

April 2017

# Looking South



## A Message from the Mayor

### Easter Sunday Shop Trading Hours Policy

An extraordinary meeting was held at the South Wairarapa District Council chambers on Thursday 2 March, with the express purpose of hearing and deliberating on submissions to the draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Hours Policy.

A total of 244 submissions were received, with 200 submitters in favour of the Policy and 44 submitters against the Policy. Three submitters presented their submissions in person to the Council during the meeting.

At the conclusion of the two and a half hour meeting the Council voted unanimously to adopt the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Hours Policy for the whole of the South Wairarapa District.

The adoption of the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Hours Policy will take effect from Easter Sunday 2017. The policy will be reviewed again during the current Councils term of office.

SWDC Mayor, Viv Napier said the decision to adopt the Policy was a tough one for some Councillors.

"We all had our personal opinions but we had to detach ourselves from these and look at the facts in front of us, this is what we have been elected to do."

"South Wairarapa had the largest number of submissions by far, we were pleased that people made time to

have their say. All three Councils in the Wairarapa have now adopted the Easter Sunday Shop Trading Hours Policy."

"The adoption of the Policy means that shops in the South Wairarapa are able to open on Easter Sunday if they wish to."

"An employer who wants a shop employee to work on Easter Sunday must give the employee notice in writing 4-8 weeks before the relevant Easter Sunday."

"Any shop employee has the right to refuse to work Easter Sunday, without needing to give their employer a reason why they choose not to. The employee needs to state their intention not to work 14 days before in writing as well."

"The Shop Trading Hours Amendment Bill is very clear on employer and employees rights, I encourage everyone to be aware of it and make sure they understand their responsibilities, a copy of the Bill is on our Council website. If anyone is unsure of their responsibilities then please call us or pop into the Council office and we can talk it through with you."

For more information contact SWDC 06 306 9611 or [swdc.govt.nz](http://swdc.govt.nz) to find out what your rights and responsibilities are as an employer or employee.

On Tuesday 14 March all Wairarapa Councils met with the Local Government Commission (the Commission) to discuss their draft proposal for a Wairarapa District Council. If the proposal is supported by the community, a Wairarapa District Council would replace the existing South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils.

Submission forms are at our Council office in Martinborough and at all South Wairarapa libraries. You can also download the form from [lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz).

I strongly urge you all to voice your opinion on the Commission's draft proposal for a Wairarapa District Council or if you do not want this proposal, to ask for the status quo to remain in place. Now is the time for you to have your say, submissions to the Commission close at 4pm on Wednesday 3 May 2017.

Key points from the draft proposal are inside.

If you have any questions about the draft proposal contact [themayor@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:themayor@swdc.govt.nz) or 06 306 9611.

Viv Napier  
The Mayor



### Inorganic Collection

2017's first inorganic collection will take place from 1-5 May 2017.

Your inorganic collection day will be aligned with your regular collection day. Items MUST be out on the kerbside by 07:30AM and is limited to one (1) item per property and must be able to be lifted by one person (up to 15 kg). Typical items may include small home appliances.

## Summary of key features of the draft proposal for Wairarapa District Council:

- ◆ The Wairarapa District Council would be a territorial authority. The wards will be Featherston, Martinborough, Greytown, Maungaraki, Carterton, Masterton and Te Kauru.
- ◆ The Wairarapa would remain part of the Wellington region. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) would continue to be the regional council for the Wairarapa. GWRC would continue to carry out its current roles and responsibilities.
- ◆ There would be a new Wairarapa Committee to strengthen Wairarapa input into regional council issues affecting the district.
- ◆ The Wairarapa District Council would have a mayor and 12 councillors. The mayor would be elected by voters from across the combined district. The councillors would be elected by voters of each of seven wards.
- ◆ There would be five community boards centred on each Wairarapa town. There would be a total of 21 elected community board members.
- ◆ There would also be a Māori Standing Committee and a Rural Standing Committee.
- ◆ The first District Council elections could be held in October 2018 at the earliest. The new council could come into existence on 1 November 2018 at the earliest.
- ◆ The Wairarapa District Council would retain area offices in Masterton, Carterton and Martinborough for at least five years.
- ◆ It is proposed that the principal public office (the address for service) would be in Masterton. The principal public office can be changed in the future by the new council.
- ◆ The Commission proposes that the current rating arrangements remain in place until 30 June 2024.
- ◆ Any rates changes due to the proposed amalgamation would be capped at five per cent up or down per year. (This cap would not apply to rates changes as a result of normal council activities, such as changes to services or revised rating valuations.)
- ◆ Wastewater rates would be ring-fenced so people only pay for the wastewater scheme they are currently part of.

Submission forms will be at all Council offices and in all Wairarapa libraries. You can also download the form from the Commission's website ([lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz)) then post or email it to the Commission, write your own submission then post or email to the Commission or fill in the online form from their website.

## Annual Plan

The Local Government Act 2002 provides extensive powers to councils to decide which activities they undertake and the manner in which they will undertake them.

There is a robust planning process demanded by the Local Government Act 2002. In consultation with our communities, council must prepare long-term plans every three years, and annual plans in the other two years.

These plans are adopted before the start of the financial year in July, following a submission process. Everyone can submit to the Council what they would like considered and included in the Annual Plan. Submission forms will be available on the Council website and at the Council offices in Kitchener Street, Martinborough and the Greytown and Featherston Libraries from 7 April 2017.

## Annual Plan Timeline

### April

- 7<sup>th</sup> Public Consultation Starts
- 12<sup>th</sup> Consultation Document Published in Wairarapa News

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Public Consultation – 7pm Featherston ANZAC Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Consultation – 7pm Martinborough Council Chambers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Consultation – 7pm Greytown Town Centre
- 12<sup>th</sup> Submissions Close
- 31<sup>st</sup> Submission Hearings and Deliberation

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> Submission and Hearings Reserve day
- 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting to adopt 2017-18 Annual Plan

## Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Wastewater from Greytown and Martinborough is currently treated in oxidation pond systems which were built in the early 1970s.

The current systems cannot effectively remove nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. When these nutrients are released into the waterways, algae and plankton can proliferate, contributing to algal blooms which are possibly toxic to humans and fish.

After lengthy consultation with these stakeholders, in 2015 SWDC applied for 35 year consent to divert this treated wastewater from the water ways to irrigate land instead, which was granted on in 2016.

The consents that we have been granted will ensure that we can better manage our impact on the environment. Land and crops can more effectively absorb the nitrates and phosphates, with the added benefit of being able to sell crops produced. Instead of discharging our waterways we will be protecting them and at the same time being smarter about how we utilise this land. We are using it for more than one purpose – cropping, irrigation, gliding and providing access to rivers.

## Martinborough Update

Council approved the acceleration of the implementation of the irrigation scheme following the feedback received during the consent hearing process. This acceleration programme will see treated wastewater irrigated to adjoining Council owned land (approx. 6ha), resulting in approximately 24% of total annual volume being diverted from our fresh waterways. The second stage will seek to remove all discharge from the Ruamahanga River except when land irrigation cannot be achieved.

A design build contract has been entered into with Ordish & Stevens Ltd of Masterton to provide the infrastructure needed to achieve this which includes the supply of what is known as a linear irrigation machine in addition to extra pumps, pipeline and a control building.

We anticipate the commission of this plant in April 2017. The project cost will be in the order of \$550,000.

## Greytown Update

For the Greytown Wastewater improvement project, SWDC under the terms of its resource consent, is to provide land irrigation capability of treated wastewater by January 2021.

Council approved the acceleration of this timeframe, as we did with the Martinborough site and we are working towards achieving this in 2017. There is a significant amount of work required to achieve this and planning is well underway. The acceleration programme will see approximately 16ha irrigated. Prior to this an Ultra Violet disinfection plant will need to be installed and an irrigation design plan completed. The result to be approximately 20% annual volume being diverted from our fresh waterways. This is the first stage of improvement work for this site. The second stage for the future will seek to remove all discharge from the Papawai Stream except when land irrigation cannot be achieved.

## Featherston Update

The consent to discharge treated wastewater to land was lodged as planned in February this year. The proposal is similar to the Martinborough and Greytown consent whereby over time all treated wastewater will be discharged to land except in exceptional circumstances. We anticipate receiving the consent in the next few months following the normal hearings processes. We are well placed to achieve our desired goals, having purchased sufficient suitable land in 2015.

## Suggestions for future road names

Council regularly considers and approves names for new roads within the district at the time of land subdivision. At present Council seeks that these names be connected in some way to the land being subdivided, usually historically but also in terms of the original nature of the land or features of or on the land. This connection is considered important to the wider community and the heritage of our district.

Your local community board has the opportunity to review any name suggested by a property owner and to make alternative suggestions. This process can delay finalising a development so an alternative approach is now being discussed. In essence it is proposed to develop a list of approved names that a property owner can use to name any new roads being created by their development (they could still suggest their own name which would follow current approval processes).

Council and your community board are keen to hear from you in respect of any names you feel could be used in your town and be placed on a list of approved names.

If you are aware of particular land features/history and names associated with those, we encourage you to contact your local community board and provide names for future use. Alternatively you can contact the Planning Department and provide your suggestions.

No matter how you put forward a name it will be considered by Council for inclusion in the approved list and you will be advised of the outcome of this process.

## Update of protected Tree Schedules of Wairarapa Combined District Plan.

Interest has been expressed by some property owners in the district to have trees on their property protected by the District Plan. The Greytown Community Board and Tree Advisory Group have also been active in promoting the need to identify and schedule further trees in Greytown that may be worthy of protection. Council has agreed that this update process should be given some priority to ensure that trees not already included in the protected trees schedules and potentially at risk can be included.

Ideally Council considers that new trees should only be added with the property owner's support. However, if a tree is of such value that it should be protected regardless, this can still happen.

As a first step in this update process we invite property owners across the district to consider whether any trees on their property should be examined by Council, to determine whether they should be protected.

For trees that are nominated by property owners, Council will engage a suitably qualified expert to assess a nominated tree. This is because not every tree is worthy of protection and Council does not wish to control such trees.

So if you have a tree or trees on your property which you wish considered, please contact Council planning staff either by email or telephone. We will then include your tree(s) on a list for assessment and you will be contacted to confirm that we can access your property when that is to be done.

Contact Planning Department at [annabel.hobson@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:annabel.hobson@swdc.govt.nz) or [pamela.attrill@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:pamela.attrill@swdc.govt.nz) or 06 306 9373.

## Rebates 2016/17

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2016.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,470-\$42,000.
- ◆ 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 2015/2016 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online [swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property](http://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](mailto: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.

## Payment by Direct Debit

For the many who have asked, we now offer both a **monthly** and a **quarterly** direct debit facility to pay rates.

Direct debit is the cheapest 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](http://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, or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston and Greytown Libraries.

## Rates 2016/17 Instalment Four

Enclosed with this newsletter is the fourth rates invoice covering the period 1 April – 30 June 2017.

**The last day for payment  
is 22 May 2017**

**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 on line please make a separate payment for each property.

## 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)*