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

**Alcohol Control Bylaw 2020**

Following consultation, updates to this bylaw have been adopted and the updated bylaw will be published on 3 Sept. Controls in Tamahere-Woodlands Ward remain largely unchanged under District-wide rules that prohibit consumption or possession of alcohol in all public cemeteries, parks, reserves and esplanades (including vehicles that are not self-contained vehicles parked in these areas) from 9pm-9am daily. The only district-wide change that affects this Ward is that alcohol consumption is permitted *insid*e a self-contained freedom camping vehicle provided it’s not parked in a freedom camping prohibited area, and the number of people in the vehicle does not exceed the vehicle’s certification.

**Reserve management plans**

Following consultation, updated plans are expected to be adopted at the ***Infrastructure Committee*** meeting on 3 September. Proposed changes/additions to reserve plans in which TCC had an interest include:

* ***Matangi Recreation Reserve*** – Noted that funding for multi-purpose courts is set aside for reserve development but that these and other amenities will be considered within a masterplan for the reserve. More issues are noted including poor visual amenity, roadside verge maintenance, unsafe roadside environment for access from surrounding villages. Masterplan to be developed with the community. Possible considerations include public parking access while deterring antisocial behaviour, public toilet/changing facilities, location of playground, possible dog exercise area, etc.
* ***Tamahere Recreation Reserve*** – More issues now noted including dog off-leash area being small, unfenced and often used for casual parking, dog waste on sports fields, barriers to local events usage for the piazza; policy to include collaboration with sports groups on storage issues; and proposed development continues to note need for improved shade over play areas and adds the need to investigate community interest in better use of the Tamahere Piazza.
* ***Te Awa*** – accessibility issues along the Waikato River noted.

**Rates invoices:**

Rates invoices this year will arrive by 8 September, a little later than previous years, with the first instalment due on 22 September. Direct debits will restart on 1 September (instead of 18 August) and will be spread over slightly fewer instalments for those paying weekly (44 instead of 46 instalments), fortnightly (21, not 22) or monthly (10, not 11).

**Local Government elections 2025**

Voting papers will be posted from 9-22 September to everyone who was registered on the electoral roll by 1 August. Anyone enrolling after 1 August will need to cast a special vote - which you can request from the Council or Election Services (ph 0800 922 822). Voting closes at 12 noon on election day (Saturday 11 October). Election papers will include a binding poll on whether you support keeping or removing Maaori wards in the Waikato District. The result of the poll will be implemented from the 2028 local body elections.

**Meet the Candidates**

The first Meet the Candidate event was held in Tauwhare at the weekend. There will be two events at the Tamahere Community Centre (Wed 10 Sept from 4pm, and Sat 20 Sept from 11am), an event at Gordonton Hall (Thurs 18 Sept from 4pm) and there are plans for one at Matangi Hall on Sat 13 Sept from 12.30pm (to be confirmed.)

**Other local events:**

* ***Matangi Dairy Factory Tour, Sat 13 Sept***: Anyone interested meet Harry Mowbray in the Bootleg carpark at 10am.
* ***The Sculpture Park at Waitakaruru Arboretum:*** “The Forgotten Forest” exhibition of works by Destine and Nathan Hull runs from 13 September to 27 October

**Other issues:** Ward Councillors are currently also engaged with:

* Tamahere Reserve (Crawfords Quarry) – focussing on development of a reserve management plan; also tidy up works and repairs after tree removal.
* Gully restoration programme – reviewing cost of design & consenting work, and programme of works, prior to tenders
* Tamahere Piazza - put Lions co-President Robyn Creighton in direct contact with Community venues and events team leader to find a solution, will resume when Robyn is back from overseas.

***Contact your Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors:***

Crystal Beavis, mob 0275 957 927, email crystal.beavis@waidc.govt.nz

Mike Keir, mob 027 449 3012, email mike.keir@waidc.govt.nz