



OUR PLACE

Ko Konei

Your Whakatāne District Council
Community Update - June 2018

FUNDING FOR CYCLE TRAIL EXTENSION BUSINESS CASE

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has confirmed a \$74,000 grant to fund the development of a business plan for a proposed western extension of the Mōtū Trails Great Ride from Ōpōtiki to Whakatāne Airport.

Preparation of the business case will be a collaborative project between the Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki District Councils and the Mōtū Trails Charitable Trust. Consultants working on the 'Western Coastal Extension Cycle Trail' business case will engage with key stakeholders to assess route options and business development opportunities.

Once complete, the business case will be assessed by MBIE to determine whether it should be considered for a co-funding application.

WALKING AND CYCLING STEERING GROUP FORMED

The Whakatāne District Council has established a Walking and Cycling Steering Group, consisting of elected members and staff, to guide initiatives which will improve walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the District. The three main projects the Steering Group will oversee are:

- The Western Coastal Extension Cycle Trail
- A review of the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2007
- A review of the Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan 2013

Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw

The Policy Committee has recommended that the revised Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2018 be adopted by the Council. Public consultation on the draft bylaw resulted in 267 submissions, and after a hearing in April, the committee requested amendments to the section relating to heavy vehicle restrictions.

If adopted by the Council on 7 June, a number of speed limit changes will come into force on 1 July, 2018. The changes will primarily affect local residents only.

The revised bylaw also makes changes to Section 21 relating to Heavy Vehicle Restrictions, which now focus on heavy goods vehicles over 12 tonnes travelling on Wainui Road, rather than through Ōhope. The revised Section 21 restrictions are:

1. No logging trucks shall travel through Ōhope at any time of the day or night, unless they have received a permit to do so.
2. No Heavy Goods Vehicles, laden or unladen, travelling for the purpose of transporting goods or services exclusively to and from destinations outside the legal boundaries of the Whakatāne District, shall travel on Wainui Road or Pohutukawa Avenue. This means that all heavy goods vehicles travelling through the District to and from destinations outside the District must use the State Highway.
3. Notwithstanding Clause 21(1), permits may be issued by an Authorised Officer of the Council in extenuating circumstances.

As part of the bylaw review, the Council's Mobile Trading Bylaw has been revoked, reflecting the fact that existing statutory and regulatory controls adequately provide for the management of mobile trading in Whakatāne. Mobile traders will be subject to the traffic bylaw, but there will no longer be any requirement to obtain a permit from Council.

WHAKATĀNE KI MUA COMMUNITY VISION

SUPPORT FOR PROJECT TO LIFT TE REO MĀORI VISIBILITY

The Whakatāne District Council will work with Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi to increase the use and visibility of te reo Māori in Whakatāne township.

A report received by the Council's Policy Committee last week set out a proposal for a joint project to encourage the use of te reo Māori in the community. It noted that the District has a high Māori population (43.5% compared with the national average of 14.9%), as well as a higher-than-average percentage of te reo Māori speakers, and that exploring ways to increase the use and visibility of te reo Māori aligned with Whakatāne Ki Mua feedback that cohesion, connectedness and community spirit are what people love about our District.

Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi will lead the project, with responsibility for:

- Garnering support from external stakeholders such as hapū, iwi and marae
- Developing innovative activities that support Whakatāne as a bilingual town
- Providing resource, where possible, and working with the Council to explore resource and funding opportunities

The Council will:

- Provide support project funding applications to external agencies
- Consider options for promoting the use and visibility of te reo Māori throughout its operations
- Encourage the wider community involvement in the project

Shaping our TOMORROW Ngā rā anamata

Proposed average rates increase trimmed

After deliberating on community submissions to its 2018-28 Long Term Plan, the Whakatāne District Council has signalled a number of changes, and a small decrease in the average rate rise proposed for 2018/19.

Mayor Tony Bonne says the LTP hearings and deliberations were a lengthy but rewarding process. "This is an opportunity for people to tell us about their concerns and aspirations for the District and for elected members to consider how the Council can address the community's priorities," he says. "As always, there is a gap between what we would like to do and what the community can afford to do, but I feel we have found a good balance through this LTP. We're now preparing the final LTP for auditing and final approval next month."

