



HDC NEWS



District Plan Progress

The Council District Plan Committee has spent the last couple of years working through issues for the review of the District Plan. For most issues a consultant has been engaged to research the topic and put forward a position paper and councillors have had input into these. For some issues limited consultation with the public has taken place in the production of these position papers but now we are at the stage where full consultation needs to be engaged in to further our understanding of how the public feel before the Plan is written and publicly notified as a proposed Plan.

So far the Committee has developed policy direction to take forward for public consultation on the following issues:

- Mining - current approach to be carried forward
- Signs - current approach to be carried forward
- Historic heritage - and updated approach with comprehensive list of historic features with three degrees of protection
- Urban areas - specific approach for each town
- Effects of Climate Change - concentrate development in those areas that can be protected from sea level rise
- Rural subdivision - refine the existing approach to deal with specific geographic areas and review rural residential development and lifestyle subdivision. Encourage covenanting and protection of indigenous vegetation by using this as a trade off for subdivision consents
- Network Utilities - current approach to be carried forward
- Reserves - general approach to continue with maybe some reviews of specific areas.

At the last District Plan Committee meeting the issues of urban design and landscape were covered. Further work needs to be done on the urban design subject by looking in detail at each town. In particular, the issue of section size and thus the density of dwellings in urban areas needs to be fully canvassed. Possible solutions to the problem of an aging population are the development of more retirement type "villages" or the division of the residential area into high density and lower density zones with the higher density near the centres of the towns. Here sections could be smaller for people who have limited mobility and who wish to be close to the town centre.

In the landscape paper the district was divided up into landscape features, which were graded into categories. To some councillors' surprise the outstanding landscapes were the Coromandel and Kaimai Ranges but not the Karangahake Gorge. It was explained that outstanding landscapes needed to be as natural as possible and to be untouched by buildings and exotic plants. The Gorge, while it may be considered outstanding in many other ways such as its heritage value and geological formations, has too many wattles and pines to be classed as an outstanding landscape. It does, however, come into the category of a Landscape of District Wide Significance.

Over the next few months our consultants will be putting together a proposal and time frame for the methods of public consultation, which will take place next year. So if you want to have your say on any of these issues be looking out for invitations to participate from about February onward. After this round of consultation a draft plan will be written and it is hoped to have that notified around October of next year. At this point you get another chance to have input at the formal submission stage. You will no doubt be aware that there is also an election of a new Council next October. The Hearings of the submissions will not take place until 2008 because they need to be heard by the new Council, as it is the new Council that has to make the decision.

The process of going through policy directions on the various issues is to be stepped up with the Plan Committee meeting fortnightly rather than monthly from now on. We will continue to keep you updated through this page on the issues that are being discussed and will notify you of future consultation workshops that are open to the public..

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of the 20th to the 26th November 2006
 Thursday 23rd November:
 Hearing (if required).



Waihi Memorial Hall Upgrade

The Waihi Ward Committee has approved the colour scheme for the outside repaint of the Memorial Hall. The colours are to be similar to those at present with cream walls and a dark maroon coloured trim.

Other improvements to the hall that are planned in the near future include a kitchen refit, which involves new cooking facilities and a dishwasher.

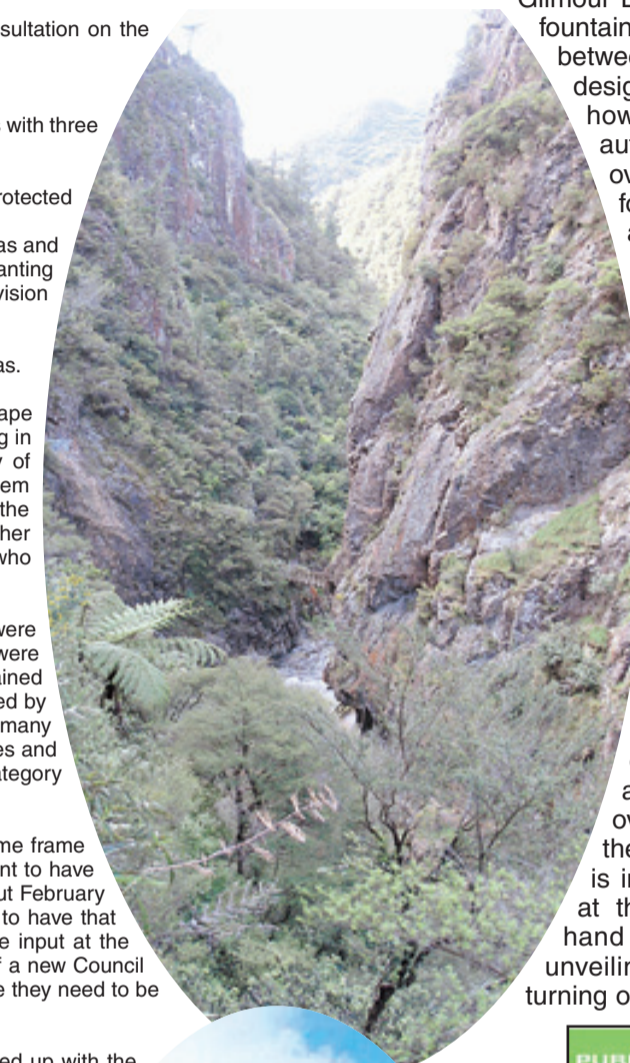
While the hall has had good usage lately there is a problem with unauthorised access due to too many groups having their own keys. It appears that the Council is unsure of the number of keys that are around to this hall and the events Centre so the answer is to have new locks installed of a type that can be cut only by a locksmith.



Owen Morgan Memorial Fountain

Owen Morgan was a former much respected Mayor of Waihi and his family has offered to donate a fountain for Gilmour Lake in Waihi to be a memorial to him. The fountain is to be installed in the lake about half way between the lake edge and the island and is designed to play for 24 hours every day. If, however, the wind gets up it will cut off automatically so that the water does not spray over watchers on the shore. The original fountain has white lights, which will light it up at night, but the Waihi Rotary Club has offered to upgrade these to coloured lights in honour of Owen. Council will pay for the installation of the fountain, which will take place this week.

After the fountain has been tested it will be turned off until its official opening. This will take place on the 25th November at 1.30pm at the lake when Owen's widow, Rosemary will officially hand the fountain over to Mayor, John Tregidga. Members of the Morgan family are travelling from all over the world to be at the ceremony. The public is invited to be at the lake at this time to witness the hand over ceremony, the unveiling of a plaque and the turning on of the fountain.



PUBLIC NOTICES

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 December 2006.

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

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2006,
 WARD COMMITTEES
 PLAINS 9.00 AM, PAEROA 12.30 PM,
 WAIHI 2.30 PM

HEARINGS COMMITTEE
 THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2006, 9.00 AM
 (if required)

COUNCIL MEETING
 THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2006, 9.00 AM
 THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 2006, 9.00 AM

PAEROA RURAL DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2006, 10.30AM

EASTERN PLAINS DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE
 WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2006, 1.30PM

INVITATION

The public are invited to the official opening of the Owen Morgan Memorial Fountain, Saturday 25 November 2006 1:00PM, Gilmour Lake, Gilmour Street, WAIHI
 ALL WELCOME

L.D. Covers
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE