

# Central Link

## He karere tā te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi News from the Stratford District Council

24 Hour Phone 06 765 6099 | stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz | stratford.govt.nz

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O  
WHAKAAHURANGI  
**STRATFORD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Public Notices

### Meeting Schedule - January

- Percy Thomson Trust:** Thursday 16 January at 3pm, Stratford District Council Committee Room
- Workshop:** Tuesday 28 January at 1pm
- Policy & Services Committee:** Tuesday 28 January at 3pm

Meetings and workshops will be held in the Council Chambers on Miranda Street, unless stated otherwise. Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/Schedule](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Schedule) for updates to meeting and workshop times, as these may change.

**S Hanne | Chief Executive**

### Temporary Road Closure – Americarna 2025

Council has approved the temporary closure of the following roads on Friday 21 February 2025 between the hours of 7am and 3pm for Americarna 2025.

- SH3 Broadway between Seyton Street and Fenton Street.
- Regan Street between Miranda Street and Juliet Street.
- Miranda Street between the Seyton Street and Fenton Street.

Access will be given to residents and emergency services at all times.

Detours will be in place as follows:

- Southbound traffic – Left into Seyton Street, right into Juliet Street, left on to Celia and right on to Orlando, continue along Orlando Street, on to Hills Road, returning to SH3.
- Northbound traffic – Left onto Fenton Street, right into Portia Street, continue to Pembroke Road West, turn right on Pembroke Road West and rejoin SH3.

**V Araba | Director - Assets**

### Extension of consultation period for 3 proposed roading bylaws

Stratford District Council is extending the 20 December deadline for submissions for the following roading bylaws to allow more time for community feedback:

- Parking Control Bylaw 2025 - revised
- Vehicle Crossing Bylaw 2025 - new
- Restricted Access of Roads Bylaw 2025 - new

The new closing time / date for submissions is **4.30pm on 17 January 2025**.

The draft bylaws are available to read at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre, Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre, Council's Service Centre on Miranda Street, and online at [YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz](https://www.yoursay.stratford.govt.nz)

Submissions can be made:

- Online: At [YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz](https://www.yoursay.stratford.govt.nz)
- Email: Send to [submissions@stratford.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@stratford.govt.nz)
- Delivered: You can drop off your submission to our main office, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford.
- Post: Roading Manager, Stratford District Council, PO Box 320, Stratford 4352

Those wishing to speak to their submission will be invited to present at a Hearings meeting to be held on 25 February 2025.

**V Araba | Director - Assets**



**Register to get  
the Central Link  
by email!**

## Merry Christmas from Mayor Neil Volzke

**As another year draws to an end and with Christmas only days away, it's a time to reflect back on the 2024 year and to look forward to the New Year and the challenges it will bring.**

After fifteen years in the role as District Mayor, I still feel privileged to work with the many organisations and people who share a common pride in the district we live in. Despite all the changes, criticisms and turmoil going on in the world that surrounds us and despite the very tough economic times we are experiencing, there are many great people in our region who excel and contribute to the well-being of our community.

I genuinely enjoy collaborating with positive people, who are doing interesting things. I am constantly amazed how resolute, supportive, and passionate local people are about our community. It is one of the key motivators that make the job of the Mayor so rewarding and fulfilling.

The 2024 year has been one of change and the new government has initiated many of them, and done so with great haste. As a council, keeping up with this tsunami of change has been a feat in itself. We have dealt with some gnarly issues and spent a great deal of time, effort and money responding to the constant reforms and changes emanating from central government

2024 has also been the review year of our Long Term Plan. This was a massive undertaking and re-writing a 10 year plan in an environment with so much change, was a real challenge. Faced with significant cost increases across all council activities and enormous pressure to hold rates at an affordable level, council reigned in some of our planned expenditure and focussed on a back to basics approach. Although not council projects, highlights were two significant infrastructure projects, being the new footbridge over the Manganui Gorge on Mt Taranaki and the new, two lane bridge on SH43 near Kopuatama cemetery.

## 2023/24 Annual Report now available online

**Stratford District Council (SDC) adopted its 2023/24 Annual Report, accompanied by a clean audit opinion, at its December Ordinary Meeting.**

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says, "We largely went back to basics in 2023/24 with a focus on infrastructure renewals and maintenance, which is what keeps our services running."

Some of this work included:

- Victoria Park pond being drained, cleaned and refilled
- Redevelopment of the Skate Park's bowl
- Replacement work on the septic tank at the Whangamomona Camp ground
- Re-alignment of Cardiff Road and safety improvements on Beaconsfield Road
- Fencing of the town's oxidation ponds
- Midhirst cemetery pathways upgrade

When looking at the dollars, SDC finished the year with a net deficit of \$57,000. Revenue was down 17% from what was budgeted, mostly due to the removal of external funding for Transport Choices.



