

Long-Term Plan 2021-2031

Key findings from pre-consultation engagement – October/November 2020

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings from pre-consultation community engagement to support the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 (LTP) development.

2. Background

The Council has undertaken informal, non-statutory pre-consultation engagement with the Selwyn community, to inform the process of identifying projects and developing priorities and funding strategies for the LTP.

The objectives of the proposed pre-consultation engagement activity include:

- To seek community feedback on what the Council's priorities should be over the LTP period (theme-focused rather than specific projects)
- To identify high-level issues of concern to the Selwyn community
- To explore the expectations of Selwyn ratepayers around future rates increases and willingness to trade-off different areas of expenditure
- To identify likely community expectations for levels of service and investment over the coming decade
- To provide councillors with guidance on community views as an input to LTP planning, prioritising and decision-making

This phase of community engagement is not designed to seek input on specific proposed projects, services or facilities. Rather, this is an opportunity to gather high-level community views on longer-term priorities and areas of focus.

The pre-consultation has included opportunities for residents to consider some of the key challenges the district and the Council face over the coming 10-year period and to explore the role of the Council in improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Selwyn community.

3. Community charrette

The first phase of pre-engagement was a community charrette – an interactive, in-depth workshop that brought together participants from a wide range of backgrounds, to examine issues from different perspectives. Around 36 residents participated, contributing their views on issues such as:

- What is your vision for Selwyn?
- What are your concerns for the future of Selwyn?
- What is your understanding of the Council's role?
- What are the pressing issues facing the Council?
- What key issues do you identify under the four wellbeings?
- What do you see as priorities for the next three years/10 years?

A number of consistent themes were noted, including

- District identity, including the tension between wanting urban lifestyle but maintaining rural character
- Growth – how much, where; and housing diversity
- Infrastructure planning for future growth
- Desire for activities and facilities for families, especially teenagers
- Transportation – quality of roads, cycleways, and availability of public transport
- Environmental concerns, especially health of waterways

4. Online survey

In the second phase, the key themes identified through the charrette were developed into a series of questions for an online survey, to seek wider feedback from residents about the importance, priority and willingness to pay for identified areas of Council activity and expenditure.

The survey and accompanying information were available through the Council's Your Say Selwyn website, for a two-week period. The survey was widely promoted through the Council website, social media, Council Call and news releases, using the theme "Which Way?".

The site received a total of 631 visits. 351 participants actively interacted with the site through the survey or accessing other information, and 280 completed the survey or a quick poll, or shared an idea for how the Council could improve on the wellbeings. Key findings included:

- A high proportion of respondents see retaining Selwyn's "distinct rural character" as a very important over the next 10 years

- Out of seven core council activities, “Maintaining drinking water quality”, “Providing green spaces” and “Providing and maintaining safe local roads” were rated as very important by the highest proportion of respondents
- Asked about whether the Council should spend more, less or about the same on key areas of activity, for all except two listed areas (safe intersections and cycleways), majority of respondents selected ‘the same’.
- Areas scoring most highly for **‘spend the same’** included:
 - Urban stormwater network (80% of respondents)
 - Wastewater (sewerage) system (78%)
 - Land drainage network (78%)
 - Parks, sport fields and playground (76%)
- Areas scoring most highly for **‘spend more’** included:
 - Safe intersections (59%)
 - Safe drinking water (41%)
 - Safe local roading network (41%)
 - Quality roads (39%)
 - Roding connections between townships (32%)
- Areas scoring most highly for **‘spend less’** included:
 - Availability of cycleways (37%) (note: this is the only key area of activity that scored evenly across all three options: more, less or the same)
 - Services provided by the libraries (27%)
 - Water races (25%)
 - Services provided by swimming pools (20%)
 - Local community centres and halls (16.5%)
- Areas scoring most highly for **willingness of respondents to pay more:**
 - Services provided by libraries (58%)
 - Services provided by swimming pools (56%)
 - Availability of cycleways (52%)
 - Safe drinking water supply (51%)
 - Local community centres and halls (45.5%)
- Respondents felt overall the district was making progress towards achieving the four wellbeings but rate progress higher on social and economic wellbeing, compared to environmental and cultural.

5. Greater Christchurch Partnership

Consultation on the Greater Christchurch 2050 initiative has been in progress concurrent with the Council’s LTP pre-consultation engagement. This consultation aims to identify “a vision and plan for Greater Christchurch to achieve intergenerational wellbeing that also responds to climate change, and moving towards a zero carbon economy, noting the opportunity to reset that responding to COVID-19 provides”.

