

August 2018

LINK



WAIKATO
DISTRICT
NEWS

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Te Kauwhata will experience accelerated growth in the years to come.

Interest-free loan paves way for Te Kauwhata infrastructure upgrades

Crucial infrastructure improvements to cater for growth in Te Kauwhata will go ahead after Council received confirmation from the Government of \$38 million through its Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF).

Minister for Housing and Urban Development and Transport, Phil Twyford visited Te Kauwhata last month to make the official announcement of the 10-year, interest-free loan of \$38 million, which combined with \$34.2 million from Council's Long Term Plan, will be used to accelerate infrastructure projects to support the development of residential units in the town.

A new wastewater treatment plant with the latest membrane bioreactor technology will be built, along with associated pipes so that wastewater can be discharged on to land near the Waikato River, subject to resource consent, instead of into Lake Waikare.

There will also be extensive upgrades to the town's water supply infrastructure and some local road upgrades.

These upgrades are designed to bring forward the construction of 1,190 houses by three to five years earlier than scheduled in Council's Long Term Plan.

These 1,190 dwellings are already planned within the Te Kauwhata Structure Plan, however the infrastructure upgrades will allow for these dwellings to be delivered earlier.

The improved infrastructure will also facilitate an additional 1,600 households within the town's Lakeside Residential Development in the next 10 years.

Mayor Allan Sanson said that without the Government's support through this HIF interest-free loan, Council would have struggled to cater for this rate of growth.

"There are significant infrastructure constraints in wastewater, water supply, and roading in Te Kauwhata," he said.

"There is very limited capacity in Te Kauwhata's reticulated water treatment plant and its wastewater treatment plant to serve any residential development beyond that which is planned for through the Te Kauwhata Structure Plan.

The HIF funding enables us to provide the long-term infrastructure solutions required to enable earlier and greater provision of households in a key growth area in the north Waikato.

Mayor Allan Sanson.

Chief Executive Gavin Ion has paid tribute to the Council's project team who put together the Detailed Business Case over the past year that secured the HIF funding.

"This announcement is the culmination of a year's hard work from various teams within Council," he said.

"It's also been a hugely collaborative process with the local community, Councillors, developers, iwi, consultants and other organisations to name a few.

"We're now looking forward to tackling the implementation stages of the project.

"Our plans for Te Kauwhata form an important part of our district-wide vision of creating liveable, thriving and connected communities."

Now that the HIF agreement is in place, consenting and detail design of tender ready documents have started.

Council will repay the HIF loan via development contributions. Our infrastructure will be maintained through rates generated from the Lakeside Development housing area, as well as other developments, and where required, district-wide rating growth.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Every three years Council puts together a long term plan for the future of the Waikato District. This gives us a chance to stop, reflect and listen to our communities and then propose a vision and a plan for what sort of communities we want to be growing, building and supporting.

This year, from that process, came our new vision for Council: *"Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities"*. One of the

first deliverables from our refreshed way of thinking about our role is the focus on community Blueprints.

Blueprints - Blueprints will become an integral part of the way we work in the future. Blueprints, developed with our communities, will help us to ensure our community's aspirations are included in Council's key strategic and planning processes.

Blueprints will show us the desired future for the district and be focused at multiple levels including town, village or rural area. Blueprints will identify and help plan for growth, infrastructure, social, community, environmental, economic and transport issues. At the local level these will be more detailed and specific to the place.

We have been hosting community workshops (in North of the district to start with) seeking input at the early stages of this process, and more will follow as the plans come together. So keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for more information about Blueprints.

Water Governance Board - Another key decision to come out of this year's Long Term Plan was how we manage our water, wastewater and stormwater. As you may have seen in the news there is a central Government-led review underway into how councils fund and operate water services for their communities. We have taken the opportunity to get ahead of the review and are already making changes.

Council has confirmed its position to establish a professional Council-appointed Waters Governance Board, which would be operated at arm's length from Council's day-to-day management. This decision was in line with community feedback, which saw 86% of respondents support a change from the status quo and 63% support for Council's preferred option.

We intend that Watercare Services Ltd will provide Council's waters management services under a tailored contract. The Board would control all the 'three waters' operations and service delivery, but the Council would retain ownership of the infrastructure and would continue to provide some of the background corporate support required.

The levels of service you experience will be maintained as currently agreed, but it may offer an opportunity to raise levels of service in the future. Savings are forecast to total approx. \$28.3 million, or more, over 10 years. This means less debt for Council, reduced rate increases, and/or more opportunities to reinvest into our network and our wider community.

I am excited about this not just because of the possibility of significant savings and operational improvements, but also by the potential to offer career development opportunities for our staff in this field.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

TOP 5

places of historical interest

- Rangiriri Paa and surrounding area**
Rangiriri



Rangiriri

- Puke-i-aahua Paa and Tuurangawaewae House, Ngaaruawahia**



- Alexandra Redoubt**
Tuakau



Woodlands



- Woodlands Historic Homestead**
Gordonton



- Harbour View Hotel**
Raglan



Harbour View Hotel

Exciting times ahead for the future of our libraries



In the next 12 months we'll be working with you to find out what library services you require, now and into the future.

- We have libraries in Ngaruawahia, Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Tuakau and Meremere. Our libraries offer a wide range of programmes and services. We also have an extensive online collection (including e-magazines), which you can access. We are part of the Infoshare/Bay of Plenty consortium (a shared e-book collection between many councils) which will give you access to more than 14,000 books and approximately 300 audio books. To register, visit <http://waikato.kotui.org.nz>.
- Access to libraries in Waipa, Matamata-Piako and Hauraki district will remain free for Waikato District Council residents and ratepayers. We know that Cambridge, Morrinsville, and the new Te Awamutu library offer substantial alternatives for people, particularly those in Tamahere, Matangi and Eureka.



You'll find more information on our website:
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/libraries

The agreement we have that allows all our residents to access Hamilton City Libraries will come to an end on 30 September.

One of the reasons for ending this contract is that it only benefits a small percentage of our residents, says Waikato District Council Chief Executive Gavin Ion. This is a positive opportunity to reinvest money back into our own library system so that we can grow and enhance the services in our district.

In the next 12 months we will be working with you to find out what services you require, now and into the future.

We'll also be working with other councils, including Hamilton City Council, to create a shared service across the region. Residents that live close to Hamilton are the most affected by this decision, Mr Ion says.

"We know it is frustrating for residents that don't live near our libraries because they don't have the same opportunities as others. We also know that they are more likely to use libraries run by other councils.

"As a result, those that are active Hamilton City Library users in near-by areas will receive one 12-month library membership per household.

"In order to enhance library services in our district and not have to increase rates by more, we need to 'cap' the amount that is spent. We have identified that this is the fairest way to do this."

These people were contacted at the beginning of August. Others are welcome to renew their membership at a cost of \$80.

We look forward to hearing about your library needs and wants over the next year. Watch this space!

THIS IS WHO I AM

Aksel Bech

This is who I am is a feature that tells us a little bit more about our elected members.



Councillor Aksel Bech says the sea is part of his earliest memories from his childhood in Denmark. Here he is sailing on the yacht M1 in the 2012 Auckland - Noumea race.

Name: Aksel Bech – I spent 40 years of my life as Aksel Bech Jepsen (with Jepsen being my now deceased step-father's name after my mother remarried) but changed to come back to my maternal family name late in 2016. And yes, my new middle name really is Danger... but that is a longer story.

Ward: Tamahere – moved out from Hamilton city in 1999 to buy the home we still live in, though adding bedrooms as the kids came along.

Family: Three kids; aged 10, 12 and 15 with my wife Susan (25 years married this coming January) and two dogs, along with a shy rescue cat that mostly lives under the house that completes our family.

