

ORDER PAPER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 1 June 2023
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Chair: HWTM Andy Watson
Deputy Chair: Cr Dave Wilson
Membership: Cr Brian Carter
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Tracey Piki Te Ora Hiroa
Cr Coral Raukawa
Cr Jeff Wong
Cr Simon Loudon
Cr Greg Maughan
Cr Jarrod Calkin
Cr Fi Dalgety

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Locations:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="border: none; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p>	<p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p>	<p><u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape</p>	
<p><u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton</p>	<p><u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls</p>				
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Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 1 June 2023 at .

Order Of Business

1	Welcome / Prayer	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Public Forum	4
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	4
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	4
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Reports for Decision	29
	7.1 Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan	29
	7.2 Agreement - Mayors Task Force For Jobs	136
8	Public Excluded	139
	8.1 Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report	139
9	Open Meeting	140

AGENDA

1 Welcome / Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

No Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt with as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 May and 12 May 2023 are attached.

Attachments

1. **Ordinary Council Meeting – 11 May and 12 May 2023**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 May and 12 May 2023 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 11 May and Friday, 12 May 2023

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion
Taihape

Council Chamber
46 High Street
Marton

Present

HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Brian Carter
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Jeff Wong
Cr Simon Loudon
Cr Greg Maughan
Cr Jarrod Calkin
Cr Fi Dalgety

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy and Planning
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager - Corporate Services (Zoom)
Ms Adina Foley, Group Manager-Capital Projects
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1 Welcome / Prayer 3

2 Apologies 3

3 Public Forum 3

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations..... 3

5 Confirmation of Order of Business 3

6 Reports for Decision 3

 6.1 Hearing of Submissions on Annual Plan, Draft Community Spatial Plan and
 Simultaneous Consultation 3

7 Meeting Closed..... 23

Unconfirmed

1 Welcome / Prayer

His Worship the Mayor read the Council prayer and opened the meeting at 9.30am.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 23/RDC/115

Apologies received from Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa and Cr Coral Raukawa.

Cr B Carter / Cr D Wilson. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Cr Loudon declared a conflict of interest regarding submission from Felicity Wallace / Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (IROMAR).

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Reports for Decision

6.1 Hearing of Submissions on Annual Plan, Draft Community Spatial Plan and Simultaneous Consultation

This report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 23/RDC/116

That the report 'Hearing of Submissions on Annual Plan, Draft Community Spatial Plan and Simultaneous Consultation' be received.

Cr J Calkin/Cr G Duncan. Carried

Resolved minute number 23/RDC/117

That the Council hears oral submissions on the:

- draft Community Spatial Plan
- Annual Plan Consultation Document (Framing 2023/24)
- Proposed schedule of Fees and Charges for 2023/24
- Proposed Amendment to Revenue and Financing Policy.

Cr R Lambert/Cr B Carter. Carried

Taihape – 11 May 2023

Steve Cross- Submissions AP 099 and AP 202

- Vray Sound and Light Design
- Town Hall Subcommittee

Mr Cross works in audio and lighting and provides this for shows, funerals, and ballets in the Taihape town hall.

Mr Cross presented a video of the Taihape Drama Club and the production from Mamma Mia.

Mr Cross confirmed he wants a voice on the planning and advocated that Council does not compromise on the floor planning and that Council should increase heating in the town hall

Mr Cross acknowledged that acoustics in the townhall currently are challenging but equipment these days are helpful.

Sarah Bell- Submission AP 190

- Taihape Tennis and Netball

Ms Bell talked about how two years ago Council granted \$100,000 for upgrades to the tennis courts and the opportunity to resurface the courts became available, which will happen first thing next summer costing \$40,000 with a further \$10,00 towards nets.

Ms Bell confirmed the club has gone from 100 people to 125 in two years and continue growing as a club.

Ms Bell stated that the proposal is to use \$50,000 for tennis from previous LTP funding, the tennis club would contribute \$10,000 from own funds and the netball club contribute \$8,000 from their own funds. The request is for the remaining \$48,300 to be provided by Council.

Ms Bell stated that the group are going out for other quotes.

Ms Bell confirmed no other funders have been approached at this stage and that tennis resolved to become incorporated again at its last meeting.

Ken Bellamy – Submission SP 122

Mr Bellamy spoke of the grandstand and stated that 640 people opposed the amenities building and wanted to restore the grandstand. Mr Bellamy advocated that Council should do work on the grandstand.

Mr Bellamy said his background was as a builder and a developer and has looked at the earthquake strengthening report. Mr Bellamy advocated for Council to replace earthquake problems areas.

Mr Bellamy proposed a block of land from the town hall down to Tui Street creating a new land block. Mr Bellamy wants a green belt through this such as a park which people can sit in and a play area and exercise area. He is proposing behind the area a mixed housing division.

Mr Bellamy confirmed that his suggestion for the Taihape Town Hall includes taking down the façade if it is a problem area.

Mr Bellamy stated that there is a need for more dressing areas in the grandstand.

Mr Bellamy suggested that investments and ventures could be established between Council and private investors to support Tui Street development.

Philippa Williams – Submission AP 179

- Fairburn Holdings Limited

Ms Williams is located on the Manawatū side of the river across the Otara bridge. There are economic issues for farmers as they are unable to get anything over the bridge and alternative roading routes are long and unreliable. Farming operations and staffing issues are also a problem as there is a 1 hour to trip to Fielding when the bridge is closed but 20 mins to Hunterville and 30 mins to Taihape when the bridge is operating.

