

NEW REFUSE BINS FOR GREYMOUTH

The Future Leaders group of Greymouth had the vision to bring more vibrancy to our Central Business District.

After hearing about the new refuse bins Council was looking to install around town, the local youth group got to work making contact with local artists to provide photographs and artwork to display on the panels on the sides of the new bins to create more vibrancy around our district. The group worked together to raise the funds necessary to cover the cost of the artwork using a fundraising webpage.

Over the next few months, more bins will be replaced around the district to match these ones.



Mayor's comment



It has been great getting back to level one and meeting people face to face again. We are now back to business as usual with a few extra precautions in place to remind us of the extraordinary period that we have been through.

I am getting out and about again and talking to our local businesses and building owners about how they are getting on, there is a lot of positivity out there although uncertainty about the future also, and still those in some sectors really battling to stay afloat. There have been many Government funded announcements to help businesses get through so please make sure you are well informed as to what help is available to you.

One of the decisions taken by Council when adopting its Annual Plan has been to reduce its economic development rate by 50% for this year to make sure businesses have more money in their pockets and should mean that businesses get a rate reduction. Council has also looked at other ways it can help our residents and businesses that are under severe pressure and as a result have implemented a Rates Remission Policy and a Rates Postponement Policy.

We do encourage anyone facing difficulty in paying their rates to contact us early to see if we can help.

Council set the rates rise at 2.7% for this year which will be less than \$1.90 a week per household on average. Council believed that to not raise rates would be irresponsible as it would result in having to charge more in future years.

This will also help with continued capital projects that will provide employment and future proof our core infrastructure that needs to be more resilient for the future.

The West Coast Mayors, Chairs and Iwi group have been working collaboratively to have a strong voice in advocating for our major tourism and transport links to the West Coast including the Tranz Alpine, Intercity, Sounds Air and NZTA in regards to their decision of "no chains" on the Alpine Passes. We need to be open for business and to also provide clarity to those other businesses relying on these links. The four councils on the West Coast have been working together to get funding applications to the Government for more capital projects to assist with the economic reboot of the Coast.

This would boost employment and make our infrastructure more resilient. We can only get better outcomes and have a stronger voice by doing so. It was great news that Grey District Council had a shovel ready project application approved for \$1 million for our new reservoirs,

giving protection to our water assets. Making our water infrastructure resilient and future-proofed was one of my main aims as Mayor and we are well underway to achieving this. Collaboration with our partners and neighbours was another aim and I am pleased to report this progress to you.

Many of our small community facilities were struggling to survive before Covid came along. Council has worked hard to get an application submitted to a new government funding scheme for upgrading community facilities such as halls and war memorials. The application was for 20 projects across the Grey District at a value of over \$1.5 million and we are hoping for a good outcome from this one.

More good news is that one of the biggest events on the West Coast, AgFest is happening this year on 13 and 14 November. This will be a massive boost to our town and its economy, something for us all to look forward to. AgFest is taking place over Christchurch Show Weekend and as this has been cancelled we hope to encourage Cantabrians over this way so we can show them some great West Coast hospitality. It is just what we need to showcase our awesome local businesses and to get out and have a great time together. I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Tania Gibson
 Mayor*

2020/2021 ANNUAL PLAN

Council adopted its 2020/2021 Annual Plan late last month. In the past, Council has always carried out a public consultation on a Draft Annual Plan before adopting a Final Annual Plan. However, local authorities need to consult with the public during the Annual Plan process only if the Annual Plan includes significant or material differences from the content of the relevant financial year in the LTP (see clause 2A, section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002). On this occasion we consider there were no significant or material differences from year three of our 2018-2028 LTP and Council will be continuing with the projects, priorities, and direction as set in the LTP.

For more information, please read the final 2020/2021 Annual Plan, which can be found on our website, www.greycdc.govt.nz.



YOUR RATES

By now you should have received your first rates bill for the 2020/2021 rating year. Your rates are made up of **General Rates** (to fund activities such as roading, refuse disposal sites, stormwater, parks, community services, district planning, flood protection and much more) and **Targeted Rates** (to pay for services such as refuse/recycling collection, water, and sewer, or to fund specific activities, ie economic development).

Your rateable land value, the area of the District you live in, and what the property is used for helps determine how much rates you pay towards Council services and activities.

Paying rates

There are many easy ways to pay your rates, including:

- **In person:** cash, cheque, EFTPOS, and Visa or Mastercard.
- **Other methods:** cheque, direct debit, telebanking, internet banking, automatic payment, or by credit card over the internet.

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$655 to low-income homeowners.

Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021) can be made from 1 August. Head on into Council offices to collect an application form.

Email rates invoices

You can still sign up to receive your rates or debtor invoices via email or to pay your rates by direct debit. Please visit our website for details.

If you have any questions about your rates, you can visit our website, www.greycdc.govt.nz/rates, or call 03 769 8605 and talk to our friendly Rates staff.



LEFT BANK ART GALLERY

The Left Bank Art Gallery building has been brought back to life with a fresh coat of paint.

The Left Bank Art Gallery positioned in the Town Square, is the former Bank of New Zealand building, which was built in 1924.

Council engaged with the Left Bank Art Gallery and together decided on the new colour scheme to revive the building and bring it in line with our CBD Redevelopment Plan.



