

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | FEBRUARY 2018

Coro St for Maungaraki?

Special Report

BY MAX SHIERLAW

The Hutt City Council have released a proposed District Plan change on residential housing which, if passed, could have major implications for Maungaraki.

Under the guise of a 'review of the existing General Residential Activity Area', it is proposing to allow 'comprehensive development' on a 1,400m² lot within the general residential zone anywhere in Hutt City.

Media reported that the council was considering allowing for this type of housing in Lower Hutt, but it was assumed HCC would carefully assess suitable areas of the City for this type of development. Such an assumption has proven to be misguided as HCC has now decided this type of development can be built anywhere



Do residents want high-density housing like this? in Hutt City. Given the serious impact this change to the district plan potentially has for Maungaraki, the Maungaraki Community Association (MCA) is holding a public meeting on Wednesday February 21st at 7:30pm at the Community Centre.

This will be a facilitated meeting and will gauge the community's position on this proposed change and gather ideas for inclusion in a submission from the MCA.

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Information is available to enable residents to make their own submissions should they choose to.

An invitation has been sent to Western Ward Councillors Chris Milne & Margaret Cousins to attend and present HCC's position.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for their acceptance to our invitation. The MCA encourages the Maungaraki community to attend this meeting.

Now is the time to make our voice heard, as once the District Plan is changed, it is extremely difficult to reverse the changes.

Join in the conversation now on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maungaraki/posts/>

Read more - www.huttcity.govt.nz

New MCA Website Coming Soon

Some readers may have noticed a change to the MV masthead on this issue. The MCA's domain name has been updated to [Maungaraki.co.nz](https://maungaraki.co.nz), which is the new domain for the MCA's new website.

Go to <https://maungaraki.co.nz> and enter your email address to be notified when the new website launches.

The new MCA website is set to become the Maungaraki's new online hub for all things Maungaraki and MCA. Features include regular news updates, a 'What's On' calendar, stories and articles, WREMO and photo gallery and an online booking form to hire out a Community Centre spaces. The MCA looks forward to adding more content over time.



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Gimme Shelter

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Max Factor

BY MAX SHIERLAW

As you may be aware Maungaraki's bus shelter opposite the Maungaraki shops, and at the top of Dowse Drive were upgraded recently. While welcome, no one was aware these new shelters were coming so enquires were made with the Regional Council.

They advised bus shelters are replaced when they reach or are nearing the end of their useful life, as maintenance costs become unviable to repair long term and there is greater value-for-money to erect a new shelter.

Each year the GWRC transport staff assesses all of the shelters and records a condition rating, 1 to 5 based on the condition of the asset. This, along with data regarding the date each bus shelter was installed and feedback from GWRC's maintenance contractor provides information to help GWRC decide which bus shelters should be replaced. Patronage levels and future plans for bus routes are also considered during the assessment.

So, the two shelters which were replaced in Maungaraki were clearly at the end of their useful lives.

So what about new shelters? GWRC says that when deciding where to install new bus shelters they use a prioritisation system to help manage their limited budget. They go on to explain prioritisation looks at the location of the stop (i.e. proximity to community facilities, shops, hospitals etc.), the function of the bus stop (i.e. can customers transfer between services here/ how many services use the stop a day), as well as how many customers are using the stop, the number of requests for a shelter and population growth forecasts, median age data, and deprivation index data for the local area.

Based on 2016 passenger data, the next two busiest bus stops in Maungaraki are; Dowse Drive at Acacia Avenue (near 215): 315 passengers & Acacia Avenue at Camellia Terrace (near 25): 264 passengers. This compares to 747 passengers at the Maungaraki shops stop and 462 opposite the shops where the new shelter was installed.

The MCA intends to make further enquiries with GWRC to ascertain where Acacia Avenue's Bus Stop



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ranks in their assessments for new Bus Shelters. Based on GWRC's own criteria and that they take into account the number of requests for a particular shelter. We should not hesitate to make a case that Maungaraki deserves more high-quality Bus Shelters based on the 2016 data.

Spaphunk celebrates 3rd anniversary in April

Hope you have all had an EXCITING start to the year! My name is Natarsha and I would like to say Happy New Year from SPAPHUNK!

Coming up 3 years in April so a BIG thank you for all the LOVE and support so far. For those who are new to the area and would like to have a chat or check out the services please don't be shy Haere mai (welcome). Throughout my career I have worked as a Beauty therapist in Wellington.

I am so excited that I get to combine my LOVE of Brow Art with Beauty Therapy and Relaxation. I have meet

some amazing people along the way and feel honoured and blessed to be part of their day! Ph 04 566 5613 Online bookings @spaphunk.co.nz. Late night bookings available.

Olivia wins Gold & two Silver at Colgate Games in Auckland

Special congratulations to Maungaraki School's new athletics star Olivia Turner for winning Gold in Shot Put and Silver in Discus & Long Jump at the Colgate North Island Games, Auckland. Awesome!



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