

October 2015

# Looking South



## A Message from the Mayor

### A strategy for the future of Featherston "Featherston 2033"

#### The beginning

During 2014 and after taking ownership of the block of land that had been cleared to enable a proposed new supermarket to be built on, Council kicked off a number of processes to look into the future of the land.

#### Town Square

The first initiative of Council involved a proposal to form a new town square at the north eastern end of the block. This proposal was developed and feedback was sought by Council during 2014. Following the consideration of the consultation feedback, the proposal was refined to "design concept" status by a professional Landscape Architect, and feedback on the design sought. We have instructed our engineer to call for tenders for this work. A decision to proceed is pending.

#### Menzshed / VUW Student Study

The second initiative involved the establishment of a Menzshed facility. This is now largely complete.

The third initiative was the VUW student study which generated conceptual landscape architecture designs for Featherston. The student work stream arose from a partnership among the Community Board and Council and Victoria University. The concepts and ideas created were a means of stimulating discussion about the future of Featherston. The results (5 group and 21 individual projects) were presented to Council and community through a public exposition in late 2014.

#### Follow through actions by Council

In November 2014 Council looked at the students work and identified its strengths and weaknesses and set out a path for a more detailed review of the ideas and concepts.

First was to "extract the core values" or themes. This assessment was considered in February 2015. **4 main themes** were drawn from the VUW study, these focussed on

- ◆ "A sense of place",
- ◆ "A vibrant town centre and public space network",
- ◆ "Accessibility and Infrastructure" and
- ◆ "Valuing ecology and amenity".

The next step was to take the projects categorised under each theme and identify the "key actions". This was necessary to penultimate projects which were practical and could be further investigated for engineering, planning and urban design function and cost.

This evaluation was completed in June 2015. Council then adopted a strategy for Featherston (Featherston 2033) which prioritised two initial tasks. These relate to

Re-organisation of local government is still on the table despite the super-city model being discarded. Many people think that because that proposal was rejected that we wish to continue on in the same way for the foreseeable future. This is incorrect.

The three Wairarapa councils still believe, that with modern technology, there is no longer a need for three small councils in the Wairarapa district. There is an opportunity to develop modern, efficient ways of doing council business throughout the district. The experience of dealing with Council should be seamless across Wairarapa regardless of where you reside. We are therefore still working actively with the Local Government Commission to develop a model for Wairarapa which will see local decision making in control of Wairarapa's destiny.

The Local Government Commission is working with Councils throughout the Wellington Region to identify what needs to be done differently or better. It hopes that by working with us, we can come up with a model that addresses these needs and has the support of the public in general.

Local Government reorganisation is still very much alive so keep a look-out for updates on its progress.

Adrienne Staples  
The Mayor



the key transport routes through Featherston and the entrance points to the town (gateways).

#### Focus of Next Steps - Actions looking ahead over next year (2015-2016)

1. investigate transport routes / gateways - target completion date is April 2016.
2. consider budgetary impacts (AP and LTP) and work requirements (resources) to implement findings – by June 2016.
3. Commence investigations into landuse requirements and economic development opportunities – May 2016 (if funding available).

## Wairarapa Healthy Homes

This programme which is sponsored by the South Wairarapa District Council, still has plenty of quota for Free Home insulation in Wairarapa.

### Criteria:

If your home was built before 2000, you qualify for free installation where the home owner has a community services card or gold card with community services card endorsement AND you have anyone living in the home who is under the age of 17 OR over the age 65. In circumstances where these criteria cannot be met but where there is anyone suffering from a

medical condition it may be possible to obtain a health referral.

**Rentals** still a really good deal for landlords if tenants have community services cards and fit the criteria above.

Everyone else 33% discount.

FREE assessments: Please get us in to have a look if your house has not been assessed in the last 5 years chances are we can help.

For further information contact Lyn Tankersley, Branch Manager, Energy Smart 021 846 869 Or (06) 370 1019

## Attention all dog owners

Dog owners are reminded that the Greytown cycle trails are "on leash" areas, and we ask that all dog owners to follow this rule. There is clear signage at each end of the cycle trails to advise dog owners of this requirement.

In rural parts of the South Wairarapa dogs are not required to be held on a leash but must be kept under control at all times. There are off leash dog parks in each of the towns and these are a great place to let your dog stretch its legs and socialize with other dogs.

Please clean up after your dog when in public places.



## Event Organising

Summer is on its way and the South Wairarapa District is a great place to hold a major event. If you want to hold a large or multi-day event there are a few things that you need to organise to make sure it is enjoyable for visitors and residents.

Here is a list of things that you should work with Council officers on before you finalise the plans for your event. Firstly there is an Event Application Form which you can find on our website which you will need to complete. It covers the following:

### Food registration and alcohol licences

At your event will you or any vendors, prepare food on location, sell food or alcohol?

Email the Environmental Health team (bronwyn.johnson@swdc.govt.nz) or ring 06 306 9611 at least 40 days before the event for licencing and registration requirements. If you know the licences you need, visit our Health Licences and Registration page.

### Traffic

Will your event need to manage traffic and pedestrians or temporarily close a road?

