

NEWSLINE

10 OCTOBER 2024



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Hello and welcome to another edition of Newsline. One of the Mayor's roles that I enjoy most is the opportunity to celebrate some of the volunteers and contributors to our district.

Nominations are open for the 2025 Annual Civic Awards, and I would encourage you to think about whether there is someone you know who deserves recognition for the effort they put into our community. Without them, this wouldn't be such a great place to live! Nomination forms are available on Council's website.

Another part of the Mayor's job is to advocate for our district. Last month, I met with management from Intercity Buses to discuss Waimate township being bypassed. The reason given was that, with delays further north, drivers were regularly exceeding their allowed driving hours. Sadly, they do not have any plans to reinstate the stop, but I am working with the company and Community Link to explore possible alternatives, such as a shuttle vehicle from Waimate to State Highway 1 to meet the bus.

Another cause I am lobbying for is for South Canterbury to keep its Environment Canterbury (ECan) electorate. In ECan's new representation review proposal, South and Mid Canterbury would be combined. This merger does not take into account how different our districts are and the specific challenges each of us faces. These reviews should consider the land area, not just the population. Otherwise, our environmental matters will be decided by people in Christchurch offices. The South Canterbury Mayors and I are united in the need to retain a strong voice and effective representation for our districts at a regional level.

For those of you on Facebook, keep an eye out for my fortnightly column *News From The Mayor's Desk* on the Council's Facebook page, where I will update you on my recent appointments and activities.

Until next time, take care.

COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RURAL SPORTS GRANTS

Waimate District Council invite applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District. Each grant is currently funded at \$10,000 per annum with 2 funding rounds.

Community Grant

This fund is open to all organisations that do not qualify for funding under the Creative Communities NZ Scheme.

Sports Grant

Eligible projects include coach or volunteer training, equipment purchase (excluding uniforms) and new initiatives or activities.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

This fund provides a travel subsidy for sports clubs and schools competing in local sports competitions.

Eligibility criteria and application forms are available at waimatedc.govt.nz, and from the Waimate Information Centre, 15 Paul Street.

Specific enquiries can be made to the Grants Administrator at info@waimatedc.govt.nz or phone 03 689 7771.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applications close 12pm on Monday 21 October 2024.



CONTACTING COUNCIL MADE EASY

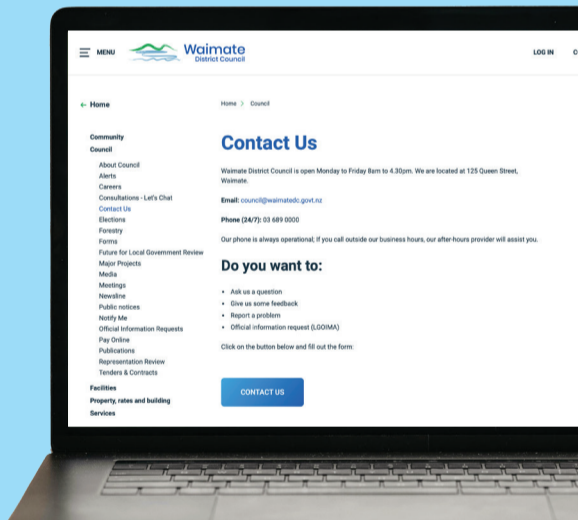
Council has updated its website to simplify how people can reach out.

Previously, there were separate forms for enquiries, feedback, reporting issues, and official information requests. Now, the new "Contact Us" form merges all of these into one.

This change is part of a broader effort to digitise many Council forms, making them easier, more efficient, and cost-effective.

As part of this update, the SnapSendSolve app has been discontinued. Residents can now use the online form to report issues, with the option to attach pictures for reference.

The link to Contact Us is on the homepage of Council's website.



SEDDON SQUARE TOILETS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

If you blinked, you might have missed the installation of the new toilet block in Seddon Square.

The project was finished in late September, taking only three weeks to install. The new Exeloo facility boasts six cubicles. Five of these will be open between 6am and 9pm, and one will remain open 24 hours a day.

Mayor Craig Rowley said clean and accessible bathroom facilities are a drawcard for people travelling through the district. "It might not seem like a tourist attraction, but a good toilet can leave an impression of a welcoming and tidy district. Having it so close to the centre of town means there is a good chance visitors will stay longer and spend money in town."

Data from counters on the doors showed the facilities had been well-used since they opened.

In addition to the installation of the toilets, which have a budget of \$445,150, the north end of Seddon Square has been landscaped, with the removal of a hedge to increase green space and provide a view from the new library extension. Two trees were transplanted which were previously located in front of the library, new rubbish bins have been installed, and a new picnic table will be installed shortly.

The two old toilets beside the town clock, which were nearing the end of their life cycle, will be removed and repurposed elsewhere.

The community will be consulted ahead of this area being redeveloped.



GET COUNCIL NEWS AND ALERTS DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX

Since NotifyMe was launched in August, more than 230 people have signed up to receive Council alerts, news and important information. With NotifyMe, you can choose which type of message you would like to receive and how you would like to stay informed—whether through text, email, or both—giving you control over how you receive important information.

Mayor Craig Rowley said the goal of the service was to give people the option of how they received their news.

"While most people are online, the way Facebook works means that we could not guarantee everyone would see our posts, nor could we expect people to check our website daily," he said.

"We will continue to post on these channels, but we have had very positive feedback from people who now receive our releases consistently through NotifyMe. This is part of our wider strategy of engaging the public in our decision-making process. We are a small council and every opinion we hear matters to us, and we want people to be informed."

Emergency alerts are also a key feature of NotifyMe, making it an essential part of any civil defence response. Sending a text is the quickest way to alert people about urgent issues, whether it's a road closure, unsafe drinking water, or the location of the nearest welfare centre.

NotifyMe is a free service and people can sign up at waimatedc.govt.nz/notifyme

