

Annual Plan 2020-21 adopted

... enables Council to

be responsive in order

to support community

as required during the

coming times'

Mayor Jenny Shattock

Council adopted the Annual Plan 2020-21 on Thursday 25 June, following public consultation. Council had been preparing the Annual Plan as normal in the months leading up to March events when our world changed as New Zealand went into an Alert Level 4 lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Knowing the pressures that ratepayers and our community would be under in coming months, Council went back to the drawing board to see how we could best support our community going forward, once we moved into the recovery phase of this pandemic. We amended the proposed plan to achieve a zero percent average rate revenue increase.

Our rates revenue increase identified in the Long Term

Plan had been 7%.
Council reduced this to 0% by delaying the implementation of the wheelie bins until July 2021, tightening our belt where possible without impacting levels of service too much, postponing a few projects, staging other programmes over several

years and deciding against doing several initiatives all together.

In addition, we decided to stop funding some of the three waters asset replacement reserves for a period of one year. This does not mean that actual replacements will stop. The long term impact of this will mean that these funds wil run out earlier than they would have, however this will be well into the future, so there is time to replenish these funds.

"A zero percent average rate revenue increase means Council is not collecting any more total rates than we did in the 2019-20 year," said Ben Smit, Council's Chief Executive. "This does not mean that every ratepayer won't have an increase in rates

> as individual properties have a different mix of services and situations."

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than we did in the 2019-20 year," said Ben Smit, Council's Chief Executive. "This does not mean that every ratepayer won't have an increase in rates as individual properties have a different mix of services and situations."

The vast majority of ratepayers will see a small decrease in rates (more than 7,800 properties), while 2,100 properties will see

an increase, most moderate.

"Essentially 95% of properties have changes between -3% to +4.7%, with 98% of properties having changes between -12.5% to +7.4%," continued Mr Smit. "Of these the largest deceases are non-profit organisations with rates remissions. The largest increases are some of the properties with rubbish collection added."

Around 2% of properties will have larger rate increases generally relate to property changes such as new subdivisions, new buildings and signing up to a clean heat programme.

Several other smaller decisions were also made, including:

- Introducing CCTV and Wifi into the Tirau CBD for improved community safety.
- Making funding for recycling more equitable across all ratepayers, depending on the level of service.
- Including the Pellikan Place area into our urban household waste collection service, following requests from some residents. Tidying up two waste collection anomaly



areas in Amisfield and Baird Road, where residents historically got a recycling collection but not a rubbish collection. Council will now be delivering both services to this area.

"Council is also working on a COVID-19 recovery plan. This involves applying for government funding for infrastructure projects to create construction jobs to bring forward much needed work, looking at how we can support our community through welfare and community teams, and support local business to stimulate our economy," said Mayor Jenny Shattock.

"This plan enables Council to be responsive in order to support our community as required during the coming times."

IN brief

- Council is awaiting feedback on its four projects put forward for the Government's Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) fund for shovel ready infrastructure projects.
- Staff have started working on the Long Term Plan 2021-31 and over the coming months will be engaging with Elected Members and the community for feedback and ideas.
- Phase two modelling of the three waters in Tokoroa and Tirau has been completed. It will be calibrated as part of phase three by completing field surveys.

IN side

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1-5 - Blue Light rocks

O - 7 - Contaminated - Recycling clean up

- Tokoroa CBD - Councillor contacts

IN bouse

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the SWDC Communications Team.

Editorial:

Kerry Fabrie Renee Renata Anthony Momoemausu 07 885 0340

South Waikato farmers are big on native planting

The key focus of South Waikato **Environmental Initiatives** (SWEI) is the improvement of the district's water quality, environmental wellbeing, and reversing indigenous biodiversity decline. SWEI encourages sustainable environmental improvement in the South Waikato District prioritising catchment care. The SWEI Committee meets annually to discuss planting projects and allocate funding available to applicants, amongst other matters.

The late Gordon Stephenson, who was a South Waikato farmer respected nationally for his contribution to sustainable farming and natural heritage protection, was instrumental in selecting the Committee and ensuring progress with this initiative.

A highlight this year was securing funding for indigenous planting in the district from MPI Te Uru Rākau Forest New Zealand. Funding valued at \$180,000 (\$60,000 each year over three years) will provide further support for our rural community. Fonterra's Tīrau plant will also be contributing

\$90,000 over three years starting in 2022.

This funding compliments existing funding provided by Oji Fibre Solutions - Kinleith Mill, Waikato River Authority and WRC. MPI Te Uru Rākau intentions for this funding is to enhance waterways in the district and to encourage farmers to continue to integrate native vegetation in their farm systems.

