

Horowhenua

you want to stay connected

community connection

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Brendan Duffy

We have reviewed Council's Community Housing Review over the past year and learned there may be a

better way to provide pensioner housing in the future.

We want to ensure long-term sustainable community housing that is accessible and affordable, but that can also access services to enhance social connectedness and wellbeing.

We've prepared a consultation document with an overview of the key issues and answer questions you may have on what we're proposing.

We are undertaking this consultation as the proposal would require a change to our 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. It is important you take the opportunity to read this information and provide feedback to Council. For more info and instructions on how to submit, see the story on page three.

Brendan



Exhibition curator Mark Hutchins-Pond during the install.

Hear from the art experts at Hope and Wonder

Horowhenua residents have the opportunity to hear art specialists talk about the BNZ Art Collection exhibition Hope and Wonder.

On display at Te Takere throughout March, the exhibition brings together 20 distinctive pieces of artwork created during the 1970s and 1980s by icons of New Zealand art history including Pat Hanly, Robin White, Michael Smither, Michael Illingsworth and Don Binney.

While widely regarded as one of New Zealand's best private art collections, the artworks have rarely been shown outside of BNZ office in recent years, highlighting the significance of

exhibition for locals and art lovers across the country.

Talks will be given by exhibition curator Mark Hutchins-Pond on Saturday 12 March 12 and Saturday 26 March 26. Fellow members of the curator team will be available for talks at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm on five days during the exhibition - Wednesday 2 March, Thursday 10 March, Thursday 17 March, Monday 21 March and Thursday 24 March.

The talks are free, but bookings are essential. To book, phone 06 368 1953, visit Te Takere's service desk or email emaj@tetakere.org.nz

Levin Aquatic Centre Improvements

Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

Pensioner Housing - Have your say

What's Happening



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Message from the Foxton Community Board



Janine Smart

The final working plans for the beautification and safety upgrade of Main Street are nearly complete. A community meeting to showcase the design will be held at Manawatu College at 7.00pm on Tuesday March 15. Everyone is welcome.

It is a more simplistic and practical plan than previous proposals, but will certainly make a hugely positive difference to the look and ambience of the town. Contrary to rumour, there are no trees going down the centre of the road and the overall width will be reducing only 1.2m in order

for the western side of the footpath to be flattened out, thus removing the current dangerous angle. After more than 25 years of discussion, consultation and expense, we are there at last!

Also, look out for the Foxton water tower's new lighting, due to be turned on around Easter. Well done to all involved.

What with all the other projects, including the real possibility of restoring good flow back into the Manawatu River loop, this is certainly a time of celebration for Foxton!

Third rates instalment due Tuesday 15 March

This is a reminder that the third of our four rates instalments is due Tuesday 15 March 2016.

Council offers a range of payment options to assist ratepayers to manage their payments. A credit card or debit card can be used to pay online through our website www.horowhenua.govt.nz. Payments can also be made via internet banking direct credit. Of course, you can make payments by return post or over the counter at Council's office in Levin, its service centres at the Foxton and Shannon Libraries, or at the Tokomaru Store.

For those ratepayers who wish to spread their payments over the year we offer a range of direct debit options, with payments able to be set up weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly, depending on your situation. If you prefer to have your rates invoices emailed to you, please register via the **Do It Online** section on the home page of Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz

This is also a reminder for those ratepayers that have not yet applied for the 2015/16 Rates Rebate to apply now.

For more information, visit the Rating Information page on Council's website, otherwise contact the Rates Team on **06 366 0999 or rates@horowhenua.govt.nz**

Levin Aquatic Centre improvements design underway

Work has begun on detailed designs for the Levin Aquatic Centre's major improvements this year.

Council has approved to proceed with the \$1.67 million project as part of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan, however it will still look for cost savings as part of the design phase.

It includes a complete re-work of the ground floor area including renovating the toilets, showers and lockers, as well as upgrading the lobby, reception, shop and office area. The existing covered area on the north side will be upgraded to include a conservatory area with large sliding doors leading to the outdoor area. There will be new tiered spectator seating, and the social and storage space will be extended. The tiles on the end walls of the main pool will be replaced.