Please provide a traffic management plan to the Infrastructure and Services department (tracy.gardiner@swdc.govt.nz) or ring 06 306 9611 to discuss your traffic issues. If you need to close a road you will need to make an application at least two months before the event.

### Building consent

At your event will you or any vendors have tents or marquees

over 100m<sup>2</sup> being used for less than one month, tents or marquees under 100m<sup>2</sup> being used for longer than one month, platforms or staging over 1.5m high or portable buildings?

Email the Building team (sara.edney@swdc.govt.nz) or ring 06 306 9611 for building consent application information. Please note a building consent takes up to 20 working days and cannot be processed unless all relevant information is provided. If you know the building consent form you need, visit our Building consents page.

### Resource consent

Does your event need to operate outside the hours of 7am and 10pm, run for more than five days (separate or consecutive) in any six-month period, use amplifiers or sound systems, have extra lighting or have signs on other sites?

These things trigger the need for resource consent. Email the Planning department (pamela.attrill@swdc.govt.nz) or ring 06 306 9611 to see if your proposal will need resource consent. Please note a notified resource consent (if required) can take three months or more so contact us as early as possible. If you know you'll need resource consent, download the Resource Consent Application Form and get started after talking to the Planning team.

### Campground registration

At your event will you or any vendors have a temporary campground?

Email the Environmental Health team (bronwyn.johnson@swdc.govt.nz), visit our health licences and registration page or ring 06 306 9611 at least 40 days before the event for registration requirements.

## Public participation at Council and community board meetings

At the start of each meeting 30 minutes is set aside for the public to speak to elected members. Speaking at meetings is a good way for you to express your opinion to your elected representatives. Each member of the public, or delegation, can speak for up to five minutes which is to include time for questions from members.

### What to do if you would like to speak

Your request to speak at any meeting must be notified to the Committee Secretary at least two working days prior to the meeting but preferably as soon as practicable. Requests to speak within the two working day period should be formally made to the chair of the meeting you wish to address and are approved at the chair's discretion.

You should provide the Committee Secretary the following information:

- ◆ Your name, title and contact details.
- ◆ Which meeting you wish to address.
- ◆ The subject matter
- ◆ If you're representing an organisation or group, the name of the organisation and any other speakers attending with you.
- ◆ A summary of the matters you intend to raise (optional).

### What topics can you comment on?

Council has adopted NZS9202:2003 Model Standing Orders for Meetings of Local Authorities and Community Boards which outlines public forum provisions. Public participation is first and foremost for public comment on matters that 'fall within the terms of reference of that meeting', or in other words items on the agenda.

You may address elected members at community board meetings (but not Council) on items not on the agenda, however scheduling priority will be given to persons speaking on agenda item matters and 'no resolution, decision, or recommendation in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion' can occur; S.46A(7)(7A) LGOIMA.

### Can my request to speak be declined?

Yes, it may be declined under the following conditions:

- ◆ You have not received permission from the Committee Secretary or meeting chair (deputy chair in their absence) prior to the meeting.
- ◆ The public forum is full or nearly full.
- ◆ Your subject topic is not on the agenda (Council)
- ◆ Your subject topic has been presented by you or your group/organisation in the past and has already been considered.

**Note:** Public participation is not available at hearings, the first meeting of the triennium or where the matter is being dealt with through a quasi-judicial process.

This information is available on our website: <http://www.swdc.govt.nz/public-participation-at-a-meeting>.

Suzanne Clark is Committee Secretary and can be contacted on 06 306 9611 xtn 858 or [suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz).

## Profiles of Councillors and Community Board Members

### Christine Stevenson

*Greytown Community Board*

I have been on the Greytown Community Board for nearly 15 years now and recently stood down as Chairperson a position I have held for the last 10. I am still learning! I enjoy working with the varied members of our community and hopefully helping to make Greytown an even better town than it already is.

David and I have lived in Greytown for 35 years and have brought up our four children here who all went to the local schools, then on to various universities. Two now live in London, one is doing his OE and one lives in Auckland.

I work at Solway College in Masterton where I am Deputy Principal and International Director. Both these roles are challenging and interesting and, working in an environment where students and teachers are always supportive and always striving for the best, makes my job easier and I love it!

I always am happy to try to help any members of the Greytown Community with any queries or issues so please do contact me via the Council Website contact information.



## Looking after the Drains

Did you know that those wet wipes many of us use for maybe removing makeup or when changing nappies have been clogging up drains and sewerage systems. Yes even those wipes described as flushable and biodegradable are not designed to flush away. Once they flush away from sight they can often catch on clay pipes and tree roots and once the flow of water passes they simply remain and dry out. Over time this can build up as more wipes collect and the consequence of the resultant blockage can be very expensive. So please take care never to flush the wipes into your system to avoid having an unnecessary expense and inconvenience to both yourself and other ratepayers when those wipes do not disappear as quickly as the packaging promised.

## Rebates 2015/16

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2015.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your Income, from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,440
- ◆ 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](mailto: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 80c per envelope the savings are considerable and of benefit to all.

## Rates 2015/16 Instalment Two

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 October – 31 December

**The last day for payment is 20 November 2015**

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

Further information about rates are included in "Part B" insert which accompanies this instalment.

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