

District Plan Review - Historical Heritage Features

The Resource Management Act lists protection of heritage as a matter of national importance so it has to be pretty high on the agenda. For Hauraki District, we are not only steeped in heritage but we rely on it as a draw card for our tourist industry. For this reason, even if we did not want to protect heritage sites and buildings for their aesthetic, educational and interest values, we should want to protect them for their economic value to the community.

There are two main ways of putting protection levels on buildings and sites. Firstly, through having them registered through the Historic Places Trust and secondly, through having them listed in the District Plan. Hauraki has a number of registered buildings by the Historic Places Trust and has many more on our District Plan heritage list.

For the review of the District Plan, numerous buildings have been put on to the list with two main levels of protection and a third level that simply means that a building or site is of interest and please, if you are going to demolish it take some photographs to record what it looks like before you do so and send these to Council. Please remember that if your property is a category C on the list do not be concerned as this does not put any constraints on you as a property owner. It simply draws people's attention to the heritage nature of the building or site.

For the features on the category A list, any demolition will be a non-complying activity and you will also need

a resource consent to modify the building. This means that it will be very difficult to get consent to demolish and conditions are likely to be put on any renovations to ensure that the character of the building is not spoiled. For the category B list you need a resource consent to demolish or modify but this is discretionary so you will need very good reasons in order to get consent.

The compilation of the heritage inventory was done by consultants by talking with local people, checking local history books and existing listings. The list and accompanying detail were then checked by knowledgeable local people in each area and corrections made.

Recently letters pertaining to those property owners who have a proposed Historic Feature on their property have been sent out requesting them to check the details. If Council has got any of the details wrong we request that those corrections be supplied to Council as soon as possible. A complete list of the Heritage Features is recorded within the Draft District Plan *Section 6.1 Historic Heritage Features*. Data sheets for each Historic Feature are available and can be obtained by contacting Council on (07) 862 5058. A copy of the Draft District Plan is available at Council's Service Centres and Libraries in Ngatea, Paeroa and Waihi. The Draft District Plan is also available on the Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Elected Member's Diary

Meetings for the week: Wednesday 4th to Tuesday 10th November 2009

- Tuesday 10th November – Ward Committee meetings



Santa is coming to Town



For those who like to plan early for Christmas, there will be Santa Parades in our three main centres again this year, organised by the town promotion committees.

As Santa cannot be in different places at the same time, they will be on successive weeks throughout December with the first being held in Paeroa on the 5th of December. Any further information for this one can be obtained from the town promoter Anee Harris at Positive Paeroa, Ph (07) 862 6999.

On the 12th December, Santa will be visiting Waihi with a parade along Seddon Street so if you need further information about this event please phone Brian Gentil at Go Waihi Ph (07) 863 3030.

Finally, Santa will be cruising the main street of Ngatea on the 17th of December and information about this event can be obtained from Alex Quinn Ph (027) 494 4948, or other members of the Positively Promoting the Plains Committee.

Delegation to Ward Committees

From time to time our Ward Committees receive requests for small grants to help out local organisations. Each ward has a discretionary sum in its budget for this purpose. Grants are for all sorts of purposes but the most common is paying for the hire of council halls for worthy organisations. Other grants are considered where all other avenues for funding have been exhausted and there is still a shortfall. Most amounts are less than \$500 and indeed the wards have only a few thousand dollars to last the year for this purpose.

Ward committees do not have any legal power to act. In the past, when a ward has agreed to make a grant at its ward meeting mid-month, nothing became official until the Council meeting at the end of the month when full Council passed the minutes of the wards. This meant that there was a considerable delay in providing the funds and indeed even notifying that organisation officially of the grant.

Council, at its meeting at the end of September, has rectified this situation by granting delegation to the wards to make these decisions without the decisions having to be confirmed by full Council. In addition, the Ward Chair has been given the power to decide on the hall fee issues. It is understood that if there is any doubt about the validity of an application the Ward Chair will either contact other ward members for an opinion or bring it to a ward meeting.

Plains Ward Issues

Request for permission for Stall

Councillors, at the last Plains Ward Committee meeting, dealt with a request from an individual to set up a stall to sell knitted toys on an occasional basis on the Dudding Reserve. It was felt that this would be a bit unfair to allow an individual to sell produce from a public place and, if no community market were available, that the person could get a hawkers' licence. The committee, therefore, declined the request.

Surveillance camera

The Council have been offered the opportunity to connect to a current surveillance system within Ngatea to assist in monitoring the central section of the main street of Ngatea to help combat an ongoing issue of vandalism.

Lighting the Walkway

The Kohunui/Harris Place walkway is in need of lighting to improve the security of pedestrians using the walkway at night. It has been decided to use the light that was taken out of the Speedy Reserve and to install it on to the walkway.

Dog Ownership

Knowing Your Obligations

- Register your dog(s) by 1 July each year
- Comply with Council's Dog Control Bylaws and Policy. (The Bylaws and Policy are available at Council offices and on Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)
- Ensure your dog receives proper care and attention and is supplied with sufficient food, water, shelter and exercise.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure your dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person.
- Owners of dogs that have been classified Dangerous or Menacing must muzzle their dog(s) in a Public place.
- Owners must accept liability for damage done by their dog.
- All dogs (excluding 'working dogs') first registered on or after 1 July 2006 will be required to be microchipped, as well as all dogs that are classified as dangerous or menacing, including dogs classified since 1 December 2003.

Council's Role

Council has in place Bylaws and a Dog Control Policy which emphasises public safety, and includes requirements such as exercise, prohibited and restricted areas, numbers of dogs, and control of dogs to name a few.

Council may declare a dog owner 'Probationary' if they incur more than three infringement notices within two years. Council may also 'Disqualify' a 'Probationary' Owner from owning a dog if they incur more than three infringement notices within two years.

Menacing and Dangerous Dogs

Council has powers to declare a dog menacing or dangerous in certain circumstances, including if the dog is a threat to any person, animal or protected wildlife. Councils also must classify a dog as menacing if there are reasonable grounds to believe it belongs predominantly to one of the four restricted breeds/types: American Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Brazilian Fila and Japanese Tosa. Menacing and dangerous dogs must be muzzled when out in public, microchipped and neutered. Dangerous dogs need to be kept securely fenced on the owner's property without blocking access to any dwelling.

Animal Control Officers can:

- Seize and impound dogs not under direct control of a person or not fenced in (i.e. free to leave the property), along with dogs that are unregistered; or have attacked.
- Issue infringement notices under the Dog Control Act 1996, for a number of offences, some of those including:
 - Failure to Register your dog(s).
 - Failure or refusal to supply information or wilfully providing false particulars (including dog owners date of birth).
 - Failure to comply with any dog related Council bylaw.
 - Failure to keep dog(s) controlled or confined.
 - Failure to keep dog(s) under control.
 - Failure to advise change of ownership of dog(s)

For a full list of infringement offences please contact the Council's Animal Control Team.

Eradicating Privet

Environment Waikato has advised us that privet has been classified as a 'containment pest plant'. This means that the occupiers of quarries and transport corridors such as roads and railways throughout the region must eradicate any plants that are growing there within 5 years. Council is assessing what this will mean to us, both economically and in work terms. Although we have tried to keep such weeds off our roadside reserves there undoubtedly are areas that have an infestation that will need to be removed. This will also have to be an ongoing thing as privet seeds prolifically and birds spread seeds from other areas. The ongoing cost of such a programme will need to be assessed and allowed for in our annual plans.

