

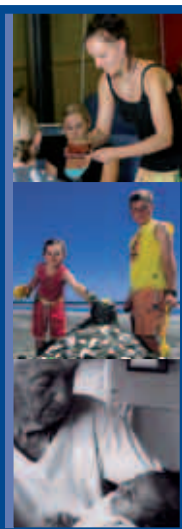


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Whakatane District Council

BYWAYS

JUNE 2011



Efficient, cost-effective, state-of-the-art GIS system being developed

The launch of world-leading GIS software will improve the quality of Council information, the speed in which it's received and will be more cost effective in the long-term.

The project is part of a multiple location GIS system being developed by BOPLASS - a joint initiative between nine councils in the Bay of Plenty and Eastland regions.

Whakatane District Council GIS Manager Stephen O'Leary said the service will enhance management of essential land-based information.

"It will offer internal and external customers and other government agencies access to quality spatial information, mapping, and associated data.

"The new system will be more efficient and provide a one-stop-shop in terms of customer service. At present customers are directed to

multiple locations to get information," he said.

Mr O'Leary said the public and Council customer service staff would have online access to maps and could quickly pinpoint a location using advanced search tools.

"Eventually all Council information relating to a property will immediately appear, such as water and waste water connections, LIM reports, dog licences, rating info and so on. Access to information on properties in neighbouring districts will also be available."

The Enterprise Licence Agreement for all BOPLASS councils costs \$300,000 per year, with the Whakatane District Council contributing 10% of this. Mr O'Leary said implementing a new system alone would cost two to three times as much and, unlike the current system, an unlimited number of people can access the software.

This year, project costs are expected to come in under the \$335,000 budget (excluding licence costs) by about 25%. Ongoing annual software costs will be about \$3,000 less than the Council currently pays.

Interest about the system and the collaborative approach has come from all around New Zealand and as far afield as the United Kingdom.

"The advisory group see it becoming the local government standard in GIS systems. It's been a big learning curve, but very exciting. It's the most popular and capable GIS system in the world," said Mr O'Leary.

The roll out of the system runs in parallel with BOPLASS, to ensure Whakatane is in step with others in the region and can share tools, information and resources. A test launch for parts of the system is expected in mid-July.

Average rates set to rise by 7.95% for 2011/12

An average rates rise of 7.95 percent is confirmed for the coming financial year in the Annual Plan adopted this week.

The Annual Plan outlines what the Council wants to achieve over the next financial year, how much it will cost, and how it will be funded - including through rates.

Whakatane District Council Chief Executive Diane Turner said almost 300 submissions were made during community consultation on the development of the plan.

"Forty six people presented submissions at hearings held on 11 and 12 May. Areas of focus included disaster mitigation works, rates affordability, service delivery in rural areas and roading budget cuts.

"Some submissions outlined new proposals and ideas which will be investigated when we develop the Long Term Plan 2012-22," she said.

Ms Turner said staff had worked hard to reduce the 11.22 percent increase proposed for the 2011/12 year in the Long Term Community Council Plan 2009-19.

"Budgets have been heavily impacted by the cost of flood repairs and we had to take care not to impact essential services when reducing the rates rise.

"2011/12 will be a busy year for the Council. A new Long Term Plan and District Plan are being developed and we're moving ahead with important projects such as the new Library and Exhibition Centre and wastewater works in Edgcumbe and Matata," she said.

Costs have been cut in a number of areas, including a reduction in road maintenance services for the next financial year.

Key issues impacting 2011/12 budgets

- Increasing the Council's contribution to the Local Authority Protection Programme (LAPP) which provides insurance for the Council's underground assets in case of a natural disaster. The increase is required as a result of the recent Earthquakes in Christchurch.
- Removing the project to implement the Kotui Library System. New information available means this project is no longer required.

Changes from the Draft Annual Plan

The Council have made changes to the Annual Plan after considering submissions made. Some of the changes include:

- Construction of a sand sausage along the western side of Maraetotara Stream in Ohope to prevent further erosion and protect the Council's assets on the reserve.
- Inclusion of \$20,000 for ToiEDA to provide promotion of the Whakatane District to visitors for the Rugby World Cup
- Supporting a proposal by Cycle Action Whakatane to build a cycle park including a pump track, skills course and track circuit at Warren Park, Whakatane.
- Providing an extra kerbside waste and recycling collection service for Ohope during the three peak weeks of summer, to cater for the increased population.

