



HDC NEWS



Economic Development Report

This is the 3rd of the series on Economic Development in our region

This time I want to provide some further insight into the Regional Partnership programme that was designed to help regions develop their resources and thereby provide better employment opportunities, more export growth and a better standard of living for our communities.

Over the past two years we have attracted \$236,000 of Central Government funding to provide capability building assistance to a number of projects within the region. This has allowed work to be carried out on Heritage and Cultural Tourism, Aquaculture, Creative Business and Customer care. This work has been of great benefit to these industries.

The Waihi Community Vision group has recently established a Trust (Waihi Vision Trust) and appointed Eddie Morrow to develop their 2020 Vision. We are working with the Waihi Vision Trust to help progress these visions. The objective is to develop a concept on how Waihi can become a major visitor attraction and gain a good commercial return from its assets. Applications for funding to undertake some of this work will be made to The Regional Partnerships Programme.

Leadership (Update)

Last year we ran a Leadership Programme for 38 people who are involved in aspects of leadership in their local communities. On the programme these people were exposed to some very high level industry leaders who discussed their leadership methods and what they believed were the keys to good leadership. No one will disagree that without good leadership we will not have good growth in our region. This in turn helps to raise the standard of living for our communities. A further 2 day programme will be run in June.

Councillors in Thames Coromandel and Hauraki have been asked to identify people in their communities who would benefit from this exposure. A maximum of 40 places are available. The programme is provided free of charge to the chosen participants.

Karangahake Gorge

Each year 100,000 to 150,000 people visit and walk the Karangahake Gorge and, thanks to the excellent work that the Dept of Conservation has done, they are able to have a very special experience at absolutely no cost. We see that there is a huge opportunity for commercial activity in the Karangahake Gorge to capitalise on these existing visitors and to attract further visitors.

An excellent report has been prepared on the assets and opportunities for the Karangahake Gorge and this has been done following extensive consultation with existing businesses, residents, Transit, Environment Waikato, DOC, HDC etc. An action plan has been developed from the report and we are now looking at how it can be implemented.

Extractive Industries

Hauraki is extremely fortunate to have mineral reserves with gold and silver and road metal extraction providing both income and employment opportunities. Waihi in particular benefits from the Martha Hill and Favona gold and silver mines and the mining company, Newmont Waihi Gold, has worked closely with the community to develop the community's visions for the future.

All the extractive industries in the area provide the opportunity for training in the skills associated with this industry.

Chris Hale, Economic Development

Earthquake Prone Building Policy

The Policy that Council is obliged to have relating to earthquake prone and dangerous and unsanitary buildings has been released for public consultation and submissions have been received and considered by Council. The Hearing of submissions was adjourned, however, as councillors felt a little more work should be done on options, and were keen to hear a verbal submission from the Historic Places Trust who were unable to come on the original day.

Although Council felt it had taken a low key approach to the situation it appears likely that the original policy will be relaxed further to make it easier to do small alterations and improvements to buildings without triggering the whole earthquake proofing process.

Draft Hauraki Community Plan

Just a reminder that submissions on the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2006-16 close next week, Thursday 4th May, so if you would like to comment on the proposed actions of Council for the next 10 years, make sure you call Council on 07 262 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) or get online www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz to get hold of a submission form if you don't already have one!

Karangahake - Getting Value

The popularity of the Karangahake reserve area that leads to the many picturesque and fascinating historic spots around the Gorge area that have been developed by the Department of Conservation has led to a desire by Council for the community to cash in on the popularity and to give the community some economic benefit.

Two expressions of interest have been lodged with Council for the use of small areas of the reserve for low key tourist type ventures and Council has to decide on the possible use of small areas for commercial use. The other aspect of commercial use is that of signage and whether some sort of notice board should be allowed in the reserve to allow for advertising of local businesses.

Councillors found it difficult to make a decision on the subject with the information available, particularly as any permit to use the reserve for commercial use will undoubtedly open the gates to further submissions. The matter was therefore deferred so that Council could have a full workshop on the subject and consider the recently released report on the Karangahake gorge area at the same time.

Waitakaruru's New Sewerage System

Work is continuing on the connection of properties to the new sewerage system at Waitakaruru. It is now 80% completed with approximately 12 houses left to connect to the system. Monitoring of the plant's performance shows that at the present time the ammonia levels in the effluent are still too high but they are improving. It appears that it takes time for the nitrifying bacteria that convert the ammonia to nitrates need time to build up their population. It is expected to be working properly in about a month's time. A home owner's guide to the system is currently being produced.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 24th to the 30th April 2006:

Thursday 27th April 2006 - Full Council Meeting

SITUATION VACANT

HAURAKI

CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER

We are looking for a person with excellent management and leadership skills who can mentor and motivate our dedicated team towards promoting excellence in customer service. We need someone who has a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards our customer service vision, strategy and values and a high standard of integrity.

The Customer Service Manager plays a key role in helping promote a customer service ethic throughout the organisation. There will be issues to resolve, management practices to develop and systems to implement. You will need to possess strong communication skills and a passion for providing outstanding customer service.

An understanding of customer service principles and proven experience in management will be essential for you to be successful in this role.

For Application forms and Job Descriptions please contact HR Advisors Sue Greenville or Christine Laurenson

(07) 862 8609

E-mail jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or

Visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Application packs are also available from the Council's offices in Paeroa, Ngatea or Waihi.

Applications close on 11th May 2006

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