

Does your community project qualify for a Council grant?

Local community groups with an upcoming project should check if they qualify for council funding, as the August round of grants is now open.

Funds are available across five categories: Biodiversity, Heritage, Community Infrastructure, Trail Maintenance and Creative Communities.

Ashburton District Mayor Neil Brown says the grants are a way for Council to support a range of initiatives throughout the district that help to make Mid Canterbury a great place to live.

“We’ve already given out \$245,000 for this financial year, but there are surplus funds in some of the grant categories that we’d also like to distribute.

“The biodiversity fund, for example, has nearly \$40,000 in it so we’d love to see some applications for projects that aim to protect, maintain or restore biodiversity.”

The heritage fund supports specialised maintenance that preserves or restores the heritage state of a building or heritage item.

The trail maintenance fund helps maintain and enhance local walking and cycling trails.

The Community Infrastructure fund has \$13,500 left to distribute.

Mr Brown said previous infrastructure grants had been given out for projects that were improving facilities in rural communities.

“For example, the Mayfield Memorial Hall was granted \$10,000 to replace the



ABOVE: The Mayfield Memorial Hall was recently granted \$10,000 to replace the entrance doors to the supper room.

entrance doors to the supper room, the Rakaia Pony Club was granted \$10,000 to help create an all-weather arena and the South Rakaia Bach Owners Association was granted \$10,000 to develop a community facility with toilets where residents can gather.”

The Creative Communities fund is administered by Council on behalf of the New Zealand Creative Communities Scheme and will be \$17,850 – the scheme supports projects that increase

opportunities for local participation and engagement in the arts, whether you’re making a movie, producing a play or hosting an exhibition.

Applications will be open until 31 August, and will go through an assessment process. Successful applicants will be awarded their funding in October.

To learn more about the grants, criteria and to apply, visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants.

New pipes ready for wastewater

The north-west Ashburton wastewater extension project is now complete and Council is accepting applications from property owners wanting to connect to the expanded wastewater network.

The \$3.28 million project involved laying 2km of new wastewater pipes on Allens Road, Carters Road and Farm Road, and installing a new underground pump station to pump wastewater to Middle Road, where it enters the town’s wastewater and treatment network.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said it was great to see the project complete, and roads fully open in an area identified for more residential development. “Now new homes being built in the north-west area, or older homes with septic tanks, can apply to join the wastewater network.”

Property owners or developers wanting to join must apply for a connection, engage a council-approved contractor to do the physical connection work and, once connected, pay annual wastewater fees as part of their council rates.

Mr McCann said the cost of the physical work would differ for each property.

“We’re currently processing our first application to connect. We’d also like to thank our contractors for their good work and residents affected by the project for their patience.”

Property owners wanting to know more about connecting to the wastewater network should contact Council.

Hamish Riach - Chief Executive

Keeping our second bridge in the spotlight

The need for a second urban bridge over the Ashburton River will continue to make headlines ahead of the general election in October, and it won’t even take a flood to keep it in the news.

We can expect lots of frustrated commentary on Sunday after thousands of Canterbury rugby supporters who have trekked south to Dunedin for the All Blacks test against Australia on Saturday night, then head home via the Ashburton River bridge.

The state highway is going to be very busy and there will be congestion for north-bound traffic, probably with queues stretching kilometres. That also means anyone local trying to cross the highway or get onto it can expect to wait.

At least the weather forecast is positive and there’s sunshine forecast for Sunday - I don’t want to imagine the scene if we have another heavy rain event and Waka Kotahi shuts the bridge again as a precaution.

Council has long been planning and advocating for a second bridge that will make life more efficient and resilient for our community, and increase connectivity between Ashburton and Tinwald. We are taking every opportunity to talk to decision-makers in Government about how our resilience, and that of the whole South Island, would be improved with a second bridge. Funds to pay for the project are a big part of those discussions.

We are also talking with those aspiring to be in Government after the general

election, and so it was great to see National confirming its commitment to the project in policy announced this week. National says it will start construction on a new second Ashburton bridge in its first term, if elected.

Waka Kotahi, in a report to the district’s road safety co-ordinating committee this week, says it has a traffic signal strategy to deal with the peak traffic on occasions like Sunday. The cycle length of the three central SH1 Ashburton signals will be increased, with the maximum cycle length adjusted to 120 seconds (normally 70 seconds).

There will also be mobile electronic messaging boards on the highway to advise road users to expect delays.

That traffic will also be passing through the work zone where Lagmhor Road and

Agnes Street join the highway.

The traffic lights being installed there certainly won’t improve the flow of vehicles on the highway but they will increase the safety for locals joining and leaving the highway, as well as safe crossing for pedestrians.

As far as the local network goes, Council’s roading team continues to deal with roading repairs following the floodwater damage from 23 July. The cost of the work to patch and then later permanently repair those roads will be about \$500,000 and Council will apply to Waka Kotahi for emergency funds to help ease the burden on local ratepayers.



Good progress on landfill protection

Work to remediate an old landfill by the Ashburton River, and add flood protection, is making good progress.

