

Local approach for future of water

Council is set to formally begin work on its Water Services Delivery Plan under the Government's Local Water Done Well legislation.

Mayor Neil Brown said Council is looking at what will hold Mid Canterbury in the strongest position.

"All of the water delivery options we're looking at have to be financially sustainable and will be regulated by the Commerce Commission.

"The new way of delivering water will have to be financially ring-fenced which means that all water costs and income must be kept separate from other council services.

"Council is leaning towards local Mid Canterbury solutions", he said.

Three local options include an in-house model, a single-Council CCO model or a single-Council CCO with an existing local Board-governed entity.



In-house is largely how Council operates now but would have to meet the new regulatory regime in the future.

A single-Council controlled organisation would see a new organisation set up under the control of Council. Water CCO's can borrow up to 500% of their operating revenue from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA).

Finally, a bespoke option for Mid

Canterbury is being explored, which could involve working with local utilities provider, EA Networks.

Community consultation on shortlisted options is earmarked for early next year.

Water Services Delivery Plans are due to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by August 2025 and will be subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.

VR driving project wins supreme

Virtual reality driving simulator CoDriv won the Supreme and Innovative Use of Technology awards at the Economic Development New Zealand Best Practice Awards last week.

Hailed as a first in New Zealand, the Mid and South Canterbury project was initiated by Venture Timaru in 2021 with support from several partners including Ashburton District Council.

Group Manager Compliance and Development Ian Hyde said the goal for the project was to deliver the simulator into every secondary school across Mid and South Canterbury.

"We know that driver licensing can be a barrier to employment and independence, so it's great to provide something that gives young people and newcomers confidence to get started", he said.

A training unit is well used by young people and community groups in Te Kete

Tuhinga, Council's new library.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Open Spaces Neil McCann said the simulator uses footage shot from local roads, to help people relate to a real-world environment.

"The learning modules are tailored to key areas of road safety concern for young and new drivers in provincial Canterbury", he said.

"We're proud to have supported a project that has been recognised and will now roll out across New Zealand."

Cr Lynette Lovett

Growing young leaders pays dividends for all

I always feel a sense of pride when I see young people raised in our district come back to share their experiences.

Some are living in other parts of the country, or the world, and some are at universities or learning more in their chosen field of work or interest. All are contributing to society, armed with a solid start in our district.

It was great to see young engineer Alyce Lysaght in town recently for an Advance Ashburton function.

She is a fantastic role model, and an inspiration for the young people that councillors recently met at a youth forum for local schools.

We were very impressed with the high

standard of presentations at the youth forum, and the nine delegations were a credit to their respective schools.

We asked the young people to think about what Ashburton might look like in 2045 and they had some interesting views.

Some asked for certain shops or other commercial attractions and while Council is not in the entertainment industry, it can make sure our district is open and welcome for business, with good-quality infrastructure like water and roads. That might sound boring, but you can't do much without running water and a flushing toilet.

Council does provide a host of great holiday programmes at its facilities and during the last school break the library,

EA Networks Centre and art gallery and museum were all very busy.

It is pleasing to see visitor numbers rising above expectations and there's a noticeable increase since the move to Te Whare Whakare, the new library and council building at the beginning of this year.

With exams imminent for our senior students, the library is the perfect place to meet friends for a group study session.

I look forward to seeing Baring Square East with the Christmas tree lit up and I encourage the community to come along on Saturday 30 November for Light up the Night, which will be a fun start to the festive season.



SHORT AND SWEET

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT ARRIVES

Welcome in the festive season with a free Christmas celebration! Bring your family and join us in Baring Square East on Saturday 30 November from 6pm for an evening of live entertainment, music and a special guest appearance from Santa himself. At 9.15pm, one lucky person will get to push the button and light up the town's giant tree! Proudly supported by Hokonui Ashburton and The Ashburton Courier.

STAY INFORMED

Did you know you can get Council updates sent directly to your inbox? Make sure you never miss out on the latest news, events or community consultations. Choose the topics that interest you and sign up for one or more of our mailing lists. Visit ashburtondc.govt.nz and click 'Stay Informed' under the Latest News section.

EXERCISE PANDORA

Council staff and volunteers are preparing to take part in a major Civil Defence exercise on Thursday 7 November. The regional exercise, called Pandora, is practise for a large natural disaster and this year's scenario will be set three days after a big alpine earthquake. Pandora will also be the first large-scale test for the newly-built Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Te Whare Whakare. Council's partners in emergency agencies, such as NZ Police, Hato Hone - St John, and Fire and Emergency NZ will also be involved.



