Survey response booklet

Long-term plan 2024-34 pre-engagement

Take 10 for our future

September 2023

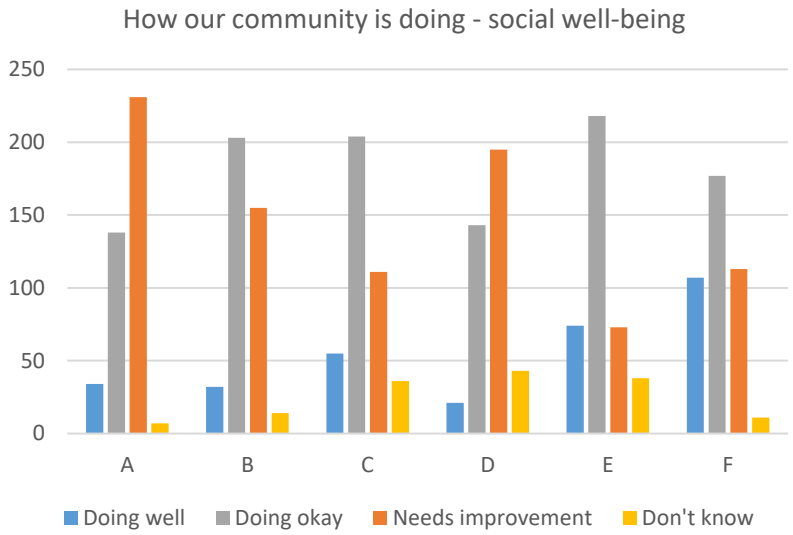
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This document contains the responses received through the four well-being surveys conducted as part of the 'Take 10 for our future' campaign across July / August 2023 for the Long-term Plan 2024-34 pre-engagement. Where respondents attached additional pages to their submission, these have been summarised for inclusion. Otherwise, all responses are included here verbatim.

1. Social Well-being

411 responses were received through the social well-being survey. Respondents were asked what areas, in relation to social well-being, they thought our district was doing well at and what areas needed improvement.



A. Access to healthcare

B. Community safety / crime prevention

C. Access to quality education & training opportunities

D. Affordable housing

E. Community connections

F. Recreation & entertainment opportunities

For the topics the respondents thought *needed improvement*, they were asked why the area needed improvement, suggestions of what could be done to improvement it, and what role Council should have in this.

1.1. Access to healthcare

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
GP shortage		
More doctors needed - waiting 7 days to see a doctor is a joke. Shouldn't have to travel to Christchurch to access healthcare - it should be available in Ashburton		
Often difficult for people to make appointment as doctors are booked out	More doctors	Advocate
Long wait to see GP, can't change GP, quality of GP	Get more GPs	Advertise nation and worldwide.
Often hear stories of difficulty that newcomers to town are having re: signing up for doctor services.	The most southern GP clinic in Ashburton is Tinwald Medical Centre, would like to see an additional centre in Hinds.	Advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Access to our local clinic has not always been available to new people in the area.		Advocate influence support
I can't get my son in to a doctor when needed	More doctors to meet demand.	Support
It's hard to get a gp appointment, they're always too busy	Another medical practice	
We need more GP appointments available - primary care is struggling	Increased government funding for primary care and specialised rural funding model	Advocate
Need more doctors in the town.	Bonding rural GPs to area for a certain length of time and providing suitable accommodation for them	
Lack of local doctors, they're all locums	More doctors	Advocate
Difficulty getting into GP due to high patient loads	Additional funding of current resources or additional staff to address helping our vulnerable in the community stay well/safe in their own homes.	Support
Doctors are hard to get into.		
Wait for a Doctor is too long.		
Not everyone is able to access or register to a GP practice in the area	More GP's into the area	Influence and advocate
Theres not enough GPs.	Encourage professionals to settle in Ashburton esp doctors and dentists etc.	Advocate and support
Worried about the number of doctors, especially rural doctors		Advocate, support and plan
Difficult to get into GP practices and to get appointments.	Assessing the needs of current housing stock for overseas medical workers	Promote tourism encouraging medical staff to NZ. Look at housing stock for a comfortable stay
It is almost impossible to get a GP appointment. I don't think this is limited to Ashburton; it is a nationwide problem.	This requires some really innovative thinking and collaboration, across the country but I don't have any suggestions.	Healthcare should be provided by central government, but local government should be lobbying on behalf of the community.
Long waiting times to see doctors. So impersonal now.	Attract more doctors to the area. Manages patient care through provider not a different doctor each time you visit.	Advocate
Many people in the community can't enrol with a GP and those of us who	More GP's, an emergency service	Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
have a GP at times struggle to get appts within a week or two of calling, even if it's urgent.		
Simply getting a doctor's appointment is impossible	More doctors	Plan and resource
A three week wait time to see a Dr is ridiculous and having no ER option is a risk.	We seriously need to allocate funding here - not rocket science.	Influence
Most medical centres are at maximum clients.	More medical centres	Advocate
Not enough doctors, the doctors are in zones and the waiting lists to sign up for a new practise are months long. Very hard to access afterhours emergency care.	Encourage doctors to want to work in Ashburton. There needs to be more resources for emergency care in the district.	There should be better support for healthcare and emergency care.
Wait times for an appointment with the doc, specialised, op	Have online doc at same cost as your registered doctor.	Advocate
Shortage of doctors, clinics not taking new clients.	This may be something that is out of council control.	Advocate, help when you can.
Difficult to get appt with Dr.	Resident Dr available 24 hrs in Ash hospital. Junior Drs not coping with travelling, diagnosing etc. They need supporting.	Advocate and support
It's difficult to get registered with a doctor here in Ashburton many clinics aren't taking new patients. And once registered it is difficult to get appointments. The cost of going to the doctor is high and while the staff at the hospital are great the wait at the ED is too long and they appear under resourced/staffed.	Encourage a new medical clinic to the area perhaps through rating or rental subsidy if there was suitable space in council owned property. Assistance with any local council regulatory stuff for new business set up.	Advocate, support
Very hard for newcomers to become a patient of doctor surgery.	Working longer hours than just split days.	Plan and resource
Too few GP practices accepting new patients. Wait time at hospital.	Incentives for GPs to our area	
So hard to get a doctor or to change.		
It's so hard to get into a GP	More doctors or something is needed	Plan and support
Not enough GPs. Long wait times for appointments. Not able to see your preferred GP.	Attract more qualified and skilled GPs.	Advocate and Support
Access to after hours and primary health care is difficult and costly - leading to an impact on emergency care provision at the hospital	identify the shortfall in GPs/nurse practitioners and actively promote area for recruitment	All of the above
There are no spaces at current doctors' practices, doctor's frequently change	incentives to bring qualified doctors to the area with stipulations of staying	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
over so there is not consistency of care and it is incredibly expensive to visit, so many times people just stay sick for longer because they can't afford to go to the doctor	here 5 years or so. Local subsidies for doctor visits or pressure on govt. to increase access to subsidies for "middle" income earners also	
Long delays getting GP appointments	Central Govt issue really	advocate
It is very hard to get access to a doctor if you're new to Ashburton	We need to entice more GPs to Ashburton	Advocate
Doctors are too busy, and seem disinterested in health, oddly.	More doctors, with more care of them too.	Encourage letters to government ministries.
Wait times at GP's and the hospital are crazy long	More staff needed	Support
Long wait times to get to see a GP.	Better integrated GP system. Work with GPs and hospital to make Ashburton an attractive option	Definitely advocate, influence and support, most of the planning and resource is out of council control.
Hard to get doctor's appointment when needed.	More doctors, Plunket.	Support
There are long delays getting to see local doctors.	Incentives for doctors to live in Ashburton. Active recruitment from other countries.	Advocate
More GPs as many surgeries are closed to newcomers and there is often only one doctor at the hospital A&E so wait times are long.	More GPs, encourage moving to the area, work with the GPs to assess the barriers, lobby for more doctors at the hospital	Advocate, influence
There is such a shortage of GPs, and it means long waits for appointments.	Advocate	Advocate
Takes weeks to get an appointment with your own doctor.	More doctors and a limit on how many patients they can take on. It is all very well with Three Rivers boasting about how many patients they have on the books, but the service certainly has degraded with it.	Attract more doctors to want to live here.
3-4 weeks for a bloody doctor, hospital is not great (i.e., the Friday kickout, 2nd rate doctors)	need more doctors and more competent/professional hospital	Advocate
Clinics rolls are full, hard to get enrolled	Making the area as attractive to medical personnel as possible	All of the above
Not enough GPS for size of current population	Provide incentives for recruitment to the area	
It is hard to find a GP that is open to new Patients	Encourage more GPs to practice in the area	Support:
Hard to get a GP appointment, or you need to take time off to travel to Christchurch	More GPs	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Waiting times to see a Dr. seems since Covid you can't get a Drs appt for almost 3 weeks.	Employ more health staff instead of having Locums pass through who don't know patients' histories.	support
The wait time to see a GP is terrible.		
It is very difficult to get a doctor's appointment.	More doctors	Advocate
More GPs	Develop a health centre with multiple services and after-hours facilities	Plan and resource
Not enough medical centres/doctors for the population	Council could underwrite infrastructure (i.e. buildings) for healthcare services.	Plan and resource
Access to GP visits when needed, wait times for appointments is too long.	Employ more experienced doctors.	Influence
I have to wait a week to get into the doctor.	Rising prices ensure people do not go to the doctor when required and when they do they take longer and it costs more. Maybe providing a mobile service once a month for minor issues so they don't escalate and create bigger ones.	
No access to GP	Public meeting between health providers and community to brainstorm ideas	Public meetings
Not enough doctors and to see one can take over two weeks	entice more doctors	advocate to people who can make changes
The length of time it takes to see a doctor and the cost.	More focus on preventative medicine. Encouraging more doctors to the district.	support
Only private doctor visits over prescribed not enough appointments available no real hospital services upkeep for district centralising towards Christchurch	Encourage health professional relocation	Lead
Inadequate GP's in town	It's a national problem, so promotion overseas of our quality lifestyle is an option	All four
Takes three weeks to get a doctor appointment and, the hospital is only a 'patch up' facility. For an area the size of mid-Canterbury, the health system needs serious consideration	Entice medical professionals to the district - how great is Ashburton!	
There are not enough GP's having to wait weeks for appointments	Need to encourage more doctors to the area.	Plan and resource
There aren't enough GP's / clinics and the hospital is too small	more GP's and doctors are required	advocate / influence
Nationwide issue waiting times for access to GPs	National Government issue to address	advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
There is few permanent resident drs, only locums	I don't know what would attract drs	unsure
It's very difficult to get a gp appointment, even harder to enrol in a practice if you are new to the area. People routinely present to the hospital for care that should be provided in a GP practice. The hospital is under increasing pressure with long waiting times to be treated. This situation is not sustainable. People are waiting far too long for care (in and out of hospital) and these delays have consequences for people's health. Priority should be placed on increasing access to affordable primary care (GP practices)	Working with local GP practices/Te Whatu Ora on recruitment of GPs, development of an afterhours GP service (say 5pm till 9pm) that is affordable and accessible, promotion of other options for minor issues such as accessing advice/treatment from pharmacies, physios, or virtual appointments, education around self-care	Advocate, influence and support
Shortage of GPs.	More govt funding for rural health care	Advocate
GP access is poor as is after hours service. The 0800 number does not provide adequate advice when it gets answered.	more GPs and a more accessible after hours service like and accident and emergency dept	advocacy
Often people have to wait a long time to get GP appointments.	I feel people could take more responsibility for their own health. Maybe funding e.g. to Mid Canty Timebank to provide health based courses.	Support
We need more GPs. When a GP lets a patient down, the patient has to suck it up cause there is nothing else.	Advocate to MPs, government, Whatu Ora. Benefits that will encourage doctors to come here.	Advocate, support and plan
It is hard to get into doctors.		
Hard for new people to get in to GPS Etc		It's not really the Councils role re heath care more Government
Takes too long to get into a GP when you need one	More doctors available and a better access to afterhours help	Advocate
Long wait times to see a GP etc.	Attracting more doctors to Ashburton, probably linked to improvement of recreation and entertainment opportunities and affordable housing.	
More GPs	Funding for aging population.	
We do not have enough Drs and medical practitioners. The wait for healthcare is a deterrent and can lead to delays in getting our care. The afterhours system is confusing.		Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Because you cannot get into a doctor's for weeks and even the hospital wait time is really really bad.	More staff and doctors who don't stay only a few months then go away because you feel like you have to start again.	Support or plan and resource
Takes too long to see a doctor.	More staff, community effort to encourage doctors to live here.	Advocate, support
To long of a waiting list to see a GP.	More doctors required in regional areas	Advocate
Access to GP is near impossible but then told not serious to require seen at emergency.	More support & staff.	Advocate + Plan & resource
Wait-time to visit your usual GP is excessive.	Long term - more doctors need to be trained along with incentives to stay in NZ once training completed.	Support more doctors to come to rural town & resources such as short term free or subsidised housing
Lack of availability around GP appts. Difficulty accessing specialists	Work with Te Whatu Ora to increase availability and access.	Advocate and support
We shouldn't have to wait weeks to see a doctor for urgent things, but this isn't in the councils remit to fix.	Private enterprise problem, council should stay out of it.	Advocate
You can't get into a doctor for at least a week.	Employ more doctors, give them cheap building rental, fast track any permissions.	Plan and resource
Hard to get in to a doctor, need more doctors	More funding for doctors so people can be seen and not have to wait for days to be seen!	plan and resource
Takes too long to get into the right healthcare and for people that need it most.	Doctors and nurses need to start getting to the ones in need.	Plan and resource
It is too hard to get into a doctor or you have to wait for hours at Hospital	We need more Doctors and should be made to do more one on one, not through phone calls only	
Wait times at drs, meaning more people going to A&E that shouldn't be there but can't get seen	Country wide issue, change of govt!	Support or plan and resource. If we could have shorter wait times it could be an attractive factor to get more people to ash generating a greater payback to the economy, whilst making more nurses/drs to work here because the workload is more manageable.
Until very recently it was difficult to find a medical centre in Ashburton that would take in new families. it is very hard on newcomers to get healthcare at times.	Support our medical centres and allow new ones to open.	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Hospital doctors / wait times		
Not enough doctors at hospital and not enough GPs .	More doctors	Advocate, plan and resource
Hospital waiting times in afterhours is terrible. Dr appointments are impossible to get within a week.	More resources into A&E and doctor availability.	Advocate
Our healthcare is in crisis at the moment, most people goes to the hospital have a hard time being seen by the doctor because of lack of staff (nurses, doctor).	Have more doctors and affordable GP access.	
Long wait times at Emergency Dept at Hospital.	Resident Dr available 24 hrs in Ash hospital. Junior Drs not coping with travelling, diagnosing etc. They need supporting.	Advocate and support
Wait times are too long.	The cost of this and wait lists need to be shorter and more cost effective	Support
Broke a bone and had to wait at Ashburton Hospital for 4 hours just for an Xray.	Increase staffing	Support
Long wait lists for hospital support.	Additional funding of current resources or additional staff to address helping our vulnerable in the community stay well/safe in their own homes.	Support
Waiting time needs to be improved	Get more healthcare professionals	Plan and resource
I had to wait 6 years for a hip replacement	Recruit more health professionals and pay them from the politicians pay	Support
The doctors rooms are overfull and hospital service is slow	More doctors, better KPIs for hospital staff	advocate and influence
Growing waiting lists	Increase frontline services and lower admin Burdon	Advocate
Not enough doctors and nurses or beds in our hospitals	Government funding to increase staffing levels	Advocate
Pressure on the emergency department is high.	Funding to our Emergency department or events that have a high medical need to pay a levy as part of registration	Plan and resource
Often people struggle to see doctor etc long waiting times at Ashburton hospital	More doctors, more options -- more about health less about money	
Hospital wait times are appalling	More Drs and nurses	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
More doctors and health professionals are required, the hospital does need an injection of doctors and surgery plus a better A&E	More Drs, recruiting overseas, Govt to recognise other countries qualifications	Should be part of what the council does on a daily/yearly basis
The Ashburton Hospital ER is often understaff (long wait and no specialist available).	Discuss and advocate to the Canterbury health board to get appropriate fundings.	Support
AAU is a joke, and there are not enough GPs, the afterhours service is awful with health line often meaning long wait times to be answered, likewise at GP surgeries.	More GPs, subsidised GP visits, more staff at AAU, better after hours service or a 24 hr clinic.	Advocate
Delays getting to doctors and hospital has a poor reputation.	Try to get hospital to get more services and more doctors.	Very difficult as is run outside of Ashburton try to offer support and help with advising what's required
Long wait times at the hospital.	Work with GPs and hospital to make Ashburton an attractive option.	Definitely advocate, influence and support, most of the planning and resource is out of council control.
The A & E department is often understaffed - to the point one day recently doctors were referring patients to the A & E, and there was no doctor working there.	More doctors.	Advocate
The health system is crap 2 month waiting list to see doctors, 8 hours for AAU.	Get more doctors here and medical staff have more medical centres and build a new maternity ward.	Support
Shortage of nurses at hospital - always understaffed.	Not a council issue but a DHB problem. Too many chiefs not enough Indians.	Council as the voice of the public needs to pressure DHB to increase staffing levels. In the last 12 months the ED have lost many very good young nurses who are the future of that dept. Maybe it flows all the way to Wellington.
The hospital is difficult to gain access to.		
Shortage of specialist services in Ashburton		
Shortage of midwives, having to go out of the area.	Need more available.	Support
Need a dialysis machine at Ashburton Hospital. Finding volunteers to give up 5-6 hours a day to take patients to	Approach District Health Board and Minister of Health etc. Beg, beg, beg!	Another voice to help Ashburton Kidney Society,

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Christchurch for dialysis is a big ask!! And too tiring for the patients.		local Doctors, Age Concern, Greypower and those needing dialysis.
It would be great to have specialist appointment in Ashburton even if 1 or 2 days a week.	Discuss and advocate to the Canterbury health board to get appropriate fundings.	Support.
I also have to wait months to get specialist appointments then need to drive 2 hours to get to them.	Also bring specialists to Ashburton so there isn't travel for patients as well.	
Limited options	Council should advocate to central govt for better services in Ashburton, like a paediatric unit	Advocate
Lack of specialist services available in Ashburton; Christchurch hospital is not accessible to everyone (e.g., elderly, young people, those that do not drive)		Advocate
The Ashburton Hospital and other healthcare centres severely lack equipment and capability. Ashburton residents are very familiar with being sent to Christchurch for basically everything beyond simple diagnostics. This is rather frustrating and also creates a worry knowing that if anything serious did occur, you're guaranteeing that a trip to Christchurch of 1+ hours should be accounted into the equation for receiving necessary care.	Create funding for health care centres outside of DHB (They have their own funding, e.g. Ashburton Hospital is doomed without funding from them, nothing Council can do) to create more advanced facilities, like Eastfield health which contains a radiology centre (this is amazing for pregnant residents). More facilities like this with more advanced diagnostic capabilities would help this district flourish with capability.	
Hospital services need improvement.	More services available in Ashburton.	Advocate
Lack of access to GP and mental health services; no public transport service makes it difficult for people to access health care; lack of low/no cost counselling services; not enough services for perpetrators of violence.	Council needs to lobby Health for adequate services; use Telehealth via Council facilities; look at the need for public transport system; advocate to Govt for more social/emergency housing for the District; Council Events Co-ordinator and Youth Council to look at more alcohol-free events and recreation opportunities for young people, especially "tweenies"10-14 - no longer children but not old enough to participate in 18+ activities.	Advocate, influence, support
Hard to get a physio appointment, or you need to take time off to travel to Christchurch.	More physios	Plan and resource
We have a whole hospital but can’t get scans or things like that done locally.	Start using x-ray and other facilities again, re-instate.	All
Can’t see a specialist	Get more doctors and specialists	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
I need access to a dermatologist regularly and have to travel to Christchurch.		
We have minimal hospital care.	Increase services at hospital, encourage professionals to settle in Ashburton esp doctors and dentists etc, we need an afterhours health service as well as A&E at the hospital	Advocate and support
People need to go out of town for too much	More available in Ashburton, or better ways for people to travel to the city	Advocate
Too long wait for doctors, no specialists	Too smaller pop to do much	Get specialists to do a rotation from Chch
Healthcare in general		
After hours medical care is available but people don't always know how and they ask on Facebook only to get poorly informed responses - I will say that when I've needed after hours medical it's been there but it can be tricky to access. I don't think this is limited to Ashburton, it is a nationwide problem.	This requires some really innovative thinking and collaboration, across the country but I don't have any suggestions.	Healthcare should be provided by central government but local government should be lobbying on behalf of the community
Because I don't think that everyone who needs healthcare is able to get it quickly and to the level that they need.	If possible, have more availability with appointments and bookings so that people don't have to wait.	Advocate
Can't keep doctors.		
It's hard to get into doctors, there is a lot of waiting.	More doctors, for babies, toddlers, children, teen, adults and elderly.	Advocate
Lack of doctors in area long waiting times to see health professionals.	Promote Ashburton as an employment destination for health professionals.	advocate and influence plan and resource
Wait far too long to see doc.		
Not enough Doctors and Nurses	Lobby government to smooth immigration path for medical people	Advocate
Can't get healthcare when needed	More money to be put into healthcare	advocate
NZ wide health care is a disaster	Make health care equal and effective for everyone not division	Plan and resources
System is failing		Advocate
The whole of NZ health system needs urgent funding and personal I put which affects our local services		
The whole system needs overhaul	overhaul the health system	support
Too many immigrants forcing pressure on system		
Private gp and hospital care is terrible	Attract doctors to the area	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Central govt decisions have impacted poorly on access to health for the whole country. This is not an issue that can be solved by district council other than encouraging and supporting local health providers to reject the negatively impacting decisions, not abide by them, and advocating for our district with central govt, pointing out the flaws in their policies.		Publicly advocate and support as per first answer. Just like you did with 3 waters.
Do I even need to comment it's shocking.	Not my job	
We have found people that cannot get into health centres as patients despite having an NZ partner, child and living here for years. The entire medical system needs overhauling at a government level but that is a 20 year plan.	Perhaps a health drop in centre with Nurses as in personal Healthline?	Plan and resource
Primary healthcare isn't attracting young doctors	Unused hospital areas could be made available	Discussions with Health NZ
NZ healthcare system is unable to cope with the demands placed on it. Primary care (GP practices) is overworked and cannot get enough Doctors and nurses. Age profile of the health workforce is another structural problem. Government funding for primary care is inadequate. Ashburton is not immune from any of these problems as they are nation-wide. Ashburton is fortunate to be within an hour of a major hospital in Christchurch. Also fortunate that the sectors of the NZ population most traditionally disadvantaged by the health system (Māori, Pasifika) are smaller here than in larger urban environments. We do have some rural people who are another group not well-served in the current system. Most of Ashburton District is Rural 1 and the balance is Rural 2 under the geographic Classification for Health which is fortunate as Rural 3 is the category with the worst health outcomes for rural people due to greater isolation from healthcare. But the overwhelming majority of rural people in Ashburton District are within Funding challenges in health will see regional hospitals like Ashburton		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
increasingly under-resourced. Neither of the major political parties have a meaningful programme for reform of the health sector. Their solutions are managed decline.		
Better accessibility	Faster. Less analysis, get on with the job.	Support
	Promote our district to attract young health professionals	Advocate and influence
Dentists		
Lots of things like dentists are backed up until next year	We should try to get people with more serious problems' first rather than first come first served	Take lead and talk with health care facility's
Often difficult for people to make appointment as dentists are booked out	More dentists	Advocate
Cost of healthcare		
More affordable and available. I know this isn't always within control of Council, but perhaps subsidising visits or transport or open clinics.	Make travel to healthcare more affordable and convenient, bring healthcare to the community, fund outreach.	All of them
The high costs per visit. Difficult to enrol with a health centre.	Introduce a basic health insurance for everyone with a monthly premium that is collected by the tax department. I.e. income through work or benefits.	
Price of going to GP prohibits many, plus accessibility. Many practices have closed enrolment lists.	Recruit GP locums for all practices in Ashburton District to have access to.	Plan and resource
High cost and low availability of primary healthcare.	Lobby central govt to incentivize rural GPs and help fund practices to make primary health care more affordable therefore lower demand on A&E depts.	Advocate, influence,
Cost too much to see doctor and the waiting time to see one.	Lower the price and get more doctors	None. It’s the Governments problem not councils
The community services card hasn't changed their earnings limit to keep up with inflation and now I can't have one even though I have had one for the last 20 years, am wheelchair bound and suffer many conditions from paraplegia.		
Other		
Staff		
Road noise		

