

Chief Executive's Report: April 2008

Introduction

This month there are two parts to the report

- Part One Activities Report
 - (a) Summary of Activity
 - (b) Looking Forward

- Part Two Organisational Monitoring
 - (a) Dashboard
 - (b) Assets Contract Acceptances

Part One: Activities Report

a) Summary of Activity

1 General

1.1 Water, Water Everywhere

Water is a vital resource and Council would like to thank the community for its efforts to conserve water when asked to. Every little helps. That said, the rains mid April eased the situation not only for the farmers suffering drought conditions in the mid country down the line but for the Dargaville community and its water supply.

1.2 Rubbish Cages (Installation)

This month has seen rubbish cages installed at Mangawhai (Bulls Road), Tangowahine, Pouto, Waihue and Arapohue. Two others are planned for installation in the next few months at Omamari and King Road, Mangawhai. This has proved to be very successful with communities indicating that they want others installed however funding was only allocated for this financial year. All construction and installation work is being carried out by Harry Baycroft and his community work group.

1.3 Playground

The new Ruawai playground has been installed and is now nearing completion, just some minor work surrounding the playground is needed to finish off this community Council project. The cost of the playground was \$24,493. Council provided \$25,000 towards the playground with the Ruawai community providing a donation of money, labour and machinery to clean up the section and provide edging around the playground. The old playground, which had some of the equipment removed 12 months ago because of safety, will now be removed completely and the area tidied up.

1.4 Vehicles on Beaches

Following the recent fatality on the beach at Glinks Gully there has been a concerted effort to identify ways of dealing with the issue. The Northland Regional Council has taken a lead role in this matter, addressing the issue on a regional basis. They have developed an approach which involves developing a new bylaw and signage which the staff will be recommending to the Regional Council's Land Transport meeting after this has been written, but before the District Council meets.

Implementing this proposal will take time and is unlikely to be ready for the coming summer given the need to shift territorial boundaries for some districts.

The Chief Executive, Policy Manager and Community Infrastructural Assets Manager met with Regional Council staff to discuss the matter. We expressed concern that they devised an answer before discussing matters with the communities affected. We advised that such an approach was not going to make community buy-in easy, especially as the outcomes sought would be some time away.

During our discussion we agreed that a key to this issue was getting behaviours to change. We also talked about the feedback we had been getting and the suggestions from the community. We noted the community wanted signs which showed an official stance that care and low speeds were the expected behaviours. The community would then do some self policing. The community would also like to see an occasional police presence.

Our suggestion to the Regional Council was there needed to be meetings with the affected communities led by Kaipara Councillors supported by staff from both Councils. The purpose of these meetings would be to enable the community to identify the issues as they saw them and the solutions they would suggest. If this can be obtained from the community and it is used there will be significant buy-in and this can lead to changed behaviour.

We also questioned the need for the by-law; speed is not the issue, it is behaviours. Inappropriate driving can already be policed, the beach is a road after all. Also the landowner, the Crown represented by the Department of Conservation has the ability to impose bylaws and speed restrictions, they do this in National Parks for example. The Conservator has expressed his support for this approach. This led the discussion to conclude that both the Police and Department of Conservation needed to be involved. However the first action needs to be communicating with the community to ascertain their views.

The Regional Council staff undertook to report this approach to the Land Transport Committee. It is proposed this Council workshop the matter at the May Council meeting.

1.5 Surf Lifesaving New Zealand

In 2006 Surf Lifesaving New Zealand was asked by the Kaipara District Council to undertake a survey of Kaipara's main west coast access points (Glinks Gully and Chases Gorge) to see what could be done to reduce the number of drownings occurring on the west coast. This was done and a report produced with recommendations for implementation. At this time it was highlighted that some form of lifesaving service should be looked at as a further future option to help manage the increase of people using the west coast beaches over the summer holiday period. An option put forward was that a limited Surf Life Saving Service be investigated and potentially trialled in the Chases Gorge and Baylys Beach area over the summer months. Surf Lifesaving New Zealand has now come back to Council staff indicating that they are keen on putting a proposal to the Kaipara District Council for further discussion on some form of limited service on the west coast out from Dargaville. Any proposal would need Council and community support, not only with regard to funding but also for local people to train alongside Surf Lifesaving personnel. Surf Lifesaving New Zealand is now putting a proposal together to put forward to this Council for its consideration.

1.6 Mangawhai EcoCare

Sewer reticulation construction has now been underway for three months. Progress is approximately 10% behind programme. Earth Tech advises that this is due to initial construction areas comprising deep sewers which are slower to construct. This time is expected to be made up with increased numbers of construction teams, work on Saturdays, plus progressing into areas with shallower sewers.

Reinstatement of sewerage areas has commenced and is being completed with minimal disruption, however there is a small amount of negative feedback from residents and ratepayers. Further consultation with community to better align expectations is now being carried out. Pump station construction is on hold while the groundwater consents with Northland Regional Council are granted, expected early next month. Further specialist construction crews for thrust-boring sewers and construction of the village low-pressure systems are being sought.

