

April 2018

Looking South



A Message from the Mayor

Council has passed the 2018- 2028 Long Term Plan (LTP) for consultation, submissions close on 23 April. This LTP sets out the council direction for the next 10 years. The document is very much looking to future development of the district and how we manage that development. It has a focus on forward planning, youth development and training and making the South Wairarapa a better place to live, work, and play. There is also an emphasis on reduction of waste and water conservation.

Our infrastructure is in a strong and predictable state so we are able to look to future development knowing we can accommodate future population growth and legislative changes at the same time discharging waste water to land.

The LTP has been developed with input from councillors, community boards and the Māori Standing Committee as members of the LTP Working Party. There was also early input from various sector groups who gave us their thoughts on their long term vision and aspirations for the district.

I thank everyone who has taken part in this process, giving your time and ideas to feed into the plan. I would also like to acknowledge our SWDC staff for their work over the development of the plan.

Council would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to submit their thoughts to this plan. Council is tasked with developing the plan but the community needs to own it and your feedback is very much appreciated.

Viv Napier
The Mayor



SWDC Roding Network Maintenance

Maintaining sealed roads

Routine maintenance of 400.9km sealed roads generally includes strengthening and smoothing when the road surface fails. Failures includes potholes, digouts, edge break, uneven surface.

Resealing

The seal on a road is like paint on your house - it keeps water out of the structure underneath. Like paint, the seal breaks down over time and starts to let water in. Approximately 19km is resealed annually.

When the surface starts to break down it is time to reseal. The ideal time to reseal is just before any damage and potholes occur, so your road may still look to be in good condition. SWDC aim to keep it that way.

Renewal

Road renewal covers the reconstruction, strengthening of the road surface and layers and can include realignment and widening.

Road renewal is undertaken when road surfaces become potholed, cracked, develop corrugations and rutting, pavement failures or the road subsides.

All roads reach a point where it is more economic to renew them than to continue to repair.

Drainage improvements are usually undertaken as part of road renewal works.

Maintaining unsealed roads

Routine maintenance of 268.0km unsealed roads generally includes, grading metalling, strengthening and smoothing when the ride condition deteriorates. Failure includes potholes, rutting and corrugation.

Drainage improvements are usually carried out in conjunction with both strengthening and smoothing.

Ratepayer subsidised seal extension

SWDC supports a ratepayer subsidised seal extension programme each year for low volume rural residential roads.

Maintaining road structures

Routine inspections are completed on roading structures throughout the district and a schedule of maintenance, and renewals is developed.

Structures include:

- ◆ 138 Bridges, box culverts, and large circular culverts
- ◆ 3 fords
- ◆ 11,823 metres of guardrails and railings
- ◆ cattle-stops and cattle underpasses.

Council does not own cattle-stops or cattle underpasses although they are inspected as part of the structures inspection programme and maintenance issues are passed onto the owner to attend to.

Drainage Maintenance

Routine inspections are completed on roading drainage facilities throughout the district and a schedule of maintenance, and renewals is developed.

Drainage includes:

- ◆ 2416 culverts with a combined length of 31.24km
- ◆ 81.9 km of concrete kerb and channel
- ◆ 569 sumps
- ◆ 617.15km earth side drains
- ◆ grass berms and unsealed shoulders

Cycle Paths and Footpaths

There is a 8.6km of cycle paths and 57.92km of footpaths. Maintenance is based on routine inspection and programmed maintenance and renewals.

Parks and Reserves

Mowing is a big part of Council's parks and reserves contract with City Care Ltd. There are more than 55 hectares of grass to be mown across south Wairarapa's parks, reserves, sports-fields, cemeteries and properties – that's around 65 football fields-worth of grass. There are specific requirements for each area – a certain length of grass on sports-fields, use of catchers in some parks, and special hand-mowing around services graves in the cemeteries. City Care's team use a variety of mowers, from the big tractor mower used on the sports-fields through an assortment of ride-on units to hand-mowers and weed-eaters. It's a never-ending job, especially during spring, or a warm wet summer when it becomes a race between grass and mower.

Safety is a key consideration for City Care, both the safety of their staff and any members of the public who might be around. There are frequent safety checks on the equipment and the transporter vehicles. Fire extinguishers are carried at all times, along with first aid kits. City Care staff have regular safety meetings, and before starting each task, every team member completes a hazard identification checklist – this ensures they know what they're doing, have the right training and equipment, and have checked the area for hazards and carried

Vegetation Control

Cyclic mowing is carried out on rural areas on all sealed roads and some unsealed roads to improve safety, visibility and where sight distances are limited.

Spraying of watertables, sign and bridge ends on rural roads is undertaken over two periods; during October to December, and April to May.

These spray periods are adjusted to suit growth and weather conditions.

High cut vegetation control up to 4.5m is planned where vegetation overhangs the carriageway.

A register of no spray zones is maintained and properties are included upon request.

Street cleaning

Routine mechanical and manual street sweeping is carried out within the urban boundaries of Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough

There are three zones, each having a different cleaning frequency.

Zone 1: Central Business District (CBD), roads are swept weekly

Zone 2: the main arterial roads are swept monthly

Zone 3: the balance of the streets, mainly in the residential areas are swept every three months.

Some specific areas have been identified that require additional cleaning for a period of eight weeks of the year during autumn.

Street Lights

Routine inspections are carried out in urban areas along with isolated rural inspections. Lights are replaced on a need basis.

All 805 lights are to be upgraded to LED lights for better efficiency and longer life.

out the actions required to control them. This includes traffic management plans when working alongside roads, along with safe parking of transporter vehicles, which are often coned off for extra visibility. For their own safety, team members wear long-sleeved high-visibility clothing, and use eye, sun and hearing protection while they are working.

If you've ever been in a park or cemetery while mowing is being done, you may have noticed that the mower operators either stop work when you get close to them, or move to another part of the park. This is to ensure that members of the public are kept safe from the mowers, and from any stones or objects that may come rocketing out from underneath them. A preliminary visual inspection won't always find a rock or golf ball lurking in the grass, and a mower can launch them some considerable distance with great force. City Care staff are paying close attention to what is going on around them, especially the movement of people and vehicles into their work area.

You can contribute to mowing safety by picking up stones or rocks you find in grassed areas, making sure you don't leave objects on the ground on sports-fields and in the grassed areas of cemeteries, and keeping well clear of the mower operators while they are working.

Inorganic Collection Dates

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.

Long Term Planning

The 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) is Council's key strategic planning document, and is currently being developed in consultation with the community. Council has a Long Term Plan Working Party made up of the Mayor, councillors, community board and Māori Standing Committee members. Sector group meetings have also been held with stakeholder groups in our community.

Consultation Document

The Consultation Document is Council's formal consultation method and focusses on the key issues the Council wants to discuss with residents. The Consultation Document is available online, with hard copies available from South Wairarapa libraries and the Council office. The supporting documents and further information are also available online, and at the Council Office and the Featherston and Greytown Libraries.

Timeline

- 28 March** LTP Consultation Document published in the Wairarapa Midweek
- 23 April** Submissions Close
- 14 May** Submissions Hearings and Deliberations – Day 1
- 15 May** Submissions Hearings and Deliberations – Day 2
- 16 May** Submissions Hearings and Deliberations (Reserve Day, to follow Council)
- 27 June** Adoption of LTP

Making a Submission

The submission process is now open, see our website for information on how to make a submission – swdc.govt.nz

All rural dogs must be registered

Our Bylaws Officers often come across unregistered dogs and there seems to be a trend of unregistered rural dogs. We often hear people say "my dogs are working dogs so I don't need to register them". This is not correct.

ALL dogs are required to be registered, i.e. urban, and rural, pig dogs and working dogs. Council have a rural registration fee which is affordable to assist rural owners with multiple dogs, including working dogs.

Rural owners need to be aware that it is an offence under Section 42 of the Dog Control Act 1996 to fail to register a dog. The cost of an infringement is **\$300 per dog**, which is around the cost to register 15 rural dogs.

Registration fees enable Council to respond to incidents in urban and rural areas including attacks on people, pets and stock, wandering dogs, dogs found amongst stock, barking dogs and aggressive behaviour.

Walking your dogs in public places within the urban area

We have noticed that some dog owners continue to walk their dogs unleashed in public places within the urban area. All dogs must be on a leash. Carrying a leash that is not connected to your dog does not mean it is "leashed". You may be issued with an infringement of \$300 for Failure to comply with a Bylaw. Please use the designated off leash areas to run your dog's off leash.



Rebates 2017/18

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$620.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2017.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,790-\$42,000.
2. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
3. Application forms have already been sent to those who have received a rebate in 2016/2017 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 2017/18 Instalment Four

Enclosed with this newsletter is the fourth rates invoice covering the period 1 April – 30 June 2018.

**The last day for payment
is 20 May 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)*