Ms Williams stated that Rangitikei district is where he uses the services and businesses not in the Manawatū district. Ms Williams also stated that this impacts schooling for kids as it creates delays.

There have been different weights mentioned such as forty tonnes or forty-four tonnes. The bridge needs to be able to have a full sheep trailer/ truck to cross to support farming operations.

Ms Williams has not been to Manawatu District Council but will, as this is an issue that needs to be a priority for both councils. Ms Williams requested more information on why the bridge is compromised and the weight limit for the bridge.

Bryan Rendle and Elizabeth Russell- Submission AP 229

Mr Rendle presented on this submission.

Mr Rendle supported option one for the Taihape Townhall stating that something needs to happen but advocated against what happened with Bulls and Te Matapihi, stating there were significant costs and overruns. He acknowledged that there was a change of CE during the process and there was a report afterwards around project management.

Mr Rendle was against the proposed Marton Civic Centre as there is no hall in the building. He acknowledged that Council needs something for facilities but advocated that staff find cheaper alternatives as ratepayers cannot afford that level of debt. Mr Rendle also noted that there has not been a business case presented to justify these costs.

Mr Rendle stated that there is confusion of weight limits for Otara bridge, for example on Council's website it seems to be different from what other people are saying.

Mr Rendle stated that both Manawatū District Council and Rangitikei District Council have let their communities down with the bridge, for example it took 6 years to get a sign on the bridge for one

vehicle at a time. This was a recommendation following a report in 2017 from GHD engineers. Mr Rendle recommended elected members to read the GHD 2017 report.

Mr Rendle acknowledged that working with two Council has its difficulties but commented that the hangers that are meant to be getting tested are still there on the bridge. There were meant to be biannual bridge inspections and every six years a comprehensive inspection.

Angela McIntyre Submission AP 235

- McDunhaven Deer Park

Elizabeth Russell spoke on behalf of Angie McIntyre.

The McIntyres are large scale farmers in the Manawatū district advocating that Council prioritise spending on the Otara bridge and that the weight capacity be returned to previous standards.

The McIntyres do not support the infrastructure spend for Taihape or Marton civic centres.

Otara bridge is relied on for school bus routes, visitors and tourists and is significant for the famers. The McIntyres rely on services from the Rangitikei but stated that they are now looking at Manawatū district to access these.

Ms Russell gave the example of trucks taking deer to Rotorua stating that it took an hour and a half longer which causes animal welfares concerns. Having to take a different route adds extra costs and impacts the abilities for ambulance and fire trucks to access properties leaving people vulnerable.

Ms Russell stated that the Otara Road detours when state highway has crashes, should have maintenance triggers.

Otara bridge is the only swing bridge in the district and is vulnerable if taken out by an extreme weather event.

Ms Russell also acknowledged that there were concerns about car races impacting the deer's welfare, questioning whether Council should support these types of events.

Renee Russell Submission AP 256 and SP 105

Annual Plan Comments

Ms Russell advocated that the Otara bridge weight limit of six tonnes, for trucks and trailers needs to be fixed. She stated her concerns that 2018 was the last fix and whether we would be asking for the same support in five years' time.

Spatial Plan

Ms Russell stated that she agrees with Gina Parkes views on Ōhingaiti and that this is a great little village, but a small percentage let the whole place down with antisocial behaviour.

Ms Russell stated that cemetery needs to be looked after more by Council.

Ms Russell commented on the vision for Ōhingaiti and that the current state is not green and not safe. Ms Russell described an increasing number of slums and stated that there is a goal to build a better future, however Council should support the community and crack down on tiny houses.

Ms Russell has investigated further into funding and has spoken to Cr Duncan regarding the community initiatives fund for the 2022 centurion of the centaur would create opportunities to use the town hall more.

Ms Russell is advocating for a right-hand turning bay on state highway 1 turning on to Otara Road and that Council should advocate on behalf of the community to Waka Kotahi. People in the community currently, when travelling north on state highway 1 pull to the left or other people sit in the middle. Otara road hosts cross country, white cliff boulders and multiple events.

Ms Russell stated that the bridge should be at the previous weight limit, but Council should look into future proofing the bridge.

Gina Parkes Submission SP 102

- Ōhingaiti Farm Cottage

Ms Parkes owns a successful farm cottage business. Ōhingaiti is taking a backward step with antisocial behaviour, such as rubbish on the road and burnt-out cars. Ms Parkes understands some of this is happening on private land but indicated that the land in front of the shed is Council land. Ms Parkes questioned if there was the option of planting it up.

Ms Parkes described issues impacting the community such as unlicensed dogs and the incidents involving the armed defenders the week before. Ms Parkes has spoken to police, and they have told her that Ōhingaiti uses too many police resources.

Ms Parkes outlined the impact that tiny homes are having on residents and the area, such as toilets in paddocks. Ms Parkes would like to see Council investigate the powers Council could utilise to have tiny homes brought up to housing standards.

Ms Parkes responded to questions that there are squatters and there are private landowners with properties not big enough for their own septic's.

Shirley Russell and James Russell Submissions SP 103 and AP 104

Both Mr and Mrs Russell have lived on both sides of the river and have an interest in both districts.

