

Planning for the Future

Orākei Local Board chair Desley Simpson and Waitemata Local Board chair Shale Chambers discuss what is coming up in their respective wards

SHALE CHAMBERS

The year is marching on and there is a lot of good weather and amazing events to keep our families all very busy. Local government plans are probably far from your mind ... but I know your community is dear to your heart. Now is the time to make your views known. If you receive this wonderful copy of *The Hobson* before March 31, and if you haven't already done so, I'd like to encourage you to give your feedback on our draft local board plan, which will set the vision and direction for our area for the next three years.

You can give your feedback in a number of ways: send us an email, post on our Facebook page or fill out the online survey at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay

After this round of feedback closes, your Local Board will go away and develop a draft plan. Then in July and August, as required by legislation, we will carry out formal consultation.

Our Local Board was the first to adopt an accessibility plan so that we can give as many people as possible the best chance of participating in public life, no matter what challenges they may face. One of our initiatives is working with the excellent organisation, Be. Accessible, to develop access maps for the city.

The maps show, among much else, the locations of wheelchair-accessible toilets, mobility on-street parking and even the streets with a steep gradient. So far we have created maps for the city centre, Newmarket and Parnell. You can find the maps here: <http://www.beaccessible.org.nz/the-movement/resources>

The board recently approved the draft "Becoming a Low Carbon Community: An Action Plan for the Waitemata Local Board Area 2013-2016". We hope it will contribute towards the overall regional goal of a 40 percent reduction in carbon emissions set by the Auckland Plan. Some of the actions we propose include promoting low-carbon transport options, programmes to help householders, and supporting businesses to adopt

low-carbon practices.

The board is also creating comprehensive precinct plans for the Karangahape Road and Newton areas to help shape their development over the next 30 years. The K' Rd and Newton areas are some of the most vibrant and diverse in Auckland. We want to know your vision for these areas so that we can develop plans that meet our community's desires. Have your say on www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay between April 10 and May 9.

Daylight saving is about to end, but let's hope the blue sky days keep coming for Easter, ANZAC day and the school holidays. Enjoy the end of summer.



Shale Chambers