The current scope of works will be completed by August 2009 with initial areas having wastewater services by March 2009. Negotiated Modifications will expand the current scope to include household connections, relocated treatment plant, and some subdivisions adjacent to sewers in the current scope of works. The relocated treatment plant Modification will involve a time claim.

Status

- Owners and occupiers of approx 1,450 properties were formally notified of intent to enter private property to construct the sewerage scheme. Twelve objections were received; four relate to a common stormwater issue, three require further action from the Project Team and the remainder have either been withdrawn or will not affect construction.
- Following resolution by Council to pursue the potential savings with private storage and re-use of the reclaimed water, the Project Team have initiated negotiations and are aiming to have a Memorandum of Understanding with a major party by the end of April.
- Management of current and future subdivisions and discussions with developers to ensure consent requirements and EcoCare interfaces are co-ordinated is continuing.
- Co-ordination with other Community Infrastructure Asset works is ongoing. We intend to work closely with the successful bidder for the Moir Street stormwater works.
- Sewer works in the Heads Reserve will be programmed shortly to allow initial Coastal Reserves upgrade work to be completed before the next summer.

1.7 An Opportunity for Kaipara?

A new collaborative approach by Northland's marine engineering industry has the potential to open doors to major international ship-building, repair and refit contracts.

A new company, Ship Projects NZ Ltd (SPNZ) has been formed as a special-purpose vehicle to allow the region's existing marine engineering companies to collaborate in tendering for projects that are currently beyond the scope of individual firms.

The new venture has received Government support with the announcement by Economic Development Minister Pete Hodgson of \$2 million in New Zealand Trade and Enterprise funding mainly to help develop export markets and build industry capability.

Enterprise Northland will administer the Government funding and payments will be made as specified milestones are achieved.

The marine project is Northland's second Major Regional Initiative (MRI) funded through the Major Regional Initiative programme. It will also be the last as the programme has been replaced. The first was the three-year Activate Northland project which aimed to build the capability and lift the performance of Northland's tourism industry.

1.8 We Are Doing it and We Are Doing it Well

The first ever satisfaction survey of public services, The Kiwis Count Survey, has revealed that public satisfaction with local government is high. This survey asked 6,500 New Zealanders what they thought of government services.

Results showed that local government was rated high for staff competency and staff keeping their promises with 76% and 73% respectively. Overall local government scored a total satisfaction rating of 73% compared to 68% satisfaction across all public services.

Local government also scored the second highest rating for spending tax money carefully by having good value for money services.

1.9 Nga Totara Haemata o Kaipara

The Nga Totara Haemata o Kaipara project is aimed at developing young people to be the community leaders of the future. The project is the brainchild of, Louisa Spraggon, who is a Kaipara District Council employee. Louisa and another young Council employee had been looking for ways to give young people a voice and a future in their community, since attending a Local Government Youth Conference. Talking to young people she identified that there are many who intend to live and work in the District permanently. They are the parents, ratepayers and community leaders of the future and have expressed interest in learning the skills that will allow them to be active participants in the community of their choice.

Nga Totara Haemata o Kaipara or otherwise known as VOK (Voices of Kaipara) is now into its sixth month of being established. This is a project funded by the Ministry of Youth Development. A key objective of the Youth Development Partnership Fund is to increase achievement of positive social, economic and wellbeing outcomes for young people by providing opportunities to develop valuable work, life and learning skills. A key approach for this programme is that the participants develop the programme, with expert advice, to ensure they take responsibility for their own development and the outcomes of the programme.

The group has regular meetings and workshops to help them to build the skills needed to be active members of the community now and into the future. The next workshop is scheduled for 24 April and will be on public speaking and presentation skills.

During February the group participated in a study tour which combined a Team Building Weekend in Christchurch with meeting local youth workers and looking at examples of how other organisations meet the needs of young people. This was a valuable experience in terms of learning how they work as a group as well as considering what they could achieve in the long term.

Each member of the team is now involved with various projects that are being run within the community and organisations working in Kaipara including:

Youth week - Expo Rangitane, Kaipara Youth workers network, Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Dargaville skate park group, Children protection, Kaipara leadership discussion panel, Midi committee responsible for organising a Youth Function late 2008.

1.10 Annual Plan Flyers for Consultation Round: Unsatisfactory Delivery of Flyers

Councillors will be aware that yet again there has been a haphazard delivery of the Annual Plan flyers to all households, many received late and a significant number not delivered at all. The matter has been discussed with the supplier but despite assurances to the contrary there is no reason to expect improvement as this is not the first time the service promised has not been delivered.

The Consultation Strategy report for the Long Term Council Community Plan which Council will consider in July will contain a staff recommendation to discontinue using this channel and provide recommendations on alternative methods of advertising.

