Are we on the right track? Shaping future Selwyn District Plan

Selwyn District Council has just kicked off initial public consultation on key draft changes to the current District Plan. The draft changes are essentially the district’s plan book on how land can be used and developed. The Council is undertaking the review to make sure the Plan is still fit for purpose and up to date. All Councils are required to review their District Plan every 10 years.

Environmental Services Manager Tim Hanss says it’s important that as many people as possible let the Council know whether the review is on the right track.

“The rules in District Plans potentially affect everyone in Selwyn,” says Tim. “The Plan controls the things you can do on your property or your neighbour on theirs. It also controls, for example, what activities are allowed to take place in different parts of the district.”

The Council wants to ensure that the new District Plan helps rural, business and residential areas to thrive.

“At the same time we want to make sure our district remains uniquely Selwyn – protecting the things that are important to the character of this district and managing our natural and physical resources in a sustainable way.”

More information on the Draft Plan Review can be found at www.selwyn.govt.nz/districtplanreview along with information on the topics we’re currently consulting on, key changes to the draft plan and an opportunity to fill in topic-specific surveys.

Anyone can give their feedback on the draft changes proposed. Feedback can be given at an open day in Southbridge (see below), or by email or post. Feedback is open from now until 5pm on 19 September. This consultation will inform the final rules to be included in the Resource Management Act (RMA). Feedback is required to be notified for formal public consultation in early 2020. The new District Plan is anticipated to be notified in September 2020, with Environment Canterbury hearings, in early 2022. Until then any new resource applications will be subject to rules from 2018.

District Plan Review drop-ins sessions

When and where

Tuesday 21 August 2018, 3-5pm Rolleston Community Centre (Lounge Room)

Saturday 26 August 2018, 12-2pm Have a Go Day at Darfield Recreation Centre

Thursday 30 August 2018, 3-5pm Leeston Library Monday 5 September 2018, 3-5pm Springfield School (Multi purpose Room)

Tuesday 11 September 2018, 3-5pm Prebaldon Rugby Club Monday 17 September 2018, 3-5pm Rolleston Community Centre (Lounge Room)

Monday 24 September 2018, 11am-4pm Cultural Festival at Lincoln Events Centre

About 100 skaters and scooter riders attended the official opening of the Lincoln Domain Skate Park which was held last Sunday. The event, hosted by skating retailer Choppskates, had music, food, spot prizes skateboarding demonstrations and lessons on skate park etiquette.

Young skaters and scooter riders try out new Lincoln skate park

‘Swim to Summer’ 10,000km challenge is back on

Registrations are open now for Selwyn Aquatic Centre’s annual swimathon event, ‘Swim to Summer’.

Following the success of last year’s event which raised $1630 for The Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer Foundations, the Selwyn Aquatic Centre is again challenging Selwyn residents to swim or aqua jog a combined total of 10,000km in pool lengths in the lead-up to summer.

“James Richmond, Aquatic Facilities Manager, says the aim of this free event is to get more people active in the pool, more often.”

“It’s great seeing so many people embrace their goals, swim for fun and make huge improvements to their fitness and overall health.”

A number of prizes will be available for those who swim the most laps, in categories, men, women and youth as well as most visits to the Centre during the swimathon.

The Swim to Summer swimathon will run from Saturday 26 August until Saturday 1 December. For more information or to sign up, ask at Selwyn Aquatic Centre reception, or phone (03) 347 2374 or email saac.enquiries@selwyn.govt.nz

On the roads this week

Stabilisation work is being undertaken on Rochoroki Road, between Ardulli Road and Mapers Road. It is expected to be completed by Wednesday. Motorists are asked to stop on request while the work is taking place. Stabilisation work is also expected to be taking place on Te Pirita Road, between Leaches Terrace and Rakae Terrace. It is expected to be completed by Thursday, motorists may be asked to stop on request.

Sealed work will be taking place on Rederos Road and Te Pirita Road over the course of the week, drivers may be asked to stop on request.

For more information on road work see www.selwyn.govt.nz/roads

The Selwyn District Council would like to thank Bank Charity Ltd for its grant of $5,000 towards the purchase of 70 new chairs for Springfield Community Centre.

New aqua class is a hit

A new aqua class in the swimming pool is a hit with participants. The new class is available to anyone who can get into the pool with the support of one or two instructors.

“Some of the fund will also go towards signage, to help visitors understand what can and can’t be done,” said Councilor John Cessford.

Infrastructure Fund for projects in Selwyn including new toilet facilities, signage, asset renovation

Council has received a significant financial injection from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment for new tourism infrastructure.

Government’s Responsible Camping Working Group has awarded $250,000 from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for projects in Selwyn including new toilet facilities, signage, asset renovation and data collection.

Chief Executive Officer David Ward says with the popularity of camping increasing, there’s a need for more facilities around the district to cope with the growing demand.

“We want to build on visitors’ experiences of enjoying our wonderful district, and this funding will help us upgrade services in a number of areas around Selwyn,” Mr Ward says.

“We will be spending a substantial amount on new toilet facilities at Lake Selle and Lake Springston.”

“The funding will also go towards signage, to help visitors understand what can’t be done in these areas.”

Across Selwyn the Council directly manages four free camping sites. There’s also one campsite and operated locally by the Selwyn District Council.

The new projects will be in place for the time of the 2018/19 peak camping season. Selwyn was one of more than 30 councils from around New Zealand which applied for financial assistance from the fund.

Selling community space

For example, the Council has sold the right to use the former Silverton School hall for a community event. The sale of the hall raised $3,000.

Police are to be trained in the use of Tasers

Police will be trained how to use Tasers. The Tasers are to be used to incapacitate and subdue suspects.

The Taser has been found to be effective in subduing offenders, with officers finding it is much easier to use than a first generation spray unit.

Police Training Manager, Insp. Keith Fothergill says the Taser will be used for de-escalating situations where there is a risk to public safety or hurt.