

Looking South

April 2016



A Message from the Mayor

SWDC is currently in the process of doing the yearly budgeting required for its Annual Plan. New changes to the Local Government Act have removed the need for Councils to consult the public on the whole Annual Plan each year. Instead we have to focus on the areas where there is proposed change to what was consulted on in our Long Term plan.

For us, the most important project here is the upgrade of the three urban waste water plants. Council has been granted thirty five year resource consents for the Greytown and Martinborough plants and the application for Featherston's is well under way. The granting Commissioners were very complimentary of the standard of Council's applications and the proposed work plans however Council would now like to speed up the progress of installation.

This means we need to get your input on our proposals.

The consultation document is sent to every household in the Midweek newspaper, is available from our office, the libraries or online. Please take the time to read it and have your say.

Adrienne Staples
The Mayor



Featherston Town Square

Contractor Perkinson Civil Ltd starting moving on site at the end of February 2016 and work got under way in the first week of March.

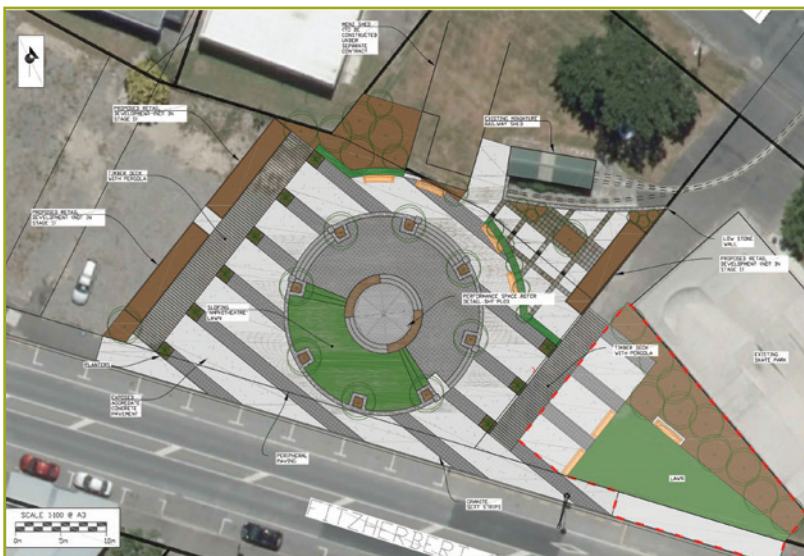
The timber fences at the rear of the site have been completed, as has the exposed aggregate slab in front of the Menz Shed.

The low stone wall by the Cross Creek Railway shed is 90% completed.

The off-site construction of the pergola framework is almost complete, and the foundation for the centre stone walls has started.

Most of the general site excavation and levelling has been completed. Lead contractor Alan Perkinson is very happy with progress so far, and says they are working well with the local sub-contractors.

Once the pergola frame work arrives there will be a lot more activity on site.

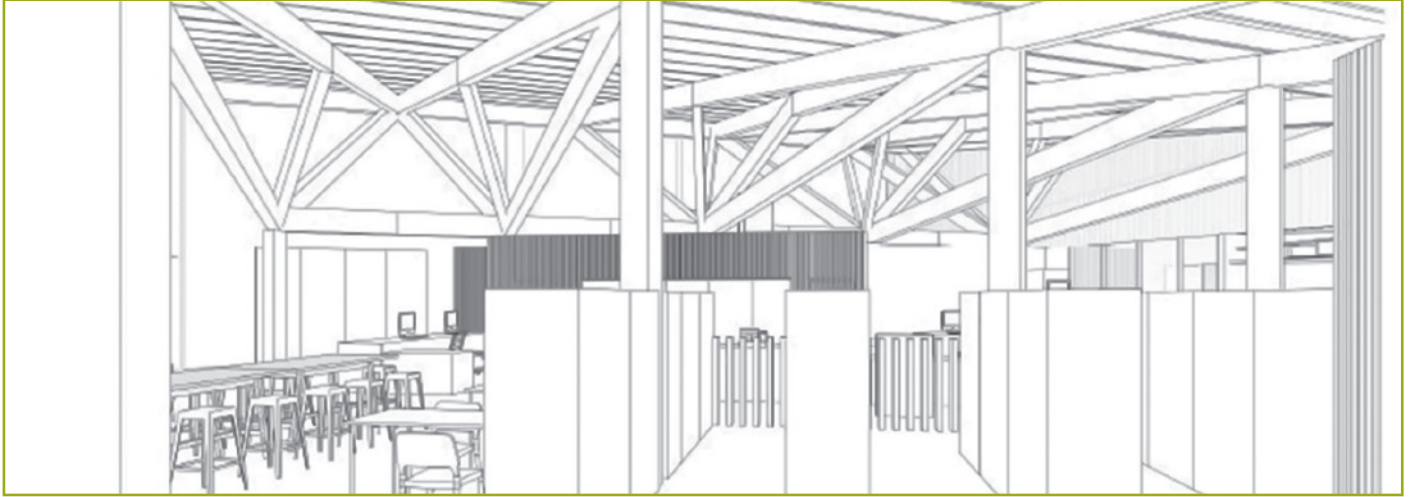


Greytown Wheels Park

The Greytown Wheels Park Steering Group has met twice. An analysis of all possible sites has been carried out, and at this stage the Council-owned land on Pierce Street in Greytown looks to meet most of the criteria. Steering Group members are now looking into plans for the various possible elements of the park (BMX, pump, skate, scoot, children's practice area for road cycling etc.), and will prepare a consultation plan and costings. The Steering Group meets again in April 2016.



Martinborough Waihinga Centre



At the South Wairarapa District Council Meeting on 24 February, Council passed a resolution to proceed with stage one of the Waihinga Centre project.

Building is anticipated to start in July 2016, following the standard tender selection process, and is expected to be completed in approximately one year. Exact start and finish dates have not been finalised.

Stage one of the Waihinga Centre includes a strengthened and refurbished town hall, the new extension and essential landscaping works.

The town hall will have a new back of house area (changing rooms double as meeting spaces), a non-commercial heat and eat kitchen, a restored foyer space, existing toilets will be removed, the supper room floor will be lifted, a new storage room, access and connection to the Waihinga Centre, and general renovation and maintenance work.

The new building will have a wind lobby entrance, i-site, library, Plunket clinic and shared meeting space, a children's toy library, a gallery for public exhibitions, servery, new public toilets including accessible toilets and a baby changing station.

Also included is essential landscaping including a new car park, entry to the front of the new building including steps and ramps, access to the rear of the building from the new car park and some external lighting.

For more detail about stage one go to www.swdc.govt.nz

The Waihinga Charitable Trust was established in 2015 to accept public donations and other nominated funds for the Waihinga Centre project and distribute the funds raised according to the terms of the trust deed. New donations or donation enquiries can be made to Victoria Read 0272 271 252 or victoria@victoriaread.co.nz. Fundraising is continuing.

Waste Water Consents

In February 2016 the Commissioners appointed by Greater Wellington Regional Council to hear the consent applications for the distribution of treated wastewater have granted South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) a 35 year consent (the maximum allowable) for both the Martinborough and Greytown.

Wastewater from Greytown, Martinborough and Featherston is currently treated in oxidation pond systems which were built in the early 1970s.

The current systems cannot effectively remove nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. When these nutrients are released into the waterways, algae and plankton can proliferate, contributing to algal blooms which are possibly toxic to humans and fish.

In 2015 SWDC applied for 35 year consent to divert this treated wastewater from our water ways to irrigate land instead, which was granted on 11 February 2016.

The independent Commissioners were very complimentary about the standard of the application to the Greater Wellington Regional Council, saying the SWDC's application and expert



evidence was of a high level of comprehensiveness and quality and that their approach was responsible and commendable.

It is expected that the proposed wastewater upgrade will take more than 30 years to complete. The total cost is estimated at around \$29M.

Council will spread the cost to ratepayers in small increments over many years, so the upgrade is affordable to the limited number of wastewater ratepayers funding the three schemes.

Water Supply - Featherston and Greytown Water Supply Improvement Project

Since the water treatment plant was built in 2000 to service both Greytown and Featherston, there have been a number of challenges which Council have had to manage:

The main issue is the inability of the plant to process suitable drinking water if the Waiohine River remained in flood for an extended period of time, the water being too dirty to process.

In 2011 seed funding was provided by the Ministry of Health's 'drinking-water subsidy programme' to investigate a groundwater source for the existing supply.

SWDC made another subsidy application to the Ministry of Health in 2013 for funding to install two further bores, a raw water main from the three bores to the treatment plant, UV reactors, instrumentation for the bores and UV and further treated water storage. A subsidy of \$617,500 was provided for all of the above except the treated water storage.

A further subsidy of \$50,000 was made available in April 2015 making a total available subsidy to the SWDC of \$667,500.

Once the subsidy was granted another two bores were drilled and proven to be fit for purpose. The bore-field design began and Stage One of the project was developed and a tender was let to Ordish and Stevens Ltd of Masterton for the installation of the pumping, control and pipeline works.

Project benefits include a better quality source water not requiring filtration and as a result lower production costs. This is because the existing filters normally will not need to be used and there is little water lost during the new treatment process.

We will be able to comply with the current New Zealand Drinking Water Standards and have better security of supply for both Featherston and Greytown by having both the bore-field and the front line source and the river take available as the reserve supply.



Rebates 2015/16

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610.00 for low income earners.

Ratepayers must have been living in the house on 1 July 2015 and be listed as an owner on the certificate of title.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your Income from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, your rates and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$0-\$42,000.
- ◆ You must provide proof for all forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online.
www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property

Get Your Rates invoice by email

If you would like to receive your rates invoice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option, as savings made on postage can be put towards projects that will benefit the district.

Having Trouble Paying your Rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan.

Council's policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to assist us in recovering arrears at the end of the rating year.

Payment by Direct Debit

For the many who have asked, we now offer both a **monthly** and a **quarterly** direct debit facility to pay rates.

Direct debit is the cheapest way to pay your rates as we withdraw the funds directly from your bank account at the very last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest possible time, and avoid penalties. If you would

like your payments to be made by using this method the forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office and on our website www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property. All you need to do is complete the form and send it to the Council Office, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741 or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston and Greytown Libraries.

Rates 2015/16 Instalment Four

Enclosed with this newsletter is the third rates assessment/invoice for the rating year, covering 1 April – 30 June

**The last day for payment
is 20 May 2016**

**Please pay by this date to
avoid the 10% penalty.**

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the property (RID) number for **all** properties you are paying. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

GET IT SORTED

To South Wairarapa District Council, P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

From:

First Name

Surname

What's the Problem?

Where Exactly?

Street, Road, Number

Your Phone Number *(Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)*