This year alone, SWDC and SWEI received 31 applications requesting over \$160,000 for 53,000 plants. Thanks to the existing funding coupled with the new funding, the Committee was able to approve all applications to around 70% of funding requested, providing a total of \$110,000 for around 35,000 plants.

This does not include an ongoing Waikato River Authority funded SWEI project at the Mangakaretu farm, Arapuni Road in which a further 1,500 plants have been planted this year

Applications were from various rural landowners, with an exception of one from Forest

View High School. FVHS is part of the Enviroschools initiative, an environmental action-based programme where young people are empowered to design and lead sustainability projects in their schools, neighbourhoods and country.

SWEI Chairperson, Mr Chris Luxford said, "It is clear from applications received in recent years that there is a mainstream desire amongst land owners to protect and improve the waters of the South Waikato District and this funding boost will accelerate that process."

Thanks to the efforts of key people within SWEI, funding providers and key stakeholders, the district's vision for improved water quality, environmental wellbeing, and reversing indigenous biodiversity decline is now becoming a reality.

SWEI key stakeholders:

- Local farmers/rural landowners
- · Waikato Regional Council
- South Waikato District Council
- · Oji Fibre Solutions
- Raukawa Charitable Trust
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Waikato River Authority
- Fish and Game



Jamie Dover has been a successful applicant in previous years and this year secured further funding to enhance plantings on his farm off Lake Arapuni Road.

Top 5 recycling tips

Here are the top five tips for recycling in the South Waikato. If you get this right, you're well on your way to being a top recycler!

- Plastics 1s and 2s only

 clear and coloured.

 No other plastic can be recycled. If it has numbers 3 to 7 on it, please bin it. If you can't see a number or there is no number, bin it.
- 2. Clean, wash, rinse. Dirty products contaminate recycling.
- Remove all lids, caps, tops and put in the rubbish.
 Even if it says plastic 1 and 2. These items are too small to process.
- Flatten and fold.
 Un-flattened boxes take up too much space!
- 5. If in doubt, chuck it out.. in the rubbish!

Top 5 recycling mistakes

There are a number of products on the market that people commonly think can be recycled, but they can't be; so we need to remove these items from our recycling.

- Plastics 3 to 7 can't be recycled. Please bin these products. Better yet, stop buying them – lower sales figures is a great way to get manufacturers to change their ways!
- Glass products other than glass bottles or jars are not recyclable. Items such as windscreen glass, mirror glass, window glass should be discarded safely.
- Most ice cream, yogurt and margarine containers can't be recycled. They are mainly made from plastics 4 or 5 (not all, but most). Many of these containers are however, fairly durable, so they can be reused!
- 4. Soft plastics such as potato chip packets, lettuce packaging, nut and scroggin packets, plastic wrap, chocolate bar wrappers can't be recycled. Please put these products in the bin. A good alternative to plastic wrap is a honey wrap product.
- Broken plastic items such as buckets, chairs, plates cannot be recycled.



Ross and Sheryll Watkins have been planting on their Piarere farm for a number of years.



WHAT'S HOT

Below - the concrete footpath, paved area and seats at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground entranceway is complete. The site fences have been removed and the area is open to the public, with the playground back in use. Further planting will be done in due course and we have installed a few rubbish bins to complete the project.

Right - earthworks and construction are going well at the Tokoroa Transfer Station. Planting to cover the swale area (for stormwater) is complete and further planting will happen soon to cover the entrance area. The construction of the Transfer Station building, kiosk and weighbridge is underway, starting in July.

Council facilities are open again. It is great to see everyone out and about enjoying their swimming, reading, walking, surfing (the net) swinging, sliding and sporting.

Mayoral Business breakfasts in Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tīrau. are specifically aimed at hearing from local business owners about the pressures and needs facing South Waikato businesses so that Council can prioritise business support appropriately post COVID-19, while updating businesses on Council activities.

SH1 safety improvements – coming soon in Putāruru.

Rates assistance offers by Council in our post-COVID-19 environment. If you are struggling to pay your rates, go to our website and complete the Rates Payment Arrangement form – www.southwaikato.govt. nz/our-services/rates.

Wonderful volunteers at the Cougar Park Mountain Bike Club who are adopting tracks for general maintenance. There are 24 tracks in the park that provide users a range of simple to more challenging experiences.





WHAT'S NOT

Below - this is **NOT** hot! Recycling stations are not rubbish dumps!

Below, right - dumping.



Below - tagging in the toilet. COVID-19 cases...





TALKING ROAD SAFETY

With winter well and truly here, a new danger has appeared on our roads -Black Ice!

Black ice (or clear ice) is a thin coating of clear ice on the road. The ice itself is not black, but because it is transparent the black road beneath shows through hence the nick name. It can be spotted by looking for shiny patches on the road, but is not always visible.

Black ice can occur on any road surface after a heavy frost but is most likely to occur on areas of the road that are shaded from the sun such as by trees or roadside banks. Some of the areas were black ice is known to occur in the South Waikato are Mossop Road and Wiltsdown Road as well as parts of State Highway five between Tirau and Rotorua. These areas are monitored by our roading contractors during winter and gritted when needed.

One of the big dangers with black ice is that it can linger on the road. It has being observed on the road in afternoons due to the surface never receiving any direct sunlight. Always be wary of shaded parts of the road even if the road sides are clear of frost.

Unfortunately you tend to only know you have struck black ice when you have hit it. Stay calm, keep your wheels pointed in the direction of travel and wait for the sliding to stop. Once you are safe, if possible contact Council on 07 885 0340 or report via Antenno. We need to know the location of the black ice so our roading contractor can make the area safer.

Spend local... it's a South Waikato thing

Since early May, the South Waikato District Council in collaboration with the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust has been running our **Spend** Local campaign.

The campaign is headed up by Council's Economic Development team, although many other departments have also been involved to spread the 'support local' vibes as far and deep as possible. The project focuses on showing the benefits of keeping our spending within our own community at both a commercial and consumer level and aims to involve everyone in South Waikato.

While buying local was commonplace in the past, recent decades have seen the popularisation of purchasing goods and services from out of town, district or even abroad as the world becomes a smaller place than ever before. This buying behaviour has a massive impact on small communities,

local employment and the environment.

The campaign kicked off on 5 May 2020 and an end date is yet to be decided as there has been much positivity from the community as it reaps the rewards of local spending.

The outcomes of such local spending do wonderful things for communities like South Waikato. Money spent locally has three times the positive impact in a community when spent at local independent retailers, and spending locally creates more local jobs and does less harm to the environment which is a win for everyone.

There are many ways to get involved for both businesses and consumers. Businesses can hang the posters and stickers they received in their shop fronts and use the digital marketing assets supplied to them in May by Council to

spread the word. If businesses would like more stickers or posters, contact Council on 07 885 0340.

Consumers can also grab a sticker from any Council office or i-SITE in the district, and if you're on

Facebook - be sure to add our Spend Local frame to your profile picture by searching





SOUTH WAIKATO WATER SUPPLY SERIES - PUTĀRURU



We all have many uses for water in our everyday lives, but how is it supplied to your home?

Talk and reactions about water usage is typically a hot topic here in the South Waikato over the summer especially when Council is forced to introduce water restrictions to mainly our Putāruru and Arapuni townships.

Throughout the next issues of In Touch we aim to give more information to our communities regarding their water supply and why water restrictions are put in place.

The previous issue we looked into Tokoroa's water supply. In this issue we'll delve into Putāruru's water supply.

Water supply for the Putāruru town has two treatment plants drawing from independent sources.

The Waihou Headworks and plant are located off Leslie Road, Ngatira. The treatment plant is cartridge filtration followed

by UV disinfection, and a temporary chlorine disinfection system provideing water for the domestic, commercial and industrial needs of Putaruru.

The Reservoir Street plant is located off Reservoir Street, Putāruru. The treatment plant is a containerised cartridge filter and UV disinfection plant, with separate chlorine dosing. Like the Waihou Headworks and plant, it also provides water for the domestic, commercial and industrial needs.

During hot and dry summers Council will introduce water restrictions when too little water can be drawn from the bores or wells to meet demand.

Our water services team and other council staff monitor the usage across the urban townships and decided from there whether we are over the trigger levels and what water restiction level we should be at.



Tokoroa Blue Light supports National Voluneteer Week

We celebrated National Volunteer week back in June. This year's theme of Te Hua o te Mahi Tahi - The benefit of working together, is something the Tokoroa Blue Light charity fully embraces.

Blue Light works in partnership with Police, local high schools and Raukawa and has been running the Youth Volunteers Program for

Every year ten applicants are selected for this programme. With the help of Tokoroa Police, Blue Light co-ordinator, and Raukawa youth worker, these rangatahi (youth) get to experience an extensive range of positive youth programmes and activities.

The goals of Blue Light are to:

- 1. Reduce the incidence of young people becoming an offender or victim of crime.
- 2. Encourage better relations between the Police, young people, their parents and the community.