The landfill was capped after it was closed in the 1990s and is now strictly managed to conditions set by Environment Canterbury.

The remediation work involves laying a special liner 600 metres along the southern slope of the landfill then securing it in place with the help of 14,000 cubic metres of shingle taken from the river about 10km upstream.

Concrete waste, recycled from the CBD renovation, will then be used to create 11 groynes at the base of the slope to act as flood protection.

Infrastructure Services and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the shingle and groynes would then be covered with topsoil and the whole area beautified.

“It will look like a natural slope, planted with natives, and the groynes will act to deter floodwater if there is another major event in the Ashburton River. Even if the topsoil is washed away, the concrete groynes will redirect floodwater and protect the landfill from being exposed.”

In 2021, floodwaters came to the foot of the landfill.

“We know that floodwaters can reach that far, so that’s why this important project is under way. We’re working with Environment Canterbury, who look after



The southern slope of the landfill will be partially covered with a liner and protected by thousands of cubic metres of shingle.

the river and river banks, and with the contractor Fulton Hogan to get the job done and generally clean up the area.”

Some old poplars near the southern slope of the landfill have been removed and the river track used by mountainbikers and walkers relocated. The track previously went up over the landfill, known as Mt Ash.

The top of the landfill was also previously used as an informal dog exercise area, but this is now closed to the public.

Mr McCann said the whole project could cost close to \$1 million but it was important the landfill was securely

capped and protected for the future.

“Plus we have these other environmental wins. We are taking shingle from the north branch of the river, which will help better control floodwaters at vulnerable points, and we are also recycling concrete waste from the CBD revitalisation project to make the 11 groynes.

“Once the area is finally planted, it will be a very pleasant spot, and the biking and walking track can be relocated back to its original position.”

The project is expected to be carried out in phases over several years, depending on funds available.

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **the Ashburton Car Club's Standing Quarter Mile Meeting.**

Road proposed to be closed:

- Blands Road from Dip Road to Methven Highway Intersection

Period of closure: From 9am to 4.30pm on Saturday, **9 September 2023.**

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next Council meeting on **23 August 2023.**

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 11 August 2023.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of a proposal to temporarily close roads to ordinary vehicle traffic to enable the holding of a community event – **Ashburton Market Day.**

Roads proposed to be closed:

- East Street from Havelock Street to Moore Street
- Burnett Street from Cass Street to East Street
- Tancred Street from Cass Street to East Street

Period of closure: From **Monday 25 September 2023**, 5.30am to 6pm.

This proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 – Schedule 10 (11 (e) and will be considered at the next Council meeting on **6 September 2023.**

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge a notice of their objection and grounds for their objection in writing by post or email to the Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton by 4pm, **Friday 28 August 2023.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure Services

LITTER-FREE ASHBURTON

Litter-Free Ashburton is a volunteer group that meets monthly to help keep our town looking tidy. The next outing is on **Thursday 10 August**, 1.30pm-3pm, meet at the Ashburton library corner.

Save the date: Saturday 16 September will have an activity to mark Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week. Meet in the West Street carpark, 10am-1pm.

Everyone is welcome, hi-viz vests and gloves and bags provided.

For the latest Council news, visit our website ashburtondc.govt.nz/latestnews

Disc golf course for Tinwald

A new disc golf course is to be built at the Tinwald Domain.

The Tinwald Reserve Board was granted \$10,000 by Council recently for the project, which has a total price of \$25,000.

The board has already scoped out a location for the course, at the rear of the pond. The geography has been approved by experts in disc golf course design.

The project has been on the reserve board's radar for six months and aligns with the domain's development plan and Tinwald Reserve Management Plan.

Council already mows the area and will take over ownership of the concrete tees and metal baskets once constructed.

People will be able to hire discs from the nearby camping ground office.

WORKS NOTICES

Chalmers Avenue – current to 20 August. The southbound lane of Chalmers Avenue, from Wellington Street to Nelson Street, will be closed while a watermain is replaced. Detours are in place.

Mackie Street (Methven) – Mackie Street, from Barkers Road to Methven Chertsey Road, is closed until 23 August while contractors replace a watermain. Resident access available, detour for other traffic in place.

Lagmhor Road/SH1 Tinwald/Agnes Street – Waka Kotahi is installing traffic lights at this intersection so expect traffic management and delays over the coming months.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are usually held in Council Chambers, located at 137 Havelock Street.

Dog Control Hearing, Friday 4 August, 9.30am

Biodiversity Advisory Group, Monday 7 August, 1pm

Council Meeting, Wednesday 9 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

Council Meeting, Wednesday 23 August, 1pm (live-streamed)

Take 10 minutes to have your say on the next 10 years.

10

for our future

Our Place | Our Plan

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ENVIRONMENTAL Well-being

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WIN A FAMILY PASS TO ŌPUKE THERMAL POOLS AND SPA

Fill out a short survey and go into the draw to win one of ten family passes.

Have your say! >>> itsourplace.com

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 9am - 8pm
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