

Looking South

July 2018



A Message from the Mayor

This rates newsletter gives you an indication of the direction council is looking to head in the next 10 years. It is less focussed on infrastructure projects and more focussed on planning and building our future for South Wairarapa. We know and have budgeted for our assets and what is required to meet future population changes and legislative requirements. This is a good place to be in.

The Long Term Plan (LTP) was adopted by council on 27 June. The plan was a culmination of hundreds of hours work and took a year to put together. This year council choose to take a different approach to developing the plan; right from the initial discussions we involved not only councillors but members of the three Community Boards and the Māori Standing Committee in the LTP Working Party. We also had discussions with a wide range of focus groups who shared their vision for South Wairarapa, these ideas fed into the plan. This gave us a broad range of ideas, goals and direction.

The consultation document was also a different approach to what we have done before, it was easy to read and this was proved by the number of submissions from individuals, groups and organisations we received. I want to thank everyone who took the time to write a submission and present their submission in person to council. The responses to the plan were very positive and gave council a sense that the community believed we were heading in the right direction.

The exciting part of this is about to start with the implementation of this plan. Thank you to everyone involved from elected members, individuals, community groups and the SWDC staff for the many hours they have to work to put this together.

Viv Napier
The Mayor



Long Term Plan Projects 2018-2028

After considering all submissions to the LTP, the major projects that are going ahead are as follows:

- ◆ Producing a spatial plan for the district
- ◆ A project to promote and enhance the district
- ◆ Providing new infrastructure for visitors
- ◆ Introducing 240 litre wheelie bins for recycling
- ◆ Introducing E-waste disposal
- ◆ Grants for youth development

Following submissions to the LTP process the following new projects were approved:

- ◆ Contribution to a feasibility study for a sports hub in Greytown – proposed by Kuranui College, Greytown Sport and Leisure and Greytown Trust Lands Trust
- ◆ Contribution to new cricket blocks at Soldiers Memorial Park, Greytown
- ◆ A feasibility study for joining the Featherston Information Centre and Featherston library

Council also approved projects to review Community Boards Terms of Reference, commence installing bilingual signage for SWDC signs, support the Wairarapa Water project, a development plan for Card Reserve, approx. 1km of seal extension, removal of manganese from the Martinborough water supply and complete a rating review. SWDC has agreed to maintain the proposed cycle trail bridge across the Tauherinikau River.

Long Term Planning Grants

General Grants	2018/19 Approved Grants
Aratoi	25,000
Cobblestones	15,000
Connecting Communities - Neighbourhood support	10,000
Connecting Communities - Social services Coordinator	3,000
Enviroschools/Toimata	11,200
Featherston Booktown	2,000
Featherston Community Centre	2,000
Featherston Heritage Complex Society	2,000
Featherston Fell Museum	2,000
Gold Awards	1,665
Hau Ariki Marae	1,000
Maori Sports Awards	100
Martinborough Colonial Museum	2,000
Martinborough Dark Sky Society	3,000
Maori Standing Committee	10,000
NZ Memorial Museum, France	500
Para Kore Marae Incorporated	2,000
Pukaha to Palliser	10,000
Sport Wellington - Sports awards	500
Sport Wellington	5,000
Wairarapa Arts Festival (Kokomai)	5,000
Wairarapa Safer Community Trust	10,000
Wairarapa Trails Advisory Group	11,368
Wellington Free Ambulance	9,525
Wings over Wairarapa	8,000
Grants approved 2018/19:	151,858
Youth Grants	
Connecting Comm's - Wai Youth Council	1,000
Kuranui College	35,000
Kuranui College Prizegiving	350
The Wairarapa Whanau Trust (Alan Maxwell)	23,380
Wairarapa Road Safety Council - Driver Mentor Programme	5,000
Wairarapa Youth Education Training and Employment Partnership (YETE)	5,000
Youth Grants approved 2018/19	69,730

Waihinga Centre Update

Good Things Take Time

Good things take time, and the Town Hall and Waihinga Centre in Martinborough are proving to be no exception. Weather has been a very determined deterrent with rain in June being unprecedented, and sunshine extraordinarily limited. As a result, progress outside has been set back with rain bringing outdoor work to a halt for several weeks.

On top of weather deterring the expected progress, the project has also been impacted by late deliveries of some materials.

The delay of some materials has resulted in the reprogramming of the project, rescheduling trade resources to make sure the project continues inside.

The Town Hall and Waihinga Centre is expected to be completed in November 2018. Organisations and groups who have made pencil bookings for the Town Hall have been advised that there will be a delay and Council is working with these groups to ensure their events go ahead as planned in alternate venues in Martinborough.

Despite these delays there has been a lot of progress.

The outside of the Town Hall has had its first coat of paint. The main front doors have been sent away for finishing.

The vestibule floor and supper room have been refurbished and now have reinstated native wooden flooring. The walls upstairs have been prepared ready for painting.

