

24 December 2020

A Broxholme

[fyi-request-14352-e8213258@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14352-e8213258@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Broxholme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Thank you for your email received on Tuesday, 22 December 2020 requesting information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. A decision has now been made on your request pursuant to section 13 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

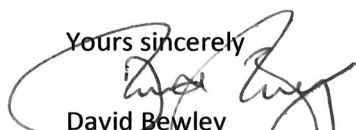
Your email requests detailed information on our unsealed roads and seal extension policy. It requests the length of unsealed roads (160km), but more significantly the number of dwellings on unsealed roads, roading rates from those roads over three years, and the priority list for seal extension.

The Council has not actively sealed unsealed roads since 2009, so the priority list then and the criteria for assessing sealing requirements now is quite different. The Council will receive a report in the New Year on a Proposed Seal Extension Policy for consideration as part of the Councils Long-term Plan.

The request encompasses a large volume of information that will require collation and analysis. We do not record this information as a matter of course. As a result, we will need to charge you for the time taken to collate it under section 17A(1)(a) of the LGOIMA. The charge will be a maximum of \$3,450 (inclusive of GST). Please confirm whether you wish to proceed with the LGOIMA request on this basis. If you do agree to this charge, the Council will also need to extend the due date a further 20 working days under section 14(1)(a) of the LGOIMA in order to collate this information. The alternative is for you to refine your request, and this could be done in discussion with the Manager Transportation. Please advise by email if you wish to continue with this request.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you are entitled to request a review by the Ombudsmen. Further information can be obtained from the following website [www.ombudsmen.govt.nz](http://www.ombudsmen.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,



David Bewley  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

A1853964

-----Original Message-----

From: A Broxholme <[fyi-request-14352-e8213258@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14352-e8213258@requests.fyi.org.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 22 December 2020 10:59 AM

To: WDC Customer Service <[info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz)>

Subject: Official Information request - Unsealed roads & seal extension policy

Dear Whakatane District Council,

Please provide a detailed list of unsealed roads under the control of the district council including the length of unsealed road, the number of dwellings on the unsealed road and the amount of roading rates received by council from residents and businesses on those unsealed roads for the years 2018, 2019 & 2020.

A priority list for seal extension, if reinstated has apparently been prepared in the past, please provide that list and supporting documentation.

The following two statements have appeared in various emails since I began communicating with council staff in regard Fermah Road;

"Prior to 2012 Council did have a programme in place to seal approximately 3km of unsealed roads per year, but due to increasing pressures to invest in urgent repairs and upgrades to other infrastructure, such as storm water, waste water and drinking water supplies, Council made a decision to stop funding seal extensions and to refocus these funds towards its higher priority areas. This decision was made as part of Council's Long Term Plan process which involves extensive community wide consultation and input."

"Reinstating seal extensions as a roading activity was included as one of the 'optional' activities in the current 2018-28 Long Term Plan. However very few submissions were received to reinstate this activity compared to other optional activities and on this basis Council made the decision not to include it."

Please provide the original consultation document for the 2018-28 long term plan as it is not available on the WDC website, or if it is, I cannot locate it. I would also ask the specific question were the rate payers most affected by the decision to cease seal extensions specifically notified of the policy change in 2012, my conversations with many residents of unsealed roads in my capacity as a rural lifestyle real estate salesperson suggests that they were not, hence they did not know of the policy change and therefore had no incentive to communicate their opposition at the time or since.

I fully understand the pressure on council finances but having studied the consultation document for the last annual plan and made a submission I was less than impressed by what was seen to be the highest priorities and the response from the community as to plans to remove significant parking in the CBD recently suggest that council is not communicating as well with the community that it seeks to serve as it perhaps believes it is.

Yours Sincerely,

A Broxholme

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