**Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors’ update October 2025**

**Final reminder for elections 2025 – and special votes**

You should have received your voting papers in the post by now. If you have not received your voting papers then please enquire about casting a special vote - which you can request from the Council or from Election Services (ph 0800 922 822) – or just go to the council’s Tamahere office (upstairs next to the Pharmacy) any weekday. You can update your entry on the electoral roll, get a special vote and cast your vote at the Tamahere office – but please call in between 9.30am and 2.30pm so staff have time to help you before the office closes at 3.00pm.

Voting closes at 12 noon on election day (Saturday 11 October). The Council’s electoral officer recommends you post your vote by 7 October, or hand deliver it to a Council office or library after that. If you’re wanting to use the voting box at the Tamahere office – make sure you get there by 3.00pm on Friday 10 October latest.

**Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Council Profiles**

Profiles have been released for every council in the country. They are designed to help easy comparisons on rates, debt, spending, and staffing, but do not take account of differing growth rates and the difference in need to invest in new infrastructure, for example. Waikato DC is compared with a group of “Small Metro/Large Provincial” councils. The report is on the Council’s website. Key highlights include:

* Waikato is one of the fastest-growing districts in New Zealand.
* Our rates increases are among the lowest compared to similar and neighbouring councils.
* We hold an AA+ credit rating – the highest available under the Fitch international system.
* 78% of our capital spending goes on essentials like roading, water, and wastewater.

**Rolling out our Speed Management Plan**

If you made a submission on our speed management plan (SMP) for local roads and are wondering when the plan will be implemented, the Council is still awaiting sign-off from the Director of Land Transport. Apparently there have been delays in reviewing all SMPs nationwide. The Council has set aside a modest budget for speed limit signage where needed and hope to be able to implement agreed post-consultation changes in the new year.

**Local bus timetable changes**

Timetables for the 27/28 Tauwhare Pā and Tamahere/Matangi bus services are changing slightly this week (from Monday 6 October). All weekday services continue to operate but times will vary - with some services starting by up to 10-12 minutes earlier on the Tauwhare Pā route. Some services on the Tamahere/Matangi route will be a few minutes earlier and some a few minutes later. Latest monthly patronage on these trial services currently stand at 852 on the Tamahere/Matangi route, and 242 on the Tauwhare Pā route. Top destinations are the University and Knighton Rd where you can change to other routes into the city. The new timetable for routes 27 & 28 can be found on the Waikato Regional Council's Bus-It website.

**Calling all library lovers**

Just a reminder for library lovers in the Tamahere-Woodlands Ward that your rates allows you to use both the Waikato District library services and Hamilton City libraries, whichever is more convenient. If the closest Waikato District library at Ngaruawahia is too far away, then check out the digital library services on offer – including eBooks, eAudibooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines, movie streaming, online learning and more – or ask for your chosen book to be delivered to the Tamahere office for you to pick up when you’re next travelling into town.

There are also seven Hamilton City libraries you can use, including Rototuna, Chartwell and Hillcrest, and the Central library in Garden Place too. Hillcrest Library is temporarily closed following last month’s fire at the back of the dairy, next door in the same building – but the city is considering setting up a “pop-up” library while they investigate the extent of the damage and what the next steps are for the building. Check the Hamilton City Libraries website or Facebook page for updates.

**Upcoming legislation and policy statements guiding local government**

The Government has recently issued a number of policy statements and is seeking comment on draft legislation that is expected to influence the operations of local government. Among these changes are:

* The draft ***Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development*** sets out the government’s long-term direction for housing and urban development, alongside five priority actions aimed at addressing the causes of Aotearoa New Zealand’s housing challenges. The priorities include supporting housing growth, reforming the resource management system, resetting investment to better support those most in need, improving efficiency and competition in building and construction, and strengthening rental markets.
* ***Resource Management Reforms: Going for Housing Growth*** This programme is part of the Government’s broader plan to tackle New Zealand’s ongoing housing shortage. It’s structured around three pillars that make system changes to address underlying causes of the housing supply shortage by freeing up land for urban development and removing unnecessary planning barriers.
* The ***Planning Act*** and ***Natural Environment Act*** legislation will be the combined legislative result of the consultation on Resource Management Act discussion documents and are expected to follow the close of consultation on the remaining Going for Housing Growth pillars.
* The ***Local Government Systems Improvements Bill*** sets out to remove the four wellbeing’s from the Local Government Act and widen the scope of the Department of Internal Affairs’ powers to set mandatory measures of non-financial performance. This is the first tranche of an Omnibus Bill with a second tranche expected later this year.

**Reminder to use Antenno to keep in touch with Council**

The Council has responded to hundreds of requests for action (eg. to remove dumped rubbish, or to fill pot

holes) through the mobile app, Antenno, since it was introduced for residents and ratepayers in

October last year. Antenno also sends timely notifications about local issues like a road closure, rubbish collection changes, local events, and emergency alerts targeted to your registered location(s). Download the app from the App Store or Google Play and try it out. It’s free.

***Contact your Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors:***

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