More information about these changes can be found in the Key Issues section of the Annual Plan. For a copy of the Annual Plan please contact the Council on 07 306 0500

Road study on popular tourist route

Community feedback is welcomed for a study on the district's Coastal Arterial Route - the popular coastal commuter and tourist route connecting the Eastern and Western Bay of Plenty.

Council Transport Manager Martin Taylor said the study will identify improvements, including addressing safety and design concerns along the route.

"The study being conducted by Opus International Consultants will cater for existing and future traffic demand over the next 50 years."

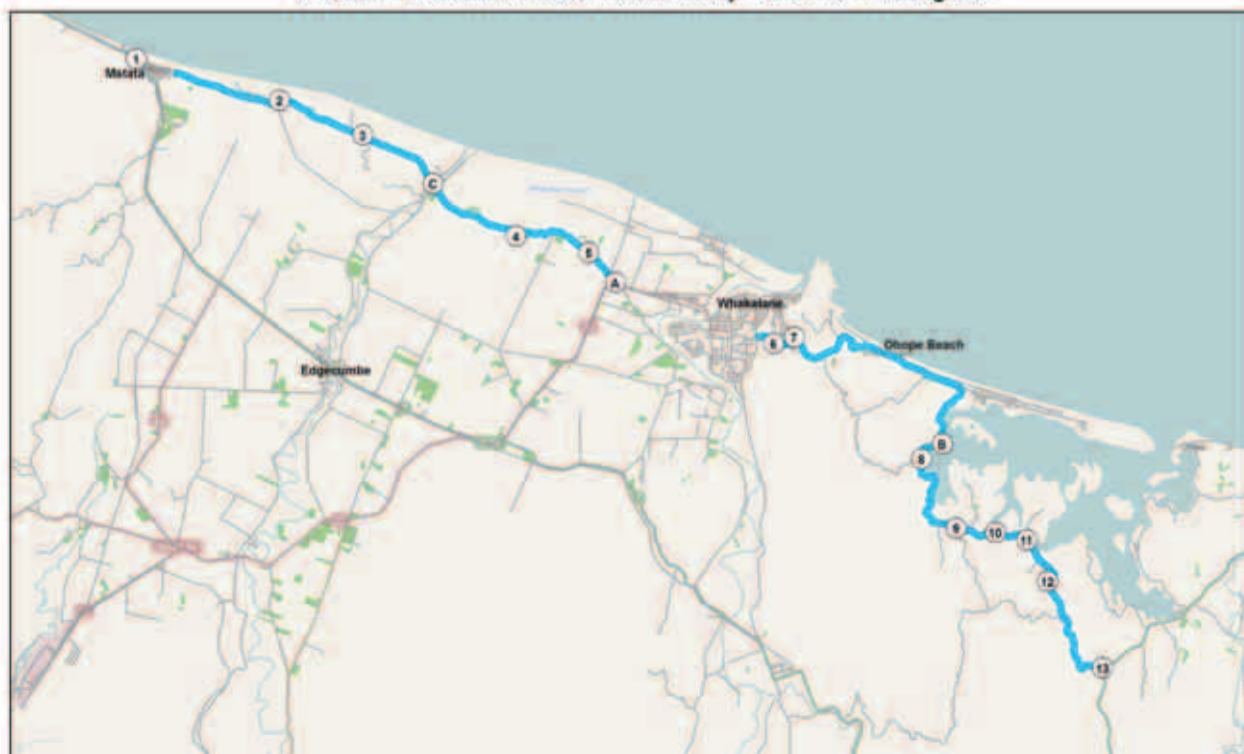
The study area includes Thornton Road, Gorge Road, Ohope Road, Pohutukawa Avenue and Wainui Road to the State Highway 2 intersection. It excludes State Highway 30, from the Thornton Road/SH30 Intersection to the Landing Road Bridge and urban areas of Whakatane.

Areas of concern include the tight curves on Thornton Road near Walkers Road, Blueberry corner and Broadlands Road corner, the Gorge/Hillcrest/Ohope Road intersection and various locations along Wainui Road.

The study will also look at ways to enhance alternative modes of transport such as bus services and walking and cycling facilities along the route.

Mr Taylor said the outstanding natural beauty and ideal climate of the Eastern Bay of Plenty makes the route one of the best tourist and recreational cyclist destinations in the country. The Council is seeking input from the public on improvements and suggestions for the route to help develop the study. Feedback should be sent to Julia.searle@opus.co.nz by July 15.