5 Nov

Ashburton
Library, 1-2pm

160
YEARS

Celebrating 160 Years of the Ashburton Domain

The Ashburton Domain is marking 160 years with two special events over summer, and one involves an outdoor movie.

The movie on Saturday 23 November will be held on the grass area near the paddling pool, at the corner of West and Walnut Streets.

The second event is a heritage sound trail that will run all summer and visitors to the domain can scan QR codes and listen to stories about the domain's past. The stories have been recorded by well-known local radio announcer Peter Mac (McQuarters).

Open Spaces Manager Ian Soper said the domain had packed a lot into its 160 years.

"It was once known as the Grange and described as a scrubby wilderness, but over the years it has been developed and improved for recreation and sport, and is truly one of the South Island's premier parks.

"It is an important place for the local community and visitors and the Open Spaces team takes a lot of pride in managing the space with the domain's original values and intent front of mind.

"The Ashburton Domain is the gem in Ashburton's crown and we're pleased to be having some events to mark 160 years. I hope the community joins in."

New points of interest include the conifer collection that has been developed near the ponds at the corner of West and Wills Street, a new herb garden and the expansion of the butterfly and wildflower garden. The butterfly garden was the domain's aviary until 2021, when the birds were relocated and the area repaved and replanted to encourage butterflies and other biodiversity.

One of the old aviaries is being developed to display a collection of historic gardening equipment.



Domain entrance at corner of West and Wills Street with gates celebrating the Coronation of Edward VII circa 1902. - Ashburton Museum & Historical Society

Family Movie Night

There will be a free outdoor movie in Ashburton Domain (near the playground) on Saturday 23 November that the whole family will enjoy.

Bring your blanket and picnic, or buy a treat from the food court. Arrive early to enjoy the pre-show live entertainment and claim your spot. The family movie night is kindly supported by The Ashburton Guardian.

The movie will be announced soon.

- 5pm – Food court opens
- 5.30pm – Pre-show entertainment
- 6.30pm – Movie starts

Heritage Sound Trail

Watch out for five sound points dotted around the domain – simply use your cellphone to scan the QR codes at the different locations, and hear stories about special times and places from the Ashburton Domain's past.

Each audio story is about three minutes long and you can view the locations of the sound points on maps at the domain's various entrances.



Gathering of people at the Ashburton Domain Pavilion, date unknown - Ashburton Museum & Historical Society



A group participating in an ice-skating race on the frozen swimming baths, date unknown - Ashburton Museum & Historical Society

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Meeting agendas are online at ashburtondc.govt.nz

Monday 4 November, **Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group**, 1pm (Wakanui Room)

Wednesday 6 November, **Council workshop on tree management**, 9am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 20 November, **Council Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

Tuesday 26 November, **Ashburton Water Zone Committee**, 1pm

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Activity Briefing**, 9.30am (live-streamed)

Wednesday 27 November, **Council Audit and Risk Meeting**, 1pm (live-streamed)

WORKS NOTICES

Chertsey Kyle Road - Closed between McCrorys Road and Buckleys Road from 24 October until 14 December for road works. Detours in place.

Keenans Road - Closed between Seafield Road and Company Road on 31 October for power pole removal.

Full road closure details are available at ashburtondc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED STOPPING OF ROAD

Proposed Stopping of Road: Part of Alexander Street, Chertsey, Ashburton District

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 342(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Tenth Schedule thereto the Ashburton District Council proposes to stop the road described in the schedule to this notice.

SCHEDULE

Canterbury Land District

Description: 704m2 adjoining or passing through Part RS 16213 (Record of Title CB21A/733) and Lots 121 & 123 DP 200 (Record of Title C24A/961) shown as Section 1 on SO Plan 605276 (Part Alexander Street, Chertsey)

The road when stopped will remain in the name of Ashburton District Council and will be used for utilities (water treatment plant) purposes.

A copy of SO Plan 605276 is available for inspection at the office of the Ashburton District Council, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton, during normal office hours. Any person objecting to this proposal is called upon to lodge an objection in writing at Ashburton District Council, PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740 on or before **11 December 2024**.

Hamish Riach, Chief Executive

Celebrating **160** YEARS ASHBURTON DOMAIN

SAT 23 NOV
from 5pm
Ashburton Domain

FREE EVENT

Family MOVIE Night

Proudly supported by **Ashburton Guardian**

Look after your furry friends during fireworks!

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)