James Russell:

Mr Russell stated that when the bridge closed in 1961 and 1962 it influenced him as a kid as they were not able to go anywhere for two years. And now that schools have been closing, there will be no schools for the kids if the bridge closed.

In Ōhingaiti, there is a small minority who ruin the place for others. Mr Russell stated he was concerned regarding the rubbish in the area and that this should be taken away.

Mr Russell advocated that there should be beautification of Council land, but it should not be done to hide what is there, but that it should be removed, for example the old burnt down engineering shop.

Shirley Russell:

Mrs Russell stated that the bridge is stressful for the families on the Manawatū side and that there is extra planning involved for farmers on getting stock moved and what trucking companies will come out to the farms.

Jan Byford Submissions AP 122

Ms Byford is on the Taihape Heritage Trust subcommittee.

This is a 110-year-old building in sparsely populated area however there is population growth, state highway traffic and successful performances, such as the ballet in the Taihape Town Hall. Mr Russell advocated that there should be beautification of Council land, but it should not be done to hide what is there, but that it should be removed, for example the old burnt down engineering shop.

Ms Byford advocated that there be upgrades for the hall such as power, heating and lighting, earthquake strengthening and top IT facilities.

Ms Byford is happy with the layout but wants to enhance the building, she also stated that people in the community can help support this.

Moira Raukawa-Haskell Submission SP 126

Chairperson for Opaea - Ms Moira Raukawa- Haskell.

Ms Raukawa-Haskell stated that Opaea are the mana whenua of the township of Taihape, and they are unhappy that they are not included in the spatial plan.

Ms Raukawa-Haskell stated that when buildings within the township of Taihape, that Council should involve iwi and that Council should inform early and at the beginning of the project.

Colin Baird Submission SP 164

Mr Baird congratulated Council and Ms Gray on the spatial plan.

Mr Baird spoke about Taihape growth areas for development and the need to look outside of the town boundaries. Mr Baird spoke of the importance that expansion of housing which will go hand in hand with growth of businesses.

Mr Baird lives on Jones Road which has been identified as suitable for residential in the spatial plan. Mr Baird has spoken to developers regarding development of his property who have suggested between 17-18 houses could be built. Mr Baird encourages Council to work on the roading, sewage, and consents and indicates that traffic noise is a problem in the area.

Mr Baird asked Council to approach Waka Kotahi about the turn off on the state highway onto Jones Road as this is an unsafe turn and advocated for the pedestrian crossing in the main street to be moved further down the road or have a raised island crossing instead.

Mr Baird suggested a tree top walk to attract Taihape as a destination to.

Mr Baird is not asking Council to purchase the land but a possibility to sell that land to a developer if there was a developed plan in place. Mr Baird is aware that the infrastructure agreement is with the submitter and the developer.

Peter Kipling Submission AP 021, AP 141, and SP 133

- Taihape Community Board

Annual Plan

Mr Kipling stated that it was interesting hearing from others and stated that the Taihape community board have tried to go to all community engagements.

Mr Kipling spoke that he wants to use what we have and build on resources and therefore supports option one for Taihape Town Hall. Mr Kipling spoke of the number of tourists who photograph the town hall and that it is in the town centre. However, problems exist such as heating and sound and advocated that Council should have input from the users to make it fit for purpose.

Mr Kipling is supportive of the pathway but also suggest that it does set a precedent for other pathways if Council were to fund it.

Mr Kipling spoke about the proposed reduction in community funding and his concerns that this will remove the motivation created through seed funding which this provides for groups.

Spatial Plan

Mr Kipling spoke about needing more land for housing as there is little flat land in the area and how this might require planning or regulation changings, for example the impact from the slip zone. Mr Kipling advocated that Council should be able to allow residents to subdivide.

Mr Kipling also spoke on the pressures on businesses in Taihape to attract staff.

Mr Kipling advocated that Council investigate recycling in the next LTP as residents want to recycle but current options can be a long drive for residents and is limited to open hours.

Mr Kipling told Council he had received feedback in relation to the slip zone from people in Taihape questioning if it is not actually slipping, then why can't they do something with that land.

Cr Wong read submission 024 AP Submission Max Shierlaw Tabled document

The meeting adjourned at 12.03pm in Taihape and resumed in Marton at 2.02pm.

Marion – 11 May 2023**Helen Campbell and Lesley Carter – Submission AP183**

- Nga Tawa Diocesan School

Lesley Carter is the principal and Helen Campbell is the school bursar for Nga Tawa school. Ms Carter said the school is excited for consideration of the pathway since they believe they are a part of the Marion community and want students to be able to access town safely and access as much of the resources as possible.

Ms Carter spoke of the increased concern of the safety on the road and how it would benefit students to walk to town as it will improve physical exercise and allow use of the swimming pool. Ms Carter also noted that the Marion community are using the walkway and would be a benefit for the entire community.

Ms Carter responded to questions indicating the school is unable to contribute to the cost and believes that the school contributes sufficiently to the community, even if it is not visible.

Ms Carter answered that on a weekend about eighty plus students walk to town, and 20-25 of swimming squad use the swimming pool.

Ms Carter stated it would be best for a path that clearly separates students from the road as this is the most important function.

Ms Carter said that no parent has written in requesting the pathway but did say incidents occur every week outside the school, however not necessarily pedestrian.

Ms Carter stated that changing the speed limit would be advantageous.

