WHAT'S UP IN WAIPĀ

Waipā DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your Council News

Thursday, November 12, 2026



What matters most, Waipā? Let's keep talking

A big thank you to everyone who has stopped for a yarn about our 10-Year Plan and Cambridge Connections. Your time and ideas mean a lot to me.

Councillors and I have loved getting out – from the Cambridge Farmers Market and Pak n Save Te Awamutu to the Kaumātua Games and rural halls.

What am I hearing? Look after what we've got before taking on anything new – and yes, roads come up a lot. Growth should pay its share. Parks and green spaces matter. Rates rises are hurting, and you want us watching our own costs. Fair enough.

People are realistic – they get that you can't have low rates and a long list of projects. Growth, storm recovery, inflation and debt all pull on the same ratepayers' money. We're starting with ourselves – going through every Council activity line-by-line. I want a realistic plan, not promises that never happen.

I'm meeting groups with great ideas who want Council alongside them. Where communities roll up their sleeves, we'll be a partner.

Cambridge Connections is about how we'll get around a growing town over the next 30 years. Think of it as a menu, not a commitment – funding and timing are decided through the 10-Year Plan, when you'll have another say. The early focus is practical: intersections, walking and cycling, bus stops, parking and trucks on the right roads. No bridge decision has been made – if you disagree with the preferred location, tell us.

This is your chance to shape what we consult on in March/April. Tell us what matters most – and how you think we should pay for it.

There's one more question: should Waipā shops have the choice to open on Easter Sunday? Local businesses asked us to take another look at this. It's important we get your view on this again, as it's a while since we last asked.

Feedback on the 10-Year Plan and Cambridge Connections closes first, at 5pm on Sunday, 22 November. Easter Sunday trading stays open a little longer, until 5pm on Wednesday, 2 December. Find us at a drop-in or have your say at **letstalk.waipadc.govt.nz**. We're working for you – let's keep talking.

Mike Pettit
Mayor of Waipā





Eggs-actly what should Easter Sunday look like in Waipā? Have your say today

Hot cross buns and a browse around the shops, or a quiet day off? Here's your chance to help decide.

Residents, retailers and workers right across Waipā are being asked whether local shops should be able to open on Easter Sunday, under a proposed district-wide policy.

If an Easter Sunday Trading Policy is adopted, shops could choose whether to open, with no pressure to do so, and Council wouldn't set opening hours. Workers would keep their legal right to say no to working that day, without giving a reason. Shops already allowed to trade could carry on as usual, and alcohol licensing rules would still apply.

If not adopted, Easter Sunday would stay a restricted trading day under the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990.

Mayor Mike Pettit says this is all about choice. "Whether you run a shop, work in retail or simply enjoy shopping locally, we'd love to hear what you think before any final decision is made."

Have your say on Let's Talk Waipā or grab a feedback form at our 10-Year Plan and Cambridge Connections events in November. Submissions close at 5pm on Wednesday, December 2.

Every voice counts, so make sure yours is heard.

Your Elected Members

Get in touch: waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors



Mike Pettit *Mayor* | **Jo Davies-Colley** *Deputy Mayor* | **Dale-Maree Morgan** | **Mike Montgomerie** | **Clare St Pierre** | **Marcus Gower** | **Aidhean Camson** | **Roger Gordon** | **Dean Taylor** | **Shane Walsh** | **Pip Kempthorne** | **Les Bennett**