

Martinborough Community Board Submission to the Long Term Plan 2021

We would like to speak to our submission please.

Big Decision #1 – 3 Water Networks.

We agree with option 1 as the preferred option, with the exception being the rollout of smart meters. We believe that money can be saved within this space by delaying the rollout of smart meters until Council has fixed the leaking water pipes throughout Martinborough. Council needs to manage the assets water conservation in the first instance, before it looks to spend rates money on smart meters.

At a time when household budgets are still tight following on from the COVID-19 outbreak, this is an immediate relief back on rate increases.

With the 3 water reform looming we ask that Council as the holder of our ratepayer owned assets, being the town's water reticulation services, ensure that **BEFORE** ownership is taken over by Central Government, a **firm timeframe** for its repair and improvement is agreed on between Council and Central Government. If these assets are removed from Councils ownership, it will be very hard for our small community to be heard at a Central Government level and our need is immediate. Ratepayers have already paid for the assets in full.

Our drinking water and wastewater must be remedied to not only look after our town in the future, but to remedy the issues **right now** which have been created by population growth exceeding infrastructures capabilities. We would like Council to have detailed timeframes for increasing the 3 water capabilities to match Martinboroughs' growth, whether ownership is taken over by Central Government or not.

Big Decision #2 - Roading

We agree with option 2.

Council made a commitment just last year to our rural community of Ruakokopatuna, that following almost 30 years of little/few improvements being made to their road, that this sealing would be completed, at 1km per year. It is unfair to take this out for consultation asking for a mandate from ratepayers to stop this, without advising all SWDC ratepayers of the promise Council has already made to the Ruakokopatuna community, and why.

This commitment to the Ruakokopatuna community should have already been budgeted in the Annual Plan 20/21, and looking ahead.

We would also like to see safety trials implemented in spaces within Martinborough that have safety issues. These areas are best to be decided by the Community Board, since we regularly receive safety information from throughout our community. We feel the NZTA innovative street fund has been a lost opportunity to explore real road safety issues within the wider town, by not engaging with the Community Board for options in the first instance. This has resulted in a plan being created with a focus so narrow, that real safety issues can't be explored.

Big Decision #3 – Funding Footpaths

We believe that footpaths are part of Council's core responsibilities and they should have a strategy to repair, replace or lay a new footpath, at the same time that all our water and sewage pipes are fixed, and when the laying of fibre takes place. If these opportunities are managed effectively, to take advantage as they occur, this will have a big savings for the ratepayer.

We would still like to see issues to Health and Safety repaired promptly as they are advised to Council.

As with Big Decision #1 this will create another immediate rates relief, and cost savings into the future.

Big Decision #4 – Berm Mowing

Martinborough Community Board would like to continue to see berm mowing maintained. The cost relief is nominal for the well maintained green spaces, including berms, which walkers and the community at large, use.

There is a proven benefit to mental wellbeing when people have access to green spaces and that includes walking and berms.

Big Decision #5 – Create Another Park in Greytown

We believe this is a decision for the people of Greytown to give a clear direction to Council.

Big Decision #6 – Remove Greytown's Recycling Station

As this Council has declared that we are in a climate crisis, Martinborough Community Board believe this is not something that should be being built into a Long Term Plan until Greytown's spatial plans and areas for growth are determined by the Greytown Community.

To remove a recycling station, which the town is already using, when the town is growing and has an increased need, does not seem fair. Maybe Council should be looking to expand its services instead(?). This could be an opportunity to create a new revenue stream and help meet Councils sustainability requirements/actions.

If the removal of the Greytown Recycling Centre goes ahead and a cost to do it all again somewhere else in Greytown is raised in the future (because they have a need already), Martinborough Community Board ask this to be managed by Council to ensure this will not be an additional rates burden to Martinborough District ratepayers.