2 Contracts

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
KDC AWPT Projects 2006/07				
515	Tinopai Road	26 October 2006	December 2006	Complete
KDC AWPT Projects 2007/08				
552	Mangawhai Heads Road West	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
553	Tinopai Road	4 December 2007	14 January 2008	8 April 2008
554	Tangowahine Valley Road	13 November 2007	1 December 2007	1 March 2008
555	Trounson Park Road	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
556	Pahi and Matakoho East Road	27 November 2007	14 January 2008	30 April 2008
557	Ararua and Poyner Road	Closed	5 November 2007	28 April 2008
558	Paparoa Area AWPT	7 May 2008	14 May 2008	October 2008
KDC RDF AWPT Projects 2007/08				
567	Pouto Road North (two separate sections)	13 December 2007	7 February 2008	7 May 2008
568	Pouto Road South (six separate sections)	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	October 2008
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2006/07				
521	Intersection sealing on Mt Wesley/Mahuta Rd and Aranga Coast/Waitapu Rd	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
518	Intersection sealing on Paparoa-Oakleigh/Hook, Charity Hill/Lutrell & Redhill/Mahuta	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
KDC Seal Extension Programme 2007/08				
565	Garbolino Road	14 February 2008	14 March 2008	30 May 2008
	Baldrack Road (R - fund)	Awaiting RLTC 7 May 2008	30 May 2008	November 2008

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
552	Golden Stair/Causer Road, Omana/Girls School, Paparoa Station Road Bridges	28 April 2008	7 May 2008	October 2008
553	Oparakau Road RP 1570 & 2281 bridge approaches, Dunn/Rehia, Access/Greenhill & Access/Oparakau intersections sealing	6 December 2007	14 January 2008	7 May 2008
554	Paradise RP 6711, Kirikopuni Road RP 8225 bridge approaches, Omana/Pukehuia, Kirikopuni / Summerville & Hoyles/Waller intersections sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
	Maropiu Settlement RP 1492 & Opanake Rd RP 10567 bridge approaches sealing	Closed	5 November 2007	Complete
	Horniblow RP 1132 bridge approach sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
	Tokatoka RPs 6914, 11436, & 11869 bridge approaches and Ararua/Porter intersection sealing	13 December 2007	14 January 2008	Complete
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2006/07				
455	Cove Road bridge repair	Closed	28 June 2005	Complete
535	Paparoa-Oakleigh Rd Bridge 180	Closed	5 November 2007	30 May 2008
503	Wairere Road bridge 318	OnTrack Liaison		
	Central Road bridge 47	OnTrack Liaison		
KDC Bridge Replacement Programme 2007/08				
	Omana Road bridge 158 replacement	OnTrack Liaison		
KDC Bridge Maintenance Programme 2007/08				
	Various	Invite	1 February 2008	30 May 2008
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2006/07				
546	Molesworth Drive safety footpath	EcoCare Liaison		
543	Insley (Tomarata) Rd footbridge	11 April 2008	7 May 2008	30 June 2008
548	Matakohe Museum entranceway	On Hold		
KDC Minor Safety Programme 2007/08				
563	Ruawai Safety Footpath and Cycleway	19 December 2007	7 January 2008	15 March 2008
	Tomarata/Clarke Rd curve easing & slip repairs at Oruawharo Road	28 February 2008	March 2008	April 2008
	Mangawhai Road Carter Road Curve Easing	On Hold		
522	Komotu Road Safety Footpath Protection	Invited		
	School Bus Routes Unsealed Roads Widening	Invited	Commenced	30 April 2008

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
	Montgomery Avenue Traffic calming Devices	Invited	March 2008	April 2008
	Widen narrow crest and corners - Redhill & Te Maire Roads	Invited	Commenced	April 2008
	Bridge guardrailling (7 bridges - to be advised)	March 2008	April 2008	May 2008
522	Sight benching of dangerous corners (Projects to be advised)	Ordered Work	March 2008	April 2008
	Streetlight improvement	Invited	April 2008	May 2008
KDC Reseals				
549	Reseals 2007/08	Closed	3 December 2007	Complete
KDC Slip Repairs 2007/08				
	Omamari Road RP 940 (July 07 slip)	18 December 2007	7 January 2008	20 February 2008
	Station Road Dargaville	Invited	February 2008	February 2008
	Mangawhai Road RP 2690 (July 07 slip)	28 February 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 1340 (July 07 slip)	28 February 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Paparoa Oakleigh Road RP 4870 (July 07 slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7600 (Historical slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Tinopai Road RP 7700 (Historical slip)	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
	Pebblebrook Road RP 100	28 March 2008	Awaiting Funding	TBA
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2006/07				
	Moir Street between Domain and Village in conjunction with SW upgrade	15 March 2008	April 2008	June 2008
KDC Unsubsidised Footpath 2007/08				
	Portland Street - Beside Dargaville Primary School	13 December 2007	TBA	TBA
	Gibbons Road to Sports Complex	13 December 2007	7 January 2008	14 March 2008
	Ngatoto Road	13 December 2007	14 December 2007	Compete
KDC Unsubsidised Construction Programme 06/07				
	Marine Drive	Invited	14 December 2008	30 May 2008
KDC Wastewater				
528	Dargaville WWTP Consent Renewal/Upgrade	Closed	1 May 2007	Complete
	Maungaturoto WWTP Consent Renewal upgrade	30 April 2008	21 May 2008	TBA

