



HDC NEWS



Are You a Potential Councillor?

You may think it is a bit early to be thinking about possible candidates for this year's local body election but if you have any thoughts about standing for a position on Council or nominating someone for a position in the October election now is the time to be getting the facts and making preparations. Over the next few weeks we will give questions and answers to some obvious aspects of the job of an elected member for the Hauraki District. We will start today with one of the most practical aspects of the job.

Question: How much time does the job take and will I be able to fit it in with my employment?

This is a question everyone has to ask before contemplating election as an elected member. Firstly, the position of Mayor is essentially a full time job. Although the Mayor may not work all day every day he is effectively on call and spends most of each working day and frequently some of the weekend working. There is also often evening work.

As far as Councillors are concerned the workload varies according to the responsibilities allotted to the councillor but there are several things to bear in mind. Firstly, Council meetings are held during the daytime - usually starting at 9.00am and going until two or three in the afternoon. They are held twice a month. Secondly, there is a Ward Committee meeting for a couple of hours once a month and depending on appointments there may be up to two other committees to go to per month.

Each councillor also may be appointed to community groups that require Council representation so there is the likelihood of evening meetings for these organisations. As well as these meetings there is reading to keep up with, agendas to go through and resident queries to deal with, so while the formal time commitment may not be huge, if you are to do the job justice probably an equal amount of time should be spent outside the Council Chamber.

A little bit like the Mayor's job, the job of councillor is to some extent an "on call" one as extra meetings crop up from time to time that you may need to be available for. You may be able to see from this that if you work for wages you would need to have an understanding employer. On the other hand, the role would suit self-employed people, recently retired people, otherwise unemployed people, housewives or house-husbands or indeed anyone with a flexible lifestyle.

Next week we will get down to the nitty gritty of remuneration.

Requests for Assistance

The Waihi Ward Committee has had two requests recently for assistance for voluntary organisations that are struggling to make ends meet.

The Waihi Rugby Football and Sports Union has asked for assistance in mowing its grounds as it is finding the maintenance of its facility at Rugby Park is becoming difficult to finance. The grounds and clubrooms are the home of rugby in Waihi and the club is one of the oldest in the country. The clubrooms are also the home of Waihi soccer and a netball club but the income from these groups is not covering the upkeep of the facility.

The Ward Committee has accepted that it would be relatively inexpensive for the Council to add the grounds to its mowing list and that this is something that is done for some other sporting facilities throughout the district so it has given its approval.

The second request was from the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum, which has operated in a Council owned building for many years but has found for some time that its outgoings have been exceeding its income. It has been surviving on grants and legacies but with reserves dwindling it has come to Council for help in keeping its doors open. As councillors did not feel competent in dealing with a topic in which they had no expertise they felt that the help of an independent expert to look at the situation and to give advice on how best to improve the situation was a better option than just throwing money at the problem.

An expert in museums and their running is to be commissioned and funded by Council to give a report on the situation and in the meantime Council will give any funding necessary to keep the museum operating. It is hoped the report will take only a few months and then the Council will consider the report and reassess the situation.

HDC Smart Water Use Campaign

Invitation to dairy farm owners and managers
Smart Water Use Information Session

Farm owners and managers are reminded of the information session (light lunch provided) tomorrow (28 Feb) 11:30 a.m. at The Muddy River Café in Turua. If you haven't confirmed your attendance, not to worry... Just come along. There will be plenty of food at this informal get together.

Children's Picnic Reminder

Waihi Community Family Picnic



Come and celebrate the
New Zealand National
Children's Day

All activities are FUN and FREE

Venue: Gilmour Lake, Waihi

Date: Sunday 4 March, 2007

Time: 12 - 2pm

There will be pony rides, a bouncy castle, bikewise roadshow, Rueben the safety bear, fire engine rides, police squad car rides, traditional races, face painting, sausage sizzle and more.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

More information visit

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or call
Jenni Daniels on 07 863 7555 or
Sarah Warne at the Hauraki District
Council on freecall number
0800 734 834 or 07 862 5029.

Elected Members' Diary

Meetings for the week of
26th Feb to the 4th March 2007
Monday 26th Feb - District Plan Committee
Thursday 1st March - Full Council Meeting

Funding Expos

From time to time organisations in the community are looking for funding for worthwhile projects and are unsure which funding source would be most likely to yield positive results. Apart from checking on "Fundview", which is available through the District Libraries there are occasional expos to help sort out funding sources.

A sequence of such expos is about to happen around the Waikato and some of those that local organisations may wish to travel to are:

- Hamilton Gardens Tuesday March 6th from 11am - 2 pm and 5pm - 7pm
- Putaruru Plaza Wednesday March 14th from 11am to 2pm
- Thames Civic Centre Monday March 26th from 11am to 2pm

On each of these occasions the actual funders will be present from 11am - 12pm. The expos will cover what the different funders fund, how to apply, tips for filling out forms and there will be updates from the Charities Commission.

Falling Angel

A request for assistance to rectify a situation at the Waihi Cemetery was raised again at the Waihi Ward Committee's last meeting. A very large monument on the grave of a man who was killed in the mine in the early part of the last century has developed a tilt and is in danger of falling over.

The descendants of the deceased were requesting assistance as to what to do over the situation. While Council does not usually interfere with monuments at the cemetery, which are the property of the families of the people buried there, in this instance there was a case for community involvement as the monument is a work of art and is considered of heritage value to the whole community. It is the largest monument in the cemetery and is well known to people visiting.

Councillors therefore considered that this was a special case and agreed that Council would do the work necessary to right the statue and would underwrite the process to the tune of \$2000 provided the family came up with the rest of the money. The job is expected to cost around \$2800 and there is a possibility of other grants being applied for to assist in the costs.

A suggestion has been made that an inventory should be made of those headstones and monuments that have a heritage value to the community. If this was compiled into a brochure it could become part of a heritage trail and, who knows, we could find our cemeteries becoming tourist attractions.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Drainage Foreman

Due to internal promotion we are looking for a Drainage Foreman who can help with the operation and maintenance of our land drainage and stormwater systems.

This will suit a real hands on person who enjoys being out in the field. You will need to have had practical experience and ideally have or be working towards a certificate in drainlaying. Being available to respond to storm warnings or emergencies related to land drainage and having the ability to ensure stormwater systems, pumps and drains are maintained are all part of the job.

To be considered for this role in the operational team that maintains the Districts extensive and varied drainage system you can request a recruitment pack from:

HR Advisors Julie 07 862 5023 or
Sue 07 862 5024

Alternatively e-mail
jobs@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or
visit our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz
or pick up a pack from one of our offices
in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea

Please send us your application by
Thursday, 1st March 2007

SITUATIONS VACANT

Do you need Planning Advice? Our friendly staff are here to help you!

You may need to consult a Planner when:

- You wish to develop or subdivide your property
- You wish to perform an activity which is not permitted by the District Plan
- You are building and need to clarify what is permitted in your area under the District plan

A Duty Planner is available to assist you from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday in Paeroa and in Waihi from 8:30am -12:30pm each Wednesday.

Please phone our customer service team on (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the District) to book an appointment with the Duty Planner.

Rates Reminder

Ratepayers are reminded that a 10% penalty will be incurred on all second instalment 2006/2007 rates unpaid at the close of business on Wednesday 28 February 2007.

L.D. Cavers
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

