

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL ... IN FOCUS

8 October 2020

MAYORAL COLUMN



Mayor Craig Little

AFFCO

I recently visited the AFFCO Wairoa plant and saw the investment the Talley's Group is making through the expansion of the beef room and other areas of the plant.

It is a state-of-the-art operation and I was really impressed with the commitment that Talley's are showing to Wairoa.

The expansion includes new chillers and boning room and improving amenities.

This work is a credit to AFFCO and Talley's and really shows the confidence this national business has in Wairoa.

There was a real positivity at the plant, and I know this expansion work will also open up employment opportunities for around 30 more staff members.

I am so excited to see this great investment for Wairoa and I urge our local farmers to support AFFCO and process their stock locally because that is what keeps local people employed.

MAYORAL MORNING TEA

I would like to warmly invite our local senior citizens to the annual community kaumātua morning tea.

This pre-Christmas gathering will be held on Monday November 2 at 10am at the War Memorial Hall.

Every year Jan, myself and the Councillors look forward to hosting this event and catching up with familiar faces and being entertained by Angela Culshaw-Kaisa and her whānau.

Personally, this is one of my favourite events as it gives me a chance to see people who have made such great contributions to our community over the years.

COVID-19 alert level 1 precautionary measures are recommended, hand sanitiser is available and if you're unwell please stay home.

I am sure these measures will not detract from a fun morning out. Please RSVP to Council's main reception or phone 838 7309.

The review is about rearranging how we gather rates to create a simple, affordable and appropriate system.

We know we need to also have discussions around how Council will deal with the ever-increasing costs of running the district and this will be focussed on during our upcoming Long-Term Plan consultation.

The rates review needs to be completed so we can feed it into the Long-Term Plan.

It's about deciding how we cut the pie to best meet our district's needs.

It is important we hear from as many people as possible, so Council is guided in its decision-making.

Often, we only hear from the people who are not happy, but it would be great to hear from people who are satisfied with what we are doing as that is also important feedback.

As elected members we need to consider the whole district whereas personal opinions are usually based on people putting forward their individual cases.

People have told us they are happy that Council is being transparent about this rates review process.

Some of the key areas that have been discussed include equalisation where districtwide costs are split across all ratepayers, concerns around heavy vehicle usage, including forestry, and road damage.

Water services versus water tanks is another hot issue with people seeing that as a solution to the ever-increasing cost of drinking water and changes around Three Waters.

People are concerned about the way national property valuations are set for their family homes and Māori owned properties, particularly for those who want their property to remain with whānau and are seeing their neighbours' valuations pushing their property values up.

One of the key considerations around this review, and one that will affect most people in the district, is should we be concerned about an individual ratepayer's ability to pay? Should those who can afford to pay more do so? And those who can't afford to pay less? And should this decision be made on capital value of a property alone?

We are not trying to reinvent the wheel; we are looking at different systems from across the country and are trying to minimise the huge number of differentials we currently operate with.

People have also told us they want to be involved and they want to see the rating options, and these will be presented back to the public during November when we undertake formal consultation.

FOR YOUR DIARY

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 20 October: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 27 October: 1.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Tue, 3 November: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

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SENIOR CITIZENS MAYORAL MORNING TEA

2ND NOVEMBER 2020, 10AM

WAR MEMORIAL HALL

RSVP to Council Reception (06) 838 7309

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE RECOMMENDED, HAND SANITISER AVAILABLE, IF UNWELL PLEASE STAY HOME



RATES

Council has started its pre-engagement phase for the our rates review. We have held meetings at Mahia and in town and it has been interesting to hear the wide-ranging feedback.

We know our current rating system is complex and we are asking members of the public if it is fit for purpose and for feedback around affordability.

RATES REVIEW STAY UP TO DATE

Would you like to be kept in the loop about the rates review?

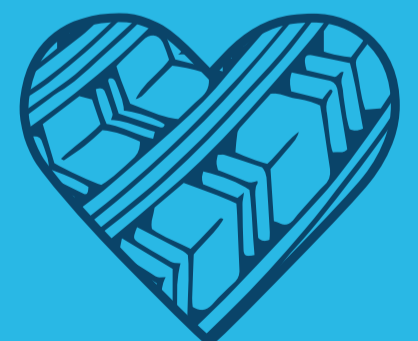
Visit the Wairoa District Council consultations website and enter your contact details so we can add you to our database for individuals that would like to be kept up to date about the rates review process.

Alternatively you can email us to be added to the database.

🌐 www.consultations.nz
✉ feedback@wairoadc.govt.nz



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