COUNCIL BRIEF

Ashburton Ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

EVENT NOTICES

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Thursday, 26 January 2023 | ISSUE 113

Building consents still flowing in

Economists continue to predict a downturn in the housing market, though the number of building consents being processed by the Ashburton District Council remains high.

Council finished the 2022 calendar year with 769 consents received, at a value of \$250,437,888, and that included 271 new house consents.

As a comparison:

- In the 2021 calendar year, Council received 786 consents, including 275 for new house consents, with a value of \$200,344,271
- In the 2020 calendar year, Council received 631 consents, with a value of \$173,933,552
- Pre-covid in 2019, Council received 633 consents, worth \$120,602,124.

Strategy and Compliance Group Manager Jane Donaldson said March was the busiest month of 2022, when 35 new house consents were received.

"December was the quietest with only 12 new house consents, so the average was roughly 22 new house consents per month.

"In the first 18 days of 2023, we received 16 new house consents and there are currently no signs of things slowing down just yet."

The number of consents dropped slightly in the last six months of the year, though the value of the work remained the same.



Ms Donaldson said the number of amendments had risen significantly, and was up 57 per cent.

"Amendments are changes to a building consent that has been issued, but that we have to reassess for compliance. We can see this relating to supply chain issues in the building industry, where builders are using different brands of materials, like plasterboard.

"It will be interesting to see how interest rates and the continuing uncertainty about a recession will affect numbers in the next six months." The large number of building consents had been putting pressure on Council staff to meet processing timeframes, but a big push over the past couple of months has cleared some of the backlog.

"We should be able to meet the processing target for the rest of the year, though compliance timeframes are affected if there is a delay in answering Council's request for information," she said.

Planning staff processed 49 Land Information Memorandums in December, down from 74 in November. The number of resource consents decided in December was 16, up from 15 in November.



(8 - 18 years) Adult supervision Advised.

EA networks XX centre XX

eanetworkscentre.co.nz



Crane zone off limits

Havelock Street, from Council's admin building to Park Street, will be closed to through traffic for one day on **Wednesday 1 February** when the spire of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is lifted off by crane.

The church is undergoing earthquake strengthening and the spire is being removed by a crane that will be positioned on Havelock Street.

Traffic will be detoured using Baring Square West Road, Cameron Street and Park Street. The operation is expected to take most of the working day, and is weather dependant.

Pedestrians will be directed to footpaths outside the work zone.

Leen Braam, Councillor Amsterdam to Ashburton

Late last year, after a five-year gap, Lianne and I were able to travel back to the Netherlands.

Covid and other unknowns stopped us for a couple of years, and it was great to reconnect and see our Hollandse Familie (Dutch Family) and friends.

Another reason for us was an invitation to the wedding of our nephew and his bride-to-be. They waited until New Zealand covid restrictions were ended to make sure that we could attend the wedding.

It writes like a fairy tale - the wedding was at a beautiful small castle, a beautiful bride and the wedding party staying the night at the castle, including breakfast. No, I wasn't in the dungeons, we had a great room overlooking the park. Just magic!

But back to reality. I always try to compare the Netherlands with good

ol' Ashburton district and reading de Telegraaf (a Dutch daily newspaper) I realised that the main stories are exactly the same as the Press in New Zealand.

Unpopular Government decisions, climate crisis, fuel/food prices, Ukraine/ Russian war, staff shortage, building materials shortage, housing shortage, farmers are polluters, energy crisis, high building costs. Plus, Covid is still having an impact all over the world.

The only difference between the two newspapers are the languages.

Sorry, the only other exception was a small item about the Three Waters reform pushed upon us. I am sure that the Dutch have their own issues with clear and clean waters but I could not find any story in the newspapers, maybe they have a better solution or more options (cheaper and fair) or am I just day-dreaming?



Ashburton with quiet nights, not much light pollution and space to swing a cat. An amazing community and a great district to live, love, work and play.

Yes, we have similar issues as most of the populations of this world, but I am positive that if we respect each other, work together and find solutions, this district will strive to create an environment where its people can excel.

Covid has proved to be "a gift that keeps on giving" and after returning from our trip I was diagnosed with long covid. I am pleased we found the problem, but the cure is slowing down for a while.

And that is not easy for a busy person.

Timeline agreed for ward by-election

A timeline for the Ashburton District **Council Western Ward by-election** has been agreed to with nominations for candidates set to open from Thursday 16 February and voting to start in late April if more than one eligible candidate stands.

The by-election will fill the seat left vacant by Councillor Rodger Letham, who passed away in December, shortly after being elected for a second term.

Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Cr Letham was highly respected amongst both colleagues and constituents, and the community now had the significant task of nominating and electing a candidate who could bring the same dedication and enthusiasm to the Council table.

"The dates won't be official until the formal Notice of Election is issued in February; however, we hope releasing this early timeline will get people thinking about who might make a good candidate or to consider standing themselves," said Mr Riach.

Under the planned timeline, a Notice of Election will be sent to the District's Electoral Officer on 13 February. Nominations for candidates will be open from 16 February until 16 March, and if more than one eligible nomination is received, postal voting will take place between 20 April and noon on Friday 12 May.

