

Riversdale Beach Community Update October 26, 2006 - Land Negotiations Continue

Land negotiations are taking somewhat longer than anticipated ahead of Masterton District Council's intention to begin public consultation on the options for the new Riversdale Beach Sewerage Scheme.

Council has been working towards the signing of Heads of Agreement with property owners on whose land a sewerage scheme could potentially be sited, and is continuing to finalise details of these. This process has taken longer than we expected, hence the delay in the next phase of the project - public consultation.

Certainty regarding availability of land is required before the range of options can be presented for consultation. We apologise for the delay and hope to begin the formal consultation process as soon as possible.

Although we are unable to proceed with consultation at this point in time, we are in the process of preparing documentation for the tendering of the topographical surveying of the Riversdale Beach community. This survey will precede preliminary design work. We will let you know when the survey is going to begin and provide details of the process as soon as the successful tenderer is ready to begin work.

To recap on the situation to date, we are looking at two scheme types and three scheme locations:

- A pond-based scheme located in the reserve at the southern end of the Riversdale Beach community,
- A pond-based scheme on land to the south-west of the Riversdale Beach community, and
- A package type system on land to the west of the Riversdale Beach community.

The Riversdale Beach Sewerage Steering Group has endorsed the Council's recent decision to adopt the funding model for the Riversdale Sewerage Scheme, incorporating:

- **charging on residential equivalents**
- **defining a residential equivalent as 7.5 people**
- **defining average cabin/motel occupancy as 4 people**
- **defining average caravan occupancy as 3.75 people**
- **allocating 20% of MDC contribution to existing residential properties**
- **allocating 80% of MDC contribution to non-residential properties and future growth**
- **the ability to negotiate with non-residential users over the number of assessed equivalents, where appropriate.**

Please note: The actual cost of connection for each of the occupancy types will be determined once the costs for land and for scheme construction are determined.

Given the delay in consultation and the amount of time that has elapsed since our last communication with you, we suggest you email us your questions on riversdalesewerage@mstn.govt.nz, and/or visit www.mstn.govt.nz/projects/riversdale_sew.htm to review information already made public.

As well, a new timeline for the project will be announced in our next Riversdale Beach Community Update, along with the submission form pack referred to in earlier newsletters.