Contract	Project Name	Tender Closes	Work Start	Work Finish
KDC Water				
	Maungaturoto - Baldrock Dam Pipeline	Closed	TBA	TBA
KDC Stormwater Programme 06/07				
	Moir St stormwater improvement	28 February 2008	14 April 2008	TBA
	Ripiro Drive drain (Baylys beach)	14 February 2008	Budget Issues	TBA
	Edward Street (Day to Victoria St)	14 February 2008	April 2008	TBA
KDC Stormwater Programme 07/08				
	Hokianga Road from above Cobham Avenue to below Panorama Avenue	Check Project Brief		
	Completion of stopbanks at boat club	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piping of open drains on Insley Street	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Estuary Drive detention/treatment pond	On Hold		
	Coastal outfalls	TBA	TBA	TBA
	Piped outlet from Pohutakawa Place and Quail Drive to Molesworth Drive	On hold due to budget and annual plan submissions	TBA	TBA

3 Rooding

The month of March has seen good progress on all major contracts including the Garbolino Road Seal Extension. Approval for the Baldrock Road Seal Extension project will be considered by the Regional Land Transport Committee on 15 April.

The maintenance request for 2008/09 funding to Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) will be considered by the LTNZ Board in late April for notification on 11 May 2008. Our request has been supported by Land Transport New Zealand's local office however the final allocation will be largely dependent on available funds at the national level. Our Improvements request for 2008/09 covering seal extensions, RDF projects and R Fund projects was submitted in late April and will be considered in May.

3.1 Road Maintenance Contract

Network Condition Although March has been a little wetter there has been little change to the grading regime as the roads dried quickly and did not allow time to grade more than a few kilometres before selective grading became a necessity to avoid over working dry metal especially on the hill sections.

The general focus for March has been on High Maintenance Roads.

Unsealed Pavements As roads get damp we will continue to grade selected sections that have corrugated or potholed. Patching crews continue to deal with localised problems.

<i>Sealed Pavement</i>	Sealed patching is continuing in both areas.
<i>Drainage</i>	A concerted effort on culvert and general roadside drainage is continuing with an emphasis on alleviation of known heavy rain problem areas. This will be completed in preparation for Winter.
<i>Vegetation Control</i>	<p>The latest round of noxious weeds spraying has just finished although areas of re-growth are being identified and will be included in the next round.</p> <p>The new tree cutting machine has trialled and has carried out vegetation envelope clearing on Pouto peninsula with results being evaluated. It appears to be very effective and will quickly re-vegetate.</p>
<i>Emergency Slip Repairs</i>	The Omamari Road Slip repairs have been completed. Investigations have been completed on all slips programmed for this year as listed in section 2. Contracts will be out shortly for repairs to these slips.
<i>Ordered Works</i>	<p>Sight benching and school bus route improvement work started on Hill Road this month with the most restrictive and possibly the most dangerous corners attended to.</p> <p>Linton Road has also had corner alignment / easement work and the school bus turning circle improvements.</p> <p>Heavy Metalling completed on selected areas on Babylon Coast Road with the hill section north of Kelly's Bay programmed in April.</p> <p>Heavy metalling has started in some areas of Paparua Station Road both as a remedial action to address soft sections of road and to build up some low lying areas.</p> <p>Marine Drive new access - metalling completed (intersection to be stabilised and sealed in conjunction with other seal patching work in autumn).</p> <p>King Road Bridge abutments protection is complete and appears to be a success but will be closely monitored throughout the winter months.</p> <p>Minor works to improve access to the Marae on Nathan Road is complete but the street light has been programmed for April.</p> <p>Minor Safety widening corners and crests on Redhill and Te Maire Roads 77% completed with Hoyle Road to follow in April.</p>
<i>Financial</i>	Currently we are running slightly under target at 97% of target. This is acceptable at this time of year with some reserve for early winter storm events.
<i>Performance Evaluation</i>	The overall performance score for March dropped to 60.7% from 61.6% but this is still within the pro-active range.

3.2 Resealing Contract

Resealing works were completed in February for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

3.3 Pavement Marking Contract

Works have progressed to completion in March.

3.4 Signs Maintenance Contract

Contract 569 Signs Maintenance 2008 signs contract was awarded to Downer Edi Works ITS for a term of three years. The contract commences on 1 April and was below the Engineers Estimate and well within budget.

3.5 Seal Extensions

Works are well underway for both Intersection and Bridge Approach sealing. The Garbolino Road project has commenced and is progressing well.

3.6 Regional Development Projects

The RDF projects are both underway, Pouto Road North and Pouto Road South. The Southern Pouto Road contract is likely to require suspension over winter to allow completion of the seal coat on the final sections.

