



Mayor Michael Feyen

## Message from the Mayor

The 2017/18 Annual Plan public submissions period closes next

Monday. We want you, whether you're a ratepayer, resident or businessperson, to participate in this consultation and make your thoughts known.

It is very important you take an interest in this Council, and help us set the direction for us all to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

We have produced a very readable and easy-to-understand Consultation Document and supporting information, all available on the Consultation page of Council's website and from our customer service centres.

We want community involvement in Council and this is an opportunity to provide your feedback on what is planned for the next financial year.

And, remember that submissions need to be provided to Council by no later than 5:00pm next Monday 10 April. So, please take this opportunity to have your say.

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## Annual Plan submissions due by next Monday

The 2017/18 Annual Plan Consultation is all about getting your feedback to help Council make planning decisions for Horowhenua District over the next financial year, from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The submissions period opened on 10 March and closes at 5:00pm next Monday 10 April.

Council publicly consults on its Annual Plans when there are significant changes to what has been proposed for that coming financial year in the current Long Term Plan.

Much of what Council has planned is in line with what it committed to do as part of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. However, there are three key topics that Council is particularly keen to receive feedback on and these are outlined on page 3.

Council has produced a readable and easy-to-understand Consultation Document which provides further overviews of these topics.

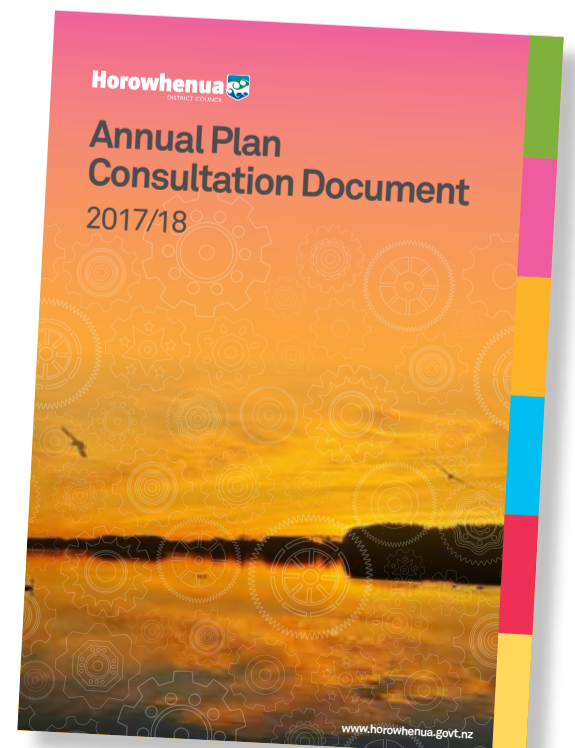
It also outlines other activities and key projects to be delivered, such as Foxton's Main Street upgrade, north-east Levin stormwater improvements, completing and opening Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton, upgrading Foxton's wastewater treatment plant, and renewing water reticulation assets in Levin.

And, it highlights how Council is responding to the increased level of growth and identifies some issues and potential projects that Council will consider in the lead up to preparing the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan next year. Council is also seeking feedback on what other ideas should be considered longer-term.

Regarding Council's income, the previously projected rates income increase for the year has been reduced from 7.72% to 5.64%. Council has managed to achieve this while maintaining the current levels of services, facilities, activities, infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and repairs, for the betterment of the Horowhenua District as a whole.

*The Consultation Document and online submission form is available at [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc).*

*Printed copies are available at Council's main office in Levin, at Te Takere, and at Council's customer service centres at the Foxton and Shannon community libraries. For updates, follow Horowhenua District Council's page on Facebook [www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC](http://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC)*



# Work to extend life of Council building to occur

Horowhenua District Council will continue with planned remedial improvements to its main office building, as identified by Opus Engineering in 2014 and ISPS Consulting in 2016.

Last Wednesday, a privately-funded engineering report by Structural Concepts was released to media. Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton has welcomed the release of the report.

"I want to acknowledge the community's frustration about this ongoing issue," he said.

"It is important to remember that this fourth report; like the three previous reports carried out by Opus, IPS Consulting and Koru VSL; also confirms the building is currently safe and is not earthquake prone."

Mr Clapperton says Opus has advised that variations in the reports are not unusual as it is a complex and somewhat subjective matter; with Structural Concepts taking a more conservative perspective.

He said both Opus and Structural Concepts have indicated a willingness to work through the results of the latest report to come up with an overall rating for the building.

"That would cost ratepayers about \$50,000, and costs would escalate if the professional opinions differ, as this will lead to a peer review being required."

Mr Clapperton said expected costs of the remedial improvements, recommended by Opus and ISPS Consulting, to lengthen the life of the building will be in the vicinity of \$30,000 and will be covered within the existing maintenance budget.

The work includes filling concrete shrinkage cracks with an epoxy resin and will be carried out when specialist contractors are available.

