the 30th January 2005:
Thursday 27th January:
Full Council Meeting



Getting The Balance Right

Respondents to the Hauraki survey placed considerable emphasis on economic development and tourism which is not altogether surprising as everyone needs the means of survival for their well being above all else, so the provision of jobs is obviously going to be foremost in people's minds. If, however, questions are phrased differently responses can be seen to be contradictory. In a survey done by Environment Waikato in recent years a different emphasis was found from the Waikato population. Ninety percent of those surveyed said a healthy environment is necessary for a healthy economy and eighty two percent said it was not OK to sacrifice environmental quality for economic growth. A recent government survey about what was important to New Zealanders put quality of life at number one and quality of the environment at number three with economic growth at number ten. The trick is to see that they are all related. Quality of life cannot be upheld without economic growth but economic growth must not be at the expense of the environment or the quality of life suffers.

A quote from Robert Kennedy that has been used to de-emphasise the importance of economic growth has some validity but should be read in the knowledge that it was spoken by a man who was a millionaire and had never had to worry where his next meal came from.

"Gross National Product measures neither the health of our children, the quality of their education, nor the joy of their play. It measures neither our wisdom, nor our learning, neither our wit nor our courage. It measures everything, in short except that which makes life worth living..."

In other words quality of life depends firstly on the ability of people to provide for the necessities of life and secondly on all those other things that make life worth living. The balance is what Councils and central government always strive to get right - keeping the environment healthy and attractive while allowing, and indeed encouraging, sustainable industries to provide for people's needs.

Council has seen its role as a creator and defender of an environment which attracts people and thus business, industry and services so long as these do not alter that environment. The balance is the difficult thing to achieve.

We finish with another quote - this time from a popular song -

"Nobody said it was easy. Nobody said it would be this hard..." - "The Scientist" - Coldplay.

Gilmour Reserve Waihi -

Landscape Development Stage 1 Main Carpark/Toilet Upgrade

Work will commence on February 1st on the first stage of the planned redevelopment of Gilmour Reserve in Waihi. The main carpark will be increased in size, the entranceway enhanced with planting and paving, new park furniture installed and a new toilet block erected.

The reserve is a very popular spot with both locals and visitors, and users enjoy stopping to feed the birds, walk around the lake, watch the regular model boating displays, or just relax and enjoy the quiet peacefulness of the park.

Local contractors Works Infrastructure Ltd of Paeroa, have been awarded the contract for this first stage, and expect the work will take one month to complete. Plants are being supplied and planted by the H.E.L.P nursery based behind Waihi College. As with any improvement, there will be some disruption to services while changes take place. Access to the toilets will be closed while the old block is demolished and the new block installed - this will take about 2 weeks. Alternative loops are available at Morgan Park, off Clarke St, and at Haszard St and Victoria (Rocket) Park. Parking will also be limited while the carpark and bus bay are redeveloped.

Park users are asked to obey all safety signs and directions when they visit the park during February.

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 February 2005.

- All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa.
- CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES
TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2005, 10.00 AM
- HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2005, 9.00 AM (confirmed)
- TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2005, WARD COMMITTEES
PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 12.30 PM
WAIHI 2.30 PM
- COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2005, 10.00 AM
- HAURAKI COROMANDEL DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2005, 10.00 AM
- HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2005, (if required)
9.00 AM
- OPIKEKO DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2005, 9.30 AM
- KOMATA NORTH DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2005, 11.00 AM
- TIROHIA-ROKOHU DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2005, 1.30 PM
- EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2005, 10.00 AM
- WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2005, 10.30 AM
- COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2004, 10.00 AM

CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to Section 11(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of resurfacing the Waitawheta Bridge for Hauraki District Council 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: Thursday 27th and Friday 28th
January from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Road to be closed: Waitawheta Road (RP 17m - 67m) at the intersection with State Highway 2.

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic:
Divert via SH 2 / Kenny Street / Victoria Street / Frankton Road

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person other than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

L D Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONTRACT HDC 294 HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL UPGRADING OF THE WAIHI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ELECTRICAL AND SCADA SYSTEMS

Tenders are invited for supply, installation and commissioning of the Electrical and SCADA Systems required for the upgrading of the Waihi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Work involves a new MSB, Distribution Boards, modifications to existing MSB, Cabling, new PLC system, communications interfaces, programming and Telemetry

Tender documents are available by depositing a cheque (\$200.00) with OPUS International Consultants, OPUS House, Princes St, Hamilton.
Postal address: Private Bag 3057, Hamilton.
Faxed enquiries to Mark Curtis or John Crawford: (07) 838 9324 or Email: mark.curtis@opus.co.nz or john.crawford@opus.co.nz

Tenders shall be placed in the tender box at the Paeroa Hauraki District Council Office no later than 4pm Wednesday, 9 February 2005.

K. Thompson
DISTRICT ENGINEER