**District Review - Family flats**

With our current District Plan up for review, Selwyn District Council has put a range of topics and draft changes out for public consultation. The District Plan is essentially the district’s rule book on how land can be used and developed. The Council is undertaking the review to make sure the Plan is fit for purpose for all current and future Selwyn District residents. Council is asking those who can live in a family flat, how big it can be, how many flats can be developed new standards which a minor residential unit needs to be in place and stop when requested to do so.

One topic the Council has identified as needing to be reviewed in the current District Plan is family flats. Under the current rules there has been potential confusion around who can live in a family flat, how big it can be, how many flats can be put up on one property and how they can be designed to reflect the look and feel of the surrounding area.

Draft changes which we are considering for the new District Plan include:

- amending the definition of family flat to make it clear it’s a minor residential unit which needs to be held in the same ownership as the main dwelling and is associated with the main dwelling, removing the requirement that only family members can live in a flat. As a result there would be no limit on who may occupy the flat;
- developing new standards which a minor residential unit needs to comply with if it is to be allowed without a resource consent. All key draft changes and a survey for you to have a say on these changes can be found at www.selwyn.govt.nz/opportunityfindings.

**Not a great day for Leeston**

Our covering crops on Sutcliffe Street in Leeston are being eaten out of existence and this is causing a significant problem for road users and motorists. Over the last two weeks five sheep have been found dead, two have been injured, and three have been injured. Drivers are warned to be cautious and watch out for sheep in the road.

*Photo: Helana from Sheffield*

**Enquiries for dog owners**

The unsealed bus stop areas on Jones Road are causing any issues to other users. Grates are causing a significant safety risk to road users and this is causing many issues in Leeston.

Prohibited dog exercise areas include golf courses on Council Reserves, skate parks, secondary schools and any other parks where dogs are not permitted.

**On the roads**

Stabilised road work is taking place on To Pits Road, between Leaches Road and Rakia Terrace, and on Porters Road, between Ard roku and Morgania Road. Shoulder wear repairs will take place along To Pits Road, Coolack Road and McLaighlin Road over the course of the next three weeks. High shoulder wear remedial works will also take place on sections of Hobson Road, the Lake Road and Bawley Road. Unsealed road maintenance works will take place on Ard roku Road between Sharlands Road and Derrett Road.

The unused bus stop areas on Jones Road are having repairs carried out, but the whole Sutcliffe Street area is too busy for the public to be aware of this. Drivers are asked to take care during this time, to slow down and watch out for pedestrians in the area.

**Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week**

Early hundreds of organisations, businesses and communities around New Zealand do the thing and organise a community clean-up as part of the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean-Up Week.

This year the clean-up week runs from Monday 10 September to Saturday 16 September. This is the largest national clean-up event in New Zealand, with almost 40,000 volunteers taking part in 695 events across the country last year. During the clean-up week all known NZBC collection points and recycling bins can be taken to the Council’s Pines Resource Recovery Park until Burnham School Road free of charge.

You can register your interest at www.knb.org.nz