

Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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August 2018

www.cluthadc.govt.nz

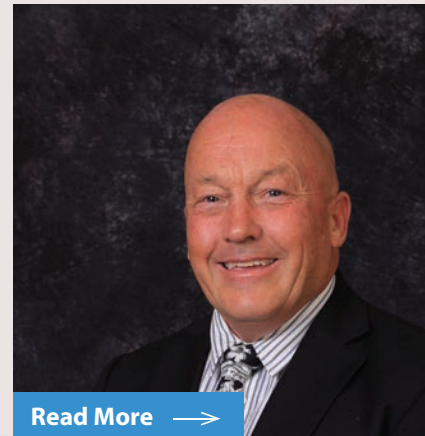
0800 801 350

help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz

From the Mayor

For most people, the level of awareness surrounding our district's housing crisis is at best a conversation point and for Wellington bureaucrats we're a sleepy little backwash with an aging and declining population. So, why do I say this in a Council newsletter? Put simply, our district's economy will not reach its potential until we overcome what is rapidly evolving into the largest social and economic challenge our district has faced for at least a generation. We have had the "full up" signs out for some time now and still the new arrivals keep coming. We have gone

well past being able to describe the lack of accommodation as challenging, and while our major employers' continued expansions are a real chance to repair the long-term systemic decline we have endured since the 1970s, there's going to be some speed bumps along the way. The reality is the recent surge in economic activity was always going to have yin and yang components, and I would rather deal with these issues than face stagnation and decline. But, we need to raise awareness that large numbers of locals who are prepared to work in and



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service requests



On 1 July Council introduced a target to improve customer communications around service requests.

The feedback that our councillors were getting from ratepayers is that, at times, members of the public were making the effort to lodge a service request about an issue, but then never heard back from Council.

As a result of these concerns, Council has set itself a five-day target to respond to service requests.

This means anyone who lodges a service

request should be contacted by Council within five working days (regardless of whether the request been fully resolved or not) with an update on where things are at. Remember it's very easy to lodge a service request, just ring 0800 801 350 or visit the "contact us" section of Council's website www.cluthadc.govt.nz.

Making a service request means your issue is logged in our system and can be actioned. We like to know about any problems or issues as soon as possible, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

better communication with our customers

this month

From the Mayor cont.

contribute to our district are being placed in increasingly compromised and challenging circumstances, that will inevitably radiate out and impact on all our communities. Our handful of magnificent service agencies, like Anglican Family Care, Salvation Army and the Police are stretched out like violin strings already, basically no matter how hard they try they are under resourced, and ill-equipped to handle the present and fast-moving changes to the demographic makeup of our communities. I presume that most people are conscious of peripheral changes to the community, like so many new faces, or

that it's hard to find a flat or purchase a house, or the recently announced sharp increase in local house prices and increased retail activity. Council finds itself fighting a rear guard action to facilitate a response to the lack of housing. I believe the solution lies squarely with central Government, but can appreciate Clutha is never going to be described as "ground zero" in our nation's housing crisis. However, when there are, at times, almost 100 people staying up at the old hospital in Balclutha, when people are living in cars and in tents and its minus 5 degrees, when multiple families with double digit numbers are

cramming into two-bedroom flats we do have a crisis. We have tried to do a quick straw poll of where numbers are heading and very basic enquiries to a few of our major employers have shown there are another 350 people arriving in the coming months – many with temporary visas, and where are they going to live? Your guess is about as good as mine. It's time we were all aware of the magnitude of this situation, we are dealing with people that no doubt will be making a considerable sacrifice to follow a dream and we all have a moral responsibility to make every attempt to do the right thing by them.

important notices

OWAKA PAYMENTS

A reminder to everyone, especially those living in the Catlins, that our Owaka Service Centre is now accepting payments for council services including rates and dog registrations. It also continues to be a busy information centre and library.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Free computer training will be offered at the Milton Service Centre/Library from August to October. The range of classes known as "Stepping Up" will be limited to four people at a time so pre-registration is required by visiting <https://steppingup.nz> or contacting your local library. Classes will include subjects such as computer basics, photo editing, text formatting, editing documents, introduction to spreadsheets, setting up email accounts and using email, online job searching, social media and more. The classes have been very successful at the Balclutha Library and those who want to find out more - including dates and times - are welcome to contact their local library staff.

STAYING INFORMED

Did you know you can receive news about Council straight to your inbox? Just sign up for our online e-newsletter, which comes out after every Council meeting. So, you'll receive it every six weeks and it includes the latest decisions and other timely information from Council. You can also sign up to receive emails about any important water notices. Just go to www.cluthadc.govt.nz/online newsletters and select the water supplies you want to know about. It's very easy! Another easy way to stay up to date is to follow us on Facebook. A big thanks to all our current followers who already help spread civil defence messages, lost dog notices and much more.

spotlight on / creative communities...

“funding



Do you have a project in mind?

Clutha District Creative Communities will now hold **two** funding rounds for the 2018/19 year.

- Round 1 closes on 31 August 2018
- Round 2 closes on 1 March 2019

Please note we previously had four funding rounds, so please consider this when planning your project. There's still time to get an application in for Round 1 closing at the end of August! The application guide can be found on the Funding Schemes page of our website.

Council's website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz

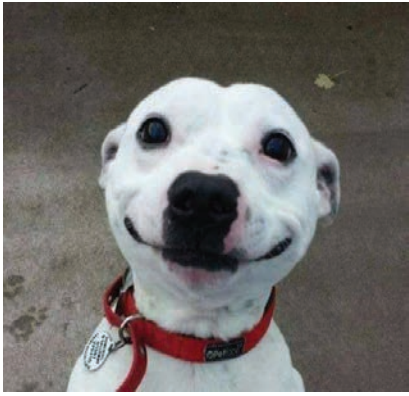
To qualify, projects must:

- Take place within the Clutha District
- Be completed within 12 months of funding approval
- Not have started or finished before the funding is approved.