Key changes to the budgets set out in the LTP consultation document (subject to audit confirmation and final adoption by the Council) are:

- ▶ A delay in equalising Murupara's water and wastewater schemes, until there is greater clarity around the nature and cost of future upgrading works (reducing the targeted rates for water and sewerage for Murupara urban properties by about \$270 in 2018/19);
- ▶ A reduction in the average rates rise across the District, to 3.83% (down from 3.99%);
- ▶ Loan-funding a \$700,000 shortfall in Museum redevelopment costs (over 25 years);
- ▶ Loan-funding an additional \$396,400 for Three Waters project costs (over 25 years);
- ▶ An additional \$150,000 per year for 2018/19 and 2019/20 to fund a shortfall in the District equalised water reserve (equivalent to a 0.34% increase in the rates requirement);
- ▶ A \$340,000 gain in roading subsidy income in 2018/19 (equivalent to a 0.75% decrease in the rates requirement);
- ▶ Increased interest expense of \$120,000, to cover costs relating to the 2017 flood event which have yet to be recovered (equivalent to a 0.27% increase in the rates requirement);
- ▶ Setting aside \$0.5 million from sales proceeds for Council-owned land at Piripai for future work required to extend the Mōtū Trails cycleway from Ōpōtiki to Whakatāne Airport, including a possible foot/cycle bridge across the Whakatāne River (to be matched by funding provided by the developers of the Piripai block); and
- ▶ An additional \$50,000 set aside to establish a facilitation fund to investigate and assist community groups in securing external funding for a range of proposed projects, including a mountain bike park and extensions and improvements to the Whakatāne Skate Park.

"The Council also agreed to work with the clubs and organisations seeking the installation of a roof for the outdoor pool at the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre, which if successful in achieving external funding, could see that project proceed in 2019/20," Mayor Bonne says.

"Given all of the 'must-do' projects we have on the books, to be able to peg-back the proposed average rates rise was very satisfying. We now look forward to delivering on all of our service commitments and working with the community to make our District an even better place to live in 2019 and beyond."

Commitments set out in the LTP consultation document which have been confirmed include \$150,000 in additional funding for tourism and events promotion; and an increase in the Council's debt cap from \$75 million to \$80 million.

STEPPING UP COMPUTER CLASSES

Want to improve your skills using your mobile phone, tablet or computer?

Come along to a free tutored session at the Horizon Energy Group Library - Whakatāne every Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:30am during term time. Laptops are available for use if required, or bring your own device.

MĀORI WARDS

The result of the binding poll on the introduction of Māori Wards in the Whakatāne District showed that just over 44% of eligible voters participated.

For Māori Wards: 4801 (44.33% of the votes cast)
Against Māori Wards: 6004 (55.43% of the votes cast)

The proposed introduction of a Māori ward or wards in the Whakatāne District for the 2019 and 2022 local government elections will therefore not proceed.

In a 2007 referendum on Māori wards in the Whakatāne District, 70% of participating voters voted against the introduction of Māori wards.

While disappointed by the outcome, Mayor Tony Bonne says it was "heartening to see that there had been a significant shift since the last poll in 2007."

"It's now time to move on and put the poll behind us, but I believe we are ethically-obliged to look for other ways of ensuring Māori views are considered in our decision-making processes and I welcome fair-minded and constructive suggestions on how to achieve that."



TROY BAKER

WHAT'S ON AT TE KŌPUTU?

View Points – Whakatāne Camera Club
Closes Sunday, 10 June 2018

View Points is an exhibition of new photographs by members of the Whakatāne Camera Club, showcasing a strong depth of talent and diverse image-making in our community.

Edwards + Johann
Closes Thursday, 28 June 2018

Edwards + Johann's collaborative work interweaves drawing, painting, performative activities, video and installation with photography.

Visual Expressions: Opening Event and Craft Market
Saturday, 16 June 2018 – 10am to 2pm
Exhibition runs from 16 June – 2 September

Whakatāne Society of Arts and Crafts will be holding an outdoor market and indoor demo-day to celebrate the opening of their new Visual Expressions exhibition. All are welcome to come along and explore the exhibition, watch a live painting demonstration, try crafts at the activity table, or purchase wares from Society members at the market outside.

Visual Expressions showcases a selection of works by members of the Whakatāne Society of Arts and Crafts. This annual exhibition presents a wide range of arts including painting, woodturning, sculpture, pottery and fibre craft. The Society offers a range of groups, classes and workshops that develop artistic skills and inspire our local creative community.