An eagerly-awaited hydrotherapy spa pool will be installed, replacing the existing two spa pools, and will be suitable for both hydrotherapy and general use.

The work also includes operational changes such as replacing the pools' filtration and chlorine systems also

resulting in annual cost savings expected to be around \$100,000.

Council's Customer and Community Services Group Manager Monique Davidson says the project will provide an attractive social space that encourages recreation

and fun, as well as enable operational cost savings

"And, to be able to provide accessibility to pool hydrotherapy will certainly be welcomed by the Levin Stroke and Arthritis Hydrotherapy Pool Group which has been campaigning for such a facility and will save users having to travel to Paraparaumu or Palmerston North."

To allow the work to happen, the Levin Aquatic Centre will be closed over the winter months from Monday 9 May, with the view to open on Saturday 3 September. Streamline Swim School classes will continue at the Levin Aquatic Centre for the first two months of the school term two, and then transfer to the Foxton Pool.



Have your say on future of pensioner housing in District

Horowhenua District Council is seeking community feedback on a proposal that it no longer provides pensioner housing as a core service

The feedback from the special consultation process will assist elected members to make an informed decision on how to progress with its pensioner housing stock of 115 units across eight complexes throughout the District.

Horowhenua District Mayor Brendan Duffy said a written condition of any sale and purchase agreement would be that all properties bought by a community housing provider would be retained as community housing for the district, ensuring existing tenants could stay in their units. Another condition would ensure the same or better level of service that Council is currently providing tenants with.

“Council wants to ensure community housing in Horowhenua remains

accessible and affordable,” he said.

“The level of housing need in the community is far greater than we can deliver and will only grow over time. Also, the service currently being delivered by Council is not sustainable in the medium-to-long term without significant operational and capital expenditure being made.”



Mayor Duffy said that Central Government through its social housing reform programme no longer allowed councils to access capital grant subsidies to develop and deliver new community housing; nor could they access subsidies to help make housing affordable for tenants. Only registered community housing providers had the ability to access these subsidies.

“The existing rights and benefits of our tenants will not change. In fact, we hope they will improve, as there are advantages to be gained from a change of ownership to a community housing provider. For

instance, comparing current rents to what qualifying community housing tenants are entitled to under the Income Related Rent Subsidy offered by Government to Community Housing Providers, some tenants could be up to \$61 per week better off,” he said.

“Plus, community housing providers can offer much wider wrap-around social services such as meals, outings, social services and health-care, providing even more value to tenants. They are also in a better position than Council, or the private sector, to provide the specialist support required by some elderly tenants. Essentially, community housing providers offer a very safe pair of hands.”

The public can provide feedback by filling in submission forms available from Council’s main office in Levin, its service centres at the Foxton and Shannon community libraries, and from Te Takere. People can also make their submissions online via Council’s website www.horowhenua.govt.nz/communityhousing. Submissions must be received by 5.00pm on Saturday 19 March.

All feedback received will be collated and presented to Councillors before hearing submissions on Wednesday 30 March. Council will then meet on Wednesday 13 April to deliberate and make a final decision.

Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade nearly complete

The Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is nearly complete and will see 80 percent of the treated wastewater irrigated over Council-owned farmland before the end of the month.

Since the plant was built in 1969 all of the treated wastewater has been discharged through a pipe directly into Stansells Drain which leads into the Mangaore Stream and into the Manawatu River, complying with resource consents from Horizons Regional Council.

Chief Executive David Clapperton said the recently circulating videos and commentary claiming raw sewage was entering the stream was “dishonest, misguided and malicious”.



Irrigation pods will discharge treated wastewater over Council-owned farmland.

“At no stage has any raw sewage entered the waterways next to the plant. Treated wastewater is not sewage, nor does it retain any elements of it,” he said.

“Horowhenua District Council is actually one of the more progressive councils in its planning for how to discharge treated wastewater; to the extent of buying farmland for the purpose of irrigating it over pasture and not have it go into streams that feed the Manawatu River.”

The plant’s \$3 million upgrade will see 80 percent of that treated wastewater irrigated over 65 hectares of Council-owned farmland. This project was approved by the Environment Court in May 2015, following two years of robust consultation and mediation with local iwi

Ngati Rangitane and Ngati Whakatere, and other interested parties.