Mr Shane Casey- Submission AP 197

- Youth line Palmerston North

Mr Casey, the CEO of Central North Island Youth Line has requested funding for youth services in the Taihape area. Taihape Area School is delighted to extend and support a consistent presence of youth workers who have identified resources for whanau support in relation to drugs and alcohol abuse.

Currently, three workers visit Taihape every Friday and the Taihape lobby on Thursday afternoons. A financial commitment is needed to increase services, and the submission proposes a funding figure of \$19,000 for six months of services. This amount includes travel costs for the two staff members.

Mr Casey noted that Youth Line operates on a not-for-profit basis, offering services at cost through third parties on Fridays. There is currently no central government funding to youth line. Youth line will be able to provide reports to Council on any updates.

Youth line has visited the high school in Marton, but services have been cancelled prior to visiting however, the request for Taihape is an extension of services. Mr Casey said that he is unaware of any counsellor at Taihape school.

Bell Coll-Submission AP 197

Tabled maps received.

The two maps showed two circles, one is of Mr Colls property and the second is an early childhood centre. The proposal is that 620 meters of Henderson line and Pukepapa road be set to 50km.

Mr Coll noted that 12-13 houses have been built since the speed limit had been set to 70km.

Mr Coll has spoken to majority of people in the area, and they are in agreeance that there needs to be a decrease in the speed limit.

Councillors suggested a petition with those names should come to Council.

David Stuteley Submission AP 052

Tabled document received.

Mr Stuteley stated that there is an inequitable rate rises on farmers, general ratepayers, and rateable properties.

Mr Stuteley lives in Whangaehu with the river on our boundary with seven consecutive titles. His rates bill is \$14,362 household which is higher than the average rates in Marton Mr Stuteley stated that he receives no services for his rate bills and must pay for services himself.

Mr Stuteley stated that rates should not be taken from one group to another, those who use them should be the ones who pay.

Mr Stuteley gave the view that the proposals on the civic centre Taihape and Marton are excessively expensive and therefore is against this. Mr Stuteley stated that every Council could bankrupt themselves if they were fixing every earthquake prone building.

Mr Stuteley commented that rural roading should be paid by those who are living on them.

Mr Stuteley responded to questions that he is not against the civic centre projects ever happening, but is not agreeable to the timing and to who is paying for these projects.

Peter Matich Submission AP 108

- Federated Farmers

Peter Matich, Tim Matthews, and Ian Strawn presented.

This submission is on behalf of members on consultation

Federated farmers recommends that there should be a cap on the rate increase at the rate of inflation and that Council should be seeking four times forestry differential for land classified as

exotic. Wairoa District Council has been successful in introducing a forestry differential, and this has been to the high court.

The global economy has not nosedived yet, but we do not believe in discretionary projects that are not essential and therefore should wait to be done.

Mr Strawn stated that global economy has not nosedived yet, but they do not believe in discretionary projects that are not essential and therefore should wait to be done.

Mr Matich spoke of the logging operations and the increases on the use of the road and advocated that there needs to be a fair reflection of the use on the roads. Federate farmers also noted how is the forestry differential enforceable, for example if a residential property did not pay rates, then the property would be sold to pay for this however what is the process on forestry.

Tim Matthews Submission AP 254

Mr Matthews explained this is a personal submission and does not necessarily reflect the views of Federated Farmers.

Mr Matthews wants a delay on Marton and Taihape civic centres and the pathway along calico line.

Mr Matthews spoke of the roading service contract and stated he has observed a decline on actively managing what is happening on the roads. Mr Matthews advocated that the CE investigate the efficiency of services by the contractor.

Mr Matthews spoke of carbon forestry being a huge issue for neighbouring councils and the Rangitikei and suggested this will become a liability for the district in the future if Council does not address this. Mr Matthews requested Council look at rating this as part of the next LTP.

Mr Matthews questioned the role of Council if three waters were transitioned and what services would be provided once this is transitioned.

Mr Matthews noted that the spatial plan needs to consider the ability to travel safely on the roads.

John Vickers- Submission AP 166 and SP 109

Mr Vickers is on the Whanganui Regional Trust as the Rangitikei representative. Mr Vickers spoke about Marton having significant assets, but they do pose problems for example the proposed site of Marton civic centre being situated in a flood zone.

Mr Vickers is concerned about roads as they are vital for national network and critical to residents,

Mr Vickers stated that the civic centres are ambitious projects but requested that Council learn from cyclone Gabrielle, if you do not have good infrastructure then you have not got much at all.

Mr Vickers advocated for Taihape town civic centre should be in the Grandstand as this has a future and makes buildings more useful.

Mr Vickers encouraged Councillors to consider that the building on the corner of high street Marton should be privately owned or leased.

Helen Craig Submission AP 247

- Chair of Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust

Ms Craig stated that Whanganui has invested in their town and the Rangitikei can be the same.

Ms Craig spoke about how towns or provincial places with heritage buildings, walkways and parks, that show how New Zealand used to be can develop into “cool” attractions with wide appeal.

Ms Craig endorsed the need to enhance and keep what the Rangitikei has, and that Council must get behind it with bold decisions to strengthen buildings. Ms Craig used Whanganui as an example and explained that there is a low socio-economic base of ratepayers, and that Council could have said it cannot afford to act. Ms Craig stated that it is unlikely a private investor will do the work to strengthen heritage buildings without an incentive.