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

Every district in New Zealand must have a working plan. The plans need to identify community values and how to achieve them by managing where and how services are delivered, and how resources are used. This includes:

Drinking water	Wastewater
Stormwater	Local roads
Rubbish collection	Libraries
Libraries	and much more

The Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) is being developed to replace the three current District Plans along the West Coast including the Grey District. If you would like to know more information about the plan including viewing the agendas or minutes, or see how you can get involved with the plan you can visit their website: <https://tppp.nz/>

The TTPP team visited the West Coast Region in March (Greymouth and Hokitika), unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the roadshow was postponed. The team hopes to return and visit Barrytown and further north in September 2020.

Heart of the West Coast

Library news

Digital literacy classes

The Grey District Library partners with the 2020 Communications Trust to deliver FREE digital literacy classes to the community as part of the Stepping Up Programme. Previous classes have proved very popular, below you will find the schedule for **Term 3**.

DATE	TOPIC
Thursday 30 July	Smartphones
Thursday 6 August	Introduction to social media including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+
Thursday 13 August	Digital photos
Thursday 20 August	Computer basics for beginners
Thursday 27 August	Digital photos
Thursday 3 September	Internet safety and security
Thursday 10 September	Google and the internet
Thursday 17 September	Online newspapers

BorrowBox

Downloadable fiction and nonfiction eBooks and eAudiobooks for adults, young adults, and children.

BorrowBox makes it easy to select and download eBooks and eAudiobooks to your computer or any compatible mobile device. BorrowBox has a wide selection of New Zealand and Australian titles as well as works from international authors.

Users can download up to five eBooks and five eAudiobooks at a time with a loan period of 21 days. Users can return items early and can renew them twice (if there are no holds). You can access BorrowBox from the Library website - just sign in using your library card and pin. Go to www.greycdc.govt.nz/libraries and visit the eBooks and eAudio section.



All classes are held in the West Coast Room at the Library from 2pm to 4pm.

Classes are open to all ages and registering is easy - either phone the Library on 03 768 5597 or go to <https://2020.arlo.co/upcoming-courses> and select 'West Coast Region'. You need to register for each class you wish to attend.

For further information about the Stepping Up programme, please visit <http://steppingup.nz/>.

COMMUNITY FUNDING

The following funding schemes are available to groups in our community and funding rounds for all schemes open in September and March/April each year.

Creative Communities Scheme -

Funding for arts and cultural projects that increase participation in arts and benefit local communities. Recent recipients include Grey District Youth Trust, Greymouth Competitions Society and Ochre Project Team.



Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund -

Grey District school and sport club teams can apply for Sport NZ Rural Travel funding. Applications are open to rural sports clubs and rural schools teams with young people aged between 5 – 19 years who require subsidies to help with transport expenses to local sporting competitions. Recent recipients include Greymouth Hockey Club, Greymouth Marist Rugby Club, John Paul 2 High School, Marist Rugby League Juniors, Paroa Junior Soccer Club, Waro-Rakau Rugby League.

DWC West Coast Amateur Sports Trust -

This fund assists sports people in the Buller, Grey, and Westland Districts who have been recognised by their sports body to have the potential to reach national representative level. The monies granted help our talented youth to participate in training and/or competition that will help them towards reaching a goal in line with the Trust's objectives.



Development West Coast
Amateur Sports Trust

The full criteria for each scheme can be found on our website and application forms will be available online or at Council offices when funding rounds are open www.greycdc.govt.nz/funding.

COMMUNITY FUNDING



Community Energy Action (CEA) can now offer FREE installed insulation for all homeowners with a Community Services Card (CSC).

Free insulation is also available to homeowners living in a deprivation area. CEA works on the West Coast and Canterbury between Kaikoura and Ashburton. Applies to ceiling and underfloor insulation. Don't have a CSC? Investigate whether you could get one! A family of four can earn up to \$74,703 and still qualify.

To enquire or for more information go to: <https://www.cea.co.nz>



**WESTLAND
RECREATION
CENTRE**

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

COME AND JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN!

22 AND 23 AUGUST 2020



Keep an eye on our Facebook page
or website for more details coming soon.
www.facebook.com/WestlandRec

- POP-UP FITNESS CLASSES
- COFFEE AND FOOD CARTS
- COMPETITIONS
- INFLATABLES
- CAKE AND MORE

Stay up to date with Council news

You can stay up to date with all Council news on our website or Facebook page, which are updated regularly.

You can also find details of issues Council is currently consulting on and how you can have your say.

If you've got a question or some feedback for us, please feel free to use the easy online contact form on our website - we're here to help.



www.greycdc.govt.nz



www.facebook.com/GreyDC

Have

Your Say!

AgFest

13 & 14 November 2020



The team at AgFest are excited to announce that AgFest 2020 will be held at the Greymouth Aerodrome on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14 this year.

This gap has been made available by the postponement of the New Zealand Agricultural Show and is a one-off change, with AgFest reverting to a March or April timeframe in 2022.

Agfest is pleased to be able to secure these dates and take advantage of the Canterbury Anniversary day and long weekend; they anticipate this will bring a boost to the West Coast economy.

For site enquiries please contact: westcoastagfest@gmail.com

Grey District Council | 105 Tainui Street, Greymouth | 03 769 8600

info@greycdc.govt.nz | www.greycdc.govt.nz | www.facebook.com/GreyDC