



# HDC NEWS



## Consent Activity

Predictions of a slow down in the building and property market have not yet manifested themselves in the Hauraki District. Resource consent activity is still high with 182 processed in the first few months of the year compared with 177 and 172 for the same period over the last two years. Building consents issued also remain high as do the requests for LIMs.

## Historic Place

The Historic Places Trust is proposing to register the Waihi Gold Dredging Plant and tramway as an historic area in the NZ Historic Places Trust register of Historic Places, historic areas, wahi tapu, and wahi tapu areas. The proposal has been publicly notified and notice has been served on the owners of the land and the Council. Council is not only the Territorial Authority but is also the landowner of a substantial part of the area, which is a recreation reserve.

The proposed area includes: the head of a water race and its associated masonry weir, part of the tramway (locally known as the rake line), the embankments of the Black Bridge crossing the Ohinemuri River and the remains of one of only 2 river-based gold dredging plant sites in the North Island.

Some of the area is privately owned but the area proposed does not include the house site of the privately owned property.

The Council had already recognised the significance of the site by making most of the area into a reserve when the land was subdivided. Council therefore supported the registration of the area and decided to consider it for inclusion in the District Plan Schedule of heritage features when the review of the District Plan is done.

## Drainage Committees

While the initial response to the Drainage Committee elections was not good with all vacancies not being filled, sufficient nominations for the extraordinary vacancies have now been received to form a quorum on the Eastern Plains and Paeroa Rural Drainage Committees.

Council is appreciative of all those who have given service on Drainage Committees, some for many years.

## Special Olympics Support

A request for support towards the Thames Valley Special Olympics bowls ribbon day met with a good response from councillors recently. The day is to be held at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall and the group was asking for assistance towards hall hire. As the group covers the whole district the request was put to each of the wards resulting in a \$300 donation - \$100 from each ward from their discretionary funds. This will more than cover the hall hire.

## More on LTCCP

A day and a half of public submissions and discussion were held a couple of weeks ago on this year's Long Term Council Community Plan. This plan is a forward planning document that looks to the next ten years and outlines Council's plans to that point. That does not mean that everything that is in the plan for the next ten years is set in concrete but it does mean that Council will need to consult with the community if it wants to vary the plan significantly. Every three years the plan is looked at again and adjustments made and annually the coming year is looked at in detail. As well as this, asset management plans, policies and bylaws continue to be revised to deal with changing conditions.

Councillors were impressed with the quality of submissions this year and it is clear that many individuals and groups have taken this planning document very seriously and have given it a lot of thought. After hearing all those who wanted to be heard, Council went through every submission and gave opinions on whether changes should be made to the Plan. After hearing the consensus, staff are to take away the thoughts of elected members and write up any changes before bringing a final copy back to Council for approval.

Each submitter will get a reply to his or her submission according to whether it was accepted or declined and the reasons why.

One of the things that came out of the process was a concern about the effect on rates if the current escalation in requests for money for social groups, doing very good work in the community, continues. Councils have been charged with considering the social wellbeing of their communities but to fund the multiplicity of social organisations that are now coming forward for a share of the rate take would be crippling to those on fixed incomes, in many cases the very people that the groups are assisting. The feeling at the council table was that social spending should be capped, with a certain amount in the budget each year that groups could apply for. In this way criteria would be laid down, applicants would have to provide copies of their financial accounts and each group could be weighed up against the others - a bit like the Hillary Commission funding used to be administered. The criteria and system will be worked out and is likely to be instituted in next year's Annual Plan. Meanwhile, some of the groups will receive funding and some will not.

Other than that, the main changes were small increases in some funding for the year such as Sport Waikato and the CAB.

## Keeping the Community Active

Council has applied to SPARC's Active Communities fund for initial funding for some coordinators to work towards getting our sporting organisations working together, to get more people involved in activity and to make maximum use of Council's many sporting facilities.

The initiative started with Waihi's Sport 'n' Action group who have a large number of the town's sporting organisations on board to present a one stop shop approach to sport. Eventually the group wishes to have a combined facility but the initial hope is for a coordinator who can drive the project.

In order to get SPARC funding the application had to come from Council and it is hoped that similar groups will get together in Paeroa and Ngatea with their own trust to employ coordinators in those areas.

Another innovative initiative that it is hoped the coordinators will drive is a computer data base of those who want to exercise but lack the motivation because they have no one to go with them. Like a dating agency, the coordinator would be able to put people in contact with others with similar needs so that they can support each other in their quest for exercise.

The result of the funding application is now awaited with interest.

## Use of Room in Grandstand

Two months ago the Youth Rugby Club in Ngatea had put a request to the Plains Ward Committee for the use of a room in the grandstand at the Hugh Hayward Domain for their after match functions. The Ward felt that they could more readily use the Hauraki Rugby Club clubrooms and they were offered use of this facility by this club. However, a meeting with the Youth Rugby Club revealed that they would far rather use the room in the grandstand as it is more convenient for them.

The group was therefore granted permission to use the room on condition that it does not become a permanent arrangement.

## Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the  
29th May to the 3rd June

Thursday June 1st:  
Extraordinary meeting - full Council

## Better Signage, Less Trees

The Waihi Ward is keen to get better signage on State Highway 2 indicating the whereabouts of Gilmour Lake. After much discussion at its last Ward meeting, elected members decided to accept the recommendations of Opus regarding the signage, but that a meeting should be held with them to discuss an additional sign which would give the name of the reserve.

The Ward also decided to remove the row of large pine trees at the rear of the reserve after an arborists's report that several of the trees are dangerous. Wood from the felled trees will be available for a time for the public to remove for firewood.

### PUBLIC NOTICE



#### KERBSIDE COLLECTION

Kerbside collection will continue over Queens Birthday weekend for Whiritoa on Monday 5th June. Collection will begin at 4.00pm on Monday 5th June 2006.

The Waihi and Paeroa transfer stations will be open on Monday 5th June during normal working hours.

If you have any queries please contact Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District).

#### RATING INFORMATION DATABASE

The rating Information Database for Hauraki District Council is available for public inspection During office hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday at the Council Offices at Williams Street, Paeroa, Orchard Road, Ngatea and Seddon Street, Waihi.

The Rating Information Database is also available on Council's website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) under Customer Services/Rates.

The Rating Information Database records all of the information required to set and assess rates on every rating unit. Ratepayers may object to information in the rating Information Database where information is incorrect or has been omitted.

Objections must be made in writing and posted to Rating Information Database Objections, Hauraki District Council P O Box 17 Paeroa.

#### RATES REMINDER

A reminder that all third instalment rates remaining unpaid after the close of business on Wednesday 31 May 2006 will incur a 10% penalty.

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