

# Action group to target late-night behaviour

In a bid to clean up late night drunken and disorderly behaviour in the Ashburton CBD during the weekends, an action group of Ashburton District Council, hospitality, business, police and social service representatives has formulated a plan to crack down on antisocial behaviour in the town center.

Ashburton District Council democracy and community services manager John Rollinson said the plan was a very real attempt to address the problem. "The council has responded to the concerns of central business owners and has come up with a series of steps to counter antisocial behaviour."

The strategy will see drunks and troublemakers banned from all bars in the CBD and not just Ashburton Trust-owned or leased facilities, as was the case previously.

Mr Rollinson said the council was working on the strategy in conjunction with police and the Ashburton Community Alcohol & Drug Service in a bid to address the concerns of business owners who are often faced with smashed windows, litter, broken glass, vomit and urine on Monday mornings.

Four town center ambassadors, who will patrol streets in the CBD in pairs between 10 pm and 4 am on Fridays and Saturdays, are an integral part of the strategy.

The proposed ambassador scheme is based on a similar scheme in Oamaru, which has proved to be very successful.

The Ashburton Safer Community Council, which will employ the ambassadors and administer the scheme, is looking to employ four suitable people soon.

The ambassadors' role will include:

- Promoting the Ashburton District in a positive and informative manner
- Raising awareness about the role the community can play in crime prevention
- Aiding the general management of public areas within the CBD
- Promoting community safety
- Improving commercial confidence
- Improving the environment in the CBD particularly in relation to litter, graffiti and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing the occurrence of crime, violence and intoxication in public places
- Deterring and minimising opportunities for crime
- Preventing and detecting crime and disorder
- Helping to provide a safer environment for people who visit, work in, trade in or enjoy leisure pursuits in the surveillance area
- Protecting public safety and enhancing public perception of safety
- Assisting the police by way of more efficient deployment of resources

Other measures taken to address the problem include increasing the number of CCTV cameras, which will be monitored by Timaru police who will relay any information gleaned from them to the Ashburton police.

Town centre planning that provides a safer environment, improved lighting, enhanced bar security and District Licensing Agency monitoring of licensed premises and more frequent cleaning of footpaths are all part of the proposed strategy which will go a long way towards ensuring that the town center is a safe and pleasant environment for all.

# Pavement signs — check yours for compliance

There are lots of sandwich boards and pavement signs in the Ashburton CBD, and, properly placed, they are not a problem.

But lately their numbers have been increasing and Ashburton District Council Environmental Health Officer Adrian Humphries is urging business owners to check that their pavement advertising signage complies with current regulations. "While signs of appropriate size and type are certainly permissible, their location on the pavement can

cause obstruction, congestion and, occasionally, injury."

In the lead-up to Christmas, council will be observing pavement signs to ensure they comply with the council bylaw with regard to size and placement.

According to the bylaw, signs must be placed at least 600mm from the kerb and allow for a pedestrian passageway of at least two metres. They should not exceed 1.2 metres in height or 650 mm in width and their placement must not interfere with street furniture or fittings or with the opening of car doors in metered areas.

Signs may only be displayed outside the

premises that they are advertising.

Owners of non-compliant signs may be requested to remove them and in the event that non-compliant signs are not removed the council can impound the signs as a last resort.



# Think before you burn!

**B**efore you pile up the garden waste or fill the drum with rubbish you should be aware that you may be breaching the Ashburton District Council Bylaw and ECan Air Plan Rules and risking an instant fine of up to \$500 (up to \$20000 if prosecuted in court!)

Outdoor burning can be unpleasant, unhealthy and unfair on neighbours, therefore Ashburton District Council and ECan have put

rules in place to restrict this practice, these are shown below:

ECan has banned ALL OUTDOOR BURNING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS and has strict controls on burning outdoors in rural areas (see below)

**Outdoor Burning RESIDENTIAL Properties**  
Outdoor burning on properties zoned residential throughout Canterbury is not permitted at any time of the year without a resource consent from Environment Canterbury.

**Outdoor Burning in RURAL rural areas:**  
Where and when outdoor burning is permitted, it is subject to the following conditions:

Only the following materials are allowed to be burnt: Vegetation (including stubble and crop residue), paper, cardboard and untreated wood.

Rubber tyres, painted wood, wood treated with preservatives, batteries, foam, chipboard and some other materials are not allowed to be burnt.

