



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

**Monday 30 March 2105
at 5.00pm**

**Civic Centre
Liardet Street, New Plymouth**

Chairperson:	Mr	Doug	Hislop
Members:	Mr	Paul	Coxhead
	Mr	Mike	Pillette
	Mr	Keith	Plummer
	Cr	Richard	Jordan

**KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD (EXTRAORDINARY)
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015**

Community Boards

Role of community boards (s52 Local Government Act 2002)

- a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and
- b) consider and report on matters referred by the council and other matters of interest
- c) maintain an overview of services provided by the council within the community; and
- d) prepare an annual submission to the council for expenditure within the community;
- e) communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and
- f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

Addressing the community board

Members of the public have an opportunity to address a community board during the public forum section or as a deputation.

A *public forum section* of up to 30 minutes precedes all community board meetings. Each speaker during the public forum section of a meeting may speak for up to 10 minutes. In the case of a group a maximum of 20 minutes will be allowed.

A request to make a *deputation* should be made to the secretariat within two working days before the meeting. The chairperson will decide whether your deputation is accepted. The chairperson may approve a shorter notice period. No more than four members of a deputation may address a meeting. A limit of 10 minutes is placed on a speaker making a presentation. In the case of a group a maximum of 20 minutes will be allowed.

Purpose of Local Government

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option outlined in each report meets the purpose of local government and:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses;
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.



**KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD (EXTRAORDINARY)
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015**

APOLOGIES

Cr Richard Jordan

PUBLIC FORUM

None advised.

DEPUTATIONS

None advised.

A ITEMS FOR DECISION BY KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD

A SUBMISSION TO THE OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

The Kaitake Community Board's submission to the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy.



**KAITAKE COMMUNITY BOARD (EXTRAORDINARY)
MONDAY 30 MARCH 2015**



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SUBMISSION

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy - 30 Years

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy - 30 Years

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the work of Council in developing the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy - 30 Years. It is a visionary and meaningful project. In particular we wish to recognise the work of the Council Project Team of Sam O'Sullivan and Anna Crawford under the direction of Mark Bruhn. Providing a forum for those of us with a genuine interest in developing opportunities to improve and enhance leisure time has been constructive. During the lengthy period since instigation, our continuing dialogue has always been sincere, good natured and useful (to both parties). We appreciate this opportunity to make a submission and comment on the draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy - 30 Years.

Preamble

We are in general agreement with most of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy - 30 Years (OSSRS) but wish to make comment on specific aspects as they relate to our particular community of interest. We apologise in advance for the somewhat muddled nature of this submission. The comprehensive detail of the draft has meant our responses may not always be as clearly defined for the reader as we would like.

Strategic Direction

We concur with vision and strategic goals as outlined. We understand that in their entirety they define a most advantageous future for the district. They sit admirably with the draft District Blueprint, especially in its key directions of Environment and Communities. However while we understand that this is a high level document rather than a more prescriptive one, embedding this far reaching strategy into action through future Long Term Plans and Annual Plans relies on political decisions where, often, political expediency can

disregard the obvious way ahead. We refer to the Coastal Strategy and the Oakura Structure Plan as examples.

As there is no defined timeline to address the goals we believe incorporating ongoing clear and consistent communications about the strategy between Council teams, whose personnel change over time, and with the public at large, will be the key to the strategy's success.

Goal 1: Our spaces are appropriately located

Objective 1.1 The objective of ensuring all urban households are within 500 metres of a neighbourhood open space is a good one but if connection with end users is complicated (unless one is a crow) then that intention becomes ineffective. For example in Oakura Highway 45 is an obstacle for those that live in the residential area on its south side. Those wishing to access the provided open space areas must cross it, as all are on the seaward side of the highway.

We strongly support the development of a secondary network of movement through walkways and cycle trails. We believe that such a network of quality trails is a desirable lifestyle attractor

We also support the initiatives set out in the draft District Blueprint in the Destination Key Direction and the Taranaki-wide Network Expansion Project. Taranaki does not have a recognised 'Great Ride' under the auspices of Nga-Haerenga - The New Zealand Cycle Trail and the 'Taranaki Traverse' is a worthy initiative.

However from a local perspective the Destination proposal shouldn't become a preference over exploring further possibilities and creating more locally oriented trails. KCB has worked over many years to develop walking and cycling trails, including a day-long cycle route utilising legal paper roads and away from the highway onto quiet back country roads. We would be disappointed if these initiatives became diluted due to a change of emphasis by Council to tourist attractions.

