

District Plan Issues - Response to Open Days

Previously we told you about some of the response we have had to our open days. In fact, the response has been so good that our staff are flat out trying to investigate and deal with each issue that has been raised.

This is, of course, the most crucial part of the whole exercise as it is not a bit of use asking for feedback unless we are prepared to act on that feedback. This means evaluating what you have said and considering it in the wider context. It does not necessarily mean that the draft plan will be changed because of your comments. There could be all sorts of reasons for this. An important one is that we may be unsure whether your view is a minority one and so we need to gauge further the wider public interest, though the planning merits of the views put forward have to outweigh the numbers of people putting forward a particular view.

For those who are anxious because you have not yet received a response to your letter or feedback form, please be patient. You will receive a letter acknowledging your contribution but we will not be telling you the outcome of your feedback. This is not a formal submission process and it would be a poor use of staff resources trying to let everyone know individual results.

By the time you read this we will have had another District Plan Committee meeting, and our approach to the larger issues that have been raised, will have been made.

When the plan has been revised, taking into consideration the feedback we have received, it will come to Council for approval to be put out for formal public consultation. It then is called the Proposed Plan.

In order to see if we have concurred with your views and have incorporated your comments in the Plan you will need to read the appropriate section of the Proposed Plan when it comes out for public submissions early next year. You can do this by looking at the document in Council offices or libraries or by looking at it on the Council website.

If you find that we have not put in what you sought through the feedback process, you may then lodge a formal submission.

Please note that formal submissions must arrive by the required date, which will be advertised at the time of publication of the Proposed Plan. I mention this because we have been relaxed about dates up until now, in order to get as much information in as we can, but once the Plan is advertised as a Proposed Plan, the law does not allow for leeway and everything has to be within statutory time frames.

So, thank you for your interest and contributions and "Watch this space."

Elected Members Diary



Meetings for the week:
Tuesday 25th November
to Wednesday 1st
December 2009:

- **Wednesday 25th November** – Full Council Meeting

Summary of Annual Report 2008/09

Each year, Council is required to produce an Annual Report on the previous financial year. At the October Council meeting, Council adopted the Annual Report for 2008/09.

During October, auditors were on site at Hauraki District Council to audit the actions of the Council for the period of 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2009.

Council received a clear audit opinion from Audit New Zealand and this opinion is presented along with the years financial statements and performance measures in the Council's Annual Report for 2008/09.

In summary some of the key happenings that occurred during the year that readers may have read about already in the HDC news page include:

- The decision to defer programmed seal extension for the coming two years in light of the recession.
- Heating of Paeroa swimming pool.
- Significant work on the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 resulting in its adoption in June 2009.
- High uptake for the rates rebate being the 2nd highest in the country
- Significant decrease in revenues due to the economic downturn, particularly in areas impacted by the reduction in development activity.
- Council ended the year with a deficit slightly larger than it had budgeted for.

A full copy of the Annual Report 2008/09 or a summary, are now downloadable from www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or available by calling 07 862 8609, or 0800 734 834 from within Hauraki District.

Library Report

The library report for the last financial year shows a marked increase in both readership usage and revenue. Total circulation across the district for 2008/09 was 141592, an increase of 14% on the previous year. To date for 2009/10, circulation is projected to increase a further 15% to around 163,000. This is a 50% increase on June 2007.

Total visitor numbers rose to 144,000, an increase of 17% on 2007/08 and so far for 2009/10, revenue is on the increase as well for the first time in several years, with \$60,000 projected. This is 40% up on the year before.

The summer and winter reading programmes for children were a great success with feedback from teachers indicating that children came back from school holidays still enthused and progressing with their reading.

A book group for adults that has started in Waihi meets monthly with around 15- 20 people attending regularly. Library staff are looking to start a similar group in Paeroa before Christmas.

The Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK who provide free access to computers in qualifying libraries) continues to be in demand and has 77% (around 100 people each day) usage throughout the year. This network has just won two awards:

- The 3M award for innovation in libraries at the LIANZA conference
- The extra touch award, presented by the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand. The award recognises an outstanding contribution towards and improvement in the access of services to blind and vision-impaired people.

The Manager of APNK, Margaret Garland said after receiving the award, "The benefits of the APNK are becoming clear for the community. Lots of different people are coming into the libraries to access the service, and as a result are becoming more confident computer and library users."

Hauraki District Council is proud to be part of the People's Network and the Mayor, John Tregidga spoke at the last Council meeting about the positive impact APNK has had in raising the profile of the library as a community facility. It is highly likely that the improvement in numbers of books borrowed is to some extent the result of this higher profile in the community.

