



WHAT'S INSIDE
LIGNITE PLANNING
RECYCLING UPDATE
FREE E-BOOKS



HOKONUI

HERALD

OCTOBER 2011

STREETSCAPE GUIDE

turns next corner

Feedback about the proposed Gore District Streetscape Strategy out for submission last month has been extremely positive, says Gore District Council (GDC) Planning Consultant Keith Hovell.

“The proposed strategy reassesses how Gore District’s footpaths and roads should look and be used,” says Keith. “It will guide how we manage the future layout of streets in our towns; safe-guarding the vibrancy of commercial areas and ensuring the appropriate use of roads and footpaths in residential areas.”

The strategy applies to the legal road area, which includes the road surface, its footpaths and the adjoining land back to the property boundary.

Keith explains, “We were prompted to develop this strategy after the Council received a request from people in a residential street who wanted to take out the street frontage grass outside their property and replace it with gravel so they could park their cars there. We’ve also experienced the advent of ‘drive thru’ businesses with cars crossing

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Planning Consultant, Keith Hovell, and Graduate Planner, Rosie Given, are happy with Streetscape feedback.

MAYOR'S OUTLOOK



It's 12 months since the last local government elections; a good time to reflect on how your Council is travelling. From my perspective, I believe we have come together very well, understanding our important role as governors and the obligations and opportunities that go with that.

For those councillors with the time and inclination there has been opportunity aplenty to be active in areas of particular interest; the various working parties covering such things as streetscape planning, rating and water issues testify to that. I thank those councillors who have put up their hands to drive those along.

The working relationship between the councillors and management is as good as any I have experienced. To me, it reinforces how, in every facet of life, strong relationships make anything possible and weak ones stifle progress.

There are challenges on the horizon. We need to complete our review of the way councillors are elected, their number and where they come from. The next iteration of the Council's Long Term Plan needs completion before 30 June 2012, too. Then July 2012 will see the household recycling collection service begin.

Of course, the elephant in the room I haven't mentioned is the planning requirements for possible energy developments. This planning has required much time and energy from councillors and staff. I am determined that we fully understand the implications of whatever may occur and not be taken by surprise (see page four).

Nothing is yet certain in this sphere, but these developments may be major for the Council and the community. But, from where I sit, I know we have the energy, vision and experience around the table, and in the management team, to get a great result for the Gore District whatever path we find ourselves treading.

Mayor Tracy Hicks

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Streetscape GUIDE turns next corner

high-use footpaths on the main street.

"We came to the realisation we had a lot of different layouts for all our residential, commercial and industrial streets.

"We need an accurate guide to refer to in these situations, so the Council can address streetscapes as a whole, not in a piecemeal fashion.

"The strategy emphasises keeping the transport ways in residential areas safe, attractive and peaceful. This may mean reducing or slowing traffic in some residential areas, so they are less of a thoroughfare, improving the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooter users."

Keith points out, "Streets have been around for 8000 years, while cars have been

around for just 80, but the car has been given priority over everything else. The strategy focuses our desire to give the priority back to people."

The Streetscape Working Party is considering the public's submissions and plans to present the finalised strategy to the Council for approval before Christmas.

COUNCIL NOTICES

209 0330 for FAST service

The fastest way to solve a problem involving a GDC service is by ringing 209 0330.

That number gets you straight to the customer service staff who are trained to deal with any Council issue, be it a pothole, leaking pipe or non-collection of refuse. Your request will be logged and forwarded to the appropriate staff member for action.

Administration Manager, Susan Jones, says each request for service that comes through the Customer Service staff is recorded electronically and resulting actions can be tracked, making sure requests are acted upon.

"People often think they will get faster results if they try and call straight to the department they think will help, but you are much more likely to get the service you want through our customer service staff. Just call 209 0330 for the fastest and best service possible."

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sorting **Recycling** **CONCERNS**

Preparations for the 1 July 2012 launch of the District's new household recycling and waste collection service are on target with contracts being finalised and public concerns addressed.

GDC General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers, says the main concerns – collection of green waste, wheelie bin size, Paddy's Bins inclusion and the Pakeke Lions recycling service – have been sorted through.

"Collection of green waste is not such a big problem. People will be able to put a small amount in their general waste bin. For larger amounts, we will continue to take green waste at the Transfer Station. We'll layer it over the old landfill in preparation for landscaping and plantings."

