

Feedback on rules for pokies

The Council has opened public feedback on two policies this week, including the Gambling Venue Policy which outlines rules for venues with pokie machines and TAB venues within Mid Canterbury.

Group Manager of Democracy and Engagement, Toni Durham, said that it had been 12 years since the topic was last publicly consulted on. She noted this was an opportunity for the community to have their say on how many gaming machines a venue could have, how many venues could be established in the district and where they could be located.

“Council is proposing a few changes, so it’s important that we hear whether our residents support them, but more broadly, it’s a chance to ensure our rules around gambling venues are still serving our community well,” she said.

Toni explained that the proposed changes included introducing a district-wide cap of 20 gambling venues (currently, twelve venues are operating) and prohibiting venues from establishing in socio-economic areas with high levels of deprivation. Existing venues would be able to relocate with their machines to an alternative site, provided they meet certain conditions outlined in the policy.

“The Council is proposing a controlled growth approach, which will allow the number of venues and machines to gradually increase alongside population



growth, while maintaining controls to minimise harm,” she added.

A recent social impact assessment showed that Ashburton has a higher number of gaming machines and slightly higher problem gambling intervention rate per capita than the national average. However, there was no significant increase in gambling-related harm identified since the last report.

“Local people know what’s right for their community, and they need to tell us, so we can ensure we have the balance right,” said Toni.

Feedback is also sought on minor changes to the Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy following a request from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to include ‘affected’ buildings, in line with changes to the Building Act 2004.

Affected buildings are defined as those that could pose a risk to people’s safety or to nearby properties due to their proximity to dangerous buildings.

Feedback on both policies closes on Monday 27 October. Residents can find out more and make a submission online at itsourplace.nz

Tradewaste agreement approved

Council has approved a tradewaste agreement with Ashburton Meat Processors, giving conditional consent for them to discharge factory wastewater into Ashburton’s urban wastewater scheme.

There is capacity in the scheme to handle the discharge and it means the meat processor will no longer discharge wastewater onto land.

Chief Executive Hamish Riach said Ashburton Meat Processors (AMP) would initially pay \$5.5 million, plus GST, for the discharge consent.

“This development contribution will cover the cost of work Council will need to do at the Wilkins Road Treatment Plant to upgrade the facilities to handle the extra discharge. AMP will also pay for a pump station and pipe from their Bridge Street plant to the intersection of Bridge and Kitchener Street, where their wastewater will enter the network.”

Council and AMP have been talking about a tradewaste agreement since 2021, as the meat plant’s discharge consent expires in November 2028.

CE Hamish Riach Fitting farewells for final meeting



This week saw the final Council meeting of the triennium, which is the three-year term that the Mayor and Councillors are elected for.

It was the final Council meeting for Mayor Neil Brown and councillors Lynette Lovett and Leen Braam, and a chance for all three to reflect on their time in local government.

I thank them for their service as the role can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding. Those current Councillors standing for re-election in the local elections do not know if they will be back after 11 October, but any that do not succeed will be invited back to deliver valedictory speeches too.

The new Council will be sworn in on Wednesday 29 October, and it is up to them to decide on the rhythm and regularity of council meetings for the next three years. While this Council

has met in full, two times a month, with Audit and Risk, Three Waters and Activity Briefings as separate meetings, it is up to the new council to decide when and how it meets and if it will be in the morning, afternoon or evening.

New councillors will spend time learning about their governance roles and responsibilities, and be briefed on critical council business and issues, as well as standing orders and meeting conduct.

Their job is to continue to ensure the Ashburton district has a healthy natural environment, thriving business and safe spaces for all.

The period of time between the old and new Councils is called the interregnum, and is officially an interval or gap between two periods of normal government or leadership. During this period, the Chief Executive has delegated power to make decisions and maintain usual Council business.

SHORT AND SWEET

NITRATE REPORTS

Council has begun publishing monthly nitrate reports for its community drinking water schemes. The graphs show nitrate-nitrogen levels in water sampled monthly at 12 water treatment plants over the past year, and plots the levels against the maximum acceptable value (MAV) of 11.3mg/L. The reports can be found under water quality, in the water services section of the website. Council encourages private bore owners, especially in rural areas, to test their own water regularly.

NIGHT SHOOTING

Council contractors will be undertaking three nights of pest control shooting in and around Lake Clearwater, Lake Camp and the hut settlement between 6-21 October. The work is dependent on fine weather, and pests to be targeted include rabbits, stoats, ferrets, feral cats, hares and possums. Our approved contractor will use a thermal scope to spot pests.

NEW CALENDAR

Is it recycling or glass today? If you often ask this question when you put out your rubbish and recycling bins, then we have an easy fix - drop into Customer Services and pick up a copy of our kerbside collection calendar, or go to binitright.nz and download an online copy of the calendar to refer to.



SPLASHDECK FIX

Remediation work on the splashdeck at EA Networks Centre has been programmed after the school holidays, for the two weeks **6-19 October**. The toddler pool and the leisure pool will be closed while the old splashdeck surface is removed and a new one laid, but all other pools remain open. The whole pool area will be closed on the weekend of **18 and 19 October**, while aquatic staff retrain for a new international lifeguard qualification.