1.2. Community safety / crime prevention

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Not enough consequences		
	While ram raids don't happen in my area where they do I believe the parents should pay for the damage. The police and the courts are too soft (even if the child is 12 years old).	
	Police do what they can with the system they have. A better answer system would be great.	
Too easy on gang related crime	Police to be supported in preventing real crime that hurts the community.	
Youngsters getting away with a slap on the wrist for crimes committed.	Held guilty parties too account	Plan and resource
We need to take a hard line. Stop being softy softy crime. Minor crime must be pricked in the bud to let people know where the community stands.	Punishment to fit the crime. Work stints they get from the court make them wear Bright red overalls and work where the community can get a good look.	Pay for a Crime prevention officer - pay on results
Justice system is too soft		
People need to be held accountable for their actions. Heavier penalties and compulsory correction programs. People with no steady income through working. Can not afford to own a car. These things must be sorted out.	Fines do not educate criminals. Bootcamps for criminal adults and for criminal children's parents. Teach them life skills.	G
More accountability by criminals	make people accountable for their actions	influence
Too many young criminals receiving light sentences or none at all	should lobby Govt to be tougher on criminals, not just in the 2 months before the election	no to using rates to do work the Govt should be doing
Not enough police		
More policing of streets	Get more visible Police - get out of your cars	Talk to Police
Just read Noticeboard, more cops needed	Not my job	
Not enough police and too hard to talk to Police at Ashburton.	More Police	Advocate, plan and resource
We need to increase our police presence and response times.	A larger police force and cameras.	Support
Police take weeks to respond to burglaries.	More focus on crime prevention	Support
Not enough police to follow up on crime. Too busy dealing with social issues.	More police	Advocate and support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Needs a larger police presence.	Police presence	
Very hard to find a police officer when you need one in Methven.	Have the station manned like it was years ago.	Advocate
There are not enough cops on the streets.	Hire more cops	None. It's the Governments problem not councils
Police seem more focused on traffic than crime.	More police on the beat and tougher penalties on crime	Putting more pressure on police to fight crime
We need more Police available 24 hours, rather than redirecting of calls in the night hours, plus more active street patrol	More staff	All three of above
Get cops on the beat		All crime petty or serious gets reported to the police
Police response too slow many times	More police and Police station open over weekends	Support
Police response to problems is very poor	More pressure on police to be available	advocate / influence
Not enough Police on our streets	More visible policing	Lobby Govt for more police
Higher police presence may determine criminal activity	More police presence on streets and neighbourhood	Public meetings
One cop doesn't cut it rural areas are being left to fend for themselves on anti-social behaviour	Reduce traffic speeds to 30 mph in urban areas	Lead
Never see the police interacting in the community	Get the police out on the streets/community constables	Advocate, support
Increased patrols		
More cctv or patrols		
Nuisance dogs		
We need firmer rules and action around Ashburton regarding menacing and nuisance dogs.		
Dog control is non-existent. Continually wandering dogs and when calling about barking dogs not a care is given.		
Town safety		
Streets not meeting Waka Kotahi minimum street lighting requirements – such as Cambridge Street, between Wakanui Road and Nelson Street, where lighting seems to be just 50% of minimum and a security issue for residents (1 new light per 100m – while minimum seems to be 1 light per 50m). It seems that Anne Street, Tinwald, is about to embark on an upgrade of	Would like Ashburton District Council to at least meet Waka Kotahi minimum street lighting requirements, for resident safety. Also would like to see ADC offer more financial assistance to Neighbourhood Support, as they do a great job	Neighbourhood Support – provide funding / Minimum Street Lighting – Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
lighting in seems to be at a similar level (1 new light per 133m – while minimum seems to be 1 light per 50m), or lack of level of lighting.		
Don't feel safe walking alone around Ashburton, there are suspicious people and houses around many areas.	More police on the street, walking the streets in town and making themselves visible.	Plan and resource
People feeling safe and property protected.	Intervention at young age if difficulties arising	Support
Fund high resolution cameras in public areas	Cameras	Plan and resource
Around the Ashburton District, there is a lot of unsafe places such as the township of Ashburton. There can be some really nasty people. Recently or a while ago, there was a ram raid that took place at Stirling Sports in Ashburton. Although the incident had occurred at night, the incident could take place elsewhere among the Ashburton District at open hours where innocent citizens are.	I think we should add RAM Bollards not just in places that is expected to be Ram raided. But we should add them to as many business as possible. You never know when a criminal is going to strike.	
I do not feel safe on the streets alone before 6am and after 9pm at night within Ashburton.	More patrols or police presence around town	
It is disappointing to feel unsafe in our community.	Additional resources to prevent and address crime would be beneficial.	Plan and resource
Tinwald	More cops around. Better lighting in some areas	
Increased safety, more teaching opportunities for all ages at schools.	More teaching opportunities in all schools in all ages.	Support
There is not enough police presence on the CBD streets, especially when the high school kids come out. I was almost knocked over by a group of teenager's on pushbikes as I walked along Tancred Street. I was then abused.	More police on the beat	Advocate
People should feel safe to walk around our streets, parks & shops without fear of crime. More security cameras & good lighting would help.	Security cameras & better street lighting especially in car parks areas	Support
Used to feel safe but now I wouldn't walk my dog when it's dark out	More police patrols	Plan and resource
I'm not comfortable to walk around town in the dark by myself, as I know of incidents that have occurred even right		Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
in the centre of town with people being approached by unsavoury characters.		
Increasing crime		
Increasing crime is a worry for our district and gang presence.	More police presence and stop going soft on crime.	Advocate
Less drugs.	Max sentences	Harsh sentencing
Crime is on the rise, police aren't patrolling and solving crimes like they use too.	More active policing, get rid of the woke police commissioner.	Advocate
Because the crime rates are through the roof in New Zealand.	Don't know	
Teens doing illegal things.	Stop them from doing it	Stop them
I recently got hacked and they messaged people as me.	I don't know	influence
Shoplifting needs to be stopped	no	
Should Be Obvious! Read the Daily Crime Rate, Then Compare NZs Stats with Any Other Country in The Whole World! 🙃	Self-explanatory	Dumb question..
Theres too much drugs and burglary in the community.	More for kids / youth to do. More police.	Advocate, influence and support
Well a lot of teenagers are causing this crime rate to go up so I think there needs to me more implantation of not doing crimes in school.	teaching everyone about what they are really doing by committing a crime	Posters and talking about it more
Crime and antisocial behaviour appears everywhere.	More Police and walking the beat at nights in weekends	Advocate
Crime is out of control, all over the county.	Hold the underage kids parents to account. they are their responsibility	Plan and resource, IE; community patrols
I frequently hear about crime occurring in Ashburton and don't feel it is an overly safe place to live.	I don't know	Influence
There is no youth crime management in the Ashburton CBD - you only have to read the incidents on Ashburton Notice Board.	Police presence in CBD	Support
The current problem with theft has been increasing with no visible police presence. Seeing broken glass and graffiti is very common. It seems like there is a strong gang community.	There needs to be a stronger police presences after regular working hours.	Council should petition central government for double police capacity.
Too much crime especially from the younger ones.	go harder on youth crime and make their parents accountable	
Spates of theft locally and disrespect is common.	Need community involvement to keep young people busy and off their phones.	Support school & club initiatives

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Youth offending and disrespect of community property is rising.	The rising incidence in disrespect and crime among our young teens (and younger) is a community problem - not schools', not Police, not Council but we all have a role to play in trying to fix it. How we do this is a much larger issue than I can think of. Maybe a programme working with young parents trying to improve parenting skills.	Planning and resourcing parenting programmes?
Burglaries and vandalism.	Cameras in harder hit areas and more road patrols at night.	Plan and resource
There is a lot of crime.	Have programs to stop youth crime	Influence
There seems to be a lot of petty crime, destructive behaviour and people having things stolen...perhaps police need to been seen around the place more.	More visible policing	Support
My insurance prices went up significantly when we moved here. When I asked why it was because crime in the area is apparently way worse than where I last lived (and it was bad there).	It starts with the cost of living and education in schools. Fix that first.	Plan and resource, but don't increase rates. Instead, let go of anyone working at the council who is not adding value, and does not manage change well. Use the money from their salaries.
Crime is raising and it’s not safe to walk out at night on your own now.	Police presence around the streets walking the beat (back to the old way)	
Gang related crimes. Don’t feel as safe walking in town in evening as we did 15 yrs ago	Greater police presence on streets maybe	All of the above
lots of crime late at night , not enough presence by authorities, please crack down on car/ cellphone use before tragedy strikes, police need to look into this with far more severity	more police , more powers , and a court system that actually punishes	
Crime is not under any sort of control		
gang presence is intimidating and car break ins/house break ins is concerning	larger police presence	incentivize more community based watchdog groups
Kids are getting in to trouble at early ages	More patrols	Advocate
bored teenagers.	Teenager recreation centre. Arcade games, food court.	advocate, support & plan
Crime is on the increase, even in small rural towns where we watch out for each other.	More CCTV in public places, monitored by police	support
we are hearing of more and more crime locally in news	more bobbies on the beat to deter criminals	advocate/Influence/Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
More gang presence in the district makes me feel unsafe	Give police more power to be able to deal with crime. People who behave badly in our community and around NZ seem to have little consequence.	Plan and resource
We do have crime in Ashburton, police are about but need more police to help with the petty crime that does get left behind. Community policing is a must	More police on the ground 24/7 and based in Ashburton NOT Timaru or CHCH	
lots more gang presence than ever, and young kids causing havoc	more police	unsure
Ashburton has an underbelly of gang associates and members with alongside youth offending without punishment has made Ashburton unsafe	better ctv coverage and higher police presence at night ban gang patches	all of above
too much crime	harsher penalties for offenders	Advocate
Crime rate is out of control	Encourage pride in town and more effective community cooperation	influence and support
Too much crime, violence.	More police, more youth education and support and consequences	all the above
Crime is still high, especially around the Allenton neighbourhood	Higher police presence at night time	Influence
Crime on increase doesn't seem very proactive in Methven	Resources	Advocate
Too many smaller crimes becoming unpleasant	More police patrols	Pressure Govt to fund more, not defund
Too much crime, young goons in cars	More police patrols	
There is constant crime in Ashburton, things getting stolen every day	More patrolling the streets at night. In the whole town	Support
Crime affecting more & wider population in all areas of town	More support & neighbourhood support / communities	Support + Plan & resource
Ashburton has a rather high amount of younger/youth crime, creating quite an intimidating environment.	Create an urban protection act, which would include a large number of CCTV cameras to be installed (footage strictly only to be looked at when a crime in that area has been reported). Extremely high-quality cameras installed at-height on corners looking in all directions would create a safer feeling with people knowing that if a crime is committed, there's a minimum; proof of this occurring. Increasing officer patrols would be great too, especially at night throughout neighbourhoods. Although such a thing is outside of the council's jurisdiction and solely up to NZ Police to decide upon frequency and quantity.	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Youth crime is out of control, police don't have much interest in prevention.	Encourage police to police the community	Advocate
Cars get broken into regularly	Don't allow high crime youngsters to get relocated to our town because they cause problems in Auckland	Support
Other		
Stats	Increase frontline services and lower admin burden	Advocate
Seems to be the general feel around different community pages, radio, etc.		Advocate
A national issue.	Change the government	advocate and influence
Staff		
Lack of safe areas for cycling in our suburb.	Traffic detour to start with - and consequences for breaking the law - community service punishment	Influence
No one is giving any crime prevention advice	Police could do better	
More help for victims.		
Like to see a community police officer available for public contact.	Community policing should be visible for public to communicate criminal activity in our area.	Advocate

1.3. Access to quality education & training opportunities

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Primary & secondary schools		
Bullying / discipline		
We need to look at the amount of truancy and bullying in schools	More courses on offer but we need more teachers	Influence
Ongoing and frequent bullying concerns occur within the schools here.	Some sort of plan to address bullying	Advocate
Because the schools are trash, especially Ashburton college. The teachers didn't care and didn't teach much just put on a lot of movies. Bullying is HUGE in that school and they don't do anything about it. Once I was getting chased and hunted down at school and I went to the office crying after having to jump out a window to leave the room. The teachers said "what are we supposed to do" and it was horrible.	Sort the bullying out and get teachers who want to actually teach	Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Bullying etc is happening in all schools.	Better environments	Advocate
Bullying at public schools is a real problem. The bullies appear to be treated as the victim	Too many "other" activities being taught at school. Bullying is a real issue and seems to be "family" related. Teachers aren't given enough power to deal with student behaviour issues which effects all the other students in the classes.	Plan and resource
Ashburton college	Bullying needs to be addressed. Have better education opportunities	
Ashburton colleges reputation is spiralling.	MoE problem, council should stick to its core business.	Advocate
Curriculum		
It's all to woke and not concentrating on the core subjects the 3 Rs plus science	Concentrate on the core subjects and employ better teachers	
Teachers have different expectations. Although consequences are fair when something like getting in trouble. I think the consequences aren't strict enough. I like the learning system but, in my opinion, I think we should get more homework instead of finishing off assignments.	I think we should add homework instead of finishing off tasks as it would make our education system boost at least just a little. It would help our next generation.	
A national issue	schools are failing the kids due to teacher incompetence and woke national policies	advocate and influence
Education has too much social engineering and not enough concentration on reading, writing, maths and science	take mataurangi Māori out of science and put it in social studies	advocate and support
Work regards the curriculum - are we heading in the right direction?	Consultation with parents on what is actually being taught to our kids.	Plan and resource / Advocate.
Lack of options		
Needs another high school. Learn more about what we want to do in the future.	New high school and boarding houses.	Plan and resources
We need better and more schools	Open more schools and get more education opportunities in this tie	Support
We have chosen to have our children board in Timaru, to be able to access learning that meets their individual's needs. We are limited for choice of secondary education in Ashburton and the curriculum option is left wanting.	Ideally an additional high school would be established in the town, resulting in two smaller schools, giving people choice.	As for health, lobbying and advocating for our community should be the role of local government.

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
I think that the town need more than 1 high school, the intermediate is a joke, my daughter had a terrible time there and the principal / head teaching staff were less than useless.	hold teachers and students accountable	advocate / influence
Need for choice of secondary education providers. No night classes available	Night classes through College or Polytech	Discuss with providers
We have only 2 colleges in the district which limit the choice.	Building a brand new college in the next 10 years seems to be a part to the answer.	Plan and resource
Only one High School	Look at 2nd High School	
Limited choice for secondary schooling means that the secondary sector is largely a captive market in Ashburton. The retirement of Ross Preece is an opportunity for fresh leadership at Ashburton College.		
Children with disabilities / special needs		
I saw a school pushed away a special needs child	Open up to public to listen to people	
Well for some children it's hard to get to school or they have a learning disability that makes it hard for them to have access to the proper education they need	i don't know	helping people out by getting them started
There are not enough options for parents to send their special needs kids too, especially secondary school.	Zones should be bigger. My son is Autistic and if he could have gone to a school in Rolleston it would have been the making of him. Instead he was stuck with Ashburton college and an abusive special needs so-called teacher.	Advocate with the government on these issues.
Children with special needs should not be in regular classes. All regular classes should be streamed like they were years ago in NZ.	See the answer at question 2.	G
More training and suitability for children on the spectrum	Training and or more accessibility	Advocate
Other comments		
Free education is not free when schools have to ask for donations	Make education truly free	None. It's the Governments problem not councils
The lack of teachers causing schools to have more days off causing students to fail	Personally no	Plan and resource
MPS awesome, MCH not so great at keeping older boys engaged	Resources	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
School in this district is notoriously bad in terms of quality, including mental wellbeing.		
Tertiary education		
We have to travel for tertiary education, no night classes for people wanting to up skill	Return of night schools, enlarge the Ara Polytech, encourage more on the job training / apprenticeships. Lobby government to return education to include the basics and a more useful curriculum where students leave school with useable skills and knowledge	Advocate and support
Especially for young people. Need more Ara courses.	Increase face-to-face courses for young people.	Advocate and Influence
A bus to Christchurch Ara would be great!	Bus to Ara chch	Support
Are there any? In mid Canterbury ? Real training tertiary qualms non existent	Get on board with the new central providers polytechnic	Lead
Make sure ARA can offer local training opps for youth		Advocate/Support
Needs a university, Polytechnic, different courses to choose from to study at uni level.	We need to have more courses including university level here	All levels
Our district is a long way from any formal higher education facility. It is difficult to find courses in the area for adult education and development.	Work through a high school and create some kind of ongoing adult education programme- similar to Papanui High school evening classes. Also more support for parents in our direct local area in Methven, many young mothers (and fathers) who don't really have easy access to parent groups/coffee groups which is a great way to check in and educate our community without being a formal education setting.	Advocate, influence and/or plan and resource. Any of these, if it is done as a government or council project there might be more hope to make it affordable to everyone.
Mostly have to go to chch for work training, or study remotely	public space dedicated to support remote adult students, and one that is like a place for remote workers/digital nomads. Most young people want to leave town to study, most adults want to stay	Support
There is only a few training programs for adults in Ashburton. It would be fantastic to have more of those available.		Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Need to go out of the district	Collective effort to get/encourage apprentices into trades	Advocate, support
Education above high-school is very limited, with Ashburton Ara campus providing extremely minimal educational capability.	Create funding for an expansion of education facilities like Ara NZ to allow for diplomas and similar level education to be performed within Ashburton. This would create an economic benefit as well.	
More training/tertiary education needed that is available in town	Work with tertiary providers to provide access. Such as venues, facilitation etc	Advocate and support
Our close proximity to Christchurch (Lincoln, UC, Ara) is an opportunity to identify training investments that will be attractive to our young people. Our employers are generally too small scale to invest in training and development in a meaningful way.		
Education & training in general		
Ashburton only has minimal opportunities outside of schools	It would be good to find ways to piggyback on national organisations and initiatives	Support
Need to encourage a district culture of lifelong learning.	Cater for all age groups, especially over 65s - use rural libraries to run some of the opportunities being offered in Ashburton.	Plan and support
All sectors need more qualified staff	Incentives for on job training	Advocate, influence
Training needed for all ages	Not sure	Influence the education sector
Youngsters today need easy access to education/training	It needs to be readily available without costing!	Influence
You have to go to CHCH or Timaru if you want to do decent courses		
More opportunities, a lot of education providers are based out of town.		Advocate
Limited opportunities, particularly for non-vocational areas. For example, evening courses on cooking, music, languages etc.	Engage with providers to see if courses could be made available/viability	Advocate, influence
Because this area always needs improvement in my opinion	More teen and youth educational opportunities for one	advocate
All too often those wishing to pursue need education have to drive to Christchurch or Timaru	Would like Ashburton District Council to encourage additional quality education & training opportunities to the district.	Advocate, Influence, Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Most quality education is not in our area, they have to go to Christchurch and Timaru to have a better opportunities. This entail financial burden to the family and makes one hesitant to further up their career.	Create a survey to see what people are interested in to further up their career.	
Central govt decisions have impacted poorly on quality education delivery for the whole country.	This is not an issue that can be solved by district council other than encouraging and supporting local education providers to reject the policy that actually isn't helpful or positive for education delivery and improving the education of our students, and advocating for our district with central govt on this matter pointing out the flaws in their policy.	Publicly advocate and support. Just like you did with 3 waters.
There seems to be a lack of opportunities/ facilities to upskill.		Advocate
Decreasing productivity so need a reset	All focus should be on increasing productivity	Advocate
It relates to the policies from central government regarding what and how children learn at school. Polytech learning for immigrants who have working visas and paying tax, are charged international rates. Where people contribute to society by way of taxes and rates, access to all services should be on the same basis as a citizen.		ADC can advocate at central government level for their rate payers. Policies made in Wellington often have a huge financial impact in our district which I believe is misunderstood in Wellington.
we need to ensure that our young people have the right skill sets to have meaningful education	community training programmes	plan and resource support
not a great deal available in town	more available in Ashburton	plan and resource
Desperately need another driver mentor capable of putting people through their practical driving test. There are many newcomers to town plus students waiting to sit their practical. With only one person in town qualified to pass them it only takes an ill, holiday or bereavement to set the programme back week. Some are held back from employment opportunities. This takes up volunteer driver time that could be used elsewhere	An additional driver mentor - could come under the Newcomers Network, Refugee Support, or the Council itself.	Funding through Community Grants or through Rotary

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Early Childhood sector needs more teachers & centres as wait lists in Mid Cant can be long.		plan resource
Attract people to the area	Maybe some local education opportunities like the old Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Methven	Advocate and support
Other comments		
Everyone should be given every opportunity	give everyone an opportunity	Plan & resource
Needs more staff		
Don't know	Self-explanatory	Dumb question..
This is more a government problem	Not my job	
		Plan and resource
		Advocate
		Advocate

1.4. Affordable housing

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Costs too high		
People cannot get ahead, rentals wages etc		
Times are tough and things keep getting expensive, making things hard for some	Investment in housing	Support
I believe housing is very expensive		Advocate
Housing prices going up and we need to help the elderly as pension it not enough for some to run and keep their homes	Tiny homes built to house the people that live on their own to give bigger for families	
It is getting more expensive good to see new council units replacing the old ones	keep building consents reasonably priced	plan and resource/Support
Houses are expensive	No	
Cost of living has raised prices of everything except incomes	Lower building costs, more choice of approved products and less compliance	Advocate
Too many young people struggling to get on the property ladder	Rent to own schemes, co-op housing schemes, lower deposits required, more low cost housing to be built	Influence, support, plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Hard for 1st time home buyers	Have a %age of affordable housing in developer's plans for consenting, but put a $ figure on what is affordable	Use existing levers through district plan
Too expensive	Make it cheaper	Make them cheaper
Housing in New Zealand has striked very high. Except this is nationally. I really don't know what we should do in this kind of situation as everything to food, gadgets and essentials prices are going up due to inflation.	We should at least take the prices down because the numbers that I am seeing are absolutely crazy!	
Because buying a house and renting a house have gone up a lot	No	Support
Because people that want to buy a house but don't have enough money are gonna find it hard to rent and save up for a house at the same time.	Either put the rates down or make the housing prices a bit more affordable	
Really hard for young couples to buy	more assistance for people to buy their first home	
Almost all the houses now are very expensive, and it is harder to buy a house now and you have to earn and save more money as a first time home buyer.	No I can't think of anything sorry.	Advocate, Plan and resource, Support and influence.
Prices have gone up to much, everyone is going to be homeless soon if we don't do anything about it soon.	Take housing prices down.	Influence
Families can't afford most houses.	I don't know	I don't know
Because of the increasing high prices	Making some adjustments, lowering prices	
Bit expensive	cheaper land	
Basic house prices creeping up and harder to get	Assessing the needs of current housing stock and providing relevant affordable housing where required	Assess housing stock and need and fast track appropriate and needy plans for housing
some houses are going for thousands and a lot of people find it hard to make that kind of money.	having some houses be cheaper so people can afford them	talking about it more
House prices way too expensive for first time buyers	Build more houses to bring down market price	Support
Housing prices are through the roof and rental properties are almost impossible to find	I don't know	Advocate
Out of reach of many working people because of inflated prices	Reduce building costs by reducing red tape (RMA and exorbitant Council fees)	Reduce Council costs and rates. i.e. restructure & downsize unnecessary

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
		admin staff including building department and star gazing initiatives. Reduce administrative empire building within ADC and stick your knitting, i.e., essential services only.
Houses and rentals are really expensive now.	I don't. I think government policies and accommodation supplements have created all our problems.	
Expensive for first home buyers	Rent to own by council or individuals encouraged	
not enough and what is isn't affordable for pensioners		
Housing prices have gone way to high	Not much you can do regarding this	Advocate
Rates and house prices are winning the race. The race to see who can make the biggest increases in costs.	House prices get inflated by the wealthier. In the Netherlands there is a new law introduced that if a house is sold the buyer has to live in it for four years. To write a book about the consequences of this new law isn't necessary but just think about it. First home owners. Renters. Capitalists.	G
Cost of living is through the roof. Part of affordable housing is affordable rates and insurances not just the repayments on rent/mortgage and this has increased again on already very tight budgets.		
The cost to purchase/rent (also availability) is through the roof nationwide. Not just for the low incomes, but higher incomes as well.	That's a hard one - nationwide problem. High rents & interest rates.	Advocate, Influence & support
Change housing rules for higher density apartment type housing or rural land will be sacrificed to urban sprawl with housing over priced	By law making developers have a mix of housing and realistically contribute to amenities	Act
Current inflation and cost impact		Advocate
Because successful working families are still struggling to pay mortgage or rent from the prices rising all the time	Pass	All of the above
Prices too high	No	Plan and resource
It's so expensive and there is no space available for anyone around here. More	Don't know	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
and more people are coming and it's hard to find anywhere		
The price of housing is very high for the quality, age and location. We don't get the fancy amenities you can find in big cities, and yet we are paying the big price. There is also no program or nothing in place to help homeless people in town.	Have a program to help homeless people - more emergency housing available. Is there any influence that council can have over the land prices? perhaps strategies and funding to help families to buy their first home in the district?	Plan and resource
	People struggling to get suitable housing both young and old especially in the rental market	Council Housing for older people. Speed up building consents
Rates / Council planning costs		
The rates are going up a lot	Keeping the rates at a reasonable percentage	
rates keep going up but lots of salary's aren't going up	Bring peoples pay up or lower that rate	Take lead
Because they need to lower the rates so people can afford houses they can keep	Lower the rates down a few percent	support
Affordable housing may be ok but I am now struggling to maintain my affordable home with the constant huge rate increases	More consideration to homeowners on a fixed income	
	Rates are too high. Stop sending so much money on new council buildings	
Council costs re building permits etc ridiculous		
The rates are absolutely ridiculously priced for homeowner on top of their mortgage and house insurance. the house prices are absolutely crazy compared to years ago	Lowering rates payments or dropping general house prices	Advocate
Rental properties		
Not enough rentable or affordable property. Families living in poor standard rentals.	Less focus on expensive dwellings and fund smaller properties / upgrade older properties into flat shares	Encouraging social housing as a priority. Closer checks on landlords
Low supply of rental properties	Ensure rates increases are not excessive	Plan and recourse
Market rents are too stiff for some people more subsidised housing req	reserve bank credit can be used to build affordable housing for sale and rent	advocate
Lack of affordable rental accommodation for young people and		Advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
those without the means to purchase their own home		
Lack of rentals, people needing to leave violent or unhealthy relationships but can't leave because there's nowhere to go - they can't find rentals!	Council can continue to develop social housing, not just for the elderly.	Advocate, support, plan and resource
Too high rents	No	
There's not enough rental stock. What is available is expensive.	Incentivize good landlords to keep being good landlords. The need for rentals will never go away but they're so difficult to find. Competition is fierce to be chosen as the renter.	Advocate, Support and Plan & resource
There are never any rentals available	Speak to the government about creating low-cost housing solutions here	Support
As an employer there are very few rental options for new people wanting to move to Ashburton. If a rental is available, some of the options are low grade with high rentals. Options often mean that family pets are not able to be housed. This creates a number of disadvantages and people then commute which often leads to a short tenure and no connection with the local economy.		Advocate
Decent rentals & purchases are non-existent & have to so many people trying for one place	Cheaper rents & capping what property managers charge	All
Minimal housing in Ashburton and the rentals that are around are nearly matching prices of areas like Auckland.	N/A	Advocate
Not enough rentals I'm told	More houses	Advocate
I feel there are not enough options for low-income families, and the rentals on offer are of very poor standard.	Build more social housing for families not just elderly	build
In Methven it is not affordable to buy housing and nearly impossible to find rental property.	Unsure! Methven is a unique town. Some kind of low-cost, income tested healthy home development project. I know of families living in caravans that don't have a proper seal around the door.	Support whatever agencies are needed.
People on benefits with children struggling to meet ends with rent going up and lack of rentals around	Cheaper rent or more help from the government/ work and income	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Rental properties have increased in price.	Make rentals more affordable for everyone even people who have a pet.	Support
Often hear and see people on waitlists for rental properties	?	
The price if rent is crazy	More public owned houses to encourage lower rents and better housing standards	
I am a landlord and always have dozens of enquiries whenever a property becomes available	Need to look at higher density housing options. Apartments etc.	Plan and resource
Many people looking for accommodation		Advocate and support
not enough homes in Ashburton area	buy up cheaper houses, fix them up and rent them out at affordable prices	Plan and resource
Rents unaffordable for many; retaining independence especially in small rural towns difficult.		Advocate
Rents are high and there is huge demand for available housing	Perhaps council could build housing as an investment	Plan and resource
Rents too high.	We need cheaper rentals and cheaper homes for first home buyers. Small units/apartments would be good.	All of the above.
Not a lot of affordable rentals available especially for single people	Building of more social housing smaller units suitable for single people	
Everyone should be able to afford a place of their own	make housing rents capped	Support
Well look at the prices of rent....	Don't know how to fix that.	
not enough healthy housing and such high rents	Build more healthy homes they don't have to be huge 4 or 5 bedrooms	Influence
Rental prices are through the roof and need more homes for the overcrowding.	More cheaper housing	Influence
we can't get staff in the district because there is no houses	more housing (a lot of these issues is the result of a poor government)	Unsure
access to housing is becoming a big problem especially in Methven	not sure	Support/ plan
I have a warm home with affordable rent, but a Grandson is paying nearly twice my rent with a young family	don't know	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
some families finding it difficult to afford a house, rental's scarce and expensive	build more social housing	Plan and resource
lack of rental housing	compact rental units built	Plan
definite rental housing shortage	provide council housing	Plan and resource
Always seem to have people on waiting lists	Same	Plan and resource
Elderly Persons Housing / Social Housing		
Way more houses for elderly	Not my job	
	In recent years housing New Zealand have added additional units – and recently advised they have another 100 (approximately 30% increase) on the way to meet demand. Yet, at the same time, Ashburton District Council divested the Elderly Persons Housing Units at Mona Square. Suggest that Ashburton District Council should either be 100% in and growing Elderly Persons Housing unit numbers or vacating the space altogether. Now would be a great time to increase Housing stock in the villages as well – Methven, Rakaia and introduce some in Hinds.	Either Plan and Resource OR Advocate
New social housing development is a good start - need more	Build on social housing model	Advocate
People are sleeping on the streets	Build more	None. It's the Governments problem not councils
The true worth of a society is how they value and look after the elderly, poor and infirm.	More social housing!	Encourage multi-unit development. Stop limiting rural development
Not enough assisted housing for those who cannot afford	Back to Council housing	Plan and resource
Not enough for our Retirement age people who don't own a house	We need to build some low-cost units and also let them have their pets. Nothing worse than you have had your dogs for 10 years and if you go into a council house you can't have a pet	
For both young, lower socioeconomic families and the elderly	replacing the state housing, what is being replaced is slow in finishing	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
More units or houses required for low income and elderly	Lobby Government for funding if able as a national problem not just localised.	
So many people in our district need emergency housing. It may be due to safety but can also be due to cost.	Contact other local governments that have had this problem and are working towards solutions for advice?	Advocate, support and plan
	More council housing for the needy	
I know there are more people have needs for this type of housing than are currently available.	Encourage more of the type of housing currently being build.in Mona Sq. Keep upgrading the current stock of council housing and building more	A mix of plan and resource, and support.
We have homeless, clearly there is a need for housing.	This may be something that is out of council control	Advocate, help when you can.
lack of social/emergency housing/ little available on the commercial rental market	Advocate for more social/emergency housing	Advocate, influence, support
Waiting lists too long, going to get worse	Build more smaller units for elderly and single low-income earners	Lobby government, borrow to build, use some general rates
There are many people struggling and we need more housing but have strict guidelines and a time limit so people get a helping hand but then move on when they are able so it doesn't become a lifelong thing.	A time limit for people in the houses	Influence
Ashburton is fortunate to be in a period of slow but steady growth, which makes investment in infrastructure for housing more manageable. There are limited incentives for investment in affordable housing as the profits to be made in lower value housing are less attractive to builders and investors. There are examples of councils in other areas who are doing creative things in the affordable housing space. ADC has also done some creative things in the affordable housing space for EPH.		
Shortage of affordable housing		
Shortage	Need more available	Support
None existing.	More council house or building that will become a residential place.	See above answer
Lack of quality housing.	More social housing	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Nil availability	More affordable housing	Go with the prod
Not enough density / cheap housing	Zoning? Build 2-4 storey flats with good parking	Plan and resource
More of a range for younger people (Cheaper)	Affordable for young people or single parents.	Support
	Make Ashburton bigger so we can build more houses.	Advocate, support and plan
there is none. open up to diverse ideas, co-housing, tiny houses	co-housing, tiny houses, more than one dwelling per section, shipping container conversions, enviro community	all including plan and resource
	Build more affordable houses	Plan and resource
Ridiculous for people to get affordable housing	Ashburton is growing, plenty of places for the elderly, but we need to encourage the younger ones	Support
as there is always people looking for accommodation	don't make it hard for people to buy investment properties and the laws around them	
All the newer subdivisions have been targeted towards the higher end on housing value.		
A national issue	With increased migration and a booming local economy extra housing will be needed.	Support e.g. pensioner housing
There isn't enough affordable housing for families who need it	Maybe some council houses aimed at families (At least 4 bedrooms)	Plan and resource
There is never enough	The new building developments should have requirements for providing affordable housing as part of the consents	Plan and resource
Not enough		
There's limited housing and too many people that need it		
nowhere near enough for the population	work with housing NZ to build more	Plan and resource
More affordable housing needed, private rental are hugely expensive	Look at portable housing as a stop gap for people, plenty of land in and around Ashburton	Plan and resource
More needed	Make public the exact stock (numbers not locations) of housing and who is responsible for it. Facilitate community input on ideas as to how/where community housing can be increased or made more readily available	Advocate support and resource through the compliance and consent process