Paul says people generating low volumes of waste or with little room on their property can opt for a pair of smaller, 80 litre wheelie bins rather than the standard 240 litre bins.

"If they take two 80 litre bins, one for recyclables and one for general waste, they'll receive a discount of \$30 off the cost of the standard service."

Paddy's Bins will be subcontracted by Bonds Contracting Limited to provide the collection service. "It will be great to see our local guys continuing to do the collections."



GDC General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers.

Paul says Pakeke Lions will continue collecting and recycling cardboard and paper, too.

"An agreement has been reached between the Pakeke Lions and the GDC to work on a joint project, with a percentage of the income Pakeke Lions earn from processing cardboard and paper going toward local community projects. A possible project may be upgrading the CCTV cameras in the Gore and Matura town centres as well as improving the Police Station's CCTV footage storage capacity.

"We intend putting regular ads in the local media notice boards and stickers on the wheelie bins encouraging residents to habitually take their paper and cardboard to the Lions depot on Hokonui Drive."



**Matura Pool's Seasonal Supervisors
Donna Burr and Joanne Cheesbrough.**

Matura Pool **facelift fans**

Matura Pool's Christmas came early this year, receiving an internal makeover and a new Seasonal Supervisor, Joanne Cheesbrough.

Joanne has been promoted to the position after working at the pool for two years as a lifeguard and swimming teacher.

"I love the variety of working with the public, from the elderly to the toddlers," Joanne says.

She and fellow Seasonal Supervisor, Donna Burr, are delighted with the upgrade the pool received over the winter. They insist the new family changing room, safer steps for entering the pool and completely repainted interior mean all of Matura should be coming to try out the pool if they haven't already.

"My aqua-aerobics ladies will be rapt with the new steps," Donna says. "The exterior of the pool was repainted last year, so it's all looking great."

LIGNITE and the *Impact of Change*

Solid Energy's plans to extract and convert the Gore District's significant lignite deposits into fuel and fertiliser products are extensive – huge even. What could the impact be on our community, its infrastructure and environment?

These are questions the Gore District Council is addressing now.

Chief Executive, Stephen Parry, says, "The Council has commissioned a range of studies to better inform ourselves about the impact on the district should the Solid Energy proposals come into being.

"We handpicked a select group of consulting experts in certain fields - transportation, roads, water, storm water, waste water, social and economic impacts, landscape and ecology effects.

"The studies involve modelling to see what our infrastructure can cope with, what our general environment is like and what it can absorb. The information will be very useful for us when providing input into any resource consent applications from Solid Energy."

Stephen points out that in New Zealand most population growth is caused by new residents wanting a certain lifestyle, as has happened in Queenstown and the Bay of Plenty. In Gore and Matakura's case growth may be tied to the plans of one major developer – Solid Energy.

"If its projects go ahead we need to be prepared to align our planning processes with its timetable," Stephen says.

"There is a lot going on. The briquette factory is a tiddler compared to the other projects Solid Energy has in mind."

Mayor Tracy Hicks adds, "To date the main concerns we have heard about from the public regarding Solid Energy's plans have been environmental.

Really, Environment Southland deals with those issues through the resource consent process. As I see it, the big role for the GDC lies in social and infrastructural planning."



GDC Chief Executive, Stephen Parry

Planning for growth

The information from the consultancy studies is being gathered together this month to provide the Council with a solid platform from which it will develop an overall District Growth Strategy.

Stephen explains "It's not like a District Plan, which simply put, sets the rules for how development can be conducted. It's a plan for growth or - to use a buzz word – a spatial plan, which is a bit like a 'bird's eye view' of where different types of development, like new residential, recreational or industrial areas, might be located over the next 30 years.

"What will the commercial centres of Matakura and Gore look like in future? These big questions need to be asked.

"Until the fairly recent past the Council has not had to plan in this fashion – we had a declining population. Now we're looking at the likelihood of a significant increase. It's prompting the Council to look at the future in a long term way, not just the next few years.

"The District Growth Strategy will involve truly extensive consultation. It is likely to capture the imagination and concerns of the public."

