

April 2014

Looking South



A Message from the Mayor

The year ahead is looking busy and exciting for Council. There are several projects on the horizon as well as business as usual services which are the nuts and bolts of what we do.

The new cycleway over the Rimutakas is proving extremely popular even with the minimal promotion it has had so far. To encourage cycling visitors into Featherston we are looking at ways of linking Cross Creek with Featherston township. This involves forming a cycleway along Western Lake Road to keep the bikes and pedestrians out of the traffic flow. This will improve safety for visitors and locals alike. Also under consideration is the best utilization of the Martinborough Town Hall and the revitalisation of the Featherston Town Centre. Last but not least are the planned upgrades to the waste water plants. This last item often is probably the biggest and most important project this council will undertake in its lifetime.

Please take the opportunity to have your say on all of these matters through our Annual Plan process.



Adrienne Staples
The Mayor

The Martinborough Town Hall

Plans for a new Community Centre in Martinborough were shared with the community at a public meeting on Thursday 3rd April. The Town Hall Working Group and SGL (professional leisure planners and funding advisors) have come up with a proposal that will transform the Martinborough Town Hall and surrounding area into a community hub, with plans incorporating a new Library space, Plunket, the Toy Library and the i-Site.



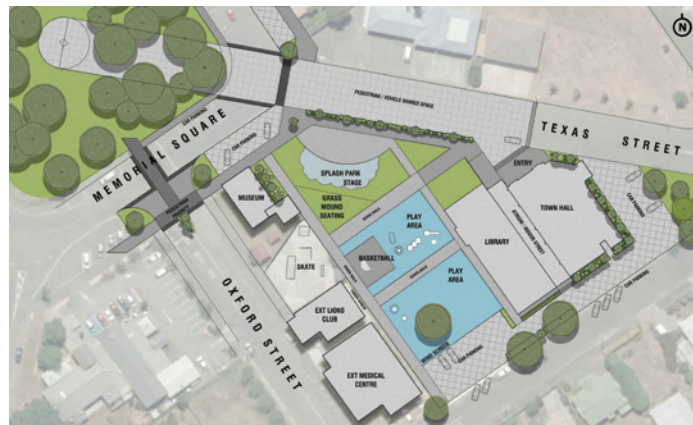
The new Town Hall from an artist's perspective

The acoustics and history of the existing Town Hall auditorium will be retained ensuring many more years ahead of MadCaps and musical offerings from Jazz in Martinborough and other performers. This project also provides us with a great opportunity to develop a destination playground and outdoor events space which will be exciting for both residents and visitors.

The plan has been developed to have no significant impact on rates, with Council continuing to fund facilities, such as the library, it is currently responsible for.

An amazing amount of work has gone into this project over the last few years and thanks must go to the members of the Town Hall Working Group who have brought the project to this stage.

Now we need your support, particularly during the Annual Plan process. To support this exciting project please complete a submission form by the 19th May. These can be found online at swdc.govt.nz or you can pick one up at the Council offices.



The proposed site plan H



Rubbish and Recycling

Windy days continue to be a concern to both residents and our Waste Operations contractor, please use your discretion as to whether you put your rubbish/recycling out with heavier objects placed on top to help weigh it down and prevent it from blowing around the streets, which has been a regular occurrence on windy days. The contractor endeavours to collect all recycling ahead of potential winds but this is not always possible, your cooperation is appreciated.

Inorganic Collections for 2013

5-9 May 2014 5-8 August 2014

The Inorganic Collection takes place on your normal collection day twice a year:

Items **MUST** be out on the kerbside by 7:30AM. Typical items may include unwanted furniture and small home appliances.

One item per property able to be lifted by one person

Note for Tora, Te Awaiti and White Rock coastal residents:

If your regular collection day falls after one of the above dates, your inorganic collection day will be aligned with your regular collection day.

Cemeteries

The South Wairarapa District is home to four historic cemeteries where the founders of our towns, pioneers and original settlers are buried. Three of these cemeteries are still in use – one in each town – and the fourth is the closed pioneer cemetery in Martinborough.

The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 requires local authorities to establish and maintain cemeteries. While South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) maintains the grounds of the cemeteries, including gardens and weed spraying, the council is unable to maintain individual family memorials and headstones. Memorial headstones which are erected by families for their loved ones belong to those families, and it is their responsibility to maintain them. There are many memorial headstones in our cemeteries which are over 100 years old, and while some have stood the test of time, a lot are in need of maintenance.

If you have family members interred in a SWDC-administered cemetery and would be interested in restoring or carrying out general maintenance on a memorial headstone, contact your local monumental mason for advice. If you need any help locating a grave or

identifying a plot number, contact us here at the council.

South Wairarapa District Council is also eager to encourage the development of a Friends of the Cemetery group for each cemetery – volunteers who assist the Council

in the preservation and development of the cemetery, particularly the historic areas. Cemetery friends can help by maintaining historic graves which are not maintained by descendants, as well as contributing towards the ongoing development of the cemetery. Future opportunities will include being able to assist with the development of the online database for the cemeteries. If you are interested in forming a group or taking part please contact the council.

The SWDC cemeteries contact is Sara Sutherland, Amenities Administrator, Phone: 06 306 9611 extension 833 or email Sara.Sutherland@swdc.govt.nz.



NZTA FAR review

NZTA is reviewing how the funding assistance rates (the percentage that NZTA funds local roads) are calculated.

The latest information is that under the provisional framework those territorial authorities who have 'special purpose roads' such as the "Cape Palliser Rd", in their districts would receive the same funding assistance rate for those special purpose roads as they would for all the other local roads in their network.