Inside the building the first stage of the wiring has been installed in the walls and the bones of the plumbing are in place.

The strengthening of the Town Hall is mostly completed. Most recently a large steel beam has been installed along the length of the upper gallery leaving just the two remaining beams; a ladder beam for the proscenium and a cross steel framework for the area in the ceiling above the stage, both of which are to be fabricated in the next month. These will be the last of the steel beams to be installed.

The Waihinga Centre window frames are 95% complete with the glass expected to be installed in the first week of July. The cedar cladding on the outside of the building is well underway and within a couple of weeks the Rodeca cladding will be positioned on the exterior walls.

The design for the front and rear access to the building have been completed and work on this will begin shortly.

Creative Communities Scheme Funding

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme are being accepted until 24 August 2018 for arts projects commencing after the 7 September 2018. Approximately \$6,000 is available for distribution to suitable arts projects.

The application form and guide are available from the Council office, district libraries and Council's website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants.

For more information contact
Suzanne Clark 06 306-9611
or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.



Inorganic Collection August

The inorganic collection is for all South Wairarapa properties currently paying for refuse collection on their rates. The collection is limited to **one item** per property:

- ◆ Up to 15 kg in weight, and
- ◆ Must be able to be lifted by one person.

Typical items may include:

- ◆ A small piece of furniture (e.g. plastic chair), or
- ◆ A small home appliance (e.g. microwave).

No sofas or television sets please – these can be taken to the Martinborough Transfer Station (normal refuse charges apply).

Please do not put out any:

- ◆ Hazardous waste, or
- ◆ Green waste.

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

- ◆ 7-11 May 2018, and
- ◆ 6-10 August 2018.

Items must be out on the kerbside by 7:30am. Any unsuitable items will be left behind.

Rates payments

Effective 1 July 2017 SWDC offered ratepayers the option to pay the rates by weekly and fortnightly direct debit (DD) payments to go along with the Monthly and Quarterly options that were already on offer. Over the past 12 months there has been an amazing uptake of this service.

We currently have on record a total of 2,285 rating units being paid by direct debit. These figures continue to increase each week as more and more ratepayers are signing up.

Currently we have 1,146 rural ratepayers paying by DD, 337 Featherston ratepayers, 396 Greytown ratepayers and 406 Martinborough ratepayers.

These are split as follows: 1,746 Ratepayers making quarterly DD payments, 293 ratepayers making monthly DD payments, 132 ratepayers making fortnightly DD payments and 114 making weekly DD payments.

With new improvements to our DD system implemented recently we now have the ability to load multiple payment authorities against the one valuation account. This means that you can make rates payments from multiple accounts e.g. if your property has multiple owners now each owner can pay their share separately.

One of the key benefits with paying by DD is that the weekly, fortnightly and monthly payments are calculated based on the total amount owing right up to 30 June each year. Also there

are no late payment penalties and you don't need to adjust your automatic payment each year to make sure each instalment of your rates is covered by the due date.

Paying by DD can be of great benefit for those on a fixed income – payments are fixed and won't change and the sooner you start the direct debit payments the lower each payment will be as it will be spread over a longer period of time.

If you are eligible for a Rates Rebate, once the rebate is processed your direct debit payments will be recalculated to include the rebate amount which will reduce each payment.

As an example if your annual rates were \$2,500.00 and you opted to pay weekly by DD with payments starting 2 August 2018 your payments would be approximately \$52.00 per week until 30 June 2019. If you wanted to pay fortnightly your payments would be approximately \$104.16 per fortnight or monthly payments would be or \$227.27 per month.

If at any time during the rating year you are having difficulty paying your rates please contact us as there are payment plan options available. We can work out a plan that suits you and helps you avoid late payment penalties.

The Rates team can be contacted by phoning 06 306 9611 or emailing rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2018/19

Funding Round Open 1 July 2018 – 24 August 2018

Applications are now being accepted from school and sports club teams located in the South Wairarapa district.

SWDC has \$9,500, provided by Sport NZ, to give to local school or sports club teams in the South Wairarapa who have young people aged between 5-19 years that require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Application forms and eligibility criteria can be obtained from the Council office, Council website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants and South Wairarapa district libraries. If you want more information contact Suzanne Clark on 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.



Rebates 2018/19

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$630.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2018.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$25,180-\$42,000.
2. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
3. Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2017/2018 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.

For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following e-mail address: rates@swdc.govt.nz

Rates 2018/19 Instalment One

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates invoice covering the period 1 July – 30 September 2018.

**The last day for payment
is 20 August 2018**

**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

Council encourages ratepayers to pay rates via Direct Debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid paying penalties for late payment.

Based on feedback from ratepayers, we now offer **weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly** direct debit options to pay rates.

Direct debit is the easiest 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, scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz 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)*