What is your favourite thing about the Waikato District? Everything you need – for raising a family, for education, for business - is either right here or within easy reach, all without the hassles of living in the city.

What is the biggest issue facing the Waikato District in the next few years? Ensuring that growth in the north of our district and around Hamilton is well planned and managed so that we build liveable, and loveable communities - not sleeper towns for our neighbouring cities.

Favourite holiday destination and why? We have a family bach at Opito Bay... no, not in the Coromandel but the other one, just north of Kerikeri. The sea is part of my earliest memories from my childhood in Denmark and still today with New Zealand's much kinder climate, swimming, sailing, fishing and diving are much cherished opportunities for our family to do things together. Sadly the Waikato doesn't quite offer the sailing

opportunities of the Bay of Islands so that keeps us heading back up north.

Worst job you've ever had and why? I had a great job selling "Danish Delight" ice-creams from a little hut on The Square in Palmerston North whilst a student at Massey. Great that is until running head first into the Christmas Santa parade and having over a hundred people queuing up and getting grumpy. Running out of cones... running out of cream... and finally running out of ice-cream and having to pull the shutters down. A brutal lesson in retail and failing to get the planning right!

What is your favourite album of all time? If I have to pick just one – Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd.

Best concert? Love live music so hard to choose - would have to call it a four-way tie: David Bowie Glass Spider tour (1987 with Peter Frampton on guitar); U2 LoveTown tour (with BB King); Roger Waters The Wall; and Prince's one and only New Zealand concert in 2016.

What radio station do you listen to? Morning Report then The Sound for the rest of the day.

BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE WAIKATO

Dr Surya Pandey

Bringing the world to the Waikato is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff who are from around the world.



Surya Pandey has lived in New Zealand longer than he lived in his home country of India.

Name: Dr Surya Pandey

Job title: Programme Manager – Te Kawhata Growth & Infrastructure

Country of origin and how long you lived there: India. I lived in India less than I have lived in New Zealand now!

How long have you been in NZ? 31 years.

What do you love about the Waikato District? Waikato District provides a beautiful mix of an urban and rural setting and nothing is too far from here – be it a beach, beautiful lakes or ski fields.

THIS IS WHAT I DO

Tony Whittaker

This is what I do is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff and what they do.

Name: Tony Whittaker

Role: Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive (previously GM Strategy and Support looking after Council's Strategic and Corporate Services portfolio).

Family: Partner Alison, son Liam and daughters Rose and Sophie.

How long have you worked for Waikato District Council?
9 years.

What does your role involve? I have just started an exciting new role of Chief Operating Officer. This role is responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of the Council in accordance with our plans and budgets. We are on a journey to create a great organisation - one that is ultimately respected by our ratepayers and customers and one where staff love coming to work. My role is to help drive the change required to deliver this.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your role? To see our district changing in front of my eyes and knowing I played a part in that is really exciting. I also enjoy spending time in our communities and connecting what we do with what our community wants - which is our perennial challenge.

What's the most challenging aspect of your role?
Being able to juggle all the balls and deliver what our community wants and needs.

Tell us something about your role that most people won't know about: The variety - I was once challenged by our placemaking team to make myself useful in my home workshop and build a 'little library' for Pokeno. Have a look next time you go to get an ice-cream.



Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Tony Whittaker.

Why is Council a great place to work?

I get to work with a great bunch of people who are totally committed to our communities. This isn't just our staff - I am often overwhelmed by the commitment of members of our communities who invest many hours of 'their' personal time to make their community a better place for all.

What's the weirdest customer complaint you've dealt with?

I shouldn't say any are weird but it's often the animals in our district that create more drama than the people do! Believe me, I was rather surprised to be dealing with a neighbourly dispute where pets, wild animals and people were living in far too close proximity.

What the best compliment you've received from a customer?