Name of road	Location	Road controlling authority (district)	Approx. length	Date of Board resolution/ (notice)	Gazette notice reference	Reasons why declared a subsidised highway or special purpose road (if known)	Status of the carriageway now
South Wairarapa District							
Cape Palliser Road	From the intersection with Lake Ferry Road to its terminus at Cape Palliser	South Wairarapa District Council (South Wairarapa District)	37.7km	(15 September 1997)	18 September 1997, page 3101	SH Review recommendation. Due to high tourism value and high maintenance costs with minimal local rate income.	SPR

Your Representatives

In this and future editions of the Rates Newsletter we will profile local Councillors and Community Board Members so you can better get to know those whom you have elected to represent your interests both at Council and at the Community Board.

MARGARET CRAIG

Greytown Ward Councillor and Community Board Member since 2007

Always ready to listen to others' points of view, I am a proactive, committed representative and advocate for fair and sensible policy and planning decisions and outcomes for all sectors of our community.

Arriving in the Wairarapa in 1965, both Bruce and I have lived and worked in all three South Wairarapa Wards. Following my retirement in 2007 from a teaching career that spanned 46 years, we finally realised our goal of owning a home in Greytown.

Currently, in addition to my Council commitments, I am the organist at St Andrew's church, a member and past Secretary of the SW Probus Club, and serve on the Arbor House Trust Board.

Council appointments have included the Cobblestones Trust, the Wairarapa Healthy Homes Committee, Waste Minimisation, Reserves & Amenities and Emergency Services Focus Groups, Wellington Region Waste Forum, and I am Chairperson of the Wairarapa Road Safety Council.

My many interests include a passion for ICT, music, reading, gardening and travel. With our children living overseas for many years, we have been fortunate to travel extensively in UK, Europe, Asia and Australia. None of those experiences however, can beat the lifestyle and community that we share with the people of the South Wairarapa.

Water Supply and Waste water Disposal Policy applies from 1 May 2014

The Council water supply systems have capacity limitations and therefore when requests for new connections and sub divisional development are made they will be approved dependant on the system capacity. The available capacity varies from township to township, and while capacity is not currently an issue each application needs to be considered taking into account circumstances that exist at the time of the application.

Where connections to new subdivision lots and other properties (where serviceable rates have not been paid) are made, applicants will be required pay capital contributions to join the existing system at a rate set by the Council from time to time.

Council's obligation to provide town water supply is in reference to Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council Consolidated Bylaw 2012, Part Five: Water Supply. Council's goal, strategies and policies are made public through the Annual Plan process each year and Long Term Plan (LTP) every three years.

New Rural water supply connections are for domestic use only, and to meet that demand, supply is limited to 1500 litres per twenty-four hours. An on demand supply may be offered to urban size property in the rural area at the discretion of the Council. An urban size property is deemed to be 1000 square meters or less.

Waste Water Disposal Policy – Connections to Sewer Reticulation System

Applicants are required to provide as-built plans of connections on completion for Council records. Road opening bonds will not be refunded until as-builts are lodged.

Council's obligation to provide sewer connections is in reference to Masterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council Consolidated Bylaw 2012, Part Eleven: Wastewater Drainage. Council's goal, strategies and policies are made public through the Annual Plan process each year and LTP every three years.

Urban boundaries are those defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.

Rural areas are those areas defined in the Combined District Plan Maps.

In rural areas, sewer connections, if available, are for domestic use only for a residential size site deemed to be not greater than 1000 square meters in area. The relevant conditions for new connections in the urban zones shall apply equally to new connections in the rural zone.

Draft Annual Plan Meetings

Formal consultation on the Draft Annual Plan will take place over the period **Wednesday 16 April 2014 to Monday 19 May 2014.**

Council will be hosting informal public workshops at the following locations to present and discuss the Draft Annual Plan with interested members of the public:

Featherston: Kiwi Hall, 7pm, 6 May 2014

Greytown: Greytown Town Centre, 7pm, 7 May 2014

Martinborough: Council Chambers, 7pm, 8 May 2014

You are most welcome to attend and discuss the background and content of Annual Plan with Her Worship the Mayor, Councillors and community board members.

Rebates 2013/14

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$595 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2013.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your Income, from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$23,870
- ◆ However if your income exceeds this amount you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total cost of your rates and number of dependants. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office.

Would you prefer to receive your rate demand by email?

We now have the facility to send rate demands by email. If you wish to receive your rate demand by email please email rates@swdc.govt.nz, and we will add your details to our database.

We encourage you to take up this option, some local authorities have up to 20% of rate demands delivered by email and at 70c per envelope the savings are considerable and of benefit to all.

Rates 2013/14 Instalment Four

Enclosed with this newsletter is the fourth rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 April – 30 June

The last day for payment is 20 May 2014

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

Payment by direct credit is welcomed. Please help us to process these payments by including the property (RID) number for **all** properties you are paying.

Direct Debit Forms

We included with a previous Rates Notice a direct debit form hoping to encourage ratepayers to consider this method of rates payment, if not already signed up. 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 get the benefit of your funds for the longest possible time.

If you have not had the opportunity to do so but would like to pay by Direct Debit please complete

and return that form to us. If you have not kept the form we sent, just contact us by phone or email/post or drop in to one of our service centres to arrange to complete the required form.

We are very pleased with the response to our last notice about paying by Direct Debit with 200 additional ratepayers signed up. Our thanks to all those who pay by this method as administratively it is easier for us and means you not having to stress about paying on time.

GET IT SORTED

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

From:

Name

Surname

What's the Problem

Where Exactly?

Street, Road, Number