Ms Craig commented that heritage buildings are unique and one of a kind in New Zealand. They add value overall and saving these buildings will decrease the amount of building waste going to landfill which also lowers the carbon footprint to do them up.

Heritage Trust, a not for profit in Whanganui started to run heritage month, however the trust has not invested in buildings instead have celebrated it and reward people. Mrs Craig suggested that Council creates messaging around what is great about heritage buildings in the Rangitikei.

Belinda Harvey Larsen Submission AP 208

Tabled document provided to Councillors.

Ms Harvey-Larsen referenced her submission regarding the Marton civic centre.

Ms Harvey Larsen provided tabled documents in relation to dog poo bins. She explained how in 2018/19 a resolution for the Sir James Wilson Park was passed to purchase and install the poo bins.

Ms Harvey-Larsen requested that the memorial carpark and memorial hall are water blasted and planting of gardens increased.

Ms Harvey Larsen spoke of calico line and advocated for a quick fix using a crash wire and use of reflector poles. She also advocated for the use of tactile indicators to warn sight impaired and those on walking frames and those using mobility scooters.

Ms Harvey Larsen confirmed that her information on Nga Tawa school came from the school’s website and is current at the date of writing.

Ms Harvey Larsen stated that she prefers the option to wait and apply for funding, however, there do need to be more pedestrian crossings. Ms Harvey-Larsen spoke of the two children hit outside Marton Junction 2019 on Wellington Road and suggested this should be prioritised over calico line.

Dean Raymond- Submission AP 116

- Heritage New Zealand

Mr Raymond spoke regarding the Marton civic centre and the advantages and disadvantages of this. He noted that there are risk levels involved under the district plan and the ability to get a resource consent. Mr Raymond stated Heritage New Zealand would oppose the demolition but would collaborate with Council on keeping the façade. There may still be opposition from other groups but working alongside Heritage New Zealand would reduce the risk.

Mr Raymond spoke of the benefits of retention of the category two heritage and that local landmarks should be retained, with the reuse of buildings and providing modern fit for purpose utilities. Mr Raymond also noted that it is important to reflect on the environmental cost of demolition waste

Mr Raymond stated that the availability of funding is only for private owners and not available for councils however Heritage New Zealand can provide letters of support if Council want to apply for grant funding.

Mr Raymond also noted that Heritage NZ would be submitting to the Manawatū District Council on the Mangaweka bridge as part of the district plan process.

Jo Anson- Submission AP 188 and SP 040

Ms Anson congratulated Council on its spatial plan and that it reflected community views.

Ms Anson proposed a reserve management plan which would work with Rangitikei District Council, Horizons Regional Council and Ngāti Apa. Ms Anson requested \$5,000 annually from Council and Horizons Regional Council and this would enable pest and reserve management.

Ms Anson spoke of the completion to of upgrades to the campgrounds and that the facilities are now top notch and users are complimentary. Ms Anson indicated that there is a proposal to increase non-powered sites adjacent to the playground to make it more accessible to people.

Ms Anson requested in the spatial plan a change to enhancements of the campground.

Ms Anson requested that the Koitiata domain be an open space to reflect the recommendation.

Ms Anson requested Council advocate to Horizons for flooding and surface water issues that have developed further than just the lagoon.

Ms Anson reflected on climate resilience and stating that FENZ don't do training on flood management as it comes under civil defence. Ms Anson has worked on the community response plans with Mr Chaffe, and requested appropriate training is needed with residents. Ms Anson also noted a lack of suction hoses in the event of a flood.

Ms Anson summarized her submission stating she wants a rezoning of the domain, development of a reserve management plan and improvements to the non-powered campsite.

Ms Anson suggested that the \$5,000 would be funded by general rate as it is identified as an endangered area in the region and therefore this is of regional interest.

Neville Palmer Submission – SP 041

Oral submission withdrawn.

Felicity Wallace Submission AP 209 and SP 177

- Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei

Spatial Plan

Ms Wallace stated she is the partner of Cr Loudon and can confirmed he has not taken part in either submission.

Ms Wallace is the chairperson of IROMAR. Ms Wallace advocated for a plan showing more than a flat map, instead showing the mountain, countryside, marae as well as having the environmental qualities clearly identified such as the topology and soils.

Ms Wallace said Council need to actively plan for climate change and there needs to be places of refuge.

Ms Wallace spoke about new housing and advocated for Council to speak to landscape designers and urban designers. Ms Wallace also noted that if Council are driving growth there should be consideration of how are people getting to places and how are they connected, driving, walking.

Annual Plan

Ms Wallace stated support for option one for Taihape Civic Centre and calico line. However, is in opposition of Marton civic centre and the increase in rates and debt levels associated with this.

Ms Wallace encouraged Council to contact a landscape architect to look at staff buildings. Replacement of the buildings is too expensive and therefore suggest Council remain in the current site and sell the proposed site on the corner.

John Whittaker Submission AP 121 and SP 077

Mr Whittaker supports the flexibility with sections to subdivide properties stating this would be cheaper for Council to utilize services in the road that are already there while increasing the number of sections. Mr Whittaker noted there seems to be more tiny homes and self-contained and questioned if they need to have services on the boundary. Mr Whittaker is not aware of any minimum section currently.

Mr Whittaker requested Council increase the number of community houses provided for pensioner housing or for Council to advocate for more housing. Mr Whittaker noted organisations like the Marton food pantry who serve residents are struggling to supply food and get donations.

