



OUR LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34

ItsOurPlace.nz

What is Balmoral Hall's future?

Balmoral Hall, the subject of a key decision in the draft Long Term Plan out now for consultation, will be open on Saturday 13 April so members of the public can look around the building.

Council's preferred option is to sell the ageing hall and adjacent old Polytech site, though other options are to retain and repair, or demolish or relocate the buildings and redevelop the site.

Ashburton Mayor Neil Brown said Balmoral Hall needed \$1.3 million spent on it to bring it up to building code.

"The hall leaks, the heating is inadequate and the kitchen and bathroom facilities are substandard, so it needs a lot of investment. That has sparked a wider discussion about what to do with the hall and Polytech site, which includes an old classroom and surrounding land."

People interested in seeing Balmoral Hall for themselves can visit on Saturday 13 April, between 10am and 2pm.

Mayor Brown said the open hall was at the same time as a sausage sizzle at Baring Square East, where Councillors would be talking about the Long Term Plan and answering questions.

"Balmoral Hall is just two blocks away, so people can take a look around and then come back and talk to us if they have questions.



"There are a lot of details about the hall already on our ItsOurPlace.nz website. It has a capital value of \$1 million and the Polytech building and land is \$1.45m, and if we sell the properties we can reduce Council debt overall.

"We know there are a lot of memories attached to Balmoral Hall and it has been well used by the community since it was built in 1936. A dance school currently uses the hall at \$25 an hour, but all the income from hirers only covers about a quarter of the hall's actual expenses, which include insurance and electricity."

If Balmoral Hall was retained, Council would borrow \$1.3m to do the repairs and

the debt would cost ratepayers \$388,000 a year until it was paid off.

Mayor Brown said that a dance studio was being proposed at EA Networks Centre, should the hall be sold.

"If it is determined that Balmoral Hall is to be demolished and a dance studio is to be included in the EA Networks Centre, Council would try to coordinate this to prevent a gap between the demolition and the new studio. However, all decisions would be subject to the final form of the Long Term Plan."

To have your say on this topic and for more information about the draft Long Term Plan go to ItsOurPlace.nz.

CE Hamish Riach Jump in with your ideas on our Long Term Plan

I've been delighted to see an early and strong response to Council's draft Long Term Plan, with hundreds of people engaged in person, online or over a sausage in the first week or so.

Councillors and staff have met with college students who may well become ratepayers in the next 10 years, with the people of Rakaia, with people passionate about keeping the Tinwald Pool and with people who've been out grocery shopping and happened upon one of our pop-up events.

This engagement is really important for a plan that helps set our priorities for the next decade. As you'd expect, there have been a wide variety of views expressed to our people and some have already made submissions – there are many more events on the consultation calendar and if you have an opinion you want to pass on, I hope you come to one.

There is a lot to talk about in a Long Term Plan and Council has highlighted five key decisions, including what a future green waste collection might look like and if we should invest in outdoor water play, like a new outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre.

But feel free to comment on any aspect of the plan – the fact we have not specifically asked for feedback on roading or the second bridge does not mean they have fallen off our radar. Quite the opposite, in fact.

We are budgeting to progress both those topics: Roads are a core service and our ageing roading network needs ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance, so we are proposing a substantial increase to our roading budget.

A second bridge over the Ashburton River is expected to be built in the next three years, and the new government has indicated this is a top priority for the national roading programme – how the

bridge is funded remains a live and current topic of conversation. The Minister of Transport is in Ashburton in the next couple of weeks to continue these discussions.

Council has maintained an amount of \$7.5 million as a contribution to the bridge project, the same amount provided in our previous Long Term Plan.

In terms of infrastructure (like drinking water, wastewater, parks and the like), there is a lot going on in the next few years. Much of this work is for renewal of underground pipes, and is being done to ensure Council meets stricter drinking water and wastewater standards and that our network can cope with future growth.

We're still focused on getting the basics right, while making Ashburton district an attractive place to live and work.



SHORT AND SWEET



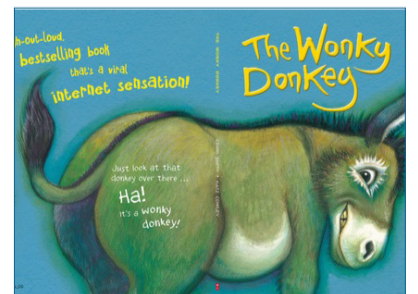
LAGMHOR ROAD

Just over 500m of new footpath, and kerb and channel is being installed on Lagmhor Road, up to the corner of Tinwald Westerfield Road. Traffic management will remain in place while the project continues. The footpath and kerb and channel will continue around the Tinwald Mayfield Westerfield Road corner to connect to Tarbottons Road.



BOOK NOOK

Ashburton Library is running a holiday programme for teens in which they can make their own book nook, a miniature world that can go on a desk or bookshelf. The programme, for ages 12-18, will run on **Tuesday 16 April** and **Thursday 18 April**, from 2pm-4pm - places are limited for this event and there is a \$5 charge. Contact the library to register.