Mr Clapperton says by carrying out the work recommended by the engineers, HDC employees and the public can be reassured that Council's building is being maintained to ensure it continues to provide value for money to ratepayers over the long term. Another difference between the reports relates to the rating as an Importance Level (IL) 4 building with post-disaster function. Structural Concepts' opinion is that the building has a low IL4 rating, meaning it may be unavailable for use by Civil Defence in the event of a large earthquake. An IL4 building must be designed to resist a 2500 year earthquake.

"Given this, I informed HDC's Emergency Operations Controller and Horizons Regional Council of the report. However, the public should be reassured that Civil Defence can and will operate from anywhere; for example, in Christchurch operations were run from an art gallery," Mr Clapperton said.

Assessed as an IL2 building (a normal commercial building without post disaster function), the Council building has received an 87% NBS rating. This corresponds with a grade A or Low Risk. An IL2 building must be designed to resist a 500-year earthquake.



## Next step in proposed Community Housing transfer

Council is moving to the next steps in the Community Housing transfer, after the proposal deadline closed last Friday.

The portfolio includes 115 rental units at eight complexes in Levin, Foxton and Shannon, as well as one hectare of residential development land in Levin.

After a comprehensive review and public consultation process, Council resolved in April 2016 that it:

- no longer provides Community Housing as a core Council service.
- seeks expression of interests from Community Housing Providers for the stock transfer of Council's Pensioner Housing Portfolio.
- continues to take a leadership role in advocating and facilitating for wider community issues with regards to accessibility and affordability of quality housing.

The 2015-25 Long Term Plan was also amended to reflect the above resolution.

To implement Council's decision, staff were instructed to initiate a robust procurement and evaluation process to find the best provider to deliver community housing in Horowhenua. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in February.

The proposals will now be reviewed and shortlisted by an evaluation panel. The CHPs with the shortlisted proposals will then present to the evaluation panel as part of commercial negotiations. The panel will then make recommendations to Council.

The panel presently comprises Council's Customer and Community Services Group Manager Monique Davidson, Councillor Jo Mason, as well as Paula Comerford and Earl Hope-Pearson from Stimpson and Co - commercial advisors to the public, iwi and community sectors.

Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton says it is important to remember that it will be Council, not the evaluation panel, that will decide whether or not to advance

negotiations with a CHP, as well as terms and conditions of any transfer.

"The evaluation includes two non-negotiable criteria; that the selected party must be a registered CHP and that it must be willing to make a long term commitment to Horowhenua District," he said.

"There are other important criteria, including a realistic offer price, that the CHP has a track-record of managing a social housing portfolio of this scale, that it has excellent property and tenancy management systems, as well as sound management and governance; and that it has the ability to fund the transaction and maintain a high standard of service delivery."

"However, most important is safeguarding the terms and conditions for our tenants, as well as their wellbeing. We want to ensure the selected CHP will work with Council during the transition phases to make the transfer a positive experience."



# Do we develop a network of Shared Pathways?

A shared pathway network is a series of pathways that can accommodate multiple users such as walkers, runners and cyclists, and provides excellent recreational opportunities.



The development of shared pathways involves not only installing new pathways, but also upgrading existing ones to ensure that there is a consistent 'look and feel' across the pathways that make up the network.

Have your say!

We plan to take a 'mixed' approach to this, which would include developing shared pathways:

- Within parks and reserves;
- Between parks and reserves (connecting these to create loops for people to enjoy);
- Within our local towns; and
- Connections between towns (including connections to the north or south of the District).

To advance the development of shared pathways (beyond the odd small project), either \$100,000 or \$250,000 could be set aside to undertake more substantial works.

The Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group will support Council in determining what shared pathways are best developed with the funding available.

During 2017/18 a process to guide decision-making on future pathway projects will also be developed which will help Council to prioritise shared pathway projects. Ongoing funding for future projects is likely to be included in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan to help achieve an enhanced Shared Pathways network.

At this stage we want to hear your views on this direction, as well as their preferred investment option of the three we've identified. See page 12-13 of the 2017/18 Annual Plan Consultation Document.

## Should we offer incentives to heritage property owners?

Many of Horowhenua's more significant heritage properties (buildings, structures or sites) are listed in the District Plan. This offers a level of protection for these properties to help ensure they are retained for future generations to appreciate.

Heritage properties help tell the story of our District's development over time and provide our community with a sense of place. It is important to protect significant heritage properties because once they gone, they cannot be replaced.

To protect them, the District Plan places some restrictions on what their owners can or cannot do with them. For example, a heritage property owner is required to obtain resource consent

to alter or add to their property. They may also be required to use certain materials or even amend their designs to protect the most significant heritage values of their property. This can be a financial burden for a property owner.



Council does not currently provide any incentives for heritage property owners. However, this can encourage them to retain and enhance the historically significant parts of their property.

There are many types of incentives that Council could offer, including waiving consent fees, providing a discretionary fund or some form of rates remissions. This depends on the amount of money (if any) that the public is comfortable to commit. Council could set aside an annual amount of perhaps \$50,000 or \$100,000 to be made available for heritage property owners.

