

**Strategy Working Committee
Representation Review Hearings
19 September 2024**



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Kia Reretahi Tātau

UPDATED SCHEDULE AND SUBMISSIONS PACK

Time Block Start	Submission Number	Name	Page number
10:35am	065	Claire Bleakley	1-3
	026	Louise Lyster	4-6
	027	Shane Atkinson	7-9
11:10am	072	Jill Pettis	10-12
	116	Roger Fraser	13
12:30pm	076	Martinborough Community Board	14-17
	077	Mary Clare Bennett	18-20
	049	Storm Robertson	21-23
1.00pm	103	Jim Hedley	24
	053	Alistair & Jenny Boyne	25-27
	100	Greytown Community Board	28-43
1:30pm	004	Dean Di Bona	44-46
	090	Dan Riddiford	47

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, September 08, 2024 10:09:10 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name **Claire Bleakley**
Email [REDACTED]
Phone number [REDACTED]

Q2

No

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Q3

Featherston

Which ward do you live in?

Q4

General Electoral roll

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

Q5

Yes

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

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Q6

No

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full? It is proposed that the Council comprise of the Mayor, elected at large, and nine councillors: seven elected from three General Wards and the Māori ward, plus two elected at large. The three existing Community Boards would be retained, one for each of the General Wards with four elected members in each. Note: you will be able to provide feedback on each part of the Initial Proposal in the questions ahead.

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Q7

No

Do you support the current arrangement? The Council is currently represented by nine councillors elected by the ward system and a Mayor elected to represent the whole district. The three General Wards are Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough. There are three Community Boards, one for each of the General Wards with four elected members in each. Note, in November 2023 Council decided to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 triennium and will not revisit the decision as part of this consultation. Note: you will be able to provide feedback on each part of the Initial Proposal in the questions ahead.

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Q8

Yes

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Q9

No,

Comments:

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

I support the election of two councillors standing in the Rural Ward at large.

Q10

Yes

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes,

Comments:

I would like to see that instead of a Maori ward, a member or two from Maori Standing committee is/are elected by their rohe to Council and given a vote. This is because the Maori Standing committee has representatives from the three iwi who are already working for the Maori collectively. I would like to see two councillors elected from the rural wards at large.

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Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

Respondent skipped this question

#26

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name **Louise Lyster**

Email

Phone number

Louise Lyster

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q2

No

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Q3

Martinborough

Which ward do you live in?

Q4

General Electoral roll

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

Q5

Yes

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

Page 2

Q6

Yes

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Q7

Respondent skipped this question

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Page 4

Q8

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Yes,

Comments:

I agree that the workload requires 8-10 elected Councillors. I'd like to see ward councillors' roles include advocacy on community issues, e.g., assisting the Community Board with written submissions on annual and long-term plans, spatial plans, district plans, large community-driven projects, major decision papers, etc. Administrative resources currently allocated to community boards could be used to support the ward's elected members. I would like to see a ward councillor propose or second recommendations on decision papers affecting just their ward. I want to know that ward councillors are fully across the issues affecting their communities.

Q9

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

Yes,

Comments:

My preference would be for three ward members, one treaty partner, and five members elected at large (with Council choosing one of the at-large members to represent the district as Mayor). I see ward members giving their local community a 'voice at council,' whereas councillors elected by the district would have portfolio responsibilities and leadership roles. This is appropriate because they have been elected by District. If candidates are clear about their strengths/interests, they can decide whether to stand in a ward or at large.

Q10

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Yes,

Comments:

To save costs, the honorarium should be removed, and formal meetings should be reduced to those required for governance and community funding rounds. Continue to encourage the Community Board's participation in workshops and engagement activities. Provide administrative resources to enable Ward members and Community Boards to make submissions on issues affecting their communities.

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes,

Comments:

The council is doing an excellent job of engaging the community. Unless you can define a 'community of interest,' I am wary of creating situations where non-elected people have a 'voice at the table.' I am strongly against special interest or lobby groups participating in Council workshops.

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Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

The rating base needs to be bigger to pay for governance services. We do not have the infrastructure to increase it. [REDACTED]

#27

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name **Shane Atkinson**

Email

Phone number

Shane Atkinson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q2

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

No

Q3

Which ward do you live in?

Greytown

Q4

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

General Electoral roll

Q5

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

Yes

Page 2

Q6

No

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Q9

Yes

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

Q10

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

No,

Comments:

I served two terms on the Greytown Community Board a while back, latterly as Chair. The utility of the GCB was questionable then and more so now. There is very limited engagement from community members and community groups. Most GCB activity is handing out small amounts of discretionary funds and receiving interminable officer reports. I appreciate that the Community Boards were set up as a sop after the last local government reorganisation but their time is past, and the resources of time and money required to run them could be better used. The two local Councillors currently on each of the Community Boards could more profitably spend their time actually talking to community groups or holding occasional workshops for community engagement.

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

No

Page 5

Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

Respondent skipped this question

Have your say: Representation Review

This submission form allows you to provide feedback on the South Wairarapa District Council Representation Review and the Initial Proposal for the 2025 local body elections. Tell us what you think between 5 August and 8 September 2024. There are a number of ways you can share your feedback:

Online - www.swdc.govt.nz/representation-review/

Paper copy -

- Email it to us at submissions@swdc.govt.nz
- Post to PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741
- Hand deliver to Council office or any of the South Wairarapa libraries

Privacy Statement

Your name and feedback will be in public documents. All other personal details will remain private. The Privacy Act 2020 applies when we collect personal details. Any details that are collected will only be used for the purposes stated. You have the right to access and correct any personal information we hold.

Your Details

Full name* Jill Pettis

Email*! [REDACTED] Phone number [REDACTED]

Which ward do you live in?*

- Greytown Ward
- Featherston Ward
- Martinborough Ward
- Outside of the District

Are you enrolled on the

- General Electoral roll
- Māori Electoral Roll

Are you making a submission on behalf of an organisation? Yes / No

If yes, which organisation?

.....

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes / No

You'll be presenting your submission to Council and the meeting will be livestreamed. If you select yes, please also ensure you provide your phone number above so we can contact you.

Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full?

Yes No

If you answered no, do you support the current arrangement?

Yes No

I support 3 ward members per ward one mayor plus one Maori ward member

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards?

This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Yes No

Comments

Local Govt. is facing many challenges now and this will increase as increasing demands are made under decreasing resources ie money! Decreasing ward representation places greater demands on elected representatives. I believe two ward members is insufficient. Martinborough is a huge geographical ward with three areas - Ngawi, Toru & Martinborough

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)?

This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

Yes No

Comments

I definitely support a Maori Ward and I want that retained. So, if we are to achieve and retain a Maori ward we have no option but to accept 2 rep's in each ward plus 2 at large & 1 Maori Ward plus 1 Mayor. The council is between a rock and a hard place! I would prefer to retain the status quo with the Maori Ward being an additional member - chance would be a fine thing!



Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Yes No

Comments

I believe we hear a great deal from our Community Board in Martinborough. They respond to local issues but are also pro-active. The Pain Farm issue is a good example of diligent community representation. I support and endorse all of the boards activities as outlined

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? in the AUGUST

Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

STAR

Yes No

Comments

I'm always loathe to establish yet another committee or advisory group that may achieve little. An Enhanced Community Board that builds on an existing structure could get to work quickly and be a stronger voice for the community.

Final feedback

Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

It's essential we retain community boards and Maori Ward representation. Our population will increase and we will need good, strong representation for local government to be relevant. Less is not always best or more cost effective.

Submission on South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) Representation Review

By: Roger Fraser, [REDACTED] Martinborough.

Phone [REDACTED]

My submission is as follow:

1. I have read the SWDC Representation Review and Statement of Proposal
2. I do not support the proposal, which essentially replaces 3 ward-based councillors with two at large councillors and one Maori ward councillor. I am firmly of the view that any elected individual needs to represent a constituency. As an example, consider the isolation of list MPs from any constituency and the disconnect that results
3. To me the proposal is simply aligning the structure to fit with current headcount, while accommodating the decision, now subject to a referendum, to include a Maori ward. If the decision to create a Maori ward cannot be revisited, simply add it to the existing council structure.
4. I support retention of the existing Community Boards for two reasons:
 - They are an important voice to Council on behalf of ratepayers. Over the last decade we have seen many examples of where Community Boards have successfully represented community concerns to Council. Examples include matters regarding Pain Farm, the Martinborough Square redevelopment disaster, Featherston wastewater treatment, and other community issues.
 - They are a much more accessible organisation than elected councillors, many of whom become less accessible or engaged once elected. The latter is probably a natural way things evolve once elected councillors get involved with committees, meetings and workshops. Likewise with council staff.
5. I have also thought about whether there are other ways Council can engage with the community. A few ideas come to mind:
 - Councillors having a set time for unstructured drop-in meetings with ratepayers. There are many so-called opportunities to engage at meetings and during formal presentations, but these really do not give individuals an opportunity to explore their concerns and to engage in free conversation with their representatives.
 - Reconsidering the 5-minute one size fits all limit for public presentations at council meetings. While I am a firm believer in 'keep it short and sweet' these time limits do disadvantage someone with a detailed proposal to table.

I am more than happy to talk to the foregoing at any subsequent hearing(s) if requested. My contact details are at the top of this page. I am submitting as an individual on the general roll, living in Martinborough.

Have your say: Representation Review

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Privacy Statement

Your name and feedback will be in public documents. All other personal details will remain private. The Privacy Act 2020 applies when we collect personal details. Any details that are collected will only be used for the purposes stated. You have the right to access and correct any personal information we hold.

Your Details

Full name* *N/A see below*

Email* Phone number

Which ward do you live in?*

- Greytown Ward
- Featherston Ward
- Martinborough Ward
- Outside of the District

Are you enrolled on the

- General Electoral roll
- Māori Electoral Roll

Are you making a submission on behalf of an organisation? Yes / ~~No~~

If yes, which organisation?

..... *Martinborough Community Board*

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes / ~~No~~

You'll be presenting your submission to Council and the meeting will be livestreamed. If you select yes, please also ensure you provide your phone number above so we can contact you.

Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full?

~~Yes~~ / ~~No~~ No comment

If you answered no, do you support the current arrangement? ~~Yes~~ / ~~No~~ No comment

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards?

This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Yes / ~~No~~

Comments

But we would like, then, the establishment of a Rural Ward thereby requiring a Rural Councillor.

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)?

This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

~~Yes~~ / ~~No~~

Comments

No comment.

Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Yes / ~~No~~

Comments

As per standing Order 1.2:
no attached.

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see?

Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes / ~~No~~

Comments

council to provide more opportunities
for face to face public engagements
e.g. public meetings.
Ensure that public communications
are responded to.

Final feedback

Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

1.2 Community Boards

Note that while governing bodies operate under formal standing orders which define how often a member may speak to a matter and tightly prescribe the input of the public, community boards, should operate in a more open and inclusive manner, reflecting their role to provide opportunities for public engagement. Because their role is to act as an intermediary between the councils and their communities, community boards should avoid replicating the formality that characterises the way in which their councils governing bodies operate.

For more information, please refer to the [*Local Governance Guide for Community Boards*](#).

Have your say: Representation Review

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Your name and feedback will be in public documents. All other personal details will remain private. The Privacy Act 2020 applies when we collect personal details. Any details that are collected will only be used for the purposes stated. You have the right to access and correct any personal information we hold.

Your Details

Full name* Mary Clare Bennett

Email* Phone number ~~.....~~

Which ward do you live in?*

- Greytown Ward
- Featherston Ward
- Martinborough Ward
- Outside of the District

Are you enrolled on the

- General Electoral roll
- Māori Electoral Roll

Are you making a submission on behalf of an organisation? Yes / No

If yes, which organisation?

.....

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes / No

You'll be presenting your submission to Council and the meeting will be livestreamed. If you select yes, please also ensure you provide your phone number above so we can contact you.

Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full?

Yes / No

If you answered no, do you support the current arrangement? Yes / No

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards?

This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Yes / No

Comments

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)?

This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

Yes / No

Comments

Submission form: Representation Review

Continued

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Yes / No

Comments

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see?

Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes / No

Comments

Volunteer groups
improved engagement with community

Final feedback

Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

its an improvement

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name **Storm Robertson**

Email

Phone number

Storm Robertson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q2

No

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Q3

Martinborough

Which ward do you live in?

Q4

General Electoral roll

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

Q5

Yes

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

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Q6

No

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full? It is proposed that the Council comprise of the Mayor, elected at large, and nine councillors: seven elected from three General Wards and the Māori ward, plus two elected at large. The three existing Community Boards would be retained, one for each of the General Wards with four elected members in each. Note: you will be able to provide feedback on each part of the Initial Proposal in the questions ahead.

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Q7

Yes

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Page 4

Q8

No

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Q9

No,

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

Comments:
There should be provision for at least one (1) rural representative

Q10

Yes,

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Comments:
The community boards general have a closer relationship with residents (ratepayers). They provide a platform for residents to provide feedback on issue to council.

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes,

Comments:

The current situation with our council and mayor is not what residents voted for and as such the council should have called in a commissioner to manage affairs until a sound resolution was reached

Page 5

Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

Whatever the final decision is one thing the council should do is improve its communication process with ratepayers

To: South Wairarapa District Council
Martinborough

SWDC REPRESENTATION REVIEW

I do not support the Council's proposal

I do not support the present representation.

The rural community is different to urban. It is wrong that rural representation is determined by urban. The population of rural is about 36%, so based on that, are entitled to have 4 Councillors. Council are considering having a Maori ward for 900 people, so it is only right to be consistent, Council should have a rural ward for the rural community with 4 Councillors or 1/3rd of Councillors.

It is clear that the farming community is not fairly represented around the Council table.

With Councillors determined by the urban population, therefore the Council can not reflect who we are as a district. The farming community does not have confidence in the local democracy or the electoral process.

Especially when Council said in the ratings review consultation "the benefits of almost all council services and activities accrue to all properties equally therefore council consider all properties should contribute a relative similar level regardless of the value of their property," but then does not follow that through.

A example is the latest rates review which now sees for the 24/25 year for the function funded by the general rate average residential Featherston will go down to \$1114 but an average pastoral farm dairy farm and vineyard will all go up substantially to \$4954 , \$6219 and \$3817. All done to keep urban rates low at the expense of farmers.

I wish to speak to my submission.

Jim Hedley

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Featherston 5771

[REDACTED]

3/9/2024

Jim Hedley

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name **Alistair and Jenny Boyne**
Email 
Phone number 

Q2

No

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Q3

Martinborough

Which ward do you live in?

Q4

General Electoral roll

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

Q5

Yes

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

Page 2

Q6

No

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Yes

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Page 4

Q8

No,

Comments:

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Would only support the reduction of councillors in the general ward if there is one rural councillor per ward, keeping representation at 10 councillors including the Maori ward.

Q9

No,

Comments:

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

We support the introduction of a rural ward councillor per ward

Q10

Yes,

Comments:

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Fully support and they play a key role in first point of contact for local issues.

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes,

Comments:

We support a Rural and Coastal advisory group being set up with members being appointed by the Councillors to engage with two or three councillors to discuss issues in the rural and coastal areas who would meet formally with an agenda 4-8 times per annum.

Page 5

Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

Concerned if there are two ward councillors and two at large then the rural voice will not be represented.

Greater Wellington last week justified their Maori Ward on the basis that Maori had been historically under represented

The same logic needs to be applied to rural representation as rural households are paying four times the general rates of urban households.

We fully acknowledge the task of redefining boundaries but this is necessary to ensure democracy.

We support Jim Hedley and Dan Riddiford's submissions for three rural ward representatives on Council.



100

Greytown Community Board Submissions on Representation Review

September 2024

Contents

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Submitted by the Following Greytown Community Board Members:



Louise Brown
Chair



Neil Morison
Board Member



Warren Woodgyer
Deputy Chair



Jo Woodcock
Board Member



Community Board's Role

Community Boards represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of their community. Specifically, the Board's role is to:

- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Council



Why Maintain Community Boards:

Community Boards offer a direct voice for each community within the South Wairarapa. Whilst each Ward has elected Councillors to the South Wairarapa Council, the Councillors are meant to act collectively in the best interests of South Wairarapa. Councillors from each Ward are not to focus on the interests of their individual communities but rather they are to consider what is best for all the residents of South Wairarapa.

Community Boards however are intended to be the direct voice of their residents and therefore can advocate solely for the best interests of their community. Community Boards therefore allow for each community to have a voice on their own unique issues and interests when advocating to Council.

If Community Boards were able to fully undertake their roles, they could greatly assist Council by alleviating some responsibilities away to allow Council to better focus on what is best for the whole of South Wairarapa. Community Boards could also collaborate more with Council when focused engagement on issues was needed.



How the Greytown Community Board has Embodied its Purpose:

As a Board, this Greytown Community Board (GCB) have recognised their responsibilities and made the following contributions to the Greytown Community:

- Held an Expo highlighting Preparation, Rescue and Resilience in an Emergency- From this we have obtained useful information of individuals available in an emergency and how to utilise aspects of our Community Hub
- We have taken an interest in our Parks and Reserves and the oversight of them including:
 - Liaising for cleaning up of Arbor Reserve and Soldier's Memorial Park with Council
 - Assisted with a cleaning bee to clean up the Memorial Gates for WWI before the Anzac Holiday. The GCB then presented a plaque to commemorate 100 years since the gates were erected in honor of the fallen soldiers from Greytown in WWI

- Responded to the requests of the Community to take part in the recognition of the First Arbor Day in New Zealand which occurred in Greytown. This has included annual ceremonies that recreate the spirit of the first ceremony that brought mana whenua and the early settlers together to recognise the importance of replacing what had been taken or destroyed. The GCB has commenced preparation for the 135th Anniversary of this event next year.
- Actively looking at ways we can increase the Green Space of our current Reserves and protect our Parks and Reserves more.
- Recommended the responsibility of holding an annual Stakeholder Meetings with for Greytown Parks and Reserves on behalf of the SWDC. Through this we have created an updated email database that has resulted in connecting interested groups in other activities such as Arbor Day.
- Recommended a relationship with Papawai Marae which resulted in a joint Matariki event this year to be continued next year. Papawai Marae also assisted with Arbor Day and this connection and joint work is to continue with regular communication
- Reconnected with Community Groups with a plan for future engagement. To date we have reconnected with Friends of Stella Bull Park, Friends of Soldiers Memorial Park, Friends of O'Connor's Bush, Red Robins, Lions, RSA, Athletic Teams, Greytown Trustlands Trust, Friends of Papawai Stream, Five Trails Trust, Greytown Little Theatre, Greytown Heritage Trust, Greytown Foodbank, Friends of Cobblestones Museum.
- We have restarted a drive for volunteers by starting back holding a Volunteer Forum which is set to continue next year with the intention to do more to recognise our local volunteers who give so much to the Greytown Community
- Responded to and recognised the retirement of a valued Greytown Community Contributor
- Completed a Comprehensive Community Plan for Greytown
- Advocated for a historical building to be utilised for community use as well as commercial.
- Made submissions to advocate on behalf of the Community in regards to a new water bore at Soldiers Memorial Park and the proposed changes to Greytown Main Street by Fresh Choice. Plan to make future submissions during the consultation for location of a new water bore for Greytown.

The above is not a finite list but an indication of some of the work and efforts the GCB has done to fulfil its role to the Greytown Community.

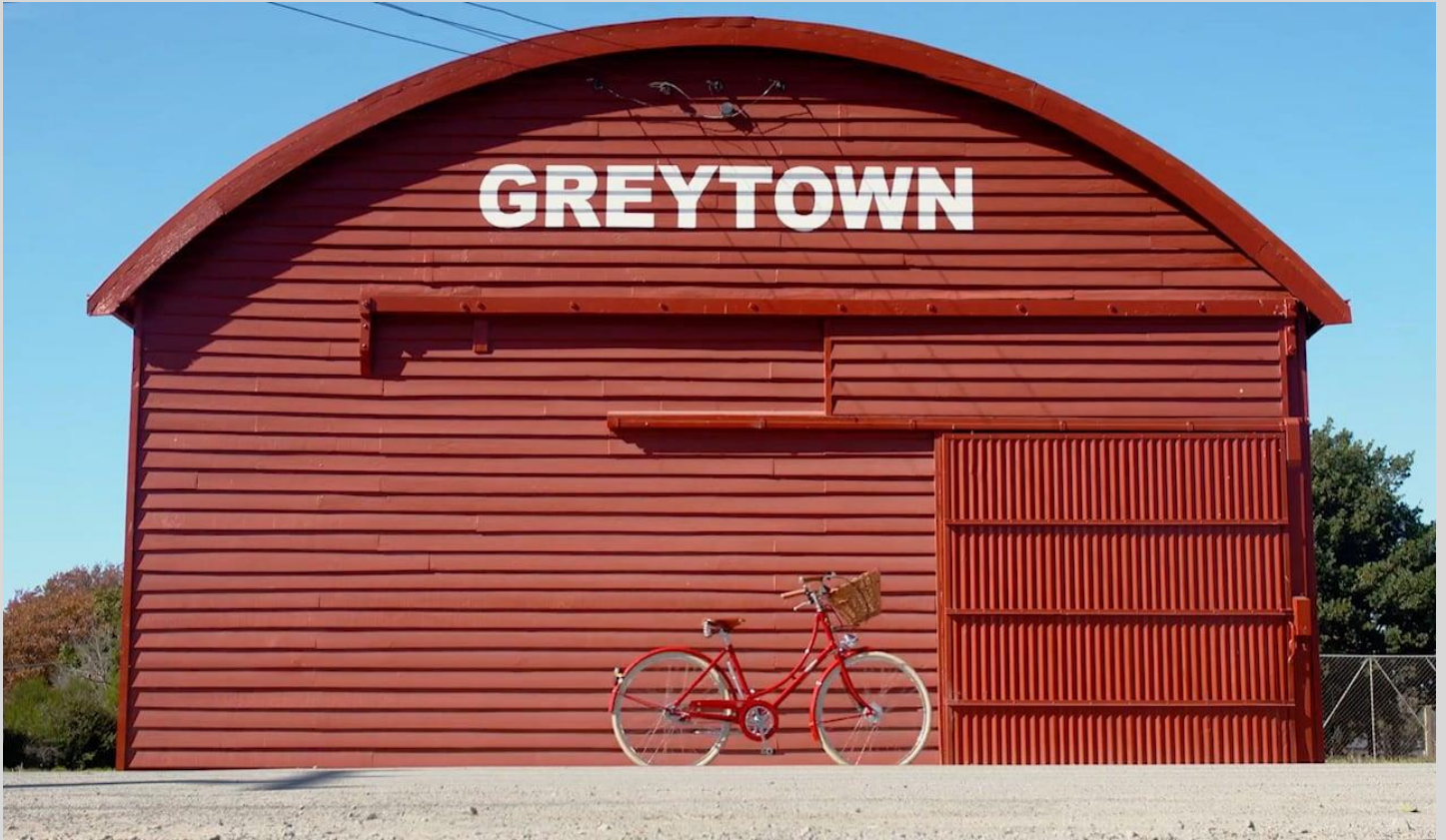


What are some of the Problems faced by Current Community Boards:

The greatest problem facing Community Boards is not being able to effectively undertake their defined roles as outlined in the Local Government Act. Community Boards are meant to have delegated powers and responsibilities but often these have been removed by Council. It is difficult to be an effective and productive government body when the roles intended to be undertaken by Community Boards have been removed.

Community Boards are meant to maintain an overview of services and undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to them by Council. Council needs to relinquish the responsibilities intended for the Community Boards. If Council does not support the Community Boards and allow them to undertake these responsibilities than it leads to ineffectiveness and frustration. Community Boards are meant to have authority and power to undertake their roles, therefore, Council needs to support this by providing appropriate resources and funding. Unless Community Boards have clear delegation of responsibilities and appropriate resources to complete their roles it will be difficult for them to be effective as intended.

Support from Council will allow Community Boards to represent, engage, and address the needs of the community effectively. This in turn will allow Community Boards to have meaningful engagement and be able to respond quickly to community concerns and needs which will then be reported back to Council. Incoming Community Board members would also benefit from focused training on the roles and responsibilities especially for those who are new to the role.



What the Critics say:

The GCB recognises that there is an argument made against Community Boards and offers the following in response to the proposed cons of maintaining Community Boards:

- **Limited Power:** Community boards have limited decision-making power and budgetary control. Their recommendations may not always be acted upon by council, leading to frustration, adversarial attitudes and a sense of ineffectiveness.
 - This is probably the leading issue facing Community Boards but the solution really sits with Council to recognise the Community Board is there to represent the community and its interests and therefore that voice needs to be recognised effectively and given weight as well as power.
- **Duplication of Effort:** There is overlap between the roles of community boards and those of main council, leading to duplication of effort and potential inefficiencies.
 - If there is clear delegation of roles and responsibilities to Community Boards such as overseeing the maintainment and interests of the local Parks and Reserves, then there would be no reason for duplication of effort as the roles and responsibilities are defined and the Community Board would fulfill its role including reporting back to Council. Community Boards are more focused on their community interests and events whilst the Council is more focused on district wide issues. It is this distinction that prevents the duplication of work as primarily the Boards and Council are meant to work collaboratively together for the betterment of the community. However, when the Community Boards are advocating on behalf of the community on matters that are open for consultation and decision making than there will be duplication as intended.

- **Resource Constraints: Community boards lack the resources and funding to effectively address local issues. This limits their ability to make a significant impact on their community.**
 - Funding can be resolved when clear lines of responsibility are identified. For instance, if the Community Boards were to be responsible for oversight of Parks and Reserves than there would be funds allocated within the budget for that and it would be for the Community Board to ensure the funds were properly utilised.
 - Funding and resources to effectively engage with the Community has reduced. Community Boards are left now to do all the work when it comes to creating flyers, organising forums and getting communications out to the community. The Greytown Community Board certainly has felt the pressure from reduced support and funds but that has not hindered our performance. We have just recognised we have to be more resourceful and do the additional work listed above including walking the streets to deliver materials into mailboxes or to hang posters and flyers through town.
- **Inconsistent Effectiveness: The effectiveness of community boards varies widely, depending on the commitment and capability of their members, as well as the support they receive from main council.**
 - This applies to Councils and any elected member or body. This cannot be applied solely to Community Boards. This term all members of the Greytown Community Board were new and received little training around the function of community boards. That did not stop us from actively seeking ways to engage and represent our community.
- **Over-representation: With 3 councillors per ward plus 4 community board members there is the risk of small populations being overly represented.**
 - This would make sense if the wards were small and the population resided principally in town or the population was made up of only a rural population but that is not the case with South Wairarapa. We are a diverse population spread out over a large area. The ability to cover it is a challenge currently faced by the Council. Council has to go out to remote areas now to truly hear from some residents. It also has to manage the different voices of rural and town residents. Community Boards have the ability if utilised to assist Council to hear from all residents across a diverse make-up and vast area. Working together Council can then focus more time and energy on the decision making that is so important.
- **Micromanagement: There is a risk of community board members micromanaging council operations, which can lead to conflicts and inefficiencies. This can create tension between the board and council staff, potentially hindering effective governance.**
 - Proper training at the outset of a new term would allow Community Board members to know how to approach the varying requests, complaints and comments we receive and how best to respond to those and when to advocate to Council. On going support also would assist especially in the first year when new circumstances arise. Workshops with Council members around areas where micromanagement could become an issue would be beneficial. The more opportunity for training and training with Council would likely create better communication between. It is not just training for Council or training for Community Boards but sometimes training together would be more beneficial.

- **Lack of Community Engagement:** Ironically, despite their purpose, some community boards struggle with engaging the broader community. Residents may be unaware of the boards' roles and functions, leading to low participation and input.
 - Engagement is not an issue that sits only with Community Boards. In reality there are some communities that will naturally engage and some that do not. How to improve engagement is an area both Community Boards and Council face. It cannot be said it sits only with Community Boards but a joint effort between Council and Community Boards to engage the communities that are more silent could see better results all around and therefore more effective representation.



What the Community says:

"I write to you following a public statement of criticism of SWDC Community Boards. Had this been a few years ago, one may have given thought to these remarks. For Greytown Community Board and in the present time one can only feel the sentiments are out of touch.

We have found the Board under your leadership to be more proactive and supportive than any we have worked with in many a year. You have younger members with much energy and passion along with the experience of others. You have taken on board suggestions and acted on them and make yourselves available and accessible. It's so good to have the park users' meetings back each year.

Long may you continue to do so in Greytown."

*Ruth Evans
For the Friends of Stella and Sarah.*

"The main ways in my book as to how GCB contributes to the community is by being accessible at any time to listen and to show support for many community issues that come up and to help people in the community understand the processes that occur in local government..."

The GCB can often diffuse issues and ensure only certain things need to go to Council. Often things can be solved very simply and don't need to progress further.

Often people in the community want to be listened to and the GCB include approachable everyday people you can meet in the supermarket and chat with. I see Community Boards as a vital conduit between the people and Councils. Sometimes people are too scared to go to council but happy to talk with Community Board members in a relaxed environment."

*Christine Stevenson
Former Chair Greytown Community Board*

"In my observation as an attendee at the Greytown Community Board this triennium, there are numerous public presentations/issues raised each meeting in the public participation slot – in fact the time allocation could well be extended.

The current Greytown Community Board is in my direct observation and experience deeply committed to our community and its needs. But the Boards are hampered by a lack of Council resourcing and by not being given enough delegated power...

The present Greytown Community Board has been very responsive to presentations I made in its first year with respect to our celebration of Greytown's Arbor Day and the marking of the centennial of the Memorial Gates at Greytown Soldiers' Memorial Park... I praise Louise Brown and her team for their time and energy and prioritising of our Arbor Day celebrations as a major annual community event. This day is prominently flagged in the Board's Community Plan – an enterprising and useful initiative of this current Board. I note this year Jo Woodcock, an elected member of Greytown's Community Board, put in a huge amount of time on a childrens' initiative/interactive activity with respect to our Arbor Day. In this instance she did this in her capacity of being a member of and with the support and praise of the Board.

The retention of but critically the extension of the powers and Council resourcing of our Community Boards would encourage our current board members to continue on and it would also make it more attractive to other talented community members to stand for election next time."

*Frank Minehan
Friends of O'Connor's Bush*

“While the Council is the governance and overseer of the District the Community Board is the eyes and ears of the community. It is there to advocate for the people and be the voice back to the Council on their behalf.

The Community Board is more in contact with what is happening in the Community and sees what needs to be done. If they weren't there the Council wouldn't be aware of some of the community needs and they wouldn't have time to fill these roles.

Some of the things the previous Greytown Community Board has done for Greytown are:

- *Picnic Tables at Stella Bull Park*
- *Planter Barrels in Main Street*
- *Dog Poo Bins*
- *Tree planting & irrigation system at the Dog Park*
- *Tree planting at Greytown Cemetery*
- *Flags in Main Street*
- *Decorated panels at the Memorial Bath along the inside walls*
- *Painting of posts and railings along the front of the Memorial Bath and parking area.*
- *Signage at Papawai explaining the History of Papawai.”*

*Graeme Gray
Former Community Board Member*

they wouldn't have time to fill these roles



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Ph 06 306 9611 | enquiries@swdc.govt.nz | www.swdc.govt.nz



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Kia Reretahi Tātau

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, August 05, 2024 7:55:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, August 05, 2024 8:14:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:10
IP Address: 222.153.91.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Full name	Dean Di bona
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

Q2

No

Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?

Q3

Martinborough

Which ward do you live in?

Q4

General Electoral roll

Are you enrolled on the General Electoral roll or the Māori Electoral roll?

Q5

Yes

HearingsDo you wish to speak to your submission at the public hearings on September 18 & 19?We will contact you following the consultation to schedule a suitable time.

Page 2

Q6

No

Do you support the Initial Proposal in full? It is proposed that the Council comprise of the Mayor, elected at large, and nine councillors: seven elected from three General Wards and the Māori ward, plus two elected at large. The three existing Community Boards would be retained, one for each of the General Wards with four elected members in each. Note: you will be able to provide feedback on each part of the Initial Proposal in the questions ahead.

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Q7

Yes

Do you support the current arrangement? The Council is currently represented by nine councillors elected by the ward system and a Mayor elected to represent the whole district. The three General Wards are Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough. There are three Community Boards, one for each of the General Wards with four elected members in each. Note, in November 2023 Council decided to establish a Māori Ward for the 2025 triennium and will not revisit the decision as part of this consultation. Note: you will be able to provide feedback on each part of the Initial Proposal in the questions ahead.

Page 4

Q8

No,

Comments:

Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards? This means two councillors would be elected in each of the Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough General Wards (rather than three).

Keep it simple, elect councillors in your own ward only, Featherston, greytown, martinborough or Māori. Then elect mayor across the district

Q9

Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district)? This means everyone gets to vote for two at large (district wide) councillors.

No,

Comments:

It's hard enough to get information about mayoral candidates across the 3 centres and rural areas. It becomes much harder if you include 2 councillors at large as any type of public recognition is little and it makes more sense for people to run in their respective ward rather than at large. You end up with 3 elections, mayoral, at large and within ward. What happens if 3 people run in a ward and only 1 person runs at large. Can you cross fill the vacancy or do you run a by election. Can you run in a ward, at large and for mayor. If you are elected at large how will you be helped and remunerated as you a larger area to represent and greater number of constituents who see you as their home representative. Regardless of how it is portrayed 8 non Māori ward representatives will mean one town is less represented or one town could have 4 representatives which could bias decisions against the under representation town, either deliberately or unconscious bias.

Q10

Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Yes,

Comments:

It's a no brainer. Community boards are effectively mandated by the local government act and are under utilised by Swdc. On one hand councillors complain they have so much to do for little pay and then you say remove an effective body for each ward and load up the councillors with more work. This proposal is nonsensical.

Q11

Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see? Note: this is not formally part of the Representation Review, but we would like your feedback about other ways Council can engage with the community.

Yes,

Comments:

The introduction of a Māori ward should not see the dilution of one town's representation. A Māori ward should be added to the existing system.

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Q12

Final feedback Do you have any further feedback on the Initial Proposal?

Keep the existing structure and add an extra seat at the table for the Māori ward. Don't over complicate the process to keep the number of councillors the same but extend the representation.

D T S Riddiford BA LLB
Export & Business Consultant

Te Awaiti Station,

The Mayor,
SWDC.

Dear Sir, **REPRESENTATION REVIEW** close 8 Sept

4 9 24

I write on behalf of Te Awaiti Station and our neighbours.

We wish to be heard

We do not support the SWDC Representation proposal

We request that the two "at large wards" become "rural wards" :

1 The Representation Review is defective consultation as described at law
Wellington International Airport v Air New Zealand 1 NZLR 671 at pp674 and 675

1 On the basis of population there should be at least three rural wards 10%+.

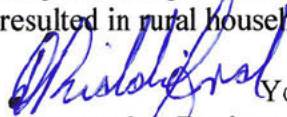
2 Legislation eg S101(2) requires that all Councils should generally identify their communities of interest. Specifically as stated at p1 of the Consultation Document :
Identifying communities of interestcommunities of interest which are areas that people identify with and relate to. Legislation does not define what a community of interest is, but the concept includes things like people feeling a sense of identity and belonging to the area; people using the same services, like schools, libraries...

3 Geography and remoteness make rural communities distinct and self sufficient

4 Rural Communities are under economic pressure and cannot afford any increases in rates to pay for wasteful expenditure

5 The sole benefit that Rural Communities receive from Councils is their pro rata share of the Roothing Network, while urban residents have many extra services and Three Waters and intensive Planning provided.

6 Greater Wellington last week justified their Maori Ward (contrary to the Government's direction to have a binding poll at the 2024 local election) on the basis that Maori had been historically under represented. The same logic applies to rural representation and has resulted in rural households paying four times the general rates of urban households



Yours Sincerely

Dan Riddiford

Submission form : Representation Review

- 1 No support for the Proposal
- 2 No support for the current arrangement
- 3 We prefer that each town Gtn Fstn, Mbo have two urban wards and one rural ward
- 4 We do not support "2 councillors at large". We want democratic rural representation
- 6 A Rural Advisory Group is better than no representation as at present but
- 7 A Rural Group is no substitute for legal democratic representation with 2 or 3 rural wards