Whakatane Coastal Arterial Route Study - Sites for investigation



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. SH2 / Arava Street Intersection. | 7. Gorge Road / Ohope Road Intersection | 13. Wainui Road / SH2 Intersection |
| 2. Thornton Road curves east and west of Gorge Road | 8. Wainui Road - start to Burma Road | A. Para Road / SH 30 Intersection |
| 3. Thornton Road curves east of Walker Road | 9. Wainui Road - Harris Corner | B. Wainui Road causeway embankments |
| 4. Thornton Road S-bends and Blueberry Corner | 10. Wainui Road - Te Kae Flood Zone | C. West Bank / Thornton Road Intersection |
| 5. Blueberry Corner to Broadmore Road curves | 11. Wainui Road - Corner just west of Burke Road | |
| 6. Gorge Road | 12. Wainui Road - Cheddar Valley S-bends Flood Zone | |

Heavy Traffic Bylaw – what does it mean?

Earlier this year the Council reviewed and amended its Heavy Traffic Bylaw. Since then the Council has received a number of queries from residents and drivers seeking clarification on what it means.

In summary the bylaw states:

No person can drive a heavy motor vehicle within Whakatane or Ohope urban areas unless they are in these areas for the following reasons.

- For travelling to or from their business or place of work provided it is also in the urban areas.
- For travelling to or from their home provided the home is also within the urban areas.
- For delivering or collecting passengers or goods in the urban areas.
- In connection with services provided in the urban areas.
- In connection with essential maintenance on the heavy motor vehicle which needs to be undertaken within the urban areas.
- In connection with having the legally required breaks from driving.
- In connection with any other purpose approved in writing by the Council.

The Bylaw does not apply to:

- ambulance, fire service or other emergency vehicles;
- campervans or passenger vehicles such as buses;
- vehicles towing watercraft for delivery to or from the district;
- a network utility operator vehicle, its authorised agent or contractor engaged in a network utility operation;
- a vehicle carrying an oversize load with a permit to do so, issued by the Council in accordance with statutory or regulatory authority vested in or delegated to the Council;
- any other class of vehicle that the Council may specify in writing.

A heavy traffic bypass directs heavy vehicles from the Landing Road Bridge to Valley Road and Taneatua Road, via Hinemoa Street and Arawa Road. This provides a heavy traffic route across the Whakatane River if the state highway bridge at Peketahi has to be closed to traffic.

Council Transportation Manager Martin Taylor said while some residents felt heavy traffic was not adhering to the bylaw, recent Police campaigns to catch offenders reported a very low level of offending.

“A number of trucks were stopped by the Police during these campaigns. Most of them were carrying out legitimate business and operating in accordance with the bylaw.”

All Council Bylaws are consolidated into one document available from the Bylaws section of the Council website <http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/Public-Documents/Bylaws/>. Information on Heavy Traffic Restrictions is available in section 12.14 of the Bylaw.



Mayor says Council on track

Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne says the Council remains focused on improving its operations and it's making in-roads into enhancing transparency, efficiency and customer service at the Council. When he took over mayoral duties last October, Mayor Bonne stated his intention to focus on these areas.

Mayor Bonne said feedback from recent meetings, “showed a focus on improved customer service was paying off, as a number of people told me they were pleased with the service they'd received from the resource consents team and the finance department.”

In an effort to meet with the community and Council stakeholders, the Mayor has been attending meetings and hosting morning coffee at Whakatane cafes. He said meeting held with the Rangitaiki

community was another example of improved customer relationships.

“Councillors and I have met with the Rangitaiki Community Board and community members on a number of occasions. We've listened to the issues raised and have shared our ideas and plans. Some visionary ideas were put forward that we are now working on.

The morning coffee meetings have also been successful and offer an approachable way for people to come and raise issues or share ideas,” he said. Closer scrutiny of council spending aimed to create a more efficient business operation. The Monitoring and Policy Committee has improved the financial reporting process, making reports easier for councillors and the Mayor to interpret, and a benchmark to monitor

spending on consultants is currently being finalised by the Council Chief Financial Officer.

Please contact the council on 07 306 0500 to find out when the Mayor will be in your area or for the morning coffee meeting schedule.



Tony Bonne
Mayor



Ohope Road works nearing completion



Contractors are completing the final touches to extensive earthworks on Ohope Road to repair damage caused by numerous heavy rain events. Council Transportation Manager Martin Taylor said repair works were nearing completion after months of geotechnical investigations, complex engineering design and extensive consultation.

“The enormous scale of the two projects involved removing 30,000m³ of material, laying 8,000m² of erosion protection matting, installing 130

horizontal drains that extend 20 metres into the banks, and laying 700m of subsoil drains.”