Feedback Question *Do you think that a 10-minute walk to a neighbourhood park is about right?* **KCB Response** - *probably, but in this context do you mean park or open space?*

Goal 2: Our spaces make it easy to exercise, play, socialise and relax

Objective 2.1 Neighbourhood spaces should be identified in the OSSRS as a basic community requirement that serve as the ongoing urban recreational and social focus of each community. Often open spaces that just happen to be there will provide a tick for 500 metre rule but are one dimensional, catering for only a proportion of the community's population. We submit that, wherever possible, a neighbourhood park should be established.

Our view is that a neighborhood park serves as an extension of the neighborhood around it, allowing for recreation and social activities that cannot be accommodated in residential backyards. Therefore all neighbourhood parks should be designed for both active and passive recreation activities geared toward the specific needs of the particular neighbourhood, and all age groups and physical abilities. This creates a 'sense of place' that enhances neighbourhood and community identity and brings people together. The

park then acts as a hub for a community, where social skills for individuals and families can be developed, where learning abilities at school are enhanced, teaching users the safe limits of their abilities and connecting children and their families with the outdoors. However it is not sensible to have a neighbourhood park template imposed on communities where little prior engagement and dialogue has taken place with the end user cohorts. Neither is it sensible to bow to a huge community wish list for the amenities that clutter a space or prove ineffective over time. An open space best practice design guide is an excellent objective as long as it is flexible enough to accommodate the dissimilar needs of different communities. We suggest it should include specific reference to the methodology for the establishment of neighbourhood parks and reference to hard and soft surface balance.

Objective 2.2 The ongoing provision of seating, tables and shading areas etc. is a worthy objective and clearly one where private or commercial donations can provide the necessary funding. We have successfully pursued this course in Okato and Oakura (walkway and village seating, beachfront showers). However we believe a well thought out approach is required. It is not necessarily in the best interests of the community to obtain extra open space amenities just because someone else is paying for them. Location, design and advertising should be considerations that Council knowledge and expertise retains control over.

Objective 2.3 Traditionally many equipment based playgrounds for children have been added to open spaces as a type of panacea to a community's demands for something that another community in the district has already been provided with - the universal 'we want one too' approach. These can be situated on a Council site, remote from large sections of its target group but convenient to Council from a cost perspective. This approach, often lacking an interface with its intended user base via walkways or the neighbourhood street network does little to enhance community identity and has resulted in Council having to maintain and renew under-utilised equipment and surroundings. Therefore we do support a play spaces plan that may reduce the number of play spaces across the district but increases the quality of play opportunities at new and the other remaining ones.

Objective 2.5 While a required action (RA17) is included in the Strategic Actions section we can find no detail about the Land Development and Subdivision Infrastructure Standard, therefore we make the following comments regarding streetscapes.

It seems to us the growing emphasis on connecting neighbours and neighbourhoods means that building roads and streets from templates that just speed traffic up is a redundant way to go about things. Here are some local examples.

In Oakura the KCB worked long and hard with Council's roading team and Transit NZ to achieve a CBD streetscape upgrade that acknowledged the large numbers of village residents walking and cycling through it and parking in it. As the CBD is an important village hub the key goal was to slow traffic down. We were nowhere near as successful as we wanted to be due to Transit NZ rules. Often the speed at which vehicles are being driven and the lack of attention (and courtesy) to other streetscape users such as school

children, pedestrians and cyclists causes much angst for local residents. In spite of the 50kph traffic restrictions through Oakura many vehicles still zoom through much faster than that. Crossing the highway is a major exercise at all times.

Many residents tell us that the street widening and footpath programme on Upper Wairau Road from the highway intersection to the Surrey Hill Road corner has wrecked the ambience of a rural country road and turned it into a dangerous race track, making it unsafe for kids to play and travel on the verges. Local children go home after school and are confined to their sections (it's safer) and can't enjoy that developmental experience of playing (and learning) with other neighbourhood kids to the same degree. At any time you can travel along this stretch of road and see no one. We recognise there has been an exponential increase in traffic movements since this development but putting in unenforced 50kph signs achieves nothing. Surely in this day and age there are far better streetscape solutions than this.

Streetscape open space could be far better utilised through more fitting design, providing a place where kids can grow up out on the street throwing balls for the family dog, learning to bike, to skate, to interact with those either older or younger than themselves, etc. etc. Parents too can be out and about with their kids, especially during long summer evenings so there is a authentic community feel. Residents can know their neighbours far better than in other areas where a cursory wave while passing in a vehicle is the interaction norm.

Perhaps a type of Pendarves Street model should be a requirement in any future residential sub division? Is that possible?