Council presents three options and your preference is sought. See pages 14-15 of the Annual Plan Consultation Document.

## Big issues, big conversations

Every three years Council reviews its significance and community engagement activities and produces a draft policy or strategy which is then made available for public feedback.

Currently, Council has both a Significance and Engagement Policy and a Community Engagement Strategy. These documents overlap, so Council has merged them into the draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

This is to make it easier for you to understand Council's commitment to you,

and for Council officers to understand what is required to fulfil that commitment.

Proposed changes in the Significance and Engagement Policy:

- Inclusion of community engagement principles
- Centralisation of engagement record keeping
- An updated list of strategic assets
- Explanation of when Council might not engage

- Highlighting legislative requirements
- Highlighting efforts to improve engagement with Maori
- Making provision for social media posts to be considered

Council is presenting three options and your preference is sought. See pages 16-17 of the Annual Plan Consultation Document.





# What's happening!

For further details and events visit [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events)

## 8 Saturday 8 April Great Forest Events

7:00am – 2:00pm at Waitarere Forest. Choose the marathon, half-marathon, 10km or 5km fun run or walk. No entries on the day. Registrations close at 12 noon on Friday 7 April. *For more info and to register, visit [www.greatforest.org.nz](http://www.greatforest.org.nz)*

## 8 Saturday 8 April Foxton Beach Summer Market

10:00am – 2:00pm at Holben Parade Pavilion, cnr of Bond Street and Signal Street, Foxton Beach. Enjoy what this great beach community has to offer such as local arts, crafts, and fresh produce. *Contact is Sonja Hart, 027 349 1880.*

## 15 Saturday 15 April Waitarere Beach Easter Market

19:00am – 3:00pm at Waitarere Beach Domain. A variety of markets, food stalls and fun for everyone. *Free entry.*

## 16 Sunday 16 April Foxton Easter Sunday Fair

10:00am – 3:00pm at Easton Park, Johnston Street, Foxton. Approximately 220 quality stalls, as well as plenty of activities throughout the day. Entertainment will include the Andrew London Trio, the Legal Tender Band, and a hip hop dance group. Children's activities includes a bouncy castle, dodgem cars, bikes and a merry go round. The Foxton Volunteer Fire Brigade will attend with their quick-fire raffles. *Entry is \$2 per person, with proceeds from the fair gifted back to worthy causes in the community. The event will be held whatever the weather.*

## 26 Wednesday 26 April Living a Healthy Life Course

10:30am – 12.30pm at the Otaki Memorial Hall, cnr Main and Aotaki Streets. Do you have an ongoing long-term health condition

blood pressure, arthritis, asthma, chronic pain, anxiety, depression or other mental health presentations that affect the way you sleep, feel exercise and generally enjoy life? Central PHO, MidCentral DHB and Arthritis NZ are working together to offer courses for patients and/or their carers to improve their self-management skills to manage their long term conditions in daily life. The course runs once a week for six weeks in a safe, non-judgemental environment. It is free, but registrations are essential. *For enquiries or to register, please contact Eve Williams on 06 560 3346 or [eve.williams@centralpho.org.nz](mailto:eve.williams@centralpho.org.nz)*

## 27 Thursday 27 April Breathe Better Seminar

9:30am – 3:30pm at Levin RSA, 32 Bristol Street. Horowhenua Breathe Easy seminar to celebrate 10 years since the support group began. Display tables and device assistance available. The seminar is free, but there will be a raffle to help with expenses. *Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided. For more info and a timetable, find the listing on the Events Calendar of Council's website [www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz), or contact Daphne Barrett on 06 368 8189.*

## 30 Sunday 30 April Baroque Voices

2:00pm – 4:00pm at Te Takere, Levin. Baroque Voices was founded in June 1994 by Wellington-based soprano Pepe Becker. They are a vocal consort which specialises in pre-Classical music written for ensembles with one voice to a part. *Gold coin donation.*

## Council Meetings

### Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

5 Wednesday 5 April at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

### Horowhenua District Council

26 Wednesday 26 April at 4:00pm in Council Chambers 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

## Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen (Mayor) Wayne Bishop (Deputy Mayor)



Barry Judd Ross Campbell Victoria Kaye-Simmons



Jo Mason Christine Mitchell Neville Gimblett



Piri-Hira Tukapua Bernie Wanden Ross Brannigan

## Foxton Community Board



David Roache (Chair) Tricia Metcalf (Deputy Chair) John Girling



Jenny Lundie David Allan

**Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## Foxton Main Street What's your vision?

What is your vision for the north-end of Foxton's Main Street? Let's have a conversation about this key area of Foxton's town centre. An opportunity for everyone to contribute their thoughts and ideas. All welcome.

Drop-in between 7pm and 9pm on Thursday 6 April  
Manawatū College hall  
18 Ladys Mile, Foxton

6 April