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Shortage of affordable family homes, 4 bed etc.	It's about encouraging making the rights houses available.	Influence
Need for more	Keep building g !	Continue working with providers
All of Ashburton	Selling house to kiwi not people oversea that's rude rent through the roof.	
Other		
A lot of unused houses i.e. 1 person in a 4 bedroom house	More multi-unit developments	Consent and regulations - to curb flow
I believe Council has an obligation to help in this space. It's not a role purely for central govt. I feel this very strongly. Having community housing builds connection and stability, leading to better outcomes for whanau, which leads to better community outcomes.	Establish a public housing policy that draws on the best parts of other council policies. The wheel doesn't need to be reinvented. Set aside money to establish some safe housing for families by working with developers. Have policy that requires large scale developers to contribute to this fund.	All of them
Council should support social development agencies, should not be ratepayer funded	Withdraw from this activity	Plan and minimise expenditure
Apartment living could be an option		
Planning etc. quite limiting on development, restricted by zoning, are development contributions and consent fees to high?	Perhaps changes to zoning on district plan to open up more land for residential	Plan and resource
the houses that are affordable are not the nicest places. Cold, small and damp.	Up the housing status. Fix those that are cold and damp.	Support
Okay, but more needs to be done	provide long-term rental accommodation for those who can't afford to buy, but have too much money to qualify for social housing	Plan and resource
Affordable housing is a nationwide problem driving by many factors out of Councils control	Multiple issues here, housing will never be affordable while there is the myriad of planning and consenting pathways to complete.	Advocate
Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory	Dumb question..
		Advocate and support

1.5. Community connections

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Connections		
This town is very hard to fit into if you are new	More groups for new people or people to connect	Plan
Families supported	Community events info about support	Plan and resource
I feel disconnected from the community	More community events to bring people together	Influence
It's basically up to the individual to make the effort to find outlet's which are there	Maybe more men's groups in the form of social connection retired older men really struggle with this when they finish work	Advocate
Few central busy spots where people socialise "in passing". It's not just Covid retrenchment's	Need central hives of activity where people regularly bump into each other - e.g.: town hall exhibitions/offices/shows	Encourage a few cross-over points - don't leave it to coffee shops.
We need more involvement more awareness of people that don't know where to go for help etc	Movie in the park nights, music days for older people, family fun walks with picnic finishes	
all based in Ashburton which excludes the rest of the community due to poor transport options	fund community centres in Methven and Rakaia	Plan and resource
There is not a lot of opportunity for youth that aren't having a good time at school. no clubs	EA Networks is too small. There is nowhere for new clubs to reside	Not for profit clubs where membership could pay for it, but it needs a boost to get up and running
As a relatively new person to the district, I have struggles to make those connections and find that there is not a lot to do in the weekends, and over the holiday period, you often have to travel to find these events, and now with the price of fuel this is prohibitive.	Have more local events, i.e. fireworks at new year, Matariki, Guy Fawkes, there are a lot of fundraising opportunities that are missed. Not everyone can afford to travel away at these times for holidays, and are found stuck here with nothing of interest to visit	Build
No real sense of community especially with mum groups, children's groups etc	Offer more social groups to cater to a wider range of people	Plan and resource
Ashburton DC has a role in encouraging community connections, which allows the diverse communities to come together to build mutual trust and understanding. The council must be seen to be proactively leading this, not just reacting.	Create policy and commit budget to allow for small gatherings that encompass the different communities to come together and support each other, and also provide an opening to others to see these communities.	All of them
There is a lot of opportunities for groups to work more collaboratively – we would like to see Ashburton District		Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Council take a leadership role with this. Also, while different ethnicities are supported by their own organisations – would like to see more opportunities that differences are ignored and commonalities explored.		
		Provide opportunities for kids to connect
More events / community and family activities		
More events big event every second month and a small event every other month.	More events big event every second month and a small event every other month. Giving presents to kids on Christmas.	Plan and resource
Not much events has been created to have this going.	More events that showcase cultural differences.	see above answer
Some of the large events are great but there doesn't seem to be much in the way of smaller events and meet ups etc that are outside working hrs	Run more events groups through council owned organisations such as the library that cater to working ppl as well as those who have time during the day.	All of the options
	Run more community events	Support
I don't see enough free events and activities for community connections	more community connection activities	Influence
More community and family activities	Community activities published in a paper drop to each house, each week, groups can advise of their activities coming up	Advocate
There could be more community events	More community events/ get togethers	
Public transport		
I have a total mobility card but not everyone is eligible.	A community bus	Plan and recourse
Poor	Improve public transport options and improved scheduling	Contract to independent transport professional
No public transport	Investigate my way style transport	Advocate
Transport and help for elderly	Not my job	
Transport from Ashburton to Rakaia to Methven & return	minibus links	Support
Other		
There is not enough information about who to contact		
Opportunities to be involved in the community need to be advertised in places where everyone sees them	More community events organized by council	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
I am not really aware of anything at the moment so perhaps whatever is happening needs more publicity?	Support	Support
Didn't communicate plans re camping at Hakatere	Better communication and consultation with residents affected not just one moaning resident	Plan and resource
The council is not looking after families well-being due to not processing simple consents etc		
I don't even know the name of an of the people on the council	come to schools and groups and talk to people like they are people	Influence
Too much focus on individual groups and not as a whole town	Focus on whole towns wellbeing	Influence and support
The community is being split apart by race based policies	Stop all the race based policies	Advocate
Include everyone	need to include everyone	Influence
All of Ashburton		Plan and resource
Too much talk not enough do		
Do better		
Idk	Idk	Idk
Self-explanatory	Self-explanatory	Dumb question..

1.6. Recreation & entertainment opportunities

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Entertainment for kids / teenagers		
Kids need something like Chipmunks, time zone or even indoor/covered public playground options especially in winter		Gather feedback on what people want and plan and fund it
Very little to entertain children	Revisit the hydro slide, improve the EANC to better cater for children	Plan and resource
We need more for kids and teenagers to do.	Things for kids, hydro slide mini golf bowling etc	Plans and resource
Limited activities for families and children outside sports and recreation		Plan and resource
Not a lot for kids and teenagers to do	Farm parks, indoor fun for kids	Influence
There's not very much to do for kids, younger or teenagers, outside of the	Stop opening restaurants and encourage innovative activities and entertainment businesses	Advocate, plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
movie theatre, organized team sports or one-off events		
They playground and pump track at Lake Hood are out of date	Update(rebuild) the pump track and playground at lake hood so older kids (12 yrs and up) can have fun	Plan and resource
More thing for teens, teens only have shopping.	More things for teens to do, a mall, time zone	Influence, Plan and Recourse
More for young people in the evenings	There are some good recreational facilities here but are inhibited by times. There are a lot of after school activities but not a lot in the evenings. Look at support in sports facilities and games in the evening. For those not so inclined into sport other opportunities, e.g. gaming, theatre, etc. in the evenings	Support staffing outcomes and planning to provide relevant evening youth programmes
Need more alcohol-free events and recreation opportunities for young people especially those 10-14 years	Provide events and activities for 10-14 year olds	Plan and resource; advocate;
Not enough family events. It has been better post covid but there needs to be more regular	monthly events	Planning and resource
Not many social areas for under 20s		Plan and resource
Entertainment for kids lacks here in Ashburton	Parks updated pool added onto maybe wave pool and bigger play area ground water park for the young kids wave pool and hydro slides for the older kids	
Not enough for youth to do	More events and activities aimed at the whole family or at least the youth	Support
More affordable/free activities for families	Bike Park, an Indoor activity facility	
People find that our town can be "boring". As we don't really have a lot to do. Especially for the kids.	Maybe a mini golf, bigger playgrounds and looking into things that would help keep teenagers (13-17) entertained.	Support
We need places for the families with teens. Our teens have no place that's right for them.	Hydro slide at the pool, big skate park with 3 or 4 different tracks (for families to go and a picnic area) Our teens have no places to go.	
We have some great facilities and potential for more, but there is an overall lack of opportunities particularly for our older children/teenagers.	Plan and resource	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Not enough for families with young children e.g. a chipmunks, then they wouldn't have to travel to Timaru or Christchurch	Make Ashburton more attractive to families then their money would be spent in district	Support
There is nothing for our kids (especially active kids) to do indoors apart from swimming on cold or wet days	Some sort of indoor activity for kids	
More cheap options for low-income families to take part in...	Not sure	Advocate
We don't exactly have any recreational entertainment for younger ones. I feel like the art gallery was a waste of time and money. It should of been invested into EA networks centre to put more attractions for children of all ages	Spend more into EA networks pool or bring a Time zone or a chipmunks for younger children	Advocate
	Build some fun playgrounds	Ask the community what they want built.
There is nothing in this town for our kids (ages 5-18). One off glow in the parks is not going to help this situation	Mini golf, indoor carts, games/arcade types of activities for kids	
it is a really boring place for teens growing up. it was boring for me 25 years ago and it has not improved	bowling, minigolf, laser tag	Create a recreation centre with bowling, darts, rock climbing, user pays
What is there to do for youngsters, that doesn't cost the earth?	More recreation that covers the teenagers, at no cost, they don't all skate or can't afford sports	Plan and resource
There needs to be more outside music held. What is there to do for the young people. The skate park is in the wrong place	The Domain pavilion needs updating. It's a great place there for people to play	
More indoor family activities for winter/rainy days	Incentivise businesses to come here to Ashburton, work alongside developers to create a more vibrant/family friendly hub. This could attract more families to the area.	Support
There is pretty to no activities for teenager and young adult. The choice is very limited, and the prices are not accessible to all families.	Laser games, escape room, bowling, indoor rock climbing ... all of those seem fantastic! extending EANC with an hydro slide? extending the opening hours? Maybe pay more the staff that people want to work there? We have a wonderful infrastructure that could be extended to others. activities!	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
More things need to be implemented for children.	Create more focus on children/teens and things to do here in Ashburton rather than most having to travel outside of.	Plan and resource
Real lack of activities for kids	Council run kids activities. Clip and climb is great idea to fit into Council centre such as EA networks	
Options for pre-teens and teens are very limited. The pool facility is fantastic but there isn't enough for these age groups to do at the pool. We need to focus on organising age-appropriate entertainment to keep all age groups engaged within our community.		Plan & resource, support
Not many entertainment options for young children, though the bike track at argyle park is great but needs making longer.	Extend argyle park bike track, make other bike tracks elsewhere.	Plan, resource and support
Not enough to do		
Not too many opportunities to engage in those activities	Adding more opportunities for entertainment	
Not much to do in town	Build more outdoor activities	Influence
Need to travel to Christchurch for most of the entertainment	Bring in more investors to build business	Plan and resource
For the size that Ashburton is there should be more recreation and entertainment opportunities. E.g. bowling, mini golf, trampoline parks	Approve applications to open businesses here that are entertaining for you people	Advocate
not enough		
Not enough things to do	More groups	Support
There is nothing to do in this town	Have a time zone mini golf escape room new movies bowling we need more of these things for family's and youth to do will also help with youth crime	Influence
Not much to do here	Open more recreation businesses up here	Promote
Not enough to do	Bring in more private business opportunities such as a bowling alley	Plan and resource - attract these private businesses to our district.
There is nothing in this town. Nothing to do and it's so boring. The movies are ridiculously expensive so I can't afford it, and everything is for like 10-year Olds.	Add more things. People constantly ask you for it	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
More recreation opportunities		
More invested in sporting facilities in the community		
There is a need for greater access to safe and interesting walking and cycling tracks in the Ashburton District	Determine the need and then enlist the services of the various service clubs with support (financial) from council.	
The introduction of Pickleball, Disc Golf and cycle trails have been low cost and very positive community engagement. There are other similar options – such as mini golf, rope courses, expansion of cycle trails – that may receive similar support. Pleased to see that Disc Golf will have a second course at the Tinwald Domain.	Would very much like at least one park on the East side of Ashburton to have Playground Equipment, Recreational Space AND Toilets - currently not one of the nine parks do. Even with the planned toilets for Digby Park, there is no playground equipment. The four schools on the East Side of Ashburton - Ashburton Intermediate, Netherby, Hampstead and Christian Schools are often and gratefully used by residents in the absence of Ashburton District Council providing this infrastructure. If ADC could plan additional recreational space on East side of Ashburton, this would also provide a venue for communities to gather to meet their local community.	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource – this heading covers an exceptionally large range of activities – so will require a broad range of responses.
Council facilities		
EA networks isn't big enough and the price to pay for the gym, sports etc isn't fair for everyone	Upgrade free facilities such as Tinwald tennis courts	Support
EA Networks pool hours should be extended	EA Networks pool hours should be extended	Plan and resource.
Listen to what people want in this area particularly do with EA Networks	Not my job	
The pool and museum are endless money pits. Council spend money on what they want to and don't listen to the ratepayers of Ashburton. Questions asked about things like recycling/rubbish and then feedback not publicised	Listen to the ratepayers!	Support
Ashburton always misses the mark.	We built a sports/swimming complex spent millions and still couldn't supply a hydro slide, have you seen the quality of skate parks other regions have and then see	Another option would be great as none of the above have worked so far……..

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	ours. Our main playground at the domain is old run down and quite frankly boring.	
	The pool is good, but expensive and with reduce hours not that accessible to working people. There are very few if not no activities for people with disabilities..	Plan and offer more for adults not just holiday activities for children, the older adult is also lonely i.e. 55-65 age group.
Pricing for recreation is not affordable. EA networks prices have skyrocketed since opening!	Affordable prices for community recreation, sports is expensive more funding needed to allow access. need to look at practicality of spaces, Ash domain is disjointed, it should be closer together. parking for turf is needed.	plan and resource, consultations need to be put out with rates, prioritise funds with what people actually want.
More wheelchair accessible facilities at playgrounds	Get more wheelchair friendly playground activities. Take away the borders and bark areas and re-mat so wheelchairs can gain access, this is not just for children in wheelchairs but for those caregivers/family members who are in wheelchairs to get closer as well	Plan and resource
Other		
I can see some effort but most of them are low key	Employ a professional event co-ordinator	Get more budget and advertise
Rarely.	Concerts and fair would be nice.	see above answer
More volunteers required - kids & teen activities like scouts girl guides etc	More street parties organised (allowed), celebrations	Support
I'm not sure what's out there. Advertising may be the issue if there are lots.	We need more cultures and people of different backgrounds to want to come live here. It is very white, and we don't tend to do much community stuff.	Advocate
One centre doesn't cut it	District is the butt of all jokes start a festival like New Plymouth did with WOMAD	Act
Include everyone	need to include everyone	support
Facilities to attract visitors	Build for the future not just bow	
Costs are challenging	Try to make costs cheaper by less fees for everything	Charge less for sports ground hire and other trivial costs
Poor	Hire professionals	Turn lover to ros
I don't really know	I don't know	I don't know

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
		Advocate
Do better		

1.7. Other topics

The survey asked respondents if Council should play a greater role in any other areas of social well-being. The following are the responses received to this questions.

Other topics
Education / bullying
Making education free - ask Tim Shadbolt
Schooling - support and advocate Quality 2ndry school, bullying
It would be an advantage to the future of this town if something was put in place to clean up the behaviour at the college. A walk around the grounds there is distressing. There is litter everywhere. Plastic, paper, drink cans and food dropped where it was finished with and left. Also I hear reports that bullying is still as bad there as it was in the eighties and nineties. I have taken steps to prevent my grandchildren from going there. We have smart new buildings there, perhaps we need a well monitored surveillance system. Or security people to be present during breaks. Perhaps if the chain of behaviour was broken and pride for their place of learning instilled in the students we might have a better place to train the people of our future.
Education
Bullying -- It is obvious. A good percentage of people who work / education know of bullies -- Give incentives to stamp it out. Name places that are bullies -- Stamp it out, call out companies and schools.
Public transport
Public Transport -- Need to try to get people to use public transport -- provide small vans that are quick and nimble and affordable -- put pressure on ECAN
Public transport -- too much emphasis on car use / car parking / road upgrades etc -- Local minibus for seniors around residential areas. These could be used as school transport at 3pm to reduce need of expensive coaches. -- Residents' scheme for use. Put this ahead of road use. Should be done as an environmental policy. By introducing local public transport that runs a sensible times through the day and weekends, will significantly reduce the need for parking and congestion on SH1 and reduce carbon emissions as residents leave cars at home more. *Public train service* Community Car Schemes -- Council owned vehicles, rentable by public (see Dorchester Council - UK)
travel options - not everyone drives and getting to ChCh is a nightmare for those who don't
Limited transport in this area
Health care
Yes especially health care. People are dying young here because of gaps in health services.
Support new doctors coming to the area. Keep investing in sports facilities.
Yes, teenagers need more support with mental help.
We need better access to affordable mental health care. It is currently only available when it is practically too late for people. Advocate for this - if enough local councils do it, government might make a change.
Helping to improve mental health in the farming sector

Other topics
Not sure what part council can play as there are such big mental health issues in our nation. Any help in this area very much needed. Limit vaping shops. Love the work with the refugees though.
Mental health contributes to this. Work on the mental health crisis.
social well-being is influenced by numerous factors be it financial, mental health, social, and safety. Coordinate with police to create a safer community. Potentially help fund current mental health initiatives. Coordinate with existing education providers to provide better education outcomes. (a northland town's business's won't sell to children in school hours unless they have a pass from the school).
Mental health availability is atrocious, more support and funding needed
Yes. Because the social well-being of a lot of people here is really bad but the mental health people don't seem to care. I got told because I was smiling I wasn't depressed.
Finding means/ways of more therapists /counsellors/psychologists etc, available to all people. Professional help for eating disorders, and the effects of lock down /covid on people the community, schools etc
Yes. I was involved with the anger management group and our biggest problem was funding
Support for social agencies
YES – There is already an Agency Networking opportunity at Community House – encourage Ashburton District Council to be part of this. Does Civil Defence preparedness fall under Social Wellbeing? With increasing flood events and AF8 predicted to be "when rather than an if" – we request education / advocacy and community engagement with the community to ensure an increased level of preparedness. Can Ashburton District Council if required tap into the national alert text service that testing has been rolled out?
More advertising for programs, resources or clinics available in town. E.g. youth centre, hype clinic
Continue to fund community social services that support positive social wellbeing. Get to know what is happening on the ground - the issues & solutions groups are working on. Develop closer relationships between council and community agencies - support & work together on issues/ solutions.
Support agencies by providing funding.
Work in collaboration with other organisations in the District to achieve goals and outcomes so that pathways can be fostered and needs met. To grow and develop resilience within communities assisting with the tools needed to develop outcomes
I think connecting mid Canterbury are doing some great work. I believe this is council funded.
Continue to support the CAB service. Meet regularly (councillors, Mayor and senior staff) with community/social service sectors to keep up to date with what the needs are in the community/new needs arising. Recognise the hard work of the community/social service sector (e.g. annual Mayor's morning tea cf Waimakariri DC!).
Expand Newcomers Network opportunities into rural towns. Most of these people arrive without residency and need help with housing, finances and health care.
Our district has many great organisation and services available, it would be good to see the council support and assist these groups.
More funding for community groups who are actively meeting needs and creating community
Keep supporting the many wonderful social well-being groups we already have in Ashburton.
Council have a lot of services set up in Ashburton which are a great for the local community. Methven and surrounding areas do not have easy access or know of these supports. It would be great to find a way to bring more services to Methven either on a roaming service (coming to town a day a week) or by looking into subsidised public transport between Methven and Ashburton.
Host "expo" events for community groups and social well-being providers.
Need more support groups
Support for sport / recreation groups / events

Other topics
Exploring or advocating for more options for teenagers to hang out.
have pathways and cycleways kept in good condition.
Continue to provide and support community activities
Continue to provide community events - Santa Parade, Christmas in the Park, Glow in the Park etc
Bring back Christmas in the Domain. Great family outing at Christmas
Facilities to entertain family, young adults and elderly
Help out some local sports grounds with even just a little grant or help them out is some kind of way if they need it like e.g. support, plan.
help promoting things like sports. social well-being will eventuate
more teenage entertainment
Supply facilities within reason for recreation
Continue to provide areas for children's and youths' recreation.
Keep supporting the EA Networks Centre, the library, the art gallery and museum and other community hubs.
Potentially in the recreation area - aka EA Networks Centre, and expanding this facility
funding to lower costs of sport
Extend pool to have hydro slide for older kids
Yes, we have recently been to Kidszone in Invercargill over school holidays. This was a great event for kids over the holidays. Also Queenspark had great range of activities for Kids. I would suggest councillors do a tour of facilities provided in Invercargill as they are way better than anything we have here in Ashburton.
More pensioner housing
Recreation: There is more to recreation than just Sport, the library/gallery is doing great with that fact.
Communication
Newcomers: Newbies to the district are quickly and thoroughly excluded due to the 'small-town mentality' of it's who you know, your parents know and knowing the best person to talk to. Maybe cut back some of that societal restriction. Get real-estate agents, papers, radio and the like to advertise groups like newcomers network and give people a chance.
Community Connections + Education: Advertise the free/low cost organisations more. We have these services but people just don't know about them.
People need to accept that they have some responsibility in entertaining their families. An information pack could be provided to all new residents to town. Not sure how these could be distributed but maybe through Real Estate Companies / Landlords / Education Centre's, for example
Reply to emails. I have emailed twice regarding lack of rubbish bins at playgrounds and no reply. No rubbish bins. I have lived all around NZ and in one place I emailed about getting a rubbish bin at the local park and it was done the next week.
More open discussion or summaries around new policies e.g. radio sessions to help us understand the councils restrictions/constraints and the outcomes.
Get to know your people better and their wants and needs. I've never been to the new Art museum gallery but my son loves going to watch the planes at the airport. Maybe plan on making the airport better for bigger planes to land and take off.
Other suggestions
Disability: The council often makes plans and changes that fall short of what is actually needed. Discuss these things with disabled locals or advocates about not what is 'regulated' but instead what is actually needed. Crack down on cop-outs too. E.g. 'accessible business' with a high step at the entrance. That isn’t accessible.