Continued on facing page

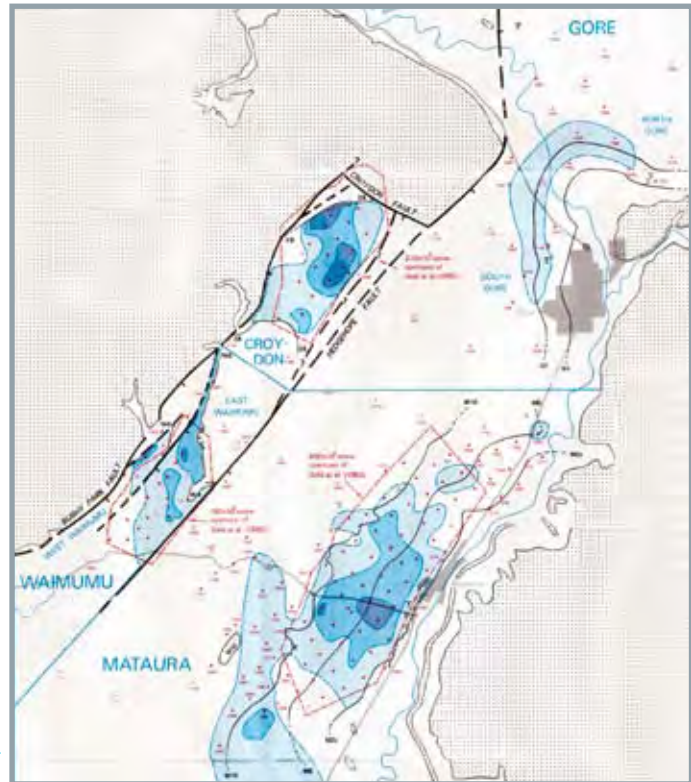
What of the Long Term Plan?

The existing Long Term Plan, which sets out the GDC's expenditure and project schedule for the next ten years, is due out for public consultation in March 2012.

But, Stephen says, the information from the consultancy studies may show up a need to make some amendments to the new Long Term Plan after it has been adopted next year. If this occurs the Council may well opt to subsequently review its Long Term Plan earlier than the mandatory three year time line.

"This would provide an opportunity for new information gleaned from the District Growth Strategy to be incorporated and ensure that the Long Term Plan keeps pace with anticipated planning developments in the District," Stephen says.

Concentrations of lignite deposits in the Gore District area are indicated on this map in blue.



Development on Dowling's Mind

In a country where some districts' growth figures have small minus signs in front of them, Sarah Dowling is thinking expansion.

Since taking up her role as GDC Senior Asset Management Officer in February, Sarah says a significant part of her time has been spent preparing for the possibility of Solid Energy's extensive plans for lignite conversion coming to fruition in the district.

"We need to keep up with the play if that takes off. We are doing a lot of long term planning for growth, making sure we have development procedures in place for the district as a whole. At the moment we are planning ten years ahead. The Central Government requires us to



GDC Senior Asset Management Officer, Sarah Dowling

do that anyway when we review our Long Term Plan every three years.

"We have to plan how we are going to fund growth. We have to make the right decisions at the right time."

When Sarah talks about what her job entails, she's mostly referring to infrastructure for the 'three waters' - water, waste and storm water - plus solid waste and compliance with Environment Southland's regulations.

"We make sure that all those public health utilities are operating appropriately and efficiently. The key part of asset management is ensuring the 'full life-cycle' of assets, so we don't run things into the ground and have to build from scratch."

Prior to taking up the GDC position, Sarah was in a similar role as Technical Officer at Southland District Council. After taking a European holiday she decided it was time for a change.

"I was lucky to get the Gore job as there aren't so many openings in this line of work in this area. I live in Riversdale, so it's a lot easier for me working here. The staff have been great to get to know and work with."

free E-literature for you

Gore District Libraries have opened a catalogue of eBooks and eAudio books you can access at home for free.

If you are a library member you can 'borrow' eBooks and eAudio books by downloading them to your computer or e-reader from the Gore District Council website <http://library.goredc.govt.nz/liberty3>

As with printed books, only one person can have any one eBook out at a time and you can reserve them if they're out.

District Library Manager Jane Robinson says, "One advantage of this system is that you can't have overdue books. The file simply disappears when the loan period expires."

She adds that the new service stems from an initiative driven by the Association of Public Library Managers to make e-content available to library members throughout New Zealand. Three consortia have been established throughout the country, with 14 districts in the South Island joining together to share the cost of sourcing the material via a US company called Overdrive.

