



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

The new twice-weekly bus service between Levin and Waikanae begins next Tuesday 7 March. However, it is for a trial period only, so we need people to use it and prove its need.

Operating every Tuesday and Thursday, the service is a joint venture between Horizons Regional Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council, and will be operated by Uzabus. We at Horowhenua District Council greatly support the initiative as it provides a convenient public transport option between Horowhenua and Kapiti, also offering access with the train service to and from Wellington.

A one-way cash fare is just \$6 between Levin or Manakau and Waikanae. Travel is free for children under-five and SuperGold Card holders.

Timetables are available from Council's Levin office or Te Takere, or on the Bus Timetables page of Horizons' website www.horizons.govt.nz

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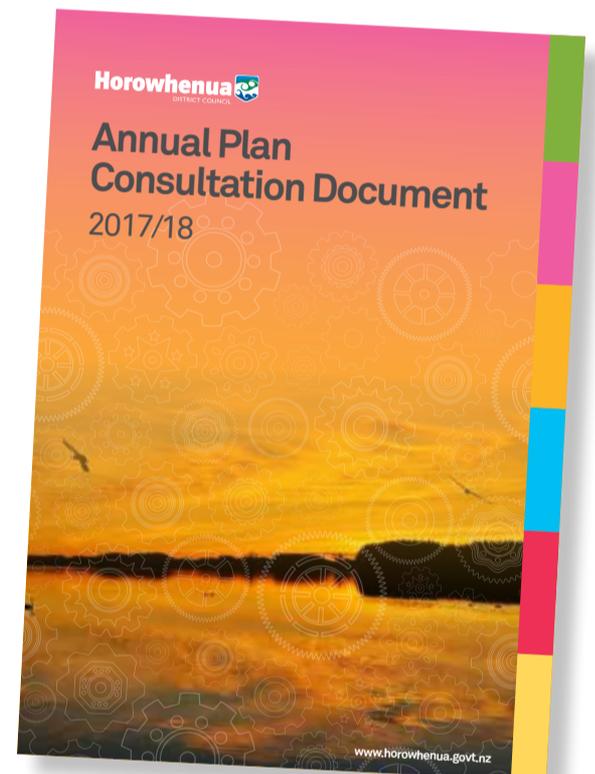
Annual Plan process coming up

Horowhenua District Council has been busy putting together its Consultation Document for the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

The purpose is to get the community's feedback to help us make planning decisions for the District over the next financial year, 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The Consultation Document highlights some of the activities that Council will focus on over the coming twelve months, including some of the key projects that are going to be delivered. Much of what we will be doing in 2017/18 is in line with what we committed to do as part of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. The Consultation Document highlights how we are responding to the increased level of growth, as well as some of the ideas and issues that the Council will consider in the lead-up to preparing the Long Term Plan 2018-2028. This year's Consultation Document identifies three key topics that Council will seek the community's specific feedback on.

At this stage, Council will adopt the Consultation Document at the beginning of March 2017, with public consultation from Friday 10 March 2017 until Monday 10 April 2017. During this period we will hold a number of public information sessions on the Consultation Document. These sessions will be in the evening, starting at 7:00pm and will take place in Foxton (Tuesday 21 March at the Masonic Village Hall), Levin (Thursday 23 March in the Council Chambers) and Shannon (Thursday 30 March at the



Memorial Hall). A range of daytime informal sessions have also been organised throughout March to provide the opportunity to engage directly with elected members about the Annual Plan.

Keep an eye on Council's website and Facebook page, as well as the local newspapers, for more information on the 2017/18 Annual Plan Consultation Document and consultation process.

A copy of the Consultation Document will be available online at Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc from Friday 10 March 2017.

Hard copies will be 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 (during normal opening hours).

LIM reports produced in just half-a-day

Horowhenua District Council has significantly cut the time it takes to deliver Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports to customers.

On average, the Council can provide a LIM in just half-a-day; remarkably quicker than the legislative requirement of 10 working days, and has maintained this turnaround for the past 18 months.

This has been helped by Civica's Authority software, which Council has been using since 2010. Council's Business Services team discovered that some of the information needed for LIM reports was already sitting within its Authority database and, furthermore, it could be automated. Previously, the information had been extracted manually. Civica supported the Council to extract and consolidate the information required and in the shortest timeframe possible, also enabling improved reports.

A LIM report is used by people considering a property purchase and includes information found in council records, such as the status of the road (public or private), type of water connection, property hazards, zoning information and status of intended use of the property, building consents/permits and other consents, licenses and notices affecting the land or building and stormwater and sewerage drains on the property.