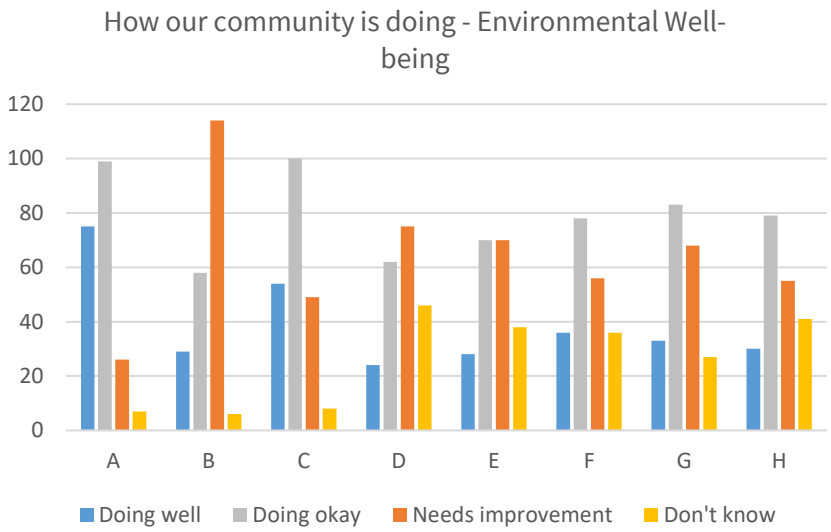
Other topics
Provide free courses on things like * Budgeting * Ways to make your money go further * How to show respect and behave well towards others * Break the family violence circle
Providing education and Māori cultural and the two Māori courses
Advocate for youth activities, and sporting opportunities
More help for elderly they don't ask they try to make do and go without.
Upgrade children facilities such as a Margaret Mahy playground. Skills park at domain. More cycle ways in town with places to park cycles safely.
I would like to see a return of the green prescription initiative at the pool for free funded sessions. This would hopefully encourage people to attend the pool and then they may continue once the free sessions cease.
We should be looking at ways to form closer connections between all members of the community to foster support, good mental health, a sense of community, understanding and tolerance. We should be looking at ways to help alleviate poverty, food waste and food scarcity and ease the cost of living.
animal pet welfare- register cats set local rules, neuter, maximum number, expected care. More areas for dogs to be off lead but controlled. dogs on leads are not getting quality environmental stimulation. gain public support to help monitor dog and owner behaviour. people are very stressed. employment transition for school leavers would be good. accommodation is not affordable, yet there are mansions with one or two people in.
The council should simply be accountable for their consent processes and not leave families with no source of heating throughout autumn and winter for over three months due to not processing a simple fire replacement consent.
road noise
cultural especially choirs
Get community involved in things like planting recreation areas...provide equipment and refreshments ..this will have social connections as well as getting work done. Have people come to nurseries to prepare the plants for the planting days
I think the council could do more and look at adult education classes more frequently, or social events that are free to attend for community, and look at event at Christmas, New year, or the long weekends. We really miss these celebrations and find Ashburton to be a bit like a ghost town at these times as much of the community have travelled away, well in theory.
Provide housing to at risk LOCAL residents
Yes. I think we should encourage more active transport, some bike lanes around schools to shops would be great. Improve health and it's a more social way to get around I find.
We need firmer rules and action around Ashburton regarding menacing and nuisance dogs. There are two houses I know that need some sort of action taken. One the neighbour is afraid they will break through the fence and attack her. There have been complaints made. The owner's attitude is "The Council will put a letter in my box. I will throw it in the bin". The other is very noisy small dogs, sometimes 2 others 3. They bark at everything that goes by on the road from early morning. And when they are out around 10pm. This is very difficult for those who are ill or have babies. Many complaints have been made hare too.
Area that needs improvement: Street lamps - Cameron Street West. Why it needs improvement: What is there is inadequate. What should be done: lamps on both sides of streets. What role Council should have in this: Suggest Council staff walk along north side of Cameron Street at night. Area that needs improvement: Winter Street, between Cameron & Wills Street. Why it needs improvement: school sign placed in middle of footpath. What role Council should have in this: policing regulations.
Provide more opportunities to upskill, learn new things - via night school and adult training courses

Other topics
Provide spaces for community collaboration in the new library - i.e. community meeting spaces which are free of charge for charities, extend grants criteria so that ECE can apply. The funding received from central govt is not sufficient and many ECEs rely on community grants
Community dance's, yes it's back in the day, BUT very effective for all age groups. Hall maintenance needs to match the money grab to do the work please, then community can organise such events with pride in their halls.
Using special grants for people that can't buy a house or have insufficient funds.
Yes, tidy up the communities more.
General comments
Not really a core council task - but advocacy and support would help
Yes, social well-being is massive part of a thriving community. It will keep our population well balanced and in the area
Do a good job here
encouraging co operation
Yes the people are who the council help to be a part of the community.
Not really as they are here to Govern local issues, they provide probably more social well-being than larger councils. This is our Main Elected Government issue more than councils.
We are pretty happy with social well-being. Have lived in Ashburton four years and love it.
They could do more but in a limited capacity
Work on outcomes rather than paralysis by analysis
I think it's doing fine atm
I believe Council should be taking the lead on these social issues. Investing in them now is like having a mortgage. Yes, it's debt, but in the medium to long term, it's a good fiscal decision. Central Govt has made it clear they can't or won't support individual communities on housing etc, and a change of Govt will lead to further reductions to communities. Somehow, the cost will fall to local govt. Let's get in front of it.
The council has done a great job in this area, such as the EA Network Centre. Continue to help our clubs, we have appreciated the funding at the Methven squash club.
I think the council is doing a good job supporting our community in many of their new ventures in our area
no not if it will increase rates, just get the library finished
No, there are other agencies, NGO's who address social issues. Council should focus on essential services, water, waste, roading, parks and reserves. Leave the soft cultural initiatives to other organisations dedicated to those things.
Council must realise Ashburton is a smaller town and as such many of the projects they have undertaken have put a tremendous strain on the rate payer and has also been at the expense of local footpaths
I think council should be communicating with central government more but don't feel like social wellbeing is a role that local government should focus on outside of creating support places.
No - I think they should be supportive of Social Well Being but it should not be main focus
Council has many responsibilities that must be balanced, social well-being is a personal and community responsibility. It is great to see Council supporting and encouraging activities that promote this and supporting groups who provide opportunities. I think ADC does OK for the size of the community - more would be nice, but there are many things that need to be considered.
No - I think Social agencies do this well in our area
Nope. There's plenty of other organizations for that

Other topics
I think the role the council plays is sufficient, providing of sport facilities, library, museum, There are plenty of other groups in the area providing activities people can join
No, council is providing enough funding to help support events
Council needs to stick to their core responsibilities and spend ratepayers money on these. Stop raising rates, increasing council employees and spending on non-essential activities.
It's always worthwhile to prioritise social well-being, in fact it is a critical role of Council. I don't have enough information to define the specifics but would always support council endeavours in this area
Yes, community starts in council community board areas, not national. Encourage places and reasons for people to pass through or congregate in an informal manner.
Yes, because the whole community suffers and people end up not wanting to live here anymore. We need our district to be fun, safe and affordable to live in so we aren't losing people.
yes, rates too high which impedes discretionary spending, therefore a downflow effect on businesses, not everyone gets massive wages.
Be inspirational and lead from the top to lobby central/ regional govt to co fund health and education services for our community, it is the best investment we can make. Most of our social issues flow on from poor education and health.
Other comments
Yes stop wasting money on stupid stuff like the new reading Corner of Havelock and Park, ridiculous waste of money, better spent on social wellbeing
I think they cater well 4 senior citizens
No. But High Country should have its own region to select to live
Liking the drop in to speak to Councillors at the Library - great initiative for the public to speak freely.
not sure, but by banning unvaxed children from library, EA networks, was so so so detrimental. I think an apology should be made for this as it was bad judgement

2. Environmental Well-being

214 responses were received through the environmental well-being survey. Respondents were asked what areas, in relation to environmental well-being, they thought our district was doing well at and what areas needed improvement.



A. Air quality

B. Water quality in our rivers and lakes

C. Rubbish and recycling services

D. Composting services

E. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

F. Protection of wetlands

G. Environmental education

H. Protection of biodiversity

For the topics the respondents thought *needed improvement*, they were asked why the area needed improvement, suggestions of what could be done to improvement it, and what role Council should have in this.

2.1. Air quality

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Burn offs		
winter fires smoke reduction has improved – but summer burn offs are an issue – would appreciate if farmers could be educated with alternative options to cleansing soils		Advocate, Influence and Support
Nuisance from farm burn-offs, sometimes we are blanketed in smoke for several days.	Air quality monitoring needed during burn-off times in Methven and Mayfield.	Plan and resource
Burn offs of paddocks should be no longer be allowed	No permits for burning	Plan and resource
Burn offs affecting town air quality	?	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
You allow farmers to burn off right across mid Canterbury and that is pollution.	Ban burning off completely. They are not allowed to do it in Europe.	Plan and resource
Air Quality from Farmer Stubble burn off is not a good look. Many harmful chems being released into Air every year .	Ban Stubble burn offs.	Plan and resource
Stubble burning it's no longer 1972 catch up there's a climate emergency	Stop burning	Lead
burn off's must stop now.it is ridiculous the amount of pollution it creates, your printed word's in the paper, it's a cheap and cost effective way excuse me people's health the atmosphere is far more important intensive farming has also stuffed our underground water supply, animal shit all over public roads animal shit and damage to peoples frontages that the people care for get real you lot pull your socks up and make the hard choices instead of duck shoving around with word's.	STOP the burn off's, others have had to stop burning it's not an even playing field at all.	STOP the burn off's NOW.
We live in Tinwald and are frequently plagued with farmers burn off smoke	Stop farmers from burning off when drifts over town	Plan and resource
Household fires		
People burning rubbish and treated timber in fires	Educate people on proper wood burning practices	Fines for smoky chimneys
Still many properties making a lot of smoke from old fire places.	Be more vigilant with checking on properties	Plan and resource
The smoke from fires is terrible in winter, can't walk up the street some days the pollution is so bad	More regulation over type of fire installed and fuel burnt	Plan/resource
Too many smoky nights in town. Fires being used that don't comply with current regulations.	Better checking/monitoring of fires being used. Also more restrictions around pollution from smoke from pig on spit cooking for many hours while neighbour endure entire property full of smoke.	Plan and resource
There is apparently the ability to have huge fires and unconstrained log burners if you happen to live out of town where	See comment above - make restrictions country wide	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
it is diluted - it is still air pollution. The "smoky" chimneys are not that well policed in town.		
Too many restrictions		
Over control about air pollution during winter months. We have many winds here and there isn't a need to over regulate log burner emission. Perhaps educate people about the fuel the burn, that's the bit which makes a difference.	Relax the subject for Mid Canterbury, it's over regulated based on figures of extreme evenings not general atmospheric conditions.	A huge role.
General/other		
		Advocate influence support plan
The smog can get pretty bad in the townships some night over winter	See what other districts are doing to resolve this issue and implement some changes that have worked elsewhere	All options
No problem here	Good	
For our people's health and longevity	Ban coal, ban damp wood burning, it is a difficult one and everyone needs to keep warm	Plan n resource
Stop Chem trails	Stop Chem trails	Plan and resource

2.2. Water quality in our rivers and lakes

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Shingle removal		
Our rivers need more cleaning of shingle in their beds. With the bigger storms we are now getting it is only a matter of time before it breaks at Racecourse Road and wipes out most of the town. This work is urgent, the clean-up would be a huge task.		
Water storage & riverbed	Shingle extraction from river bed, water storage	Keep in local control
River management	Regular maintenance clearing rubbish & shingle	Proactive involvement
Nitrates/agriculture		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Dumping of rubbish and too much nitrogen in our waterways	Close vehicle access to rivers. Plant nitrogen loving plants (flaxes etc) along riverways	Planting, planting, planting
Reducing nitrates and toxins in water	Government and bank support to industry and farming to reduce toxins and runoff	We need to keep rate impact down. Advocating and influence with Government and other agencies. E.g. government and banks can provide incentives and subsidies to reduce chemical and runoff impact. Natural fertilisers etc.
Nitrate levels are too high and algae presence in rivers	Lower amount of cows per ha, building permits for cow Shed, stimulate farmers to free up land around rivers and lakes for plantings / wetlands	Plan and resource, influence
Unswimmable river and farmers taking water and farm runoff's into rivers	No one cares about our rivers. Get educating!	Plan & resource
The lakes of O Tu Wharekai are an environmental disappointment, as are the no swimming signs Ashburton Hakatere River. nt. The rivers wellbeing and groundwater has taken second best to economic benefits.	Support revoking or limiting fertiliser application consents where run off drains to lakes and streams.	Agree. It is time to change the focus: ecosystems first,
Too much pollution going in makes them unsafe	Stop spreading feet to make grass grow artificially it does go into ground water and river systems	Plan and resource properly as impact on rates is less
High nitrate levels, poor water quality, can't swim in rivers :-(	Stringent testing/ reporting and consequences for polluters/ farms using high amounts of synthetic nitrogen fertilisers. Incentives & support for those who want to move away from intensive dairying & high synthetic fertiliser use.	All 4
Disgusting that we can't swim in our rivers and lakes	Dairy farms should only be allowed to carry a certain amount of stock, dependent on the soil type of each farm. Nitrate levels are far above the world's allowable levels, should not be drinking it. Notes that nitrates cause cancer and blue babies	Council should have a full on role as water is our main source of life
This goes without saying. How safe is rural drinking water? Not safe or healthy at all which is the	The dairy industry needed to be held accountable. Tax them more, don't let them use poison	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
first thing you promoted in this survey. To be fair you guys are pretty powerless when it comes to Dairy NZ and Fonterra but the least you could do is have healthy standards that the dairy industry affect, water soil AND animal health. It's all linked	so freely etc etc. Again you guys are powerless	
Farming in the Ashburton basin is causing pollution and terrible water quality in these very special lakes	Work with ECan and DOC to improve this through better enforced practices	Plan and resource
much rubbish around, farmers still need to protect our water ways by planting along these and keep all livestock away .		advocate
Help eliminate nitrates etc entering water supply	Keep framing back from water ways. Better control from run off from hard standing areas	Must be cleaned up. Need clean water in these areas
The water quality in our lakes has deteriorated and recent analysis has identified the nitrate increase has come from farm runoff (95%). An urgent prevention is needed and council needs to be proactive in stopping this pollution. It is not good enough to leave it to ECan to deal with it. Our community deserve better than losing our lakes because of inaction when the problem and solution are now well known and understood. Historic over abstraction of rivers is staring to be addressed with new minimum flow in the Ashburton River but we have ADC supporting the MAR project where another over allocated river - the Rangitata River - has water taken from it and dumped into leaky holes. Needs to stop. Closure of stock water is/was an opportunity to increase river flow but again it has been lost to MAR.	Press ECan to immediately stop farm runoff polluting the lakes.. The "one size fits all" approach to farm environment plans does not work and it is obvious ECan must reduce the amount of nitrogen fertiliser being spread in the catchment of our lakes. ADC should be demanding that this source of pollution stops without delay.	Advocate to ECan. Influence the public awareness of the problems. Lead the changes required - the inertia of ECan is obvious.
Ciano bacteria in our lakes and nitrates in our streams	Research why we have the problems	Support
Lakes and rivers should be fenced off, I realise that this is not practical in some cases. Water race should be totally fenced off	Fence them off where practical	Close down the stock water system or have totally fenced

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
from all livestock or closed down and this water used in MAR sites		from all livestock and users will need to pump water from them
Nitrates through the roof. Appalling. Drinkimg water unsafe from shallow aquifers. But it's a Regional Council function	Reduce cow numbers. Move to herd homes (regional functions)	Advocacy
Dairy farming leading to nitrogen pollution.		Influence
Concern around nitrate levels		
problems with fertilizer runoff	testing & photographic evidence made publicly visible	Support
Nitrates are not being addressed fast enough stop letting lifestyle blocks having a bore to the same aquifer as their 50 odd neighbours get onboard with water and sewage schemes	Penalties for run off increased and enforced	Lead
Nitrate (and other contaminants) levels in our freshwater streams and aquifers are far too high		Advocate influence and Support
average, too much run off.	RUN off, it has not improved enough, plant plant plant, and stiff find's for non-compliance, even shift the boundaries further away from the water source.	LOBBY the cause e.g. farmer's with run off, impose heavy find's if you have the power to do so.
keep stock more away from rivers and lakes	planting more natives around waters	big role
Lakes		
Poor water quality in Ashburton Lakes	1. Strict enforcement of septic tanks at Lake Clearwater. 2. Improve planting around lakes. 3. Work with ECan to reduce farm fertiliser inputs	Advocate, plan, ensure compliance, support
This is NZ wide. Ashburton Lakes are a concern as it Ashburton River water quality	Run off from Commercial industry and farming. Monitoring of waterways.	Plan and resource
Lakes polluted		
When even Lake Clearwater, which is before most dairy farms has poor water quality, it's obvious we need to pay more attention.	Supporting the work of Ecan, educating on the needs for change	All of them
Lake Hood, water quality needs improving	Not sure what is the best answer here, but is a great asset to our community recreation and would be great to get the water quality to a consistent higher quality	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Poor water quality in the Ashburton Lakes	Work underway. Establish Rules with Ecan	Support
Lake hood is dirty and disgusting	There is too much weed	Unsure
Recreation		
would appreciate striving towards less “No Swimming” warnings for rivers and lakes		Advocate, Influence and Support
swimmable rivers & lakes	reduce discharge into rivers	Realistic penalties for dumping waste & rubbish in waterways
Still some way to go to ensure swimmable water		Support
algae bloom at appears at Lake Hood and causes it to be closed	find a solution to the lake hood issue	plan and resource
We can’t swim safely in the water	Stop blaming others and look at your impact on the waterways	Influence
Unable to swim in these resources		Support plan resource
This needs ongoing work. It would be great to see a day when Ashburton River is safe to swim in, near town. I think we are in a better position than other parts of NZ but it takes years of effort to undo mistakes of the past.	Promote responsible use of chemicals and fertilizer. It is a delicate balance between remaining productive in ag and hort, while ensuring waterways are protected. People who live and work in town also have a part to play.	Support for regional council and some planning/resources
Can't swim in the rivers, and there's too much weed in lake hood.	Stop the dairy run off, stop the salt from Council owned forestry from logging up the rivers in heavy rainfall (Ashburton River in particular) and get rid of the weed in Lake Hood.	Massive role
Because you used to be able to go swimming and playing in them when we were kid's not anymore		
toxic to pets, unable to swim in	options to clean, reduce the take from it, require more on site care	all above
We should be working to get this as clear and clean as possible to ensure the future of the people plants and animals that rely on them. It seems that many spots aren't reliably safe to swim in these days due to contamination this should not be the case	Make sure our waterways are cared for, appropriate plantings, upgrade infrastructure to ensure stormwater and sewage are fit for the future, educate support and police industry that has an impact on water quality, engage in research on rehabilitation of waterways and implement suggestions	All options

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Should be able to swim in river	Do not renew farmers water take consents	
Sometimes we can't swim in rivers due to pollution		
The water in the Ashburton River is not of safe quality especially when many people would use it for swimming if it was cleaner.		Plan and resource
So they can be used for swimming and boating.	get rid of the diseases so they can be used more	They are ECAN problems to sort not ADC
Lake Hood closed this year	Improve flows and reduce fertilizer runoff into lakes and rivers	Support
If you are advised not to swim in our own river due to water quality you know things are not too good.	Nitrates and over stocking needs to be addressed more.	Plan and resource
So people can go out and enjoy them and not have no swimming , no fishing, due to high levels of evolution or other toxic things that pollute the water ways	The birds nesting in the river bed round the bridge is a big problem and I know they are protected but need to be shifted away from town area, downstream somewhere or even at the effluent ponds	Plan n resource and advocate
Because water isn't safe to swim in		Advocate and support
Some not safe to swim in like we used to	Hand plant patches of water cress etc until it is abundant again. Stop pollution in our rivers	
They should be swimmable	Hold people to the conditions of consents it is not enough to check it then leave it	
The adverse quality has a direct economic and recreational impact	A lot of simple things to implement systems which are well proven overseas and in other areas in NZ	all the above
Lake Hood Weeds, Weeds and other pests in Ashburton River at times dogs cannot swim in the river, need to monitor and regulate river flow if possible.	Regulate river flows, perhaps catchment ponds around river that can be filled in heavy flows and released in low flows to provide more stability and continuous flow, ensure river mouth is always opened. Monitor irrigation takes from river to keep reasonable healthy levels for supporting fish and life styles be good to swim in again.	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Can we swim in the Ashburton river? that's why	Ask Forest and Bird, Ministry of Environment, Greenpeace anyone for practicable advice that considers financial burden and makes a balance of it	Learn and apply the learning. Learn the cost of doing nothing. Advocate, Influence, Support and Plan
As a keen user of our lakes and rivers I have seen a marked decline in the quality of both affecting species that inhabit these areas	I think we are heading in the right direction	Control building and farming operations close to rivers and lakes
Rubbish / debris		
it's got plastic in it.		
dirty and rubbish	no	
there is so much rubbish that floats down the river	Add more bins	
Because some of the rivers that are closer to town are dirty and have rubbish in some parts.	Have rubbish bins along rivers and lakes that people have access.	Advocate
People are dumping their rubbish in their rivers and creeks	putting bins by rivers and or near and sending a letter out to people to tell them not to dump their rubbish i lakes and rivers	support
Alot of the lake/rivers have rubbish in them and/or are dirty.	not really	Influence
Don't litter	Keep it clean	Plan and Resource
So fish don't die and people swimming don't get sick.	Don't put rubbish in river.	Advocate, Influence and support
Need to remove debris from our rivers to help stop the flooding and the possibility of the Ashburton Bridge being taken out due to debris against its pillars.	Removing debris trees rubbish etc from our rivers	Influence, support and plan and resource
We can never do enough in this aspect. Policing and monitoring of waste dumped in and around our waterways is vital	Rangers and councils staffed and resourced with appropriate vehicles and powers to police the district. Sporadic cameras and other monitoring systems employed to target offenders	Support
Need controls over the excessive amount of siltation and slash coming down the rivers during flood.	Waterway margin controls to protect slash entering waterway. Work with agricultural community and experts to minimise siltation.	Advocate with ECAN, and community planning with potentially some funding options (possibly ex central government sourced).
Planting		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
There needs to be areas along river beds planted with a mixture of native trees and flax bushes	Need to catch people dumping waste at rivers	It might help having wider areas between rivers and farm land so that it creates a natural filter.
Willow trees have been removed. No filtration.	Plant them back.	Install 2 underpasses at Tramway Bridge. To stop the road from flooding. Simple fix.
General/other		
Tinwald sewer system is a disgrace, council know a lot of the sewer pipes in Tinwald are leaking ground water into the sewer system causing the system to because inundated with ground water which make toilets in Tinwald overflow with raw sewerage also making macerating systems overflow into Johnstone St drains which end up in carters stream and eventually Lake Hood	Fix sewer system, maybe if Ashburton council can't, 3 waters can	Plan and resource
		Support & resources
Decline in water quality continues in rivers and lakes.	Work with Ecan to increase the focus on this. Review minimum river flows and water allocations more regularly.	Support
I believe ADC needs to take more honest, meaningful responsibility for water quality in this district. For example, with respect to the Ashburton Lakes where ADC emphasized the adverse effects of long drops but was not prepared to publicly acknowledge that the main effect was agricultural runoff, something that has since been proved by an independent investigation implemented for the Ministry of the Environment. Also I strongly believe that the Ashburton River, which runs through our town, should be, in terms of water quality and quantity, a showpiece for our community rather than the embarrassment it is. For example being unable to drink its water or swim in it is a disgrace. When considering MAR, there needs to be recognition that that water at stake is not actually "unused	That priority is given to taking steps that address serious issues relating to water quality and quantity in this district, especially with respect to the Ashburton lakes and Ashburton River.	That ADC takes a leadership role in publicly identifying all water quality issues in the district, presents a balanced stance that incudes issues created by local industry, and is actively involved in remedial work.

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
water" but Rangitata River water (via the RDR system) that is sorely needed for the health of the river. Any long term plan needs to remedy these issues.		
Improvement of water quality in aquafers	Advocate	Advocate
Toxic algae, and would you drink from any stream you come across?	Not sure here - education of people who are using the water - swabbing of boats?	Influence
try find out what's causing algae.	Investigate	Advocate
Because the water quality isn't good	Stricter rules with painful fines around the water for everyone plus education for the older people (farmers, townies and business owners)	Influence
water quality must have high recreational values	Banish sea gulls from the river and lake areas. Maintain high water quality at Lake Hood. by	all the above
these are degrading	more riparian planting	advocate
apparently these are not in pristine condition		
Recognise that braided river protection	Change the thinking that braided rivers can be contained and recognise that they will shift their banks over time. Flood protection work needs to move away from the current 'river boundary' to one in keeping with a braided river.	Change the local definition and consenting around river boundaries.
There is still too much open and unprotected waters	Monitoring of runoff	Plan and resource
More needs to be done to tidy up our rivers so that our town won't floodlit last big flood still haven't learnt from that		
Poor water quality	Reclaim the natural water ways and wet lands.	Plan and resource, fix the mess they have created.
		Influence
poor water quality in rivers and lakes throughout the county	keep a higher water flow in the Ashburton river, flush out lake Hood more often, focus on the toxic buildup in the high country lakes, talk to land owners and let the public know what you are doing to help	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
I am aware that the Mt Harding Stream that runs through Methven has high E coli level and other contaminants. Along with the flooding that occurs to a number if properties at the northern end of town.	We need more wetland that help clean, store and dissipate, work in the Mt Harding stream catchment would improve flooding risks.	All if the above
Generally the water quality is poor in waterways	Do weekly monitoring on the quality and track down where the problem is coming from	Influence
Quality appears poor	Planting, fencing, education	Influence, support
Declining water quality, recent algal blooms		All of the above
Farmers doing their bit, but seems urban population not doing anything	Continue monitoring	Advocate/support
Water quality in our rivers especially is notoriously bad and unsafe.	Create strict bylaws around effluent usage/disposal in river-neighbouring farms. The Ashburton River should not be polluted with faecal matter and effluent traces, as well as excessive nitrogen/fertiliser products. This would obviously create a bit of a stir up with farmers, but the condition of the Ashburton river water is beyond disgusting. Long-gone are the days of swimming in there.	

