



Media Release
Friday 14 August 2015

Have you had your say on local area plans?

Area plan meetings are continuing in Malvern this month, giving people the chance to share their thoughts about how they would like local townships to develop in the future.

Selwyn District Council is working to develop area plans for Malvern and Ellesmere. Area plans will provide a 15 year framework for sustainable growth and development. They will look at how townships within Ellesmere and Malvern could develop and where housing, businesses, open space, community facilities and infrastructure could be located in the future.

Three area plan drop in sessions were held recently in Leeston and Dunsandel to gather community input into the Ellesmere Area Plan. Two drop in sessions have also been held for the Malvern Area Plan at Darfield and Springfield.

People participating in these sessions put forward a range of ideas on how local townships could be improved in the future.

“In Dunsandel, one of the issues that came up was the difficulty pedestrians and vehicles had crossing the State Highway which runs through the town, and traffic lights were suggested as an option. Having a walkway around the edge of the town was another idea put forward by some Dunsandel residents,” says Craig Friedel, Selwyn District Council Strategy and Policy Planner.

In Leeston, zoning more industrial land was suggested, along with improving walkways and cycleways, while local residents in Southbridge wanted to look at whether the tennis courts should be relocated to be near the town’s other sports facilities at the rugby grounds.

At the Darfield session some ideas raised were having housing that was suitable for older people and more compact housing close to the town centre, whether a reticulated sewerage scheme is needed for the town and if there should be more parking in Darfield’s town centre.

In Springfield some residents raised whether the water supply should have more capacity added to allow more growth in the town and if there should be more land zoned for light industrial activity.

Malvern Area Plan drop in sessions continue next week, with upcoming sessions scheduled for:

- Glentunnel Community Centre – Tuesday 18 August, 6.30-8.30pm
- Darfield Recreation Centre – Sunday 23 August, 1-3pm

“The sessions are running as drop in events, so people don’t need to stay for two hours to give feedback but can stay as long as they wish to,” says Mr Friedel.

“The consultation is a chance for people to help decide how their local townships could be improved in the future so we hope that people will come along to the Malvern sessions and share their ideas.”

People can also comment on how they would like to see towns in Malvern and Ellesmere develop in the future online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/areaplans or by emailing areaplans@selwyn.govt.nz. Comments on both plans are open until **Friday 28 August 2015**. Information brochures and feedback forms are also available from the Council offices, libraries and service centres.

Mr Friedel says that all of the ideas people suggest at the drop in sessions and online will be reviewed by the Council and will help to inform draft Area Plans for Ellesmere and Malvern. The draft plans will be released for consultation early in 2016.

Ends

Photo attached: Local residents want to look at making crossing the State Highway easier at Dunsandel for vehicles and pedestrians.

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