##### Community Engagement for Asset & Business Planning

##### [00:10] – Ginny Bowden

Hi, I'm Jenny Bowden. I'm the community spaces manager for Selwyn District Council. We have about 21 halls, community centers and event centers that we're responsible for.

Some staff, some unstaffed, so our key role is to increase the utilisation by activating those spaces in any ways we can.

##### [00:28]

It's about looking at your local community, what are the needs of that community, what are the kind of events or activities that we can put on that will bring people into those community spaces?

So it doesn't matter if the activity is a group fitness class, learning a fermentation or how to cook sort of activity, whether it's playing table tennis or whatever. So it's not necessarily about the activity, but it's about bringing people into those community centers so that they can gather, be together and do the things that they really want to do or they're interested in doing.

We work really closely with our libraries team, arts, culture, lifelong learning, so they have a mandate to deliver wider than just libraries, so they bring out a lot of activities into our community centers as well.

##### [01:09]

We certainly do have key performance indicators we have to meet. Those are around budget, so we're required to return a certain percent of our operational budget and revenue, but also growing the number of uses, so activation increasing by 5% per year across each across each hall.

We'll look far and wide to find ways to activate our spaces. We do do a lot of fitness classes and things, they’re really great for gathering a bit of revenue. But at the end of the day, I'm not so much concerned about the revenue, but about people being in our buildings, about people using them and the more people who come in, the safer it is and it becomes a real hub in your community.