2.3. Rubbish and recycling services

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Illegal dumping/litter		
There is an urgent need to curb the amount of illegal dumping in and around Ashburton (x2)	Education, reduce charges for garden and general waste, etc and give the community an idea of minimum charges for trailer loads etc. Council should purchase own street sweeper instead of using Christchurch (Wasteco). Instead of turning the green belt on West St to a car	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	park, the money should be used to purchase a street sweeper truck to allow sweepers to be used in times of flooding to clear gutters and drains. Councils own street sweepers would then service Ashburton, Rakaia, Methven and Hinds. Sweepers need to work on the likes of Oak Grove in the early morning or evening to avoid not being able to do the job properly due to the number of parked cars (especially with hospital staff parking). (x2)	
Everywhere I go in Ashburton I can see more than 5 pieces of rubbish	More rubbish bins	
They don't come out to farms and rural location so lot of people burn there rubbish	bring them out to rural locations	
Rubbish everywhere	More bins	
Lots broken glass on cycle lanes, sweep it. Rubbish created by people who could not care. Perfectly good housing has been turned into slum conditions		
Recycling education		
Lack of clarity re recycling. Lack of public bins / clearing of bins	Better education, increase emptying of public bins in busy areas.	Education resourcing
Improve recycling rate as shown on Fair go and tipping of recycling content recycling	Monitor and report on recycling be tipped into the pit , go back to providing staff to sort the recycling to raise the success rate, invest on better ways to process recycling	Plan
More recycling options		
	Could have bottle collection	
More types of plastic needed to be recycled. Electric trucks should be investigated.	More types of plastic needed to be recycled. Electric trucks should be investigated.	Plan and resource
Most goes straight to landfill so makes a mockery of the entire system	Actually recycle the stuff you say you do and fine contractors if it is taken to landfill	Plan and resource properly as impact on rates is less
lots not recyclable	kerbside collection and public selling, educate why recycling is poor option	all above

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Recycling from town centre bins should not go to landfill	Recycle the recycling	
The scope of what's recycled is very limited. Yes, cost of services and equipment is expensive in the short term, but in the long run, our community benefits and it can create employment if structured properly	Not educated in how the recycling plant is structured but a wider scope of recycling is definitely required	Plan and resource
The recycling model under Wastebusters allowed for much more proactive recycling rather than a low cost approach with minimal interest/incentive for improvement.	Community based approach	Plan and resource
Provider randomly decides it's not processing various plastics so the community gets lumbered with landfill costs make them process the too hard basket not just what they think will make a profit	Get a company who actually can process plastics of all types	Lead
rubbish and recycling services are great but could be better with soft plastic, rubbish bins around lakes rivers, picnic spots etc	encourage competition to the council dumping scheme	
Still can't recycle lids or soft plastics	Drop-off bins at supermarkets and rubbish collection points for soft plastics + lids	Support and Plan
Collection services		
Every household should be part of this service not only townhouses but also rural properties	Rubbish service for every household	Plan and resources
Needs to come later on in the day as people don't want to get up early	Needs to be quieter	Plan and Resource
	education of public. provide a rural service	advocate, plan and resource
Would be nice if rubbish truck emptied bin instead of leaving half full – bin is so small that the rubbish has to be packed down		
Bin size		
would like to see the smaller rubbish bins for those who want them		Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Bigger waste bins		
Larger red bins needed, far too small	Larger bins	Companies that are more knowledgeable
Green waste		
need composting as part of kerbside	add it composting as part of kerbside	plan and resource
Rakaia doesn't have a green waste bin.	Add a green bin	Plan and resource
No green waste	Educating. Providing green waste. Why can you put things in the refuse station recycling but not in your kerbside bin? Need education	Support
There should be green bins for us to use, you go anywhere in South canterbury area and all There towns have the service available.	Give every house the bin this should be high on council agenda	
Big compost bins		
Need green bins implemented sooner rather than later. A lot of elderly with don't drive or have no room for trailer on small sections and issues with dumping green waste. It works so well in many many other areas . Also there needs to be work done on open gutters around town. They are a hazard when exiting or entering your car/truck. And they fill up with so much litter and leaves and then it rains and water pools up. Very rarely see the Waste Co truck sucking up gutters .	Bring in green bins now.	Plan n resource and support
Need a green waste removal bin	Add green waste gate side removal	Support and influence
Need green waste collection, so much going in red bins!	Introduce green waste bins for curb side collection	Resource
There's a massive improvement available for introducing Green-Waste bins for collection, like all of the surrounding districts already have been doing for years. Lawn clippings, food waste, etc.	Introduce green-waste bin, same size as yellow/recycling bin, to be collected fortnightly.	
Support green waste bins – big sizes ones		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
General / other		
Farm silage bale wrap use unsustainable.	Promote the Waimate waste to energy initiative	
I feel like there could be job opportunities to process recycling in Ashburton instead of sending everything away to be processed.	Council should explore the feasibility of processing plastics and glass in Ashburton instead of exporting this elsewhere.	Provide practical ways of residents to dispose of all waste. Where possible prevent recyclable items from going into landfill.
Is there any reason why rubber tyres couldn't be melted down to go into our tar on roading? Good way to get rid of rubber tyres.		

2.4. Composting services

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Green waste bin service - support		
would like to see a composting service introduced by Ashburton District Council		Plan and Resource
Bin Collection Green Matter		
Still awaiting the arrival of green bins for each household in the district.		Plan and Resource
We need a service - green bin, at the door with yellow and red bin.	Green bin	Organise
For those people who don't have trailers	It would be good to have a green bin to collect garden waste	Provide a green bin as you do the other rubbish bins for green waste
need composting as part of kerbside	add composting as part of kerbside	plan and resource
Rakaia doesn't have a green waste bin	Add a green bin	Plan and resource
Green waste collection should be stimulated and free for a limited m3	Free access to green waste collection point, no charge for an amount of m3	Plan and resource
Green bins	Green bins	Resource
Don't have green waste collection yet	Offer green waste collection	Plan and resource
Weekly collection of all putrescibles with a state of the art composting system would reduce rubbish and food/organic matter being waste mastered in to our waste water system. in to our waste	a/a	Agree
A household bin collected with our rubbish would half the amount in our red bin	A household bin collection	Plan and resource
No roadside green waste collection, no composting service that I know of?	instigate roadside green waste collection - do we have a compost facility locally?? If not, could we?	Influence, plan and resource
Could do with a green waste collection weekly..	Waste should be composted and then made available to the ratepayers at a nominal cost..	Plan and resource
Making this more accessible to the community. It is disappointing when grass and garden waste are dumped on roadsides - I suspect this is due to	Green waste kerbside collection would be a great start!	Plan and resource.

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
the cost of refuse stations even for green waste.		
Not aware of any services	Green bins like Timaru	Plan and resource
Need a green bin, or the household food collection that has been talked about.	Need a green bin, or the household food collection that has been talked about	Plan and resource
There is no collection for just composting as there is in CHCH	Having a collection bin solely for composting items food scraps etc.	plan and resource and support
It's very expensive	Make it cheaper at the dump or even free! or introduce green bins	Offer Green bins
would be beneficial to have a food stuff removal system		plan and resource
should be included in rubbish collection	provide a compost bin for fortnightly collection	plan and resource
There is currently no curb side collection of green waste in Ashburton. Not everyone has the equipment to take garden waste to the refuge station.	Council should offer a curb side garden waste collection service.	Establish a kerb side collection of garden waste. Garden waste can be composted and then compost can be sold.
need kerbside and we can't buy back from council	composting dog poo holes at dog park- fill and plant	all above
We should have free curb side collection of compost and free dumping of green waste. .	the council can make compost from the curb side collection and use it in council gardens and sell to the community for home use	Plan and resource, support
No kerbside composting collection	Add green kerbside bins	
Provide a green waste bin for cut side collection	Provide a green waste bin for cut side collection	Plan and resource
Should be a green waste bin for kerbside collection so that everyone can easily do this at home	Provide green waste bins for each home	Plan and resources
Offer a kerbside option		
Easy kerbside access for public.	Kerbside bins.	Establish collection service.
Provide a green bin service	Provide a green bin service or free green waste drop off.	Resource a green bin pick up and allow free dumping of green waste.
What services, some people are unable to deliver there green waste to the refuse station	Green bins	Support
green waste collection would be great	green waste bins like other councils	green waste bins mean the red bins don't get over full and people dumping excess waste

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
No green bin here.	Yes please. The dump in Rolly has a big compost station. Something like that perhaps	Influence
Definitely require green waste bins to keep our town clean and green, put rubbish where it should be	Green Wheelie bins would have folk taking better care of their sections	Plan and Resource
We need curb side green waste collection for composting to stop large volumes of green waste going to landfill and causing methane on breaking down anaerobically	Start curb side green waste collection	Plan and resource
No that i am aware if in Methven, Green waste and compost collection would be wonderful to stop this going in to land fill and also reduce what people burn off in back yards.	Would be great to see green waste and compost collected, make into compost and sold	All of the above
More options and curb side	Curb side bins	Support
Need a green waste garden removal bin available	Green bin for garden waste	Influence and support
Green waste Collection	Collect green waste	
Needs to be part of green waste collection, makes up a large percentage going to landfill	Introduce green waste bins	Resource
Lack of composting / sending compost to landfill		
Too much compost in red bins	Make green waste collection better, maybe use Donaldsons Plant	Green bins
A lot of food and garden waste goes to landfill	Improve and encourage use of composting and bokashi and home and school gardens	Support, advocate, provide systems
Food waste needs to be removed from bins. More advertising and shaming of overuse of plastic by retailers.	Free food bin collection for households. Further recycling areas - e.g. Tetra Pak. Incentive for businesses to reduce waste - especially plastic.	All aspects of Environmental Policy and every role - Environment should be at the focus of all policy - sustainability is key
Many people don't home compost	Kerbside organics	Kerbside collection
Separating food from rubbish as produces leachate	Changing habits	Keeping rates down as much as poss. influencing people to keep food waste down etc. Ideally be better to keep food waste separate cost involved may be problematic

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Limited green waste services		Influence educate Personal responsibility
Keep it out of land fill	Bins	
people putting green waste in red bins	supply green waste bins	
limited options for disposing of green waste especially in Methven	curb side green waste collection	plan and resource
What services.....	More emphasis on recycling food waste	Companies that are up to date with how things can be improved
Do they exist?	Green waste collection?	Influence, support
We need more.	We need more.	Plan and Resource
minimal service	provide a better service	Plan & resource
Not available yet as far as I am aware		Plan and resource
General/other		
		Support & resources
never heard of it before	nope	
Why only in Ashburton why trucked all over the district green waste proceeded locally	Local centres distributed	Lead
		Influence
we pay top take green waste to dump and have to pay to collect compost, why not make green waste dumping free and make money from the sale of cheap compost	Free green waste disposal	

2.5. Climate change mitigation & adaption

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more / not doing anything		
ADC must take climate change and the greater incidence of extreme events seriously	1. zoning land for wetlands and buffers for floods. 2. native biodiversity restoration and protection (e.g. more planting at Lake Camp, Wakanui, funding voluntary groups to plant). 3. Pest control (e.g. deer at Awa Awa reserve	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Council could lead by example with a fleet of Electric Vehicles, Solar Panels / Solar powered street lights - - encourage other businesses and households to do the same		Advocate, Influence, Support + Plan and Resource
You don't hear anything about what the district is doing, so it's hard to know how we compare	change council cars to EV's	advocate
Never hear anything about it	Nothing happening?!???!	Support
What are you doing	Do more to promote carbon emissions reduction	All of the above
We bury our heads in the sand - wind, floods and warm weather are coming but we log each event as though it's a surprise and maybe won't happen again	Plan for what's coming - river control, power usage in heat, trees planted that have deep roots for the future.	Plan and resource
Since the 2019 Climate Change policy dramatic events have and are forecast. The policy needs to be revisited in view of current trends and impacts	a/a	Advocate (subsidised) public transport for commuters travel
There's always more to do in this area		Support
This needs to be forefront in an agricultural district like ours - yet it wasn't even mentioned in the economic development strategy!	Take it seriously and start planning for it... just transition in food production in particular.	advocate, influence, plan and resource
haven't seen much happening bout it	nope	
because climate change is important	More bus, less car :)	
we aren't adapting fast enough		
need to plant more trees for wildlife etc.	Work towards planting and donating trees	Support
More River flood protection of infrastructure and land	Lobby regional council and govt for funding to fund continued maintenance of our rivers to ensure they can accommodate increased risk of flooding. river maintenance	Support
We always have to work on this to make a change	Education for the older generations	Influence
Not enough being done	More ways to reduce footprint	Plan and resource
Always needs more input from all of us.	Not sure	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Things like helping prevent against flooding from extreme rain events		Help with river scrub clean up with Ecan and hurry 2nd bridge
insufficient action , not prioritised high enough	need to educate those resistant, take more action	all above
No initiatives to switch transport fuels from fossil for biofuel. Should be working with Selwyn restart the rapeseed to diesel plant (ex-solid energy). Should use rail for containers to Lyttleton	Encourage a better rail hub	Support kiwirail
Climate change is here to stay, we can't deny it any more. We need to get ahead of this.	Supporting Ecan, education and explanation. Provide increased funding on resilience.	All of them
Should be key community focus	Better identify risk areas including flood channel overflows. Central and Regional Govt have the same issues and there is not an unlimited pot.	Plan and resource
More change is needed now. Not in 20 years.	Evolve people, it's not about money anymore.	Plan and resource
I'd like to see more resources going to reduce reliance on our vehicles for getting around Ashburton.	Encourage more active means of transport. Walking busses to schools, bike lanes around town etc.	Plan and resource
More work needs to be done around flood events and rising sea levels, some land within river flood plains may need to be rezoned (a bit like chch red zones). Braided rivers need space to move and change course, this will only get worse as extreme weather events increase.	Look at rezoning flood prone land around rivers	Plan and resource
I am unaware of any programs to address this	Protecting and creating wet lands to help in times of high rain fall	All of the above
far to slow, you do not want to upset farmer's that's clear you may lose some votes, burn off's stop, plough the stubble back into the ground it has been proven to produce a better yield the following year.	keep the river bed's clear od derby etc, stop the burn off's, ALL council vehicle's to reach EV status by ------ date, set an example, adapt better collection's, more bin's collection fortnightly??? you drive people away from bringing there rubbish to the fill by increasing the cost, we have this mentality in nz to keep rising the cost of service's which are paid by ratepayer's,	STOP the BURN off's Council's own vehicle's convert to electric.

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	com on you lot, reserve bank credit work's Canada and others have had it place for years to help keep costs down, increases inflation, NO it's people's greed that increases inflation by them increasing their costs, get it sorted.	
Many people don't take their responsibilities seriously		Plan and resource
There is always more to be done in this space		All of the above
Do less		
We can't stop the powers of mother nature so don't spend excessive amounts on trying. Plans and preparation for mitigation are based on guesswork models. None of it is going to be linear or accurate. Millions could be spent on mitigation or adaptation to have a completely different scenario play out. We can't protect and have complete safety from all eventualities.		
Climate change is propaganda stop spending time and money on this	Stop funding climate change	Promote
Definitely not the councils priority, the priority is farmers	EDUCATION, accept the fact that we literally don't have a choice.	Learn and apply the learning. Learn the cost of doing nothing. Advocate, Influence, Support and Plan
Agriculture		
We are the centre for the country's dairy industry and so should show leadership in terms of acknowledging the negative effects of this industry and promoting meaningful action to reduce polluting emissions. There are an increasing number of models of actions than can improve adverse effects of the dairy industry. ADC needs to acknowledge the severity of this issue and take a leadership role in dealing with it.	That any climate change moves identify and includes and addresses issues relating to local industry.	That ADC publicly acknowledges local activities that have an adverse effect with respect to climate change and supports actions to address these issues.

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Agricultural sector especially needs to improve farming practices that are less invasive on the environment, more cycle ways and bike paths...even one along the Tinwald train line to Mt Sommers or Methven	More bike friendly paths, cycle ways	Plan and resource
Dairy farming. Get rid of it. I grew up on a dairy farm and it is horrendous for the environment.		Influence
Farming practices i.e. burning makes the district look like a bunch of cave dwellers	Set aside forestry areas as permanent cover	Lead
Ashburton District creates phenomenal environmental impact via Methane production and Dairy farming in general.	Ashburton District is well known for dairy farming. And while it would seem impossible for the Council to ever try discourage farmers from doing it due to the economic benefit (Council loves the income) - the environmental impact of high-intensity dairy farming should be seriously considered. Not only the production of Methane, but also the destruction of the soil through over-production of waste from the animals, as well as fertilization of the grass growing. All of this sinks down into the water table. Ashburton District used to be a massive grain producer, everywhere you drove there were grain paddocks about. This is much, much better for the environment.	
General/other		
		Advocate influence support plan
		influence, plan and resource
Increased rain intensity causing flooding to our homes	correct the flow of water through Thyme Stream Methven	Improve the capacity of water courses in the Thyme Stream catchment
Don't know a lot about it but it appears that some of our recent extreme weather events may well be portents of more to come	Stop banks is the only one that springs to mind	advocate
Good luck	Time Machine	Advocate
Rivers breaking stop bank and flooding . My home was flooded		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
on Greenstreet during May 2021. Not much has been done to stop it happening again. Sleepless night last Sunday 22july 23		
Seems to be okay		
Lot more rainfall in the winter. My property floods every heavy rain. Just waiting for the big one	Prepare the district for a massive flood it's only a matter of time.	
People need to change their mind sets that the little they can do does help do to leave it up to the big guys	Education	Influence and educate

2.6. Protection of wetlands

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more / not doing anything		
Would like to see Council do more in this space		Advocate, Influence and Support
Never hear anything about it	Education	Plan & resource
Especially down near Wakanui Beach, more pockets of old remnant wetlands need to be secured for biodiversity and education	See above	Influence and advocate support
Protect and advocate reinstatement of previous or potential wetland sites. ADBAGs	a/a	Time to be visionary reclaiming lost wetlands
Need to do more	Publicity of where they are and what's being done	Support
Look after native birds and insects	Fence them off and plant more natives	Advocate, influence and support
Important for our Eco system	Planting and protecting	Influence
More native bush regeneration needed immediately	Make it compulsory to only plant out natives. Return decent chunks of land back to what it used to be. Stop planting poplars and Willows to hold up the river banks. Regenerate the land	Plan and resource
Nowhere near enough is being done or encouraged in this area	More encouragement and financial benefit to allow and preserve wetlands	Advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Needs to be more assistance to help private wetlands	encourage and subsidise riparian planting	Help subsidise private areas
There is very little protection of any	Needs to be more effort in trapping	Stop farmers being allowed to use sprays and fertilizers that are only providing short term fix
As above for the wetland areas around our lakes. Interesting to see the nice photo of the wetlands about the Māori Lakes in your promo looking wonderful while the water has been so polluted.	As above and also take steps to restore water quantity from wetland areas.	Advocate, influence and support.
A must		
These are vitally important to the overall environment and any improvement has to be good		Influence
Areas very small now	Areas needs to recover more of their original distribution	Influence landowners showing positive outcomes
Not enough protection around wetlands which can stop animals and vehicles entering areas of wetlands	More planting (natives) around wetlands which encourages bird life to regenerate within these places and drainage which allows the wetlands to exist but not become stale	plan and resource/ support proactive agencies
They have been destroyed	Reclaim and protect all natural wet lands.	Reuse the natural water channels
This helps with biodiversity, cleaning our waterways, and is an essential part of our rural environment.	Funding for plantings, walkways, signage, education	All of them
Need to protect those we have and encourage and develop more		Plan and resource where applicable
More work could be done to future proof and protect these areas.		Support
Where? Nothing awe inspiring here just rely on Evan to do this is not good enough	Demand enforce wetland recovery	Lead
What little wetlands we have left are still being cleared with minimal enforcement of penalties for doing so	Increase and enforce penalties for clearing wetlands	Plan and resource
We need more wetlands to help clean water and mitigate flooding		All of the above
Do it, central Government should fully fund this with cost's to fence off and planting, we all have	YES, it should be a legal requirement to do so, intensive	Ring fencing requirement's, it's crazy, we can build a carport up to 20mtr's square and must meet

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
grandchildren and next generation's MONEY has overshadowed all of the changes required.	farming has played a part in the effective nature of wet land's.	the 3604, but we can pollute the air, the wetland's, the waterway's, come on get a grip.
I hope more could be done to protect our native plants	Create more wetlands and extend those we have	
Some people are still trying to 'grass over/drain ' them and encroaching on them	More education and someone actually paying attention	
Assists with water quality..	Development of Wetlands e.g. Lake Hood	all the above
Unsure where they are around here but they are well needed		Support
Agriculture		
One word - farming	Analyse the water, figure out what is not in balance and fund correction.	Support
This district has a historical record of draining wetlands for agricultural purposes. The environmental benefits of wetlands are now common knowledge and so ADC needs to identify those remaining in our district and ensure they are protected for future generations. are	That no further draining of wetlands occur, that remaining wetland are identified and any degradation is reversed.	That ADC is actively involved in actions that prevent further degradation of our wetlands, identifies remaining ones and implements plans to reverse their decline.
as with our rivers more plantings and farmer education and consequences if not up to standard		support
High country farmers should not be allowed to drain these	Introduce bylaws	
General/other		
	Tinwald was wetland. Now its housing area. Need to make wetlands around natural creeks flaxes wetland trees. Protect natural creek eels mudfish frogs and other fish, freshwater mussels.	
Wetlands are crucial for storing water in floods and releasing when dry- for biodiversity and for landscape value	Funding should be available to reinstate wetlands on areas of farmland that have been drained	
		Advocate influence support plan
Fix sewers	Fix sewer	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
A regional function - NES- F	Regional function. Address Conflict with Drainage Act	
understanding what wetlands do for us		support
Lots of protection in the wetlands	It is good	Plan and Resource

2.7. Environmental education

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more / not doing anything		
	Council need to do more to encourage the community to do the right thing by advertising weekly on: social media, community notices, council briefings in the newspaper, local radio station. The changes and the hours Enviro-Waste are open, this must be kept in front of the public (x 2)	
It is crucial that the next generations are aware that our economic wellbeing depends on our environment and that everyone has a role to play	Reducing impact on our natural capital and restoring biodiversity	
Lack of understanding by myself & others including when to ring the Council for help	Continual information re recycling and composting - e.g. size of paper in recycling bins	Leaflet drops, continuing information in newspapers, social media
		Continue with education in schools
Would like to see Council do more in this space and collaborate with existing groups		Advocate, Influence, Support + Plan and Resource
Much of the publicity in this district relates to promoting rural industries without the identification of related adverse environmental effects. There needs to be more balance in publicity.	That publicity documents accurately identify related environmental issues and moves to address these.	That ADC ensures any publicity released includes, where appropriate, the identification of related environmental issues and steps they are taking to address effects.
I work in schools and haven't seen much about this. I also haven't been educated myself	Have an education portal that teachers can access and apply to	Provide information

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
about what ADC does for the environment.	their classroom teaching and learning	
What education is provided in Rakaia	Easy to access education	Influence and educate
Stimulate students to be practically involved in environmental projects	Bring inspiring speakers to schools, invite schools to sponsor planting projects in local area	Influence, support
Be good to have more education run and advertised around home recycling and up cycling and “how to”	Education	Plan & resource
Non existent	Provide it in a more prominent fashion	Plan and resource
Employ a teacher trained person to work with all schools to encourage and support Enviro schools throughout the district. Take enviro info to the community, not only media.	a/a	Agree
the better we educate our community more		
I have never been educated on it	More subjects in schools about our environment	
not enough people learning about environmental things	making a place for people to learn about environmental place	support
Help our people understand pace of change for environmental improvement	environmental improvement is a multi-generation process this message must be promoted by local council.	Support
There is never enough education	I think the children get their education in school but the older generation is shockingly ignorant about climate, environment etc.	Influence
Still so much ignorance	Make sure people respect and understand the environment	Support
Needs to be taught more in schools	Involve more classes in Ashcoll, make people more aware.	Plan and Resource
More education needed		influence
We should be promoting in schools more		Teach in schools
Better education on what to recycle		
Mid Canterbury has some of the more backwards thinking people in the country	It starts at school level, a lot of very old fashioned beliefs of when and where it's ok to spray weeds and around water ways	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
I think council has made a genuine effort to promote environmental education but there is more to do to make the public fully aware of the state of our waterways.		Influence and support.
If we could educate people not to indiscriminately dump rubbish around the countryside		support
Not enough		
Transparency e.g. How on Google Earth did the Seafield stock water main become identified as the Wakanui Stream a natural water way and the likely problems caused to the land owners this crosses through.	Let the community know why and how the northeast area of the Seafield Stock Water floods sewer and storm water over all the areas down to Milton Road where beyond Milton Road there is a natural channel which could manage all this storm water all the way to the sea.	Council to take responsibility for the situation they have caused.
Teach people about how their health is actually impacted by the health of the environment. People tend to listen more when you make it about them, rather than the bigger picture		Influence
Sound, fact based education is needed to counter the vested interests in the status quo	Leading the conversation on the importance, not leaving it to Ecan	All of them
the interconnection of our actions with environmental health	More information esp. for schools on how special Mid Canterbury is	Plan & Resource
	Monitor river water quality at more points upstream to find sources of excess fertilizer runoff	Support
Any?	Get the council educated first	Advocate
DO it, in schools, once again central government to introduce it, council can run clinic's/ workshop educating thick people including yourselves.	IN SCHOOL, AND PARENTING, COUNCIL CLINICs.	YES, clinics, not a how are you Mrs Jones would you like a chat and coffee, for christ sake there are more important things to do.
Let's get prepared for climate change more advice on how to protect your property	Yes	
I know little of the local environment which means whatever tool you are using isn't getting to me		Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
People don't get how absolutely and utterly screwed we will be with climate change and continuous usage of plastics	Encourage people to be interested and learn. Consider cost but don't focus on just that. Show people how screwed we are.	Learn and apply the learning. Learn the cost of doing nothing. Advocate & Influence
There is always more to be done in this space		Influence, Support
	Recycling needs to be taught in schools	
Do less		
More a government job. Respect our farmers, the local ones do a great job.		
This is not the role of local council. Spare the ratepayer funding for other vital areas.		
General / other		
		Advocate influence support plan
		Advocate
		Advocate influence and support
Learn how to read science reports properly to understand climate change is bullshit	Educate people to be critical thinkers and not buy into the hoax	Promote

2.8. Protection of biodiversity

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more / not doing anything		
The current provisions of the district plan are frequently unenforced by ADC. Clearance of native vegetation still goes on with little consequence	Greater attention and resources must be allocated to ensure veg. clearance especially in Rural B & C is dis-incentivised. (e.g. clearing native regrowth and matagouri to plant conifers)	
collaborate with private parties, groups and landowners to support and celebrate biodiversity. One example that comes to mind are the pockets of the Ashburton District that hold QE II covenants – would be great if Ashburton District Council could	additional biodiversity staff + encourage that each Domain a celebrated space for biodiversity	Advocate, Influence, Support + Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
support and expands these locations		
My comments against the first point of this survey identify areas where ADC could take a better, more balanced approach to issues that would result in better protection of biodiversity. In particular there needs to be more positive action with respect to the Ashburton Lakes and the Ashburton River.	That steps are taken to prevent the continued decline with respect to biodiversity and that action to improve our waterways is taken.	That ADC recognizes and addresses issues previously identified in this response.
No rubbish bin at Braebrook playground means that rubbish is constantly blowing into the pond. There are trout, ducks and even turtles in there! I have emailed twice about getting a bit, but no reply and nothing done. I also saw a council member spraying around the park and down the creek in front of my property. What was in the spray?	Put bins in parks, in playgrounds!	Provide bins. Tell homeowners around Wakanui creek (Braebrook) that you are planning to spray and what the spray's ingredients are.
Never hear anything about it	Education	Support
Not visible enough	Have more protected reserves if native plantings	All of the above
Give full support to our Biodiversity Ecologist, including informed assistants	a/a	A priority after years of neglect and loss
Native birds very much in minority in area	Encouragement of biodiversity, particularly native birds	Support
Pretty good, more traps for pests	More traps for pests	Plan and Resource
Council now needs to give effect to NPS-IB by mapping.	Map potential SNAs as per NPS IB	
We are failing to appreciate the importance of biodiversity for our long term survival.	Education, endorsement, funding for pest reduction.	All of them
Continue to work closely with DOC, ECan , Iwi to further protect	Some land was never intended to be highly productive so the need to protect where possible	Support
Knowledge of plants & animals endemic to Mid Canterbury	Quicker identification of heritage areas	Plan & Resource
Seems to be feast or famine. Using Ashton beach as an example there was great work done to protect areas requiring it but work stops on a motorbike track because of a few lizards	consider that simply fencing off areas may create resentment and empathy with the areas you wish to protect	influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
which are fairly widespread in the area.		
Yeah right you can walk the entire length of the district and not here one Tūī or bell bird	Create linked areas of bio diversity for bird life	Lead
I am unsure what is being done it this area other than feral animal control in reserves.	Bio reserve integrated into wetlands.	All of the above
Do it, it's a must, funding required from central Government or reserve bank credit.	YES DO IT, if we do not, we are in trouble, once again reserve bank credit could be used for funding the cost.	YES DO it, once again central government for funding, or reserve bank credit.
Because we need we have for future generations	Same as above	Similar to above
An absolute joke and a stain on New Zealand	All of the above, stop all these useless forestry blocks on the plains, harvest them and then plant them out in natives! Plant out the river banks with harakeke and everything else to how it used to be. Not these introduced trees which only cause more problems further down the track!	Plan and resource
Very low on ADC radar it seems.		Plan and resource
try to reintroduce more bird life	Introduce Bell Birds to the district	Introduce more riparian planting and try to bring back more native birds to the district
Needs more		
Need to improve bio diversity	We are on our way, keep helping and encouraging this issue.	Support
A must		
I don't see the council prioritising this	Make it compulsory to microchip cats	
Biodiversity is essential to our well-being overall		support
Plantings		
very few native plantings in Ashburton District	Plant native FLOWERING trees to encourage the return of native birds	Replace oaks etc with evergreen and flowering natives
Stimulate more diverse shelter belts around paddocks to attract birds	If shelter belts are removed, stimulate the new planting site to be biodiverse	Influence, support
Harris reserve is a great example, more protected and native vegetation areas around rivers and green spaces	See above	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Agriculture		
Too much monoculture esp Dairying in the rural land use in the flat areas of Canterbury	Movement back to mixed farming models and smaller units. Sustainable farming	plan and resource esp for land use and the prevention of large scale farming
Same story: dairy farming. Grass and cows is not biodiversity		Influence
Large areas of high country tussock land are still being burned and cleared by farmers using the loop hole of claiming it is “improved pasture” land, this needs to stop	Set a high standard of what “improved pasture” is defined as and require proof of same prior to any clearing of high country land, including enforcing significant fines for breaches	Plan and resource
General/other		
As above	Protecting unique areas	Advocate, Influence and Support
Closing waterways shrinks biodiversity	Keep old stock water races open and ensure swales are retained for flood runoff.	Advocate protection by showing positive outcomes
Nature is to be respected and it will look after us. We should be seen as carers of the land.		Support
		Advocate influence support plan
		support
		Support

The survey asked respondents if Council should play a greater role in any other areas of environmental well-being. The following are the responses received to this questions.

