

town & country matters

Ngā Take a-taone, a-tuawhenua



September 2011 | Issue 63

SPECIAL ISSUE on our upcoming 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan He pānui motuhake mō te Mahere Tekau Tau 2012-2022

From the Mayor, Meng Foon

Tena koutou katoa, ki nga whanau o Te Tairāwhiti.



Three years ago when we contemplated the Ten Year Plan, especially which projects would be proposed in the first three years, Council was aware of its commitment to the city's new wastewater treatment plant. It did not want to take on

any further capital expenditure commitments, especially those that some people may see as "optional extras".

We are through those three years now and have managed well with a debt level \$18 million less than forecast. We still need to be cautious but recognise that we can't keep putting things off for ever. We want to look at investment in community facilities especially those that could occur in the next three, and the next 10, years. The idea of investing in community facilities is to create that sense of place that attracts people here and also engenders pride in those of us who already live here. Typically, the library, parks and reserves, theatres, public spaces and recreational facilities are the aspects that differentiate our community from other communities.

There is a relatively long lead time before anything would be built. Even though affordability challenges will be around for a while, we can't put off the planning. If we don't start now, we could be too late.

Remember, putting a project in the plan is not legally binding. But if we don't put a project in the Ten Year Plan, we can't start at all.

We don't apologise for our focus on community facilities. While we look for specific feedback on these major projects, it's still business as usual for activities like roads, like water and wastewater operations – they are a given.

New projects won't undo all the solid gains we have made to date. This early thinking about the next 10 years gives the community a choice and helps Council sort out its priorities. We cannot afford all of these things. We need to decide the importance of these projects and which order to tackle them in. We need to ensure we have the resources to manage these projects too.

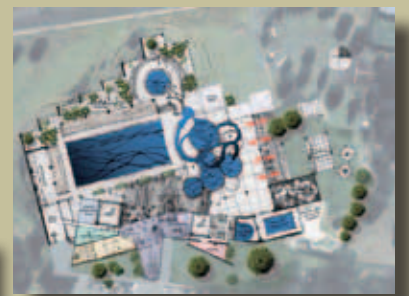
We have outlined our initial thinking here. Now we seek your feedback.

Kia ora, Meng

Do you support this project?



how about these?



read more on page 2
tell us what you think on page 4

Your views will help our future plans

In June next year, Council will adopt its 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan. This document will set out all Council's work plans, projects and budgets for the next three years and outline its general direction over the next 10 years.

Over the next few months, we will be listening to people who want to have their say on what they'd like to see included in this Ten Year Plan.

Councillors and staff will attend various community events during this time, so look out for the chance to come along and have your say. The information

gained from this process will help inform the councillors' decisions and give input to the draft plan, to be produced in February 2012.

Formal consultation on this draft plan – scheduled for April 2012 – will involve community meetings, formal submissions and hearings. This will be the community's chance to give its verdict on the proposed plan.

What we seek from you now are your views on what Council's priorities should be for investment in the community.

Where to go for more information

Go to Gisborne District Council website www.gdc.govt.nz to have your say on Council's proposed plans for the next 10 years.

OR  Find us on Facebook.
'Gisborne - our future'
'Like' our page to comment on or start your own threads about your views on Gisborne's future.

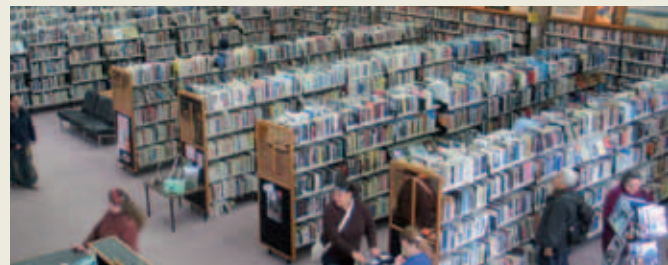


Which of these major projects are a priority for you?

Your views will help determine how we include major projects in the draft 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan. In April 2012, you will get the chance to formally have your say on our plans for the next 10 years. **PLEASE USE THE FEEDBACK FORM ON THE BACK PAGE TO LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS.**

Community infrastructure

Our early thoughts are that the upgrade of the H B Williams Memorial Library and the War Memorial Theatre should begin in the next three years.



H B Williams Memorial Library

The plan to upgrade and enlarge the H B Williams Memorial Library is to better accommodate current and future needs. The aim is to ease congestion for existing services; provide space to meet customer service expectations including for young adults, study rooms and a research centre; and improve access for disabled users. The proposal is likely to take into account best practice in library services, site constraints and affordability. The library opened in 1967 and is nationally recognised for its enduring architecture.

Already, \$1.5M has been put towards the upgrade thanks to bequeaths from the estates of Stanley Green, Hannah Dunlop and Jessie Iris Jeffreys. While this project is being considered as a priority for the first three years of the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan, no decision has been made as to the scope or scale of the upgrade.

Council is interested in your views and what you think should or should not be included in the upgrade?