Cr Wong and Cr Duncan left the meeting at 4.52pm.

Carolyn Bates Submission AP 214 and SP 079

- Marton Community Committee with Annie McDowell.

Annual Plan

Ms McDowell stated that everybody has a different perception in the community.

Ms McDowell spoke of the financial distress on families and members of our communities.

Ms McDowell advocated for the water to be fixed in Marton and stated concern about recycling especially those buying water and not recycling plastic bottles.

Ms McDowell requested back to basics and gave the example of recycling as not everyone can afford to drive to the dump to recycle.

Ms McDowell questioned if there were other options for the Marton Civic Centre.

Ms McDowell questioned how much of the community would use the walkway and why Nga Tawa school were being prioritised.

Spatial Plan

Ms McDowell spoke of the concerns of businesses meeting the needs of the community and enabling businesses to thrive.

Ms McDowell spoke of inclusive consultation and that it should take as long as it takes, suggesting 10 minutes is not long enough to speak. The annual plan consultation document Ms McDowell picked up from the library was 2 years old.

Ms McDowell questioned if businesses provided opportunities that are accessible or relevant to residents in Marton especially with eight hundred houses being built.

Marton Community Committee members have attended meetings for spatial plan and annual plan.

Ms Bates responded that being a leader does not mean being on Broadway or the main street of Marton.

Carolyn Bates Submission AP 215 and SP 78

Ms Bates provided a tabled document.

Ms Bates spoke of carparking and the challenges of this especially if the civic centre in Broadway and the concerns of being in a flood prone location. Ms Bates advocated that Council stay on its current site.

Ms Bates states that it is a good idea to install the Calico Line pathway and raised concerns about other footpaths. Ms Bates requested Council make sure existing streets in town have at least one sealed surface – giving the example that Canteen Street does not have a footpath.

Ms Bates spoke of a lack of detail of information on the website and consultation documents on AP and LTP and noted that the documents available were year 2 of the annual plan.

Ms Bates spoke of funding opportunities available advertised by Council and questioned why there is no mention of community committees.

Ms Bates questioned consultation on the forestry differential and that this affects all people using the districts roads.

Ms Bates created signage for the public toilets so that users can report problems. This was distributed to Councillors.

The Meeting adjourned at 5.23pm on 11 May 2023

Unconfirmed

12 May 2023 – Marton

His Worship the Mayor read the Council prayer and resumed the meeting at 9.31am on 12 May 2023.

Resolved minute number 23/RDC/118

Apologies received from Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Cr Raukawa and Cr Calkin.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

His Worship the Mayor notified elected members of remits coming to Council after the zone 3 meeting.

Manawatū District Council is submitting a remit that LGNZ investigate help Council and communities with earthquake prone buildings with priority areas. Rangitikei District Council does not have priority areas.

Horowhenua District Council is submitting that the rates rebate scheme is out of date. His Worship the Mayor will send further information to elected members on this.

Timaru District Council to request an exemption of the waste levy from waste at closed landfills.

New Plymouth District Council remit about road transport funding to increase crown funding of state highways.

His Worship will supply further information to elected members and responses to him by Monday.

Marton (Friday – 12 May 2023)**Bain Simpson- Submission SP 086**

Mr Simpson suggested a one-way street along Broadway in Marton- he will provide a sketch of this to staff.

Rangitikei Development support the Marton Rail Hub and the long-term benefits this will bring for Marton.

Mr Simpson spoke of the demand for housing in the area and that more land is required for development in Marton.

Mr Simpson suggested that MAR02 with MAR207 be identified as high suitability dependent on willing landowners, and indicated that based on his enquiries, MAR04 is owned by iwi and there is a low chance of doing anything with this.

Mr Simpson stated that the rest of the current residential is in a flood zone or has contaminated soils and therefore is not worth developing or is not suitable. Mr Simpson also noted concerns with stormwater management.

Rangitikei development has provided flooding maps to Horizons. RDL private plan change as they will be out of land to develop in 12 months. This comes at a significant cost to RDL. RDL increase the rating pool rather than rate increases.

Mr Simpson is in support of the spatial plan.

Emma Uncles Submission SP 003

Withdrawn oral submission.

Jo Rangooni Submission SP 001

Ms Rangooni spoke on the Bulls summary for the spatial plan advocating that Council needs to attract the 24–35-year-old age group to the area and increase the range of housing. Housing is close together and this will require more car parks. She also advocated for more signage for cars to slow down in the Bulls area.

Ms Rangooni spoke positively of visits to Te Matapihi for the toilets and the building and the EV charging available.

Ms Rangooni stated that the security of water for Bulls is paramount, and that residents rely on Council to make good decisions for them, so it is important for Council to understand water and consents.

Ms Rangooni stated that Council should carefully consider rate increases.

Ms Rangooni encouraged Council to attract all types of diversity to the town as it enriches people's lives, suggesting that Rangitikei can be a conservative district.

Ms Rangooni clarified that her written submission on relationship building, and Te Matapihi staff are separate ideas.

Lynette Baish Submission SP 004 and SP 071

Ms Baish owns a category two listed farmhouse and believes that any changes made to the property should be done right and with transparency, considering they are a public good.

The discussion also touched upon parks and places throughout the district highlighting the importance of heritage buildings.

Ms Baish is concerned about costs and anticipated overruns, suggesting that the risks associated with these options may be higher than perceived, despite Council categorizing it as low to moderate risk in the consultation document.