2.9. Other topics

Other topics
Agriculture
Our farmers need to be rewarded for the good work they do. New Zealand born and family farms take good care of the land. They have long term interest in the future of what is happening on their farm. These land owners should not have to pay the extra tax recently introduced by the government. There are carbon neutral farms in this group of farmers. As in all NZs problems are the corporates' here for the short term are the real problem. Congratulations on your fight to stop 3 waters taking over our water supply. You do a good job on our water supply.
There is also an attitude that farmers are sacrosanct. Intensive farming practices have caused massive deterioration in water quality and quantity, accelerated biodiversity loss and greatly increased greenhouse gas emissions, and this should be acknowledged. There must be improved funding for the monitoring and enforcement of district plan regulations. E.g. loss of native vegetation in rural C is frequently overlooked and not investigated. In Rural B, we are still losing native vegetation to ag intensification. Resource consent applications for businesses that will affect native biodiversity should be publicly notified.

The government needs to listen to and work with farmers. Especially high country farmers. Some people in society have no ability to balance environment with social economic and cultural
Look into the impact on small rural communities as far as the actions of farming is concerned....fire burn offs, rural water supplies..open water ways, control or limit spraying around townships on farms but especially along roadsides where people and animals walk
Advocate for reduced cow numbers and reduce fertilise use
YES,NO MORE intensive farming, NO MORE BURN OFF's, there should be a environment code of rule's that all of us HAVE to abide by, not SOME of us have to, other's do not have to.
Planting
Native plants should be used to a greater extent in amenity plantings instead of annuals, to improve biodiversity, store more carbon. save time, and improve natural character of towns in the district.
Tree planting Re greening open spaces
Plant more natives throughout the town. The in domain there are native ferns that have been caged as if they are a threat to our eco system! Lead by example
add more diverse and functional gardens e.g. food and permaculture,
I would like to see more native plantings in our urban parks & reserves. I am continuously inspired by Dunedin's green belt that brings Tuis into backyards. It will take a while, but will never happen if we don't start.
Transportation networks
Contractors: Contractors not doing their job. Footpaths are rubbish caused by bad contractors. People park cars across footpaths. Contractors should not be paid until their work has been checked out by a group of tradesman from cross section of the comm. Forty years I have been biking around Grahams Rd block. Two pot hole quite big, they have been fixed so many times, it must have cost $80,000. Very bad workmanship, don't care, council will pay etc. Contractors not cleaning up after major work on the side of roads. Cyclists have the pleasure to ride through it, give it dam good sweep, job done
Have 2 bridges - repair this one well and new one for trucks. The bridge is so old, this is needed urgently. What if the bridge broke, how would Tinwald get across. Insist - kick up, make whoever wake up to the problem.
I know council don't want debt, but more money needs to be spent on roading etc. The heavy rains over the last 3 winters have ruined our rural roads, which make them even more vulnerable. We have NO resilience any more. Thompson's Track is a good example. We need to keep our rivers clear, we need to educate residents on what they can do to help. It's long term stuff, be we need to be in front of it.
Look after Roading issues and footpaths and sort out the town centre which is a shambles for older people.
Footpaths need to be cleared of overgrowth – makes it difficult for mobility scooters. Roads are uneven (e.g. Harrison St) and some don't even have run off Road drains need to be cleaned more regularly to avoid flooding Potholes never being permanently fixed
Yes, same old roading, potholes and footpath improvements. You have done well with outside spaces including parks, looks good and well used
Council's role
Environmental Education, Protection of Biodiversity, Protection of Wetlands, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation: These four areas are not the Councils core responsibility to ratepayers. There are more than enough support groups for these activities to lobby / influence public opinion at Govt level i.e.. Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, QE2 Trust, that receive govt funding and are legally mandated, without the need for ADC to jump on the bandwagon.
Yes – Ashburton Citizens Association do think Council should play a greater role in any other areas of environmental well-being. We would especially like to see greater collaboration between Ashburton District

Council and landowners. Particularly with greater education for the wider community and more resources in this space by funding another biodiversity officer.
Council needs to consider what level of wellbeing is its role. Rates are escalating and we need to be practical. Many are struggling. Keep things minimal. Water quality is very important though, especially drinking water and the nitrate levels in this region are concerning.
Yes. Get out there and be a leader
If the council will do a good job on the previous stated items they will have their hands full.
In councils role of considering the environment, I believe all voices should have equal say in that consideration. Council needs to be supportive of consent applications as the rejection of consents under the current policy statement for freshwater will be reflected in the income/expenditure in our community. The health of our community is based around agriculture and without good health, we will not be able to afford all that we currently enjoy and look forward to investing in.
We are (and have documented evidence) that people are the biggest threat to the environment. The council should be exploring how we, as a community, can support lowering the impact on the environment
If real fines are implemented for polluters air or water. Use the money to offset rates raise you talk about
Don't think the council need to interfere in the rural community any more than they are now
Yes, council should be working with stakeholders - farming groups, ECAN, residents. We all have a part to play and a responsibility but I believe council should take the lead and also encourage/facilitate efforts from other groups. This is not solely a council responsibility but council can have strong influence and leadership.
I think the council should stick to the basics and leave the environment to Ecan otherwise we double up on rates.
advocacy especially with central government
Yes they have to be seen as leaders and supporters of initiatives and just do more.
They can't do everything
A lot of this may be already covered by ECan?
no , that is for the central government, not too much rules.
Waste management
recycling of household waste
Implement a reusable nappy, reusable period and sanitary products rebate scheme to help people use reusable nappies and reusable period products. The main barrier is the upfront cost so a rebate scheme would reduce/remove the barrier and save council a lot of money from the volume of disposable nappies and sanitary products going to landfill. Many Australian councils offer cloth nappy rebates, related education and services as they have done studies that prove it is worthwhile financially for them to be doing this. A life cycle assessment of reusable nappies over disposables published in 2023 in the UK confirms reusable nappies are better for the environment overall, even better in the NZ context of over 80% renewable electricity. The environmental impact of the disposal of a single-use nappy is 9x higher than that for a reusable nappy. With babies getting toilet trained at a later stage than previous generations, there would be savings worth investigating for ADC.
Council needs to address rubbish/burn holes on farms - as a farmer I find it discouraging how careless some farmers are around burning all sorts in their rubbish holes causing danger to people.
Providing more rubbish bins at the Methven skatepark.
There should be higher fines for dumping rubbish, chemicals etc. but this must also be controlled by council. Seeing how businesses and farmers don't care much about the environment it would be a good source of money for the council to actually fine them
Rubbish collection could be extended further out of town like some other regions
There needs to be more taught about composting

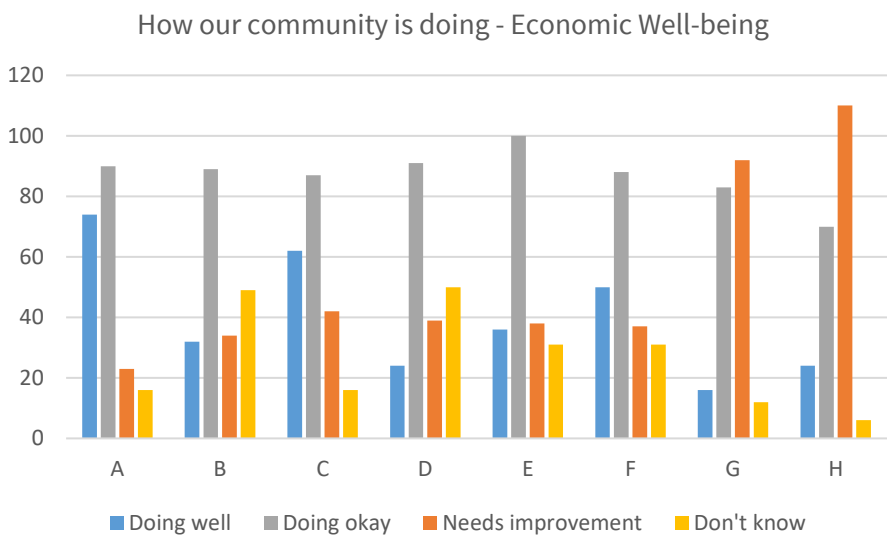
I think council does a good job in other areas of environmental well-being, with the exception of rubbish, recycling and composting services.
stop the council from spraying everything in chemicals, lead by example, compost not burn. local plastic recycling- see precious plastic website.
People still dump stuff at the river. Rubbish bins the coloured option ones need to be increased. More bins for dumping dog poo especially where dogs are walked.
Yes, we are proud of town, help get more folk on board with keeping trash, recycling, composting - continual education is required
Recycling - needs to be about recycling what we can recycle, not simply what the market or the machinery dictates
River / flood management
Ashburton River: Ash River was proud river. It needs more water, summer time it slugs up badly. Mt Peel, Sommers, Mt Winterslow, Pudding Hill, Mt Hutt, take away the tree Mid Cant is in real trouble from flood water a lot of trees have already gone Good stuff is happening
Shingle extraction out of the Ashburton River - no point making the stop bank higher, utilise some shingle to fix potholes.
Updates on river management
Keep talking with Ecan about clearing Ashburton River, all the shingle/logs etc
Council should take a stronger role in river management...a greater removal of river shingles by local companies to keep riverbed lower to mitigate flooding when levels rise. Higher shingle beds in rivers means less freeboard at flood time...
I believe our rivers need to be looked after better to protect the township and anyone who lives near the rivers. We have learnt in the last two years how vulnerable we all can be with climate change and its effects on rainfall events. Mother nature wants the rivers to meander across the plains. If we are to keep them constrained then they need to be maintained. I believe this should be through removing shingle but will support any projects that help keep the water within its banks.
Take steps to safeguard housing from flooding from overflowing streams and water races around Methven
Focus on basics flooding on roads parks etc
Look at everything where the Council has decided to alter or repurpose areas, altering, draining waterways from e.g. Seafield Stock Water Main, to expecting this to be used to dump all the overflows from the north of Ashburton into our back yards, having own a property since the 1980s here, which now collects all or much of this mess, I can provide some good information on how this mess was created. Ken Saunders 270 Seafield Road
Yes. Acknowledgement that the majority of Ashburton District is a flood plain. As such land development and existing practices need to be thoroughly reviewed to ensure a sensible and structured approach is implemented that limits negative outcomes for future events. Such a plan needs to be integrated with District resilience planning that has a 50+ year view. Anything less is like painting rotten weatherboards.
Yes, we need better management of the water race and stream, many appear neglected, partly blocked, overgrown with willows and other invasive vegetation and are contaminated.
Prepare for major flood. Protect the environment
River protection and walkways Cycleways
Not a greater role but continue to lobby and question Ecan and other government departments, to ensure rivers maintenance and up keep instead of reactive maintenance which appears to occurring for last 10 to 15 years, they more to proactive and preventive maintenance, as mid Cantabrians we are mostly careful and aware of importance of looking after our environment.
Water quality
significant budget for necessary interventions leading to improved water quality.

In light of the recent research, please keep chemical fluoride out of our drinking water.
Local knowledge is a Hugh advantage. Our lakes used to breathe. But not now Took have been removed 20yrs ago.so the pollution is coming from human intervention.
General
People employed by ratepayers should be seen doing a lot more
I am frequently dismayed at the Council's attitude to the environment. There is often the assumption that biodiversity, and ecosystem services given by rivers, air, wetland and native vegetation can be taken for granted. For instance, the huge amount of money allocated to the building of the new art gallery and employment of many staff to run it. I greatly enjoy the gallery but question why a similar priority is not given to funding the protection and restoration of natural areas that are crucial to our wellbeing and are increasingly important in these times of changing climate.
I think identified issues are a priority.
I'd like to know what spray is used on weeds around the streets.
Full on care of water quality, road maintenance. Hold seminars on composting techniques, self-sustaining gardening, how people can volunteer or be part of tree planting, other carbon reducing endeavours, safety in the neighbourhood, first aid courses, keep up great work on parks swimming pool/s recreation areas and centres
Yes. See previous notes
I think Ashburton has a great environmental committee
work harder
Unbiased science based environmental education.
provide more solar and wind energy. community transport
Sustainable living solutions
Look after what we have at present and get the bugs sorted. Set rules in place to penalize those who break the rules and name and shame. treat all people the same regardless of their social status or wealth
We need to ensure we are future fit for global warming. We are the kaitiaki of our environment, let us be good ancestors and not hand a crap sandwich to our children's children but instead a world that can nourish and support them.
There is plenty for council to do to restore our rivers, lakes and wetlands!!
More education.
Greater focus on reducing air pollution, perhaps more investment in public transport options now that the community is growing and more settlement are people without vehicles or licences.
Concentrate on the basics
Concerning Environmental Well-being we like to see that council works together with other community groups to get to better outcomes concerning protecting, encouraging and enhancing bio-diversity without stifling our community by being reasonable. It is also important to support community groups in their effort to sort water quality problems but making sure that our community is staying viable.
Maybe a frisbee golf course at Lake Hood near the yachting lake. More river walking tracks.
Give more attention publicly to the environmental leaders in Mid Canterbury & their roles
As per my last answer
Work to ensure a balance between local users and well-meaning groups with strong(sometimes unsubstantiated) environmental views
Ban the vape shops popping up around the place. More advertising on what nicotine does to the people and our environment – exhaled nicotine and smoke goes into the air and others breath it in.
Ban alcohol in grocery shops- we have enough bottle stores & clubs suppliers

Would like to see Council cut our schools out of learning te reo and replace it with learning sign language
Legislation
stand up against the extreme climate change fear and flawed ideology
Stop this bullshit climate change propaganda
Think council is doing a good job.
I think you are doing OK but things do change
No the community is doing well at looking after the environment
Visual demonstrations are best for most people.

3. Economic Well-being

212 responses were received through the economic well-being survey. Respondents were asked what areas, in relation to economic well-being, they thought our district was doing well at and what areas needed improvement.



A. Job opportunities

B. Support for unemployed & low income earners

C. Business-friendly district

D. Paying a living wage

E. Environmentally sustainable economic growth

F. Equal job opportunities (not disadvantaged by race, gender, age etc)

G. Affordable living/cost of living

H. Community infrastructure e.g. transportation network, electricity, internet and water network

For the topics the respondents thought *needed improvement*, they were asked why the area needed improvement, suggestions of what could be done to improvement it, and what role Council should have in this.

3.1. Job opportunities

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Not enough / lack of diversity		
Lack of jobs being advertised - at all levels	Businesses to be more active	Encourage businesses, promote advertising, coordinate job opportunity forums
Would like to see more diverse employment opportunities	Enticing Secondary production, Tertiary Education providers.	Advocate, Influence, Support + plan and resource
Few other than labouring at farms		
Not enough	Make more	
Variety of jobs available	Encourage different types of business	Advocate
No too many jobs in my area of Carpentry	More infrastructure	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Not as many available or in a range of areas - very restricted		
Not enough new business is being attracted to the district	Work with more businesses	Advocate
Not many teenagers stay around if there was more opportunity, they might	More businesses coming to town	Influence
Unequal opportunities		
See Equal job opportunities below	Educate employers of Human Rights and Bill of Rights legislation. Encourage and assist disadvantaged applicants to complain to Human Rights Commission	
I believe many apply for jobs but do not get responses	Fairer opportunities not based on name	Support and influence
There's no jobs opportunities for me - I'm near retirement age.	More jobs for people of all ages.	Support
Other		
More advertisement for times and age needed	Offer more jobs for young people	Support
Resource recover park has a very bad employment reputation's as a outsource contract that delivers a key service council need to be responsible to these worker and include this turn over in staffing turnover numbers	Treat resource recovery park staff as council staff with the same benefits and report on their welfare	Plan
Not a council responsibility	No action from council	Plan and resource reduced inputs
Self-explanatory.	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?!	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 🤯 (🤯)

3.2. Support for unemployed and low-income earners

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more		
Require more training options for unemployed and retired to retrain into new roles.	Council could lead by example and encourage others to offer	Advocate and Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	work experience for long term unemployed. Driving programmes, more internships and work experience at Council run facilities and departments	
Mayor's Taskforce great but needs to go further	Young unemployed can't get driver licence due to no support so transport (and finance) to get them to lessons and testing, no good offering opportunities if they aren't able to take advantage of them due to transport or finance	Support and Plan and Resource need to be targeted to be effective and good use of ratepayer's money
lack of support	ask affected people what support is needed, what is out there, what the gaps are and look to resource more those able to meet the needs	advocate, support
Offer free training at all Ashburton trains facilities	Create a committee to focus on protection for migrant and low-income workers	Plan
Businesses here need to pay higher to employees so they can live comfortably	Courses available to upskill	Advocate
I've seen nothing advertised or such support being given apart from government assistance	Job offers in a lower starting stage of job and offering training to climb higher	Advocate
Need to pay the retired more	Support them more	Support
Unengaged / unprepared		
	Thousands of meals and food parcels are given out each week to those that need them and this is good, however would like to see involvement from the families receiving these gifts e.g. have some of the families come to help prepare or pack the food (two fold benefit - they learn to cook and socialise, and it helps the stretched out volunteers). Those who don't like the kitchen should be involved in growing food etc. See full submission for further details	Lesley Ottie is a good contact
Non engagement		

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Opportunities are there, living wages if not there people cannot be bothered working. You give, you take. I have supported people on their workplace busy on their cell phones		
Some school leaver unprepared, massive mental health issues	Incentive for training or community volunteering, education to reduce stress, mental health	advocate, influence, support
Too many on benefits not leaving home.		
Other		
Not a council responsibility	Not a council responsibility	Don't do it
Working on ways of lowing power needs e.g. community solar power	Can we find educational pathways e.g. through internet?	Support
People don't get paid enough		support
No information available	Promote what's available	Influence
Cost of living	This is central government territory	
Obviously Not Enough "Supports"	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 🤓 (🙈)
		Influence

3.3. Being a business-friendly district

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Council / legislative processes		
Need better systems to negotiate around Council processes	Improve Council's facilitating new business by helping people through the regulatory and admin processes	All of the above
Lower regulatory requirements to give increased certainty to invest	Reduce and eliminate non business friendly regulation	Advocate
Massive effort pensive bureaucrats racy	Reduce regulatory costs and delays	Reduce regulatory costs

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Council are inward thinking lacking broad picture thinking, their main focus is on empire building	focus on whole town not empire builds	open your eyes and see there is actually a whole town out there wanting to be loved
compliance requirements and costs are an issue but some of this is required by central govt policy.	Simplify compliance, use initiative and logic so duplication is removed, streamline processes to enable productivity..	advocate and support
Operating a business in this district is hindered by a huge number of compliance issues. Council departments don't seem to communicate well between themselves. Applications get "stuck" in the system for months.	Remove some of the "red tape" to allow applications and processes to run more smoothly.	Plan and Resource - change some of the council processes
Our Business pays $40000 of rates/ year, we only get a poor roading network and some river maintenance for that spend. roading network and some river maintenance	Become an enabling council that allows growth and development of our districts businesses and provide a better roading network	support
Rates for business needs to be more affordable so businesses can thrive	More affordable rates	
Keep locally owned businesses in the fore front of growth in the district and stop the big chain businesses from moving into town!	Have a limit on the number of businesses that can trade in our town that aren't locally owned.	
Ashburton CBD		
Ashburton lacks a heart. Most people have no reason to stop other than food, use of toilets and fuel stops. Supporting chains like KMART, food chains etc is killing the high street and taking 80% (90c in the $) out of the community.	Encourage more local shops - supporting local = 80% to community, 20% out of town shops in the town.	Develop the town centre as was promised years ago! Give us a central plaza / heart of the town where people can meet, eat, buy and be entertained. Not rocket science that places with a community spirit thrive and look after their home.
Stop spreading areas out of cbd you beautified the town centre and now everyone is frustrated with it you can even do a u turn or back into a park without holding up the traffic	Your job do it better	Definitely council role
CBD seems to struggle, a lot of empty stores, businesses closing down	Regulate rental prices? Make running business in the cbd more attractive/affordable	Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Leases are big leaving our main streets with empty shops	Encourage businesses to use existing buildings to help the cbd	Plan and resource
Businesses up Main Street closing		Plan and resource
Business attraction		
Don't see many new companies setting up here, would be good to try and get some large Agricultral head office business' locate to Ashburton	Promote Ashburton to business'	Advocate
Encourage new us	Encourage new business opportunities	Support with logistics
Methven		
In Methven there seems to be a number of empty/underutilised business areas/buildings but my understanding is some of them are run down with owners not prepared to upgrade them and/or the rental rates are extremely high so no one wants to rent the site for good business ideas that may help the area develop. So then the buildings continue to sit empty.	Work with local business owners to use it or lose it with some of their buildings/spaces? Or look at re-zoning some areas?	All of the above.
The council needs to consider the effects of policies on local businesses. In Methven the council has changed the rules and by allowing mobile shops to operate for a year at a time with rents that are so low and power at $5/day it's creating an unfair anticompetitive situation for those businesses that rent shops in the cbd. At present for a mobile shop to operate in Methven it costs $134 for rent/wk and if they use the power from the hall it costs an extra $5/day. Also all the mobile shops in Methven are in direct competition with existing businesses and the charges to operate are making it hard for the fixed businesses to complete. I believe that the council needs to reconsider its policies for mobile shops and to take into	Talk to the people who run businesses and check whether policies are disadvantaging existing businesses	Policies that reflect the needs of the businesses in each district making sure that they survive, small food businesses in Methven represents a major employer of locals

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
account local businesses and the downstream effects of their policies		
Working with businesses		
While Council has improved processing and support for Businesses, there are still some opportunities for further improvement e.g. parking. would like Council to encourage more collaboration / joint promotions with businesses.	Greater collaboration between business	plan and resource + influence
More networking with topical speakers, relevant to specific industry		Advocate
Our district has been built on the back of the agricultural industry and at present we are being swamped by red tape and rules that are making the industry unsustainable going forward	Support the industry otherwise we will not have a community to enjoy	Take a lead in supporting your main rate payers and the results will answer themselves
Other comments		
Too many businesses are closing	Support local businesses so they don't have to keep closing	Plan and resource
Hard to attract people across the board.	More networking, and social interaction for young professionals	All the above
	We need to support businesses on East St and West St by making it safe for our own community to move from East St to West and from West SAFELY to East	
More facilities to support work from home persons	More facilities to support work from home persons	Plan and Resource
encourage local participation e.g. farmers markets	help fil empty shops not build more	Plan and guide
More parking	More parking.	Support
It's too business friendly. Council has bent over backwards to accommodate the business owners. Most blatant example is decision to keep State Highway 1 going right through the centre of town to accommodate business owners. The highway should bypass the town and the new	Focus more on residents as residents and less on the Business Round Table .	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
bridge should be planned for accordingly.		
Not at all friendly for small businesses		
as i used to work at EA networks there is a lot of bullying there and still is and another contractor of the council has been involved in violence in public and still in business	prices from more outside contractors	
		Influence
		Advocate

3.4. Paying a living wage

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Do more / living wage not being paid		
There are still employment places that do not pay the living wage.	Ensure council leads by example and encourages employers in our district to do the same.	Influence
Many not receiving living wage		Advocate
Need higher pay.	Starts paying more	Plan and resource
Not enough money to get good food	Give more money	
People who need help like single parents. More needs to be paid to them	Jobs should pay a living wage for people who are struggling	Support
The wages and the living is not always equal	Try to get a fair deal out of wages	
some believe our young do not know how to work, some taking advantage of immigrants	bring awareness to the inequity	advocate, influence, support
Most Ashburton employers of low paid workers don't offer the living wage.	Lobby government to mandate the living wage for all employers.	
More balance of wages	Not sure here	To encourage employers to do the right thing
A LOT OF COMPANIES CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY COST OF LIVING IS NOT KEEPING UP WITH 2023 LIVING	COUNCIL SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES , EG 20% OF MINIMUM WAGES	SAY YES MORE OFTERN

