



HDC NEWS



Plan Changes

By now, if you are a regular reader of this page, you will know that Council is preparing a review of the District Plan. For those not in the know, this is the Plan that tells you what you can do on your own land and what you can prevent your neighbour from doing. While some people may think you should be able to do what you like on your own land, they usually have a different view when someone alongside them wants to do something noisy, unsightly or something that may affect them in some other way such as shading their property.

It is obvious that some rules need to be in place to allow for controlled growth and a desirable environment for people to live and to make their living. The problem is that each District Plan lasts for ten years and it is difficult to anticipate what the District will require over a ten-year period and the level of growth that will occur.

For this reason, Plan changes are allowed during the life of the Plan and even at this time, when a new Plan is imminent, we are still processing Plan changes to accommodate proposed developments. One that was applied for at Orongo is still waiting for the developers to put the final touches to the plans so this one is stalled at present.

The other two changes are proposed by Council. The first is a rezoning of a piece of land in Union St, Waihi that was the Council depot and is designated as such. The council has now moved its depot to the industrial area and wishes to rezone the depot land as residential in keeping with the surrounding area. The second is the rezoning of land in Ngatea to residential as the current supply of residential land has virtually run out. This one has taken a long time to be lodged as work had to be done to investigate the effects of climate change on the area and the possible repercussions for residential development. It is hoped to advertise both these changes together early in the New Year.

Planning for Signs

One of the more controversial aspects of District Plan rules and regulations is that of signs. It is entirely possible in the current review of the District Plan that there are no changes in our regulations regarding signs except perhaps some extra rules relating to signs relating to prostitution and gambling and maybe a change in the size of signs allowed. But does this mean that everything in the garden is rosy when it comes to signs.

The difficulties with this aspect of planning is, as usual, in striking a balance between allowing firms to advertise themselves and keeping our environment reasonably uncluttered so that people can enjoy the scenery without having their senses assailed by a conglomerate of signage.

While we may think we got it reasonably right in our current Plan there are a lot of people who firstly, do not realise that you need a consent to put up a sign and secondly, even if they do realise it, just put the signs up anyway. The monitoring and policing illegal signs can take a lot of time and money that would be better spent elsewhere.

The present situation is that you do need a resource consent to erect a sign even if it is a temporary one. You also need the landowner's permission and if it is on a State Highway, permission from Transit NZ. In some circumstances this can be difficult to obtain as Transit is careful not to have too many distractions on the roadsides, which will divert drivers' attention from the task of driving their cars.

So please, if you need to put up a sign, check with Council and go through the proper procedure.

Encouraging Youth

Districts such as ours have an age structure where there is a low number of residents in the age groups between about 18 and 30. This is understandable as young people finish school and move to the cities for higher education or better jobs or head off for their big OE. None the less, those young people that we do have deserve the best encouragement and support that the community can give them to ensure they develop their potential to become good productive citizens of our community. The definition of youth also includes young people at secondary school, for although we are aware that we may lose these citizens to other areas once they leave school, we are also aware that they may well be back, returning to their home towns when they have gained an education, travelled and are finally ready to settle down to family life.



Council has a youth policy in its Long Term Council Community Plan and is now working on the formation of a Youth Leadership Forum to work with Council on relevant matters regarding the development of our communities.

The aim of the Hauraki Youth Leadership Forum project is:

- To facilitate meaningful involvement of Hauraki's youth into Council's plans, services and other activities as a where appropriate.

And its objectives are:

- To form a Hauraki Youth Leadership Group
- To develop and facilitate a youth leadership programme
- To secure resources to support and encourage the involvement of Hauraki's youth within Council's Plans, services and other activities where appropriate.

It is anticipated that the group will consist of around 12 to 16 young people including young achievers, employed youth and school aged youth. In the New Year selections will be made of people to invite to be part of this group and those young people who accept the invitation to participate will be taken on a leadership camp - probably in March - to set things going and to get the group involved and motivated. The first camp will be funded by Council but after that funding will be sought from other sources.

Elected Members' Diary



Meetings for the week of 15th to the 21st January 2007
Not back to work until next week.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Whiritoa Annual Public Meeting

Monday 29 January 2007 10:30am
at the Whiritoa Emergency Centre

This is an opportunity for residents & ratepayers of Whiritoa to raise local government issues that concern them with Council members.

LIQUOR BANS 2007

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Liquor Ban Bylaw 2004 that the consumption of alcoholic liquor, the bringing of liquor or of empty liquor containers and the possessions of liquor or empty liquor containers in the public places identified below is hereby prohibited during the periods identified below.

LIQUOR BANS

Whiritoa

- All public places including Roads, Beaches and Reserves.

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND PUBLIC HOLIDAY 2007

Dates and Times

During the Auckland Anniversary Weekend Public Holiday period being from 4.00pm Friday 26th January 2007 to 4.00am Tuesday 30th January 2007 inclusive.

PENALTIES: ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE PROHIBITION MAY BE CONVICTED AND FINED UP TO \$20000.00.

POWERS OF POLICE: THE HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL LIQUOR BAN BYLAW 2004 AUTHORISES ANY MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND POLICE TO ACT UNDER SECTIONS 169 AND 170 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002, INCLUDING THE EXERCISE OF THE POWER UNDER SECTION 170(2) TO IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE SEARCH A CONTAINER OR VEHICLE.

Rubbish Collection Reminders

With the Christmas season behind us and the new year now upon us, it is timely to remind our visitors and any new residents of the Council policy for rubbish collection.

Under the terms of our "Solid Waste Bylaw 2005", each separately rated residential property and each residential flat, is entitled to,

- One securely fastened black plastic rubbish bag that does not exceed 20 kilograms in weight or 60 litres capacity
- The bag will be placed on the roadside in a manner that will not impede pedestrians or traffic
- All residential rubbish must be placed at the roadside at 7.30am on the collection day
- Rubbish will not be placed outside any property, other than the property it was generated at.
- Extra official "yellow" bags may be purchased from selected outlets and the council offices in Paeroa, Ngatea and Waihi.

Council operates two refuse transfer stations that operate comprehensive recycling facilities as well as catering for larger loads of rubbish. These transfer stations are located in Dean Crescent, Waihi and Grey Street Paeroa.

Additional information or information regarding trade waste can be obtained from the Council offices or by visiting our website at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz