



Progress Report

There is a hive of activity underway today in our District. This issue provides an insight for you into this activity, and some analysis of how the Council has performed in the last twelve months.

In many of our neighbourhoods, you are seeing activity to widen roads, fix up poor intersections, make the footpaths safe, and strengthen our bridges.

In the town centre we are cleaning up storm-water pipes that are old and too small. As this underground work is completed, the street-scape above is being attended to. While there is disruption as the work is done, we are working to a ten year plan that will truly progress Papakura.

We are seeking some great community outcomes. Some are being delivered now, like a huge reduction of rubbish going to landfill due to your recycling efforts after user pays came in. Others will take more time.

Your Council is big business – with some \$390 million of fixed assets to manage. It is a complex business, where forward planning is essential to cope with the demands of a relatively young and growing population.

We are in good shape, financially, asset management wise and governance wise.

John Robertson
Mayor



The journey continues

Papakura is making progress. Through the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Council and community have developed a vision for growth over the next ten years and set in place a range of major projects aimed at enhancing quality of life in the district.

Each year the Council measures what it has achieved through the Annual Report. The report also sets out the Council's financial position.

Financially, the Council is in a strong position. The 2006-2007 financial year showed spending was managed well within the overall budget and there was a small surplus which let us cover some one-off costs such as the election without affecting 2007-2008 rates.

External debt at June was \$12 million, well below the budget of \$36.8 million.

In addition to the strong financial result there were improvements in a number of other measures of Council's progress.

Resource and building consents ensure proposals for

developments, buildings and enhancements to properties are carried out in appropriate ways.

Processing times for resource consents are a major focus for the Council. A total of 69 per cent of all resource consents in the past year were processed within national statutory deadlines. This is a significant improvement over previous years and we are on target to raise the figure to 90 per cent or more in the coming year.

Most building consents – 87 per cent – are processed within established national guidelines for response times. The Council is on target to be accredited as a Building Consent Authority by November 2007 and processing times are expected to improve even more once the work involved with this is finished.

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It's all happening in the Town Centre

The Streetscape programme approved by Council in the ten year plan is under way, and will transform the public part of the town centre. Soon, Broadway traffic will be changed to two-way flow, easing traffic pressure at peak times across the Broadway/Elliott/ Great South Road intersection.

New intersection formats are on the way where Broadway meets O'Shannessey Street and Railway Street, along with new street lights, street tree plantings and seats.

Throughout the central business area, there are improvements to storm water systems, roading and footpaths, new street trees, seats, lights and other features. The O'Shannessey Street upgrades begin this month and will be completed by Christmas.

The town square has always been "the heart of the heart", a focal point and popular meeting place for the community. A new "stage" area capable of hosting small public performance groups, a water feature, new seats and plantings will enhance the area's pleasant environment.

Healthy lifestyles

Papakura is well known for its many green spaces, parks and reserves. This is reflected in resident survey figures showing 76 per cent of locals are happy with access and recreational opportunities in the bush and forest areas in and around Papakura.

In addition, Council has spent \$1.4 million in the last year to buy land for neighbourhood reserves to increase these reserves in existing areas.

There has been a major tidy-up of the district's existing toilets and new toilets have been installed at Roselands shopping centre and Ray Small Park.

Establishing and improving walkways is also a feature of the 2006-2016 LTCCP. In the last twelve months

Arts, culture and recreation

A new Arts and Culture Centre will be developed, creating a place where many forms of artistic and cultural expression can come together. Already, consultation has begun on the form this centre should take, and how the project should be managed.

Public art will have an increasing presence in Papakura in coming years, with artistic input into the design of the water feature and other items to be established in the town square, a new programme under way for the Hawkins Centre, continued support for the Papakura Art Gallery and the Museum.

Resident satisfaction with the Sir Edmund Hillary Library is up 13 per cent this year to 75 per cent.

Another high profile and very popular recent addition to Central Park is the new playground, opened in June.

Massey Park Aquatic Centre continues to attract strong patronage from the community and from school groups. Satisfaction with the availability of toilets and other facilities at parks, reserves and sports fields in the district is up 16 per cent on 2006, and overall, 81 per cent of people surveyed said they were happy with access and opportunities for recreation in the district.



five walkways have been created or enhanced in Margan's Bush, Katavic Park, Gills Ave Esplanade, Central Park and Keri Downs.

Council organised or assisted events provide fun occasions for the family to get together throughout the year. They include the Council's free Movie in the Park series, the Great Spring Clean, Carols in the Park, Children's Day, the annual Fireworks extravaganza held each November in Massey Park, the Christmas Parade and the Blue Light Trolley Derby, now in its second year and set to rumble down Elliott Street on September 23.

Safety first

Safe and secure pool fencing is a major contributor to keeping children safe around water. Council swimming pool inspection staff are visiting every known private swimming pool in the district, and in the past year, 66 per cent of all known pools in the district have been inspected.

New school travel plans help keep children safe on their way to and from school, and help reduce traffic congestion.

In the 2006-2007 year, five road safety projects were completed, focussing on safety at intersections, the use of approved child restraints in cars and school travel plans.

Regional awareness campaigns initiated or supported by Council include drink-driving, seat belt use, courteous use of rural roads and use of child restraints in cars.

Dog attacks have been in the news this year. Papakura's innovation in this area was an amnesty enabling local people to hand over dangerous, menacing and unregistered dogs. The amnesty netted 18 dangerous dogs and the concept has now been adopted by other local authorities throughout New Zealand.

Council roading engineers manage resealing programmes that keep the roads in good condition. In the past year Council has resurfaced twenty-eight kilometres of roads.

Releasing the potential of our rangatahi

Papakura District Council has developed a Youth Leadership Forum to help develop the leadership abilities of our young people.

In addition, the Papakura Youth Cafe has run once a week for most of the past year, giving talented young people a performance venue and giving others experience in hospitality roles and sound engineering for live performances. Visiting artists and groups have also helped inspire local young people, including internationally-renowned American dance star Tommy the Clown, originator of the "Krumping" dance craze.

Papakura District Council has worked closely with the Ministry of Education to plan for a \$92 million investment in new schools for the fast-growing Takanini area.



The Council is working on making public places as safe as possible through Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and provides funding for the Proudly Papakura Trust, which is tackling graffiti in the district. Papakura's Neighbourhood Support networks and Community Crimewatch patrols are also going from strength to strength with the support of the Council.

There has been a huge improvement in food safety standards in the district. We now have 140 establishments with an A or B grade and 53 are still completing certification.

Protecting our natural environment

With strong support from the community, Papakura District Council works hard to make sure our natural environment is preserved and protected

The Pahurehure Inlet Management Plan has been developed to guide the use and protection of the area, and is being progressively implemented. A growing system of coastal walkways is giving people recreation and leisure access to the inlet.

The quality of stormwater entering the Manukau Harbour from the district is continually being improved.

Together with the community, Council is looking after the small and precious remnant stands of native bush in the district, and Council enforces standards that protect significant trees from felling or deliberate damage.

Courses for school children and for the community on composting, worm farming, tips on waste minimisation all help the community reduce their impact on the environment. User pays for rubbish collection was introduced in July 2006 and has since seen the volume of rubbish to landfill steadily reduce (down 22.7 per cent) with a corresponding increase in recycling volumes (up 14.6 per cent).

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

This column sets out Papakura District Council's major roading, water and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. It will be a regular feature of District News to help keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Roading work completed in July and August 2007

- Broadway revitalisation and storm water upgrades.
- Construction of a new entrance to the park and ride car park Ron Keat Drive
- Porchester Road/Ingram Street intersection improvements
- Footpath renewals – 700 metres

Roading work in progress

- Great South Road/Beach Road intersection is being upgraded with work on road surfaces and a traffic signal upgrade to improve southbound traffic flows through the intersection
- Hingaia Road/Hinau Road intersection improvements
- Popes Road/Mill Road intersection improvements.

Roading work programmed for September and October 2007

- O'Shannessey Street upgrade
- Pre-seal repairs
- Footpath renewals – 500 metres
- Rail overbridge repairs at Broadway (road closures and detours required)

Stormwater work completed in July and August 2007

Pipe renewals and upgrades:

- In East Street and Elliot Street; Kavanagh Place; Manuroa Road; and Barnhill Crescent

Stormwater work currently under way

Pipe renewals and upgrades:

- In Broadway; Farmers carpark; and intersection of Great South Road and O'Shannessey Street

Stormwater work programmed for 2007/08 financial year

- Continuation of the stormwater pipe upgrade in the town centre area

- Construction of a pond in the "Drury Triangle" area (next to Slippery Creek) to support residential development in Drury.
- Network upgrade in Chichester Drive
- Culverts improvement in Flanagan Road, Fitzgerald Road and Fielding Road
- Open drain bank restoration in Bremner Road
- Alfriston Road flooding improvement near Alfriston Primary School
- Open channel improvement in Greenhaven Avenue
- Open channel improvement in Parker Street/ Marne Road
- Open channel piping in Waterview Road

Parks and recreation work completed in July and August

- Tree planting in Conifer Grove
- Re-contouring of land to improve the pedestrian link between Longford Park and Inlet Road
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) improvements at Massey Park Aquatics Centre

Parks and recreation work currently under way

- Waimana Reserve walkway
- Street tree planting in Oaklands Rd
- Street tree planting in Great South Road
- Wharf Street-Coles Crescent walkway
- Conifer Grove link from boardwalk to Walter Stevens Reserve

Parks and recreation work planned for coming months

- Upgrades of Don Street housing for the elderly
- Replacement of Central Park toilets
- Upgrade at Village Green including new toilets as part of Streetscape enhancement of town centre
- New park signage