Voting returns climb steadily

Voters are having their say in the Ashburton District, with 24.86 per cent of potential votes returned as at Tuesday evening, and about halfway through the voting period.

The return is highest in the Western Ward, at 29.96 per cent, where voters are being asked to choose two of the three candidates up for election. In the Ashburton ward, the return is 24.49 per cent, with voters choosing five candidates from nine up for election.

Group Manager of Democracy and Engagement Toni Durham said the Eastern Ward turnout is behind at this point at 21.02 per cent, with voters only being asked to choose a Mayor.

“It’s likely down in the Eastern Ward because voters there do not need to choose their councillors, with two people standing for two seats. But it’s really important that they do vote though, as they need to have a say in electing our next mayor.”

Four candidates are contesting the mayoralty, after Mayor Neil Brown declared he was standing down after 21 years in local government.

Voter turnout at neighbouring Selwyn District is 18.67 per cent and at Timaru 24.02 per cent.

Mrs Durham said voter turnout in the Ashburton District was around 50 per cent in the 2022 local elections and while that was higher than most other councils in the country, it was important the number participating in local democracy did not decline.



“One of the reasons people give for not voting is that they don’t know the candidates, so these elections Council has done more to share candidate information, including hosting meet-the-candidate meetings and producing videos for candidates so they can introduce themselves to the community.

“Council has a big impact on people’s daily lives, from drinking water to roads and rubbish collection, and this is the time for voters to choose those who make decisions about these key services.”

Postal votes must be in the mail by Tuesday 7 October, so that they reach election headquarters before voting closes at noon on 11 October.

Voting papers can also be posted into any

one of the six orange postal bins that are dotted around the Ashburton District. The bins are at Ashburton Library and Council's Customer Service counter, EA Networks Centre, Tinwald FreshChoice, Rakaia Mobil and Methven Four Square.

No voting papers? No problem, you can make a special vote by visiting Council at 2 Baring Square East, but you have to be enrolled first.

Those unable to visit during office hours or who would like further help, should come to a special voting drop-in session at Ashburton Library on Saturday 4 October from 10am until 2pm.

For all local election information, visit voteashburton.nz

ROADING NOTICES

Line Road, Methven - Parts of Line Road will be closed to traffic until mid-October while new wastewater pipes are installed. Tru-Line Civil is laying about 800 metres of pipe from Methven’s wastewater treatment plant west along Line Road to the township. Any road closures and detours will be signposted.

King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey - Closed until early October while a new water treatment plant is built. The road closure does not impact school access.

Mason Place - Mason Place will be closed to traffic until 31 October, while new water pipes are installed. Access for residents remains.

Grove Street - Closed at Wilkins Street intersection while new watermain is installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Road closures and detours expected until 31 October. Resident access remains.

Tinwald viaduct - Melcombe Street, under the Tinwald viaduct, is temporarily closed pending repairs by KiwiRail.

Fords Road - Closed between Griffiths Road and Wheatstone Road from 29 September until 30 October, while Grant Hood Contracting undertakes road maintenance. Local restrictions apply, access for residents remains.

SH1 Rangitata - There will be no access to SH1 from Withells Road and Ealing Road from 29 September to 31 October while NZ Transport Agency contractors complete shoulder widening and major resurfacing work on SH1, north of the Rangitata bridge.

SH1 Ashburton - NZ Transport Agency contractors are resurfacing a section of highway between the northern end of the Ashburton bridge and South Street, so traffic management will be in place from 28 September until 9 October. Expect delays.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

Give it a crack at Career Fest 2025!

Try your hand at driving a digger or build a saw horse from plans, as part of the Mid Canterbury Career Fest at the Ashburton Showgrounds next week.

The job festival on **Thursday 9 October** will have a number of interactive exhibits, all designed to showcase the variety of jobs in the Ashburton District and give people a chance to give something a go.

Some 30 businesses will be there, including Greg Donaldson Contracting,

who will have a small digger on site to move gravel. McKain Construction will invite people to build a saw horse, while Men at Work will have a traffic management plan with cones as part of their hands-on display.

Other exhibitors include Morrison Agri, Plucks, Torea Orchard, Fonterra, EA Networks and the NZ Defence Force.

Career Fest will run from 3.30pm-7pm and the event is a collaboration between Council, the Mayors Taskforce For Jobs

and the Ministry of Social Development.

Everyone who goes will be invited to complete a feedback form that puts them into a draw to win a \$500 grocery voucher. Plus on the day, there will be a free barbecue and entertainment in the form of Pedalmania and their freaky bikes.

Career Fest is seen as a way for people to start conversations and broaden horizons about work choices that are available in the district, whether they are just starting in the job force or looking to upskill.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

- Clean glass bottles in the green crate
- Clean hard plastics 1, 2 and 5 (**no lids**), and clean cardboard and clean pizza boxes, paper and tins in the yellow bin
- Food waste, **soiled pizza boxes** and all other rubbish in the red bin



GET READY TO Shake Out

16 OCTOBER 9:30AM

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL AND TSUNAMI EVACUATION

Water your lawn in the early hours of the morning or late evening to reduce water loss via evaporation

COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)