



Media Release

Friday 16 September 2016

Council reaffirms plans for Lincoln town centre

Selwyn District Council this week reconfirmed proposals to create cycleways along Gerald Street as part of the Lincoln Town Centre Plan.

The Council received a petition in August asking it to reconsider removing car parks on Gerald Street, and to re-route proposed cycle lanes away from Gerald Street.

The Lincoln Town Centre Plan was formally adopted by the Council in May, following extensive public consultation which closed in November 2015.

Members of the Lincoln business community spoke at the Council meeting in support of the petition, while a representative of cycling group Spokes Canterbury spoke in favour of retaining the cycleways, as included in the plan.

The Council agreed at the meeting to reconfirm the development of cycleways as included in the Lincoln Town Centre plan.

In response to concerns over the timing of parking changes, the Council confirmed that major work on creating cycleways, footpaths, landscaping, street changes and car parking in the Gerald Street area would not begin until funding had been proposed and approved as part of the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan. Construction would then take place progressively over the following years.

It was made clear that any existing car parks along Gerald St would not be removed until additional new parking is available nearby to offset this.

The Council also confirmed it will investigate ways to optimise how existing parking spaces are used, including introducing shorter time limits and improving enforcement.

“It was helpful to hear directly from people with views on the cycleway proposals, and we were pleased to be able to clarify some concerns and provide some reassurance to business owners over timing, says Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe.

“The Council reaffirmed that the proposed cycle lane route was the best option, as this would create an effective connection between the university and town centre – and connect cyclists to shops and places they would want to visit along Lincoln’s main street. It is also in keeping with what submitters supported in the Lincoln Town Centre plan.

“The Council considered that retaining both the cycle lanes and parking along Gerald Street would be unsafe and would be likely to put cyclists and vehicles at risk from traffic conflicts,” Mayor Coe adds.

Consultation on the Lincoln Town Centre plan took place in October and November 2015, with a summary of the plan being sent to Lincoln households. 78 submissions were received

with 77% of submitters generally supporting the proposed plan. The development of dedicated cycleways was identified as the top priority in submissions to the plan.

The town centre plan also includes wider footpaths, landscaping, tree planting, public spaces and additional seating on Gerald Street, as well as the undergrounding of power lines, to create an attractive environment where people will be able to shop, walk, gather and relax. Lower speed limits along Gerald St in some areas and new pedestrian islands on Gerald Street opposite New World and the library are also planned.

To create space for the new cycleways on Gerald Street, a number of adjoining streets, including Lyttelton Street, Maurice Street and West Belt (north and south), will be upgraded and reconfigured to provide additional parking spaces in the area. The existing angle parks outside shops in the town centre will remain. The Council also recently purchased a site at 16 William Street, near Gerald Street, which will be developed to provide free public car parking for around 40 vehicles. A 60-space public car park at Lincoln Library has also been recently completed.

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact:

Stephen Hill
Selwyn District Council
03 3472940
027 5202011
Email: Stephen.hill@selwyn.govt.nz