WONKY DONKEY

Author of the popular Wonky Donkey series of children's books, Craig Smith, will be performing at the Ashburton Library event space on **Sunday 14 April**, at 2pm. Craig, who is also an illustrator and song writer, will be reading from some of his books so come along and join in.

Stockwater service in spotlight

Council's stockwater system was once a crucial open race network delivering water to farms around the district, but by today's standards it is an inefficient and expensive way to deliver water to livestock.

The draft Long Term Plan out now for feedback asks if Council should get out of providing stockwater and this key decision will be a focus at a community meeting at Hinds on Monday 15 April.

Mayor Neil Brown said Council currently operated 1600km of stockwater races, which provided water for livestock on about 1000 properties.

"The water is mostly used for animals but there are other benefits, like supporting biodiversity, providing food sources and land drainage. It was once a big system of open races, but over the past 20 years the stockwater network has more than halved as landowners have requested closures because they have switched to piped water."

Council's stockwater service also relies on having sufficient water to keep races flowing, but Council cannot guarantee there will be enough water, especially in hot dry summers like this past one.

Mayor Brown said Council's preferred option was to exit the stockwater service by 30 June 2027.

"Staying long-term in the business of providing stockwater would mean spending a lot of money on upgrading the system. Environment Canterbury also requires our stockwater takes from the rivers to have fish screens, and these will be another big additional cost."

If it was decided to exit stockwater, Council would still look after specific races that could not be closed (due to natural watercourses or ecological benefits).

Other stockwater options included in the draft Long Term Plan include continuing



to provide the stockwater service (with significant investment) and maintaining a closure programme over time (with minimal investment).

Mayor Brown said it currently cost about \$1.3 million a year to operate the service and while individual properties paid for the service, all ratepayers contributed a portion through the general rate.

"We know there is a big range of views on what we should do with our stockwater service and I encourage people to visit ItsOurPlace.nz and read more about it, or come to any of our meetings and ask a question."



Key decision

1 What should our kerbside green waste collection look like?

Key decision

2 If we invest in water-based leisure, where should it be?

Key decision

3 What should we do with Balmoral Hall and the old Polytech land?

Key decision

4 Should we get out of providing stockwater?

Key decision

5 Should we extend the EA Networks Centre stadium?

Long Term Plan Community Events



Saturday Sausage Sizzles

Visit any time between 10am and 2pm, grab a free sausage from our BBQ and chat with a councillor about anything in our Long Term Plan.

Sat 13 April - Baring Square East, outside Ashburton Library. *Balmoral Hall will also be open for public viewing at this time*

Sat 20 April - Methven iHub

Wet weather?



In heavy rain or windy conditions our Saturday Sausage Sizzles and pop-up events may move indoors or be postponed to later date. Check the Ashburton District Council Facebook page for updates.



Community Meetings

Hear directly from councillors about the key topics in this Long Term Plan. These presentations will include time for questions, followed by tea and coffee.

All community meetings begin at 7pm.

Mon 15 April - Hinds Community Centre
This meeting has a stockwater focus

Tue 16 April - Ashburton Library Event Space
This meeting will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

Wed 17 April - Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Thur 11 April - Hakatere Huts, starting 6.30pm



Pop-up Events

In a hurry? Stop by for a five-minute chat and grab a copy of the consultation document to read.

Thur 18 April,
12pm-2pm
Ashburton Library

Fri 19 April,
12pm-2pm
Ashburton CBD

We'll also be visiting various local schools, community groups and organisations, check our website for more details.

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 Car Club Standing Quarter Mile Sprint.**

Road proposed to be closed:

- **Blands Road, from Dip Road to Methven Highway (SH1)**

Period of closure: **From 9am to 4.30pm, and 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 18 May 2024.**

The proposed closure is made under the Local Government Act 1974 - Schedule 10 (11 e) and will be considered at a Council meeting on 17 April 2024.

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, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, by 4pm, **Tuesday 16 April 2024.**

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at **Hine Paaka (Council Chambers), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified. Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/agendas-and-minutes**

Council Meeting, Wednesday 17 April, 1pm (live-streamed)

Methven Community Board, Monday 22 April, 9am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Ashburton Water Zone Committee, Tuesday 23 April, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

Seafield Road - Work is planned for Seafield Road, between Christys Road and Stanley Road, from 12 February to 19 May. Traffic management will be in place and will include detours from 4 March.

Thompsons Track - Closed between Braemar and Pole Roads until 26 April for road rehabilitation. Traffic is being detoured around the work zones.

Grey Street - Closed between Cass and East Streets from 7am on 13 April to 5pm on 15 April so contractors can install a culvert across the road. Detours will be in place and access remains for residents.

Melcombe Street railway crossing - the crossing will be closed all day on 12 April so pothole and asphalt repairs can be made to the crossing. Detours will be in place.

For full details of road closures, see our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

TRACK CLOSURE

Mountain Bike Ashburton has advised that the Ashburton/Hakatere River track will be closed to the public on Saturday 13 April for the duration of the club's 4 & 6 Hour MTB Race.

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 6am-9pm (pools 7pm, gym 8pm)
Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 5pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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