Having been through a really challenging and emotional process involving a frustrated ratepayer and property, ending up on prime time TV, to be able to shake the ratepayer's hand and be told by them that I was really professional and that they respected me for the way I had handled the situation, made a big difference for me.

What is the biggest difference between life in New Zealand and life in your country of origin?

I would certainly say the traffic noise. It seems drivers in India just love to honk their noisy air horns - day and night.

What do you miss most about home?

I miss my family and friends. People gossiping on the roadside while enjoying Chai, mind blasting Indian street foods, especially Chaat, that will make you run for a bite, huge weddings and festivals, people wearing beautiful vibrant colours, and a mix of different cultures to name a few things. But what I miss the most is not being able to drop in to see my friends and relatives - unannounced and be served with beautiful snacks or food no matter what time!

What's one thing about life in your home country that most New Zealanders would not know about?

Indian culture is one of the oldest cultures to be introduced to mankind and so are the legends associated with it. Most of the

festivals celebrated in India are in a way or other related to gods and their triumphs in mythology. Most religions have their own festivals which often go beyond just religious observance and turn into a celebration of life itself.

You need to convince someone to go on holiday to your country of origin. What do you say?

Perhaps no other country can offer the range of cuisine that India does. There's no such thing as typical Indian food; from Kerala to Kolkata there's a smorgasbord of fabulous regional dishes to be discovered, beyond the familiar favourites of chicken tikka masala, rogan josh, malai kofta and tandoori butter naan, which can often be harder to find in India than in New Zealand. Also, there is a different India to be discovered than the normal tourist destinations. The best experience could be had by visiting rural India. When I took two of my Kiwi friends to my native village in India, they did not want to leave! They said it was the best part of their trip to India.

Wastewater packs distributed in Raglan

Raglan has long been a supporter of the 3 P's and that message will soon be hitting their letterboxes.

A "resident's pack" will soon be distributed to every household throughout the Raglan area that will reinforce the message of only the 3 P's down the loo – pee, poo and paper.

The pack contains a letter, a couple of flyers, a sticker for the toilet cistern and a fridge magnet to remind you that pouring fats and oils down the kitchen sink isn't a good idea either.

These fats and oils, along with other material people flush down the toilet, have a tendency to block our wastewater network. These blockages can cause damage to the pump stations or even overflows into the environment.

Council plans to distribute these residents packs throughout the rest of the district in the future.



Raglan ward Councillor Lisa Thomson shows off the Raglan wastewater packs that will be arriving in Raglan very soon.

Water bills seem high?

A free service to help Waikato District households reduce their water use and lower their water bills has been launched.

As many will know, we finished installing water meters across the district last year when the installations in Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Raglan were completed.

Council's Acting Waters Manager Karl Pavlovich says the free in-home water saving service can be used by anyone in the district, but it is aimed at households with unusually high water readings that could be paying more than they need to.



"A high reading might signal a water leak or that there's something else going on with appliances or the way people are using water," Karl said.

"Either way, it's in everyone's interests to have a good look because the less water households use, the less money they pay.

"Water is also a precious natural resource and the more efficiently we use it the better it is for the environment."

Waters Manager, Karl Pavlovich



Households tapping into the service will have a home visit from water advisor Chris Parker to check household appliances and advise on ways to save water.

Where possible, Chris will retrofit a range of free water-saving devices including flow restrictors, tap aerators, shower timers and toilet flush restrictors.

The water saving service is jointly funded by the Waikato and Waipa District Councils.

To enquire about the service, call 0800 492 452 or send an email to waters@waidc.govt.nz

There are also water saving tips on the Smart Water website at www.smartwater.org.nz



Water advisor Chris Parker offers free home visits to help households reduce their water bill.

Horotui planting

Last month Council staff were thrilled to spend the morning with Horotui School senior students. Staff were supporting the school's Te Awa Trail planting day.

Horotui School initially approached Waikato District Council's Open Spaces Team Leader Duncan MacDougall and presented their 20-year re-vegetation programme along the Te Awa Trail to him.

