

Argyle Park project set to go

Construction of a new utilities building at Argyle Park to house water treatment equipment begins on 26 February, with little disruption expected for park users.

A small building will be built on the eastern side of the existing facility, which contains toilets, other water treatment equipment and storage; the new smaller, detached building will house additional UV water treatment equipment.

Group Manager for Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said construction was expected to cause little disturbance to those who regularly used Argyle Park.

“People will still be able to use the sealed paths, the mobility car park, the sportsfields, the toilets and the playgrounds. Another good aspect of this project is that no trees will need to be removed to make way for the new building, though a couple will need to be pruned.”

The work zone will be fenced off but the sealed path under the trees will still be able to be used throughout the life of the project. The mobility carpark next to the public toilets remains available, though



some other sealed paths within the work zone will be fenced off.

Mr McCann said there might be some disruption for pedestrians when the contractor was moving equipment in and out of the site, but it would be brief.

The contractor is ARC Projects and they are working to a commissioning date for the new plant in November.

The Argyle Park water treatment plant is one of four treatment plants that service

Ashburton town; there are two deep bores at the park that supply water to the plant.

Other water treatment plants for the town are at the Ashburton Domain, Bridge Street and Tinwald and these are also being upgraded in the next 10 months to have UV equipment installed.

Council is also upgrading and adding UV disinfection at water treatment plants on its smaller rural schemes, to help meet the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

Reseals on schedule

Council’s roading contractors are making good progress on rehabilitating a 1.2km section of Maronan Road, with final sealing this week.

The segment under reconstruction is between Lills Road and Lovetts Road and the project is scheduled for completion by 31 March.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said the last section to be sealed was the intersection of Maronan Road and Winslow Westerfield Road, which has been upgraded to include a right-hand turning bay for south-bound traffic.

“There are a lot of truck movements at this intersection and it’s not always easy to see other road users, so it should be a lot safer.”

A 1.4km section of Seafield Road, between Morris Road and the Ashburton Airport, is also being reconstructed, with the work being done in two stages.



MAYOR Neil Brown Combining our SI voices



Mayors around the South Island, including me, met recently with the new Minister for the South Island and encouraged him to keep advocating for our wider patch.

It helps that James Meager is also the MP for Rangitata and knows well some of our challenges, but was a chance for all mayors and elected members around the South Island to have their say. We had questions about the new minister’s role and how it was going to work.

Some also expressed dissatisfaction about a lack of Government investment in the South Island, particularly in roading – and if you look at the road user charges and petrol taxes collected, and the economic activity delivered by the South Island, we do seem to get significantly less reinvested here than what is collected.

Like many other councils, we have a fragile roading network and we’re trying to get as much value out of our roading repairs and rehabilitations as possible. It’s good to see our summer projects on Maronan Road and

Seafield Road reach the sealing stage.

As mayors, we hope that the new Minister for the South Island advocates hard for all of us now he understands our issues and that he will make a fair case for us around the cabinet table.

Council is currently asking for feedback on a draft Climate Change & Sustainability strategy, and I encourage you to take a look, but act quickly as it closes on Sunday.

In our district, water is a key driver for the agricultural sector and technology plays an important role in balancing needs and natural resources.

Climate change is a challenge, but we have some of the smartest and most innovative farmers taking on that challenge and I back them to succeed.

It’s also been a privilege this week to attend the opening of a private solar farm near Tinwald.

Council was invited along to officially celebrate the end of the construction phase and we all look forward to seeing how this new technology will add to our generation capacity.

SHORT AND SWEET

CLIMATE CHANGE

There's only a few days left for those wanting to give early input on Council's Climate Change & Sustainability strategy. We're drafting a strategy and we've created a quick survey for you to tell us about the climate change areas that you think Council should focus on. Feedback closes on Sunday 23 February. You'll also learn about what Council is already doing to deal with climate change. Go to itsourplace.nz and take part.

ACCESS LIMITED

Vehicle access to the jumping platform at Lake Hood is being restricted in the evenings and overnight in an attempt to curb antisocial behaviour at the lake reserve. The jumping platform is a popular attraction but in recent weeks Council has been fielding complaints about anti-social behaviour, involving vehicles and damage. Vehicle access is restricted from 5pm until 8am the following morning.



BRAIN INJURY HELP

Are you or someone you know living with or supporting someone with a head injury? Facilitated by the Brain Injury Association, this monthly group meeting at the Ashburton Library offers peer support and education on concussion and brain injury. Learn coping strategies and self-management to help you adjust to a new you. The next group meeting is **Wednesday 26 February** at 10.30am.

GRANTS A-GO!

Time is running out for community groups to apply to Council for funds to help their projects. The first round of community grants and funding is open now for applications, but closes on 28 February. Council grants about \$300,000 annually and grant applications details are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/grants

Are you ready for an emergency?

Mid Canterbury residents are being invited to take part in a survey that will help authorities better manage emergencies in our district.

The survey is being conducted throughout Canterbury from 17 February until 10 March and can be completed online, or by using a QR code, or by picking up a paper version from the Ashburton Library.

All responses are confidential and there is a prize draw for those who complete the survey and wish to enter. The prize is an outdoor readiness pack and there are five up for grabs.

Council Group Manager of Compliance and Development Ian Hyde said the annual preparedness survey was being conducted by Emergency Management Canterbury and would help gauge the community's awareness of potential civil defence emergencies and hazards.

"It's also designed to measure preparedness and resilience levels of residents to an emergency and get a clear idea of the emergency communication channels that community members prefer to use."

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and will be promoted online around Canterbury.



Questions are designed to find out how prepared households currently are and where they access trusted information.

Mr Hyde said the survey was also a great prompt for residents to think about the hazards and emergencies that might affect them.

"Maybe it's time to review your own

emergency preparedness plans, because your living circumstances have changed or you have moved house.

"Being prepared is one of the most beneficial things you can do for your family."

You can take the survey at cdemcanterbury.govt.nz/survey

Help on hand for putting your bins out

Recovering from a hip operation, or health and mobility issues making things difficult getting your rubbish and recycling bins to the kerb for collection?

Call us, as Council can help.

A special bin service has been running since the introduction of the kerbside collection in 2017 and it is principally to help those who can't call on neighbours or family to assist.

Infrastructure and Open Spaces Group Manager Neil McCann said mobility issues can sometimes be the reason why residents couldn't get their red or yellow bins to the kerb on collection days.

"We see people recovering from hip or knee operations, or otherwise unable to drag their bins out. These people usually live on their own and have had health issues and been in hospital.

"All they have to do is ring Customer Services on 307 7700 and we can offer them a helping hand to get through a time when they're not so mobile."

Council staff will get in touch and arrange a time to come and do a quick assessment, to determine how regularly the bins need emptying and where the bins will be located.

Mr McCann said 14 people were currently on the list for a special collection, which was carried out by Council's contractor.

"Many people have great neighbours who help out, but some people have just moved and are not comfortable asking anyone new for help."

Application for Resource Consent

The Ashburton District Council has received the following application for resource consent:

- Applicant: Ashburton Riverside Development Limited
- Address for Service: c/o David Harford Consulting LTD, 2 Queens Drive Ashburton 7740
- Application Numbers: SUB23/0066, LUC23/0121
- Location: Melrose Road, Ashburton
- Legal Description: LOT 2 DP 382372

Details for the proposed activity and type of consent:

Resource consent to subdivide one existing site zoned Rural A in order to create two resultant allotments at 21 Melrose Road, Ashburton to facilitate widening of Melrose Road.

Land use consent at 21 Melrose Road to address non-compliances with the Outline Development Plan (ODP) in Appendix 5-3 of the District Plan.

The proposed road upgrade is intended to provide access to an area of existing zoned Business D land which would be developed under future consents.

The proposed access route does not accord with the ODP, and the future business development includes an area of Rural A zoned land that is outside of the ODP area.

Full details of the application and supporting documents can be viewed at:

- Ashburton District Council website, ashburtondc.govt.nz
- Ashburton District Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton

If you have any queries about the application, please contact the Ashburton District Council on 03 307 7700 and ask to speak to the Planning Team.

Making a submission:

Any person may make a submission in writing to Ashburton District Council, PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740, Attention: Planning Team or via email at: info@adc.govt.nz stating "SUB23/0066 LUC23/0121 Resource Consent Submission" in the subject line. Visit our notifications page on the Council website for more information about making a submission and for a copy of the submission form.

Note: A copy of the submission must also be sent to the Applicant at the "Address for service" stated above.

Submission closing date:

Council must receive your submission no later than 5pm on Friday 21 March 2025.

Brad Thomson, District Planning Manager



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at Hine Paaka (Council Chamber), 2 Baring Square East, unless specified.

Tuesday 25 February, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Wednesday 26 February, **Budget Workshop**, 9.30am

Tuesday 4 March, **Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee**, 9.30am in the Wakanui Room

Wednesday 5 March, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Monday 10 March, **Methven Community Board**, 9am in Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

Wednesday 19 March, **Council Meeting** (live-streamed), 1pm

Thursday 20 March, **Annual Plan Workshop**, 9.30am

Tuesday 25 March, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee** (live-streamed), 1pm

Wednesday 26 March, **Three Waters Committee** (live-streamed), 9.30am

Wednesday 26 March, **Audit & Risk Committee** (live-streamed), 11am,

Wednesday 26 March, **Council Activity Briefings** (live-streamed), 1pm

WORKS NOTICES

Seafield Road - Closed between Morris Road and Ashburton Airport, until 12 April for road rehab. Detour available.

Maronan Road - Closed between Swamp Road and Simpsons Road (no access through Barford Road) until 31 March. Road rehabilitation work in progress.

Mainwarings Road - Closed between Griggs and Gardiners Road for daytime works until 24 February (the closure is 6am-7pm daily, with the road re-opened at the end of each day). Contractors will be doing road maintenance. Detours available.

King and Alexander Streets, Chertsey - Closed until 13 September while a new water treatment plant is built. Closure will not impact Chertsey School access.

State Highway 1 Rangitata River bridge - NZTA is advising delays up to 30 minutes during night works from 23-26 February. Pile pre-tensioning work will happen between 7pm and 6am, with Stop/Go for up to 30 minutes.

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

TREE WORK PLANNED

Arborists will be pruning trees on **Spaxton Street, Methven, on Monday 24 February.**

Lower branches that are getting in the way of pedestrians will be pruned.



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)