



HDC

NEWS



Installing a fireplace this winter?

Newly introduced Resource Management Regulations have resulted in greater restrictions concerning the installation of woodburner fire places.

These restrictions will help limit the emission of particles into the air which in turn is limiting other harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide. This will in the long run contribute to a reduction in associated health problems.

On those properties under 2 hectares in size, the amount of particles legally allowed to be released into the air from a woodburner fireplace is now minimal. It is unlikely that second hand wood burners will comply with the new standards.

While fire place manufacturers will be producing woodburner models that meet the new standard, purchasers of fireplaces need to be weary as even some new existing stock may struggle to comply with the standard if the woodburner is not fully installed by 1st September 2005.

New woodburner installations already require you to obtain a building consent from Council for fire safety reasons and all second hand fires are required to be tested and certified. The difference is now Council will also check that the woodburner meets the national environmental woodburner standard during the building consent process.

If you have any queries about the installation of a wood burner fireplace, please call Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

Coping with the Property Boom

Since last year it has become apparent, in Waihi in particular, that the property boom has depleted the number of sections available to build on and that there is a huge demand for residential lots, with few for sale. Councillors and staff have been giving this some consideration and it is clear that something must be done urgently to make more residential land available. While Council is at present working towards reviewing its District Plan that process will take about two years to complete and land for building on is needed now.

It has therefore been decided to proceed with a Plan Change to rezone some land around the outskirts of Waihi "residential" before progressing with a full review of zoning in the Plan Review. A number of land owners have approached the Council to have their land rezoned because they are interested in subdividing and these areas will be considered first, however, other areas of land that look as though they would be good for residential purposes have also been considered.

The first step in the process is consultation with land owners and neighbouring land owners of the affected pieces of land. This may result in some areas being withdrawn from the plan change and others being added. We are at a very early stage in the process and the last thing Council wants to do is to put time and energy into going through the process of rezoning with landowners who do not want their land rezoned.

Over the next few weeks we will keep you informed through this page as to the stages of the process and the pieces of land that may be affected. Councillors on the District Plan Committee and other Ward Councillors are planning a tiki tour this week to look at the areas recommended by our consultants before letters go out to affected land owners.

Remember if you get a letter, or even if you don't and think you should have, and are worried about it do not hesitate to ring the council and speak to the planning staff. The process is highly flexible at this stage and we are always open to suggestions.

Paeroa Financial Grants

The Paeroa Ward Committee approved a grant of \$165 to pay for the resource consent for the Paeroa Bible Chapel, which was charged when they built an office and counselling room at the front of the chapel. The group runs an after school club for children, a weekend youth group for teenagers and a place for elderly folk to meet and participate. The extra space will provide an area for counselling services. It should be noted that, while Council cannot waive a resource consent charge, it can grant money from another source, in this case the Ward, to pay for it.

A grant was also made to the Special Olympics Thames Valley for \$85 to pay for the cost of hall hire for the Paeroa War Memorial Hall. The Special Olympics group uses the main hall for indoor bowls and the small hall for morning tea and lunch.

A request for funding from the Paeroa Golf Club for painting the clubhouse was deferred until the club had sent in their financial information.

Belmont Road/Willoughby Street Walkway

Requests to provide gates for each end of the alley way between Belmont Road and Willoughby St to prevent vandalism and antisocial behaviour at night have resulted in a report to the Paeroa ward on costs. The quote for the gates was \$1200 plus GST. If it is found necessary to install a greater degree of security, an extra steel panel can be added to prevent people climbing over. This would be an extra cost as would the keys and locks for the gates. Later it is also envisaged that the walls of the walkway will be painted with anti-graffiti paint. The ward has agreed to install the gates and the money for them will come from the Paeroa Community Facilities rate.

Zone Meeting

Zone Two of Local Government New Zealand, which covers the area south of Auckland as far as Gisborne and Taupo in the south, meets every couple of months in a different place. In April it was Hauraki's turn to host the meeting. It was held at the Paeroa Racecourse and there was a good attendance from a large number of the Councils throughout the zone. As could be expected for a 'home game', most of the Hauraki councillors also attended.

The meetings are an opportunity to be informed about what is happening on a national level in local government, for areas of concern to be aired and taken on to a national level, to hear presentations from a range of groups who wish to get their 'cases' recognised by local government and for councillors to network with councillors from other areas.

Delegates heard presentations from Toll Holdings regarding the rail network and what is planned for the future, from DoC about its work in the region, particularly the Karangahake area and from the WCCC about the plans for Waihi post mining. This latter caused considerable interest as it dwelt on the process of planning for the community's future in consultation with that community, something all communities have to do. As the presentation was slick and entertaining it was clear that delegates were impressed and it is understood that an elected member from a neighbouring authority has asked for it to be presented to a group in their area to show what can be done.

All in all, the meeting was a great success and something Hauraki was able to be proud of.

Elected Members' Diary

For the week of the 16th to the 22nd May:
No scheduled meetings



Transmission Line Update

Transpower has announced that it is to make public its interim decision on the preferred route of power pylons on the 14th May. This will be followed by a further period when people can make submissions before a final decision in early July. For further information you can visit the website www.gridupgrade.co.nz or call 0800 33 88 66.

On Your Feet! On Your Bike!

How do you get more people walking and cycling in Hauraki District? This is the focus of a study that Opus International Consultants Ltd is undertaking for Hauraki District Council. Opus wants to hear from people who walk or cycle in the District. Information is wanted about popular walking and cycling routes, specific hazards or problems on these routes, barriers to pedestrian or cycle movement, and suggestions for improvements. The study is also considering the needs of people using wheelchairs and mobility scooters to get around. The public is invited to complete and return a simple questionnaire and to mark specific locations and routes on maps. The questionnaire and maps are available from the Council's offices in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi. Return is requested by Friday, 27 May. For more information, please contact Paul Ryan (Opus) at Paeroa (07) 862-7732 ext 7795.