

Looking South

October 2016



Waihinga Centre Turf Turning

On Saturday 10 September the Waihinga Centre Steering Group held a 'turf turning' event in Martinborough.

The turf turning event marked the beginning of the works for the Waihinga Centre Project.

As well as the turf turning by Mayor Adrienne Staples, there was a blessing of the works site by Paora Ammunson. Following the formal part of the event there was a family fun afternoon with a Kids Dig for children, live music, entertainment and a sausage sizzle. A highlight of the event was the mass hula hooping class, held by Lucy Cooper.

Waihinga Centre Project Next Steps:

Project Manager, David Borman says September and October will see a number of works beginning.

"The Geotech investigation, which tested the strength of the ground, has already been completed and the structural investigation work on the existing town hall is continuing. We're also investigating fibre options into the building to provide ultrafast broadband."

"I'm pleased to report that this project is moving along at a good pace and is going smoothly."



Project Manager, David Borman

Did you know?

The Council provides Graffiti Clean-up Kits!

They're available from the libraries free of charge in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough and also the Council Offices in Martinborough.



Featherston Town Square

Perkinson Civil completed the major clean-up of the site in September, including all pallets, surplus pavers and off-cuts from the Horokiwi Paving works, and any unsuitable soil and leftover base course piles.

The official opening of the new Featherston Town Square was held on 1 October.



Water Supply

Water supply issues recently in Hawkes Bay and Pahiataua have been a topical conversation for many.

SWDC CEO, Paul Crimp says the water supply testing the SWDC carries out continues to be robust.

“We meet all water safety standards set by the Ministry of Health. But we are in no way being complacent about this; the contamination experienced in other parts of New Zealand recently is a concern for many. Currently we test the Featherston/Greytown supply (chlorinated) weekly and Martinborough (unchlorinated) twice weekly. To make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure that our water supply continues to be safe, we are carrying out an internal review to triple check that the systems we have in place are the best they can be.”

The findings of the review will be presented to Council.



Berms and trees

Spring is here, and the grass (and weeds) are growing like topsy! Council's parks and reserves contractors only mow urban street berms adjacent to Council properties, parks and reserves, as well as the town entrances. For Council to mow all of the urban berms would cost roughly three times as much as the current regime, which would of course have an impact on rates. Because of this, we ask residents to mow their own berms. If you are unable to mow your own berm, Council will cut it once the grass height reaches approximately 150mm.

Trees and hedges are also growing energetically at this time. Residents are responsible for keeping the trees and hedges on their boundary pruned so that they do not overhang or obstruct pedestrians walking on berms and footpaths.

If your trees overhang your street boundary, please make sure there is a 2.5m vertical clearance between the lowest part of the tree and the ground. Keep hedges cut back to the boundary line – don't let them creep out until they block the footpath.

If you want to plant trees in the berm in your street, you will need Council's permission to do so. While we encourage tree planting to improve the appearance of our streets, not all berms are suitable for planting, for example if there are overhead power lines, or underground services. You can see Council's Urban Street Tree Policy on our website. If you would like to plant trees, or there are street trees you have concerns about, you can talk to someone in our Amenities team.



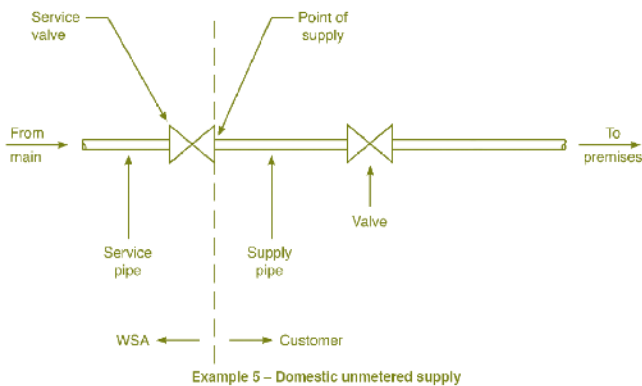
Water Connections

The council would like to remind residents of their responsibility to maintain their water and wastewater connections:

Water

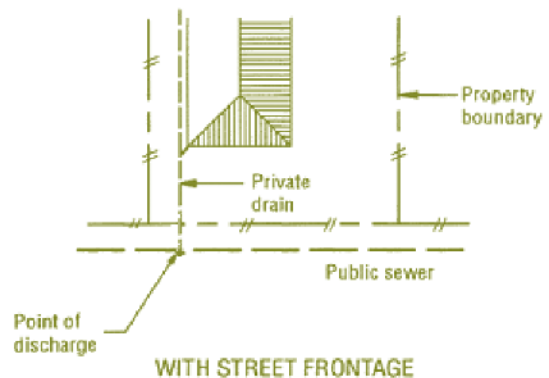
The property owner is responsible for the lateral from the council owned toby or water meter, see diagram below.

A regular check of your water meter is the best way to check for leaks in your property and eliminates the risk of a large water bill at the end of the year.



Wastewater

The property owner is responsible for the lateral up to the connection with the council sewer mains.



For more information please refer to the council website, or the policies below:

<http://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Consolidated%20Bylaws%20Part%205%20-%20Water%20Supply.pdf>



<http://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Consolidated%20Bylaws%20Part%2011%20-%20Wastewater%20Drainage.pdf>



Bee Friendly

September was Bee Aware month, and we celebrated by extending our local bee-friendly wildflower patches, with help from local schools. The weather wasn't great, so it was lucky we had some friendly bee umbrellas!

Children from Martinborough School helped Hannah from City Care, plant wildflower seeds in our bee-friendly patch at Centennial Park.

In Featherston, children from St Theresa's School sowed more wildflower seeds into the bee-friendly patch at the Mathews Garden Flats.



Rebates 2016/17

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2016.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,470-\$42,000.
- ◆ You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2015/2016 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property.

Get Your Rates invoice by email

We now have a facility to send rates invoices by email.

If you wish to receive your rate notice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option to allow Council to use the postage savings on projects to 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.

Rates 2016/17 Instalment Two

Enclosed with this newsletter is the third rates assessment/invoice for the rating year, covering 1 Oct – 30 Dec 2016

**The last day for payment
is 21 November 2016**

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

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

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 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.

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)*