3.7 R-Funded Projects

The Northland Regional Council has requested further information to support the funding of the Baldrock Road Seal Extension project in particular justifying the regional importance of the route. Tendering of the contract is expected at the end of April. This project will be staged over two years.

3.8 Bridge Replacements

The abutments of the Paparoa Oakleigh Bridge have cured allowing placement of beams shortly once pier caps are levelled. Good progress has been made on the earthworks with pavement works programmed to tie in with the final completion of the bridge beams.

We are chasing OnTrack for comments regarding Wairere Road Bridge 318 following a joint site visit in late February. These bridge replacements are programmed to progress in the 2008/09 financial year.

3.9 Minor Improvement (Minor Safety Works)

The Insley Street pedestrian bridge was delayed due to the delay in Insley Street Stormwater project. It was previously felt that, as the footpath was associated with the Stormwater project that the footbridge should only proceed once the footpath was installed. Liaison with the community and the school has identified a desire to get the footbridge in prior to the stormwater project. Accordingly this will proceed to tender in April.

3.10 Street Lighting

Northpower has provided a quotation for additional streetlights. We have accepted their price and work will commence shortly. We have deleted the proposed lights for Omamari following consultation with the community. Some additional sites have been added following discussion with the community during the Open Forums. This year's programme will see most communities adequately lit. A prioritisation process will be developed for 08/09 financial year considering amenity, security and road safety issues.

3.11 Unsubsidised Roding Programme

The Unsubsidised footpath programme has progressed well, however we have experienced problems with some under-resourced contractors. We will chase these contractors to ensure completion in April.

The proposed footpath on Moir Street has been held back until the programmed stormwater works are complete and EcoCare has been able to design around or complete its works.

4 Water Supply and Wastewater

The contractor has now submitted prices for a series of maintenance and renewals works in Maungaturoto, Dargaville, Glinks Gully, Kaiwaka and Ruawai. These programmes will continue through to the end of the financial year.

4.1 Water Supply

4.1.1 Public Health Risk Management Plans (PHRMPs)

We have received comments back from the Ministry of Health on the PHRMP's for Dargaville, Maungaturoto, Glinks Gully and Ruawai. PHRMPs have the purpose of identifying health risks to water supplies and look to develop methods of reducing risks or ensuring that contingency plans are in place to protect the public if an adverse event was to occur.

The Ministry of Health has approved the PHRMPs for Glinks Gully and Ruawai enabling application for funding assistance with investigations and capital works. The Capital Assistance Programme (CAPs) applications will be applied for in September, with a potential 90-95% funding availability for water treatment plant upgrades, which is based on Kaipara's high decile ratings.

With regard to Dargaville and Maungaturoto further information is being provided to the Ministry of Health to improve the PHRMPs to allow application for CAPS in September. Both PHRMPs required further information to allow a robust assessment of risks to the supply catchments.

4.1.2 Maungaturoto Water Supply

Further testing of the raw water tank was undertaken in March with some remedial work recommended that will be undertaken in April after which the tanks will be taken up to 100% water level. We are liaising with Fonterra on a day to day basis.

Condition and capacity assessments have been undertaken on control systems in preparation for the Asset Management Plan review later in the year. These have identified some remedial actions that will be undertaken this financial year. Other more costly items will be included in the following year or programmed for the 2009-19 LTCCP.

Treatment upgrades continue at the treatment plant focusing on increased water quality monitoring testing and recording of existing monitoring.

A future demand model has been developed using current District Plan maps. This will allow the development of future scenarios and assessment of future needs.

Following the surveys undertaken in February, a programme of pipe and valve renewals has been programmed for April. The renewal programme will also include several lengths of raw water line replacement near the Transit New Zealand Wairau S project. Several lengths of the renewal programme will be undertaken on a cost share basis with Transit.

The water loss programme has identified the need to undertake more frequent water meter reading to allow more detailed analysis of where water losses are occurring. These readings will commence in April.

Information is currently being collected to allow modelling of the Maungaturoto water supply network. This will allow better planning of network renewals and help address several areas of low pressure on the network. This modelling will be completed in the current financial year.

4.1.3 Ruawai Water Supply

Following the community meeting in March, Council's Engineers are developing options and costings as discussed at the meeting. An information pack will be sent to update Ruawai ratepayers on those options and in particular the potential rating impact of those options.

The PHRMP for Ruawai has been approved by the Ministry of Health. This clears the way for a funding application for this scheme.

Minor treatment upgrades have been ongoing in February. Reticulation upgrades have commenced and will be completed in April.

4.1.4 Dargaville Water Supply

The continuing good summer weather and lack of rainfall has meant that Dargaville is still reasonably low on water supplies with further water conservation notices a distinct possibility. Contingency plans to use Rotu are being reviewed and tested to ensure they would perform as expected. As a contingency measure we will also initiate consultation with regard to possible use of other sources.

Plans have been made to undertake significant renewals work on the raw water pipeline in April through to the end of the financial year. Some preliminary work was undertaken in March on the pipe bridges.