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Because even single, nonsmoker drinker etc struggled to pay bills	Wish I did	Advocate and support
Tallies pay is too low including meat works and other businesses here	Pay better	Advocate
Alot of employers pay minimum wage or slightly above. This is not a living wage		
For a wealthy district, there are far too many low paid workers.	Employers making wage improvements more of a priority. Instead of complaining at not being able to find staff, pay them more!	First, make sure Council itself is always paying fairly.
Many are paid under this		
Profit margins can support much higher wages for the workers from what I have seen.	Council set the example and advertise this, even if it means higher rates.	Set the example, e.g. EA Network Centre wages are very low for the benefit that this facility & people provide to the community
Its bloody tight for a lot of people		
Non-existent in most roles		
Pay is well below where it should be		Advocate
Council as an employer		
Would like to see ADC become a living wage employer and encourage others to do the same. Wouldn't it be wonderful in Ashburton District could advertise itself as a "Living Wage" District.	Would be excellent to have the title of New Zealand's first "Living Wage Town / District" is that possible?	Plan and resource + influence
Minium wage for Council employees should be the living wage	Having a policy on this matter	Advocate
Does council pay a living wage?	Set an example	All of the above
	Keep setting an example, publicise the expectation that businesses do the right thing otherwise question their viability	
Other		
Refer to Previous Question	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 🤓 (🤐)
		Support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
With council encouraging increase in refugees how are you supporting that these new people are going into employment that provides a living wage		Influence
	I don't think much can be done about this unless employers are willing to, maybe offering incentives to employers.	Advocate
	lower minimum wage	Advocate

3.5. Environmentally sustainable economic growth

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Water quality / nitrates		
Waterway pollution - nitrate levels in our water are above healthy guidelines	Enforce environment laws on those farms as not complying with best practice	Increase spot checks on farms with dairying
Our rivers are a shadow of what they were a generation ago. Overallocation has made the new normal a disappointing experiences for the community wanting to enjoy time at our lakes and rivers. ADC needs to press for restoring our water bodies.	Ensure that further degradation is not permitted and where possible restoration is actively encouraged.	All of the above
Agriculture		
Current farming methods are not environmentally sustainable - pose huge problems in the future to water and soil quality. Impacts of climate change will make this a greater problem.	Addressing this in the economic development strategy would be a good start. No mention of climate change! Plan for a just transition to more environmentally sustainable ways of growing food.	Advocate, influence, plan and resource
This town depends on the dairy industry. So why would we ever do anything that would jeopardize that?!	Depends who finally stands up to the dairy industry	Influence
not enough being done for the environment in terms of intensive dairy farming.	there's economic gain's to be made by protecting our waterway's and air quality in terms of green tourism	Influence

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Still lots of dairy farms around.	Slowly reduce dairy farming in the area is the biggest and best option for everyone. Incentives for making better choices (put up the price of dairy products, and bring down the price of veggies).	Advocate and influence
More environmentally responsible farming and industry		Advocate
Economy based on farming needs to improve sustainability		Influence and support
Council processes		
Carbon emissions not even considered as part of consenting	Offer incentives to businesses with green methodologies	All of the above
Council impedes economic growth	Reduce regulatory impediments	Reduce regulatory costs
Better ways to offset growth in industrial areas	Better planning on offsetting growth	Plan and resource
Other / General		
	Council could lead by example by including Environmentally sustainable features where possible and encourage others to do the same.	plan and resource + influence
It is very difficult to correct the environmental and biodiversity losses that have occurred in the recent past ADC must be more proactive to change this rather than the current soft approach	Be a leader in prioritise improving sustainable environmental management according to national policy statement requirements	
No focus at all on sustainability		
Self-explanatory	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 🤓 (🤐)
Because economic growth is not environmentally sustainable	Promote and encourage green industry	all above
I think there has been very little progress in making Ashburton safer for cycling.		
needs to be well thought out e.g. Methven Hot pools are awesome economically	look for opportunities e.g. Methven-Rakaia Rail track ride	Plan & Resource
mmm we need road to drive on	Flooding is not sustainable for roads	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
There have been moves to expand lake clearwater settlement by the council which I don't think are environmentally sustainable options given lake water quality		
New Freight Railway depot is long overdue but if this takes more trucks (and the need for drivers) off the main road this will help. Also, low lying flood prone areas should never be built on, or if so, then they need to be overengineered.	Lobby for National Entities (e.g. KiwiRail, Transit NZ) to push forward infrastructure to reduce time delays (e.g. lights at Walnut Ave delay)	Not much you can do honestly, that's up to us business owners to push this.
Doesn't seem to be a priority	Promote what council is doing for the environment	Plan and resource
The CBD still has many empty shops how are you promoting business can survive now the Countdown hub is driving many shoppers out if the CBD	Create a CBD shopping app that promotes specials and shows what is available in the CBD area	
There's always more to do to increase this		Support
It's important for longevity and desirability		
Not sure.	Not sure what that means.	Not sure
		Plan and resource

3.6. Equal job opportunities – not disadvantaged by race, gender, age etc

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Unequal opportunities		
I recall seeing a group of youth undertaking barista training - could have been the mayor's taskforce. I didn't see any Pasifika or many brown faces at all. It appeared that the group were mainly pakeha.	Ensure you have a diverse group	How are candidates selected? Council needs to think more on this.
A lot more opportunities for teens to earn money. Many business owners are racist.	Less racist business owners	All of the above

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Right leaning conservatism pervades the district. Racism in employment opportunities is rampant. Employers and Council pay lip service to EEO but just beneath the surface racial prejudices thrive particularly in employment opportunities	Refer Job Opportunities above	
Racism against Māori is an issue	Stop racism against Māori	Plan and resource
Monoculture - fee if any engagement with Māori		
immigrants must be paid 33 hour while kiwis can be minimum wage, and immigrants are used because have little to no power	system for giving voice to those that don't have one	advocate, influence, support
Gender and race are the two areas I feel people may be disadvantaged.	Education.	Influence
Still notice racist and sexist attitudes towards jobs		Influence and support
No as i am 13 i find it hard to find places that would hire me		
Have applied for a few jobs but my age is against me as I'm near retirement age & places I apply to want someone younger.	I don't look my age but shouldn't be stopped from doing a job cause of my age.	I wish that was how it is for me.
People are facing discrimination with gender and age in our district		
Age and race, also female	Youth employment subsidies, training in arable skills for Filipino workers, upskilling female workers with practical skills such as forklift licences.	Probably advocate, influence and support. I think a lot could be done with a small amount of money, if you found a dynamic person for the role. if
In personal experience, employers are happy to hire you until you tell them you need some support.	Advocacy and Influence. (aka massive societal change, not asking for much)	Advocate and influence. The laws are there, people just have to follow them 😉
In Ashburton its cliquey and the disadvantages are that of a small community. Who you know what you know.	Give people a need or reason to work	To be assertive when the race gender age etc is seen
	Council could lead by example by showcasing the diversity of employees and encourage others to do the same.	Advocate, Influence, Support + plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Other comments		
Encouragement for younger folk to realise start at the bottom and work up, yes this should be parenting as well but by some of the business advertising seen the employers are looking for rocket scientist's or brain surgeon's, come down to community level for first time working young folk.	entry level employment for young folk need's a more realistic advertising approach, confidence is key, in otherworld's break the school leaver's employment chances into more approachable position's by the applicant.	support
Always room for improvements	Advocate, paying living wage	Support
Could be better		Support
Non-existent in most roles		
Doesn't happen		Influence
The town of Ashburton is very black and white.	It's a worldwide problem and no easy answer. Keep Ashburton an affordable place for all	Influence
As long as the job gets done		
I believe that all New Zealanders should be treated the same, not additional benefits for some.		Influence
SOME JOBS ARE JUST NO SUITED FOR EITHER GENDER	COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES	SAY YES MORE OFTEN
Please refer to Previous Question	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 😳 (🙈)
		Influence

3.7. Affordable living / cost of living

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Housing		
More social houses built	Public/private partnerships	Influence planning and resource
Need for more affordable living homes being available. Cost of living is a challenge for many of our residents in 2023.	Education on budgeting, not using Afterpay, credit cards etc	Support and Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
We are a community of two halves. We need an ample supply of quality rental accommodation for those in need.		
Cheaper housing for people coming out of school	Cheaper houses for single parents.	Support
More smaller homes for young couples and families, granny flats but better quality	Make the supermarkets start to pay higher wages! They are getting away with murder right under our noses	Plan and resource
Poor housing	tidy up pride in home areas	ditto
Rental accommodation is not affordable	tiny houses, eco communities, open up and update planning	all above
Rental are very hard to find and are high how can young families afford to stay within Ashburton if this lack of supply gets worse	Have a plan to sustain affordable rentals in Ashburton	
The rent of where I live is quite costly but I manage to make things last, yes on a benefit & after rent is paid, bills paid & brought groceries still have money left over.	Rent that is affordable, yes I'm on a benefit but even if I had a job I'd still budget to get by.	Rent more affordable & allows a pet as well.
Cost of living		
People at the bottom of the heap struggle to meet basic living costs	Not the problem of the ratepayer or Council, other than limiting rate rises.	Representations to MPs, Govt agencies etc
Everything is too expensive	remove gst on certain items such as fruit and veg	
Cost of living is to high everyone is going to become homeless if people don't get higher pays	Getting to high for people to live.	Advocate
Gas and food is way too expensive and need to be the first thing to looked at	More benefits to help with living costs like food parcels for the month	-
COST OUT WAYS THE LIVING	ITS SHOULD NOT BE MANDATED.. TOO MANY COMPANIES STRUGGLE NOW	SAY YES
See Living wage above. Also housing costs. Supply of land and unnecessary red tape, overly restrictive building rules excessive Council fees is	See previous comments on housing costs, unnecessary red tape and Council fees.	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
strangling affordability for low paid people and families		
Inflation has pushed up cost of living during a farming downturn	Reduce wasteful spending	Advocate
Food and petrol over the top		
Most people are on fixed incomes so any increases in general living costs such as rates, permits put extra stress again causing serious downstream affects such as increased crime homelessness	I don't think that the council has the skills or expertise to control this	
Rental and general living costs are high and rising at a far quicker rate and margin than wages		
Food prices are ridiculous, even families on ok wages are struggling	More support in people being able to sell their products when they cannot export them to help families in this district. Free vege planting giveaways or more community gardens	
Interest rates, fuel and food way too high		Advocate and support
Daily necessities are very expensive i.e. food / power etc	Free easy available budgeting help for those who are struggling.	Support
Inflation has overtaken the ability of low wage earners to cope..	See above. Wage earners are sometimes better off on benefits, when childcare and other costs are taken into account.	Advocate. Support with community services.
Whole country everything is too expensive causing stealing etc	Whole country needs to change. Cheaper petrol Ashburton is a lot more expensive than Timaru and Christchurch	
A constant battle	Paying the living wages	Support
Not at all		
Too expensive to live here		Influence
No that rate is going up		
Rates		
	Keeping rates affordable maintaining core services, using more local knowledge & less consultants.	Influence through efficiencies

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Rate increases and petrol prices	No more rate increases	Plan and resource
Massive rates rises funding wasteful spending disadvantage the entire community	Reduce expenditures and cut rates	Reduce rates
Other comments		
Supply / Demand out of balance	Keeping rate increases moderate and service levels high adds to Ashburton District being an Affordable district to live.	Plan and resource – expand ADC portfolio of Elderly Persons Housing stock
I feel like this is self-explanatory to anyone earning less than 80k per year.	Unsure, but I would like to read about your plan in the near future	Definitely do NOT raise rates. That is counter intuitive
This is a country wide problem.	Lowering prices is one, which would not be such an easier thing to do, community coupons or local businesses ?	Advocate
Lots of room for improvement		All
We produce so much great product in our County, why don't we look after ourselves.	Subsidized locally grown produce?	Influence and Support
Travel is so difficult & expensive in country areas - what can we do?	Can we supplement buying of community e-cars?	Support
Too hard to access.	Build for more aging population. Not basing housing on race etc	All four of the above. Plan advocate etc
	More housing WITH ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE WASTE WATER	
VERY SELF EXPLANATORY! (#Nz-👎)	Why can't the government do that.?, that's their JOB!!?	The NZ'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT HOW MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS SUFFERING! 😳 (🙈)
Stop wasting our money on stuff we don’t want	Government decision	Government
		Advocate
		Plan and resource

3.9. Community infrastructure

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Water / wastewater / stormwater		
Water - E Coli, Boil water notices	Engineering, "user pays" - make polluters pay, not ratepayers (source E Coli)	1. Lead or get the hell out of the way 2. Why do we have E Coli in water 3. Birds is NOT a reason 4. Hire professional engineers
	Provide potable water and waste water to NE Ashburton. It's a disgrace that you know of the pollution problems but choose to ignore. We cannot go any longer paying residential rates yet be unable to subdivide because of your failure to provide services. It's an environmental problem that you can also solve if you try.	
Water (3 waters policy) are negatively impacted by central govt policy and limits to funding.	Continue to vocally reject 3 waters, withdraw from LGNZ.	Advocate, influence and support
Really hope that we can get away from having boil water notices in Methven too, it's not great at home with a young family but must be terrible for business owners.	Speed up the process that seems to be taking forever.	
Please finish Methven's water system	Water networks are key	Plan & Resource
Methven town water. Flood water is a big problems	Flooding and drinking water in Methven township	
Flooding every decent rain. Infrastructure needed so toilets don't overflow every heavy rain. Urgent wastewater infrastructure required	Storm water needs upgrading. Wastewater needs urgent upgrade, overflowing toilets every heavy rain is unacceptable	Build/ upgrade infrastructure to cope with the town's wastewater and sewerage. Stop denying people's toilets overflow every storm
Having to truck water into Methven is ridiculous	I believe Methven water supply is being fixed but been an issue for way too long	Plan and resource
Water need more work		Plan and Resource
Water is slowly improving.		Plan and resource
Reduce water waste and increase storage	Make storing and using own water easy	all above

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	There are culverts out there that cannot handle the amount of water we have been receiving but they are never checked on rural roads.	
Footpath network		
With an increasing and an ageing population Ashburton needs to think outside the square and look at the bigger picture of how pedestrians, mobility scooters, walking frames, push chairs, prams, children and cyclists move across the railway crossing and SH1 safely. With the expanding number of business moving across to West St this is a huge safety issue	Ashburton needs a pedestrian and cycle overhead rail and pedestrian bridge for everyone's safety. See full submission for further details (x2)	
	Deal with the lichen on the roads and footpaths. It is very unsightly	
The lawn strip that's being put everywhere makes the footpath too narrow for two prams to walk side by side. The footpaths are also covered in slippery lichen at this time of the year.		
Transportation networks / roading		
Truck & trailers cars are right against the gutter you cannot pass on your bike	Ride on ramp make it as part of curbing leading into Countdown	Build one, have a look it should have be done you change shape of the corner for trucks
We do not need a 4-lane highway through middle of town. Ashburton is being downgraded. Hampstead is full of unkept houses it is second. It will split Ashburton	SH1 well East i.e. Boundary Road as it was once proposed.	All effort, including political
Transport (roading) negatively impacted by central govt policy and limits to funding.	Campaign and advocate for greater funding to maintain roading infrastructure highlighting our high portion of roading to ratepayers, require more quality work from contractors with e.g. KPIs to ensure better performance.	Advocate, influence and support

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
The roads are terrible	Stop wasting time complaining about the kura/school signs that were already up and fix some potholes.	Plan and resource
The impact of heavy traffic on our road network is obvious.	The businesses associated with this should pay a levy. Otherwise they are unsustainable c.f. other councils. e.	
Our Roading network is in poor condition	Insure that all road tax paid by vehicles in our district is spent maintaining our roads.	Plan and Resource
Roads are a disgrace and a driving hazard	Fix the roads ASAP and do it properly not just patch up jobs	Plan and resource
Roads, roads, roads! Potholes, inferior repairs leading to more repairs in short order. Do it once do it right. Many country roads were not designed for the 60 tonne trucks which and are being constantly battered by huge trucks. 30kmh speed limit past schools is good but not 24hours 7 days a week when children are not at school?	Roads Speed limits on roads like Beach Road, Fitzgerald Road should be 80km not 100kmh. 100kmh on these types of old narrow road is downright dangerous and destructive. There should be changeable signs depending on school hours, similar to electric signage at Burnham. Farmers should be compelled to clean up the tonnes of animal excretions they leave on roads when moving stock. These are PUBLIC roads. Just as any responsible person would pick any rubbish which might fall from a trailer on the way to the recovery park.	
Roads in the district need improvement		
Sick of hitting potholes - country roads are really dangerous at night especially if you're driving towards oncoming traffic road markings are minimal and you don't always see a pothole coming. I'd hate to be driving a car rather than a work ute in recent years. Go for a ride on a	Push local ministers for financial support from central government. Local rates aren't going to be enough for such an extensive network?	Advocate, support and resource. More planning is expensive we need more doing

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
road bicycle and you get a real appreciation for how poor some surfaces are.		
Roads and town centre are a shambles	parking in town	ditto
Road condition		
Roading is shocking around the district.	Fix the roads. This includes rural shingle ones.	
FAIL, on roads water drainage	Get your act together, employ some skilled engineers and stop relying on consultants	Get your act together
Roading a huge issue	Fix the roads from potholes.	
Roading, transport network inhibiting growth	A bypass toll road and new bridge at Fairton down company road over the river and back onto SH1 at Long beach road. All heavy traffic would be happy to pay a toll as would locals when they need to get to place's out of town. The town would not suffer quite the opposite because of less congestion.	all the above
Just look at the roading network, certainly not one to be proud of and certainly not getting better, electricity and internet are looked after by someone else and water networks are improving	Fix the roads, no excuses acceptable	Stop making excuses and get on with the job
Roads are becoming more dangerous with potholes and tar bleeding.	Corner Oak Grove / Alford Forest Rd needs a long term permanent concrete fix not pothole fix. Focus more on fewer permanent fixes and doing these well rather than fixing every pothole.	Allow more entertainment venues for consents. We have great food options but embarrassingly little entertainment meaning we go to Chch for say indoor golf, ten pin bowling, indoor carting, Chipmunks etc etc.
Roads + public transport + options	Fix the roads & infrastructure	All
Roads are shit and dangerous islands in the middle of the roads so emergency services can't go there	Stop patching the roads and fix them properly and hold the contractor responsible for them	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
	same as consultants and architects on big builds	
transport need more work		Plan and Resource
Roads are shocking. Currently driving around pot holes on most of the districts roads.		Plan and resource
Second bridge		
Need another bridge	Build a bridge!	I know the bridge is in consultation
Road repairs - second bridge to be built	Get finance organised from central govt	A lot of planning
Need a new bridge. You have been talking about it for too long.	Build the bridge but not on Charmers Ave	
	I think the Council needs to push to have the state highway bridge upgraded to achieve sustainable growth	
Definitely in need of second bridge		Advocate and support
A 2nd bridge is required.	Need a 2nd bridge.	Plan and resource
Public transport		
No public transportation options.		
School transportation is restrictive and only children who live in that area can get it. Does not take into account what parents do or where they work.		
	Buses. Mini bus could improve, like My Bus	Plan & resource
Providing some public transport.	presently ok	Plan & Resource where appropriate
No public transport	Maybe a smaller bus?	Plan and resource
Pressure for train link to Chch/Timaru	Work with Timaru, Chch, Rolleston, govt. and Rail NZ to get a shuttle train established	Plan and resource
Needs more transport for the community.	Make hot water cylinders bigger	Plan and Recourse
Please eliminate the monopoly on public transport!	Literally anything.	Support and Plan
Better public transport services to Christchurch	Better public transport services to Christchurch	Plan and Resource
No public transport in Tinwald	Public transport in Tinwald	Plan and resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
No public transport, bring back trains.		Plan and resource
Some form of public transport would be useful		Public Transport
Mobile / internet coverage/ power		
Telephone networks inhibiting growth		
Poor coverage for mobile	Advocate for better coverage	Advocate
Rural broadband is still too expensive.	Lobby government for improvement to rural broadband.	Advocate.
	Cheaper power, internet	Advocate and support
Some power line posts in Rakaia need to be replaced or moved as they are leaning over	Replace or remove power poles that are leaning over	
Other / general		
Subdivision's seem to come first, then worry about the infrastructure costs, should it not be around the other way.	Can only speak of underground water in our rural area that's really poor quality because of nitrates and other chemical's involved in intensive farming, these happening's need to stop with smaller farm/herd size's, sheep farming is one of the better ones.	plan and resource
Flood protection of Ashburton is dangerously low. Current international standards suggest stop banks protecting housing should provide a minimum of one in 250 years flood protection. Ashburton River stop banks were built to provide one in 100 year flood protection, and given shingle buildup and global warming now provide much less.	Better flood protection is needed. I think no further development in flood prone areas like the old North Ashburton riverbed should be permitted until the flood risk is reduced	I think the council should prioritize advocating for improved flood protection over a new bridge
Infrastructure changes in the CBD took too long, council office is a money pit	Apply more pressure on roadwork to shorten the impact on traffic, e.g. how long does it take to put traffic lights in Ashburton	Plan
Recreational spaces and car parking are an important part of Community Infrastructure. Expansion of the CBD / business retail area – puts additional pressure on parking. The	Planning should be happening now for more public toilets and recreational spaces on the East Side of Ashburton Township. Planning should be happening now – for what parking will look	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Triangle and to be completed Council Building – puts additional parking pressure on streets – Havelock / William / Peter / East Streets.	like after Eastfield Development want their land back for construction of their new buildings. Suggest that a multi-storey car park on / near the Balmoral Hall site, will provide daytime parking for employees / visitors of Council and CBD businesses – as well as afterhours parking for those trading after 5.00pm. We've submitted previously (an now again) on (a) 30 kph in the Wills / East / Cass Street location and (b) time restrictions added to Cass Street (between Wills and Peter Streets) (c) time restrictions on Wills Street (between East and Cass Streets) be extended from 60 minutes to 120 minutes – as this does not suit the majority of businesses trading in the area.	
TOO MANY NO ANSWERS !! WHY NOT TWO NEW BRIDGES . DOESNT MATTER WHO IS IN CHARGE, TOO MANY NEGATIVE ACTIONS .. TOP HEAVY COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT .	ASHBURTON SHOULD SAY YES MORE .. 10 YEARS IS NOT LONG TERM THINKING .. 500 YEARS FROM NOW IS LONG TERM .. 50 YEARS IS SHORT TERM . WE ARE BEING SELFISH FOR THIS GENERATION AND NOT ABOUT THE NEXT	SAY YES ,, TOO SHORT MINDED AND SELFISH FOR JUST 10 YRS
Needs work	Your job not mine do it better	Council role
Always needs improving and building for the future	Resource, paying the living wages	Resource
Let's make this a beautiful efficient working whole system		Get it done in a timely manner
Needs to be lowered	Needs to be lowered	Support
Ok		
		Plan and resource

The survey asked respondents if Council should play a greater role in any other areas of economic well-being. The following are the responses received to this questions.

3.10. Other topics

Other topics
Water
Start leading, provide, vision, $20,000,000 fix for Methven and Mt Somers water and you can't I.D. the E.coli source is a sign Council lacks leaders.
Water seems to be wasted - what is wrong with meters? It helps make more efficiency.
Stopping Three waters .
Get the water right first
flood water Methven town drinking water as it bad for people stay in Methven with bad tap water and cannot drink after flooding etc road with more hole an hole in add to flooding was well not a look
River maintenance
Maintenance of the rivers so that they stay within their banks. Climate change will mean more heavy rainfall events and without maintenance, shingle removal, etc then we will have more damage to properties throughout the district.
Roading
I get a bit tired of watching earth/road works that get repeated - once finished, about a month later it seems a new company needs to start all over again. This seems an unplanned waste.
Lots of potholes around town that are always there for a few months before fixed
Replace the roads. Don't just fix the potholes as they don't last.
Providing a safe roading network needs to be a priority. Many rural roads are at a point of disastrous consequences for motorists using them. Deep potholes that can be unavoidable especially at night and narrow sealed roads that are getting narrower due to edges breaking away and large potholes forming between the seal and grass (Eastern end of Seafield road a good example)
I think that ADC should take a tougher stance together with other councils towards Waka Kotahi when it comes to roading, do not have to mention potholes, but also our town is one big bottle neck concerning transport. We do not need a second bridge, we need a bypass, could be a toll road. The Rakaia and Rangitata bridges are ancient and nearly not fit for purpose anymore. One of these failing will turn us in to a third world country and cut part of the South Island of the rest of the country
Roading
Traffic flow into town from the south particularly in the later days of the week is diabolical. I believe that this causes local people to avoid the shopping areas, and travellers just want to get past Ashburton, which has become an obstacle to be avoided. This stems from both State highway one traffic, and the bridge situation. I feel that a 2nd bridge, and diversion of SH1 traffic around the town would be good for the economic and social well-being for the town and residents. I would like to see this as a major ongoing focus for council, until it is achieved, or simply tell LTSA it can stick its bridge where the sun doesn't shine, and build our own for light traffic.
Only the roads??
Better road maintenance
roading
Fix and improve our roading network
Money for roads Advocate persistently Our district does not get our share of road taxes form Central Govt

Other topics
work on transport
make sure roading network is fit for purpose
Less emphasis on revenue gathering with parking infringements. Good to see new 180 minute parking in the middle of town.
Public transport
Transport links to more areas e.g. Methven lake hood Lauriston Rakaia. Transport from Ashburton hospital to various towns close to Ashburton.? Maybe have special taxi chits? Ways of keeping an eye on the elderly, ill, disabled. Thank you
Lime scooters. A looping bus around Ashburton.
Current public transport options locally are very limited. Perhaps more jobs could be offered through an UBER system
Transport and electricity services being more local could help
Yes - a lot of folk require a bus service - bring it back - only needs to be a 10 seater 3 or 4 times a day
Community transport has been a hot topic for some time with no real solution , but something needs to be done to give all folks a choice of getting around in Ashburton and districts
Public transport options?
Waste
Overall waste system seems pretty good.
encourage, incentive enviro sustainable projects- plastic recycle into products at local level
Cycleways
it is not safe to ride or commute on your bike up South Street or other place around town, South Street should have a ride on rap on to the footpath after Countdown entrance
Cycle ways - some great progress has been made (e.g. CBA revamp & cycleway to Lake Hood) but too many existing cycleways peter out and cyclists are left exposed to traffic. Just needs designated lanes with paint strip; not expensive. Will encourage more cycle use.
Is there a role in the transportation space? Cycle lanes? Cycle paths through green spaces?
No Council role / rates
No. Council roles are providing services e.g. Water infrastructure, roading, waste collection etc. The ratepayer is bearing the burden of all these wellbeing projects whereas other areas of community could be contributing . Our current rates have been escalating unaffordably for many and serious consideration of what is really essential
Don't waste money on the fluff/woke/ideological concepts that come from central govt and/or ESG ideals. They are costs the district's ratepayers and nation don't need their tax dollars spent on while finances are so tight for everybody. Trim the fat from unproductive spending to ease rates burden. If it isn't productive or enabling, don't do it.
No Nothing to do with council roll
No, just lower the rates
Stop increasing rates
NO,, THE COUNCILS ROLE IS TO MAKE THE TOWN LIVEABLE ,, GOOD LOCAL ROADS, SUBURBIA PLANNING , HIGH DENSITY, HIGH RISE BUILDING , BRIDGES , OVER THE TOWN, TUNNELS FIRST THING YOU WILL SAY.. SORRY NO MONEY ... SORRY SHORT TERM THINKING /!
no central Govt job

