

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It is mid-December as I write this, my last newsletter for 2018, and thunder and lightning and heavy rain is hitting our area. This and last week's rain should replenish our dry fields and gardens and ensure good crops ready for winter feed.

On my way through Matangi this week I noted the **footpath** from the Village to the hall has been laid - I am working towards getting this extended further along Tauwhare Road. Work is also being done to improve the area around the new footpath to Taplin Road and I would like curbing and channelling to be added around the earth works between the new lawn area and the road. A slip lane into Taplin Road has been completed.

Council offices will close at 3pm on 23 December and reopen on 4th January. Our Customer Support General Manager Sue Duigan would like to advise residents that *there is a close down period from 20 Dec to 10 Jan for building and resource consents and from 24 Dec to 16 Jan for Land Information Memoranda (LIM) and Development Contribution reconsiderations. A small team will continue to accept lodgement of applications over the close down period, but staff won't start the consent process until 10 January.*

I have previously mentioned the Waikato District's Perry Bridge – an important section of the Te Awa River Ride at Hototiu. **Congratulations to the Perry Group and their design and construction teams** who have won an international award for engineering excellence – recognised recently as the best pedestrian bridge at the Global Structural Awards in London. The bridge is NZ's first network arch bridge designed for pedestrians and cyclists. This is the latest in a number of accolades and awards received for the bridge's design and construction.

Stage 1 of the Proposed **Waikato District Plan 2018** was notified on Wednesday 18 July 2018 and submissions closed at 5pm on Tuesday 9 October 2018. The Proposed Plan combines both the Franklin and Waikato sections into a single district plan with a consistent approach to development and growth across the district. Stage 1 includes all topics excluding natural hazards. The Policy team are now in the process of summarising the many submission points. Further submissions will be called for once this summary is available. **Stage 2** of the District Plan Review is currently in progress. This stage includes the review of issues relating to natural hazard risk and climate change.

With increasing interest in genealogy and tracing family history you may not be aware that WDC has an **online database** for those who want to find information on anyone buried at a Waikato District Council managed **cemetery** – this can be found on <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/cemeteries/cemeteries-database>

Waikato District continues to grow - this year **building consents issued increased by 56% and there has been a 53% increase in resource consents** over the past two years - this unprecedented growth is stretching our staff. To help facilitate any application for a building or resource consent be sure to supply all the information and reports required – any lack of information will hold up your application. Every year we commission a *Scorecard Report* to track that we are meeting our statutory requirements. The Scorecard for period July 2017 – June 2018 includes information on consents and notes that *Council processed 97.3% of standard consents within the statutory timeframe, 100% for dwellings. During that year we issued 1080 resource consents in total of which only four were issued outside the statutory time frames due to their level of complexity.* The full report can be found on the WDC website.

Many of you will be connected to the **Southern Districts Water Scheme** and you will have recently received your latest water bill from Council. If it is higher than normal be sure to check that your outdoor pipes or troughs aren't leaking and check inside appliances for leaks. We are happy to help; to use our free water savings service book a home visit on 0800 492 452 or email us at waters@waidc.govt.nz

I am available via email or mobile during the holiday period. If you want to report any road damage or other urgent matters, you can phone Council on 0800 492 452.

I hope you have an enjoyable holiday season with your friends & family – drive safely and take care in the water.



Contact me anytime

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