

Hamish Riach, Chief Executive Elections take main stage

The lead-up to the local elections in October has officially begun, with nominations now open for seats on Council and the Methven Community Board.



Council is an opportunity to be a voice for the community in many decisions. And voting lets you elect people you believe in to deliver great outcomes for our future.

Our long term vision is for the Ashburton District to be the district of choice for lifestyle and opportunity - a place that people choose to live, work and play in. To achieve this, we need to provide great places in a healthy environment, welcome new people and ideas, and empower our community to guide our decisions.

We also need to foster a prosperous economy, based on innovation and opportunity.

Our decision-makers have this vision in mind and are always balancing increased demand for services against what is affordable for ratepayers - their experience and ties with the community help that process.

Successive councils have helped put the district in a good space and we are rated by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research as the sixth most desirable district to do business in and 12th for quality of life.

Our future Councillors will find the job both challenging and rewarding and our communities should be encouraging potential candidates with passion and a will to serve to consider standing.

If you want to know more about the nomination process, visit our website voteashburton.nz

There are exciting times ahead for those elected, as Council has a large work programme planned over the next few years, as well as dealing with a range of external issues impacting Council and the community.

It is the job of elected members to lead the Council and community through current issues, such as the Covid-19 pandemic recovery and climate change, as well as steering us through current and future Government reforms and infrastructure investment to provide for growth of our district, all the while in an environment of cost of living increases and the highest inflation rate since 1990.

Local authorities are having to adapt to new legislation and technology that changes the way we do business, and we are currently dealing with the reform of Three Waters and the Resource Management Act, and the Review into the Future of Local Government.

These reforms could dramatically change the traditional role and function of local government.

All of these, and the day-to-day operation of what is essentially a big business, makes for important and impactful work, and standing for

Nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2022 local elections and the call has gone out for candidates to contest 21 roles around the Ashburton district.

Aside from the mayoral race, nine councillors will be elected to represent the three wards, as well as five Methven Community Board members and six Braided Rivers Community Trust members.

Nearly anyone can represent their community, as long as they are over the age of 18, a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the Parliamentary electoral roll.

To help potential candidates prepare, Council held a candidate information evening on Tuesday and 20 people attended.

Council has also launched the voteashburton.nz website to provide easy access to information for both

voters and candidates. It has a ton of information about the local elections, including nomination forms, maps for the different wards and Frequently Asked Questions.

In Mid Canterbury, people will also be voting for two representatives at Environment Canterbury.

Nominations for all roles are open until noon on 12 August. Candidates cannot nominate themselves and they must be nominated by two people, who are over 18 and enrolled to vote in the same ward or area the candidate is planning to stand.

The local elections are conducted by postal vote, and people can expect to receive their voting packs in the mail from 16 September. Voting closes at noon on Saturday 8 October.

Local candidates will be listed at voteashburton.nz once their nominations are processed.

Glow in the Park is all go!

Wrap up warmly when you head to Glow in the Park at Tinwald this weekend.

The free special effects lighting show will run on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, starting at 5.30pm, with a trail of installations around the Tinwald Domain and the Plains Vintage and Railway Museum.

Saturday night's line-up will also feature a glowing hot air balloon.

Council is partnering with EA Networks to run the event, which celebrates 100 year of bringing electricity to the district.

Council Community Services Group Manager Steve Fabish said there was high excitement about the event, and he hoped hundreds of families would come.

The trail will include interactive displays and there will be places for selfies. The event is not suitable for dogs.

Carparking will be signposted on Maronan Road.

22-24 JULY 2022**ASHBURTON****GLOW**
in the park **TINWALD DOMAIN & PLAINS**
From 5.30pm to 9.30pm**100 YEARS****EA networks**
connecting our community

HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ Follow the lights
- 1 Electricity alive
- 2 Fire station bells and whistles
- 3 Platform hustle at the train station
- 4 Blacksmiths
- 5 Photo op at our LED shapes
- 6 Water reflections
- 7 UV fun - remember to wear white!
- 8 Watch for trolls
- 9 Chase some moving gobos
- 10 Tree lighting
- 11 Food vendors
- ★ Other attractions
- A Parking
- B Mobility Parking only
- C Toilets

Civil Defence winds down after rain bomb

When a weather bomb drops and Civil Defence activates its emergency operations centre, a big human machine kicks into gear to deal with the response, recovery and, much later, resilience sides of the event.