The water loss programme is ongoing with prices received for leak detection.

Capacity assessments have been made of critical control systems with a remedial action plan developed. This will see some upgrade work undertaken over the last months of this financial year. Most extensive works will be deferred until the next financial year.

Treatment upgrades have been progressing at the treatment plants and will continue through to the end of the year. These measures have focused on upgrading plant equipment to ensure more reliable treatment in terms of the new Drinking Water Standards.

The supply security of the Baylys Beach is being investigated. This involves modelling the Dargaville to Baylys Beach pipeline and the reservoir system along with developing a model for the future population of Baylys. This will be completed at the end of April and allow integration of results in to the Asset Management Plan updates programmed for November.

4.1.5 Glinks Gully Water Supply

A contract for the upgrade of the system to supply current quantities but at higher quality standards to reflect the changes to the Drinking Water Standards has been prepared based around preliminary quotations. This will be tendered in April.

Investigations are continuing into development of a third water source option.

4.1.6 Mangawhai Water Supply

We are awaiting confirmation of the new consent from Northland Regional Council.

4.2 New Scheme Investigations

Scoping documents have been drafted for investigations for new schemes for both Kaiwaka and Mangawhai.

4.3 Wastewater

4.3.1 Maungaturoto Wastewater System

The land purchase agreement from the Maungaturoto Country Club has been finalised. An assessment is being made with respect to the need to purchase the Department of Conservation land in light of the change from a Rock Filter to Membrane Filtration Plant. A request for Expressions of Interest has been advertised. Design and contract documentation is currently being finalised for release in May with tenders closing in late May.

Other preliminary work has been ongoing. A design has been prepared to upgrade the access track with documents prepare for circulation to invited contractors. An assessment of plant power requirements has been made and discussion has commenced with Northpower as to the best method of getting sufficient power to site to supply the Membrane Filtration plant. These requirements will be finalised once the preferred tenderer is chosen.

The wave band of the existing pond has been upgraded and the stock fencing repaired. A programme of pipe and pump renewals has been prepared and is currently being priced by the Contractor.

A capacity assessment has been undertaken on the Control systems with an upgrade programme identified for incorporation into the Asset Management Plan updates.

4.3.2 Dargaville Wastewater Plant Upgrade

The upgrade works have been commissioned and are now operational. A site visit on 31 March revealed that the whole plant, including the irrigation system was operating as planned.

We have been liaising with PPCS regarding improvements made to their effluent stream. Initial results indicate that their improvements have greatly improved the quality of the effluent. This will provide additional capacity to the Dargaville pond system.

The consent application for desludging is progressing with methodologies being developed in light of the upgrade being fully operational.

A programme of pipe and pump renewals has been prepared and is currently being priced by the Contractor.

A capacity assessment has been undertaken on the Control systems with an upgrade programme identified for incorporation into the Asset Management Plan updates.

4.3.3 Colville Road Sewer Connections

We are currently reviewing the extent of the Drainage District this will include liaison with residents in April to gauge the extent of interest in adjacent areas. This may see an extension of the area to service the Duck Creek area and to the west along State Highway 14. This will need to consider possible schemes for Baylys.

The recent improvements to the Treatment Plant will allow for an increase in plant capacity dependent on the level of treatment provided by PPCS/Richmonds.

4.3.4 Glinks Gully

The reticulation renewals are underway. This is a 2007/08 Annual Plan project to replace the remaining deteriorated existing pipeline to minimise water loses.

4.3.5 Kaiwaka Wastewater Consent Renewal

Assessment of the wastewater consent is expected to take three months to complete. It will form the basis of the consent renewal application. Initial background research has been undertaken to identify currently available information and previous reports that may require some updating or review. In particular, an assessment of population changes, including commercial activity is to be completed so that a long term proposal for wastewater treatment requirements can be formulated prior to an application for consent.

4.3.6 Pahi Reserve Wastewater Consent

The consent has been obtained and the facility is operating within consent conditions. This 2007/08 Annual Plan project is now complete.

4.3.7 Tinopai Camping Ground Consent Renewal

The Consent has been obtained and the facility is operation within consent conditions. This 2007/08 Annual Plan project is now complete.

4.3.8 Glinks Gully Sewer Extension

The Consent for wastewater discharge has been successfully renewed. This project is now complete.

5 Urban Stormwater

5.1 Dargaville

The final flood gates that form part of the Beach Road flood wall have been delayed as the contractor is over-committed. The revised programme is for completion in April.

The Hokianga Road (Cobham/Panorama) Improvements has now been put on hold.

Investigations into how to close the section of flood wall around the Boating Club Stopbank project are ongoing.

Tenders for the Edward Street Improvements will be called in April.

5.2 Mangawhai

Liaison is ongoing with EcoCare regarding all stormwater projects in the Mangawhai area.

The Moir Street contract has closed and is ready for award. This will be followed by the construction of the footpath above the stormwater drains.