War Memorial Theatre

Planning continues for a proposed upgrade that aims to create a modern and attractive complex to meet current and future needs of performers and audiences.

A feasibility study has been completed and some preliminary designs developed which expand and upgrade the theatre on the existing site. Council would like to progress this project as a priority in the next three years.

We are currently considering how to include these major capital projects in our upcoming 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan. Some of them are essential infrastructure projects that will help to support the economy and ensure the safety of the district (eg, the Waiaipu and Waipaoa flood control schemes) and others are projects that will enhance our community for years to come. **Good financial performance over the past three years has put us in a strong position to deliver on some of these projects. However, we are mindful of the current economic situation and realise we will not be able to deliver them all, or will at least need to undertake them over a longer period than previously anticipated. Planning for these projects has occurred to varying degrees but all require more feasibility work to get them ready for construction. This means the costs cannot yet be properly estimated for each project.**

We understand it's hard to work out a priority without knowing the cost. But, by telling us which projects you think are most important, and what form they should take, we'll have a better idea of how to work these projects into our budget for the next 10 years.



The Cenotaph

The historic Cenotaph may be dismantled and rebuilt to include earthquake-strengthening to the interior. A significant gathering place for commemorative services, The Cenotaph is registered Category 1 with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

H B WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2014/15

WAR MEMORIAL THEATRE

2014/15

CENOTAPH RESTORATION

2013/14

TAIRĀWHITI NAVIGATIONS & INNER HARBOUR

2015/16

OLYMPIC POOL

2022/23

WALKING AND CYCLING

Waikanae Beach

2014/15

Alfred Cox Park, Waikanae Stream & Bridge

Taruheru River

2016/17

FLOOD CONTROL – WAIPAOA

2018/19

FLOOD CONTROL – WAIAPU

2014/15

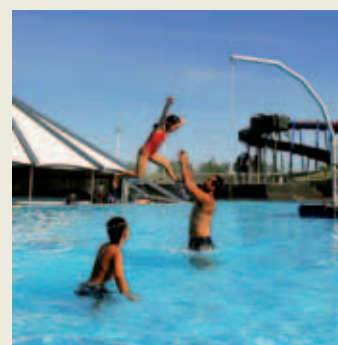
MAJOR PROJECTS – possible timeline for completion

We are thinking about removing the Civic Square & Recreation Facility. . . You may recall that one of the major projects we were considering in the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan was the idea of a civic square in the central business district. Recent discussions have led Council to reconsider the “need” for this project and therefore we would like to remove this from the next plan. Our reason for removing the recreation facility from the Olympic Pool Complex is explained under the “Pool” project.

Tairāwhiti Navigations & Inner Harbour

Tairāwhiti is rich in history and culture. Our inner harbour precinct and wider region hold significant cultural, social and economic opportunities. The Tairāwhiti Navigations project is about unlocking these opportunities and showcasing and celebrating our region's unique culture and heritage to the world and ourselves. The project entails developing light infrastructure and stories at key sites in the region; and includes a boardwalk to the slipway in the middle of Gisborne's harbour, a pedestrian clip-on to the railway bridge across the Turanganui River and walkways and paths connecting the inner harbour to Titirangi and the Cook Landing Site. While this project is a potentially new major project, it has been progressed for the past five years with funding from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (\$197k), Eastland Community Trust and Eastland Infrastructure. The majority of funding for this project is likely to be externally funded.

Council thinks it may be efficient to develop the Navigations project alongside the Inner Harbour project as they have a lot of common areas. **What do you think?**



Olympic Pool

Discussions about the future of the Olympic Pool Complex and its potential redevelopment have been more or less ongoing since 2004. The project was promoted because the age and physical condition of the asset suggests it is beyond its “use by date”. In the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan, the pool redevelopment was proposed to be a full aquatic and recreation centre.

However, recent investigations suggest the recreation centre may not be a priority for the region due to the number of other facilities available. Council is considering removing the recreation centre from the upcoming plan and focusing on the Olympic Pool Complex only. Like the H B Williams Memorial Library, the scale, scope and timing for this has yet to be confirmed.

What do you think about the Olympic Pool Complex redevelopment?



Walking and cycling

Gisborne's walkway/cycleway from beside the Taruheru River to almost the Turanganui River mouth is much-used and enjoyed. Our current plan is to extend this in three sections – the first along Waikanae Beach. The second would run from Alfred Cox Park along Waikanae Stream, with a bridge and links to Anzac Street, Awapuni School and Stanley Road through to Midway Beach. The third section is from the Bright Street/ Taruheru River end through to the Botanical Gardens. **Do you think we should undertake work on all three sections? Do you agree with the proposed order of the extension work?**

Major project proposals *continued*

Essential infrastructure

At this stage, we believe these two flood protection schemes are our first priority.



Waipaoa River flood control

The Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme offers protection against a storm with a 70-year return period, similar to the size of Cyclone Bola. The scheme has been under review and consultation has been taking place to gauge what level of protection is required, who should pay and at what proportion. Should the scheme provide protection against a 100-year, 150-year or maybe 200-year flood? Without the scheme, Gisborne would not have the magnificent range of crops on the plains that it does nor would there be the economic benefits associated with horticulture and viticulture.