"This project is a great example of resource-sharing by libraries to maximise value for Councils. It makes this cutting-edge service available to as many New Zealanders as possible. We will be able to offer a much wider range of material to our community than if we had tried to provide the service on a go-it-alone basis," Jane says.

Upgrade brings **new** library services



Gore District Libraries members can now receive their library notices via email or text, and reserve and renew books online thanks to September's library computer upgrade.

"We're quite excited about the new features," says District Library Manager, Jane Robinson. "Customers who opt for the text or email service will receive overdue notices on the date due rather than receiving a letter in the post, which may take a few days to arrive. We think this is a big improvement for our customers."

"All library members have to do is provide their email address or mobile number to library staff."

Thanks to the upgrade you'll also be able to reserve and renew your own items through the library website: <http://library.goredc.govt.nz/liberty3>

"The upgrade has also enabled us to upload images of book covers and book reviews into the library catalogue for many of the titles we hold," says Jane.

BRIEFS

Coster Fund Grants

Non-profit organisations wishing to substantially improve or extend any existing amenity in the Maitua Ward of Gore District can apply to the Coster Fund for a grant. Application for a grant of up to 50% of a project must be received before Friday 11 November 2011 (operational expenses are ineligible).

Application forms are available from the main GDC office, Maitua Service Centre, or download from www.goredc.govt.nz

Sister City Photo Competition

Whip out your camera and take part in the inaugural Sister City Amateur Photographic Competition. Open to people who reside in the Gore Health Inc. area, the competition is for three age groups, Junior 8-12, Intermediate 13-17, Senior 18 and over.

The topic categories are, 'Scene', 'Person/People', 'Building' and Collage/Scrapbook Page'.

Enter between mid-November and 17 February at the GDC office. The Gore Camera Club will lead the judging panel with results being announced on 24 February 2012. Winning pictures will be sent to Gore's sister city, Tamworth, New South Wales, for display.

working on **Mataura** **RATES**

Two rating anomalies for Mataura properties have been addressed by a GDC working party with a view to making rates charges fairer for the town's commercial and residential property owners.

Corporate Services General Manager, Russell Duthie, says, "The first issue concerns how the parks and reserves component of the rates on a commercial property in Mataura is greater than for a similar value commercial property in Gore. This is obviously inequitable given the difference in commercial activity between the two towns.

"The working party is in the final stage of reviewing a proposal to rate all commercial properties for parks and reserves on the same value basis, regardless of whether they are in Gore or Mataura.

"Options for addressing the problem are being prepared and will be presented to Councillors for consideration in the next Long Term Plan."

Russell says discussions are also taking place to review a minimum rating 'floor' which was set for Mataura properties from 2006 for the calculation of certain targeted rates.

"This did not take into account the possibility of the value of Mataura properties going down as they have. The working party is looking at whether the rating floor needs to be removed or recalculated.

"Of course the problem arises that, while Mataura's rates may be reduced, the cost of running the district's rates-funded services remains the same, so the money has to come from somewhere else. This is one of the areas the working party is analysing to ensure rates are levied across the district in as fair a way as possible."



**Corporate Services General Manager,
Russell Duthie**



woollaston in life

The 101st birthday of the first New Zealand artist to receive a knighthood for services to art will be celebrated at the Eastern Southland Gallery from 26 November to 29 January in *Toss Woollaston 101*.

Though best known for his oil paintings, the late Toss Woollaston created many works on paper. The exhibition, curated by Nelson's Suter Art Gallery, features 101 of his pencil and ink drawings, filling both of the Eastern Southland Gallery's exhibition spaces.

"We are thrilled to have this exhibition," says District Arts and Heritage Curator, Jim Geddes. "A lot of people will know Toss Woollaston's works from magazines and documentaries, but this is a chance to see them in life."

