

Elizabeth St pipe project on track

An eight-month water pipe renewal project on Elizabeth Street, costing nearly \$1 million, is on track to be complete by the end of April.

New drinking water and wastewater pipes have been laid from the corner of Philip and Grigg Streets, along Grigg Street to Elizabeth Street and then up to Oak Grove. The construction work will cross Oak Grove after Easter weekend with completion expected by 30 April.

The intersection of Elizabeth Street and Oak Grove will be closed for two weeks from Tuesday 2 April during this last stage. Detours will be in place - southbound traffic on Oak Grove will be able to turn left onto Elizabeth Street to access Ashburton Hospital, northbound traffic on Oak Grove heading to the hospital will use Philip and Walker Streets.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the high-profile project had taken a lot of planning because the work involved digging up roads outside the hospital.

“Our contractor ACL has worked closely with the hospital, and with nearby residents and a preschool, and the work has been going smoothly since it started last September.

“We have replaced water and wastewater pipes at the same time to minimise disruption and save money, while



improving Council’s pipe networks.

“A critical part of the project was making sure access to the hospital was maintained for ambulances, staff, patients and essential deliveries. We had to ensure the hospital had a continuous safe drinking water supply and that they could dispose of wastewater.”

The contracting crew say residents and children going to the preschool have got to know them well over the course of the project, and they have received hand-delivered Christmas goodies and encouraging notes.

Mr McCann said it is important on long projects to maintain communication with those affected by the work to explain how

and when the work will affect them.

“Replacing ageing pipes is such important work for all those that rely on Council’s water and wastewater system but longer projects can be a real disruption to people’s daily lives and work, so we appreciate and thank everyone involved in this project.

“Good planning and communication has been key to keeping everyone safe and we all look forward to the road cones being removed at the end of April.”

The project has allowed the hospital’s drinking water network to be upgraded and a second permanent back-up water supply from Oak Grove was installed, in case of an emergency.

Mayor Neil Brown Let's put pedal to the metal on second bridge

There’s a lot going on in the transport space around the district right now, and Council is involved with many of the projects in some way, shape or form.

The Fairfield rail freight hub at Fairton will officially open on 19 April and that will change traffic flow in Ashburton for the better. The hub is a project involving local transport operator Wareings (private), KiwiRail (corporate), Government and us, and it will increase the amount of freight being moved by rail to ports for export.

For decades, the shunting yard in the middle of town has held up traffic as wagons are connected or disconnected, but soon all that will be done at Fairton. People walking across the railway lines in town will need to have their wits about them though as trains will be passing through Ashburton at a much faster speed.

A project that I am glad to see at its end is NZ Transport Agency’s SH1 Tinwald corridor improvements. The new traffic

lights were switched on earlier this week and there’ll be a period of monitoring as motorists, cyclists and pedestrians get used to the new layout.

The lights will create opportunities for traffic on the side streets to get safely onto the state highway, but the only thing that will really ease congestion on that stretch of road is a second bridge.

We’re making sure this new bridge is firmly on Government’s radar and Council has made a submission to the Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport this week. It sets out why a second bridge over the Ashburton River is vital economic infrastructure for goods and services heading north and south, not only for community connectivity in Ashburton itself but for the whole of Canterbury and the South Island.

The existing bridge is a vulnerable and has been closed on two separate occasions in the past two and a half years because of high river flows, severe flooding and debris build-up. A second bridge at Chalmers Avenue will

significantly enhance the state highway network and we expect it will be fully funded by Government – we and the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, and the regional transport committee, are calling for the bridge to be defined as a road of national significance, rather than a road of regional significance.

We also strongly support the proposal to increase revenue in the National Land Transport Fund by more than 30 per cent over the next three years. We have one of the largest roading networks in the country and road funding remains under pressure due to historical underfunding and now the rising costs of road works.

Within the district, our roading contractors are making good progress on repairs, rehabs and resealing while the weather remains warmish. Thompsons Track and Maronan Road, arterial roads that carry a lot of traffic, both have work coming to an end in the next month and the result will be wider and stronger roads.



EASTER SERVICES

Council’s kerbside rubbish and recycling collection will not operate on Good Friday, but bins will be emptied on Saturday, and people whose bins are normally emptied on a Friday should put them out on Saturday 30 March. The Ashburton Library and Council’s Customer Services counter will be closed on Friday and Monday of Easter weekend; the art gallery and museum and EA Networks Centre will be closed Friday, but open the rest of the long weekend. See details of all service changes on our website.

KIDS' DAY OUT

EA Networks Centre is organising a pop-up Kids’ Day Out on the Tuesday after Easter to help parents with child care while most schools across the district remain closed. The session will run from 8.30am-3.30pm. Bookings are also being taken for the April holiday programme.



PLAN CHANGE 5

Notice is hereby given that the Ashburton District Council made its decision on submissions to **Proposed Plan Change 5** to the Ashburton District Plan (2014) at its meeting of 20 March 2024. The Commissioner’s recommendation to approve the Plan Change with some amendments was adopted by Council.

The adopted recommendation and the amended Plan Change are now available on Council’s website ashburtondc.govt.nz. Copies may also be inspected during office hours at Council offices, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Jane Donaldson,
Group Manager Compliance & Development

CONSENT HEARING

An application by Southern Parallel Equine Centre Ltd (LUC23/0109) to establish an equine stud, with associated facilities, at 279 Stranges Road, Ashburton, will be heard by independent hearing commissioner Graham Taylor on **Monday 8 April**.

The hearing will be in Hine Paaka, the Council Chamber, at 2 Baring Square East, beginning at 10am. It is open to the public, but only submitters who have elected to be heard may speak at the hearing.

More information about the Resource Consent Application can be found at our website ashburtondc.govt.nz

Our plan for the next 10 years

Consultation is open on Council's Long Term Plan 2024-34 and you can have your say with a sausage!

Council is running free community barbecues in April to help start conversations with the community about its draft Long Term Plan.

The plan sets out what Council wants to do in the next 10 years and how it will pay for it, but like all local authorities around New Zealand it is struggling with rising costs.

Mayor Neil Brown said the draft Long Term Plan (LTP) was a balance about work that needed to be done and work that made the district a great place to live and work.

“We’ve got five key decisions that we’re seeking feedback on, but people can comment on any aspect of the draft so it’s really important that we give them the right information and listen to their feedback.”

Consultation on the draft LTP opened today and people have until Sunday 28 April to make a submission. Councillors will consider all the feedback, hear in person from submitters and then adopt a final Long Term Plan in June.

Mayor Brown said Council was planning to spend a lot of money on essential services, like roads, wastewater and drinking water.

“We’re also asking residents about what sort of green waste service they want from 2026, and about future developments like adding extra indoor courts at EA Networks Centre.

“We’ve developed this plan during a challenging time following covid, and now a new Government, and we’ll also be taking on more debt so we really want to hear what people think.

“I’m excited about what lies ahead and we’re planning for our district to continue



- 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?

to grow its reputation as a regional powerhouse.”

The first of the Saturday sausage sizzles is at the Tinwald Pool on Saturday 6 April, when councillors will be talking with the public about whether to spend \$3 million on repairing the ageing pool or put that money to other waterplay options in the district, including a new outdoor pool at EA Networks Centre.

There is also the option of doing nothing, which would result in the Tinwald Pool closing.

Small groups will be shown around the pool and people can ask questions about the work needed to bring it up to scratch.

The second sausage sizzle will be at Baring Square East on Saturday 13 April, and the third at Methven on Saturday 20 April. In the event of bad weather, the barbecues may be postponed – Council’s Facebook page will have the latest information.

There are about 30 events planned during the consultation period, including five community meetings and five pop-ups, and Councillors are also meeting with 12 community and service groups to talk about the plan.

You can find a full list of events, more information about the draft plan and give feedback at [ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz).

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](https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/council/agendas-and-minutes)

- Council Meeting**, Wednesday 3 April, 1pm (live-streamed)
- 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

Tinwald viaduct/SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements - The traffic lights at Lagmhor Road/Agnes Street have been switched on, and the Tinwald viaduct is open. Contractors remain on site for tidy-up work.

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.

Maronan Road - Traffic management is in place on Maronan Road while contractors rehabilitate a section between the Hinds River and just north of Swamp Road.

Elizabeth Street/Oak Grove - The intersection of Elizabeth Street and Oak Grove will be closed for two weeks from Tuesday 2 April during the last stage of a project to install new water and wastewater pipes. Detours will be in place - southbound traffic on Oak Grove will be able to turn left onto Elizabeth Street to access Ashburton Hospital, northbound traffic on Oak Grove heading to the hospital will use Philip and Walker Streets. Resident access remains.

For full details of road closures, see our website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz)

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 6 April** - Tinwald Pool
- Sat 13 April** - Baring Square East, Ashburton
- 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 between 7pm & 8pm.

- Thu 4 April** - Rakaia Community Centre
Hosted by the Rakaia Community Association
- Tue 9 April** - Mount Somers War Memorial Hall
- 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

ItsOurPlace.nz

Pop-up Events

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

- Thur 4 April, 12pm-2pm**
New World Ashburton
- Thur 18 April, 12pm-2pm**
Ashburton Library
- Mon 8 April, 3.30pm-6.30pm**
EA Networks Centre
- Fri 19 April, 12pm-2pm**
Ashburton CBD
- Wed 10 April, 12pm-2pm**
Methven Four Square

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

RUBBISH & RECYCLING OVER EASTER 2024

Ashburton’s kerbside collection service will not operate on **Good Friday, 29 March**, so people whose bins are normally emptied on a Friday should put them out for collection on Saturday 30 March instead.

Bins will be collected as normal the week beginning Monday 1 April.

The Ashburton Resource Recovery Park will be closed Friday 29 March and Monday 1 April over Easter. The park will be open its usual hours 9am-5pm on Saturday 30 March and Sunday 31 March.

Rakaia Resource Recovery Park will be closed Friday 29 March, Saturday 30 March and Monday 1 April.

The Methven greenwaste facility will be closed Sunday 31 March.

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)