

Te Waihou's made for walking!

The beautiful jewel in our crown, Te Waihou Walkway and Blue Spring continues to pose some challenges for staff, neighbours, partners and our community. But it's not all bad; there are some positives.

While some are ignoring the four 'no swimming' signs they drive and walk past on their way to the Blue Spring, including one sign that says 'Keep Out', overall there has been a decrease in the numbers of people swimming, which is encouraging. Council wants to acknowledge those people in our community and our visitors who are supporting and respecting the no swimming messages. We also appreciate the number of people who

are reporting incidents of swimming to Council officers.

Swimming in the area is damaging the environment and is now discouraged from the bridge at the Leslie Road end of the walkway to the boardwalk just beyond the Blue Spring itself. Sadly the impact of people activity has caused significant erosion to the banks and bed of the Waihou, the natural vegetation alongside the river and the weed environment favoured by the Dwarf Galaxias (a protected native fish species) is being denuded. Again, while there has been some continuing traffic issues relating to congestion and parking, there has been considerable improvement due to the

no stopping lines and other measures. Littering, dog control and toilet issues have all improved. All of this show that our intervention methods have had some success.

Council staff continue to liaise with partners on further intervention like Whites Road speed management.

Visitor numbers have shown a significant decrease over December and it appears to be tracking the same decline in January. This could be for two reasons, one, the messages that you can't swim may have resulted in some people deciding not to visit and two, the summer weather has not been overly hot (at the time of writing). Interestingly annual figures actually show fairly static overall numbers which

indicates that Te Waihou visits during winter are steadily rising. Swimming is unlikely during winter which means these visitors are perhaps trampers, which is pretty good news.

October 2015 saw 4,914 visitors while October 2016 saw only 2,255. November 2015 was 4,391 compared to November 2016 at 2,385. December 2015 showed 5,408 visitors compared to December 2016 with only 3,875. January figures for 2016 were not available at the time of writing.

Council acknowledges all the efforts of staff, community members, partners and neighbours.



Picture far left - 14 January 2017. It is unfortunate that some people continue to swim in the Blue Spring and surrounding area. This activity has caused - and continues to cause - environmental damage that impacts fauna and flora.

Picture left compliments of the Department of Conservation - 12 November 2014 - look at the abundant vegetation that supports bird, fish and animal species.

IN brief

- Preliminary findings indicate that there has been a 32% reduction in PM₁₀ concentrations (mainly from home heating) since the last emission inventory in 2012. Awesome burning effort South Waikato!
- There has been a 329% increase in user numbers from July to November for the Urban Connector District wide service - awesome result! The Tokoroa circuit is already well used, but has also increased by 29% over the same period last year.

IN side

- 2&3 Understanding Council activities
- 4&5 ... continued... Massive Citizenship
- 6&7 What's Hot, What's Not Recycling
- 8 Snippets Councillor contacts

IN house

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the South Waikato District Council.

Editorial: Communications staff, Kerry Fabrie and Sina Tolovae, 07 885 0340

Print: GASP Designs

UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES...

Every year South Waikato ratepayers make an annual rates contribution to Council. This contribution pays for a wide range of activities from core services to community activities and assistance.

In this article on pages 2 to 4 we have broken each service or activity down into a cost per week. Figures are based on an urban property in Tokoroa that is valued at \$116,000. This value house is the median house value in the South Waikato. These figures fluctuate depending on property value; it is impossible to illustrate this for every single ratepayer.

Activities are listed from lowest funded activity to highest funded activity. Each activity provides a summary overview, how it is funded and what it costs per week.

We have colour coded them to illustrate which activities or services fit together in logical groups.

*CPW = Cost Per Week

ASSETS

REGULATORY

CORPORATE

COMMUNITY

Emergency Management

4 CPW \$0.35

In emergencies that go beyond the capabilities of emergency services such as Police and Ambulance, Council helps to access more resources and co-ordinate support to assist in protecting people and property. This activity also includes issuing rural fire permits and arrangements for rural fire fighting cover.