Information on Greater Christchurch 2050, including findings from surveys, is available at: www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/greater-christchurch-2050/hearing-from-our-communities/

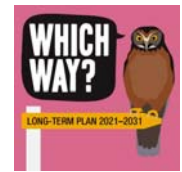


LTP 2021-2031 early consultation – why?



- Early community feedback informs Council decision-making on
 - work priorities and
 - funding strategies
- In particular we sought direction on
 - Council's level of service and investment
 - Trade-offs
 - Ratepayers' willingness to pay

Research – what?



- Community charrette
 - An interactive, in-depth workshop with a cross-section of 36 residents to identify high-level themes and concerns
- Online survey: Which way?
 - On Council's YourSay Selwyn website 27 Oct– 10 Nov
 - 265 survey respondents
- Significant number of 'participants' provides confidence in findings
BUT note the self-selection bias



Overall key findings



- Importance of Selwyn retaining its distinct **rural character**
- Most important Council's activities over the next decade
 - Providing and maintaining a **clean and consistent water supply** (environmental wellbeing)
 - Providing and maintaining **safe and quality roads** (social and economic wellbeings)
- Majority of respondents want the **same level** of Council spend and service on all except two areas (safe intersections and cycleways)
- Willingness to pay more (eg rate increase or user charge) - for some activities, but also want Council to look for other funding sources (especially for roading-related activities)



Top priorities for Council investment



Use of net score to differentiate priorities (spend more minus spend less)

- Most identified specific activities where Council should increase investment:
 1. Safe intersections
 2. Safe drinking water
 3. Quality roads
 4. Roading connections between townships
 5. Providing facilities and services for teenagers



Focus on roads



- Of the five roading-related activities, safe intersections ranked highest for more funding

Safe intersections	56
Quality of roads	36
Roading connections between townships	25
Availability of cycleways	-10
Footpaths in urban areas	-8

- For safe intersections: 40% happy to pay more, 31% the same
26% think Council should look for other funding sources



Focus on water



- Slightly less desire for Council to invest in water-related activities than roading, but still high overall

Safe drinking water supply	39
Wastewater (sewerage) system	13
Urban stormwater network	7
Land drainage network	-2
Water races	-14

- Across all activities, water-related ones scored the highest for same level of spending and service
- For 'safe drinking water' 51% happy to pay more, 23% the same
22% think Council should look for other funding sources



Focus on community services and facilities



- Of all the activities, desire to invest in community services and facilities-related activities was lowest

Facilities and services for teenagers	16
Parks, sports fields, and playgrounds	3
Local community centres and halls	-5
Swimming pools	-7
Libraries	-20

- For 'Facilities/services for teenagers' 37% happy to pay more, 18% the same
39% think Council should look for other funding sources



Focus on the four wellbeings



- Awareness and understanding of wellbeings is low
- View of making positive progress:
 - Economic wellbeing (54%)
 - Social wellbeing (52%)
- View of making poor progress:
 - Environmental wellbeing (22%)
 - Cultural wellbeing (15%)



Focus on the four wellbeings cont'd



- Council's focus for **economic** wellbeing should be on:
 - Encouraging clean, healthy businesses to the district. For example, with financial packages, good transport networks and affordable housing
- For **social** wellbeing:
 - Creating a sports and social hub
 - Providing more facilities for teenagers and getting communities together
- For **environmental** wellbeing:
 - Return to native species
 - Reflection of Maori cultural connection to land is central
- For **cultural** wellbeing:
 - Celebrate the cultural diversity of the district
 - Multiculturalism



Greater Christchurch 2050 survey results for Selwyn



- 237 responses between 3 Oct- 11 Nov
- What's most important:
 - People feel safe (57%)
 - Nature, including waterbodies are protected and respected (52%)
 - Public transport, walking and cycling are easy and affordable (51%)
 - There is lots of green space and trees (47%)
 - Waste is minimised, with good options to reuse and recycle (45%)



Greater Christchurch 2050 survey results for Selwyn



- Biggest issues
 - Traffic congestion is getting worse (62%)
 - There are pollution and waste management issues (58%)
 - We are not doing enough to offset the impacts of climate change (48%)
 - We are losing our natural ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity (45%)
 - It's costly and difficult to access health services (44%)