Ms Baish emphasized the need for more investment in the town centres, as well as addressing issues such as water running through the electrics in the proposed building site. Heritage has played a significant role in regeneration and development efforts, particularly in neighbourhood renewal. Ms Baish emphasized that the Council should appreciate the value of these heritage buildings and the concept of heritage.

Regarding the Marton civic centre, Ms Baish expressed support for option two but requested more information on the associated risks and cost structures. She also sought clarification on what exactly would be going and what would be staying as part of the proposed changes.

Ms Baish advocated for equal investment across towns, stating that Taihape is also a boutique town deserving attention.

Heather Thorby Submission SP 018

- Santoft Domain Management Committee

Tabled document supplied to Councillors.

Mr Geurtjens the project manager for the domain could not be here this morning, three of the committee members and three from the incorporated society for the domain are present.

Ms Thorby spoke of the reduction in community funding and her concerns that funding such as the parks upgrade fund would not be available when the committee came to apply.

Ms Thorby spoke of the Council produced open parks strategy and the lack of consultation with the committee even when they requested to be involved. Ms Thorby called the thrive consultant and stated that they had received out of date information on the domain.

Ms Thorby spoke of recreational assets being prioritised in urban areas and a loss of recreational space in the lower rural Rangitikei.

Mrs Patricia Pearce- Submission SP 087 (and Mr Timothy Pearce)

Mrs Pearce displayed a map, showing an area of approximately forty hectares which she owned in MAR01.

Mrs Pearce highlighted that land use, and the rating process are two distinct aspects. They expressed a desire for a change in the rating system but acknowledged that this would need to be addressed during the LTP discussions.

Overall, Mrs Pearce expressed support for the spatial plan and commented that while the current zoning is described as “moderate residential” her suggestion is to be more creative in land use, enabling the development of small lifestyle blocks to maximise productivity.

Robert Snijders Submissions AP 210 and SP 073

Annual Plan

Mr Snijders noted that public consultations often suffer from poor attendance, indicating a lack of engagement with the community, stating that nobody attended the engagement he went to.

Mr Snijders voiced concerns with the Council building the civic centre on Broadway in Marton as it is known to flood.

Mr Snijders noted the library costs including books and magazine replacement are expensive especially with no charge for late returns, he encourages Council to compare this with other Councils.

Mr Snijders commented on Council turning away early contractors for the Taihape town hall and the impact of closed Council workshops.

Mr Snijders described ongoing issues concerning the Bulls town hall and its associated costs, including operational expenses, and building maintenance.

Mr Snijders questioned Council consulting on the Calico line pathway if no accidents had occurred. He was concerned that funding for such projects might overshadow more pressing needs, such as extending the hours of operation for swimming pools.

Spatial Plan

Mr Snijders advocated for a more comprehensive picture for the spatial plan such as geographical features, proposed new roads and current footpath.

Mr Snijders compared the spatial plan to other Councils and recommended the version from Kaipara district Council.

Mr Snijders recommended more information on the three water bores and the taps to the dams. He voiced concern if there was an impact on the water bores this will impact on water supply to Marton.

John Ransom- Submission SP 120

Mr Ransom stated he is a long-term resident of Scott's ferry and wishes to speak on the inadequacy of Scott's ferry stormwater. He explained that drainage is through two drains out to the Rangitikei River. The flaps on the drain stop back flow which causes surface flooding. Mr Ransom stated that a pump on Amon drain would help if the road is flooded.

Mr Ransom indicated that flooding has been occurring several times a year and some sections can be quite deep for his whole life- 74 years.

Bruce Potaka- Submission SP

- Nga Puna Rau O Rangitikei

Oral submission withdrawn.

Bruce Deer-Submission SP16

Council received tabled documents.

Mr Deer advocated for Haylock Park to be developed into a play and sports area with neighbouring development working in tandem.

Mr Deer stated the soccer club has been playing at Clifton school, but it is not very well maintained or practical. Mr Deer is on the Bulls Community Committee who have had discussions on the park but will not be bringing the park on as the committees responsibility.

Mr Deer has not spoken to developers.

Mr Deer responded to questions that the development of the housing has changed the demand for Haylock versus the domain.

Gretta Mills- Submission AP 219, Fees and Charges, and Revenue and Financing Policy*AP and Fees and Charges*

Ms Mills spoke of consultation documents and how large the LTP is for the average person. She questioned how many residents have the internet and stated that there is lack of hardcopies at the library and information centres. Ms Mills stated that she was only able to get the Marton spatial plan documents in Marton rather than an overview of the district, as well as a consultation document from last year. Ms Mills spoke of Council highlighting what we think and providing tick options with choices already narrowed down.

Ms Mills spoke of the average income in Marton and the impacts of costs.

Ms Mills requested Council learn from the Horowhenua consultation document showing key differences between the options listed and the rating changes. Horowhenua have monthly newsletters and they have a cup of tea with a Councillor across the district.

When queried if she had been able to attend the engagement sessions organised by Council, Ms Mills confirmed she did not attend but did read the documents.

Ms Mills also pointed out the differences between the draft revenue and financing policy and previous policy.

Meeting took a break at 11.47am.

Cr Wong and Cr Duncan left the meeting at 11.47am.