Funded: 100% by rates

start here ↓

Cemeteries

1 CPW \$0.07



There are four cemeteries in the South Waikato, one in Tirau, two in Putāruru and one in Tokoroa. Local authorities have a legal responsibility to make provision for public cemeteries. We perform around 80 burials and 40 ash interments each year. Council maintains all cemetery grounds and keeps records of all plots. These are searchable online via Council's website.

Funded: 60% by the users (ie, fees and charges) and 40% by rates

Building Control

5 CPW \$0.37



Council is an accredited Building Consent Authority (BCA) which manages, processes and inspects consented building work.

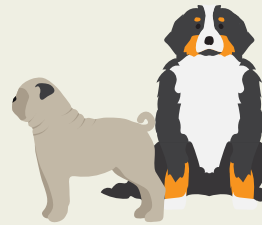
The Building Control Team administers this process, which is designed to ensure that buildings within the South Waikato meet all the criteria under the Building Act 2004

This can be anything from processing the application, inspecting building work during construction, issuing code of compliance certificates and administering building warrants of fitness. Around 480 building consent applications are processed each year.

Funded: 50% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 50% by rates

Animal Control

2 CPW \$0.28



Our Animal Control officers are responsible for complaints regarding dogs and stock. Council also handles dog registrations and manages the dog pound. There are 3,808 dogs in the district registered to 2,541 dog owners. Council responds to around 2,256 animal control related queries each year.

Funded: 60% by the users (ie, fees and charges) and 40% by rates

These 22 services that Council provides each cost less per week than one cup of coffee. Talk about value for money!

Other Community Facilities

3 CPW \$0.30



Council owns and manages a number of community facilities including Council buildings, The Plaza, community halls, airfield, and others.

Funded:

- Community Halls - 5% by users (ie, fees & charges) and 95% by targeted rates (only those in the hall rating area)
- Property Management - 10% by users (ie, fees & charges) and 90% by rates
- The Plaza/Tirau Hall - 100% by rates
- Airfield - 60% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 40% by rates

Health Services and Monitoring

6 CPW \$0.41



The Environmental Health section covers an unusually vast array of activities.

If you go out for a slice of cake, pick up a bottle of wine, go for a haircut, or visit other businesses like motels/camping grounds/funeral directors, our Environmental Health Team has already made sure the business maintains good standards of hygiene and follows government regulations. Around 220 health licences are issued each year.

The team also:

- respond to over 1,300 nuisance complaints a year, such as noise, vermin, long grass and insanitary conditions
- investigate infectious diseases to stop outbreaks
- provide safeguards following incidents involving hazardous substances, such as chemical spills from a vehicle accident
- among a number of other duties!

Funded: 30% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 70% by rates

and what they cost each week

South Waikato Sport & Events Centre

7 CPW \$0.43



Situated at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground, the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre overlooks the oval with the wider sportsground forming a backdrop.

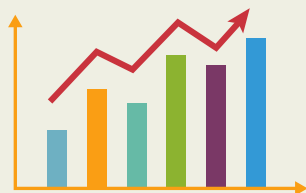
The facility has a two court arena and two function rooms (that can be one large one), and changing facilities for up to four teams.

It has proven a popular venue for events and activities and was rated the highest performing activity in the 2015 customer satisfaction survey (96% satisfaction)!

Funded: 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates

Economic Development

11 CPW \$0.77



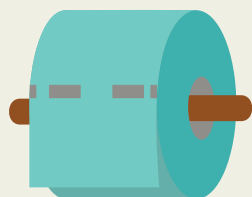
Council invests in promoting the South Waikato as an economically viable place for business and industry as well as having tourism opportunities

With the aid of the newly established South Waikato Investment Fund Trust, Council is focussed on encouraging strong economic development, promoting the South Waikato as a place to invest, funding information centres, marketing tourism opportunities, training and educational expansion for the district, and signature events.

Funded: 100% by rates

Public Toilets

8 CPW \$0.46



Council owns and maintains 33 public toilet blocks or single public toilets across the district.

These are found in our CBD areas, public spaces in Council buildings and reserves. Public toilets are an important part of our tourism attractions, particularly along the Waikato River Trails and Te Waihou Walkway.

Funded: 100% by rates

Planning

12 CPW \$0.91



Every day people apply for resource consents for activities such as building a new business development or subdividing their properties.