During this year's volunteer week, Blue Light lead Donna Campbell organised the rangatahi to help collect and pick up rubbish in and around Lake Moananui. Armed with disposable gloves and donated Council rubbish bags, rangatahi rushed off in all directions picking up lolly wrappers, cans, bottles and doggy bags.

Donna said, "It's our way of giving back to the community, plus its great exercise for the kids." It also helps them complete their service part towards their Duke of Edinburgh International Award, and see how the effects can make a positive difference to the lives of others.











COVID-19 assistance still available

COVID-19 may not be under Civil Defence Emergency Management anymore but it is important that people in our community know that they can still get help if they need it.

Need to talk? Call or text 1737 Government helpline? Call 0800 779 997 Financial support? Call 0800 559 009

Unite against COVID-19



The Plaza is a performing arts venue, movie theatre and home to numerous community groups, as well as a facility for your private functions. Get in contact to discuss your needs - you'll be surprised at what is on offer!

UP COMING EVENTS Saturday 18 July at 7.30pm

An amazing Dolly Parton Experience and Hoedown brought to us by the fabulous Karen Davy and Toucan who also brought us The Fleetwood Mac Experience earlier this year. Show and dance, a night of comedy, charm, laughter and fun not to be missed!

The SW Arts Trust is offering a subsidized ticket price of \$30. Tickets are on sale now at The Plaza and on Eventfinda.

Saturday 22 August

Arts on Tour production The Daylight Atheist! An instant hit when it premiered, The Daylight Atheist by awardwinning satirical cartoonist Tom Scott, stars Michael Hurst in a not-to-be-missed experience. Tom Scott's wonderfully inventive and fiercely funny play is a stirring portrait of his father, a deeply flawed yet charismatic bloke.

The SW Arts Trust is proud to offer our community a KOHA entry to this event - pay what you can on the way in or what vou believe the event was worth on your way out.

Movies Screenings - tickets are \$5 Students and \$8 Adults.

St Mary's camp fundraising movie - Abominable -Wednesday 15 July at 2:30pm.

Bellbird - Sunday 26 July at 2pm.

A perfect way to spend the afternoon with the kids during the school holiday break!



07 883 8596/0276 559 715 www.plaza.org.nz Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz Facebook: theplazaputaruru

Cleaning up conta

We all need to do our part to ensure the recycling we put in our household crates and/or take to our recycling drop-off facilities is good quality product that can be processed as recycling and doesn't contaminate other recycling efforts.

One crate or container of recycling that contains non-recyclable or dirty products can contaminate an entire truck load of recycling... and when that happens, often the whole load will end up in landfill, becuase it is simply to costly to clean and sort.

Everyone has a part to play!

Householders will notice that household crates with contamination issues are no longer being emptied. Instead they are being stickered and an education flyer left in the mailbox to help residents improve their recycling efforts. Stickering is not new for our community - Council already does this, but we have asked our contractor to be more vigilant and stricter on contamination.

Unfortunately the current contamination levels in our household crates and at our recycling drop-off zones are very high and is costing ratepayers thousands of dollars in clean up and landfill fees.

Recycling (and rubbish) is collected by our contractor EnviroWaste. EnviroWaste does the urban household collection as well as the drop-off zones. Rubbish is taken to landfill that is managed by DG Waste; and recycling is normally taken to the Croad Place facility in Tokoroa. Croad Place is

managed under contract by the South Waikato Achievement Trust (SWAT).

If contamination in our household crates and at our drop-off zones is too high, the whole truck load gets redirected

This is not good for the environment.

Sadly, it also means wasted effort from the many people who recycle well.

Council receives a significant number of complaints from people in our community

about the rising cost of waste management, such as the landfill weighbridge

price of rubbish bags, rates costs associated with recycling charges, among a number of other complaints.

One of the drivers for increasing waste management costs is contaminated recycling.

As a community, we need to get better at this.

This double page spread explains what CAN and CAN'T be recycled in the South Waikato.

Keep an eye out in the South Waikato News for our adverts, and you may recognise that we have already done a mail drop containing this information direct to your letter box.

We'll be rolling out social media too - you may already have seen this. Our website has relevant information. And our engagement team will be out and about in the communitiy and at our offices and libraries talking to our community about perfect recycling.

Please note, during lockdown we did take recycling to landfill, but that was, of course, an unusual situation.

