



Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!

PLEASE remember – if you have a problem or query about anything to do with Council and its service, our customer service team is ready and waiting to deal with it.

CUSTOMER SERVICE • 571 8008

Have a say on your District's future

EVERYONE in the Western Bay will be impacted in some way by new rules proposed in the District Plan.

Council has been reviewing all sections of the Plan for the past 18 months and all the proposed changes are included in the draft District Plan that is now out for public viewing and feedback.

Council urges rural and urban residents, farmers, orchardists, business people and developers to check out how your backyard, street, neighbourhood, lifestyle block, farm or surrounding environment will be affected by the proposed changes.

Many people across all communities have helped Council put together this draft Plan but we want as many people as possible to have their say before these proposals are finalised.

There is quite a lot to digest, so Council will be holding information days in Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puna, Oropi, Paengaroa and Te Puke to help people understand the complexities of the proposed changes.

Population growth, advancing development, a demand for lifestyle choices and a changing commercial and industrial environment have set the scene for this review.

The complete revised District Plan is available on our website: www.westernbay.govt.nz

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- 7 February– 3 April: Notification of the Draft District Plan and Development Code
- 3 April: Submissions (in writing) close at 4pm
- 9 May–8 June: Notification for further submissions for District Plan
- September–October 2009: Hearings scheduled

INFORMATION DAYS

- Tuesday, 17 February 4pm – 6.30pm. Settlers Lounge, Te Puke
- Wednesday, 18 February 4pm – 6.30pm. Memorial Lounge, Katikati
- Thursday, 19 February 5pm – 7.00pm. RSA, Waihi Beach
- Tuesday, 24 February 4pm – 6.30pm. Community Centre, Maramatanga Park, Te Puna
- Wednesday, 25 February 4pm – 6.30pm. Oropi Hall, Oropi Road
- Thursday, 26 February 4pm – 6.30pm. Paengaroa Hall, Paengaroa
- Monday, 2 March 4pm – 6.30pm. Pioneer Room, Te Puke
- Wednesday, 4 March 4pm – 6.30pm. Memorial Lounge, Katikati

Staff will also be available at the Council offices. To make an appointment to speak to a staff member call Catherine McKerras on 579 6741.

We welcome your thoughts via email:

submissions.districtplanreview@westernbay.govt.nz

Or write to: District Plan Review, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Private Bag 12803, Tauranga Mail Centre, Tauranga 3143.



WESTERN BAY DISTRICT NOTICEBOARD



VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION HITS WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY

The once-a-year opportunity to celebrate volunteers has hit town, with nominations open for the TrustPower Western Bay of Plenty Community Awards.

The Awards, run in conjunction with Council, are open to all voluntary groups working for the benefit of Western Bay.

There are a huge number of voluntary organisations who contribute their time and effort to strengthen this community. This is your chance to turn the spotlight onto those who usually work behind the scenes.

Anyone can nominate a voluntary group – groups can even nominate themselves.

The awards cover five categories; Heritage and Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Educational and Child/Youth Development.

This year more than \$5000 prize money is up for grabs.

Nomination Forms for the TrustPower Community Awards are available from Council offices, or can be downloaded from www.trustpower.co.nz.

**Nominations close: 24 April,
get nominating today!**



Voting papers roll out today

WESTERN BAY residents will be receiving their voting papers from today (Friday February 13) for the Western Bay mayoral by-election next month.

All eligible voters in the District must have their completed voting papers returned by noon on **Saturday, 7 March**.

Preliminary results will be available later that afternoon.

The by-election is taking place due to the death of Mayor Graeme Weld on 15 November 2008 and also involves the election of a new member on to the Omokoroa Community Board.

Two candidates have been nominated for the mayoralty – Norm Bruning and Ross Paterson.

Three candidates have been nominated for the vacated seat on Omokoroa Community Board - Kevin Heys, Margaret Parker and Garry Webber.

Should a sitting member of Council or a Community Board be elected to the position of Mayor, a by-election will be held for the vacant Council or Community Board position.

In the interim Kaimai Ward councillor and deputy mayor Ross Paterson continues as Acting Mayor.

Electors may post their voting document to the electoral officer using a pre-paid envelope included with the voting document. A polling place for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available at all Council offices from today (Friday, 13 February) to 12 noon Saturday, 7 March.

If any electors haven't received their voting papers by Friday, 20 February 2009 please either call Independent Election Services Ltd on 0800 922 822 or pop into any of the Council offices to pick up special voting papers.

Much rain needed to ease fire risk

AT least 100 millimetres of rain is needed over the Western Bay before the strict restrictions over the lighting of fires can be relaxed.

As fire fighters in the region kept their fingers crossed earlier this week that no major outbreaks of fire would occur in the tinder-dry conditions, the prospect of two or three days' rain was welcome relief.

However Principal Rural Officer of the Western Bay Moana Rural Fire Authority, Barry Low, said at least 100 ml of rain was needed to make any difference to the extreme fire risk.

As that was unlikely, the present restricted fire season over the entire region of the Western Bay Moana Rural Fire Authority remains in place and no new fire permits will be issued.

Barry says the danger levels have escalated to the point where any fire outbreak in vegetative fuels would be very difficult and expensive to control.

Anyone who holds a valid long-term fire permit for

household or small rubbish fires is urged to delay burning until the risk subsides.

A total fire ban – such as that declared in Northland on Monday - will be put in place if the dry conditions resume.

The extreme fire risk has prompted warnings for everyone to be on the alert for any smoke sightings or unattended fires.

Areas of particular concern are Tauranga and southern and eastern parts of the Western Bay.

Random fire patrols are under way, however Barry says public vigilance is the key and anyone seeing smoke or fires should call 111.

Fire danger levels are monitored daily at Tauranga, Te Puke and Rotoehu with additional readings taken at Waihi.

For all enquiries on fire permits please contact Council on 571 8008.

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

WAIHI BEACH WARD • Ross Goudie (07 863 6151)

KATIKATI WARD • Sam Dunlop (549 2856)

• Michael Williams (549 4425)

KAIMAI WARD • Ross Paterson *Acting Mayor* (548 0478)

• Norm Bruning (548 0617) • Jo Gravit (552 6063)

• Margaret Murray-Benge (543 0317)

TE PUKE WARD • Maureen Burgess (533 1425)

• Michael Jones (573 9790) • Paul Thomas (573 9170)

MAKETU WARD • Kevin Marsh (533 3877)

• Susan Matthews (533 1108)

If you would like further information please contact the customer service team

07 571 8008

EMAIL • customerservice@westernbay.govt.nz

Or you may prefer to contact your local Council Library and Service Centre

HEAD OFFICE • Barks Corner, Greerton, Tauranga (open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm) phone 571 8008.

KATIKATI • 36 Main Road (Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm), phone 549 0119.

TE PUKE • 130 Jellicoe Street (Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm), phone 573 9862.

WAIHI BEACH • Community Centre (Tuesday and Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm), phone 863 4573.

OMOKOROA • McDonnell Street (Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm), phone 548 2643.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE • WWW.WESTERNBAY.GOV.T.NZ

