

Draft Annual Plan invites public input

MANAWATU District residents are being encouraged to have their say as the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 is released for consultation.

Submissions open on Thursday, April 8, and the public consultation period runs to Monday, May 10.

The draft highlights the second year of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and proposes a number of minor changes on budget updates and the retiming of projects.

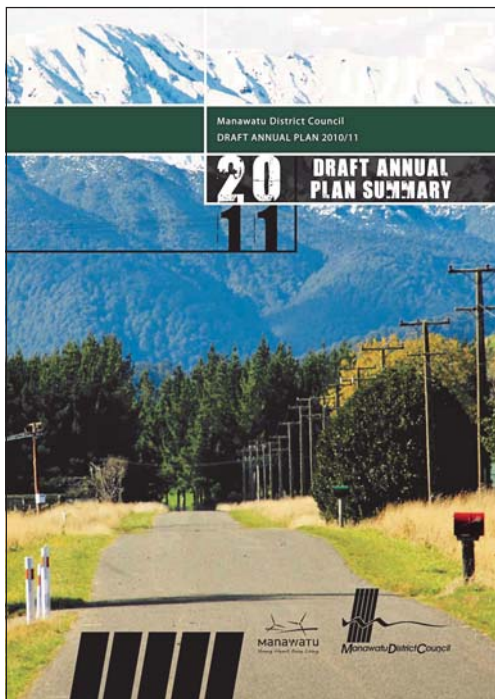
All residents are encouraged to read the plan, or its summary, and make a submission if they have a strong opinion on any particular issue.

The document is the council's plan for the next year, so it's appropriate that people who are affected by what the council undertakes have their say in what is going on.

Some of the proposed projects in which council would welcome community feedback and comment are

the Himatangi Beach wastewater and Rongotea water schemes, development of the Sanson building facility, the District Plan review and the Urban Growth Strategy.

The plan and summary



discuss the plan is to be held at 5.30pm on Thursday, April 29, in the council chamber, while a series of presentations are to be made at the following scheduled community committee meetings (7.30pm start):

Halcombe, Kimbolton, Rongotea (April 12), Marae Consultative Committee (April 13); Bunnythorpe, Longburn (April 21); Sanson (April 28) and Cheltenham, Himatangi Beach, Pohangina (May 4).

Copies of the plan summary are to be delivered to more than 12,000 residential addresses throughout the district in mid-April as an insert in the "Feilding Herald".

The summary and draft plan can be viewed on the council's website, www.mdc.govt.nz, from April 8 and hard copies will be available at the council offices, Feilding Public Library and the Makino Aquatic Centre.

also outlines details on the Leisureville initiative (including the next phase of redevelopment of the Makino Aquatic Centre) and the co-ordinated strategic roading network linking the district with Palmerston North and the wider region.

A public meeting to dis-

tributed among retirement homes. "It was a highly satisfactory result and enables the library to purchase a wide range of replacement stock," he said.

"The sale also indicates what remains popular or otherwise in certain subject areas and helps as to what to buy in the future."

About 4000 books were on sale.

Voting returns encouraging

VOTING returns from the community polls measuring the level of interest in proposed wastewater and water supply schemes at Himatangi Beach and Rongotea have been encouraging.

With more than a week's voting time left, 47 percent of Rongotea's eligible voters have returned their papers, while 38 percent of the land owners at Himatangi Beach have responded.

Manawatu District Council sent out voting papers two weeks ago to 442 land owners at Himatangi Beach and 297 at Rongotea.

The polls are being conducted by the Christchurch-based organisation, *electionz.com*, responsible for

running local body elections for some local authorities, including Manawatu.

Voters have until noon on Thursday, April 8, to indicate whether they support the implementation of their particular scheme or not. The poll involves one vote per property and the following methodology is to be used by council in making a decision:

- If less than 40 percent of the valid votes cast vote "yes", then the project would not proceed.
- If more than 60 percent of the valid votes cast vote "yes", then the project would proceed.
- If between 40 percent and 60 percent (including 40 percent and 60 percent) of the

valid votes cast vote "yes", the council would determine whether to proceed or not.

Results of the polls are expected to be posted to the MDC website by 2pm on Monday, April 12.

Water Manager, Wayne Spencer, called for land owners to have their say as council wanted good feedback before making an informed decision at its April meeting.

The proposed wastewater scheme for Himatangi Beach is expected to cost between \$5.6 and \$6.6 million, with 50 percent to be funded by central government, while a \$2.3 million subsidy (80 percent) has been approved for Rongotea's proposed \$2.9 million water supply.



CONTRACTORS have recently completed an exterior repaint of the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre at Rongotea. Painter Paul Manley said it was the building's first repaint since its construction about 10 years ago and settled weather had allowed them to complete the job in three weeks. Apiti's Community Hall, memorial archway and public toilet block have also benefited from a recent spruce-up.

Totara Reserve views wanted

MANAWATU District Council is seeking community feedback on the proposal to transfer the control and management of Totara Reserve Regional Park to Horizons Regional Council.

After successfully sharing the funding and management responsibilities of the park since 2006, both councils consider further operational improvements can be gained

if primary responsibility for the reserve lies with the one authority.

MDC Community and Strategic Development Officer, Tracey Hunt, said council would welcome submissions from interested parties through its Draft Annual Plan process because it was "very keen" to find out what people thought of the proposal.

Ms Hunt said consultation documents would be available from council offices from Thursday, April 8, and also online from www.mdc.govt.nz. Flyers will also be distributed in the area.

Horizons is to undertake a similar process at the same time and if the transfer goes ahead it is likely to be completed by 2011.



Few titles left after book sale

ONLY a few titles remained after the Feilding Public Library's 11th annual book sale last week drew a steady stream of buyers and realised nearly \$4600.

Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said the few large

print books left over were to be distributed among retirement homes.

"It was a highly satisfactory result and enables the library to purchase a wide range of replacement stock," he said.

"The sale also indicates what remains popular or otherwise in certain subject areas and helps as to what to buy in the future."

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Easter Holiday Arrangements

Office: Closed tomorrow and Monday.

Library: Open until 5.30pm today and on Saturday between 9.30am and noon. Closed tomorrow and Monday. Books can be returned through the slot adjacent to the library's front door.

Makino Aquatic Centre: Closed tomorrow. Open Saturday and Sunday, 8am to 6pm, and Monday, 10am to 6pm.

Refuse Collection: Feilding Central Business District, Sanson, Himatangi Beach, Rongotea, Longburn, Tangimoana and southern rural route: The normal collection on Monday will be carried out on Wednesday. Pick-up times may be earlier or later than normal over the holiday period. Please ensure bags are out by 7.30am.

Feilding Refuse Transfer Station - Kawakawa Road: Closed tomorrow and Sunday. Open on Saturday and Monday from 9am to 5pm. Feilding Landfill is now closed to all public access.

Emergencies: For all matters deemed urgent during the holiday period, telephone (06) 323-0000.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive