



HDC NEWS



Governance Review

Last week we mentioned the review of the portfolio system of governance that Council had undertaken recently. The review of portfolios was part of an overall review of the governance structure of Council which includes:

- Council Committees
- Council Advisory Committees
- Portfolios
- Council appointments
- Ward Appointments.

As well as the general issue of portfolios that was discussed in last week's article, there was discussion on the committee structure and on the specifics of how the portfolios were working out. It was noticed that one of the committees, the economic development committee, had met on very few occasions. Other committees, it was felt, were working well and the practice of having two Council meetings per month met with general favour but some councillors felt that more detail should be available on specific works programmes as councillors felt they needed to be better informed on the everyday working of Council. It was decided that managers of various departments should report to council on a rotational basis on projects that their departments are involved in and the issues surrounding them.

When it came to the detail of the portfolios, it was felt that the network services portfolio was rather too big and it was decided to split solid waste off it. This means that Councillor Ian Troughton loses solid waste from his large portfolio of sewerage, water and solid waste and the solid waste section is taken up by Councillor George Gray. George also then replaces Ian on the Water and Waste Consultative Committee. In another change, Don Challis has been appointed to the Quarry Committee as an extra member.

Earthquake Prone Buildings

In line with the requirement for assessing risk attributable to natural hazards all Councils have to make an assessment of their earthquake prone buildings. This is a requirement of the new Building Act and could well be a huge task in places like Wellington.

Hauraki has commissioned a report by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences on the matter. Firstly the institute looked at where earthquakes are likely to occur, secondly how severe they are likely to be, thirdly the vulnerability of buildings in the district and lastly the value of the buildings and the numbers of people in them at various times of the day. Putting all these together they could come up with a risk estimate for casualties and damage.

Although Hauraki has the Kerepehi fault running through it, the seismic hazard for our district is listed as low. Added to that, the number of earthquake prone buildings is also relatively low and our population is not dense. All these factors come together in the report to indicate a relatively low risk. The report gives the likelihood of one death from the sort of earthquake that is likely to occur on the Kerepehi fault if it occurred during the day and one moderate injury only if it occurred at night.

Using this report, Council officers have prepared a policy on earthquake prone and dangerous and insanitary buildings which will be released for consultation shortly. If you are interested you can obtain a copy from Council offices and may put in a submission on the policy. When Council has considered submissions, and amended the policy if necessary the policy will be adopted by Council.

Warm Homes

The Ministry for the Environment has recently been studying the environmental effects of home heating in its Warm Homes Project. It is well known that in winter New Zealanders tend to keep their homes colder than most other developed countries. This is thought to be a contributing factor towards some forms of illness, such as asthma, which are particularly prevalent in New Zealand. However, the favoured form of heating amongst New Zealanders is burning wood and fossil fuels which has a significant effect on air quality. The Ministry for the Environment's Warm Homes Project has trialled 19 homes in Tokoroa with new heating appliances and improved insulation and energy efficiency measures. The project engaged the community on the issue of poor air quality and discussed ways to achieve warmer more cost effective homes. A second trial is now underway in Timaru.



It is hoped to use what is learnt from these trials to improve energy efficiency in homes throughout New Zealand. If you want to know more about the Warm Homes Project see www.mfe.govt.nz.

Drinking Water Standards

The draft Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Bill is nearing completion and is expected to go to the Minister of Health by April this year.

Local Government has been concerned about the increase in costs that this Bill will put on to small local authorities without the rating base to absorb them. The intent of the Bill is to raise the standard of drinking water everywhere to comply with the National Drinking Water Standards. To do this the Bill adopts a risk minimisation and risk avoidance approach.



While some of Hauraki's supplies will need only small improvements, others are a long way off complying and, indeed, it was Council's view that it was difficult to justify improving the quality of the water that is used for stock watering, and cowshed washing down. Hauraki's general approach is to add all the small non complying supplies to one or other of the large supplies, thereby reducing the number of water treatment plants that need to be upgraded. This project will not be without cost though and although the Government is offering some subsidies for small supplies, there will still be an increase in ongoing maintenance and monitoring costs that will have to be borne by the ratepayer.

Because of these projected future capital and operational costs, the price of water will rise over the next few years as we start the major overhaul of the district water supplies.

It should also be noted that the same requirements are being put on any water supply that serves twenty five or more people. This will include supplies schools and camps throughout the district that are not on the town supply.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 20th to the 26th March 2006

Thursday March 23rd: Hearing

Waihi Underground Investigations

After collapses from old mining works in Waihi some years ago, a technical working party was put together to investigate the risks from the old mine workings. After their report was produced the working party disbanded. It has now been reconvened to look further into risk assessment in the area. A proposal for the work was expected from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences by the end of 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 April 2006.

All meetings are to be held in the Council Chambers, Williams Street, Paeroa *unless otherwise advised.

DISTRICT PLAN COMMITTEE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO PLAN CHANGE 10 - WAIHI REZONING MONDAY 3 APRIL / TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2006, 9.00 AM *CHAMBERS RESTAURANT, WAIHI
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WATER AND WASTES MONDAY 10 APRIL 2006, 10.00 AM
HEARINGS COMMITTEE THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2006, 9.00 AM (if required) THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2006, 9.00 AM (if required)
TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2006, WARD COMMITTEES PLAINS 9.00 AM PAEROA 12.30 PM WAIHI 2.30 PM COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2006, 9.00 AM THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2006, 9.00 AM
WESTERN PLAINS DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2006, 10.30 AM
EASTERN PLAINS DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2006, 1.30 PM
CLOSURE OF ROAD TO ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of an event organised by Thames Valley Car Club Inc. 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: Sunday 26 March 2006 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Road to be closed: Pukewera Road Waihi - from Murphy's Bridge to Taieri Road junction..

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic:
No traffic shall be held up for more than 30 minutes.

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

LD Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