Please contact our Corporate Administrator Karen Piercy with any questions on 03 419 0261. It's great to have local groups take full advantage of this funding opportunity.



Notice to all dog owners



Are you registered yet?

All dogs should have been registered by the end of **July**. It's important to register dogs over three-months-old as otherwise you may be issued with an **infringement notice**. Remember, you can now also register your dog and pay online at: **<http://onlineservices.cluthadc.govt.nz>**. If you haven't done so yet, please register your dog **immediately**.

winter driving

Winter conditions can make driving on our roads hazardous. Our key advice is drive to the conditions. This includes slowing down, not following other vehicles too closely, checking conditions before leaving home and avoiding driving in bad weather if possible. When winter weather hits, our contractors will be out gritting and clearing roads as necessary. But, be aware they grit and clear snow from priority roads first - a roading hierarchy dictates this. Remember, you still have to slow down on roads that have been gritted. If you notice any consistently

dangerous areas, e.g. with ice, then ring us on **0800 801 350**. We do our best to tell people of road closures as soon as we can, but our contractors need to check the roads first, so it can take some time for us to be advised of all these. Stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook or checking **www.cluthadc.govt.nz**. The Transport Agency website **www.nzta.govt.nz** has the latest state highway info, and it's best to check **www.metservice.com** for the latest weather warnings. Lastly, if you're interested in rainfall and river data, check out **www.water.orc.govt.nz**.



Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water left standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends flushing a cup of water from your drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the fitting. This simple precaution is recommended for all households, including public and private supplies.

Balclutha Pool

With the colder weather, you might want to exercise indoors. The Balclutha Pool is open Monday to Friday from 6am to 8pm, Saturdays from 1pm to 4.30pm, and Sundays from 10.30am to noon; and then from 1pm to 4.30pm. You can swim lanes, reduce stress on your joints by walking, or have a soak in the therapeutic pool. So come along, have fun, and stay warm, while getting fit this winter!

Service Requests

If you need to report any problems with Council services, for example road damage or water leaks, it's easy to get in touch, just ring 0800 801 350 and lodge a service request or visit the Contact Us section on our website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz



Year Ahead

an update from the Clutha District Council

2018-2019

| www.cluthadc.govt.nz

| 0800 801 350

| help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz

THE YEAR AHEAD What's the plan for July 2018 to June 2019?

Now that our **Long Term Plan** (and budget) has been adopted, we wanted to give the community a heads-up about some of the work we've got planned over the next 12 months, and why.

spotlight on / rosebank industrial park

DEVELOPMENT of the Rosebank Industrial Park site is now underway. The decision to go ahead with this project recognised the cost of the development may exceed what the sections can be sold for, but councillors felt the strong need expressed by businesses for more industrial land near Balclutha and the associated economic and community benefits outweighed any

CORE VS DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

Council at times is criticised for investing in one-off projects that some may describe as frivolous, instead of sticking to its "core functions". However, in this latest Long Term Plan Council confirmed the following spending on core functions over the next 10 years; \$152.1 million on replacing assets, \$39.2 million on increasing levels of service and \$3.1 million on promoting growth. This includes the following estimated spend this year of \$6.7 million water, \$250,000 stormwater, \$1.5 million waste water and \$10.4 million on roads.



Roads



Council has confirmed a budget of \$2 million spread over three years for sealing gravel roads in urban areas (\$620,000 to be spent this year), which will allow about 5.7km of gravel roads to be sealed. The roads that will be given priority are still to be finalised, but will be within the urban communities consulted on in the LTP. In addition, following a number of public submissions about the state of rural gravel roads, Council will consult on a programme for prioritising and sealing rural roads during the 2019/20 Annual Plan process.

small monetary loss. There are many examples throughout the country of project costs being under-estimated and this Council was determined to be very realistic about the cost before going ahead. We also wanted to be transparent, so the information was included in our Long Term Plan. Any anticipated loss will be covered by the sale of surplus council property and not by rates.



Community plans

Funding has been included in budgets for the action of projects associated with both the Our Place Milton and Our Place Balclutha community plans, this is on the basis that external funding can also be found to support them. The Our Place Waihola community plan is currently underway with community consultation now finished. Community plans for the Catlins and Kaka Point are also scheduled to get underway during the 2018/19 financial year. Community plans help determine the projects and priorities for a community, as well as help put Council's Living

and Working and Economic Development Strategies into action. Ideas centre on what Council can do with our key facilities and how we can work with the community to make things happen.

Strategic issues

Strategic issues Council is planning to address this year include working with the community to address the housing needs of our district, whether this be through land and house packages in Kaitangata or helping facilitate solutions for social housing and worker accommodation. We've also approved a budget

for Clutha Development (the district's economic and tourism agency) to create a destination plan and feasibility study looking at tourism opportunities for our beautiful district. We also continue to fund Clutha Development's job matching programme which has been very successful in directly matching people into jobs.

Rates

The overall district rate rise is 1.69% for this year, bearing in mind individual communities' rates increases or decreases will differ. As always, Council has worked hard to find the balance between keeping rates

affordable and achieving the work the public expects of us.

Communication

While we do our best to keep our community and customers informed using hard copy and electronic newsletters, social media, our website and media releases, we know that often things are best explained in person. We are open to being invited to group meetings or other speaking opportunities if people have questions they would like answered, or if you just want an explanation do something, please feel free to ring and make an appointment, our doors are always open.