

# MASTERTON MONTHLY WRAP

## MARCH 2020

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Over the last couple of months Masterton District Council has been taking a look at our plans for the year ahead, and considering whether we need to make any adjustments. Unfortunately, like many people and organisations, our costs have gone up. In just one example, our planned roading work for the year from 1 July is up by more than \$600,000. That's because contractors are charging more and the price of road materials, like metal, is going up.

Because the majority of our income comes from rates on properties, it means we are proposing to increase rates by 6 per cent, on average, across the Masterton district from 1 July. But we do have some wriggle room and we need your thoughts about which way to go on some big projects; the Town Hall, Henley Lake and Masterton's skatepark.

What we decide are the next steps on these projects will impact your rates, not only now, but going into future years, as well. Consultation on these issues opened on Monday. We will be out and about getting your views and answering any questions you might have over the next month. Make sure you head to our website to get the full details on the consultation and the list of places we'll be out in the community.

I appreciate COVID-19 is front of mind for many in the community. For now, the focus is on ensuring everyone is practising good personal hygiene (thoroughly washing and drying hands) and good cough etiquette. We have plans for ensuring essential services continue during events such as a pandemic, should the virus reach us here. In the meantime, keep an eye on the Ministry of Health website for updates and key information.

Finally, I want to thank everything for their efforts in helping conserve water over the summer months. It's great to see that water usage dropped 12 per cent after we asked people to restrict their water use. It's not just residents we're asking to save water. We've been open about the fact we have work to do on our water network to prevent water loss. Every year we invest heavily in upgrading our water network and, in 2018, we increased this investment by \$600,000 each year.

Take care, and I look forward to speaking with you out and about over the next month.



### SPEED REVIEW

We're reviewing some of Masterton's speed limits because we want them to be safer for all road users - including pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposed changes include reducing the speeds on roads around the Upper Plain and northern Lansdowne areas, and taking speeds around Masterton's CBD from 50km/h to 30km/h.

We're also proposing variable speed zones around some schools, reducing speeds to 40km/h at Riversdale and Castlepoint, as well as reductions through Tauweru.

In most cases, the proposed speed limits reflect the actual average speed of traffic and we don't believe the new limits will make a significant difference to travel times.

For example, reducing the CBD speed limits to 30km/h will actually just better reflect the speeds people are already travelling in that area. We've also taken a look at the speeds people are already driving in the other areas - the biggest change in travel time is about 11 seconds (see table below).

These are important changes and we want to hear from you about what you think. We have a survey on our website for you to share your thoughts. Alternatively, you can pick up an information booklet at our Queen Street office or Masterton Library and fill out a hard-copy submission form.

AREA	CURRENT SPEED LIMIT	ACTUAL MEAN SPEED	PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT	CHANGE IN TRAVEL TIME
Masterton CBD	50	<30km/h	30	0 seconds
Upper Plain Area	100	55-65km/h	80	0 seconds
Te Ore Ore Road 70km/h area	70	70-74km/h	60	11.4 seconds
Tauweru	100	80-84km/h	80	3.2 seconds
Castlepoint/Riversdale	50	<30km/h	40	0 seconds

### WHAT'S ON

**Monday 16 March - Monday 20 April**  
Annual Plan 2020-21 consultation open  
Speed Review consultation open

**Wednesday 18 March**  
Infrastructure and Services  
Committee Meeting  
2pm, Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Rd

**Saturday 28 March**  
Metlink Bus Review meeting  
10am-4pm, Aratoi, 12 Bruce St

**Wednesday 1 April**  
Council Meeting  
3pm, Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Rd

**Thursday 9 April - Sunday 12 April**  
Wairarapa Balloon Festival

**Wednesday 19 April**  
Infrastructure and Services  
Committee Meeting  
2pm, Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Rd

### IMPACT OF SPEED IN A CRASH (ON PEDESTRIANS)



† Death

† Serious injury

‡ Slight injury

# HE TĀKAI KŌRERO MAI I WHAKAORIORI POUTŪ-TE-RANGI 2020



## MAKING IT HAPPEN ANNUAL PLAN 2020-21



### PROPOSED RATES RISE

Every year we take a fresh look at our costs and planned spending for the coming 12 months. We already have a good idea of how our budget is looking, thanks to the long-term planning we did in 2018. This annual review lets us check everything is running to plan and make any adjustments we might need to.

Unfortunately, it's costing us more to get things done. For example, the costs of building roads have increased because contractors and the materials used are more expensive. It's also costing us more to get drinking water to your house and provide a rubbish and recycling service. Because of these rising costs, we are planning a rates increase of 6 per cent, on average, across the district from 1 July. What this means for each household depends on where a property is, and how much it was worth in 2017. Take a look at the detail on our website for more information.

In addition to the business as usual, we've got some big ideas for Masterton. In the next 12 months we're going to make them a reality.

But first, we need your thoughts.

There are three key projects we need your opinion on before we can confirm our plan for the year ahead (2020-21):

- what to do with the two buildings connected to the Town Hall
- how to manage Henley Lake
- how much to invest in a new skatepark for Masterton.

Tell us what you think before 20 April via the feedback form on our website.

## MASTERTON'S BIG ISSUES

### CIVIC CENTRE – INVESTING IN A SHARED, MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY

The Town Hall was closed in June 2016 and cannot be repaired. We know most of Masterton wants a new facility, but we first need to decide what to do with two buildings that are connected to the old Town Hall – that includes whether we keep the frontage of the existing building (the façade).

We've got two options;

- Demolish just the old Town Hall auditorium and keep the other two buildings for now (that means keeping the current façade).
- Demolish all the buildings on the site and start afresh.



Both options will cost \$2.1 million for the next year, but future costs will depend on what happens next.

If the two office buildings are kept, they'll need to be earthquake strengthened before people can work out of them, or taken down by 2026 (in line with rules for earthquake-prone buildings). We expect it would cost about \$4.4m to bring these buildings up to scratch so they're safe – that cost will likely increase the longer we delay the decision. Demolishing all three buildings could still be an option after we take the Town Hall down, depending on what we find during this project.

We understand that keeping the façade is important for some people. That's why our preferred option is to keep the two office buildings with the façade for now, and look at options for a new multi-purpose facility, that could include a library, in the future.



### HENLEY LAKE – WATER AVAILABILITY

We've always taken water from the Ruamāhanga River to fill Henley Lake. The rules are changing and it's likely we won't be able to take water from the river in dry summer months in the future.

We need to decide whether we keep pushing for an agreement for us to keep taking water from nearby water sources during dry summer months, or whether we adapt the lake to suit lower water levels in summer.

We've got two options;

- We can continue trying to get approval for us to keep taking water, which could cost up to \$600,000.
- We could, instead, focus on beautifying the lake to make it look better when the water level drops. We could invest \$350,000 to make a start on this plan.

We know Henley Lake is important to our community and provides recreational opportunities. That's why our preferred option is to try and reach an agreement where we can still take water to fill Henley Lake in the summer.