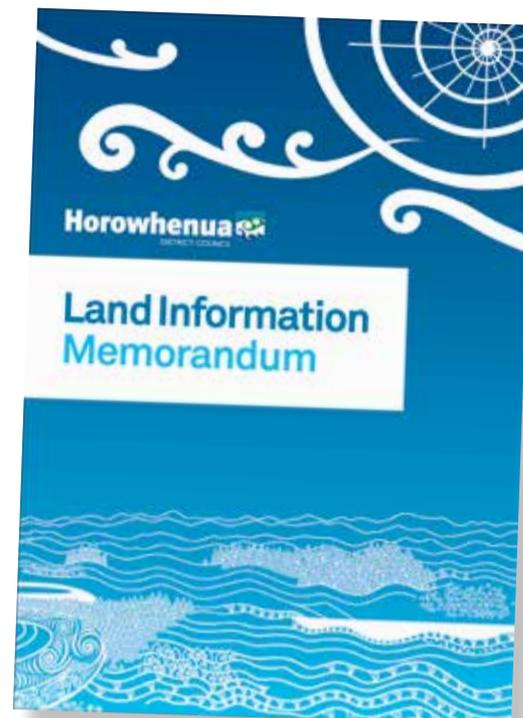
"Buying a house for whatever reason, be that as a first home or as an investment, is a significant decision to make and for many people the provision of the LIM is a critical part of ensuring they feel confident in making that decision," said Council's Business Services Group Manager Nicki Brady.

"A lot of the LIM report requests were coming from not only local residents, but those living outside the district in areas such as Wellington, Auckland and even potential overseas buyers, encouraged by Horowhenua's increasingly appealing property and lifestyle opportunities."

For its LIM report improvement project, the Council took a co-design approach that involved Council staff and community and business representatives in order to determine the outcome they wanted to achieve.

"We talked to people in meetings and workshops as we really wanted to understand what it was that they thought we could do better or what would assist them in the LIM service," Mrs Brady said.

"The improvement was not about being able to advertise our LIM service as being a half-day turnaround. It was about acknowledging that we want to do the best we can to meet our customers' needs and deliver a prompt and effective service.



"We could have spent money on a new system and delivered it within few months. We knew our project would take longer in our approach however we wanted to have the discussion with our officers who work with the processes every day, and our stakeholders, and utilise the feedback to feed into our decision making process.

"The new LIM report procedure is a remarkable outcome for our customers and community, and feedback has been extremely positive."

Have your say on the Waitarere Beach and Ohau River Draft Reserve Management Plans

Horowhenua District Council invites people to make submissions on the Draft Reserve Management Plans for the Waitarere Beach Reserves, the Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, and the Ohau River Reserves.

Under the Reserves Act 1977, the Council is required to develop and review management plans for reserves under its management or control for the purpose of providing for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and development of these reserves.

In May-June last year the Council publicly notified its intent to review the reserve management plans for the Waitarere Beach Reserves (Waitarere Domain, Holmwood Park, and Wairarawa Stream Reserve), the Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve, and the Ohau River Reserves (Gladstone Reserve, Kimberley Reserve, Kirkcaldies Reserve,

an access-way off Muhunoa East Road, and Parikawau Reserve).

During this time Council called for members of the community to put forward any comments or suggestions they had on how these reserves might be used, managed and/or developed in the future.

