

## 2006/2007 Highlights

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### **Waste Water Consents**

Consents for the Otane, Waipukurau and Waipawa waste water systems were received in December 2006.

### **Property Valuation**

Triennial property valuations were completed by June 2007.

### **Coastal Strategy**

A draft Coastal Strategy was completed and final consultation with the community commenced.

### **Waipukurau Bypass**

A one year trial of a traffic bypass for Waipukurau was commenced to reduce heavy traffic flows in the main street.

# Elected Council Members

## MAYOR

**Tim Gilbertson**  
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The Central Hawke’s Bay District Council comprises of His Worship the Mayor and ten elected members representing the district’s three wards. Elections are held every three years. Why not get involved next time?

## ARAMOANA WARD

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## RUAHINE WARD

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## RUATANIWHA WARD

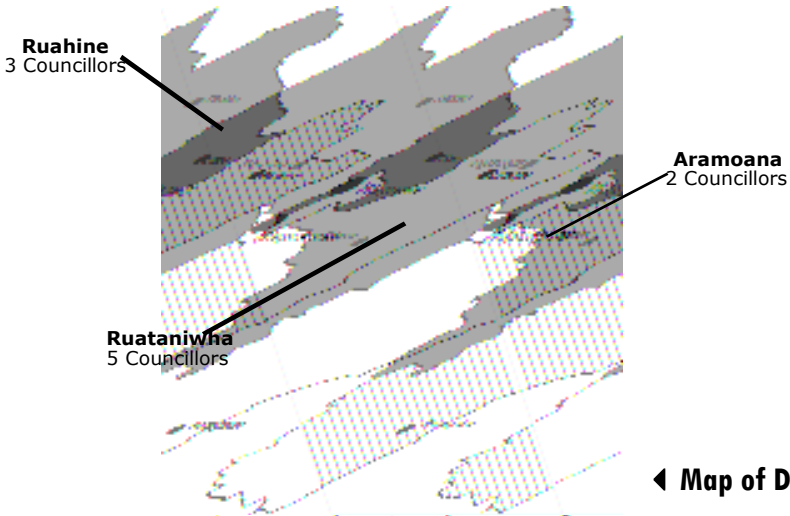
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**Russell Chant**  
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◀ Map of District Council Ward Structure

For more information about the Council structure please refer to our Local Governance Statement, available from the Council on request or at our website: [www.chbdc.govt.nz](http://www.chbdc.govt.nz)

## Mayors Report

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The past year has been one of quiet achievement. The preparation of the Long Term Council Community Plan over the past two years has been a major undertaking and its implementation is no less daunting. It has meant wholesale changes in departments, systems and personnel. But the fruits of our labour are becoming apparent. We have a much better idea of what we have, what we need and what sort of condition it is in - and more importantly, how much it is going to cost to keep it all working properly. We have the right staff in the right areas and by taking a lot of work back from consultants and bringing it back in-house we have made considerable savings, but equally importantly we have the knowledge, staff and procedures to make sure that we are getting the right balance between what the community wants and needs and what the community can afford.

The result is that we are pretty well on target. Any plan will always contain an element of the unknown but this year the under and overs have pretty well balanced one and other out and Council as a whole is proud of the fact that we are pretty well spot on budget. We have delivered to the citizens of the district almost exactly what we said we would.

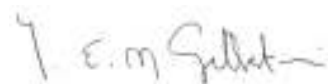
Some of that is unpopular such as the 9% rate rise, but against that is the steady and measurable progress we are making as a district. Our infrastructure is in good shape and where it is failing we are taking steps to fix it. Our Technical Services department is looking at the long term problem areas and seeking out affordable long term solutions. We are making steady progress on waste water treatment, drinking water supplies and the evaluation of halls, parks and properties.

The roading network is still under funded to the tune of \$1 million per annum and that situation needs to be addressed by central government. We can only ask our ratepayers for so much and Wellington must at some point step up to its responsibilities. Giving \$30 million to buy prestige in the international arena at a yacht race in Spain is not vital to the wellbeing of this country, whereas getting lambs, wool, and milk to market is vital.

The coastal plan is nearing completion and should be in place by years end. The district revaluation has created headaches but Council is looking for solutions through a rating review next year. Council is working well and working efficiently. Staff have settled well into the new structures and responsibilities and Council is achieving positive governance and policy outcomes.

The drought has been a major set back for the local economy but the diversity of modern farming systems has meant that the impact, while severe has not been as catastrophic as previous experiences. The drought did demonstrate that the next step for this community to "future proof" our district must be to investigate improved ways of harvesting storing and using the waters of Tamatea. That will be our next challenge.

The Council is in good shape and the community has been well served by both councillors and staff. Next October will bring a new order to the council table. They have been bequeathed a sturdy reliable no frills vehicle which properly tuned and maintained will give them sterling service for many years to come.



**Tim Gilbertson**  
Mayor

# Chief Executive's Report

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The 2006/07 financial year is the first full year following the adoption of the 10 year Planning document – the 2006/16 LTCCP.

The year has been one of consolidation with a focus on –

- Planning for the water upgrades in Waipukurau and Waipawa/Otane
- Attention to Stormwater issues in Takapau and Waipawa
- The beginning of the process to find an economic option for waste water treatment in Waipukurau and Waipawa, as required under our resource consents
- Stormwater infiltration studies
- Consulting on a proposed Coastal Strategy
- Analysis of water use and charging
- A full maintenance review of all Council owned buildings.

Much of this work has been completed in house, following the separation of Engineering and Operational responsibilities. This has resulted in more “home grown” options and a significant decrease in consultant costs.

2006/07 was also the triennial District property revaluation, carried out on our behalf by QV and reviewed by Valuation NZ. There was an overall increase in capital value of 42% and a 52% increase in land value. However some towns had a greater increase in value which has meant proportionately larger rate increases, particularly in Coastal areas.

Council will therefore carry out a review of our rating structures in October/December this year in time for the development and consultation on the 2008/09 Annual Plan. It is hoped that Central Government's response to its Rates Inquiry will assist our review.

We will continue to consider shared service opportunities with other Councils as well as any cost reduction or efficiency gains which might be made. That said however, our staffing numbers are extremely small when compared to similar sized Councils and I believe our staff are committed and dedicated and achieve a high standard for the benefit of the community. I would like to thank them for their efforts.

I would also like to thank the elected members for their contribution over the past year and I am looking forward to working with the new Council following the October elections.



**John Freeman**  
**Chief Executive**

# Management Structure