As I write this Xmas Message and gradually slip into holiday mode, I remind myself that while Xmas is a time for giving and celebration, we should also take time to think of the growing number of families who are finding things really tough at the moment. I live in hope that 2025 will see improvements and those that live in less fortunate positions than many of us, will be able to look to the New Year with some optimism.

As always, the Stratford volunteer community has continued to be extremely generous and supportive of each other, as they do their bit to contribute to the community spirit of the Stratford District. I thank the considerable number of volunteers who have given up their personal time to participate in sport, clubs, organisations, and services. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

In closing, I express my special thanks to the many, many people who in different ways, assist me in my role as District Mayor. On behalf of Debbie and myself, please stay safe, enjoy the festive season and have a very Merry Christmas.

**Mayor Neil Volzke**

Expenditure was 2%, or \$552,000 above budget, due to cost increases exceeding what was forecast.

At \$8.2 million, the actual capital expenditure for the financial year was significantly below the \$13.4 million spent in 22/23 and \$24.4 million spent in 21/22.

"This demonstrates the significant work programme council has gone through in previous years, and the return to a more normal and long-term sustainable level of expenditure," says Sven.

These figures include external funding sources, such as NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi subsidies and central government grants, and a significant portion of the increased spend in previous years was triggered by external one-off funding opportunities.

For a full breakdown read the Annual Report 2023/24 at [Stratford.govt.nz/AnnualPlansAndReports](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/AnnualPlansAndReports)



### Library and Visitor Information

Phone 06 765 5403

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

### Transfer Station

Phone 06 765 8500

Monday - 12.00pm - 5.00pm

Thursday - 10.00am - 1.00pm

Friday - Sunday - 12.00pm - 5.00pm

### Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

Phone 06 765 6275

Monday – Friday 6.00am – 6.30pm

Saturday 7.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays

10.00am – 5.00pm

### Glockenspiel

Performs Daily at 10.00am, 1.00pm, 3.00pm and 7.00pm

18 December 2024



# Opening Hours

Stratford District Council operating hours over the Christmas and New Year period.

## Stratford Transfer Station

Phone 06 765 8500

- Monday 23 December: 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve): Closed
- Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day): Closed
- Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day): 10.00am - 1.00pm
- Friday 27 December: 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Saturday 28 December: 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Sunday 29 December: 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Monday 30 December: 12.00pm - 5.00pm
- Tuesday 31 December: Closed
- Wednesday 1 January (New Years Day): Closed
- Thursday 2 January: 10.00am - 1.00pm

## Library & Visitor Information Centre

Phone 06 765 5403

- Tuesday 24 December: 8.30am - 1.00pm
- Wednesday 25 December to Thursday 2 January 2024: Closed
- Friday 3 January: 8.30am - 5.00pm Normal hours resume

## Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

Phone 06 765 6275

- Monday 23 December: 6.00am - 6.30pm
- Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 10.00am - 2.00pm
- Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day): Closed
- Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day): 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Friday 27 December: 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Saturday 28 December: 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Sunday 29 December: 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Monday 30 December: 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Tuesday 31 December: Closed
- Wednesday 1 January (New Years Day): Closed
- Thursday 2 January: Closed
- Friday 3 January: 6.00am - 6.30pm Normal hours resume

Group Fitness classes will take a break from 23 December 2024 to 6 January 2025.

## Kerbside Collections

All rubbish and recycling collections will remain unchanged over the Christmas and New Year period.

This includes the green/yellow lid bins, red lid bin, and blue glass recycling crate.

## Council Service Centre

Phone 06 765 6099 - (24 hour service)

- Tuesday 24 December: 8.30am - 12noon
- Wednesday 25 December to Thursday 2 January 2024: Closed
- Friday 3 January: 8.30am - 4.30pm Normal hours resume

## Our phone line is staffed 24/7, 365 days of the year

Council's Service Centre may be closed from 12pm Tuesday 24 December until 8.30am Friday 3 January, but you're still able to get a hold of us at any time.

If you have an urgent enquiry, please call us on 06 765 6099. Our phone line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on statutory holidays.

Please note that Antenna app reports, emails, and social media messages to Stratford District Council may not be checked until after Friday 3 January. So, please give us a call, or if it can wait, get in touch when we're back.

Calling all kids 13-years-old & under!



## Find the icons on Stratford's 2024 Christmas Hunt & be in to win prizes!



**STRATFORD SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

Free and low-cost holiday events!

Connect with us, and stay informed on all things Council.



Download the FREE Antenna app to get the latest updates from Council on events, projects, and public notices.

Download the booklet -> [Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays](http://Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays)

**Meri Kirihimete! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Stratford District Council!**