

## NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - 18 FEBRUARY 2021



Councillors returned to meetings at the beginning of February and the main focus this month has been briefings from staff around the Long Term Plan (LTP). The LTP sets out our vision, direction, work plan and budgets for the next 10 years and outlines how our activities and services will be managed, delivered and funded.. With input from our communities, we develop a new LTP every three years – we currently refer to the 2018-2028 LTP and will adopt the 2021-2031 LTP in June 2021. As usual it is not easy to balance the budgets; however we are making good progress in our discussions.

To follow the process go to the web page <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/ltp> The formal consultation process around the LTP will open 7 April and close on 7 May.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Te Huia**, the new passenger rail service launches on Tuesday 6th April.

All stations are completed, with public open days on 27th and 28th March.

For more information about the confirmed timetable and fares go to [www.tehuiatrain.co.nz](http://www.tehuiatrain.co.nz)



\*\*\*\*\*

I have previously mentioned that **property revaluation** advice would be received this month. However due to population growth in the Waikato district the valuers are experiencing delays in accurate data collection. Letters will now be sent out in March; date still to be confirmed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Construction of the three remaining sections of the Cambridge to Hamilton **Te Awa River Ride** has started, including an underpass on State Highway 21, Airport Road and the \$2.5 million Mangaonua Gully section, which includes over 350 m of elevated boardwalk through the gully, associated earthworks, retaining walls and landscaping.

The project is jointly funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and the Government's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. Work was expected to begin on the eight-month build by the end of January, with completion earmarked for September 2021.



Once completed, the full Te Awa River Ride cycleway will span 60km from Ngaruawahia, through Hamilton and Cambridge, finishing up at Horahora, south of Lake Karapiro.

For more information on the Te Awa River Ride, go to [www.te-awa.org.nz](http://www.te-awa.org.nz)

**<< The path beside Hooker Road and Tamahere Drive is already complete, with work beginning in March to build an underpass of SH21.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Catch up with the latest news on the Hamilton Section of the Waikato **Expressway** at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway> This month's NZTA newsletter outlines progress being made with the laying of the asphalt surface – the final phase of the pavement. Also a project update on what has happened since November and other news. Councillors get an opportunity to drive over the Hamilton Section next month so we can see for ourselves the progress being made.

Contact me any time -

**Rob McGuire – Councillor Eureka Ward**

Ph. 824 3696 / Mob 0274 970 966 / Email: [rob.mcguire@waidec.govt.nz](mailto:rob.mcguire@waidec.govt.nz)