

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – 26 OCTOBER 2020



Wonderful weather for the holiday weekend. The higher than average temperatures are a bit worrying but hopefully the predicted rain will arrive this week.

This week we will consider approximately 208 written and 14 verbal submissions to the proposed *Alcohol Control By-law*. As I mentioned last month, the purpose of the by-law is to reduce alcohol-related harm, and the potential for public nuisance, damage to property and offensive behaviour as a result of people becoming intoxicated in public places.

The Eureka / Tamahere Heritage Committee is getting close to finalising funding and design of signage to identify historical sites in Eureka, Gordonton, Matangi, Newstead, Puketaha, Tamahere and Tauwhare. We hope to complete the project in the first half of 2021.

Don't forget to subscribe to Waikato District News! Our e-newsletter has been established to help keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the Waikato district. To subscribe go to <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/subscribe-to-waikato-district-news> **In this month's newsletter is news on rates revaluations:**

Our valuers have started the district wide revaluation process this month. They will begin with the Lifestyle and Residential properties first and go on from there. Quotable Values will be travelling in unmarked vehicles but will carry ID as well as their QV Business cards. The valuation work will be done kerbside, however, if staff have to enter the property they will knock on the door first to introduce themselves. The estimated date for owners receiving their revaluation letters is February 2021.

Thank you to those who completed the *Shape Waikato survey* or participated in a focus group discussion. The survey is the first of a three-part engagement effort to gather information from district residents and to hear their views before Council makes a decision on representation arrangements for the 2022 local government elections. The formal process around representation begins next year.

Council is making it simpler to inform our residents about **liquor licence applications**.

From 2nd November those applying for a new alcohol licence, or renewing a licence, will no longer have to publish a public notice in a newspaper. Instead the notice will be advertised on the Council website – the application details will be available on the website for 20 days after the application is submitted. The process for making an objection remains unchanged.

In their latest update on the **Hamilton Expressway** NZTA reports that – *their roading teams are preparing for a big summer of pavement construction and sealing.*

The Hi-Lab blending plant has been relocated from Lake Road to Puketaha and will be producing the special rock blend by the end of September.

Commissioning of the new asphalt plant at Ruakura is nearly complete. The new plant will soon be producing asphalt for the project – 120,000 tonnes over 12 months. The plant is designed to be disassembled and relocated when final sealing is complete in late 2021.



This photo shows the relocatable asphalt plant being assembled at Ruakura

Postscript

- On Wednesday 4th November I received the following advice from Council:

We unfortunately had to close Newstead Walkway today as a stand of large gum trees in the reserve pose a risk to the public.

A consultant's assessment after the latest gum tree to topple over shows that a number of the trees are not healthy.

The risk of them falling over while people are using the walkway is too high in our opinion, so we have to take this precautionary action.

Root samples from the trees have been sent for analysis to help determine what action is next taken.

We're not sure how long the walkway will have to be closed for but Council staff will keep me in the loop as more information comes to hand.

Contact me any time -

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