The Insley Street works have been programmed for next year due to a funding shortfall due to increases in prices. We have received over five tenders for the Moir Street works with all being more than previously estimated. These works will also be tied into roading improvement works to maximise the benefits of the improvements and reduce costs. Liaison was undertaken in March with the school regarding programming of this work and the Insley Street Pedestrian Bridge.

An options report Cullen Street/Taranui Place has been approved by staff and final drawings prepared for construction by the maintenance contractor in April. This has lead to agreement from land owners to allow the progress of EcoCare works.

The Estuary Drive detention pond project has been put on hold.

The Design of the Pohutukawa Place Overland Flowpath has commenced with no work planned for this year.

6 Refuse

6.1 Hakaru Refuse Transfer Facility

We have written to the Hakaru Landfill Liaison Committee thanking them for their input to date and explaining the current status of the landfill, that is closed but requiring final capping. Our preference is for the Committee to continue to operate during the course of the closure and capping works.

A price has been received from Masons to re-contour the landfill site. This is currently being reviewed with a view to complete works in April to facilitate final capping in the new financial year.

The design of the interim landfill capping has commenced. This has identified the need to re-contour the land surrounding the landfill to divert stormwater away from the landfill and to reduce instability of the old quarry face. The development of a post-closure plan will now proceed with design of the final landform and final leachate treatment proceeding.

7 Community Facilities

7.1 Old Mount Wesley Cemetery

Mary Baskin, the woman behind the group "Friends of Old Mount Wesley Cemetery", and Council's Community Spaces staff met to look at how assistance could be given to her group in doing work at the old Cemetery. This Cemetery is popular with members of the community and visitors to the Harding Park area, and an interesting place to walk around because of the historic story it tells of early life in the Kaipara. A further meeting is planned in April to look at the Group's priorities and how these may be worked on together over the next few years, or supported by Council to ensure the Cemetery's historic importance is maintained.

7.2 Social Housing, Mangawhai: Wood Street Wastewater

Jetwaste has responded to the data provided to them and the consequential concerns raised. A number of changes have been made to the treatment process in order to improve the plant performance. Another period of monitoring is being undertaken to assess the results of the changes made. Northland Regional Council has been notified of the steps undertaken to improve the discharge.

7.3 Halls Grants

Most of the District's Hall Committees have their maintenance lists in for the 2008/09 Annual Grant. The evaluation process of these hall applications will get underway in discussion with the Commercial Manager and Council's Portfolio holder late this month.

8 Recreation

8.1 Waka Ama

A meeting was held with members of Nga Hoe Uranga Ki Kaipara Waka Ama Club at Pahi Domain, which is where the Club is based. The Club uses the Domain for storage of the Waka as well as access to the Harbour. The Club wishes to build a small storage shed on the reserve behind existing sheds on the foreshore to house equipment such as life jackets, radios and paddles. Currently these are housed off site at a member's house. The proposed shed is 2.4 metres wide by 3.6 metres long and will be placed on skids so that it can be moved off site if necessary. The Club has been asked to talk to the Pahi Domain Society for their input and comment as they maintain the reserve on Council's behalf. Once this has been done the proposal will then come back to Council for final approval.

8.2 BMX

A brief site meeting was held with a member of the Te Kopuru BMX group who wishes to use Council land alongside the Domain area in central Te Kopuru. The area proposed is currently not used for anything and remains vacant and has done for quite some time. The BMX group has no financial base but has a group of children keen on BMX and supportive family and friends. Along with wanting the Council's approval for the use of the area they are asking for the assistance from the Council in the development of the site by way of cleaning up the site, fill for the development of the track and the use of a digger to make a BMX track. At the meeting it was indicated that a submission to Council's Annual Plan would be the best way forward for any likely assistance, noting that the cost of clearing the site with a tractor mounted mower, a large amount of fill delivered to the site and digger hire to make the track would be the main costs associated with its development. They were also advised that currently there was no funding available for this and work would need to be done on refining the likely costs of undertaking this work.

8.3 Matakohe Cricket and Village Green

Community Spaces staff met with members of the Matakohe Reserve Group that has plans to improve the existing cricket ground and its surrounds. Their main aim is to landscape the area to enhance the feel and outlook of the existing area. They have plans to link the Matakohe Museum through the farmland and village green area to Totara House with a walkway which will potentially include a pond, native plantings and an English "village green" area with Oak trees. Council administers the area and the group is seeking support for the idea and a partnership approach to get the project started through the Annual Plan process.

8.4 Disc Golf

The new Disc Golf course equipment is ready to be installed at Harding Park, Dargaville. The installation has been discussed and approved by the Pou Tu O Te Rangi Management Committee, the Museum, Merv Hilliam who grazes the farmland and Sport Northland who is supplying the equipment needed for the game. This is seen as another way of getting more people to use the Park to enjoy it for reasons other than visiting the Museum. Disc Golf is played with a frisbee in a similar way to golf

with the players having to play around natural obstacles on the course. The installation of the course is hoped to be completed by the middle of this month.

