Together we Thrive! E ora ngātahi ana!

A letter to the community from Mayor Alex Walker:

Proud District Staying Safe!

Today marks two weeks since New Zealand was placed into Level Four restrictions in our fight to eliminate COVID-19.

And what a two weeks its been! I’m so very proud of how our community, including Council, has proven itself to be kind, respectful and agile in a time of crisis. A great example that I have seen this week are the volunteer team from Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea who stepped up to assist the DHB and CHB Medical Centre to get our Community Testing Centre up and running. Heroes.

There was a huge sigh of relief from my children this week when the Prime Minister announced that the Easter Bunny is an essential worker. Celebrating Easter will look different for all of us this year but it’s so important that we all keep doing what we’ve been doing so well – sticking to our bubble and staying home for anything other than essential work or trips. This does mean that if you have a bach at the beach, unless you have been living there in your bubble for the past two weeks, you should not be getting in your car and travelling out there. It puts those people that live there permanently, at risk.

Our first ordinary meeting of Council since the lockdown is to be held today, but in a very different form to usual! Myself and your Councillors will meet via audio-visual link, each from our own home “bubbles”, and this will be livestreamed on our Council Facebook page for the first time so you can see and hear the work we are doing. Our biggest agenda topic is about our business plan, budget and rates for the coming financial year – called the Annual Plan. I know you are all interested in what Council will do to minimise the economic impact of the current emergency situation on you and your businesses. The draft Annual Plan (prior to COVID-19) had a 5.2% rates increase based on the realities at that point as well as alignment with our Long Term Plan. Things have now changed and the whole situation is forcing us to think outside of the box, in the short term. We also have to remember that we have long term views, visions and plans that we are also responsible for. The juggle is real for our elected members as we work through these decisions.

Our aim is to not only make some decisions about the Annual Plan but also shape our actions for economic and social recovery in the Central Hawke’s Bay.

Over the next week to ten days, you will also be receiving your next rates invoice. I want to acknowledge that for most this is extremely unwelcome. While the government has given us some legislative changes to ensure Councils can operate effectively during lockdown, there has been no legislative relief on this front. However, my commitment to you is that everyone who needs help will have access to it. Work and Income NZ, Accommodation Supplements and Wage Subsidies are a good start, but council will also work with anyone on a one-to-one basis to minimise the stress and the financial burden. Our staff will not be charging rates penalties, and have access to things like payment plans and postponement policies that may help individual situations in the short-term.

Please remember – no matter what your struggles at the moment, there are mechanisms to help. 0800 RURAL HELP and 0800 HBAYCD are our main lifelines and there will be local people ready to support you.

Together we thrive. E ora ngātahi ana.

Mayor Alex Walker.

A message from the Central Hawke’s Bay Police Team

Throughout the course of the Alert Level 4 lockdown Central Hawke’s Bay Police are continuing to operate as normal. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we have had to close our front counter, but you can still contact the Police and report incidents by dialling 111 in an emergency, or 105 for something less urgent. Alternatively, you can use the NZ Police online reporting portal at 105.police.govt.nz.

We’re relying on everyone to do their part in protecting the community and encourage you to report any breach to COVID-19 regulations that you witness. Please never feel like you are wasting our time – speaking out could save a life. Recently, Police have noticed an increase in foot and vehicle traffic around Central Hawke’s Bay. We’re two weeks into level 4 and now is not the time to be complacent. Before leaving the house, ask yourself, “do I need to be doing this, or do I want to be doing this?” Always keep in mind that staying home, saves lives.

Unless you are leaving your house for an essential service, you must stay in your bubble. Do not put yourself, your whānau, or friends in a position where you could compromise their health by breaking the rules. Remember, for the safety of yourself and our community, you must remain in close proximity to your house. Wherever you were at 11.59pm on Wednesday 25 March is where you must remain.

This means you may not travel to your bach, the beach or to exercise anywhere further than walking distance.

Notice of Council Meetings

Notice is given in accordance with Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, that the following meetings are scheduled for the months of April and May.

- Ordinary Council Meeting 9 April 2020 at 9.00am
- Finance and Infrastructure Committee 23 April 2020 at 9.00am
- Strategy and wellbeing Committee 7 May 2020 at 9.00am

The meetings will be held via audio-visual link and streamed live to Central Hawke’s Bay District Council’s Facebook page, @CHBDistrictCouncil.

For further information please contact the Governance Support Officer, phone 06 857 8050.

Annex: See Council Information and Meetings Act details for the month of May. Closed meetings are not advertised.
Central Hawke’s Bay District Council’s response to COVID-19

9 April 2020

KIA HAUMARU TONU TE NOHO - STAY SAFE CENTRAL HAWKE’S BAY!

Covid-19 is a continuously evolving situation, requiring our whole community to stay focused on following the advice from Government Agencies including the Ministry of Health and District Health Board. Central Hawke’s Bay District Council’s focus is on supporting response efforts, as we do everything we can to slow down the virus.

Now more than ever, our community needs to come together and treat COVID-19 with the seriousness it deserves, so we as a Council can put energy into what’s most important – the security of our services, and the protection of our most vulnerable people.