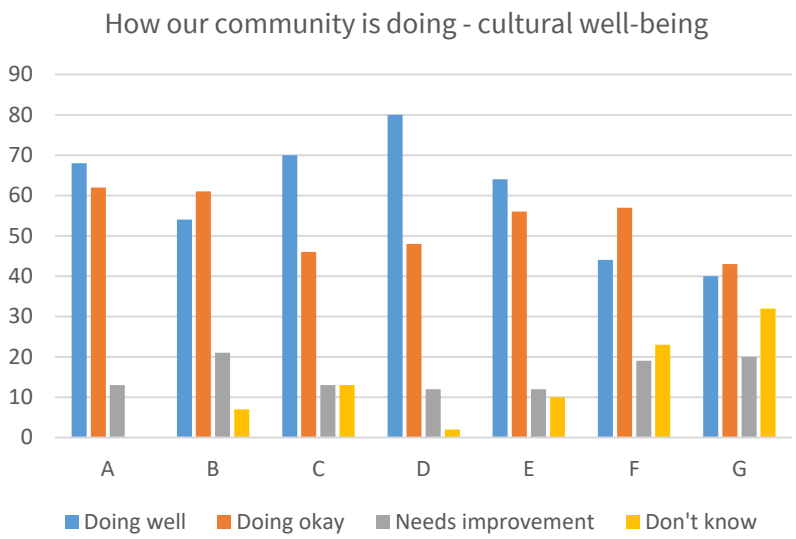
Other topics
Agriculture
Our district's financial health is a direct reflection of the health of the agricultural community. When agriculture is under pressure from regulation or market prices, it is reflected in our town. I believe council should take a role in advocating for the water consent holders in Mid Canterbury and regulations they are being held to under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater. This policy is already rejecting not only water consents for individual farmers, but will impact irrigation schemes, septic tanks and possibly the councils Ashton Farm for the town effluent. I do not believe that these consents should be able to be bought. We enjoy a lot of facilities that have been able to be built because of the generosity of agricultural based businesses. We need to appreciate how this has happened. Without economic well-being we can only afford the essentials of the social, cultural and environmental pillars.
Support to keep farm businesses is essential. This may not be financial support but lobbying the appropriate companies to up their game
Council processes
People who are getting screwed over waiting for council approval on work on their property are choosing not to go through with the work. Ultimately that is not putting back into local businesses/the community so if you can improve your approval and communication times, that would be a great place to start
The council's role is to keep things simple so business and grow. Reducing as much unneeded red tape as possible would be excellent. If consents are required, making the process fast and simple and not creating a bottle neck.
Cut the red tape stand up to the government if they do not support our vision
Better communication within the council internal departments. Applications can wait for weeks / months in one department only to find that when that process is complete it then has to go to another department and wait some more. Can't one type of application that requires several different departments be looked at together? This would mean a time saving for council and for business.
Business District Areas that need improvement: Historic buildings - the regulations are crazy. Remove restrictions on historic buildings Areas that need improvement: Council owned land involving Glasgow Leases. Council maybe should sell and freehold some land. Council probably should only be involved in things like industrial land development.
Too much expansion of housing into farmland areas - no more farmland encroachment, fill up existing spaces. (Plan & resource). The town centre is being stretched out, there must be a limit to how many coffee shops the town can support. $15million spent on town centre upgrade to make it more desirable for business/shopping. Then other retail areas opened which draws businesses away. (Plan) Get the second bridge and bypass built!
Well, being the ADC needs to set the rules and guidance then allow for development by private enterprise. Stop being the masters at making it all too hard and complicated with the District Planning rules and those who administer these rules
Allow more entertainment consents for permanent facilities (i.e. not just the markets / circus / multi-cultural bite etc.) This community badly lacks these, reducing quality of life and a huge gap in the late teens / early twenties demographic in our community, flowing onto the future workforce.
Support local business, not hinder, with mountains of paperwork. Support housing growth instead of hindering improvements
Business promotion / attraction
The council has to lead the community in providing opportunities for future economic growth. This could be through RMA support through to education. There is also an opportunity to supply further infrastructure to bring more businesses to the Ashburton area.
Promote Ashburton for future industries and developments ensuring adequate industrial and commercial stands and facilities

Other topics
In support of businesses and those that live rurally.
Provide incentives to business to grow and encourage more industries to Ashburton
Promote our district and encourage development e.g. Hotel and activities with the assets we have.
Recognise or promote the amount of small businesses which help employ people within our economy. Maybe sections in the paper or on the radio to show people how successful the agriculture sector is in Mid Canty and to help with advertising for jobs or recommendations
YES – investigating new businesses that may not have considered the Ashburton District as a potential location e.g. Tertiary Education Providers / Eco Tourism (e.g. Dark Sky and Cycleways) / Movie Industry Locations, Accommodation + Auxiliary services
Support local industry
small business encouragement from start, provide a mentoring arrangement in terms of YES that home industry is important to the community, allow some freeboard with rule's within the residential area, with neighbour's consent.
Encourage diversification and innovation in industries in a sustainable manner with a view to the long term.
Other suggestions
Encourage the development of business incubator park where startups can grow. This could be located on council land adjacent to the Menzshed and offer short term leases.
Lead the way and encourage all businesses and industries to ensure their pay is equitable and a liveable wage. Providing Social policy housing,
The council is the middleman charged with implementing government regulation. Accordingly, the council needs to hold central government to account
Advocate central gov to reduce regulatory burden, push back on ECAN idiocy
Standing up for this district against government
Special Grants to help fund staff training e.g. Flight training, farm jobs.
I think a minimum is to regularly measure the state of economic well-being in the district.
Less focus on low income. More focus on businesses and growing commercial. Greater income for the council, more jobs (at all levels), more desirable place to live, a greater hive of activity.
Seek adequate funding for any additional work resulting from central govt regulations.
Educate businesses on how to obtain, keep and support staff across all fields
Keep supporting the community groups we have e.g. mid canterbury charitable trust, community house.
Provide support for food producer to sale directly to customers to offset the high cost of food at supermarket
Employers violating employment law. Advocate and influence about this.
Support staff-for those that need assistance in budgeting , job opportunities etc
More solar pay back, electric community transport – solar car parking with charging
Other comments
Other than policies what can the council do. Talking to the business owners before creating policies that seem to be anticompetitive. Not having double standards, in Methven the council made policies on parking in the mall after complaints from a business owner, but changed its mobile shops policies without any concerns or communications with the businesses affected by said changes
Any role affects rates therefore affects economic well-being especially in this current environment. I believe they are trying to be supportive and Ashburton has a reasonable cost of living compared to some other areas in NZ.

Other topics
A role of helping this happen, not directly involved,
To encourage diversity to plan for diversity not based on ethnicity, name, privilege etc
I see the councils role as supporting people make the most of opportunities rather than standing in the way, i see our council as better than most
They do not do a great job at what they are doing now, they certainly assist the unemployment level reduction by employing more and more staff to do the same job
I think council are doing ok. From what I've observed, the biggest challenge here is businesses being short staffed because there just isn't enough people for jobs available, across all sectors. Housing is another issue (not limited to our area), which is an ongoing challenge.
positive council, helping business.
Cell and data connectivity in rural areas is average in many areas.
See full submission for further details and drawings of examples. Welcome to Ashburton signs are essential for any town. This subject is dragging on. The community wants what they asked for, NOT what the Councillors have voted for. See full submission for images. (x2)
Scrap consultants
Always room for improvement
Yes, particularly for those less well off.
Need to pay more.
Don’t give in to your white privilege! You are each individually better than that, I hope
We need to ensure the vulnerable are comfortable. Everyone needs/deserves enough.
No, we are lucky to live in a region that has a good economic well-being. Or the opportunity to have one. More lunch / breakfast in schools would be my only suggestion but this is not council driven
No way it does enough
More opportunities for everyone even people who are near retirement age.
More employment for socially disadvantaged people
I’d like to contribute to all these questions but as my husband & I are in our 80s - to us Ashburton is a lovely place to live. We applaud the Council.
Note that the Courier has an OTHER field. Surprised this was not consistent with the onscreen version

4. Cultural Well-being

146 responses were received through the cultural well-being survey. Respondents were asked what areas, in relation to cultural well-being, they thought our district was doing well at and what areas needed improvement.



A. Opportunities to learn about and celebrate other cultures

B. Respect for cultural differences

C. Support for newcomers / migrants

D. Access to art and cultural experiences

E. Opportunities to participate in art and cultural activities

F. Protection of historical sites, artefacts, traditions

G. Valuing and growing our iwi relationships

For the topics the respondents thought *needed improvement*, they were asked why the area needed improvement, suggestions of what could be done to improvement it, and what role Council should have in this.

4.1. Opportunities to learn and celebrate other cultures

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Council do more		
While there are some great groups working in these spaces – would like to see council do more	Celebrating Language Weeks – leading a charge over the district to place a spotlight on different cultures. While this would capture Te Reo Māori, several Pacific Island Language Weeks and Chinese. It would not capture Filipino as there is no official Philippines Language Week. Perhaps Ashburton District Council could host a district wide Philippine Language Week – especially considering that Tagalog is the 2nd most spoken language in the Ashburton District.	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Matariki is a big celebration for Māori / NZ yet our district has no council led / Council supported Matariki celebrations.	Talk with Hakatere Marae komiti and mana whenua (Arowhenua) about what sorts of celebrations could be done/ be appropriate. They don't need to be big expensive fireworks displays - could be something significant at early morning (ala Anzac Day). Ideally not something that promotes more spending/ entertainment, but more of a reflection style event. Dunedin had a very special event this year with images of those who passed away in the year submitted by locals, projected on to a wall, then disappeared like stars... early morning event. Something like that could be good. Or support the Marae to run something special.	Support, Plan and Resource
More events	Not sure	Support
More events planned throughout the year.		
Ashburton is host to many cultures but you hardly see or feel that they are being celebrated. There are limited events to showcase the cultural diversity in the district.	Have a culture month. Each month celebrates one culture. Do presentations, tell residents where they are and their contributions to the district, etc.	Introduce the various cultures in the district in the Council Web Site, in the library and other media such as press releases. This should be carried out consistently and not as a one-off activity. Something that will have lasting impression to the residents.
	Greater Council hands on support for events like the Multicultural Bite Festival. An actual visual ADC presence would help.	
Separation of cultures		
More integration between different groups of our communities... aka long term residents and newcomers	Many events to celebrate cultures have low budgets, thus are not big events. So would likely need funding	plan and resource
The celebrations are mostly pockets, they are segregated according to their culture.	Have a centre where migrant can come in and have a heart-to-heart talk without judgment and safe to speak up without being scared of they might be in trouble if they are vocal of what they feel and their situations	support and advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Other		
Don't know any that is happening or advertised.	What events	Plan and resource:
No respect for Māori culture in Ashburton	Become involved and acknowledge your Māori community and local marae	
Opportunities to learn about local iwi and Māori culture	Māori courses	Advocate
		Top/Main Role, As No one except the council have Any say in this Country!....

4.2. Respect for cultural differences

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Yes, too many people make fun of other people's cultures	Make it illegal to make fun of other cultures idk	Idk
There is none for the Māori community here	There is no respect for most councillors	
Show me where this is happening	We have so many different cultures, where are they represented	Plan and resource
Ashburton very racist against Māori but always nice to Asians, Indians etc	Call out the racist council members	Promote
From personal experience I have seen and heard racially motivated comments, slurs and abuse thrown at people of other cultures who call Ashburton home. This should not happen	Campaign awareness, e.g. posters or billboard advertising about other cultures and how to respect them	Influence
Our community has pockets of racism and not accepting people who are different colours/nationalities/cultures	Promotion and advocacy, education to celebrate diversity, continuing some good work that the council/community/agencies do - e.g. multicultural bite.	Influence
Portion of our community are great... a portion are a shocker!	Workplaces to help in this space, by helping co-workers learn about each other	influence
Sadly, there are out there who are indifferent of other culture and	Billboards not big but enough to remind people that we are	see answer to left

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
refused to blend in with other people who doesn't look "kiwi enough".	sharing this lovely place called Ashburton and we want to live here and contribute to make this place so much better than what it is.	
Always room for improvement	Always room for improvement	Support
There seems to be a tendency for groups to work in cultural silos, as opposed to working together – would like to see Council encourage greater partnerships	Ashburton District Council to develop a Migrants and New Comers Strategy	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource
Promote the public need to walk the talk, not just lip service. ADC should lead by example. Visually and publicly celebrate cultural diversity. Don't just say we support it promote it. Words are cheap. Signage around the town. An annual ADC sponsored Multicultural Festival? and support	Expose racist employers. Through media publicly condemn bad racial behaviours and pro-actively praise multicultural positive actions	As to the left
Acceptance of Māori signage	Accept bilingual signs without disrespectful comments by councillors	Advocate
Seems to be very little broadcasted events/celebration opportunities.	Broadcast events and cultural celebrations/activities 🤔	
There is no pro-active initiatives to promote respect to various cultures in the district.	They only was you solicit respect is to make residents understand the intricacies of each culture present in the district. Highlight their contributions to the district. Explain how important they are to the future of district.	Explain to residents via website, press releases each culture present in the district. Tell their importance and contributions. People will not show respect if they do not understand what it's all about and how a culture contributes to the betterment of their daily lives.
Stop trying to make people racist -- because white people are made to feel they have caused all this problem when this and generations in 20th century have not done anything	Whether you are Chinese NZer or something else the important thing is being a New Zealander. We speak English.	NZ has missed the boat on people being bilingual we are English speaking, stop trying to cause division by using Te Reo and English
Too much focus on Māori, they are only a small part of our population	Stop with the Māori, the new name of the council's buildings is ridiculous, no one can pronounce it and we need the English version first	None

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
We have found that there is emphasis on new or non NZ cultures, and less support for "local" culture. It's sort of like background noise where the focus is on new and different. Equal support for all cultures would be great.	Treat everyone with the same support, funding and ease of access for help.	Plan and resource

4.3. Support for newcomers / migrants

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Bilingual signs	Advocate to get Māori name on road signs etc under English. Newcomers experience too much confusion (which they handle well) without thinking all schools have the same name.	Advocate
Acknowledge and applaud that Ashburton Public Library now have books in different languages, encourage more of this. Also Ashburton Art Gallery + Museum, have done work with different ethnicities and their Kowhai Club is thriving.	Council develop a Migrants and Newcomers Strategy to do more	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource
Portion of our community are great... a portion are a shocker!	Workplaces to help in this space, by helping co-workers learn about each other	influence
Ashburton is super exclusionary to newcomers. Which is just shooting ourselves in the foot	If you don't know the right person you'll get nowhere. Get newcomers in contact with the Newcomers Network, it will at least give them a better start.	Advocate, Influence and Support
I attended one which was badly represented (only 1 person attended)	No such thing..	Plan and resource
Few informal gathering places		
Council can lead the way with this one by supporting those that have a connection to the new people	A group of established immigrants who can be the go between	

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Most of these concerns are done by family members that they are too are struggling their settlements in here.	Yes, a centre or call help line just for newcomers (own language)	See answer to left
Some taken advantage of and have no safe advocate.	system to protect from exploitation	All to left
	More education for newcomers on how to integrate into the community	

4.4. Access to art and cultural experiences

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Acknowledge and applaud the venues, organisations funded by Ashburton District Council. However, they are not the only venues and would like Ashburton District Council to do more with other venues e.g. Community House, Ashburton Seniors Centre, and private venues also offering art and cultural experiences.	Ashburton District Council to develop an Arts & Culture Strategy . . that incorporates Māori and Migrant Art & History	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource
Love the Art Gallery :-) Can't wait for new Library. Need more things like Court Theatre/music in hospo venues.	Younger people in town would surely help this area grow.. but we need to attract arty young people to live here.	plan and resource
Once a year or even 2,3 is not supporting cultural art or history.	More frequently show Māori heritage.	
Small museums are run by volunteers therefore hours open are limited.	Paid helpers for say 2 hrs per week would make huge difference.	Support
More activities to be given to entice people to go.	N/A	Plan and resource
Access is fine but it's a white elephant.	Listen when we do these surveys, that's why no one does them.	Small
Massive overspends on little used facilities	Scale back ADC staffing and expenditure	Plan and resource for reducing cost
All good	Don't know	Advocate

4.5. Opportunities to participate in art and cultural activities

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Would like to see more – including after school programmes and Marae based activities.	Ashburton District Council to develop an Arts & Culture Strategy	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource
Always room for more!	More arty people in town, these things will grow more	support
This is the least of new migrant worries.	This will be easy once the migrant is settled and safe.	They know where they go and feel welcome.
Most of the council don't involve themselves and show no interest.		
All cultures including European.	Could do more across the board	Small
Ashburtonians has shown support to cultural activities in the past but there is no consistency in hosting these events. It comes and goes. Events do not have lasting impression to the residents.	Host cultural events to introduce and celebrate the various cultures in the district.	Host cultural events. Encourage cultural themes during Christmas Parades. Council can reach out to each culture and encourage them to participate. It will make the Christmas parade more meaningful and not as boring as it is now.
Offer more enticing activities/events to attend.	N/A	Plan and resource
Where is this happening, not advertised	Where? how?	Plan and resource
Notification can improve	Encouragement	Advocate

4.6. Protection of historical sites, artefacts, traditions

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
The Chinese market garden buildings and site at Farm Road is being left to go to ruin	More sympathetic repairs. Adequate fencing. Value this historic site before it's lost in the subdivision going on around it.	Allow more community involvement and open to funding by small fee to visit site. Treat the site as 'of special historical significance' as in Cromwell, Lawrence or Arrowtown. Consult successful councils.
Closed Cemetery Sites (including Pioneer Park), Chinese Heritage Settlement are two areas that need additional programmes	Ashburton District Council to develop an Arts & Culture Strategy	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
Some of this is ridiculous - Chinese for example Allens Rd, waste of my ratepayer money	Listen to what the people want	Small
Historical sites - some sites are becoming eyesores.	Produce a full list of sites and buildings and ask for feedback.	Change unnecessary restrictions.
Ashburton has very few well maintained historic buildings. These buildings make the town unique and tell an interesting story. They should be embraced more.	More protection orders for historic buildings and give incentive for them to be maintained to improve the image of the CBD.	Advocate for national heritage grants for our most striking historic buildings so they can be used to give our town a better image.
Show more interest in the heritage of the district	Make sure all our heritage is listed and preserved	It's the district council's duty to do this
We have lost some buildings around town that although at the time they couldn't be saved it's still shame... as with time I think they would have come into their own as something cool - aka Railway station	Not an expert in this area.. so not sure	Advocate
Any building with character seems to be getting demolished in our town, started with the railway station	No	Support
Identification needs to be swift and funded for preservation	Talk to those who have knowledge of these sites e.g. Historic Places Trust	Plan & Resource
Be proactive before rather than reactive after the loss of heritage buildings/ sites		
There is no proactive initiative to protect and promote historical sites. Residents are not aware where they are or if they exist at all.	First, tell residents where they are and why they need protection, if they exist at all.	First identify where they are and explain why they are important.
Tree protection - some trees are protected unnecessarily.	Review policy for private access way land.	Review this policy.
Acknowledging the importance to Māori of the Lakes area as an area of food gathering is slow in being recognised.	Increase the presence of such information in the museum including how land confiscation impacted on this.	Support the work Shirin and the museum/art gallery staff are doing promoting knowledge of local history including Māori.
Find from Iwi where sites and artefacts are and educate people about them	Ask iwi	Advocate

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
NZ traditions are not being protected, only Māori ones!		Nothing more really. But everyone's interests, not just one group.

4.7. Valuing and growing our iwi relationships

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
While Ashburton District Council are forging a mutually beneficial relationship with Hakatere Marae re: Civil Defence Welfare Centre, there still seems to be some gaps on supporting Hakatere Marae on other issues.	With Hakatere Marae agreement, appoint a councillor and Council staff member to the Hakatere Marae Komiti	Advocate, Influence, Support, Plan and Resource
Feels very separate still, schools are good, but many workplaces it's not at the forefront	Support iwi to be able to connect with the community, the team is small and thus can't be all things to all people.	Plan and resource
Ashburton has no growing relationship with Māori so how can we be valued!!	Start installing some values as this a racist community	
Sometimes not genuine	Use people who genuinely care	All to the left
Where!	! show me more	Plan and resource
Provide the two classes and Māori culture class	More iwi interaction	Promote
Let us start with promoting respect to our cultural differences. Then we will learn to value and grow our relationship to Iwi and other cultures in the district.	Again, start with cultivating respect to cultural differences. Valuing and growing relationship will naturally follow.	Tell residents about our Iwi in the website. Encourage or host Iwi events.
Listen to all opinions	Listen to both sides	Respect all people
We sometimes feel that the focus should be NZ as a community, not focusing on Iwi versus other cultures. Many different cultures have grown up here for a few generations and we need to get on with being one country.	Not sure - it is a sensitive subject as retaining the Māori culture is one part of our heritage and needs to be known, but at some point we all need to be NZers? No idea how you start this.	Influence
Why? What have they done for our district/country? Why do they get	I'm all for the Māori culture, etc, but to force it on us just annoys	They need to remember that they wouldn't have cars and roads, shops, KFC, or benefits if it wasn't

Why this area needs improvement	Suggestions for what should be done	Proposed role for Council
so much credit/exposure/influence?	me and turns me against it, if anything!	for us! I think Māori should be doing more to value others.
Massive waste of energy time and money	Minimise to statutory requirements only, treat Iwi as any other community group, stop paying for religious ceremonies	Plan and resource for minimal cost
Māori are such a small part of our population stop focusing on the past and respect the future belongs to everyone	Stop this, all people are important	None

The survey asked respondents if Council should play a greater role in any other areas of cultural well-being. The following are the responses received to this questions.

4.8. Other topics

Other topics
I am ashamed of my country as we are tall poppies, we are not welcoming to new families, too clicky and the bullying is everywhere in schools and workplaces.
Always improving, advocate and support, need full time person in this role, in the council to connect and support in the community
Keep up the good work, keep an open mind, keep on listening and asking questions. Work on encouraging and the acceptance of diversity, individual thinking, how to debate and understanding that we all have a right to be here. Ignorance creates fear and lack of understanding. The more we can communicate and connect and learn to have compassion the better. Thank you for your good works xxx
Increase support/ funding for the Hakatere Multicultural Council/ Newcomers Network. They do fantastic work both promoting cultures and supporting those from different cultural backgrounds to adjust and thrive in our community.
Get more involved with other cultures.
YES - develop both an Arts & Culture + Migrants & Newcomers strategy.
Educating long-time residents of the benefits of diversity
Absolutely local marae have given up because the council members are not in tune with the local Māori community.
I would like to see more connection to local Māori history. I am born and bred here and I have no idea about this land before it was abruptly settled. . .
Council can pave the way and helps disseminate information that are needed to flourished cultural well-being of the migrants.
We are very new to Ashburton so we are not able to speak with much local knowledge. Ashburton is a lovely place with a very diverse population. I have always enjoyed learning about, and celebrating , other cultures. I hope we get the opportunity to enjoy and celebrate other cultures and people.
I think it would be great to see more representation from people of different ethnicities within the local council.

Other topics
Help with things like sports clubs - e.g. don't make it so expensive for building warrant of fitness, don't make it so hard to get liquor licences for places run by volunteers that the community can gather, bond and relax.
In particular, as well as simply saying we value diversity, actively take actions to demonstrate publicly that belief.
Acknowledge and encourage. Offer support groups free of charge, offer activities, free of charge. Times are tough, nobody can afford to pay to do things for pleasure anymore.
Respect for others is the main thing
Positive comments
I mix with a number of newcomers and feel that awesome support is available.
Residents look at Council as a source of information. Residents consider the Council to have pivotal role, not only in the delivery of basic services, but also in protecting cultural well-being in the district.
Our district contains a number of cultural groups/organisations who do a fantastic job already. I would like to see the council continue to work with and assist these groups
Doing pretty well in our multicultural society - a little more help for the iwi though to grow the marae more - lots more activities out there - sense of belonging and discovering roots.
Looking at Cultural well-being of those new refugees in area e.g. Filipinos
Have a multi-cultural Food Court in the town.
Yes remove all road signs that are the new bi lingual version.
Due to some stupid rules and regulations our government has introduced, iwi's around the country have to make complex decisions on matters for which they are poorly resourced. We should work together to help them make better decision makers.
Support and upkeep the Balmoral Hall as a fantastic dance venue for teaching of all ages of students because of the suitable wooden floors and barre facilities.
Continue to support the Events centre and the art gallery/museum. They are doing a fabulous job.
Ashburton council members like Phil Hooper and Leen Braam said at the election meeting it's on FB that they didn't want Māori language forced on them also environment guy in council said this get rid of them and call out their racism
Have enjoyed the free 'light festival' at Tinwald. Have enjoyed Multibite at Domain, with cultures and food on show. The library is a new hub for all ages.
Last year a cultural festival was held at the domain with different country's stalls. At the same time a market stall event was held. Both events were at opposite ends of the domain. The market stalls were around trees with plenty of shade. The cultural stalls were put out in the open and it was near impossible to enjoy the entertainment in the heat. It felt very segregated how they were at opposite ends. It was like the white side and the brown side. Why couldn't they be together and then everyone would get to enjoy both?
Allowing groups to use council property to host events, For example the street cultural festival
I enjoy the public events - light shows, Christmas in the park, shows, and general community events and feel these are doing well and should continue to do so.
More culture festival
Multi-cultural bite on Waitangi day Is superb! All cultures meet and mingle on equal terms Congratulations Ash Council!
More cultural or arts events, like a local kapa haka festival or dance showcase
Maybe have a multi culture event for everyone to attend would be a good idea.

Other topics
It is great the council are getting behind the cultural differences in our community and is generally well supported by the community. There is so much to learn and appreciate but do not forget who we are ourselves and what the needs are for New Zealanders, Everybody that lives in our wonderful country.
Yes, you need to push back and stop this complete take-over. NZers should be equal, not one rule for them... that is creating racism/separatism/apartheid. They need to be grateful for what they have from European kiwis. Another thing, if someone moves to NZ cos they don't like their own country, they need to fit in with us, not the other way around!
No, enough is being done and in some cultural areas decisions have been made with little consultation with the general public. Cost is a factor, rates are becoming unaffordable for many.
No council greater role, up to each individual culture
I think there's far too much emphasis on this subject. You're doing well at it, but for God's sake fix the roads, regulate the town planning so we have a town centre for the future (instead of the sprawled structure you support at present) and realise welcoming immigrants is not a priority matter, it's only 'woke' popular.
More funding should go to infrastructure/roading than cultural events.
Cultural well-being from the ADC is a none recoverable expense. More has to go into the other getting the area we live in up to date and have room for advancement by all then and only then will we have the income for these other issues. Far too much expenditure is going towards being PC correct and it goes to the very minority groups of society. We are all Kiwi and live in Ashburton District, we must all be treated the same, stop handouts then we will prosper to become the most desirable place to live in NZ. Those who think that they are being hard done by have an option to stay and be part of the community or Fuck off.
Treat all our cultures equally
Need to ensure all people have equal say and that some groups are not given higher priority. Need to protect private property rights
Adequate now
No enough is being done
Doing fine but get over the PC crap
Feel the balance is tipped one way too much
I think they do a great role