Mr Taylor thanked road users for their patience and cooperation during the five month operation. “Despite inconveniences due to reduced speed limits and restriction to one lane, motorists were exemplary with no incidents recorded.”

Council Director of Works and Services Haydn Read says the goodwill and cooperation of all involved, particularly property owners on Cliff Road, Ngati Awa and the Department of

Conservation, was magnificent and critical to completing the project.

“Agreement with landowners was essential as the earthwork extends onto Ngati Awa farm and the Ohope Scenic Reserve,” he said.

“An added bonus was the removal of the power pole and overhead power line that dominated the landscape at the Otawairere Road intersection. Horizon Energy and the Council worked in partnership to complete the undergrounding of this power supply line,” Mr Read said.

Have your say on Rates and how Council spends money

Revenue and Financing Policy review

Take the opportunity to have your say on how the Council spends money, when the Revenue and Financing Policy is released for consultation in August. The Revenue and Financing Policy review forms part of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan development. It outlines who will pay for Council services and projects, when funding is required and how the Council makes decisions on spending.

Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne said the policy was relevant to everyone in the community.

“It includes policies on general rates, targeted rates, fees and charges, interest and dividends from investments, borrowing, proceeds from asset sales, development contributions, financial contributions and grants and subsidies.

“It's important that anyone has the opportunity to have their say, to ensure we make the right decisions,” he said.

Mayor Bonne said the Council would follow the Local Government Act principles ensuring the policy is transparent, easy to understand, thorough, fair, and realistic for the district's size and budget, and can withstand environmental changes.

The Council is currently developing the new policy for consultation in August. Formal consultation will continue in March next year, before the plan is adopted in August 2012.



Rating review

The Whakatane District Council has commenced an in-depth review of the way properties are rated in conjunction with the preparation of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

District rates are worth \$32 million annually and represent the single largest source of revenue for the Council.

The Council's Monitoring and Policy committee discussed a preliminary rates report at its 25 May meeting.

“District ratepayers have consistently indicated that rates affordability is an issue of major concern. We want ratepayers to be actively involved in developing and shaping the principles and philosophy behind how rates are collected and what services they pay for.

“People do not always understand how the Council sets rates and they find the process complex and daunting. We want a rating system which is easy and simple to understand and administer,” Deputy Mayor Judy Turner said at the meeting.

The rates review will examine how rates are spread throughout the district, not the amount charged. Suggestions and comments are welcome during the consultation period. Email feedback to rates@whakatane.govt.nz or post to Rating Review, Whakatane District Council, Private Bag 1002.

ILC increases funding for Māori development initiatives

Initiatives that support Māori development are now eligible for larger Iwi Liaison Committee (ILC) grants.

The total amount available for each project has increased from \$500 to \$2,000. Funding is available to individuals or organisations that;

- support Māori cultural events/initiatives;
- support the promotion of Māori cultural awareness in the Whakatāne District;
- encourage and support Te Reo Māori and;
- celebrate, promote and protect Māori culture and representation in sport.

Iwi Liaison Committee Chairperson Joshua Kalan said applications would be considered from individuals or organisations within the District area.

"We're delighted to be able to provide funding for initiatives that benefit the support and development of the Maori culture."

Applicants must provide project details and budget proposals. One application can be made per year by an individual or organisation and no retrospective applications are considered.

If the application is successful, the Iwi Liaison Committee must be acknowledged on any publication, marketing and advertising produced by the applicant. If an event includes a powhiri (official ceremony), tangata whenua or mana whenua must manage the cultural aspect of the ceremony.

The ILC is comprised of eleven iwi representatives, the Mayor and two Councillors. Representatives come from Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare, Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Rangitīhi, Tuhoe and Upokorehe.

The purpose of the Iwi Liaison Committee is to:

- strengthen the relationship between hapu, iwi and Māori and the Council;
- maintain and improve the capacity of hapu, iwi and Māori to contribute to the Council's decision-making processes and maintain and improve the capacity of the Council to engage with hapu, iwi and Māori and;
- provide high quality advice and recommendations which guide the Council in applying the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognising and providing for hapu and iwi perspectives and ensuring the well-being of Māori generally, in the Council's promotion of the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the Whakatāne District.

For more information about Iwi Liaison Committee funding applications visit www.whakatane.govt.nz



Get involved in the development of Whakatane's District Plan

The Council is encouraging businesses, interested persons and the public to provide feedback on the draft District Plan when it's released for consultation mid July.

The District Plan Review being conducted under the banner "Shaping Whakatane" is a three year development project initiated in 2010.