Together we thrive. E ora ngātahi ana.

WHAT WE KNOW:

• We're at level four of the government’s four-level COVID-19 alert system - Eliminate. This means people are instructed to stay at home, educational facilities and businesses are closed except for essential services and Lifeline utilities.

• It may be tempting to carry on family traditions and visit your usual holiday hotspots this Easter, but traveling at this time is not an option. It’s vital that we all continue to stick to the rules and stay at home in our bubble.

• Supermarkets and essential services remain open, although some at limited hours for Easter.

WHAT WE NEED YOU TO KNOW:

• We're closely following the guidance of the New Zealand Government Ministry of Health, Hawke’s Bay District Health Board and Hawke's Bay Emergency Management Group and have built a local plan in support of the national and regional response.

• Please be assured that our business continuity plan is robust, agile, and committed to ensuring your access to essential services.

• We're taking steps to protect our staff and your services. The government has instructed people to stay at home and this means our office staff are home too. Until we are advised otherwise, you won’t be able to visit our office in person, however you can phone us on 06 857 8060 to speak to our customer service team who will advise you on what facilities are available to you over the course of the shut-down.

• Although some of our facilities and services have been suspended, core services like water and kerbside rubbish and recycling collection will continue as normal. Please head to our website and searching #covid19.

• Supermarkets and essential services remain open, although some at limited hours for Easter.

• You can get a list of essential businesses which are open in Central Hawke’s Bay by heading to our website and searching #covid19.

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• Please note that due to Easter Friday, Waipawa’s recycling collection will take place on Saturday this week.

• Council are working in partnership with Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea.

• If you have internet access, the best website to head to for accurate and timely information relating to COVID-19 is www.covid19.govt.nz

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We understand that COVID-19 will be causing financial strain for many in our community. The Government has announced a COVID-19 recovery package to support New Zealand business, boost incomes, and support households. For more information about financial support go to workandincome.govt.nz or phone 0800 559 009.

Over the next few weeks, many of you will receive your rates invoice in the post. We acknowledge that this is a difficult time to receive a rates notice and want you to know that your rates are critical to the delivery of essential services like roading, storm and wastewater systems, drinking water and refuse collection, and in helping to manage the civil defence emergency response to COVID-19 and the drought. However, if individual ratepayers are experiencing genuine hardship we are committed to working with you to find a solution.

Please contact our Rates team on rates@chbdc.govt.nz or phone 06 857 8060 to discuss putting a payment plan in place, to ensure we can waive any penalties and extend the payment deadline if needed.

Council Facilities and Services

We’ve closed or suspended some of our facilities and services as we unite to eliminate COVID-19 in the community. You can still contact our customer excellence representatives by phone on 06 857 8060 or email at customerservice@chbdc.govt.nz for 24/7 service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waipawa Council Office</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waipawa District Library</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waipukurau District Library</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waipawa Centennial Memorial Swimming Pool</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>A W Parsons Heated Pool Complex website</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Theatre</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Hawke’s Bay Municipal Theatre</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Hawke’s Bay Museum</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Halls</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Face to Face Building Consents and Resource Consent Inspections</td>
<td>Suspended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Stations</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling Drop-off Centres</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refuse Collection</td>
<td>As normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling Collection</td>
<td>As normal</td>
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<td>Three waters</td>
<td>As normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drinking Fountains</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<td>Community BBQ</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom Camping Grounds</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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For updates and more information on COVID-19 and others from central government agencies, visit covid19.govt.nz and others from central government agencies, visit covid19.govt.nz.
Do you, or someone you know, need help?

Follow these FOUR SIMPLE STEPS to getting the assistance you need.

If you are over 70, living alone, a solo parent, pregnant, immunocompromised or have an existing medical condition, to ensure you’re able to stay safe at home, you need:

1. **A trusted buddy to deliver medicine and/or groceries.**
   - Do you have a family member, friend or neighbour that you trust?
   - Ask them to be your buddy
   - Go to step 2

2. **An online or phone service to order groceries or medicines.**
   - Do you have online or phone access and a credit or debit card, to be able to place an order with Unichem, New World, Countdown, Bucks or Waipawa Butchery?
   - Order online or by phone
   - Go to step 3

3. **A trusted network, community organisation or group.**
   - Are you a part of a trusted network, community organisation or group such as Age Concern, a Marae or Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea, WINZ, Red Cross, Youth Group or other similar support mechanisms?
   - Contact them for support
   - Go to step 4

4. **A call to 0800 HBAYCD (0800 422 923) for help.**
   - Someone will be on the end of the phone to provide local connections to the services you need.

For local advice related to business, essential services and facilities please visit [www.chbdc.govt.nz](http://www.chbdc.govt.nz) and search #covid19 or call 06 857 8060 for 24 hour telephone service.

Feed Assistance

Feed availability is currently a key concern for many farmers. Drought is having a significant impact on the amount of feed being grown across the country. Covid-19 and related measures are also having an impact.

MPI and partner agencies DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb NZ, AgFirst and Federated Farmers are providing remote feed planning support to farmers.

For further information, please contact MPI.