Ashburton District Council's Civil Defence teams were well prepared for this week's weather event, having gained valuable experience during the 1-in-200 year rain event in May last year.

Three teams were rostered on in eight-hour shifts around the clock, with people responsible for operations, information, logistics and welfare. They connect with Council staff who are keeping a close eye on roads, drinking water and wastewater, and any other core service that might be at risk.

The emergency operations centre also includes representatives from Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ), Environment Canterbury and sometimes the likes of police, St John, Mid Canterbury Rural Support and Federated Farmers, depending on the event or emergency under way.

Council Chief Executive Hamish Riach said the first response stage provided help to those who needed it and information, which was crucial to help the district's different communities prepare and act.

"In this week's rain event, we were able to use a lot of information gained in the 2021 flooding and see the properties that would be affected if flood waters broke out of any of our rivers.

"We were worried that new flood protection work done after the last flood was vulnerable to erosion. Luckily, this event was not as severe as in 2021, though some property owners along the river have been affected again.

"Predictably, there were also wider concerns about the safety of the State Highway 1 Ashburton River bridge, which held up well."

Information is gathered from many sources, including Government agencies and other local authorities. Quite a lot of information is also gathered from social media, especially when people are reporting hazards and their locations; this also helps Civil Defence send specific messages and reach out to different communities.



Road damage in the Upper Rakaia Gorge.



The roading team check surface flooding near the upper Hinds River on Wednesday.

Recovery is the next stage of the Civil Defence response and that is about restoring services, like roads, and supporting property owners access help to do the same on their land.

The resilience side of the event is more long-term and looks at what can be done in the future to help the district and its people cope better.

Much of this is about reviewing what happened and planning ahead for the next time.

Mr Riach said Council's roading team

would be out making a full assessment of roads that would need repairs in the wake of this week's weather bomb.

Council's live map of road closures, on its website, is a valuable resource at any time.

Ashburton Civil Defence deactivated its emergency operations centre at 10am yesterday, as river levels continued to reduce.

Issues can continue to be reported to Council by phone 307-7700, email or by using the Snap Send Solve app.

DOG PARK CLOSURE

ASHBURTON DOG PARK TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The Ashburton Dog Park near State Highway 1 will be closed for the next few days while contractors erect a new fence along the river boundary.

The work is part of improvements to the dog park area following the May 2021 floods, when the area was under water. Part of the new work is creating a new car park and entrance behind the Kmart development on South Street.

You can exercise your dog at Argyle Park or near the Ashburton Business Estate off Company Road.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALCOHOL LICENCES

Council has received the following applications for new alcohol licences.

The applications may be inspected at the office of the Ashburton District Licensing Committee at 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton.

Objections must be notified to The Secretary, Ashburton District Licensing Committee, PO Box 94, Ashburton by the date specified.

No objection to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in Section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

METHVEN RESORT - public notice of application for a new OFF licence.

The Methven Limited has made application to the District Licensing Committee at Ashburton for a new OFF licence in respect of the premises situated at 51 Main Street, Methven

The general nature of the business conducted under the licence is Remote Sales. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is sold under the licence are: Sunday to Monday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Objection period closes **26 July 2022**.

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

ASHBURTON RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

The pit compactor at the Ashburton park is undergoing maintenance from Friday 22 July until Monday 25 July – this means no rubbish will be able to leave the site, so we are asking people to hold off bringing in any rubbish, unless it is necessary.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are at Council Chambers, 137 Havelock Street, unless specified

Methven Community Board, Monday 25 July, 10.30am, at Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 26 July, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council meeting, Wednesday 27 July 1pm (live-streamed)

Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee, Tuesday 2 August, 9.30am

Council Activity Briefings, Wednesday 10 August, 9.30am

Audit & Risk Committee, Wednesday 10 August, 1.30pm (live-streamed)

Council meeting, Wednesday August 17, 1pm (live-streamed)

These news pages are created and published by the Ashburton District Council. For more information and the latest news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/news

It's doggy rego time!

LAST WEEK

It's now time to register or re-register your four-legged friend.

Look out for the information pack in your mailbox or visit our website to register online.





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All dogs over the age of three months need to be registered by 31 July.



ashburtondc.govt.nz

COUNCIL OFFICE

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

ASHBURTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

180 Havelock Street, Ashburton 7700
Mon - Fri 9.00am - 8.00pm
Sat 10am - 1pm | Sun 1pm - 4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

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

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & ASHBURTON MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am - 4pm daily