The District Plan controls the way we use and develop land in the district. It covers areas such as where to house a growing population, where activities such as business, housing or manufacturing should take place and what land can be developed and subdivided.

Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne said there were multiple opportunities for the community to be involved.

"A fact sheet will be sent with rates invoices in

July, outlining the key issues for landowners. Open days will be held in Edgecumbe, Whakatane and Murupara for people to come along and find out more and share their feedback.

"A special section of the Council website has been set up, www.whakatane.govt.nz/shapingwhakatane, which includes detailed information on the plan and the process of developing the District Plan," he said.

Some of the key changes in the draft District Plan relate to:

- new growth areas and re-zoning;
- the protection of the district's indigenous biodiversity;
- financial contributions to support the cost of infrastructure development
- policies to support Whakatane Town Vision and, Whakatane Airport and greenfield

development at Piripai and Port Ohope

- changes in subdivision lot sizes and rules for land around Ohiwa harbour, along rural and coastlines and productive land with poor soils;
- identification of new residential zoned land for future growth;
- rezoning of land around Kopeopeo for residential intensification

Mr Bonne said it was important people provide feedback as the Plan impacts the current and future development and growth of the District.

Public consultation on the draft District Plan will be held from July 15 until September 16.

For more detailed information on the plan, key issues and changes visit www.whakatane.govt.nz/shapingwhakatane or email shapingwhakatane@whakatane.govt.nz

Big tick for Library and Exhibition Centre

A \$2.77m contract has been awarded for the construction of Whakatane's new Library and Exhibition Centre (LEC).

Congratulating staff on the hard work put into progressing the project, Mayor Tony Bonne said he was excited and pleased with the outcome.

"I am confident that once complete the new facility (LEC) will bring a number of benefits to the District. This new facility will bring some pride into the community and help improve the image of the town with prospects for more visitors to the town and region".

Mr Bonne said significant work has gone into securing external funding for the project and he believes the Council is well placed to secure the required external funding from various organisations and benefactors.

"Staff are continuing with their efforts to secure

funding and a lot of effort has gone into preparing applications to the various funding organisations".

The Council's Arts & Culture Manager Wayne Marriott says his team is excited at the prospect of the new facility which will result in a Library and Exhibition space almost double the size of current facilities.

"The Council's support and commitment to the project is an important signal to funding organisations and benefactors that the project is a priority and will help convince and obtain funding support", he said.

The Council's Community Projects Manager Barbara Dempsey said over the next few weeks the team will be finalising the schedule with the contractor and construction work will commence as soon as possible. It is anticipated construction will take approximately 28 weeks to complete.

"As a project team we are very pleased and are looking forward to the challenge of delivering a high quality facility that both residents and visitors can take pride in, enjoy and utilise".

"Once we have finalised all the arrangements we will be advising the community and will continue to keep the public informed".

At its meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2011 the Council's Monitoring and Policy Committee received a comprehensive briefing on the tender process in open forum before approving the tender from Gartshore Group, bringing closer to fruition a project that has been on the books for over a decade.

Fourteen Registrations of Interest were received for the redevelopment and after a stringent evaluation process six companies were invited to tender. Gartshore Group's tender was the lowest received at \$2,773,502.02.



Council's new Māori Policy Analyst comes with an impressive résumé



Ko Putauaki te Maunga
Ko Whakatāne te Awa
Ko Mataatua te Waka
Ko Ngāti Awa te Iwi
Ko Ngai Tamapare te Hapū
Passionate about informing decision-making and the sustainable future of the district, Kura Paul-Burke is looking forward to a challenge.

Previously, Kura was a lecturer for the University of Waikato and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī,

an environmental academic consultant and a marine researcher and surveyor.

"I was attracted to the role as I'm passionate about this district – our district – this is my home.

"My job is to provide strategic policy and cultural advice to the Council on issues of significance for Māori in the Whakatāne District in relation to all council activities," she said.

Kura's first key activity is managing engagement and consultation with iwi partners and Māori communities on the draft District Plan and the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

As an environmental researcher Kura and her

husband Joe Burke conducted studies on estuarine and marine species in the Whakatāne District.

These included ocean surveys on kina, koura (crayfish), kūtai (mussels) and pāua, as well as the mussel beds in Ōhiwa Harbour for Ngāti Awa Customary Fishing Authority and the Ministry of Fisheries.

Kura's five children seem to be following in their mother's successful footsteps, with her eldest child studying Anthropology and Māori at the University of Waikato.

At home Kura enjoys nothing more than 'chillaxing' with Joe and their children.