



Mayor Bernie Warden

## Message from the Mayor

Welcome to the new year and happy 2020 to all.

I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy some relaxing time with family and friends and sample some of the many delights of Horowhenua over the holiday period.

The new year has brought good news for our district, with the recent Government decision to bring forward the construction of the Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway. The announcement provides certainty for residents and for projects such as the transformation of Levin's town centre and a proposed new residential area in south-east Levin.

There is much ahead of us this year and we are well into planning our work programme. This month Council is carrying out improvement work at Avenue Cemetery and the Queen St/ Cambridge St roundabout.

There's always a lot happening in our district. Some notable recent events include another successful AP&I show and the community engagement day at Waitārere Beach, which over 200 people attended to help shape the future of their community.

There are also some great Waitangi Day events to look forward to at Muaūpoko Park and Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park.

I hope you enjoy them.

## New, safer roundabout for Queen/Cambridge Street

Work is underway on the new Queen/Cambridge Street roundabout, and it will be safer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Here's what you need to know:

### Q: Why is the upgrade needed?

**A:** We aim to reduce the number of crashes, enhance pedestrian safety and improve the condition of the roundabout. There were 14 reported crashes at the roundabout between January 2014 and January 2019, and it was unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians. In addition, it was in poor condition and needed extensive repairs to cope with the increasing traffic volume.

### Q: How long will construction take?

**A:** We expect the new roundabout to be complete in April. Construction will take about three months due to the complexity of the project and the need to keep the roads open as much as possible to minimise disruption while work takes place. We could complete the upgrade faster if we closed the road, but that would have a significant impact on businesses around the intersection.

### Q: Will customers be able to access the businesses near the roundabout?

**A:** Yes. Contractors will implement temporary traffic management plans to help people access the businesses as usual.

### Q: Will my rates go up because of this upgrade?

**A:** No, this project has been included in the safety improvement forward works plan and is accounted for in our budget. We are working hard to stay within budget.

### Q: How will people access the roundabout during construction?



**A:** The contractor will set up temporary traffic management to allow people to use the roundabout without any major impact.

If we have to close the road, we'll provide advance notice and do all we can to reduce inconvenience.

### Q: Will heavy vehicles be able to use the roundabout after the upgrade?

**A:** Yes, heavy vehicles will still be able to use the roundabout.

### Q: What are the safety improvements?

**A:** Some of the key safety improvements are:

- The new roundabout will have dedicated cycleways in all directions.
- There will be improved visibility and safer places to cross for pedestrians, and smoother, less steep crossing points to make it easier for people using wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams.
- The central island will be extended on Queen Street up to the railway to stop unsafe turns and provide a pedestrian crossing point between Pak 'n' Save and Mitre10.
- Changing the two-lane approaches to the roundabout on Queen Street and southbound on Cambridge Street to one-lane approaches. One-lane approaches are safer because the road around the roundabout curves more tightly, which encourages drivers to slow down. However, to aid traffic flow, the northbound approach on Cambridge Street will have two lanes, with a free left-turn into Queen Street.

Story continued on next page.

**Q: Will the new layout increase traffic congestion?**

**A:** To ensure the new layout doesn't cause congestion, we've done extensive traffic modelling that includes the effect of the roundabout on surrounding intersections and rail crossings. We looked at different scenarios, some with higher than expected traffic growth. All transport projects must balance safety against efficient traffic flows. We know the intersection of Queen and Cambridge Streets can cope with more traffic because our measurements show delays are unlikely even at peak times. We also know from crash data, feedback from our community, and observing the site that the old roundabout was unsafe for pedestrians. Because traffic flow is not a problem and we have traffic models for the new roundabout, we are confident we can improve safety without causing traffic congestion.

**Q: Will the plaque and the tree beside plaque be removed?**

**A:** The tree outside Pak 'n' Save on Cambridge Street will stay where it is. There is a plaque in recognition of former Deputy Mayor Jack Lines MBE near the tree. The plaque will also remain, although it may be temporarily removed to protect it during construction.

**Q: Will the car parks around the roundabout be reduced?**

**A:** Yes, we are reducing the number of car parks to improve visibility and make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road.

**Q: Why not install traffic lights instead of a new roundabout?**

**A:** Traffic lights would lead to long stopping times and create queues, which would cause delays for motorists.

This intersection is not an ideal for traffic lights because there isn't much space for vehicles to queue on Queen Street West between the roundabout and railway line.

In addition, traffic lights at this intersection would need to be accurately synchronised with the railway crossing barrier and traffic lights at the Oxford Street/Queen Street intersection.

**Q: Will the new roundabout have plants in the centre?**

**A:** Yes. It will have gardens in the centre and along each corner of the intersection to make it visually appealing.

**Q: Who can I talk about this project?**

**A:** If you have any questions about the project, please contact Roading Projects Engineer Nihad Aljic on 06 366 0999.

## When an earthquake strikes

Two recent earthquakes centred just off the west coast of the lower North Island are a reminder that we all need to be prepared, says Horowhenua District Council's Emergency Management Officer, Andrew Howard.

"Before an earthquake, make sure you've got a household emergency plan, an emergency survival kit, and a getaway kit in case you need to evacuate in a hurry. Identify safe places to take cover in your home, school or workplace, and secure heavy furniture to the wall or floor," he said.

"If an earthquake strikes, drop to the floor, take cover in your safe place, and hold on until the shaking stops.

"In coastal areas, a tsunami could follow an earthquake. If you live in a coastal community and there's an earthquake that lasts longer than a minute or makes it hard to stand up, move inland to high ground immediately. A tsunami caused by a local earthquake could arrive within minutes, so there may not be time for an official warning."

**There are plenty of resources available to help you prepare:**

- The Civil Defence pages on Horowhenua District Council's website – [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/Civil-Defence](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/Civil-Defence)
- Get Ready – [www.getready.govt.nz](http://www.getready.govt.nz)
- Civil Defence Manawatu Wanganui Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/civildefencemanawatuwanganui/](http://www.facebook.com/civildefencemanawatuwanganui/)
- The emergency planning guide, 'Never Happens? Happens: Horowhenua' is available from any of Council's customer service centres

**f** In an emergency, Horowhenua District Council is your local civil defence authority. We will provide instructions, advice and updates. Follow our Facebook page, [www.horowhenuaDC](http://www.horowhenuaDC) or listen to Beach FM to stay informed.



If an earthquake is **LONG** or **STRONG** GET GONE

## Community grants applications open

Horowhenua District Council is inviting applications for funding from four community grants schemes.

Applications to the Horowhenua Community Development Grant, Community Consultation Grant, Shannon Community Development Trust and the Creative Communities Grant, for round two of the 2019/2020 financial year, are open until 5pm on Friday 28 February.

The Community Development Grant provides local non-profit organisations with funding for events, projects, and operational costs. In this round \$25,525 is available.

The Community Consultation Grant provides funding to resident and ratepayers associations to support the distribution of community material and administration costs.

The Shannon Community Development Trust provides targeted funding to non-profit organisations that bring benefits to the Shannon community, as well as to local individuals seeking scholarships for sporting and educational pursuits. This round the Trust will have \$5,000 to distribute.

The Creative Communities Grant is a national scheme, funded by Creative New Zealand and administered by local government authorities. It provides arts funding to local groups and individuals. In this round, \$26,000 will be available.

*For more information, criteria and to download application forms for any of the grant schemes, visit [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/grants](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/grants) or contact the Council on 06 366 0999 or [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz)*



*MENZSHED Foxton received \$2,500 to buy new tools for their workbenches in a Community Development Grant.*

# Improvements for Avenue Cemetery

Work is underway on a new carpark and road extension for Avenue Cemetery in Levin.

Horowhenua District Council is extending the road through the cemetery by 100 metres to allow space for more burial plots, and putting in carparks at the west end of the extension. The foundation for the extension and the carpark has been laid, and we will now work on installing curbs and a layer of chip-seal. Finally, surrounding grass areas will be levelled with the road and carpark to provide a safe, accessible and aesthetically pleasing finish.

To make room for the carpark, we have removed approximately 30 exotic plantation conifers at the west end of the extension.

Weather permitting, we expect to finish these improvement works by the end of February. The cemetery remains open during this time and we are working with local funeral directors to make sure burials are not affected.



# Have your say on the future of Waitārere Beach

If you live, own property or often visit Waitārere Beach, now is your chance to have your say on the future of your community.

Council is seeking feedback on the draft Waitārere Beach Community Plan and draft Waitārere Beach Master Plan.

While the Community Plan and the Master Plan will both guide the community's future, they focus on different things.

The Community Plan highlights the community's goals and aspirations. It sets out a vision, identifies values, and sets four priorities with actions attached.

Strategic Planner Katrina Gray said the draft Community Plan reflects input from the community last year.

"More than 300 members of the community, as well as 120 children from Poroutawhao School, contributed ideas and views to help us create the draft Community Plan. Now we're taking the draft back to the community to make sure the plan captures what's most important to the community," she said.

The draft Waitārere Beach Master Plan is a guide for where new houses will be built in future and what new housing developments will look like. It identifies section sizes, where new roads and shared pathways

should go, how many parks will be needed and where they should go.

"Waitārere Beach is growing. While growth won't happen overnight, we want to give people the opportunity to help shape what it will look like," said Ms Gray.

She said Council is pleased with the response so far.

"We had a great turnout at the engagement event in January, with more than 200 people coming along to find out about both plans. But if you haven't yet had your say, there's still time."

*You can provide feedback via Horowhenua District Council's website at [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/waitarerebeachcommunityplan](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/waitarerebeachcommunityplan) until 14 February.*



# Meet Brent Maguire – a man who makes things happen

Brent Maguire is a man who makes things happen, so he's a perfect fit as Horowhenua District Council's new Group Manager Infrastructure Development.

Mr Maguire joined the Council team in January to plan and deliver a wide range of infrastructure initiatives throughout the district.

It may seem like a big job, but Mr Maguire thrives on turning ideas into reality.

"My CV is full of complicated and challenging projects within the public and private sector. I enjoy breaking down complex problems into bite-size solvable pieces and getting results," he says.

He has a broad infrastructure management background, and has been at the forefront of many of the major roading infrastructure projects in New Zealand. Among his many career highlights, two projects especially stand out: leading the government's delivery of New Zealand's first fully electronic toll road north of Auckland, and the successful delivery of the National War Memorial Park and Arras Tunnel in time for the Anzac centenary.

"At the time, free flow electronic tolling – which allows drivers to keep

going instead of stopping to pay at a toll booth – was an innovative concept. We were developing world-first technology, which has really stood the test of time. I'm especially proud of the way we embraced the technological challenge, meticulously planned and uncovered all the potential issues and found solutions for all of them."

"More recently, leading delivery of New Zealand's National War Memorial Park and Arras Tunnel in a little over two years has been a major career highlight. Everyone on that project was honoured to be part of the hundredth anniversary of ANZAC Day. It was a hugely challenging project with immovable time pressure, big budgets, constant supply chain pressure and complex cross-governmental issues to consider. It goes to show what can be achieved when you're all pulling in the same direction."

At Council, Mr Maguire's first priorities will be to create an overall plan for projects and gather a high-performance team to deliver it.

"Growth is real and it's happening now. We need to make sure we're one step ahead so new residents, businesses and visitors have a seamless experience. I'm here to help get things done."



# What's happening

1 to 2

Friday 1 November 2019 until  
Monday 2 March 2020

**Anne Frank, NZ - Let Me Be Myself - Exhibition**

**Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Open daily**

The Diary of Anne Frank captures the real-life story of a young girl hiding from the Nazis in an attic in Amsterdam during World War II. *Students free entry; Libraries Horowhenua cardholders \$2; adult general admission \$5.*

6 **Thursday 6 February**  
**Classic Cars 'n' Teddy Bears Picnic in the Park – Waitangi Day 2020**