Mr Riach says the timing will meet statutory timeframes while avoiding a clash with the busy Easter period when



This map shows ward boundaries in the Ashburton distict and the Western Ward is shown in orange.

many people would be travelling.

"We want our residents to have the best possible opportunity to make a considered choice about who will represent them," said Mr Riach.

Those wishing to stand will need to be nominated by two electors who live inside the ward, however the candidate themselves can live anywhere in the country as long as they're on the parlimentary electoral roll. Mr Riach says more information about standing in the by-election will be made available in February.

It's expected that there will be strong interest amongst residents in the Western Ward - 53 per cent of votes in the ward were returned during October's local elections, the highest in the Ashburton District and well above the national average.

The successful candidate will join Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan in representing the Western Ward on Council and become a member of the Methven Community Board.

Mr Riach encouraged those who were new to the area, had moved recently or didn't receive voting papers during the October elections to check their enrolment details were up to date at vote.nz.

You can check the boundaries of all wards in the Ashburton district on our website.

Services upgrade coming for domain kiosk

Regular users of the Ashburton Domain will see contractors in action in the coming weeks as they upgrade services to the existing kiosk in the picnic ground off Grigg Street.

The kiosk is a popular spot and can be hired for private use - it has running water, electricity, a Zip water heater and facilities to wash dishes and prepare food. It is hired for \$30 a use, plus a \$25 refundable key bond.

Open Spaces staff are overseeing

the upgrade work, which will involve contractors digging a trench alongside the sealed path that runs east from the corner of Grigg and Elizabeth Streets. The work area will be taped off and people are asked to use other paths.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said upgrading services to the kiosk was part of long-term planning for the domain.

"The kiosk is regularly booked by people or businesses hosting outdoor functions in the picnic ground area and this is a

good opportunity to upgrade services to it. Council used the building itself to distribute popcorn during the outdoor Christmas movie in December and it is hired by a variety of family and business groups, and other organisations."

He said staff would also carry out larger maintenance work on trees and shrubs in the area while it was taped off.

Signs will be posted at the domain entrance off Grigg Street and near the kiosk advising when the work is in progress.

FREEDICHT **STARTING IN FEBRUARY**

13—18 YEARS

BOOK NOW!

COUNCIL OFFICE

5 Baring Square West

Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Create a CV & Cover Letter Would you like help applying for

jobs in a professional manner? Dates: 21 Feb | 28 Feb Time: Tuesdays, 3.30pm—5.30pm

View all our courses at:

ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 8.00pm Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS

Rakaia Memorial Hall - Wednesday 1 February, 7pm in the hall supper room

Mayfield Reserve and Hall Board - Tuesday 28 March, 7.30pm at the Mayfield hall

and supplied by the Ashburton District Council. For more information and the latest news, visit our website ashburtondc. govt.nz/news or follow us on Facebook.

EA NETWORKS CENTRE 20 River Terrace Mon - Fri 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm) Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ROAD WORKS NOTICES

Thompsons Track – current to 31 March. Thompsons Track between Winchmore Lauriston Road and Line Road is temporarily closed for roading maintenance and reseal works. Detour available.

Mayfield Valetta Road - current to 6 April. Mayfield Valetta Road between Tinwald Westerfield Mayfield Road and Anama Valetta Road is temporarily closed during the day for rehabilitation. Resident access remains, detour available.

Holmes Road - current to 17 March. Holmes Road between Mt Hutt Station Road and Barkers Road is closed for a full road reconstruction and drainage installation. Detour options available.

Railway Terrace East (Rakaia) current to 28 February. Railway Terrace East from Rolleston Street to Bridge Street SH1 is temporarily closed for work associated with Waka Kotahi's weigh bridge project.

Cass Street - 23 January to 30 January. The northbound lane of Cass Street between Victoria Street and Peter Street will be closed to enable an upgrade of power lines. Detours available.

Intersection of Williams and Havelock Streets – Current until 2 February. This intersection is closed while sewer mains are upgraded. Detours are in place.

Allens Road and Middle Road - current until 1 February. Allens Road, from Reighton Drive to Alton Place, and Middle Road, from Osborn Grove to Parkdale Close, are closed while sewer mains are upgraded. Detours are in place.

View a map of all current and upcoming road closures in the district by going to our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, (unless otherwise advised).

Methven Community Board -Monday 30 January, 10.30am at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Council Meeting - Wednesday 1 February, 1pm (live-streamed)

Budget Workshop - Thursday 2 February, 10.30am

Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee - Tuesday 7 February, 9.30am

Biodiversity Advisory Group -Tuesday 7 February, 1pm

Council Activity Briefings -Wednesday 4 February, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Audit & Risk Committee -Wednesday 4 February, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting - Wednesday 15 February, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Agencies (6 month report presentations) - Wednesday 22 February, 9.30am

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM 327 West Street 10am - 4pm daily

Thursday 9am - 5pm

Dates: 8 Feb & 15 Feb | 22 Feb & 1 Mar

ashburtondc.govt.nz/digital

ADULTS

Apply & Search for Jobs Looking for a new job this year? This course will set you up for success!

Time: Wednesdays, 10am—12pm