



HDC NEWS



The Building Act

ENFORCEMENT

With the passing of the new building Act and the strengthening of the Codes of Compliance Council has needed to have a look at its practices surrounding the enforcement of these Codes of Compliance. In the past Council has been, perhaps, a little lenient on the issues of non-compliance but is now sharpening up its act on these issues. In future when matters of non compliance are noted the following steps will be carried out:

1. Discussions with the parties involved.
2. If no result, a Notice to rectify will be issued.
3. If this and further discussions fail, legal proceedings will be instituted.
4. Continuing efforts will be made to resolve the non-compliance.
5. If still no result, legal action will be proceeded with.

The need to institute legal proceedings promptly has been necessitated by the requirement that it must be done within six months of noting the infringement.

PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

Council is working towards the necessary certification and accreditation, as required by the new Building Act. It is also working towards aligning procedures with the Thames-Coromandel District Council. A contract has been let for the production of the many forms required under the new Act. This has been done in association with thirteen other councils to reduce costs. The next step in the process is for the consultant and the staff to work together to produce the quality control manual required by the Act. As you can imagine all this preparation is taking considerable staff time and will continue to do so until well after the new Act comes into force.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Council is in the process of facilitating a number of workshops on identifying community outcomes. Community outcomes are visions of what the community would like to see in the future for Hauraki District. The response to the workshops has been outstanding, and the responses coming in for the final few workshops are also looking to have excellent attendance. In the workshops held so far there has been over 150 people contributing really great ideas and some well thought goals and future aspirations are being identified.

If you would like to attend one of the final two workshops, please make contact with Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 as soon as possible to register. There is a workshop to be held in Waihi at 7pm tonight and the final of the workshops in Ngatea tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm.

Even if you can't make these workshops, but you would still like to participate in the process, it is not too late. Once all the outcomes have been collated, there is the opportunity at further workshops to confirm what has been identified and start prioritising what needs to come first. Let Council know your mailing details and we can send the information to you directly in about 6 week's time. You may email your details directly to submissions@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY WORKER

A function paying tribute to Mrs Lila Clark of Ngatea took place recently at the Ngatea War Memorial Hall supper room. The hall was packed with friends, relations and people whose lives Lila had touched over the years when the Mayor, John Tregidga, presented Mrs Clark with a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the Hauraki District for her service to the Plains community over many years and in many capacities. Mrs Clark also received a Hauraki Coat of Arms.

Mrs Clark, as well as raising her own children, fostered many others as well as being the post mistress at the Patetonga Post Office for many years. After that she became active in victim support and as a volunteer at the Ngatea Police Station, being called out at all hours of the night to attend accidents and emergencies to give help and support to those involved, with cups of tea and scones. Because of the loving care that she has given people in the community over the years she is known to many as Mum. The secret of the presentation was well kept from Mrs Clark who thought she was going to quite a different event and was therefore very surprised to find that she was the honoured guest.



EASTERN WAIKATO ROAD SAFETY

The Road Safety Partnership Group, which includes Councils, for the Eastern Waikato area has specifically targeted three areas in 2004. They were:

- Fatigue
- Drink driving
- Vulnerable road users.

FATIGUE

Fatigue, as a contributing crash factor, is higher in the Eastern Waikato area than other similar areas of New Zealand. Drivers do not take enough, if any, breaks while driving. The local road safety co-ordinator worked with New Zealand Police at check points on State Highway 27 to distribute the Drowsy Driver cards and provide the driver with a Kit Kat. The cards give handy hints on avoiding fatigue. Other aspects of the campaign included billboards and radio advertising.

Findings from the campaign were that there is a lack of awareness amongst drivers of the situations that can lead to drowsiness and symptoms of fatigue.

If you feel tired while driving, pull over and have a break.

DRINK DRIVING

Alcohol, as a contributing crash factor, has increased in the Eastern Waikato area over the last three years and is predominantly a rural issue. Consuming alcohol lowers driving performance and affects driving behaviour. As a driver's alcohol level increases so does the risk of them being involved in a crash. At check points the Road Safety Co-ordinator worked with police to distribute cards saying: "Which Home R U Heading to..." along with a Kit Kat as a reward for reading the card. A billboard and radio campaign also highlighted the issue to the public.

Findings from the campaign were that 40% of drivers believe that there is only a small risk of being caught drinking and driving. A small group of regular high risk drink drivers make up only 1% of all drivers on the road at night and weekends but are responsible for nearly half the crash fatalities at that time.

VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Pedestrian and cyclists crashes were identified as an issue. Last year three of every four crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists were people aged less than 20 years. The risk of a pedestrian dying when hit by a vehicle travelling at 30k/h is 10% - at 60k/h it is 90%.

Ruben the Road Safety Bear distributed material at "well child week" functions. At "Have a Go Day" and Push Play Day, "Street Skills" and "Bike Wise" material was also distributed. There were also safe driving forums for the elderly held at various community group gatherings.

Findings from the campaign were that the level of involvement by key stakeholders encourages an increase in awareness for safety of pedestrians, cyclists and the older driver.

Material for this article is taken from the Road Safety Partnerships 2004 pamphlet put out by Land Transport New Zealand.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 21st to the 27th Mar:



Thursday 24th Mar:

Hearing (if required)

PUBLIC NOTICE



LIQUOR BANS 2005

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Liquor Ban Bylaw 2004 that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possessions of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS

Whiritoa

- All public places including Roads, Beaches and Reserves.

EASTER 2005

Dates and Times

During the Easter Public Holiday period being from 4.00pm Thursday 24th March 2005 to 4.00am Tuesday 29th March 2005 inclusive.

PENALTIES: ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBITION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO \$20000.00.

POWERS OF POLICE: THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL LIQUOR BAN BYLAW 2004 AUTHORISES ANY MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE TO ACT UNDER SECTIONS 169 AND 170 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002, INCLUDING THE EXERCISE OF THE POWER UNDER SECTION 170(2) TO IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE SEARCH A CONTAINER OR VEHICLE.

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 2005.

Unless otherwise advised, all meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES
TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2005, 10.00 AM

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2005, 1.00PM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2005, 9.00 AM (if required)
THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2005, 9.00 AM (if required)

TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2005, WARD COMMITTEES
PLAINS 9.00 AM
PAEROA 12.30 PM
WAIHI 2.30 PM

COUNCIL MEETINGS
THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2005, 9.00 AM
FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2005, 9.00 AM

EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2005, 10.00 AM

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2005, 10.30 AM

LD CAVERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE