

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Pipiri June 2024 | Putanga Issue 48

New Kaikohe Library building a step closer

Plans for a new library building in Kaikohe entered a new chapter with tenders now closed for the contract to demolish buildings on the sites that once housed Save Mart and Petersen Motors showroom.

The new library will be on Raihara Street, about 80m from its current location. A design team is developing concepts for the new facility with the draft design process expected to take around five months.

Once a demolition contractor is appointed, a start date for this work will be publicised. Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL) is project managing the new build and working closely with hapū, iwi, the community, council staff and councillors.

The Kaikohe Library will remain open for most of the construction project but there is expected to be a temporary closure when the library moves into the new space. A start date for the construction will be confirmed once the design phase is complete.

FNHL is the commercial and asset management arm of Far North District Council.



Mayor Moko's mihi on rates

Next year's rates increase will be significantly lower than the double-digit figure originally proposed. Kahika Moko Tepania has gone on camera to reveal how the council whittled the figure down to just 5.1%. He also addresses the community's number one concern – the state of our district roads. Head to our website to watch the video and find out more about rates, roads, and progress being made to update our 15-year-old District Plan.

Eye-catching new signs for isites



Signage at all three Far North isites now display the updated logo.

Eagle-eyed residents and visitors may have noticed new signs appearing on the council's three isite visitor information centres in the Far North at Paihia, Ōpononi and Te Ahu in Kaitiāia.

The new signage is due to a logo rebranding by isite NZ, Aotearoa's network of official visitor information centres.

All 60 isite centres across the country are rebranding to ensure they display the same new logo, look and style to raise awareness of the nationwide network and services offered.

Isite staff offer expert advice on local sights and activities as well as accommodation bookings and options for further travel.

The three Far North isites also operate as council service centres for residents needing to pay rates, renew dog registrations or raise a request for service.

Replacing the Far North signage was no small undertaking, with 21 signs being printed and installed. Local contractors carried out the installations in each location. The cost was shared between the council and isite NZ.

Temporary bridge plan for Hihi

A temporary crossing is being planned for Hihi traffic while much-needed repairs are carried out to Hihi Road bridge.

The decision to build a temporary bridge was chosen after an alternative option to upgrade a nearby road as a detour route was ruled out due to cost.

The work on the one-lane existing bridge, 500 metres south of the Hihi Road/Taemaro Road intersection, will replace the concrete deck, install a guard rail, and upgrade the bridge approaches.



A temporary crossing is planned during the works.

Geotechnical investigations are under way with work on the temporary bridge expected to begin around late June or July. Repairs to the existing bridge are expected to start in August or September. The aim is to complete the whole project by November this year.

The work will be managed by Northland Transportation Alliance on behalf of Far North District Council.

Celebrating a housing milestone

The doors to 36 new homes for families in need have opened in the latest milestone for Kaikohe's Te Kohekohe housing project.

Once completed, the development on the former RSA site will have 60 houses made up of one, two and three bedroom homes.

The project, costing more than \$20 million, is jointly run by Te Hau Ora o Ngāpuhi, which offers health and social services to tenants, and Far North Holdings Ltd (FNHL) which project-managed the development.

Late last year, Far North District Council agreed to a district-wide housing strategy to tackle a lack of housing in the area by working more closely with hapū, iwi, housing agencies and developers to reduce barriers to building new homes.

Head to our website to watch a video about the project and see what a difference these warm, dry homes will make to the lives of their new tenants.

The 10 units of stage one of the project opened last year.



Watch our video to take a look inside Te Kohekohe housing project.