Feedback Question *What are your views on reducing the number of playspaces and increasing the quality of destination playgrounds?* **KCB response** - *We support this in principal as indicated above but do not support the concept of destination playgrounds if it only means bigger and better in the larger population bases and require other communities losing their's and having to access the newer models by vehicle.*

Goal 3: Recreation and open space contributes to community identity, vibrancy and sense of place

Objective 3.1 We have a particularly strong belief that parks and open spaces, and indeed walkways and cycleways, are first and foremost a local amenity. They should not be designed as an attraction for visitors from other areas. This is particularly relevant in Oakura where the beach attracts regional and national visitors. In this environment retaining that very necessary sense of place is an ongoing issue for the community and the OSSRS must ensure it provides the appropriate informing structure for future developers and decision makers in this regard. A strategy that only informs the development of public infrastructure can capture the community being 'developed' and leads over time to diminishing social networks, shared beliefs and values.

Feedback Question *Let us know if you have any ideas on how we can improve community ownership of open spaces.* **KCB response** - *We are happy to share our experience and expertise in this area (see our response to Goal 6)*

Goal 4: Facilities encourage ease of participation and maximise spectator enjoyment.

Objective 4.3 Council has decided on the Sportsville Model as an appropriate way to encourage sports codes to share existing or new facilities. The recommendation from the 2011 Oakura Village and Community Facility Study was to investigate the potential for an Oakura multi-sport facility by undertaking a holistic feasibility study. The suggested area for such a facility was within the area set aside for further residential development adjacent to the Kaitake Golf Course. The KCB believes that this investigation should be undertaken as soon as possible and certainly before any changes are made to that area's current rural status to residential.

Local sports groups in the community are well housed and have no intention of re-locating (Surf Club, Boardriders Club, Rugby and Cricket Clubs, Bowling Club). A new group carrying out a feasibility study for the provision of a privately funded and maintained swimming pool in Oakura have stated they wish to be sited closer to the village centre to enable easy access for local school students.

KCB is concerned a hiatus could well occur if this objective overrides other required sport related developments such as a community hall and further sports fields to meet the needs of an increasing population.

Objective 4.3/4.4 The TSB Stadium major use as an event venue impacts negatively on its ability to provide a district-wide base for community sport utilisation. We believe that there is a need for sporting groups to work collaboratively with Council to address this issue in the medium term rather than in the longer timeframe.

The development of a strategic framework for determining where man-made sports code facilities should be located district-wide is sensible. Furthermore the development of a regional strategy, taking into account the National Facility strategy, would be useful.

We are concerned that some Council funded sports grounds are unavailable to the public, although for considerable parts of the year they are not in use. We refer to Pukekura Park and Yarrow Stadium. Having such facilities only as venues to provide a high quality spectator experience is shortsighted and needs to be addressed.

Feedback Question *Do you think the Council should be the leader in mapping future facilities within the New Plymouth District?* **KCB response** - *Council should be a major player in this regard but we are not sure whether it should lead all future facility developments. There maybe instances where a watching brief is required but no final decision making by Council.*

Goal 5: The delivery of sport and recreation is supported

We agree with the objectives of this goal as we know Council partnerships with sports clubs and schools not only help build participation and retention in codes but will also contribute intrinsically to community health and wellbeing.

Feedback Question *Do you think the topics covered in each objective will help achieve the delivery of sport and recreation for the next 30 years?* **KCB response** - *There are too many assumptions we would need to make to provide an answer for this question.*

Goal 6: Our biodiversity and cultural heritage is protected and easy to experience

The most important district-wide public open space are the beaches. Our beaches now support multiple activities, bringing more leisure and recreation seekers to them and the number of participants continues to increase. Beaches are accessed and used in a variety of ways.

Sport: Lifesaving - local, regional and national contests. Surfing - local, regional, national and international contests. Sailing - local, regional and national contests. Fishing - regional events Triathlons - local, regional, national and international contests. Volleyball - local, regional and national contests.

Recreation and Leisure: Surfing. Sailing. Fishing. Swimming. Walking. Horse riding.

It is open space where the correlation between usage and cost to Council is heavily weighted towards usage. Council's overall funding costs for this open space area are small.

Beach and foreshore biodiversity is extremely important to our area. Therefore the recreational use of beaches must be considerate of and managed with respect for nature, atmosphere, and aesthetics so that the potential threat of foreshore degradation and loss of plant species and animal is minimised.