Toss Woollaston, "Woman Sewing", pen drawing

PUBLIC EVENTS

Every Wednesday (term time)
WRIGGLE & RHYME
10am Gore Library
11am Mataura Library
Active movement for up to 2 year olds

Every Tuesday (term time)
TODDLER TIME
10.30am, Gore Library
Stories and craft activities for 2-5 year olds

Every Friday (term time)
TODDLER TIME
10.30am, Mataura Library

AQUAROBICS
Mondays 9–10am, 6.30–7.30pm
Wednesdays 11am– 12 noon, 6–7pm
Fridays 9–10am
Gore Multisports Complex,
Info: 03 203 9128

FLOATIE FRIDAYS
Fridays 6pm–8.30pm
Fun equipment, inflatables and music
Cost: normal pool entry
Info: Gore Multisports Complex, 03 203 9128

Saturdays and Sundays
WEEKEND INFLATABLE FUN
1–5pm – Gore Pool
1.30–4pm – Mataura Pool, summer terms only
Fun equipment, inflatables and music. \$1 Hamster Ball rides on request

Until 23 October
DOOMED TIMBER
Southern Artists Consider Seaward Bush
Eastern Southland Gallery
Info: 03 208 9907

Until 21 October
CAMP COLUMBA OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS
Game On 2! for 10-13 year olds
Info: www.campcolumba.org.nz or holidaycamps@campcolumba.org.nz or 03 205 3702

10-14 October, 17–21 October
LEAPING FROGS SWIM SCHOOL
School holiday lessons
30 min lessons each morning
Enrolment Gore Multisports Complex, 03 203 9128

10-14 October, 17–21 October
HOLIDAY INFLATABLE FUN
1-5pm and 6-8.30pm – Gore Pool
1.30–4.30pm – Mataura Pool
Fun equipment, inflatables and music. \$1 Hamster Ball rides on request

Tuesdays 11, 18 October & Thursday 13 October
GORE POOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
1-3pm, school holiday programmes for children aged 4 years and up
Info: Gore Multisports Complex, 03 203 9128

Mondays 10, 17 October & Wednesdays 12, 19 October
MATAURA POOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
1.30 – 3.30pm, BBQ's, fun and games for children aged 4 years and up
Info: Mataura Centennial Pool, 03 203 3483

11, 13, 18 & 20 October
GORE LIBRARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
Info: 03 209 9129

12, 14, 19 & 21 October
MATAURA LIBRARY HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
Info: 03 203 8115

16 October
SOUTHLAND RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL
11am - 4pm, Gore Public Gardens, Fairfield Street

19 October
MLT EVENT CENTRE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
1.30–3.30pm
Details yet to be confirmed
Info: Gore Multisports Complex 03 203 9128

20 October
HOLIDAY HALLOWEEN PARTY
1-4pm
Info: Gore Multisports Complex, 03 203 9128

22 October
COBRA RODDERS 40TH ANNIVERSARY
11am - 3pm Gore A&P Showgrounds
Swap meet and car display
Entry \$2, Swap Sites \$5

24 October
POOLS LABOUR DAY HOURS
Gore Pool, 1–5pm
Mataura Pool, closed

25 October - 17 December
LEAPING FROGS SWIM SCHOOL
Monday to Saturday, Gore Pool. Lessons for swimmers of all ages, babies to adults
Info: Gore Multisports Complex, 03 203 9128

25 October - 16 December
LEAPING FROGS SWIM SCHOOL
Wednesdays and Fridays after school, Mataura Pool
Lessons for swimmers of all ages, babies to adults
Info: Mataura Centennial Pool, 03 203 3483

29 October
GORE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARDS
Gore T & C Stadium from 6pm
Tickets \$35 from Gore Visitor Information Centre

29 October - 18 November
RUGBY WORLD CUP SHOW
Eastern Southland Gallery

4 November
MUKA YOUTH PRINT EXHIBITION
Eastern Southland Gallery

Saturdays from 5 November
GORE FARMERS MARKET
10am-1pm
Gore Information Centre Car Park

Info: Lee Kearon, 03 208 3147, or 021 250 1060

3 December
CHRISTMAS POPS 1 - THE MAINLAND TOUR
Experience colour with the NZSO, mezzo-soprano Helen Medlyn and conductor Alexander Briger
Tickets: SBS St James Theatre, Irk Street, Gore

18 December
GORE CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES
11.45am-5.30pm, Gore Racecourse
Info: www.terraces.co.nz

To publish your event on this list send details to goreinfo@goredc.govt.nz
Disclaimer: This listing contains event details correct as at 29 August 2011. GDC bears no responsibility for inconvenience due to changes of event particulars.



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