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

**New name gifted for Tamahere Reserve (Crawfords Quarry) – Tamahere Paerau Reserve**

A meeting was held with Tamahere Community Committee and Council representatives with Lance Rapana of Ngaati Hauaa late last year to explore whether a compromise could be reached with Ngaati Hauaa over the use of the names Tamahere and Maniapoto for the reserve – in short, whether the names could be used together. Lance explained that both names were good ones in their own right, but that Tamahere and Maniapoto could not be used together because of the difference in their whakapapa/history.

Relying on the willingness of both sides to seek a middle ground, Councillors and iwi relationships staff asked mana whenua if the name Tamahere could be put together with a different name for the reserve, to preserve the name Tamahere, but to find something distinctive from Tamahere Park. Further to discussions held with Ngaati Korokii-Kahukura and Ngaati Hauaa, Raahui Papa (a former chair of Waikato Tainui Executive and recognised authority on Waikato reo and tikanga) has confirmed a name that has also been endorsed by the Tumuaki and Kingmaker, Hone Tamihana. This name is ***Tamahere Paerau*** *–* with Paerau meaning *“a space of rest for all communities”.* (Paerau is prounced (phonetically) “pie roe”).

**Roading**

**NZTA - Telephone Rd rail crossing -** NZTA has begun improvements to the rail crossing and Telephone Rd-Holland Rd intersection that will allow Telephone Rd to reopen to through traffic by the middle of this year.

**WDC – Birchwood Lane traffic calming trial proposed** – a concept plan introducing chicanes to calm traffic will be costed for a proposed trial. More information on proposed timing will be available soon.

**HCC – Silverdale-Matangi Rd intersection & Morrinsville Rd upgrade consultation** –drop-ins at Berkley Intermediate Performing Arts Centre, 11 March 5.30-7.30pm & 15 March 10am–12pm, or local meeting TBA??

**Long Term Plan 2025-34 update -** The Council met in February to adopt the budget for the draft Long Term Plan 2025-34, which will go out for a month-long public consultation starting in late March. Hearings and deliberations will be in May and the final plan adopted in June. Subject to consultation, the draft plan is based on a general rate increase of 4.25% for the first year (2025/26), before falling to an increase of 3.05% in 2026/27, then 2.7% and less in subsequent years. (These rates exclude public transport costs which will be rated directly by WRC from 2025/26.)

**Watch out for Waikato Regional Council’s Annual Plan 2025/25 -** See the attached newsletter from Waikato Regional Councillor Noel Smith, who explains the new public transport rate that the Regional Council proposes to introduce in the 2025/26 financial year as part of its Annual Plan, subject to consultation starting early this month. Under the current proposal, Waikato Regional Council ratepayers living in Waikato district south of Rangiriri, and with no bus service, will pay $33.58 per year, while those in urban towns and villages will pay $67.10 per year.

**Ward events coming up**

* **Furniture Restoration Repair Café at St Stephen’s Tamahere, 29 March 11am-4pm –** Book your place for $5, bring a piece of wooden furniture you want to repair and restore, and learn how to do it under the guidance of a furniture restoration specialist. The workshop café is made possible by the Waikato District Council waste minimisation fund. For more info, and to book your place, go to [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/events](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/events)
* **Council’s Economic and Community-Led Development Team events**
  + **Gordonton Business networking event** at Zealong Tea Estate, 6 March, 5-6.30pm
  + **Tamahere-Woodlands Governance and Funding workshop** at Hamilton Car Club (Vaile Rd, Newstead), 16 April, starting at 5pm. Details still to come.

**Applications open for creative arts activities - reminder**

Applications for funding for creative arts activities are open until 5pm, Thursday 6 March 2025. For more information go to [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding)

***Contact your Councillors:***

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