Tuesday December 30th, 2008

HDC NEWS

Wishing you all the best for the New Year

HDC Service hours over the New Year holiday

Council Service	2008 Tues 30 Dec	2008 Wed 31 Dec	2009 Thurs 01 Jan	2009 Fri 02 Jan	2009 Sat 03 Jan	2009 Sun 04 Jan	2009 Mon 05 Jan
All Council Offices	8am to 4:30pm	8am to 4:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am to 4:30pm
Paeroa Information Centre	9am to 4pm	9am to 4pm	Closed	Closed	9am to 4pm	9am to 4pm	9am to 4pm
Paeroa and Waihi Libraries	10am to 4:30pm	10am to 4:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10am to 4:30pm
Ngatea Library	8am to 4:30pm	8am to 4:30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am to 4:30pm
Refuse Collection Days Including recycling				Waihi Waikino Karangahake Mackaytown	Paeroa Ngatea		Whiritoa
Paeroa Refuse Station	8am to 4pm	8am to 4pm	Closed	8am to 4pm	8am to 4pm	8am to 4pm	8am to 4pm
Waihi Refuse Station	Closed	10am to 4pm	Closed	10am to 4pm	10am to 4pm	10am to 4pm	10am to 4pm
Paeroa Swimming Pool	12noon to 5:30pm	12noon to 5:30pm	Closed	12noon to 5:30pm	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	12noon to 5:30pm
Ngatea Swimming Pool	12noon to 5:30pm	12noon to 5:30pm	Closed	12noon to 5:30pm	11am to 5pm	11am to 5pm	12noon to 5:30pm

For emergencies during this time, such as burst water pipes or other critical matters, please dial our freephone number 0800 734 834 (from within Hauraki District - no cellphones) and our answering service will notify the appropriate people to get the matter dealt with - even if it is on New Years Day.

Dr Bollard and Mr Hide

Readers will no doubt have read announcements from the Minister for Local Government and the Governor of the Reserve Bank over recent weeks stating that Local Councils should keep their rate rises to (or under, in the case of Dr Bollard) the rate of inflation. The Hauraki District Council has spent two long days recently agonising over how to do this or at least how to keep any rate rises to as low as possible.

There are several reasons why it is difficult to do this:

Firstly, many of the raw materials that we work with such as petrol, and materials that are needed to repair and seal roads have increased in cost far more than the rate of inflation.

Secondly, we are also obligated to fund depreciation (DiSP) for every asset that Council owns. These assets are revalued periodically and the most recent valuation has increased their value substantially so DiSP will also go up substantially. This increase also has to be added to the rates.

All these things that are totally beyond our control will add up to well above the rate of inflation without having done anything more than our usual provision of service.

So what is the answer? It is quite simple. If, without breaking the law, we are to keep rates below the level of inflation, as suggested by Dr Bollard, we must cut services and/or increase the revenue from fees and charges. There are several ways we could do this. We could cut back library, swimming pool and Refuse Transfer Station hours. We could reduce the frequency of mowing our parks and reserves. We could close some of our public toilets. We could reduce our maintenance programmes on footpaths and roads, streetlights and so on.

There is of course another viewpoint that Councils should be increasing work in order to stimulate the economy and to show confidence and to provide jobs.

Council is very aware of the economic climate and the need to keep rates down. We will be working hard to prune the budget wherever possible. As yet, we have not decided what proposal will be put out for public consultation in our Long Term Council Community Plan that will be produced next year. Watch out for it early next year and use your opportunity to make a submission and to tell us what you think should be cut in order to keep rates down or perhaps whether it should be 'business as usual'.

CAPITAL Expenditure & RATE$

When Council spends money on infrastructure such as water supplies, sewerage treatment plants, new libraries or swimming pools this is known as capital expenditure. Most people know that, but many are unaware that the money for these projects does not come directly from rates. For capital expenditure the finance comes either from reserves (if we have any) or it is borrowed.

The effect on rates, therefore, in the year that the work is done is nil, but the year after that two things kick in. Firstly, there is the interest on the capital that has been borrowed, and secondly there is that dreaded word depreciation or DiSP. We have created an asset that has to be depreciated by a percentage of its value over the life of the asset and this has to be funded by rates. So even if the asset has been gifted to Council depreciation has to be funded. The only exceptions are assets that Council deems it would not replace when they wear out.

So, even though improving our infrastructure will not directly affect rates in the first year we have to be aware that DiSP and interest charges will start the following year.

Here we come to our major items of capital expenditure that are planned for the near future. There is between 25 and 30 million dollars worth of expenditure needed on our water supplies in the next year to make them comply with environmental standards set by Environment Waikato and to bring them up to the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards, which are becoming compulsory.

If we do all this work before the deadline there are going to have to be large increases in the prices charged for water throughout the district in the following year. Council is considering its options very carefully and will almost certainly have to prioritise work on a '*worst*' first basis.

Swim Safe

Learn to swim Paeroa & Ngatea

Hauraki District Council lifeguards are offering a three week "Learn to Swim' programme.

The programme commences 5th January for children over the age of four. To register your child/children please make your way down to either the Paeroa or Ngatea Community Pool.

For further information contact Kirsty Greenville, 027 637 7145 or email Kirsty@hauraki-dc.govt.nz. The cost is $30 per child. The timetable for the 'Learn to Swim programme is:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
Paeroa	9am to 11am	9am to 11am		
Ngatea			9am to 11am	9am to 11am

The group times will be determined after registration.

smartwateruse ... Outdoors

Quick Tips

- *Check your garden hose regularly for leaks. Store it on a reel to prevent kinking and damage.*
- *Use a trigger nozzle on your hose to reduce water loss. Repair or replace the nozzle if it leaks. It should shut off completely when you let go of the trigger.*

Public Notices

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROAD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Hauraki District Council, for the purpose of an event organised by **Paeroa Pipe Bands & Tattoo Committee Inc**., proposes to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

During the proposed period of closure the following provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road: divert to Station Road and Arney Street.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of his objection and grounds thereof in writing before **10 January 2009** at the office of the Hauraki District Council at William Street, P.O. Box 17, PAEROA.

Road proposed to be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic: Normanby Road between Arney Street and Mackay Street Paeroa, Wharf Street, and Willoughby Street between Hall and Arney Streets.

Period of proposed closure: Saturday 14 February 2009 from 5:15pm to 6:45pm.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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 January 2009.

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

Western Plains District Drainage Committee
Council Office, William Street, Paeroa
Tuesday 27 January 2009, 10.30am

Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 January 2009, 9.00am

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Elected Members Diary

Meetings for the week of the 30th December 2008 to 8th January 2009:

- No scheduled meetings

Public Notices

FIRE BAN - HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
20 December 2008 to 8 February 2009

The Fire Ban covers rural land within the Hauraki District east of State Highway 26 from Hikutaia to Paeroa, north of State Highway 2 through the Karangahake Gorge from Paeroa to the Hauraki District Council southern boundary with the Western Bay of Plenty, including Department of Conservation lands and forest areas owned by Matariki Forests and NZ Super Fund.

Thank you for your co-operation. Please direct your inquiries to any Hauraki District Council office.

BARBEQUES

The fire ban does not apply to gas fire barbeques and at this stage does not apply to solid fuelled proprietary barbeques, solid fuelled permanent brick-concrete barbeques and fires in concrete or brick incinerators that are fitted with spark arrestors, but please take the following safety precautions:

- *To be at least 5 metres from buildings, timber fences, trees or other combustible material.*
- *Not to be lit during strong wind conditions.*
- *Pressure water system with hose to be available nearby.*
- *To be supervised by an adult.*
- *To be extinguished on completion.*

Should weather conditions cause the fire risk to increase to an unacceptable level, solid fuelled barbeques and incinerator fires may need to be more strictly controlled.

CHANGE OF KERBSIDE COLLECTION DAY

Please be advised that due to New Years Day occurring this year on a normal collection day, the kerbside collection will be one day late for this week. This includes recycling.

The collection days are as follows:

Waihi, Waikino, Karangahake and Mackaytown
• Friday 2 January 2009

Paeroa and Ngatea
• Saturday 3 January 2009

Whiritoa - No Change

Kerbside collection days will return to normal starting the second week in January 2009.

WATER RESTRICTION

Notice to Residents of the Hauraki Plains (includes Netherton, Kerepehi, Turua, Waitakaruru, Ngatea, Orongo, Kopuarahi, Pipiroa, Maratoto, Hikutaia and Tirohia).

Due to the current spell of dry weather, water demand has risen significantly and water levels are low. It would be appreciated if residents could conserve water where possible. At this stage it is necessary to impose a **restriction on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hosing will be permitted until the situation improves**.

Unfortunately it may be necessary to impose further restrictions on water use if the dry weather continues. Your co-operation and efforts to conserve water now ensures that water is available for essential and emergency needs. For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within Hauraki District - no cellphones)

L D Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council