



Next chapter begins for Ngatea library upgrade

The next chapter in the story of the Ngatea library and service centre upgrade has begun.

At its meeting on 27 May, the Council agreed to invest up to \$65,000 in the next phase of the project, which is to do a full assessment of the existing building and draw up concept designs and plans. A working party made up of the Mayor, councillors and community representatives will be set up to work on the designs and keep the community up to speed as they go.

Mayor Toby Adams says the Council received extensive community feedback throughout the early stages of the project and has a detailed understanding of what's important to its communities, both now and in the future,

"We've summarised all the feedback in a community book and we'll be using that a lot as we go along. It's going to be looking pretty well-used and dog-eared by the time we're finished," he said.

Other decisions made last year include that the library and service centre stays in the existing building, which may include alterations and additions, at the current site.

"There was a tidal wave of feedback that the library and service centre should stay put right where it is next to the Hugh Hayward Domain and we've taken that on board," the Mayor said.

Once plans for the upgrade are finalised the working party will share them with the wider community and the Council will make further decisions on the actual building part of the project. Overall, it's expected to take about two years from putting pencil to paper until the key is turned in the new door lock.

Elected Members appointed to the working party include:

- Mayor Toby Adams
- Deputy Mayor Paul Milner (Chair)
- Plains Ward Chair Ross Harris
- Councillors, Ray Broad, Rodney Garrett and Rino Wilkinson

The working party will also appoint someone from the Plains community as well as someone from the wider community to be part of the working party.

For more information, and to view the community book visit our website: <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>

Funds for farmers

They say the pen is mightier than the sword, and they're right.

Recently our three local Mayors (Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel) and local MP Scott Simpson wrote a letter to Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Conner asking for help for local farmers.

Soon after the government announced relief funding for drought stricken farmers in north Waikato and Northland to the tune of \$500,000.

The money will go to local mayoral drought relief funds to hand out for the purchase and delivery of feed supplies.

Hauraki District Council will also add \$10,000 towards the fund.

Mayor Toby Adams said the effects of the drought had been bubbling away in the shadow of Covid 19 for some time.

How to apply

We're currently working through the details of how the money will be distributed. It may take a few weeks before this is finalised.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information on how to apply.

Rates relief for farmers

Covid 19 related rates payment extensions and holidays are also available for drought-stricken farmers.

To apply for a rates payment extension or holiday go to <https://forms.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rates-holiday>

“ There's been a lot of emphasis on Covid, but we're forgetting we're in one of the worst droughts ever in recorded history, particularly in Eastern Waikato. ”
Mayor Toby Adams

Normal rubbish collections have started again!

You can put your council rubbish bag out every week on your normal collection day - it doesn't need to go in your wheelie bin. As for recycling - this will once again be collected fortnightly on the normal recycling week for your street. And, remember that glass in crates will be collected at the same time as your wheelie bin.

Plastic by numbers

From now on, only plastic types 1 and 2, along with paper, cardboard, aluminium cans and clean tins will be accepted in your wheelie bin and at our refuse transfer stations.

Plastics 1 and 2 include things like milk, soft drink and shampoo bottles. Whereas plastics 3 to 7, which are not being collected, are things like yoghurt pots and takeaway containers. Check the container for the number in the triangular recycle symbol.

If it's not 1 or 2, or you can't determine the number, it goes in the rubbish. Please don't burn plastics 3 to 7, this is more harmful to the environment than sending them to landfill.

To start with, while we all get used to the changes, all recycling including plastic types 1 and 2 will go to landfill. The good news is, once the sorting centre in Kopu gets up and running on 15 June, clean plastic types 1 and 2 will be recycled and repurposed, which will mean less plastic is going back into the environment.

Hey, please don't wishcycle

Plastics 3 to 7 are no longer being collected because since China stopped recycling plastics from other countries, no feasible overseas or local market has been found.

We're not giving up on this problem. We support WasteMINZ who are lobbying the government to ban the use of plastics 3 to 7, and we're actively looking for alternative solutions.

In the meantime, please don't wishcycle by putting them in your bin, wishing they'll be recycled. They won't be, and you'll contaminate the whole load of recycling, meaning everything will go to landfill.

For more info go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plastic-recycling-faqs

New Ngatea footpath next steps

Hey, thanks for your feedback on our proposed footpath design.

Earlier this year we asked you what you thought about our proposed footpath design for the Ngatea main street. Overall, you told us that you liked the design, which used simple robust materials, including exposed aggregate, with coloured inlays in selected areas.

Now we know we're on the right path, we're hoping to start building the footpath in July - depending on contractor availability. We expect NZ Transport Agency will have finished the SH2 road renewal and kerb and channel upgrade work by then. Building the footpath at the same time as the roadworks would have caused too much disruption, raised safety issues, and slowed the roadworks project down.

The aim is to replace the whole length of the main street footpath in 100m sections. We'll work with the contractor to confirm timeframes closer to the project start date.

To see the footpath design and stay updated on this project go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/projects

Or sign up to our e-newsletter **In the Loop** and receive updates straight to your inbox www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/e-newsletter