

Rural Round-up

APRIL 2021

LTP Consultation has begun

Make sure you have your say on our Long Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation document that outlines the activities, services and projects Hastings District Council intends to deliver over the next 10 years and how it's planned to be funded.

Of particular significance for rural residents is the options around funding the necessary renewal of our ageing rural road network, and our ongoing bridge strengthening programme that started in 2018.

Council's preferred option is to take a balanced approach: To lift the rates required to fund roads from \$6m currently to \$11m by Year 6 of the LTP. This forms part of the proposed seven per cent per annum rates increase in rural areas.

Alternatively council could speed up the work programme, which would cost three per cent more than the balanced approach above, or slow things down which would cost about one per cent less per annum rates than the balanced investment option in the first six years.

Residents are encouraged to go to www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz and have their say on these options, and the other issues feedback is being sought on (parking in the Hastings CBD and Havelock North, and ongoing investment in the Hastings City Centre revitalisation, events and parks and reserves).



Physical copies of the consultation document should have arrived by post by now, but this document and the full Long Term Plan proposal can also be read online at www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz. The consultation period closes on May 7. For more information you can also pop into one of the meetings being held.

Rural meetings

Patoka Hall Tuesday, April 20, 7pm

Crownthorpe Hall Wednesday, April 21, 7pm

Poukawa Hall Wednesday, April 28, 7pm

Maraekākaho Hall Thursday, April 29, 5.30pm-7.30pm

Safer Speed Review

Waka Kotahi NZTA is consulting on new permanent speed limits for State Highway 51 (SH51), between Waipatu in Hastings and Marine Parade in Napier, and the winding section of State Highway 5 (SH5), from Rangitaiki to Esk Valley.

The best way to have your voice heard is to make a submission at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/hawkes-bay-speed-review

The consultation period is open now and runs until Sunday, May 9.



Nice work!

The car parking area outside the Maraekākaho Hall, school and early childhood centre has been transformed in recent weeks. Improving this area was an action in the Maraekākaho Community Plan and made possible by HDC and the Provincial Development Unit funding.



Dog fee increases

For the first time in more than five years, Hastings District Council is raising its dog control fees to help pay for the increasing costs of running animal control services.

Last month Council agreed to adopt the new fees that include raising the registration fee for urban dogs from \$110 to \$115 and rural dogs from \$48 to \$56.

The biggest change from the current fees and charges, however, will be the introduction of \$60 fees for the seizure and destruction of dogs, and a \$10 increase in the relinquishment fee (from \$40 to \$50).

This acknowledges the rising costs of running the service as well as introducing more of a user pays element – putting the costs back onto the owners of the dogs that cause problems.

Council regulatory solutions manager John Payne said this cost increase reflected the higher workload experienced by the animal control team.

In 2019/2020 an extra full time equivalent staff member was employed to meet the service levels required of the animal control team, in particular due to an increase in public hostility, requiring staff to work more frequently in pairs, Mr Payne said.

In the same time period there was a spate of stock worrying incidents resulting in more than 300 sheep killed and several more badly injured. Several of these incidents resulted in summary prosecution involving multiple dogs and multiple offences. Legal costs exceeded \$35,500.

In terms of the increased fees for rural dog owners, Rural Community Board chair Nick Dawson said this would affect the rural community, especially those that have bigger teams of working dogs to register.

“The rural community board has asked for a regular review of fee increases going forward, but acknowledge this is the first increase in a number of years.”

There are about 13,525 dogs on the Council database, and there is an annual increase in the dog population of about 1.5 per cent.



Bridge strengthening update

Work is progressing well on the strengthening of Kuripapango Bridge which remains on track to be completed this June.

Co-funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Rangitikei District Council and Hastings District Council, the strengthening work is a requirement that arose after the Government put in place new restrictions around vehicle weights and dimensions in 2016.

The bridge will be open to cars and vehicles under 22 tonnes on the public holiday of Monday 26 April (Anzac day). For full bridge closure and opening times, please go to the council projects page at www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/kuripapango

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

If there is an emergency situation during the closure period, please call John or Kelly on 027 244 6246 or 06 879 6246.

They can radio the site and prep the site access in advance for the emergency vehicles to get through.

Nominations wanted for heritage register

Our district has a rich and diverse history and Hastings District Council is asking the community for its help to identify buildings, items and areas with significant heritage value that could be registered and protected within the District Plan.

There are currently 98 heritage buildings, items and places on the register of heritage features, which are located across the district from the city centre to the wider Hastings urban area, Havelock North and throughout the rural areas.

Now council wants to hear from the community if they know of any items they think hold heritage value and significance.

To make a nomination go to

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/hastings/about-hastings/hastings-heritage



Rural Community Board Members



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