



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2014

The Waihi Community Forum is made up of two representatives from Newmont Waihi Gold, two from the Hauraki District Council Waihi Ward and five from the Waihi East and Waihi community. This forum manages the Independent Review Panel and Property Purchase scheme, administers the Streets Ahead fund and liaises with the community and Newmont Waihi Gold on all issues relating to its operations in Waihi.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since our last newsletter there's been a fair amount of mining activity in Waihi East. Offers of property purchases have now been made by Newmont Waihi Gold to owners of properties over the stopes at the southern end of the Correnso Underground Mine. Ex-gratia payments have also been made to owners of properties above current development and exploration drives. It's fair to say we're still in a state of limbo as we wait to see what the effects of the larger production blasting will be like later next year.

The WCF has remained busy updating all necessary Terms of Reference as well as our Property Purchase guidelines and these are now available on our website. We also ran two successful community workshops earlier in the year which the WCF found very useful and we look forward to holding more of these in the future.

As part of the WCF Terms of Reference two Community Representative positions on the forum will become available in November. We will be advertising these positions shortly and look forward to hearing from you if you are keen to join our dynamic team!

In order to remain a constructive forum we always appreciate your ongoing support and feedback.

Michael Scahill | Chairman, Waihi Community Forum

PROPERTY PURCHASES

Much of the correspondence the WCF receives is about property purchases. As the WCF has a limited budget (\$4 million, to be spent during the lifetime of the Correnso Underground Mine,) it has to be very careful how and when this money is spent. After public consultation it was agreed the next round should take place three months after production blasting starts (so we can all better understand the effects this larger blasting will have on residents in Waihi East.) Production blasting is due to take place mid 2015 which means, at this stage, our next round of property purchases will not take place until late 2015.

The WCF would like to discuss property recycling with Newmont, requesting the company considers placing all properties purchased through the IRP Property Purchase scheme back on the property market. Funds from any properties re-sold could go back into the Property Purchase fund which would then be used to purchase further properties.

STREETS AHEAD

The purpose of the Streets Ahead scheme is to **“enhance the neighbourhood and in turn improve property values”** and the WCF has received some

great feedback regarding this scheme. The most popular suggestion for our next project is a community green space and we're currently working with HDC to find a suitable site. Once the right location has been found we'll need your feedback on how we can best use this space - it could include a playground, community gardens, fruit trees, sculptures etc. We will be holding a competition with prizes for the best ideas and designs and will invite Waihi East School, Waihi Free Kindergarten and local daycare centres to get involved. We're interested in hearing from anyone keen to take part in the planning and implementation of this project.

The WCF is also looking into some local tree planting, working with HDC to identify areas that could benefit from tree planting and determining which trees would be suitable (i.e. which would not block out light, grow too big, require too much maintenance etc).

THE 'ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS' SCHEME

When Labour MP David Shearer recently visited Waihi he met with the WCF to discuss the forum's recent letter to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) on mining royalties. The meeting was very constructive and the WCF was pleased with the support it received from David Shearer, who was also very interested in the WCF and how it operates.

Driven by our local Mayor, John Tregidga, LGNZ is currently seeking a change in policy regarding mining royalties. LGNZ would like to see a percentage of mining royalties returned to communities hosting mineral extraction operations and recently held a forum in Wellington to discuss this further. Those who attended included several Council representatives and National, Labour, Green and New Zealand First MPs. WCF representatives Bhavesh Ranchhod and Anne Marie Spicer were also there and had the opportunity to discuss mining operations in Waihi, how the WCF works and the WCF's support of the 'Royalties for

Regions' scheme. Bhavesh and Anne Marie continue to be a part of an LGNZ led working group and the WCF will keep you updated on any progress.

SIGN UP TO OUR EMAIL UPDATES

If you'd like to hear more about what the WCF is up to please email the Forum at wcfinformation@gmail.com with the subject title 'sign me up'. All subscribers receive:

- regular updates;
- digital copies of WCF newsletters and press releases;
- invitations to workshops;
- notifications of updates to our website;
- the latest meeting minutes.

We always appreciate your feedback. If you'd like to get in touch you can send the WCF an email or letter (contact details below). All incoming correspondence is discussed at WCF meetings which are currently held fortnightly.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Community representatives:

Michael Scahill (Chairperson),

Bhavesh Ranchhod (Deputy)

Tineke Iversen

Anne Marie Spicer

Jennifer Koopu

HDC representatives

Max McLean

Harry Shepherd

NWG representatives:

Andrea Durie

Donna Fisher

HOW CAN I GET A HOLD OF THE FORUM?

The Forum can be contacted by emailing: wcfinformation@gmail.com or by visiting: www.waihicommunityforum.co.nz

Alternatively you can write to: WCF Coordinator, P.O. 54 Katikati, 3166