

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



I have decided to again stand in the upcoming Local Government Elections as Councillor for the Eureka Ward. It has been a very busy, but rewarding, three-year term with continuing challenges for Council – our population continues to grow, creating the need for new or improved infrastructure and changes in how we provide services. The increase in the number of rural lifestyle blocks and new housing in rural villages is increasingly challenging our budgets to provide footpaths, cycle and walkways and other amenities for residents. The Hamilton section of the Expressway goes through Eureka Ward and I have, where possible, acted as a liaison between residents and CityEdge the Expressway contractors to iron out any adverse impacts of the new roading systems.

I really enjoy the interaction with residents in the Ward (districts of Eureka, Tauwhare, Matangi, Newstead and Puketaha) and find the feedback I receive, at community and other events and through many phone calls and emails, invaluable when ‘fighting our corner’ in Council. I am very grateful for the support I receive from local committees - the hard work of community volunteers is often undervalued but their contributions make a huge impact on our communities.

You may recall I have previously mentioned that talks between Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council (HCC) re a **shared library services agreement** had stalled. District residents who were existing library members were issued a voucher to cover one year’s library subscription until we could achieve a new agreement with Hamilton City.

Council, in consultation with the three Councillors of Wards in the Southern part of the District, have been working on an agreement and I am delighted that HCC, at a meeting on 27th June, unanimously approved our proposal and all residents in the immediate areas around Hamilton will now have open access to Hamilton’s libraries. **On Page 2 of this newsletter is the full media release re this agreement** – (open the links at the bottom to view the roads and library catchment area that will qualify for this access - Note: all districts in Eureka Ward qualify).

On 26th June we held an Extraordinary Council meeting to consider the adoption of Council’s Annual Plan (budget) 2019/20 and the associated Rates Resolution. Whilst Council is not required to produce an annual plan consultation document, an Annual Plan for 2019/20 must be adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act (2002). Approval is also being sought for minor adjustments applied to the LTP fees and charges document. If you would like to peruse the Annual Plan document go to <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/council-committees-boards/council/2019/06/26/default-calendar/council-meeting---extraordinary>

The Waikato Blueprint was formally adopted by Council at our June Council meeting. The Blueprint is a high-level ‘spatial picture’ of how the district could progress over the next 30 years, address the community’s social, economic and environmental needs, and respond to its regional context. When developing the Blueprint residents in 10 of the District’s towns were invited to workshops to input into this process - this included Matangi. The Matangi Community Committee worked extremely hard to put together a submission indicating priorities for Matangi. The first phase of the Blueprint is scheduled to begin at the end of July 2019. I lobbied to include other districts in Eureka Ward and at this stage Blueprints will be developed for Newstead, with other areas to be included over time.

A **Rating information Database** is available on our website at www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/RID . The Database records all information required for setting and assessing rates and contains rates information about any property in the Waikato District. **However if you would like your details made confidential** you can complete a *Request to Suppress Personal Information form* that can be found at <https://online.waikatodc.govt.nz/services/Property/Rates> and return to Council. If you have a question about your rates phone our Rates Team.

This month I am again mentioning our **Proposed District Plan** and remind you that you can access our online tool to check **if any submissions or changes requested to zoning and other district plan features will have an impact on your land or on any location you are interested in.** You can find this tool at www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/pdp-map-tool and this allows you to submit your support or object to submissions. On 14 June a press release re a **new closing date of 16 July** for submissions was posted and **page 3 of this newsletter** is the full press release giving the rationale for extending the deadline for submissions. **If you need any assistance or further information phone Council on 0800 492 452 and your call will be put through to the relevant staff member.**

Contact me any time

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE



28 June 2019

Library agreement reflects Councils' collaboration

Shared library services for Hamilton and Waikato District residents in the immediate areas around Hamilton will resume next month after an agreement between the two councils was approved yesterday.

Hamilton City Council approved the agreement at its 27 June 2019 meeting as part of wider discussions about growth issues and collaboration between local councils.

Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson said he was pleased with the decision by Hamilton City Council, saying that it represented a fair deal.

“Our residents living near to Hamilton City will again be able to have open access to Hamilton’s libraries. This is an example of one of the many things our two Councils are working through for the benefit of our collective population,” Mayor Sanson says.

Hamilton Mayor Andrew King says growth in Hamilton and the wider region is exciting and is producing economic and social benefits. Closer collaboration between the Councils is a key factor in ensuring quality, sustainable growth in coming decades, he said.

“This libraries agreement is a tangible example of how closer relationships between councils can provide benefits for the people we serve. We recognise our people live, work and socialise in their communities of interest, regardless of territorial boundaries. I’ve been very appreciative of the way staff and elected members between our councils have been able to work through this agreement in a way which puts our residents first,” Mayor King says.

The library services agreement runs for three years from 1 July, 2019 and Waikato District Council is contributing \$199,235 plus GST annually for the service. The agreement covers approximately 8000 Waikato District households in the southern area of Waikato District, a total of around 23,000 people.

ENDS

The following links show a map of the catchment area and a list of the roads that qualify for the agreement.

[List of roads that qualify](#)

[Library catchment area](#)

ENDS

For more information please contact:

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3.

Council re-issues a call for Further Submissions on Stage 1 of its Proposed District Plan

14 June 2019

Waikato District Council will next week re-issue a call for 'further submissions' on nearly 1,000 submissions that it received following notification of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (Stage 1) in July last year and has set a new closing date of 16 July 2019.

Last month Council announced it was extending the original deadline when it discovered errors and omissions in the Summary of Submissions published for its community to consider in order to make a 'further submission'.

Waikato District Council Chief Executive Gavin Ion says, "We want to ensure the fairest process possible so we have allowed another full month to give anyone interested plenty of time to check the changes in our Summary before they make a further submission."

"As part of the review process we contacted all our original submitters and we have been rigorous in accepting all appropriate changes to the Summary."

Five submissions omitted from the Summary have now been added, and minor corrections have been made to the summaries of about 50 of the nearly 1,000 original submissions received.

The five new additions are summaries of submissions from Mark Fendall, Waikato Tainui, KiwiRail, Turangawaewae Trust Board and Koch Farms Limited.

All new and corrected summaries have been published in a new addendum to the Council's Summary of Submissions and are clearly identified online and in the print versions of the Summary available in all Council offices and libraries from Tuesday 18 June 2019.

Gavin Ion says, "The District Plan is an important document that tells the community how the district's land can be used, developed and subdivided. It also serves to protect sites identified as significant to our cultural heritage and to our environment."

A further submission is a written statement that allows you to support or oppose other people's submissions. It gives you the opportunity to comment on how a submission may impact you, and to have your views considered by the Hearings Panel along with the original submission. You do not need to have made an original submission to make a further submission.

Stage 1 of the Proposed District Plan includes all topics and provisions except those related to natural hazards and climate change, which form part of Stage 2. A draft of Stage 2 is expected to be released later this year.

Council encourages anyone making a further submission to do it online, but hard copies of the submission forms are also available from all Council offices and libraries, or you can phone 0800 492 452 to request one.

For more information please contact:

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