

DRAFT

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**Martinborough Community Board Submission
on the Draft Proposal for Wairarapa District Council
DRAFT for discussion at the MCB meeting on 24 April 2017.**

Martinborough Community Board has not reached a consensus on a preferred option. Overall Martinborough Community Board does not believe that, in its current form, the proposal will deliver a favourable outcome for the Martinborough Ward. Much of the feedback we have received from ratepayers is negative with a wish to see the status quo remain.

We do not believe that one member representing Martinborough on a potentially 'Masterton centric' Wairarapa Council will allow for truly democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, the Martinborough Ward community, particularly with regard to reserves, parks, libraries, pools, town halls and other community assets and services. Community Boards will therefore, be crucial to the success of this proposal. We believe:

- That Community Boards must have decision making powers over all local assets and amenities.
- Community Boards must have a proper budget with elected members paid appropriately for this role.
- That Community Board Chairs should have speaking rights at Council meetings.
- Community Boards must have appropriate levels of officer support and a high level of involvement in the Annual and Long Term Planning processes.
- That Council must set aside adequate funds for training newly elected Community Board members.
- We would also ask the Commission to consider the inclusion of a Community Board representative on the Transition body. This may be a currently serving Community Board member or a Councillor with previous Community Board experience.

Should the proposal move forward there are some areas we support:

- The provision for a Wairarapa Committee of the Greater Wellington Regional Council, although concerns remain that this will be of little effect if GWRC does not respect the recommendations of the committee.
- Presence of the Martinborough Ward Councillor on the Rural Standing Committee
- Maintaining the current area offices, although we believe a strong service centre in South Wairarapa must be retained in the long term.
- The recommendation that CB terms of reference are discussed with existing Councils and Community Boards before being finalised by the Transition Body.

Correction:

Paragraph 30 states that the South Wairarapa Community Boards currently have 5 members, these boards currently operate with 4 members and two Councillor representatives.

Martinborough Community Board Submission

In response to SWDC's Consultation Document "Refining the Plan" 2017/18

This document should be read with the "Martinborough Community Board Annual Plan Input – March 2017" previously submitted to Council.

1. Animal Control

Martinborough Community Board (MCB) supports the development of a modern dog pound facility, but questions the advisability of exercising the dogs in the public dog park unless their vaccination status is confirmed.

2. Swimming Pools

MCB supports the provision of free access to the swimming pools, particularly for our young people. We believe that the health and activity benefits would outweigh the cost to SWDC.

We have previously requested that SWDC investigate providing free swimming to all those aged 18 and under to remove all barriers (financial and administrative) for our young people to swim and are pleased to see this in the consultation document. (Lisa Cornelissen declared a conflict of interest, as she is a Director of Martinborough Holiday Park Limited which currently pays SWDC for their guests' children to swim).

We also suggest that SWDC may wish to investigate commercial sponsorship of the Martinborough pool facility to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

3. Roothing and Footpaths

Martinborough Community Board (MCB) supports the proposal to defer roading rehabilitation to fund improvements to urban footpaths and crossings. We question whether \$150,000 across the three main centres will be sufficient to achieve the stated aim.

4. WaiConnect / Broadband

We appreciate the work undertaken by WaiConnect to ensure Martinborough is included in the UFB2 rollout programme. Given the expected 2022 time frame we ask SWDC to set aside funds to ensure UFB is delivered to the Martinborough Medical Centre and the Waiinga Centre as soon as possible.

5. Wastewater

We congratulate SWDC on the work undertaken in this area and fully support continuing to defer the cyclical wastewater underground pipe asset replacement programme to accelerate stage one and two of irrigation to land for all three towns.

6. Solid Waste

Having been told that a review of collection days for Martinborough was not possible during the existing contract it is disappointing to see that this has not been included in

the tender process. We recommend that SWDC discuss collection days with the successful contractor at the earliest opportunity.

Martinborough has a large number of 'weekenders' and private homes available for rent, with high levels of weekend occupancy. Timely collection of rubbish as early as possible following the weekend would be appreciated and would resolve issues around wind and animals getting to the rubbish.

Rates are paid on these properties and we do not believe that tourists and weekenders should be expected to drop their rubbish at the transfer station on their way out of town. This is not the lasting impression of Martinborough we wish these visitors to have.

7. Bylaws Review

We support the proposed Bylaws Review and ask that Community Boards are given the opportunity to comment.

8. Fees and Charges

We note some rather large percentage changes to fees and charges in the consultation document and would like to understand the rationale behind these.