The remaining 20 percent of the treated wastewater will travel through two land-passage systems, an artificial wetland and a gently-sloping channel planted with grass and flax into the Mangaore Stream, but only when the Manawatu River is at peak flow approximately 10 days per year.

Manawatu River Leaders Accord chairperson Richard Thompson says that Horowhenua District Council is showing commitment and innovation in its efforts to remove wastewater discharges from its waterways. “It will be a very positive result and shows the merits of working together to achieve the outcome of cleaning up our region’s waterways, which we’re all in favour of,” he said.

what's happening

For further details and events visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events

Sunday 6 March Go Active Kids TRYathlon

8:00am - 11:00am at Levin Aquatic Centre. This is a great way for children to have fun and make new friends. Open to 5-13 year olds, children are able to enter in a team or by themselves. Registration is \$10 per child or \$20 per team of three. If this Sunday does not suit, there's also the Splash 'n' Dash Fun Tryathlon at the Foxton Pool on Sunday 13 March. For more info or to register, phone 06 368 0070 or visit www.aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz.

Sunday 6 March Children's Day

From 11:00am at the Levin Adventure Park. Free activities, entertainment, barbecue and spot prizes. On offer will be the Mission Impossible obstacle course, bouncy castle, three legged and sack races, face painting, teddy bears picnic and story time. For more info, contact Rose Cotter on 06 367 0680 or rosec@supergrans.net.nz.

Friday 11 March Manawatu Estuary Walking Tour and BBQ

1:30pm - 3:00pm at the Estuary, Hartley Street, Foxton Beach. Join Foxton Beach School pupils for a walking tour and free sausage sizzle as they unveil signage they have created as part of a pest trapping project at the Ramsar site. Project partners include Wildlife Foxton Trust, Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council and the NZ Landcare Trust.

Sunday 20 March Brass in the Park

1:00pm - 4:00pm at the Levin Adventure Park, Oxford Street. This free concert will feature the Levin and Districts Brass, Kapiti Brass and Trust Porirua City Brass bands. Bring a picnic. Free entry. If wet, will be held in the Salvation Army Worship & Community Centre, 11 Durham Street. For more info, visit www.facebook.com/levinbrass

Saturday 26 March Waitarere Beach Festival

10:00am - 4:00pm at 'The Lakes', Waitarere Beach Rise (signposted from roundabout). A day of fun for the whole family, with craft and food stalls, and an all-day entertainment line-up including the Beat Girls from Wellington. The popular wine and beer tent will be available for the adults, while there will be plenty for the kids to do, including rides and watersports. Entry is \$2.00 per person, with kids under 5 free.

Sunday 27 March Foxton Easter Sunday Fair

10:00am - 3:00pm at Easton Park, Johnston Street, Foxton. As well as the 200-plus stalls offering all types of merchandise, there will be activities including a bouncy castle, dodgems, bikes, and slides. Live entertainment will include Andrew London's band Lucky Break, as well as the XS7 dance band, an eight piece group from Wellington.

Levin Aquatic Centre pool closures

The complex in part or whole will be closed to the public for the following periods this month:

- Fridays 4 - 18 March, 3:00pm - 5:00pm, for schools water polo (main pool)
- Sunday 6 March, 7:00am - 12:30pm, for the Go Active Kids Tryathlon (whole complex)
- Sunday 6 March, 12:30pm - 6:00pm, for Levin Swim Club Meet (whole complex except for aqua-jogging pool).
- Tuesday 15 March from 10:45am to 12:30pm for Levin School's swim sports (main pool and children's pool)
- Thursday 24 March, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, for Koputaroa School's swim sports (main pool)

Aquatics Horowhenua apologises for any inconvenience.

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

The next meeting is on Wednesday 2 March at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

The next meeting is on Monday 21 March at 6.30pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Brendan Duffy
(Mayor)



Garry Good
(Deputy Mayor)



Victoria Kaye-Simmons



Jo Mason



Tony Rush



Piri-Hira Tukapua



Wayne Bishop



Christine Mitchell



Ross Brannigan



Michael Feyen



Janine Smart
(Chair)



David Roache
(Deputy Chair)



Tricia Metcalf



Ross Campbell



Amanda Street



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