We are disappointed that in the preamble to Goal 6 beaches are not mentioned and equally concerned in Section 8.5 Biodiversity of the OSSRS Background Document our beach and foreshore areas are missing, yet our coast is crucial to our sport and recreation activities. We acknowledge that some of the beach information is covered in other Council documents (although not in the Significant Natural Area documentation) but due to the shared responsibility for coastal management between district and regional councils and the continuing lack of control on transgressors we believe some robust detail should be included.

The 2008 New Plymouth Open Space Survey found that one of the top three things the community wanted open space to provide for was beach access. We submit that while beach access can be provided rather easily, and at little cost, it is the ongoing stewardship of the area that is the critical issue and there needs to be clear statements in the OSSRS about this.

It is imperative that the construction of facilities, parking, paths, cycleways etc. must be done in a way that not only provides access, but takes into account the management of visitors to ensure low impact recreation and prevent long-term irrevocable damage to the local natural beach environment.

Objective 6.1/6.2/6.3 Nowhere in the documentation is any mention made of partnerships with the community to achieve Goal 6 except as an afterthought in the highlighted block on page 43. Bear in mind that over the past 20 years or so our community, in conjunction with district, regional councils and DoC, has spent an inordinate amount of time and energy in:

Re-establishing beach dune areas through a programme of spinifex and pingao planting;
Carrying out regular beach litter clean-ups;

Generally acting as advocates for prudent stewardship of our local beach through Blue Flag accreditation;

Supporting the establishment and maintenance of the QE11 area between the Oakura Holiday Park and Ahu Ahu Road

Establishing a native plant nursery for propagating and planting out native plants;

Constructing and distributing safe nesting havens for Blue Penguins;

Constructing, distributing and maintaining traps to combat introduced vermin (stoats, weasels, rats) on DoC land;

Providing environmental education opportunities for school children and the wider community;

Re-establishing Crown Lease pasture land as indigenous native forest;

Planting native trees and shrubs in coastal reserves that provide nectar, seeds or berries to attract native bird species whose general habitat has been confined to the Kaitake Ranges.

This demonstrates how important a community partnership can be. It is a partnership that requires better acknowledgement in the OSSRS - one that needs nurturing locally and rolled out in other communities.

Feedback Question *Does the strategy cover all aspects of biodiversity and cultural values?* **KCB response** - No.

Strategic Actions

RA6 relating to pathway networks is an important undertaking that needs to gain impetus.

RA9 is also important as it is clear that horse riding opportunities on rural roads is becoming a more hazardous undertaking. KCB deals with ongoing issues in this regard on Surrey Hill road and AhuAhu road where lifestyle development has brought more riders, including inexperienced, to the area. With more, and faster, vehicle movements driven by people unfamiliar with horses, opportunities to ride safely are diminishing quickly.

RA11 mentions reviewing and identifying all beach access points in regards maintenance. Including another RA, themed on beach and foreshore stewardship would be useful.

RA18 and **RA36** relate to stormwater management and disposal. Our community has long-held fears about the impact future residential development will have of stream bank and beach erosion. While Council has carried out some work on the issue and doesn't recognise it as a problem we remain unconvinced that the impact will be minimal. We don't want future residential development to compromise the two local stream's natural water run-off system where all stormwater must end up in. Much natural soakage will be lost through hard surface development (roofs, roads etc.) resulting in an increasing loss of the natural retention area for heavy rainfall occurrences. Local knowledge and observation point to the consequences over time being increased erosion of stream banks and degradation of the beach open space. We look forward to engaging with Council and submitting on the review of the 1995 Coastal Erosion Strategy.

RA23 is a worthwhile objective and should be progressed quickly.

RA30 and **RA32** KCB notes there are a number of legal access points to the coast between Oakura and Okato where private landowners have denied access.

RA 32 KCB supports this action.

RA44 and **RA45** KCB support these actions and is keen to collaborate with Council in promoting them.

RA47 KCB supports the direction of this action but cautions that often an identified demand can be transitory, driven by enthusiastic groups and in-vogue trends of the time.

RA51 As already stated KCB advocates for the feasibility study to be carried out as soon as possible.

Concluding Statement

We fully support the proposed direction of this strategy setting out Council's intent and pathway to provide for recreation and open space initiatives with in our district for the next 30 years. We are mindful that the comprehensive nature of the document makes ongoing public education about the strategy imperative. The Kaitake Community Board compliments Council for undertaking this important work and congratulates the officers who have designed such a far reaching plan.

Doug Hislop
Chair
Keith Plummer
Deputy
Mike Pillette
Paul Coxhead
Members
Kaitake Community Board
27 March 2015