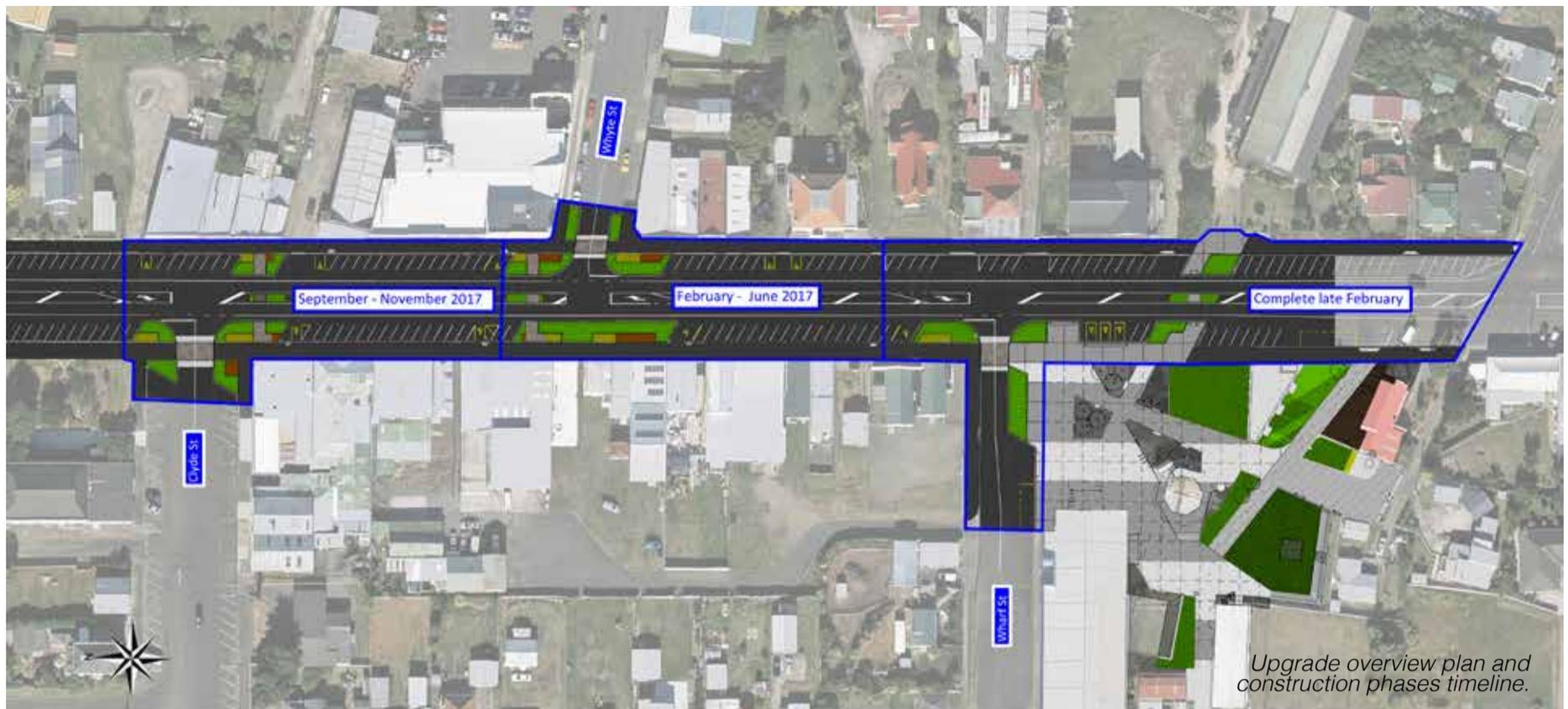
Council has now drafted the three reserve management plans and these are now available for the public to view and have their say on.

For information and copies of the plans, as well as an online submission form, visit the Consultation section of Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz.

Written comments, suggestions or objections must be submitted to Council by 5pm on Friday 17 March 2017.

For any enquiries, please contact Council on 06 366 0999 and ask to speak to Tiffany Williams or email reservemanagementplans@horowhenua.govt.nz.





Foxton Main Street upgrade - the key issues

Why is the upgrade needed?

An upgrade of Main Street was one of the initiatives identified in the Foxton Town Plan, adopted after public consultation throughout 2009 and 2010. The Foxton Town Plan, which is available to view on Council's website, identified a set of initiatives and concepts to revitalise Foxton's town centre.

The upgrade is also necessary as part of preparations for Horowhenua District-wide growth, helped by current state highway upgrades between Horowhenua and Wellington. It also incorporates with Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, to open in Spring 2017.

What is the objective?

One of the key objectives of the upgrade is to improve quality and quantity of public space in Main Street, for the benefit of us, as people. Town centres are not just about vehicles, but also people. Numerous studies throughout New Zealand and internationally prove that well-designed pedestrian-friendly public spaces benefit people's quality of life, community wellbeing, safety and economic benefits for retailers and other local businesses.

We want Foxton to be a place where people choose to visit, spend time and money. Creating attractive spaces outside our shops and cafes and enhancing the ambience created by quality public space is imperative to this.

Foxton is known for its wide Main Street, so why reduce the amount of road?

The road is currently 23.6metres-wide from kerb to kerb, so once the footpath has been widened there will still be more than enough space for traffic lanes, car parks and a painted median along the centre of the road.

It will also be safer for pedestrians to cross, as the existing pedestrian crossings do not meet current design standards. No longer will there be a 20-metre distance to cross. Instead, there will be several kerb build-outs and pedestrian refuge islands installed in the median, clearly visible to motorists. Their main purpose is to provide safe and easy-to-use crossing points for pedestrians, improving visibility and reducing crossing distances by allowing pedestrians to cross one lane at-a-time. They also provide a traffic calming effect by encouraging safer vehicle speeds.

What is happening to the parking?

The number of car parking spaces is not decreasing; in fact it is increasing slightly. However, the spaces will be spread out wider and not necessarily in front of all shops.

How long will the construction take?

Construction began in October 2016. The first phase between Cook Street and Wharf St is approaching completion. Phase two construction will continue to just north of Whyte Street, before work stops in June for winter. Construction will restart in October and continue north to Clyde Street until December 2017.

What is happening to the north-end of Main Street, including the cenotaph area?

