

Waitaki LINK

NEWS FROM WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2021



We're BAAAACK!!!

And bigger, you might notice (just like anybody after a good holiday).

The *Waitaki Link* will be two pages for the next wee while so that we can keep you up-to-date on the progress of 2021's two big plans, both requiring public consultation. The Long Term Plan is a budget for the core projects that we will spend money on over the next 10 years (and we need your help deciding these) and the District Plan Review, the rulebook for how land can be used in our district.

Weston FOOTPATHS

Let's talk the walk.

A community meeting will be held at Weston Hall on Feb 10 starting at 7pm to discuss the Weston footpaths project. Make some time to come along and see what is proposed and what the cost will mean to your rates if you live within Weston's amenity rating area. Every residential street in Weston will be getting a footpath and we'll be asking residents to help us decide which of the existing footpaths should get a makeover at the same time. The project's budget of \$500,000 was endorsed by Council when the Annual Plan was confirmed at the end of last year. Local firm Whitestone Contracting will deliver the 2.5 kms of new asphalt footpaths.



Hello... IS IT YOU WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

Extraordinary vacancy calls for an extraordinary person.

The Waihemo Ward is looking for a community champion, someone who will represent this part of our lovely district. Why don't YOU stand for your community? Be the voice of Waihemo at Council. Nominations are open now, closing noon Monday 15 Feb 2021. For more information including how to stand for election, go to our website.

DORA to the DISTRICT

Online Banking help from Waitaki District Libraries, DORA and Kiwibank.

Who/what is DORA? Well, she's a bus equipped with terrestrial wireless networks as well as satellite to enable her to operate at any location in the district that is reachable by road. A couple of digitally savvy librarians onboard will be there to help people with their online banking needs and any other digital help they require. People can ring from anywhere in the Waitaki District to register their interest: Ōamaru Public Library: 03 433 0850. Classes are scheduled from 1 to 12 March and will be going as far as Ōmārama and right down to Palmerston. #DORAexplorer

Get FUNDED Waitaki!

**Money for art's sake (and other things).
Applications open soon.**

Community Group Grants open 15 February: funding for community groups with projects that help make Waitaki wonderful. The *Creative Communities Scheme* opens 22 February: grants for individuals or groups with an idea to get people involved in the arts. The *Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund* opens 15 March: support to get your kids' sports team to competitions around the district. Information and application forms are available on our website and at Waitaki District Libraries.

Need help with your application?
Get in touch with our fabulous Carole Hansen at chansen@waitaki.govt.nz.



Friendly Bay FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 13 March.

Next month will be here before you know it so circle this event on your calendars.

This Friendly Bay Family Fun Day is always a wonderful day at the seaside for young and old. There will be a sandcastle competition, face painting, music and loads of family friendly activities, as well as great food. **Top up and get down.**

BOOK, BOOK, BOOK



Hampden's gem of a library gets a refurb.

Not that Hampden is a stranger to libraries since its original Athenaeum was established just over 150 years ago. What is remarkable about this library is the energy and dedication of the many volunteer librarians who, with professional and financial assistance from Waitaki District Libraries, manage and maintain it.

With the Hampden Hall Committee's help the Library has been extended from its single space to three spacious areas of which one is dedicated to a children's library.

Volunteer librarians have worked enthusiastically to purchase paint and redecorate and refurbish the greater space with comfortable furnishings and shelving to cater for the increased collection of books and borrowers. Computers have been installed, along with Wi-Fi, and further exciting developments will make all the Waitaki district-wide library collections visible and available at the Hampden Library.

CYCLE SKILLS at Takaro Park

Saturday, Feb 13, at 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Come along for Waitaki Road Safe's Annual Cycle Skills Fun Day in Ōamaru - a free event for children aged 4-12 years and their families - bring your bikes!

Kids can try riding heritage cycles, and practise safe cycling on the excellent skills course. There will be a cartoonologist, track safety demonstration and some great prizes, plus a free BBQ from 12.30pm. Supported by Network Waitaki and Rapid Relief Team.



AN EVENING WITH MARLON WILLIAMS

7pm, 3 March at the Ōamaru Opera House.

In celebration of a new album, Lyttelton-based singer/songwriter Marlon Williams will make his long-awaited return to the stage. Audiences will be treated to a full solo performance unearthing some early material, beloved album songs and an introduction to some sparkling new works.



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

The PLANS!
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We've got two very important public consultations this year, unfortunately they both have the word 'plan' in the title, which can make things a little confusing.

