



New Annual Plan now available

Thank you to all those who provided feedback on the Annual Plan. After much consideration, the Council approved the new initiatives listed below. The resulting rates increase of 5.48% is slightly higher than the 4.76% forecast in the Long Term Plan, and the 4.69% forecast in the Annual Plan Consultation Document.

New initiatives in the Plan include:

- a 12-month trial in the reduction in library charges (option 2 as set out in the consultation document; the same option was chosen by Carterton District Council)
- a trial of extended swimming pool hours for one season, at the end of which we will examine swimmer numbers during the extended hours
- a change in funding of our housing for seniors, which includes a rental increase for tenants
- extra footpath maintenance funded by infrastructure reserves
- increased funding to build a new dog pound.

Dog rego reminder

A reminder that if you've not paid your Dog Registration Fees yet, please do so soon as possible as registration payments after 31 July incur a 50% late fee. Applications to register dogs can be made at the Council offices or libraries in Greytown and Featherston.



Welcome from new Chief Executive Harry Wilson



I'm delighted to be South Wairarapa District Council's new Chief Executive. This is not my first time as a local authority chief executive. I've previously held the role at Waikato Regional Council, but most recently I've been working at New Zealand Transport Agency in Wellington.

When I accepted the role I wasn't very familiar with the area, but since being here just a month I feel very much at home. I've been out meeting various individuals and groups involved in a range of Council projects. It's great that so many of us share the same goal – whether it's about clean, clear, safe, secure, drinking water for Martinborough, or getting wastewater out of the waterways near Featherston. I'm looking forward to listening to all sides and helping Council achieve the best outcomes for the community.

I acknowledge it's been a challenging time and want to thank Jennie Mitchell who acted as Chief Executive over the past few months. I'm grateful for all her efforts and achievements while she was in the role. My priorities for now are to continue listening and learning about the issues, and supporting the Council on some of the urgent tasks at hand.

Of course, we have the local election coming up. Candidate nominations are open 19 July to 16 August (noon). Email elections@swdc.govt.nz for more information. It's really important that our Council represents the community it serves, and that you have your say on who you want to represent you. These are the people who will make decisions about the services you use every day, like water, pavements, parks and rubbish and recycling collection. To check you are on the electoral roll, visit www.elections.org.nz.

As a final note, my old dog is now registered and a happy Martinborough resident.

Harry Wilson



Diverting wastewater from our waterways

Switching on Greytown's wastewater to land irrigation scheme last month was a major milestone in South Wairarapa District Council's journey to diverting wastewater from our waterways.

The irrigation scheme was formally switched on by Mayor Viv Napier at an event on 13 June, with councillors, community board members, and community and contractors. Thank you to all those involved.



Featherston wastewater community drop-in sessions

The Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade proposal is undergoing a new round of community engagement. Council will be holding community drop-in sessions for Featherston residents at The Royal Hotel, Featherston, as follows:

- Tuesday 9 July - 11.30am - 1.30pm and 6.30-8.30pm
- Wednesday 17 July - 11.30am - 1.30pm and 6.30-8.30pm; and
- Thursday 25 July - 11.30am to 1.30pm and 6.30-8.30pm.

More information on our website, including videos and frequently asked questions, at www.swdc.govt.nz/wastewater. If you have any questions or comments about the project, please email FTNwater@swdc.govt.nz.

Chlorination of the Martinborough water supply

Urgent action is required to ensure that the town's water is clean, clear, safe and secure for the long-term. On Wednesday 26 June, Council agreed to consult with the community on the risks associated with the existing arrangements for the town's temporary water chlorination, and the timing and construction of the manganese removal plant.

The manganese naturally occurring in the town's water supply can block filters and when mixed with chlorine can cause discolouration. The town is currently being supplied with water from one bore with low enough manganese levels to allow chlorination. However, operating from one bore is not sustainable so we need to act now.

Council will soon be actively seeking an exchange of information, points of view and options regarding the continuance of chlorination. At the same time, Council will proceed towards building the manganese extraction plant to allow permanent chlorination.

The build will be primarily loan funded with the remainder coming from the Martinborough infrastructure reserve. This means that the cost of the manganese plant will be achieved within the Annual Plan budget.

Recycling wheelie bins are coming

Wheelie bins for recycling are coming soon to urban households who receive the Council recycling collection service. The wheelie bins are being delivered over the coming weeks, with the service expected to start in September. As well as giving extra recycling capacity, they will have lids with clips to keep recyclables from blowing away. Smart tags on the bins will also help identify bins that go missing.

The current recycling crates are not going away, but instead will be used for glass only. Wheelie bins and crates for glass will be picked up on alternate weeks. When you receive your wheelie bin, you'll get a handbook to answer any questions. In the meantime, you'll find frequently asked questions on our website.

Large item kerbside collection

This 'inorganic' refuse collection takes place twice a year on your usual collection day in the week commencing 29 July 2019. The collection schedule is as follows:

- Monday 29 July - Martinborough rural and coastal
- Tuesday 30 July - Greytown
- Wednesday 31 July - Martinborough
- Thursday 1 August - Featherston.

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.

Items must be out on the kerbside by 7:30am. Any unsuitable items will be left behind – small pieces of furniture are fine but please no sofas or mattresses, hazardous or green waste. More information available on our website.



How do you want South Wairarapa to look in the future?

The South Wairarapa District Spatial Plan will help us prepare for ongoing growth and development in our district. It will provide a blueprint for where development should occur, what kind of development, and how much.

We want to hear from you.

Look out for the Discussion Document in the 10 July issue of the MidWeek, in our libraries, the Council office, and on our website at www.swdc.govt.nz/spatial-plan.



Creative Communities Scheme Funding

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme are being accepted until 30 August 2019 for arts projects commencing after the 18 September 2019. 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.



Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2019/20

Funding Round Open 1 July 2019 – 23 August 2019

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 2019/20

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$640.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2019.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$25,560-\$42,000.
2. 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 2018/2019 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.

Rates 2019/20 Instalment one

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates invoice covering the period 1 July – 30 September 2019.

The last day for payment is 20th August 2019. 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.

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



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 SWDC, 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 or Greytown Libraries.



GET IT SORTED

Something needs fixing?
Let us know...

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)*