Resource consents are processed in accordance with Council's District Plan and under the Resource Management Act (RMA).

The RMA promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources such as land, air and water. Council's duty is to ensure rigorous assessment of resource consent applications.

Around 65 resource consent applications are processed each year.

Funded: 35% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 65% by rates

Other Community Support

9 CPW \$0.57



Community development covers many activities including arts, events and culture - all of which strengthen our community cohesion and feed our community pride and spirit.

Council encourages youth development through initiatives with other organisations, advocates on behalf of the community, manages social development contracts and funds and coordinates events such as Anzac Day celebrations and Balloons Visit South Waikato.

Funded: 100% by rates

Community Contracts & Grants

13 CPW \$0.99



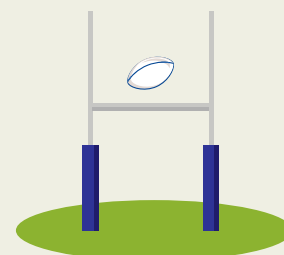
Council grants funding to a number of organisations. Funded through this area are the Information Centres, the Waikato River Trails, TCOSS, Pride in Putāruru, Tokoroa Big Weekend, Overdale Community Centre, Hamilton Waikato Tourism, the Plaza, Sport Waikato and event funding.

This area also funds the Community Development Grants that support community groups and their volunteers through a number of recreational, cultural, welfare and social activities. Financial assistance is given directly from Council or administered by Council on behalf of other parties.

Funded: 100% by rates

Sportsgrounds

10 CPW \$0.63



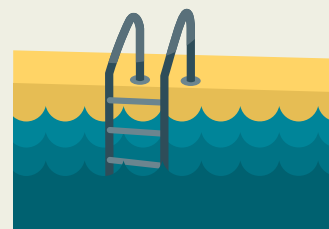
Whether you're playing rugby with your mates or watching your kids play soccer, the South Waikato's sportsgrounds are always well maintained and available for all residents to use.

Council manages and maintains six sportsgrounds across the district.

Funded: 5% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 95% by rates

Swimming Pools

14 CPW \$1.15



Council provides safe hygienic pools for recreation and sporting activities. Public swimming pools are located in Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau.

The pool facility in Tokoroa is an indoor, heated, all year round operation. The outdoor pools in Putāruru and Tirau are seasonal, open during summer months only.

The South Waikato Indoor Pools in Tokoroa run several programmes from wobble classes to learn to swim classes.

Funded:

- South Waikato Indoor Pool in Tokoroa - 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates
- Seasonal pools in Putaruru and Tirau - 10% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 90% by rates

Libraries

15 CPW \$1.25



The South Waikato has two libraries, one in Putāruru and one in Tokoroa. The Library in Putāruru serves a dual role as a service centre.

Our libraries offer a wide range of services such as books, e-books, puzzles, internet services, CDs, DVDs and much more. We have a library outreach programme in Tirau called LibraryLink operating out of The Dog.

The library team run programmes for all ages of children from school holiday activity programmes to celebrating national promotion weeks such as Māori Language Week and Library Week, among others.

Funded: 10% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 90% by rates

Refuse Collection & Recycling

19 CPW \$2.36



Waste management involves a number of activities. Council owns and manages a transfer station in Putāruru and a landfill in Tokoroa.

We do an urban household weekly refuse collection and an urban fortnightly recycling collection.

We manage five recycling stations across the district and the main Croad Place recycling facility in Tokoroa.

Funded:

- Landfill - 70% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 30% by rates
- Recycling - 100% by rates
- Refuse Collection - 55% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only) and 45% by bag sales
- General litter collection in CBD areas - 100% by rates

Stormwater

16 CPW \$1.25



Council's role in stormwater drainage is to provide effective drainage and disposal so that the roading network can function effectively and safely, reduce the risks to people from stormwater ponding for long periods and to mitigate the environmental effects of contamination of the stormwater discharge.

There are 118.281km of stormwater pipes, open drains and watercourse in the urban stormwater network.

Stormwater drainage is also to prevent flooding of private property and to take stormwater from properties and road surfaces in pipes and open drains and disperse it into water courses.

Funded: Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

Roading

20 CPW \$5.01



The South Waikato has 540km of roads, 170km of footpaths, 45 bridges and large culverts, 38 stock underpasses, 3,030 signs and 2,158 streetlights.

To ensure that travel around the district is as safe as possible, all of these assets are regularly maintained and improved upon.

Funded: 100% by rates (after subsidies - average just over 50%)

Parks, playgrounds & reserves

17 CPW \$1.63



The South Waikato is a beautiful place to live, work and play, with more than 279 hectares of parks, reserves and playgrounds on our doorstep. Council's parks and reserves include seven lakeside reserves, five scenic bush reserves, two recreational reserves, 59 other reserves and Te Waihou Walkway.

These parks and reserves also house the district's 12 playgrounds and two skateparks.

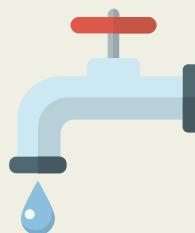
We also maintain a number of plantation strips, flowerbeds, park furniture, roadside gardens and street trees.

Council maintains the grounds, keeps environmental issues in check and makes sure all equipment is safe and in good condition.

Funded: 5% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 95% by rates

Water Supply

21 CPW \$5.40



Water - it's for cleaning, drinking, showering, swimming and a whole lot more. It is the one thing we simply can't live without!

Council aims to provide a safe and reliable supply of water to residential, industrial and commercial properties. It also plays a role in supporting community safety through fire fighting capability.

Funded: Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

Governance & Corporate

18 CPW \$1.95



Corporate costs include a share of all the administrative and management functions that support the governance and strategy development of Council, like general management, corporate planning, communications, community engagement, financial and information services.

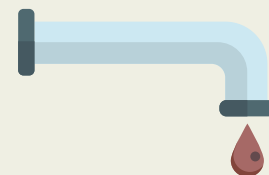
Governance costs include elections and Councillor remuneration and expenses.

Funded:

- 100% of the district governance and corporate management activity is funded by general rates
- 100% of community governance (ie the Tirau Community Board) is funded by targeted rates (Tirau Ward ratepayers only)

Wastewater

22 CPW \$5.43



Ever wondered what happens when you flush the toilet? Ever thought where the water from the dishwasher goes? Ever considered what would happen if you had to deal with it all yourself? Council's role in wastewater is paramount to public health and safety.

We collect, remove and treat wastewater from all urban households to make it safe to discharge into the environment, either into a waterway or land.

Council adheres to resource consents that are issued by the regional council to ensure our discharge has minimal effect on the environment.

Council has four wastewater treatment systems.

Funded: Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

38 new citizens for South Waikato

The South Waikato District is well known for its multiculturalism and this was certainly evident at the Council's largest ever Citizenship Ceremony held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre in December.

"Thirty eight people were sworn in as New Zealand citizens and this number is more than we've ever had before in the 18 years that I have been on Council," said Mayor Jenny Shattock, who is Council's new Mayor following the October elections.

Mayor Shattock made mention of the fact that this citizenship was her first time officiating at a Citizenship ceremony and it was the first to be held in the Event Centre so there were many firsts to remember about the day for everyone!

"Our new citizens hail from ten different countries - Egypt, Philipines, Brazil, Fiji,

Britain, South Africa, Samoa, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and China... it is no wonder we get to celebrate a diversity of cultures in the South Waikato!"

Mayor Shattock commented that welcoming our new citizens into the South Waikato, a place that they have chosen to make their home - is an honour.

The Honourable Louise Upston was also present and in her address she aligned taking the oath or affirmation to making marriage vows.

"Taking the oath of allegiance is a formal, public and solemn announcement of your commitment and dedication to New Zealand."

Both Mayor Shattock and the Honourable Mrs Upston encouraged our new citizens to share their own culture with us and embrace our culture for themselves.



urban
CONNECTOR



Don't forget that your SuperGold card is now accepted on the Urban Connector between the times of 9am and 3pm*.

* Free SuperGold Card travel is for boardings between 9am and 3pm only, any travel times outside of this will incur the full fee.

A Supergold card (including Supergold Veterans card) held by the person named on the card must be presented to the driver for every trip to qualify for the free fare.

For more information, timetable and map you can call 0800 SWurbanC (0800 798 722) or visit our website www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/UrbanConnector.



You Say...

"Thank you noise control for stopping the loud music that played for hours throughout the night a couple of months ago.

The contractor phoned back after a short period of time and asked us if it had topped... great service, thank you.

- Cathy Baker
Facebook

The PLAZA
WWW.PLAZA.ORG.NZ

The Plaza is South Waikato's premium performing arts centre. The facility is available for hire for small and large events. We boast very reasonable rates, and some of the best acoustics you've heard in years! Visit www.plaza.org.nz - you'll be surprised at what we can offer!

The main theatre is suitable for concerts, stage performances, performing arts, functions, film screenings or large conferences. It can seat a maximum of 520 people. It has a stage, fly tower, sound and lighting facilities and a loading dock to the stage. Dining tables and chairs are available too. The facility has excellent acoustics and dressing rooms.

The Arthur Fountain Studio at the rear of the main theatre is suitable for smaller functions or as a changing room for stage events. It features a full kitchen, changing area and showers making it a suitable venue for meetings and functions for 20 to 40 people.

The foyer is ideal for hosting functions. It features a full kitchen, bar, canteen, disabled toilets and a ticketing office.

Adjacent to the foyer is a small function room called The Pavilion. It is an excellent location to host regular events or functions. Facilities for conferences include 100" movie/data screen, data projector, whiteboard, easel display stand. The foyers' full kitchen and bar/canteen is excellent for food and drink requirements.

www.plaza.org.nz



WHAT'S HOT

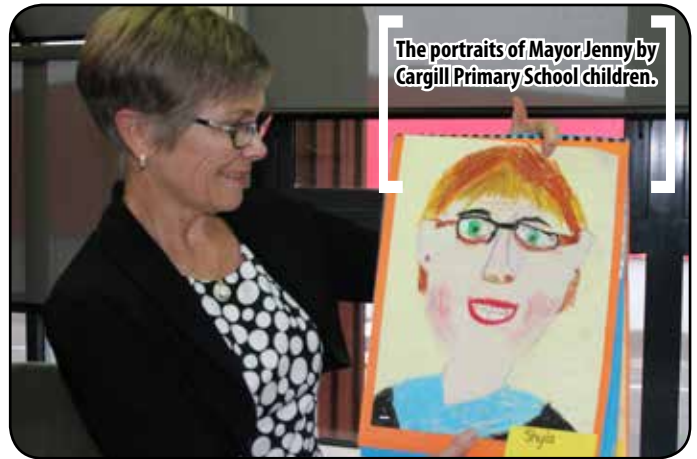
People reporting swimming in the Blue Spring to Council.

A massive response from food premise operators to attend the meeting with Ministry for Primary Industry regarding the new Food Act Control Plans - awesome level of interest!

Use of the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre continues to climb with 24,905 people attending events at the centre from July to December of 2016 compared to 20,229 over the same period in 2015. A massive increase that shows the facility was totally worth building for our community to enjoy... and enjoy they are!

The business support service offered to our community by Council and the Waikato Innovation Park is set to continue. Over a six month period 27 local businesses investigated and/or participated in the services offered. If you are looking to grow your business? Diversify? Or speak to a Business Growth Advisor...you can sign up for a free consultation by calling 07 885 0340 or email businessgrowth@wipltd.co.nz.

Tokoroa High School teachers using the Tokoroa Library as a clue point in their 'Amazing Race' day out.



The portraits of Mayor Jenny by Cargill Primary School children.



The Tokoroa Memorial Sportsgrounds during the Tokoroa Dog Agility Show. Increased parking this year made a big difference for competitors and the grounds were great.

WHAT'S NOT



Tyres being dumped in our beautiful reserves - Snowsill and Whakamaru. Ratepayers pay for removal and disposal and it looks dreadful for our district!

People continuing to swim in the Blue Spring and surrounding area and damaging the beautiful environment.

The poor attempt at summer weather (at the time of writing)!

Dog poo bags in the lake - waste of time and money.

Swimming pool issues that resulted in some unplanned closures, thankfully only for short periods before they were up and running again.

Check your car before you drive

It doesn't take long to give your car a quick safety check. Just give it a regular **TWIRL** and take it to an expert if you think anything's wrong...

TYRES

- Check the tread depth. Minimum legal depth is 1.5mm but the more tread you have the better the grip and the safer you'll be.
- Check the tyre pressure – correct levels can usually be found on the inside door frame.
- Look for cracks or bubbles in the sides.
- Look for sharp objects stuck in the tyres.

WINDSCREEN WIPERS & MIRRORS

- Check your wiper blades for wear and tear.
- Clean your mirrors and windscreen inside and out.
- Get your windscreen fixed if it's chipped or cracked.
- Check your windscreen washer fluid is full and the spray is working.



Drop your recycling to Croad Place

A reminder to our residents that recycling can be dropped at the Croad Place recycling centre at no cost. So whether you drop off your own recycling or you have extra recycling that doesn't fit into your crates, the Croad Place Recycling facility is the place to go.

The facility moved from Thompson Street to Croad Place in late 2014. The site is owned by Council and continues to be managed by the team at the South Waikato Achievement Trust (SWAT).

The Croad Place site features a covered public drop off centre that is manned during business hours to assist residents with correct recycling.

"Increasing our recycling efforts has a number of advantages including extending the life of landfills, reducing the number of bags people need to purchase for general waste and being good for the environment," commented Andrew Pascoe, Council's Services Manager

You can help the recycling process by rinsing containers so they don't smell, squashing plastic containers and flattening cardboard and paper so they take up less space.

For more information check your recycling calendar or visit our website and access the Rubbish and Recycling tab located under 'Our Services' on the home page.

The Croad Place Recycling Centre in Tokoroa is open from 8am to 4pm weekdays and is open on weekends and public holidays between 9am and 1pm.

What CAN be recycled?

- Plastic containers with recycle symbols 1 to 7 (eg, milk bottles, plastic drink bottles, shampoo containers).
- All glass (brown, green and clear).
- Paper and cardboard (eg, newspapers, magazines, brown paper, junk mail, office paper, books, leaflets, egg cartons).
- Metal cans and tins (eg, steel and aluminium cans, metal metal lids from jars, empty aerosol cans, clean aluminium foil).



What CAN'T be recycled?

- Light bulbs, broken glass, window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses or ceramics - these items are dangerous and can cause injury to sorting staff.
- Painted or wax paper, foil wrapping paper, drink cartons, tetrapaks, nappies, toys, cling wrap, muesli bar.
- wrappers, foodscraps, coffee refills, flowers, oil containers, paint tins, fibreboard, polystyrene (including meat trays).
- Hazardous material containers (eg, pesticides, oil or toxic chemicals) - these items can be disposed of at the Putāruru Transfer Station and the Tokoroa Landfill in the hazardous substance area.

Pedestrian Railway Crossing Closure

The pedestrian railway crossing at the end of Bridge Street in Tirau has been closed due to safety concerns following legislative changes. Signage is in place.

Safety is paramount and this crossing does not meet Kiwirail's required standards. The crossing will be re-opened when the necessary upgrades are made to ensure the safety of pedestrians crossing the train tracks.

The exciting news is that our liaison with Kiwirail recently indicates that they are set to start work on this formal pedestrian crossing which will mean that a crossing point will be available again soon. The pedestrian rail crossing is an essential part of the Tirau Walkway project.

The closure of the crossing was completed in December. Railway tracks can only be safely crossed at properly formed and designated crossings.



INDICATORS

- Turn your hazard lights on and walk around the car – check all indicators are flashing.

RUST

- Look for obvious areas of corrosion that can weaken the car's structure.

LIGHTS

- Check lenses are clean and not cracked or hazy.
- Check your headlights, reversing lights and brake lights are working.
- Check your back lights by reversing close to a wall so you can see the reflection in your rear view mirror.



IN brief continued...

- 330 students participated in the annual School of Zen held at the Tokoroa Cricket Club in December. Forty students from Tokoroa High School helped run the event.
- Service requests are on the increase. We are hoping that this is because more and more people in our community are contacting Council to note issues or opportunities for improvement. 4,737 service requests were received during 2016 compared to just 4,081 the previous year.
- A new shade sail has been installed at the Putāruru Pool which has been well received by our community.
- Maintenance on Jones Road rail bridge was completed late last year.
- A road safety intersection quiz was conducted in December with the public being asked who gives way at eight intersection and roundabout diagrams. South Waikato didn't do that well this year - with only 48% of people getting all eight questions right. For the first time we conducted the survey via Survey Monkey, which resulted in a significant increase in participation, which unfortunately didn't translate into a higher pass rate!

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
www.facebook/
SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil
@SouthWaikatoDC
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

Councillor Column Adrienne Bell

Welcome to the first edition of In Touch for 2017! We're already a couple of months into the new year and for many businesses the end of the financial year is looming. This is the time that many will choose to review Business Plans - reaffirming vision and purpose, reassessing relationships, checking that channels of communication are working, analysing the environment in which the business is operating, setting goals for the year and devising strategies to achieve these.

Here at Council we, too, are getting ready to develop our Annual Plan. A new group of councillors was elected in October last year and since then we have had a lot of opportunities to get to know each other. Already we have developed a good working relationship and our challenge now is to deliver an Annual Plan and budget which will provide the community with quality infrastructure and services while keeping rates increases affordable.

At a time when government is lowering road subsidies and putting increasing legislative costs onto councils in areas such as building, health and environment we are going to be spending a lot of time deciding on priorities for spending if we are to keep rates increases reasonable. Some items that have been scheduled for this year in the Long Term Plan, along with some new community proposals, might have to be deferred or taken out altogether. To help us make decisions as to what should remain in this year's budget we need our ratepayers to communicate with us - we held drop-sessions over December 2016 and January 2017. Thank you to those who attended and provided us with feedback.

Councillor Column Jeff Gash

Happy New Year everyone. Things have changed with the beginning of the year. My wife and I no longer own the sports shop, having sold it to long-time residents Darin and Wendy Costar. We wish them every success and encourage everyone to support them and other local businesses by shopping locally. Towns like Tokoroa and Putaruru and to a lesser degree Tirau will only survive if we all support the retail stores.

Council has started with a bang with workshops for the Long Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan as well as more work around Leith Place, the skatepark and the early stages of the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground's new entranceway.

We all want these spaces to be exciting and vibrant, and many people have put forward some great and creative ideas.

The Leith Place consultation attracted a large number of people. Progress on this project is available on our website (<http://bit.ly/2eJKdmy>) if you are interested in reading about where the project is at.

By the time you read this, the Tirau Our Neighbourhood Series would have occurred. But there is the Tokoroa party at Inman Reserve on 1 March and then the Putāruru one on 7 March at Barnett Reserve. And don't forget also the Putāruru Water Festival on 25 February.

I want to spend a moment on the new Open Public Forums that are going very well, with around six people speaking at each session. We're pretty pleased with that turnout, not to mention the topics and points raised, many of which are extremely valuable and are investigated appropriately by staff. Keep coming!

I look forward to the challenges ahead and know we can make the South Waikato an even greater

Mayor Jenny Shattock

Phone: 0274 416 230
Email: jenny.shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz



Tokoroa

Wendy Cook

Phone: 021 719 093
Email: wendy@pockets.co.nz



Jeff Gash

Phone: 027 589 8472
Email: jeff.gash@outlook.com



Marin Glucina

Phone: 021 284 3214
Email: glu@hotmail.com



Thomas Lee

Phone: 027 332 1292
Email: lee.whanau@clear.net.nz



Bill Machen

Phone: 027 471 5899
Email: lilyandbill@xtra.co.nz



Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe

Phone: 0275 339 988
Email: arama@nll.co.nz



Putāruru

Gray Baldwin

Phone: 027 239 0497
Email: baldwin@xtra.co.nz



Adrienne Bell

Phone: 027 471 2404
Email: adriennejb@yahoo.co.nz



Herman van Rooijen

Phone: 027 246 6601
Email: vanrooijen@xtra.co.nz



Tirau

Peter Schulte

Phone: 021 434 933
Email: peter@otobahncoffee.com