Here's the easiest way to tell them apart: The Long Term Plan, (or LTP) is essentially our 10 year budget, while the District Plan, which is in review, is all about how land can be used in Waitaki. It's super important we get both of these right, and that you are happy with the final versions too.

LONG TERM PLAN (LTP) = Our Budget for projects for the next 10 years

DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW (DPR) = Updating the Rulebook for land use in Waitaki

Getting BACK TO THE FUTURE
LONG TERM PLAN
Waitaki 2021-2031

WHAT'S THE LONG TERM PLAN... MAN?

Getting back to the future.

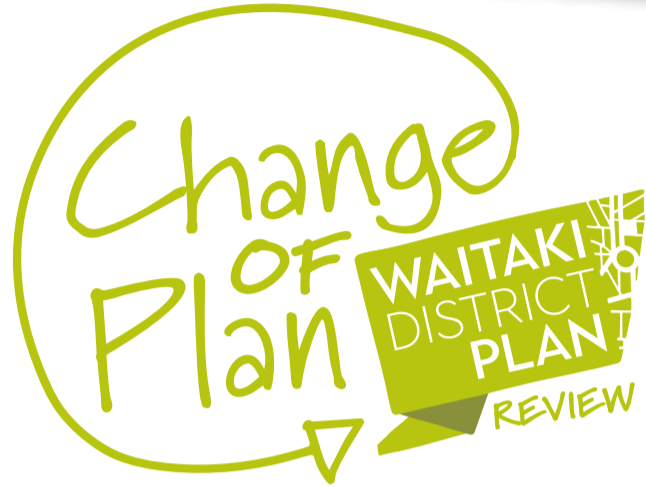
The Long Term Plan (the LTP) is the schedule of big ticket projects Council will prioritise over the coming 10 years. We started to work on a draft budget in 2020 but the universe had other ideas. Now we're getting back to the future... the future of Waitaki that is, and it will soon be time to make some hard decisions. How much should we spend on individual core projects? Are there projects we should defer? We'll be asking you what you want future Waitaki to look like.

We are planning to consult on our draft plan in April of this year with one of the major talking points being the proposed sport and events centre. So stay tuned for more information soon and look out for the logo above... when you see it, you know we're talking about the Long Term Plan.

Have YOUR say!

Well not just yet but soon, very soon...

Keep your eyes open and your ears out... we'll be asking for your feedback to help Council make decisions this year. And not just on the LTP and DPR, but also on things like a proposed lease for Awamoa Park, changes to policies around Development Contributions and a number of other issues. Got an opinion? Don't waste it on Facebook! Make a submission and be part of democracy in action.



WAITAKI DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

Why the change of plan?

We're living in changing times, a changing world, and our district faces new challenges when it comes to how land is used: climate change, coastal erosion and natural hazards like flooding and fire (and we certainly saw the devastating effects of both of those recently).

The Waitaki District Plan is the community's rulebook, setting out the framework governing the use and development of land within our district. The District Plan sets out guidance, maps, and rules on how people can use and develop their land. This is a HUGE job for our Planning Team with 100s of pages to go through and 1000s of things to consider.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires all councils to start a review of their District Plan 10 years after it was made operative. The RMA requires the District Plan to sustainably manage the natural and physical resources of the District to meet the needs of current and future generations and to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety.

A lot has changed since the last District Plan and Waitaki's has been under review for a number of years. In 2019 we released a discussion document, held community workshops and asked for your feedback on a range of issues across the district. We are now looking to begin the next phase of engagement, starting this month, with the aim of ensuring affected landowners are aware of any changes to the status of their land and to encourage awareness and understanding of the District Plan Review in the wider community. Broader engagement will follow.

We need to ensure the rules for the district are fit for purpose and reflect the wishes of the wider community, while also incorporating government direction around national policy statements, national planning standards and other central and regional government direction.

Things have changed, we need a 'change of plan.'

The District Plan Review has been a major project for Council, taking a considerable investment in time and other resources. Its importance cannot be underestimated - many people don't worry about the District Plan until something happens to them that they don't like. Then issues like building heights, tree planting on boundaries, loss of heritage buildings or forestry plantings become a major issue. Getting the rules right is important, as they make sure that we continue to make Waitaki the best place to be!

- Mayor Gary Kircher



Waitaki

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

t. 03 433 0300 e. service@waitaki.govt.nz
20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444