8.5 Centennial Ball

Funding has been applied for from Creative Communities New Zealand and Sky City Auckland Community Trust to cover the cost of holding a weekend of Centennial celebrations in Dargaville for its 100 year birthday. The Committee is awaiting the outcome of these applications and is also working on finalising the programme and activities planned for the weekend.

9 Planning and Reporting

9.1 Draft Annual Plan 2008/09

It has been a busy time for the draft Annual Plan process, with Councillors and staff attending the many Open Forums across the District. Overall, attendance has been good, making it another worthwhile community consultation round. The submission period will be closed by the time this report is read. Staff are now getting ready for the three Hearings to be held in Mangawhai (Monday 5 May), Maungaturoto (Tuesday 6 May) and Dargaville (Wednesday 7 May). The Hearings are followed by Deliberation day on Friday 16 May (and Monday 19 May, if required). The final Annual Plan 2008/09 will be adopted by Council at a Special Meeting on Wednesday 4 June, with another year of Council's works programme locked in.

9.2 Business Planning 2008/09

Staff have started work on the detailed works programme for the 2008/09 year that falls out of the draft Annual Plan 2008/09. Once Deliberations are complete on the draft Annual Plan submissions this document will be finalised for adoption by Council at their June meeting.

9.3 District Plan Review

This is another busy and demanding project for Council and staff. Four workshops are planned for the month of April alone, three before the Council meeting on Wednesday 23 April, and one the week after. However, there is the feeling that tangible progress is being made which is satisfying. Council and staff will continue to work hard on developing this very important document that will set the resource management direction for the District for the next ten years and beyond. We are aiming for a final draft by December, ready for formal notification in the March 2009 round of community consultation.

9.4 *Kaipara's Future – Working Together* 2009/19 Plan

The critical tasks and dates for this long term plan have been mapped out. Please see agenda item. This is another demanding project for Council and staff. It is also an exciting project given it will set the direction for the District for the next ten years and beyond.

It is considered good fortune that both the District Plan and *Kaipara's Future* Plan are being worked on at the same as this will ensure synergy between the documents and the signals and visions the Council sets and sends for the District.

10 Community Development

10.1 Information Centre Proposed Changes

Staff and Councillors met with local tourism industry businesses last week to discuss a proposal to move the information centre to the town hall complex.

The proposal is mooted to enable better value to be gained from the dollars spent on this service. Visitor numbers through the door have dropped and worldwide examples show that there is a significant change in both the way people access information and the way they use visitor centres.

The move would achieve a number of things including:

- Cost savings
- A venue which includes public toilets and a park and playground next door
- Increased focus on promoting and supporting local events arising from the time savings that can be achieved by combining the library and information teams.
- More use of the currently underused Town Hall

The three meetings were attended by approximately 30 people in all and most of those present felt that the move would be either positive or at least neutral. The three main concerns expressed were parking, impacts on the usefulness of the town hall and everyone agreed that good signage was paramount.

This matter will be reported fully to Council at its May meeting.

11 Finance

The major tasks during March were in respect of Annual Plan adoption and consultation, EcoCare rating preliminary work, and business planning.

12 Staff

A temporary contractor is going to join the Policy and Planning Team at the end of this month. This team has been a member down since the beginning of the year due to recruitment problems and the extremely tight job market for suitably qualified or experienced people. A permanent person has been appointed to the vacancy and is due to start in May 2008. The contractor will have two main responsibilities while with Council, firstly to help with the backlog of work that has now accumulated, and to also mentor the newly appointed permanent person. Council can look forward to meeting both the contractor and the permanent person in the coming months.

Meetings

I attended the following meetings:

27 March	Ministry of Social Development and Circus Kumarani
28 March	Excelerator Institute
01 April	Circus Kumarani
04 April	EarthTech
08 April	Northland Regional Council – vehicles on beaches
11 April	Duffill Watts Limited
14 April	Northland Mayoral Forum
15 April	Department of Conservation: Rural Fire with Cr McEwing
16 April	Local Government New Zealand: Land Transport Working Group
17 April	Te Puni Kokiri
18 April	Vuletich Operation Services
21 April	Northland Intersectoral Forum

13 Leave

The Chief Executive, Jack McKerchar will be on leave from 25 April, back in office on 13 June 2008

The Governance Manager, Barbara Ware will be on leave from April, back in the office on 12 May 2008

Part One – Activities Report

b) Looking Forward

1	22 April	District Plan Review workshop
2	23 April	Workshop and Council meeting
3	30 April	District Plan Review workshop
4	05 May	Draft Annual Plan Hearing, Mangawhai
5	06 May	Draft Annual Plan Hearing, Maungaturoto
6	07 May	Draft Annual Plan Hearing, Dargaville
7	15 May	District Plan Review hui with Taumata Council
8	16 May	Draft Annual Plan Deliberations, Dargaville
9	19 May	Draft Annual Plan Deliberations, if required
10	21 May	Workshop and Council Meeting
11	04 June	Special Council meeting – adopt Annual Plan 2008/09