A group of staff then agreed to help plant 300 plants on the section just north of the Horotui Bridge to Sullivan Road. The students had grown everything in their school nursery from seedlings.

Thanks to the hard work of the Horotui School students, we now have a lovely stretch of our region's most used pathway planted for prosperity."



Horotui School student Maecyn Turner, 9, plants a tree along the Te Awa Trail.

We've made it easier for you to report illegal dumping



Dumped rubbish is a big problem but we can't clean it up unless we know about it.

To make it easier for you, we've set up a new Facebook Group called **Let's stop the Dodgy Dumpers** (www.facebook.com/groups/dodgydumpers) so that you've got another way to report illegal dumping. It also means you can talk directly to our illegal dumping team.

You'll need to join the group first. Remember to tell us all the details and send photographs when you can.

You'll find more information on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dumpers

You can still report illegal dumping by phoning 0800 492 452 or by filling in the form on our website.

Haakarimata app launched

Waikato-Tainui has launched a new digital application called Ngaa Koorero o Haakarimata.

The app tells local stories such as how the Haakarimata got its name and the medicinal treasure chest that lays within the ancient forest as you go up the Haakarimata Summit Walk in Ngaruawahia.

It uses augmented reality – using real world environment overlaid with multiple computer generated sensory information.

Once the app has been downloaded to a mobile device, track users can listen to different stories as they climb to the summit of 374 metres above sea level. Apart from the initial app download, internet access is not required.



Those climbing to the Haakarimata Summit will be able to hear local stories thanks to a new app launched by Waikato-Tainui. Photo: Te Whakitenga o Waikato

The app is available on both Google Play and the App Store.

Have a question about the Proposed Waikato District Plan?

You can make a submission on the Proposed Waikato District Plan until Tuesday 9 October, 2018.

Community drop-in sessions are being held around the district throughout August and September, so if you have any questions, make sure you pop along and speak with the team.

An external expert will also be on hand to help you make a submission if you need it.

As a reminder, lots of information relating to the Proposed Waikato District Plan is available on our website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/pdp including FAQs and the ability to look up your property to see the proposed changes.

Dates and locations of these drop-in sessions:

Town	Location	Date	Time
Mangatangi	Mangatangi Hall	Monday 20 August	11am-7pm
		Tuesday 21 August	11am-6pm
Ngaruawahia	Ngaruawahia Bowling Club	Monday 27 August	11am-7pm
		Tuesday 28 August	11am-7pm
Huntly	Huntly Library	Thursday 30 August	11am-7pm
Tamahere	Tamahere Community Centre	Monday 3 September	11am-7pm
		Tuesday 4 September	11am-7pm
Te Kauwhata	Te Kauwhata Bowling Club	Monday 10 September	11am-7pm
		Tuesday 11 September	11am-7pm
Raglan	Raglan Town Hall	Wednesday 12 September	11am-7pm
		Thursday 13 September	11am-7pm
Te Kowhai	Te Kowhai Hall	Monday 17 September	11am-7pm
		Tuesday 18 September	11am-7pm
Pokeno	Whangarata Hall Pokeno Town Hall	Wednesday 19 September	11.30am-7.30pm
		Thursday 20 September	11.30am-7.30pm
Tuakau	Tuakau Town Hall	Monday 24 September	11.30am-7.30pm
		Tuesday 25 September	11.30am-7.30pm

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?

 facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil

 twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

 waikatodistrict.govt.nz

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Huntly

Ngaruawahia Office

15 Galileo Street
Ngaruawahia

Raglan Office

7 Bow Street
Raglan

Te Kauwhata Office

1 Main Road
Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office

2 Dominion Road
Tuakau

Dates for the next Link:

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 23 - 27 October. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact news@waicd.govt.nz with your address details so we can look into the non-delivery. Please note that if you have a 'No Junk Mail' sign on your mailbox we can't deliver the newsletter.