The Council will continue working with stakeholders and other affected parties, as well as the community, as part of the preparations of a design for the upgrade to the north-end of Main Street, the section of Ravensworth Place that passes in front of Ihakara Gardens and the traffic island that the cenotaph sits upon.

The objective is to prepare a design concept that is supported by the Foxton community and that meets the needs of key stakeholders. The concept will be designed via a series of workshops and community meetings, so all requirements, objectives and ideas can be shared and considered. The workshops and meetings will be held in the next two months.

Before upgrading Main Street, why not fix the current infrastructure and environmental issues?

The project does not replace other projects, but is happening in addition to these; including extensive work to solve water clarity issues experienced by some Foxton residents, as well as combined efforts with other agencies and groups to return flow to the Manawatu River's Foxton loop.

There is significant community support for the Main Street upgrade. As with any large project there are some detailed concerns/issues held by some individuals, and these will be worked through as the project progresses.



What's happening

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

3 Friday 3 March Seaweek variety concert

12:00pm to 2:00pm at Te Takere, Levin. A Variety Concert to celebrate Seaweek will be held at Te Takere on 3 March. This will include performances and a wearable art parade. For more info on Seaweek, visit www.seaweek.org.nz. For more info on the variety concert, phone 06 368 1953 or email deborahm@tetakere.org.nz or visit www.tetakere.org.nz.

4 Saturday 4 March Hats and High Tea

1:30pm – 4:30pm in Chambers at Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. Come and glam up with style! There will be an afternoon high tea, music and entertainment, goodie bags, raffles, styling tips, and prizes for best-dressed female and male. Scarves and jewelry available for purchase. Bring cash. This fundraising event is organised by Rotary Club of Levin in support of the Levin Women's Refuge. Tickets are \$25 each or a table of six for \$100 and can be purchased from Levin Paper Plus, or phone 027 451 7588 or email linnell@xtra.co.nz.

5 Sunday 5 March Children's Day

11:00am - 3:00pm at the Levin Adventure Park. Head along with the children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews for a fun-filled event with free activities, entertainment, BBQ and free giveaways.

11 Saturday 11 March, Saturday 18 March, 18 Sunday 26 March Go Active Kids 26 TRYathlons

Shannon, Foxton and Levin respectively. For info and to register, visit the Event Calendar on Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz or phone 06 366 0999.

11 Saturday 11 March 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.

12 Sunday 12 March Waitarere Beach Long Lunch Fundraiser

11.30am in the 'Fairy Forest' (access via 17 Hydrabad Drive). This community event is to fundraise for security cameras at Waitarere Beach. Bring your family, friends and a plate to share, as well as your utensils and chairs. There will be fun raffles and the Woodleys Coffee Break truck (which also sells ice creams) will be on site. Tickets cost \$10 per person (children free) and are available from Diana on 06 368 6368 or adamherlihy@xtra.co.nz, otherwise on the day at the event access. All welcome.

18 Saturday 18 March Pasifika Celebration Day

11:00am - 3:00pm at the Levin Adventure Park. A celebration of the diverse and vibrant Pacific Island cultures in Horowhenua, with cultural performances, food, arts, crafts, info and promo booths.

For event info and promo booth registrations, contact Rob Fifita-Tovo on 021 083 35991. Food and arts stalls: Aleni Feagaiga on 021 610 639. Cultural groups and performers: Jane Masoe on 021 987 126 or Sue Hori Te Pa on 027 4466 513. For updates, visit the *Fale Pasifika* page on Facebook.

19 Sunday 19 March Family Fun Day

11:00am – 2:30pm at the Levin Adventure Park. Community BBQ for families to have fun and spend time together. For more info, please contact Sophie Styles on sophie@dwire.co.nz

26 Sunday 26 March Rotary Cave Tour

10:00am – 4:30pm at various locations. A Rotary Club of Levin event to raise funds for Arohanui Hospice's new clinic for Levin. A trail of 20 'caves' such as private workshops and premises not usually accessible to the public, as well as a number of commercial and hobby-related sites. Tickets cost \$25, available from Paper Plus, New World, Write Price and Pit Stop in Levin; as well as at De Molen Windmill or MAVtech in Foxton. They can also be requested by emailing barry.rollinson@gmail.com



Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

15 Wednesday 15 March at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

20 Monday 3 April at 6:00pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Lady's Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen
(Mayor)

Wayne Bishop
(Deputy Mayor)

Bernie Wanden



Ross Brannigan

Barry Judd

Ross Campbell



Victoria Kaye-Simmons

Jo Mason

Christine Mitchell



Neville Gimblett

Piri-Hira Tukapua

Foxton Community Board



David Roache
(Chair)

Tricia Metcalf
(Deputy Chair)

John Girling



Jenny Lundie

David Allan