

Halls may go back to residents

WAITOMO District Council is forgoing responsibility for three of the district's community halls.

Two of the halls – Mokauiti and Benneydale – may be managed by their communities, sold or removed (*North King Country Farmer*, June 12), while Oparure hall's land and buildings belong to the Department of Conservation.

CONSULTATION

At WDC's August meeting community services manager John De Luca said that the decision came after consultation with the public in relation to the district's Long Term Plan.

Poor utilisation, outstanding maintenance, inadequate heating, insurance costs and land ownership issues were some of the reasons given for the decision.

"Disposal is scheduled for 2013-2014 and options include sale, transfer to a community group, or removal

of buildings in the case of a reserve," said Mr De Luca.

He said further consultation is needed in the form of a team in each community to investigate options for the halls.

OPTIONS

Three members from each of the Benneydale and Mokauiti communities will be members of the teams.

Mr De Luca will be on both hall teams, with councillor Charles Digby on the Mokauiti hall team, and councillor Allan Goddard on Benneydale hall's team.

Mr De Luca told the council that Oparure hall is used exclusively as part of the local school's facilities and that currently the council pays the rates and insurance.

The council is considering Mr De Luca's recommendation that it advise DOC future costs be forwarded to the department.



DECISION DUE: Two Waitomo district halls – Mokauiti (above) and Benneydale (below) – may remain in the care of their communities, be sold and/or removed. FILE PICS



Mac's back & almost as good as new!

FROM P1

"Now I can do everything on the farm I could do before the accident, the only difference is that it takes about three times longer."

Mr McGregor says he has come along in "leaps and bounds" since ditching the crutches and with the help of two workers is managing the farm just fine.

"If one of the workers left I would go in the milking shed fulltime," he says.

"The only thing I can't do is run, but I'm working on that."

The only after effect from his surgery has been financial.

Totalling about \$100,000 including surgeon's fees (\$30,000), prosthesis (\$30,000) and hospital costs (\$40,000) Mr McGregor has used \$40,000 of his own money along with \$10,000 from public donations to cover half of the total.

"The best way for me to show my thanks to everyone who has helped is

by getting out there on the farm, being active and never giving up," says Mr McGregor.

"I think that will have more impact than an ad in the paper."

Friend Peter Addison, also from Otorohanga, is taking offers for a calf drive with all proceeds going to the Iain McGregor Appeal.

"My short-term goal is to pay off the surgery costs, but long-term I want to get a micro-processor leg so I can run again," says Mr McGregor.

"I'm not looking at running any marathons, I just want the ability to move at pace when required."

"That would be the ultimate freedom for me."

Donations for Mr McGregor can be deposited in the Bailey Ingham Clients Trust account at Westpac Bank. Account details – 0315 6200 19111 00 50.

For fundraising information or to assist Mr Addison with the appeal, phone 027 220 9235.

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