Please help clean up our recycling efforts.



minated recycling

Contamination issues that will mean your crate is stickered and not emptied

- Contains **non-recyclable material**. Examples of products that can't be recycled include: plastics 3-7*, polystyrene, soft plastic bags, fabric, dirty nappies, fastfood bags (with or without leftovers), broken household items (chairs, buckets etc). **Put these items in your rubbish.**
 - * only plastics 1 and 2 can be recycled, check for the recycling symbol
- Contains items that were dirty, **unrinsed** or had food waste on it. Examples of these are unrinsed milk bottle containers, unwashed dog food cans, pizza boxes with food sticking to the cardboard, fastfood packaging that is greasy and has food scraps. *Rinse items or if that is not possible, put them in your rubbish.*
- Contains lids/caps/tops. Remove these and put them in your rubbish.
- Not in an **official** Council crate. Council's contractor will only empty official Council crates.
- · Contains potentially hazardous material.
- · Not placed at kerbside.
- Too full, **over-flowing**.

If in doubt, chuck it out!

Household crate content changes!

We're also asking our community to disregard the messages on the current crates. Acceptable crate content is changing to prepare for our new wheelie bins (coming July 2021). If you don't get this quite right, we will still empty your crates, don't worry - this is not a contamination issue. But it would be a great help to the team on the ground if you could make this change in preparation for your new recycling wheelie bin.

- Green crate glass ONLY
- Maroon crate plastic, tins, cans
- Cardboard and paper folded, bundled and stacked to the side of your crates.

Please rinse containers. **Horoi o ipu**.



About plastics recycling

Commonly used plastic items that **ARE** recyclable: Milk bottles, soft drink bottles, some plastic meat trays, some household products...

No caps/tops/lids - please put these in your rubbish.

Commonly used items that **AREN'T** recyclable: Most yogurt pots, most margarine containers, ice cream containers, some plastic meat trays, some condiment containers...

Look for the recycling symbol! There are millions of products on the market. We cannot list them all. The recycling symbol is usually on the bottom of the product.

If you can't see a recycling symbol or there is no number in the symbol, put the item in your rubbish.

Sadly, Council has no control over the visibility of these symbols!



What to do if your crate is stickered

From mid-July, crates that contain contamination will be stickered and left at the kerbside.

Stickering and not emptiying crates is not new. But our contactor has been asked to be more vigilent in this regard.

This page, along with mailouts, adverts, social media and recycling displays around the district are to help you learn what CAN and what CAN'T be recycled in the South Waikato.

If your crate(s) were not emptied, here's what you need to do.

- Read this spread or the flyers we have left in your letterbox.
- Ensure your recycling we stickered and didn't collect, is corrected.
- Either, wait for your next collection (if your crate space will allow a second fortnight) OR take your un-contaminated recycling to one of the five drop off zones listed on our website, or to the Croad Place recycling facility.

Remember this for the next collection!

Addresses that are stickered as non-collection are logged in a database so that our team can appropriately manage non-collection calls; and track repeat offenders.

If your recycling is not contaminated, we're very happy to take it away!

IN brief

- A new marketing campaign for South Waikato Space to Grow is on the cards for the 2020-21 year.
- Maintenance works at Whakamaru reserve during July and August will mean the reserve is unaccessible to the public from time to time.
- A workshop to progress Forestry Industry Youth Training and Engagement was held with relevant stakeholders.
- COVID-19 business support continues.
- Antenno installs continue to climb, with increased use of the reporting feature. Reminder to users that you can share Antenno notifications on other networks like Facebook, email, etc.
- Council's Facebook page now has over 4,700 followers.
- Council continues its active involvement in the Wai Ora/Healthy Rivers and Freshwater legislation processes. This legislation has significant impact on our district.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with council information via:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

<u>www.facebook/</u> <u>SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil</u>

Download Antenno FREE

or email info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email contact: <u>kerry.fabrie</u> @southwaikato.govt.nz.



Toilets and shelter being constructed off-site

Revitalising the CBD area in Tokoroa and bringing vibrancy into the town's centre has been one of Council's great ambitions over the past decade. During the last 12 months, Tokoroa residents will have seen improvements in Leith Place with improved pavers and aggregate surfaces, relocation of bus stops, beautification of CBD landscape and gardens, the creation of the Talking Pole forest, foundations laid for the plaza area and the beginning of the new toilet facilities.

Now, as we enter into final stage (building), our contractors have encountered some COVID-19 related supply-chain issues, a problem throughout the country. Our staff have been busy planting gardens in the plaza area and off-site construction of the toilets and shelters is underway with installation planned for July; just in case you were wondering that nothing much appeared to be happening on site!

We're looking forward to seeing the toilets and shelter installed and surrounds finished.







Mayor Jenny Shattock

0274 416 230 Jenny.Shattock @southwaikato.govt.nz

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