

Major roading contract begins

WORK has started on a \$1.2 million project in Denbigh Street, Feilding (pictured), which will significantly change the streetscape from boundary to boundary.



Stage 1 of the upgrade - involving reconstruction of a 700-metre stretch of Denbigh Street from East Street to Kimbolton Road - is one of the Manawatu District Council's major roading contracts for the year and has been in the planning for some time.

The existing pavement on the road is in poor condition with numerous service trenches and lids contributing to rapid deterioration and an uneven ride.

Projects Engineer, Bryce Clifford, said the installation of a stormwater main and new sumps was the first task facing contractors, Downer EDi Works, to be followed by a trunk sewer line on the other side of the carriageway.

The trunk sewer will cater

for growth in the north-eastern part of Feilding as the existing connection was determined to be under capacity for predicted growth in the future.

Mr Clifford said as the job progressed and the contractors installed the pipe work, the existing pavement material would be removed and the crown lowered to a new design level.

New kerb and channelling and footpaths are to be constructed while the existing grass berms are to be reinstated to a similar width, but with a new inter-locking, plastic-type material suit-

able for grass growth and car parking.

"Motorists will be able to park on the berms in the winter without having to worry about the vehicle sinking into the ground," said Mr Clifford.

New driveway crossings are also to be installed for street residents who have been kept fully informed of the project by council letter drop and Downer EDi Works staff.

Mr Clifford said the project was scheduled to be completed by late November-mid December, dependent on weather.

Environmental issues in news

ENVIRONMENTAL factors have made the news in recent weeks with the Manawatu River leaders' forum and our Himatangi Beach sewerage scheme important topics that have potentially far-reaching effects on our futures.

The Manawatu River and, indeed, all of our rivers' health is of concern to all who live in this region and especially those who use or reside alongside them. And there is nothing more certain than the problems of the rivers will not be solved while grown men and women and their supposedly responsible organisations fight out their opinions in the media.

The first meeting held by these groups went very well and it seemed that agreement on the way forward would be speedily reached.

The second also appeared to progress well, but a little slower, and it is obvious that we must all get over our-

selves and co-operate to find a reasonable solution to this important issue.

The Himatangi Beach sewerage scheme was not universally accepted by the community as shown by the



MAYORAL COMMENT
by Ian McKelvie

poll results. However, the council has decided to push on and enlist the help of the Department of Health and Horizons Regional Council to assist it to progress a solution for the beach community

as it would have been irresponsible of council not to continue due to the fragility of the Himatangi Beach coastal environment.

Finally, on matters of the environment, I met with Sixtus Lodge trustees to discuss the future of that wonderful facility where many of us have stayed on school educational and outdoor trips.

The lodge is run by volunteers and is struggling to attract enough of these people to continue to operate it as it has in the past. It desperately needs new volunteers as it reviews its future.

It is a wonderful asset for our region and it is important that it survives and thrives into the future.

One last thing: The Salvation Army celebrated its 125th anniversary in Feilding last weekend and what a great contribution it's made to Feilding and Districts with its wide range of services.

KFB seeking more members

KEEP Feilding Beautiful - the voluntary organisation behind the town's impressive achievement in winning New Zealand's Most Beautiful Town award on 14 occasions - is desperately seeking new members.

Chairperson Del Gibb, who has been at the helm of KFB virtually since its inception 32 years ago, said many of its current members were getting older and not physically capable of taking part in some of the planting programmes.

"We need younger and stronger people to come on board and those with a bit of grunt to dig a hole."

Mrs Gibb said it would be sad if KFB, with its principal aims of litter eradica-

tion, beautification and community pride, was lost to the town.

"The main thing is to encourage that community pride, because once you get



that, problems with litter and graffiti start to lessen."

She said KFB members gained a sense of satisfaction when involved in community projects that made a difference - such as the

painting of 10 town bridges. "It's doing it for the town, not for yourself."

Mrs Gibb said new members need not feel they would be burdened through any KFB involvement.

She said the organisation had enjoyed a good working relationship with the Manawatu District Council and Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James.

Mr James said KFB was a small, active committee that attracted goodwill from the rest of the community, regularly enjoying a good buy-in when seeking help for a particular project.

"It has helped make Feilding look really nice and without that help it wouldn't have happened," he said.

Draft Annual Plan meetings schedule

ONE public meeting and five Community Committee meetings are still to be held as the Manawatu District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 remains open for consultation.

The schedule is:

Public meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Feilding	29 April	5.30pm	Council Offices
Community Committees			
Apiti	27 April	7.30pm	Apiti Hall
Sanson	28 April	7.30pm	Sanson Community Hall
Cheltenham	4 May	7.30pm	Cheltenham Fire Station
Himatangi Beach	4 May	7.30pm	Himatangi Beach Community Hall
Pohangina	4 May	7.30pm	County Fayre

East Street's quick progress


A WATER installation project along a section of East Street in front of the Feilding Intermediate School entrance (pictured) has been completed in a short period of time and alleviated any disruptions for pupils returning from the recent school holidays.

Senior Projects Engineer, Dora Luo, said the contractors, Infracon Ltd., had installed a 50mm rider main down 95 metres of the street in two days.

The overall installation project, involving 350 metres of rider main piping from Kimbolton Avenue to Fairview Avenue, is expected to be completed in May.

Ms Luo said the installation had been urgently designed, tendered, priced, approved, location marked and started to avoid delaying scheduled footpath renewal work along the east side of East Street.





Council and Committee Meetings

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, notice is given that the following meetings are scheduled for May:

Tuesday, May 4
8.30am Community Wellbeing Subcommittee

Thursday, May 20
8.30am Council. Public forum prior to meeting available - contact Customer Services and Democracy Manager for arrangements
8.45am Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

Monday, May 24
8.30am Extraordinary Council. Draft 2010/11 Annual Plan Hearing - please note that further days will be required

Unless specified, the above meetings will be held in the District Council Building, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and are open to the public.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive