

Laura Bowman

From: official information
Sent: Tuesday, 7 June 2022 5:19 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: official information
Subject: Final Response - LGOIMA 263850 - [REDACTED] - Reason/s for the refusal to uphold the publicised 30 day consultation period for the HCC 2022/23 Annual Plan
Attachments: Annual Plan Stakeholder Email.pdf

Kia Ora,

I refer to your **information request below**, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

Your request:

I am requesting that you provide me - under the Official Information Act - a full explanation of the reason/s for the refusal to uphold the publicised 30 day consultation period and make the necessary amendment.

Our response:

A full explanation / reasons why the 30 day consultation period was not publicised for the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

1. The changes proposed in the 2022-23 draft Annual Plan compared with Year 2 of the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan were considered against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The changes were deemed as being of low significance and therefore consultation with the community was at Council's discretion. Council opted to engage with the community so that residents' feedback could inform decision making about the final Annual Plan. As the engagement was not mandated or governed by any legislation, there is no formal timeframe or duration Council was required to adhere to. Council ran its Annual Plan engagement campaign from 20 April to 20 May (30 calendar days) to give residents plenty of time and opportunity to share their voice. See point 2 below for how consultation was publicised.
2. Please see below a list of all the channels used by HCC to advertise the consultation and the date each notification occurred.

ADVERTISING

Date(s)	Tactic
6 May and 13 May	Waikato Herald 1/4-page advertisements
4 May, 11 May	Hamilton Press ¼ and full page advertisement
5 May, 12 May	Nexus Magazine advertisement
28 April	Chinese Weekly Newspaper
6 May	Indian weekender
2 May – 13 May	Mediaworks radio – Mai FM & The Breeze
2 May – 13 May	NZME radio – NewstalkZB & ZM
28 April – 20 May	Adzup washroom posters. Chartwell Square The Base Centre Place North Centre Place South

DIGITAL

Date	Tactic
20 April	Media story on Our Hamilton and sent to residents signed up to receive stories by email
20 April	Consultation published on hamilton.govt.nz and haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz websites
27 April	Email to residents signed up to notified of Council engagement campaigns (attached).
20 April – 20 May	Facebook ads sets (video and static)
20 April – 20 May	Facebook feed posts – 5 posts (21 April, 4 May, 6 May, 10 May, 13 May)
20 April – 20 May	LinkedIn Posts – 2 posts (21 April, 13 May)
20 April – 20 May	Google display adverts
10 May	Live digital Q and A with Mayor and Councillors

3. Please also see attached a copy of the email which was sent out to the community to advertise the consultation

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

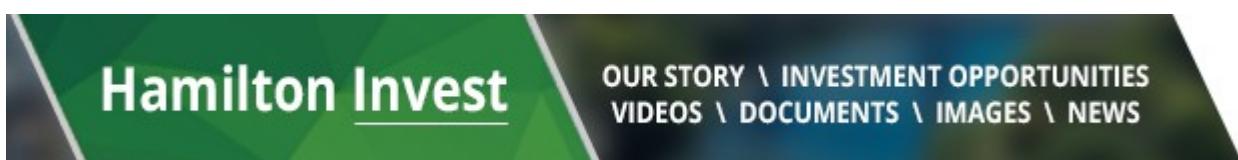
Kind Regards,

Laura | Official Information Coordinator
Legal Services & Risk | People and Organisational Performance
Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz



Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | www.hamilton.govt.nz

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 14:12
To: James Clarke <James.Clarke@hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR SOUTHGATE (AND ALL HCC COUNCILLORS)

Dear James Clarke

I note the absence of an explanation for the refusal to uphold the publicised 30 day consultation period and make the necessary amendment. Accordingly I am **requesting that you provide me - under the Official Information Act - a full explanation of the reason/s for the refusal to uphold the publicised 30 day consultation period and make the necessary amendment.**

Kindly note that this matter will be raised as a complaint with the Ombudsman's office.

Regards

On Wed, May 4, 2022 at 1:44 PM James Clarke <James.Clarke@hcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to Mayor Paula and other Elected Members.

I should explain that we are using a number of channels to promote the annual plan as widely as possible. Email is one of these channels, but we are also using others, such as social media, print media and radio.

We have received more than 150 responses so far in the engagement period. This is very positive, and shows that our approach is getting through to Hamiltonians, and that Hamiltonians want to have their say. This builds on the long-term plan consultation last year, in which - following a concerted effort by the Mayor, Councillors and staff - we received a record number of responses.

We will not be amending the engagement period. However, I hope you have been able to have your say, or will do so over the remaining engagement period.

Best wishes,
James

James Clarke
Director of Mayor's Office

[REDACTED] | Email: james.clarke@hcc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 17:22

To: Paula Southgate <paula.southgate@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Geoff Taylor <geoff.taylor@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Mark Bunting <mark.bunting@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Kesh Naidoo-Rauf <Kesh.Naidoo-Rauf@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Ryan Hamilton <Ryan.Hamilton@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Rob Pascoe <Rob.Pascoe@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Maxine van Oosten <Maxine.vanOosten@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Mark Donovan <Mark.Donovan@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Angela O'Leary <Angela.OLeary@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Martin Gallagher <Martin.Gallagher@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Sarah Thomson <Sarah.Thomson@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Dave Macpherson <Dave.Macpherson@council.hcc.govt.nz>; Ewan Wilson <Ewan.Wilson@council.hcc.govt.nz>

Subject: OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR SOUTHGATE (AND ALL HCC COUNCILLORS)

Dear Mayor Southgate

It is 5.00 p.m. when I am writing this e-mail. The date is 27 April 2022.

At 3.42 p.m. today I received an e-mail from you. It invited me to click and have my say on the HCC 2022/23 Annual Plan. When I did this I was immediately struck by the fact that the Consultation Period is purported as having “Opened 20 Apr 2022” and that it “Closes 20 May 2022”.

7 days have been lost to what? HCC twiddling its thumbs or just plain old bureaucracy, unprofessionalism and incompetence? Or, could it be due to the HCC purposefully and intentionally taking advantage of the Easter public holidays by delaying the distribution of the e-mail invitation to shorten the consultation period from what should be 30 days to 23 days?

For the bloated size of our city council and the salaries that its employees receive, this is just not good enough! Efficiency and fairness and transparency are key elements of local government operations but yet you cannot get either of these right.

It is only reasonable to expect the HCC to publish an apology in the Waikato News and, crucially, to notify its ratepayers that the closing date has been amended (to allow for the full 30 day consultation period).





What do you think of our

2022-23 Annual Plan

Teena koe,

The community has until 20 May to feedback on changes proposed in Hamilton City Council's 2022-23 Annual Plan.

[Click here to have your say](#)

Last year, the community told us what they wanted for the next 10 years in our 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan and we're committed to delivering this.

The Annual Plan is the budget and work programme for Year 2 of the Long-Term Plan. It looks at how we can deliver and fund projects and services in the upcoming financial year as part of the Long-Term Plan.

While we're on track with the Annual Plan, there are changes proposed to the budget in response to cost pressures and emerging needs for the community.

These budget changes propose we borrow to cover these costs, rather than by increasing rates above Long-Term Plan levels, or by cutting projects.

There are also new projects we'd like to introduce, either because of an emerging need or our community has asked for.

It's important you know what we are doing and why, so let's work together.

If you have further questions or would like more information about the consultation, please contact haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz

Please share with your friends, whaanau and community so that every Hamiltonian has the chance to share their voice and shape the future of our city.

Ngaa mihi nui,

Mayor Paula Southgate



Hamilton City Council, 260 Anglesea St, Hamilton, Waikato 3240, New Zealand

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