Waiapu River flood control

Significant improvements have already been made in protecting Ruatoria township from the erosion caused by the Waiapu River. Erosion protection works include a series of unusual shaped concrete blocks, known as dolosse, some of which were made in Ruatoria by local people. Protection works – which have had a positive impact in shifting the river's course – are expected to continue for a few years.

A word on the finances

Council's financial performance over the past three years and lower-than-forecasted borrowings has put Council in a position to undertake any major projects agreed to through the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan. Borrowing to fund these projects is a good way to ensure that those getting the benefit from a project are contributing to the costs. This is often referred to as "intergenerational equity", which means

there is fairness in the way costs and benefits are allocated and distributed from one generation to the next.

When deciding on projects, councillors will keep a close eye on rates affordability within the district. At the same time they will need to prioritise projects and make prudent investment decisions to ensure Gisborne remains a good place to live, work and do business.

Infrastructure projects such as proposed improvements to the Waipaoa River Flood Control Scheme are likely to be fully funded by the beneficiaries. We think ratepayers should only pay

Who pays for what?

As part of the Ten Year Plan preparations, Council is reviewing its Revenue and Finance Policy. This important policy sets out who pays for what activity. Among the suggestions to date is a proposed increase in library fees. For more information about the possible changes, go to Council's website www.gdc.govt.nz

for a third of most of the proposed community facility projects. This means that, for the agreed projects, Council will aim to achieve about 70 percent of funding from sources outside Council.

The major projects we are thinking about cannot all be financed at once. Those chosen to proceed will need to be spread over a number of years.

Because the scope of many of the major projects has not yet been confirmed, Council is only able to establish indicative costs. These costs need to consider any increases in operating costs that may arise as a result – for example, running a larger facility. However, not all projects will result in increased operating costs. In some cases, savings can be made through operational efficiencies.



Group manager corporate services
Mike Drummond

Good team to help manage and fund Council projects

Experience will count when it comes to managing and funding major projects planned for the district.

Engineer Peter McConnell's years of project management skills will be put to good use in his new role as project and development manager. He has for the past two years been project manager of the \$39M Gisborne Wastewater Project, playing an integral part in its completion on time and under budget. He will ensure that any new projects are properly investigated and start with in-depth feasibility studies. He is currently working on the preliminary design for the War Memorial Theatre upgrade, a feasibility study for the Olympic Pool development and assessing the proposed extension of the H B Williams Memorial Library.

New economic development officer (funding)

Julie Conder provides the perfect complement – particularly considering significant improvements to the theatre, library, Olympic pool and inner harbour cannot be made without financial help from funders. Julie has well more than a decade of experience in attracting project funding. Originally from the UK, she spent eight years as a funding advisor in Birmingham and before that worked for London charity Crisis, where she was responsible for annually raising \$2M towards shelter projects for homeless people. She says it takes far more than filling in a few application forms to get funding. Projects need to be broken into marketable chunks and matched with the needs of potential funders.

Julie is developing a funding strategy for the War Memorial Theatre that includes where each dollar required could come from.

Get involved

During September and October, councillors and Council staff will be out and about at community events. Come and see our Ten Year Plan displays and have your say. Events scheduled so far:

PBC Dome
Friday
23 Sept 2011



Te Unga Mai Voyaging
Festival at the Cut
Saturday
8 October 2011

A&P Show
14-15 October 2011



Council's community planning and development team is also making contact with various groups and organisations to encourage them to have their say on Council's plans for the next 10 years. If your group or organisation has not been contacted and would like to let Council know your priorities or thoughts on Council's proposed plans, please contact us on tenyearplan@gdc.govt.nz

Information and feedback forms are available on Council's website www.gdc.govt.nz and at the H B Williams Memorial Library and Olympic Pool, and at Council offices in Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne and Te Puia Springs.

Have your say on proposed transfer station closures

Just how cost-effective is Council's solid waste service? That's the question that prompted Council's efficiency review committee to suggest closing three transfer stations at Whatatutu, Te Puia and Tikitiki.

We will provide more details about costs and savings when we meet the relevant communities. We will also discuss the details with city ratepayers who currently pay for their service as well as part of the rural service.

If the closures were to go ahead, affected residents would need to travel to drop off their solid waste and recycling – Te Puia and Waipiro Bay residents to either Ruatoria or Tokomaru Bay (or Gisborne) and Whatatutu residents to Te Karaka or Gisborne. A rubbish sticker system would probably be introduced to bring consistency across the district. The sticker system – \$110 for 52 stickers as part of rates – would enable people to drop off stickered rubbish bags at all Council-owned transfer stations during opening hours. Free compost bins would be offered to people attending one of Council's composting workshops. Council has not yet decided to go ahead with this proposal. We want to know what communities think before deciding whether to include it in the Draft Ten Year Plan.



A complementary duo – Peter McConnell and Julie Conder.