11am to 2pm at Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Check out the glitz of classic, vintage and hotrod cars, and get the kids excited with prizes to be won for 'Best Dressed Bear' and 'Bear in Cutest Toy Car' at the Teddy Bears Picnic. Pack a picnic to spread out on the grass, enjoy the music, the games, and much more at this family event. *Free.*

6 **Thursday 6 February**  
**Muaūpoki Iwi and Community Waitangi Day**

10am to 4pm at Lake Horowhenua. Whanau fun day with ta moko, face painting, fai, live music, health and wellbeing, kaumatua tent and much more. *Free.*

8 **Saturday 8 February**  
**Medieval Market**

9am to 4pm at Levin Showgrounds  
Annual craft market with a medieval theme. Over 200 stalls, plus plenty of medieval re-enactments, activities and entertainment. *Adults \$5, children under 15 years free.*

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

13 **Thursday 13 February\***  
**Healthy Ageing Talk with Murray Crawford**

2pm to 3pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Wellness industry speaker and trainer Murray Crawford talks about illness prevention and staying healthy, the importance of a healthy gut, maintaining a healthy immune system, nutrition and hydration, and heart health. *Free. Email [neilhi@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:neilhi@horowhenua.govt.nz) or phone 06 366 0999 to register.*

*\*Date changed from 23 January*

**Let's Move Together Triathlon**

7 **5pm, Friday 7 February at Shannon Primary School**

15 **9am, Saturday 15 February at Levin Aquatic Centre**

16 **9am, Sunday 16 February at Foxton Heated Pools**

Bring your bike, sun screen and togs and come and get involved in the Aquatics Horowhenua Let's Move Together Triathlon! Sausage sizzle, free fun swim and bouncy castle available after the triathlon. Distance options available for children aged 5 to 7 years, 8 to 10 years, and 11+ years. *Entry \$5 in Levin and Foxton, \$2 in Shannon. Register online at [aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz/Events](http://aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz/Events) or in person at the Levin Aquatics Centre.*

16 **Sunday 16 February**  
**Supercheap Auto Spectacular Car Show**

9am to 3pm at Shannon Golf Club.  
This annual event has outgrown Shannon Domain, with over 500 vehicles on site last year. Bring your own special vehicle or just come along and enjoy the show. *\$2 per person, \$2 public parking*

## Council Meetings

**Council**

12 **Wednesday 12 February at 4pm,**  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

**Council (Adoption of Annual Plan consultation document)**

26 **Wednesday 26 February at 3pm,**  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

**Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**

26 **Wednesday 26 February at 4pm,**  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

## Horowhenua District Councillors



**Bernie Wanden**  
(Mayor)

**Jo Mason**  
(Deputy Mayor)

**David Allan**



**Wayne Bishop**

**Ross Brannigan**

**Todd Isaacs**



**Sam Jennings**

**Victoria Kaye-Simmons**

**Robert Ketu**



**Christine Mitchell**

**Piri-Hira Tukapua**

## Foxton Community Board



**David Roache**  
(Chair)

**Tricia Metcalf**  
(Deputy Chair)

**Trevor Chambers**



**John Girling**

**Ngaire Newland**

**Pimp Your Park**  
**STREET ART COMP.**

We are looking for artists between 16 and 30 years of age to create a vibrant 'Street Art' design to decorate fence panels at the Paul Ireland Skate Park.

**FEB 21** Submissions close 21 February 2020

Art work to be A1 size and can be submitted physically or digitally.

For more information on how to submit your design:  
[horowhenua.govt.nz/pimpyourpark](http://horowhenua.govt.nz/pimpyourpark)

**Picnic in the Park Waitangi Day 2020**  
6 February 2020  
From 11am to 2pm.  
A free family event in Foxton.

Make Waitangi Day a fun holiday out for the family. There's plenty to do and see – in Foxton's Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park.

**Classic 'n' Hotrod Cars on Show**  
**Teddy Bears Picnic in the Park**  
Music, games and Teddy Bear prizes for: 'Best Dressed Bear' and 'Bear in Cutest Toy Car'.

**Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park**  
**Horowhenua**  
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton  
Visit [www.teawahou.com](http://www.teawahou.com) for more information