Any fire should not cause an offensive or objectionable effect beyond the boundary of the property where the fire is located. Whether an effect is offensive or objectionable is at the discretion of the Environment Canterbury enforcement officer - Call 0800 76 55 88.

**Ashburton District Council Rules**  
Ashburton District Council has also banned outdoor burning in all urban areas of the district — that includes townships and commercial areas in and/or adjoining urban areas, see the bylaw extract below:

No person shall light any fire in the open air within an

urban area at any time with the exception of burning of fuels in ethnic cooking fires, barbecues or braziers.

No person shall light any fire in the open air including a barbecue, brazier, ethnic cooking fire, or an incinerator fire under the following conditions:

- Where the location, wind, or other conditions cause or are likely to cause the fire to become:
  - A danger to any person or property; or
  - Out of control or spread beyond the limits of the premises on which it is lit; or
  - A smoke or ash nuisance to any person; or
  - A hazard to traffic
- Within three metres of any part of a building, tree, hedge, fence or other combustible material; or
- Without continuous supervision being maintained at all times.

There are additional rules regarding Prohibited Fire Seasons etc, the complete bylaw can be found at the Ashburton District Council or on its web site.

**Conclusion**  
Please have consideration and respect for your neighbours and others who may be affected by your actions and dispose of your waste responsibly. All domestic waste can be disposed of at the Resource Recovery Park near you, if you are not sure where this is or have other questions on waste disposal contact the Council on 307 7700.

Should you have problems with a neighbour burning outdoors you should use the same number to contact an enforcement officer. ECan pollution hotline may also be able to help, its number is Ph 0800 765588.

# Pool fencing — get it right

A pool is described as being an excavation, structure or product that is used or is capable of being used for swimming, wading, paddling or bathing and includes spa pools.

Anyone intending to install a new pool, or new pool fence, must apply for and uplift a Building Consent prior to commencing the work.

The fencing of Swimming Pools Act requires pool owners to notify the Council of existence of a pool. An application for building consent is an acceptable way of notifying the Council of the installation of a new pool or fence. You can tell us about an existing pool and we will record this on your property file.

The immediate pool area is to be fenced — "immediate pool area" means the land in or on which the pool is situated and so much of the surrounding area as is used for activities or purposes carried out in conjunction with the use of the pool. The immediate pool area must not include the whole of the outdoor living space (your boundary fence alone is not acceptable). Spa pools require the same fencing as swimming pools. Lockable lids to spa pools are non-compliant.

What fence is required? — A fence that complies with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, in that all material components shall be of a durable nature, the fence shall be a

continuous barrier of appropriate height, rigidity and strength to prevent any child up to six years of age from climbing over, under or through the fence from the outside. The fence should extend to 1.2 metres above the ground, 1.2 metres away from any object which could be used to climb over the fence, this includes trees vegetation etc.

There shall be no gap between vertical components greater than 100mm.

There shall be no gap under the fence greater than 100mm.

Where the fence is constructed of perforated material, trellis, netting or mesh gaps must be no greater than 10mm for a fence up to 1.8metres high. (This measurement is on a diagonal or widest part of the gap. Fences higher than 1.8metre may have 50mm gaps)

Horizontal boarded fences must have all gaps filled, all support rails, bracing etc must that are not vertical are made inaccessible to climb from the outside.

All support rails, rods, or wires which are not vertical shall be inaccessible for use for climbing from the outside except if positioned horizontally and are spaced a minimum of 900mm apart.

Boundary fences — If a pool fence is also a boundary fence be aware that you may have no control over any object against the neighbours side

which might allow a child to climb into your pool area from next door. Gates must:

- Open away from the pool
  - Be fitted with self-latching device and self-closing capable of closing the gate from 150mm ajar.
  - Have a latch.
  - If placed on the pool side, must only be accessible by reaching over the top of the fence/gate or through a hole at least 1.2 metres above the ground from the outside. If on the outside of the gate, must be at least 1.5 metres above the ground.
  - Be clear of anything that could hold them open.
  - Not lift off their hinges or unlatch if pulled down on lifted up.
- Filling your Pool — When filling the pool there is a requirement to have a backflow prevention device fitted to prevent contamination of a reticulated water supply. Backflow preventers are devices fitted into the pipe or hose system used to fill the pool, to stop water from the pool being sucked back into the pipe or hose for whatever reason, eg. a fall in the mains pressure and contaminating the water supply with pool water.

You can get more information on this topic from your Council, pool supplier or local plumbing merchant.

The value of aesthetically pleasing gardens cannot be placed above the value of human lives