



Media Release

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Area Plans adopted for Ellesmere and Malvern

Area Plans to guide the growth of townships in Ellesmere and Malvern through to 2031 have been adopted by Selwyn District Council at its meeting this week.

The plans include options for where residential and business development could occur, if needed, and future Council infrastructure and services projects that may be required in different townships.

Although the plans do not rezone any land, they will help to guide the District Plan Review, which began this year, along with other Council plans and policies and privately initiated plan changes.

The draft Area Plans were prepared following a series of community drop in sessions and consultation held in August 2015, and May and June 2016. As part of this consultation people were also able to make suggestions and submissions about how they wanted townships in Ellesmere and Malvern to develop. Key stakeholder organisations operating within Malvern and Ellesmere were also involved in the development of the plans.

Some of the concepts included as part of the Area Plans to be carried out in the future include:

- undertaking town centre studies in Leeston, Darfield, Springfield and Southbridge, looking at issues such as transport, beautification, accessibility of community facilities and business land
- working with KiwiRail and the NZ Transport Agency to look at issues relating to the State Highway and railway line in Darfield, Dunsandel, Sheffield and Kirwee
- in Darfield and Leeston, looking at intensification opportunities close to the town centre to provide more housing options such as social housing and housing for older people, and also the feasibility of establishing a walking/cycling link between McHughs Forest Park and the town along the rail corridor.

The plans identify preferred future development areas in many of the townships within Malvern and Ellesmere. As a result of submissions a number of additional preferred development areas have been identified in Leeston, Doyleston and Hororata. Several areas in townships within Ellesmere and Malvern are also identified as possible development areas over the longer term.

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