

District Plan Issues - Response to Open Days

There was an excellent response from the public to our open days on the District Plan with crowds of people turning out in every centre. We apologise that the letters to landowners, who had things that have changed relating to their properties, did not go out early enough for due consideration to be given to the matter before the open days. Staff found that it took much longer than anticipated to get the letters and maps assembled and sent out.

Nonetheless, a large number of people made it to the open days, clutching their letters, and seeking clarification on the issues raised. The feedback we have received has been invaluable and will allow us to make appropriate responses, corrections and modifications to the draft plan before it goes out as a proposed plan for formal public consultation.

Particularly valuable have been the responses to the areas of significant indigenous vegetation, with many landowners clarifying which of the areas are good native forest and which are just weeds and pine trees. These things are often difficult to tell from aerial photographs.

While we gave a deadline of the end of October for the feedback forms to be returned, we would still be happy to receive them if you have an issue and have not yet returned your form.

Pensioner Flats

Council owns a number of pensioner flats throughout the district. At present there is a lengthy waiting list for pensioner units in Waihi but the only one that is vacant is one of the oldest and it needs upgrading. This, along with the other older units at upper Moresby Avenue, has little room for a refrigerator and only has one entrance, which does not comply with modern building and fire standards.

Council has decided, therefore, to upgrade each of these units as it becomes vacant before reletting. The kitchen and bathroom will be updated and another external door will be added. The upgrade will start with the currently vacant unit.

Elected Members Diary

Meetings for the week:
Wednesday 11th to
Tuesday 17th November
2009:



- **Wednesday 11th November**– Full Council Meeting
- **Thursday 12th November**– District Plan Committee Meeting
- **Friday 13th November**– Local Government New Zealand Zone 2 Meeting in Hamilton
- **Monday 16th November**– Hearing (if required)

Rating Valuation Clinics

There will be an opportunity to discuss the recent revaluations with a valuer from Quotable Value Ltd on Tuesday 17 November. QV will be available as follows:

Ngatea area office between 9.00am and 10.30am,

Paeroa office between 11.00am and 1.00pm and,

Waihi area office between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

White Ribbon Ride Rolls into Paeroa

The White Ribbon Ride pulls into Paeroa's L&P Cafe at 9:00am on Friday the 27th of November offering the chance for local riders to join the convoy and for the community to catch the action.

The ride, organised by the Families Commission as part of the White Ribbon campaign, begins in Wellington on 25th November and takes four separate routes through eastern, western and the central North Island. The rides will merge together at ASB Stadium in Auckland on 27th November. From there it is expected around 1,000 riders will travel together to Bream Bay, Whangarei.

To take part in the ride, simply visit www.whiteribbon.org.nz and enter the 'meet and greet' location where you would like to join the ride and follow the instructions.

Local Mayor John Tregidga, says "This is a terrific opportunity for our community to stand up and show that they will not condone violence to women and children. Hauraki District has a Violence – Free initiative and White Ribbon Day is an opportunity to ensure that our community understands that violence is NOT OK."

Riders who wish to take part in the White Ribbon Ride must pledge never to condone violence against women and children and to donate cans of food to the local Women's Refuge.

Families Commissioner Bruce Pilbrow says "White Ribbon Day is an international day stemming from the brutal murder of 14 women in Canada. For campaigns such as this to be effective, men must be seen to lead. Today that leadership for the ride is being provided by the Super Maori Fullas and the Patriots Motorcycle Club.

The Super Maori Fullas brothers grew up surrounded by love and respect. Now they are using the visibility and mobility of their bikes to encourage all New Zealanders to show that they are against violence towards women and children.

Joining them are the Patriot Motorcycle Club whose members are drawn from the men and woman in the New Zealand Defence Forces. The Patriots are all former or serving members of the New Zealand Defence Forces. Shane Henry, Patriot and former combat soldier says, "New Zealand is seen as a peacekeeping nation and our members have a background of serving their country. We now want to play a part in reducing violence in our own neck of the woods and we're proud to support the White Ribbon Ride."

"We hope that by taking part in this ride, our bikes will reach people in a new way," says Shane.

Bruce Pilbrow says "Riders are able to join at any location and ride for as much of the journey as they wish. If you have the time you can ride for up to four days!"

Riders can be both male and female, but must have a valid licence and registered bike over 250cc.

Waihi Toilets

Council has decided to go ahead with renovations of the Hazard Street toilets in Waihi and to do all the work this year rather than postponing some until next financial year as was planned for in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

To offset this increased expenditure this year the resurfacing of the floors at the Victoria Street toilets, scheduled for this year, will be postponed until next year.