Emily Levenson Submission SP 107-via zoom

Ms Levenson explained the growth opportunity provided by, especially considering the warmer weather that can accommodate suitable crops. Ms Levenson indicated it is important to persevere the land for primary agricultural purposes and consider it as a space for developing horticulture, positioning Bulls as a hub for the horticulture sector.

Ms Levenson will get back to Council on specific information regarding the minimum section size suitable for horticulture, but suggested an orchard spanning 1-2 hectares is economically viable.

Councillors questioned if Council would be able to use this submission to support advocacy to Waka Kotahi around rural roads which Ms Levenson agreed to.

Ms Levenson stated there are fifteen growers in the district and supports Council reaching out to Horticulture New Zealand.

Kent Atkinson- Submission SP 090

Oral submission withdrawn

7 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 12.10pm on Friday, 12 May.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 01 June 2023.

.....
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

7 Reports for Decision

7.1 Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan

Author: Georgia Etheridge, Corporate Planning Advisor

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide an analysis of submissions received during the consultation on the Draft Annual Plan 2023/24 to enable Council's deliberation.

2. Context

- 2.1 This Annual Plan is based upon Year 3 of Council's 2021-31 Long Term Plan, with changes to reflect any variations in projects, finances or other circumstances from those identified in the Long Term Plan.
- 2.2 The draft Annual Plan outlined Council's plans for the coming year, including draft budgets and indication of the rates rise. The consultation document (titled Framing 2023/24) included three key choices: the Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre, the Marton Civic Centre, and a new active mobility pathway along Calico Line.
- 2.3 The draft Annual Plan was adopted for consultation on 15 March 2023, and consultation took place from 23 March to 25 April 2023. During this period, Council made the Framing 2023/24 Annual Consultation Document and draft Annual Plan available on the Council website, and copies of the Consultation Document were available at Council's service centres across the district.
- 2.4 Information about the consultation was shared:
 - Online - the Council Facebook page, including a Facebook live session, via the Rangitīkei Connect, and the Council website.
 - Hard copy – summaries delivered in Hunterville and Taihape, local newspapers and newsletters.
 - In person – 17 meetings and community BBQ sessions held in Bulls, Taihape, Marton, Hunterville, Scotts Ferry, Koitiata, Turakina, Ōhingaiti, Mangaweka, Tūtaenui, Otairi, Papanui Junction, Moawhango, Whangaehu, Mataroa, Taoroa, and Rātana. Attendance at two additional meetings and one community event.

3. Submissions

- 3.1 272 submissions were received, including 15 late submissions.
- 3.2 Submitters were given the opportunity to speak to their submission. Oral hearings took place on 11 and 12 May 2023, where 27 submitters spoke to their submissions on the annual plan.
- 3.3 The submissions are attached in four volumes under separate cover (refer to Attachments 1-4 under separate cover). An index is also attached to support navigation of the documents (refer to Attachment 5)

- 3.4 For the purposes of deliberation, summary documents are also attached for each of the Key Choices as well as a summary document containing other feedback (refer to Attachments 6-9). These documents contain submission points summarised by topic, alongside officer responses and, where applicable, recommendations for Council decisions or actions for officers that arise from the submissions. Any recommendations made in response to submitter requests are duplicated in this report.
- 3.5 Informal feedback is also attached for Council's information, including feedback received at in-person events (refer to Attachment 10).

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Decisions made during Council's deliberations may have an impact on debt or rates. Financial impacts are noted in officer responses.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 As the Annual Plan covers all budgeting and work programme decisions for the upcoming year, there are a wide range of risks to these decisions. Officer analysis of each decision incorporates any risks or issues associated with that request.
- 5.2 Potential impact on strategic risks includes:

Trust and confidence is tarnished

If the community feel that communication is inaccurate or that decision making does not take feedback into account, this will affect the trust that can be placed in Council.

Efforts were taken to ensure consultation information reached the community including providing information through various channels and holding in-person events. Submitters were given the opportunity to speak to Council.

Feedback will also be given to submitters and included in the Annual Plan when finalised to demonstrate how submissions and feedback contributed to the final Plan.

6. Mana whenua implications

- 6.1 No specific mana whenua implications have been raised for this report. Where a submission raises implications, they are noted in the officer response.

7. Statutory Implications

- 7.1 Council is required to prepare the Annual Plan under the Local Government Act 2002, Section 95. Requirements for the content of the Annual Plan are listed in schedule 10, Part 2, while consultation requirements are listed in Section 82, and Section 95A.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 This report provides elected members with information to support decision making on submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24.

9. Decision Making Process

- 9.1 A range of decisions are incorporated into the annual planning process, with various levels of significance. Consultation has occurred in accordance with legislative requirements.

Attachments:

1. Annual Plan Submissions 1-104 (under separate cover)
2. Annual Plan Submissions 105-189 (under separate cover)
3. Annual Plan Submissions 190-253 (under separate cover)
4. Annual Plan Submissions 254-272 (under separate cover)
5. Index of Submissions - Annual Plan 2023-24 [↓](#)
6. Analysis of Submissions - Key Choice One [↓](#)
7. Analysis of Submissions - Key Choice Two [↓](#)
8. Analysis of Submissions - Key Choice Three [↓](#)
9. Analysis of Submissions - Activities [↓](#)
10. Feedback from Community Consultation (under separate cover)
11. Marton Civic Centre Heritage Planning Risk Assessment (under separate cover)

Recommendation 1

That the report 'Analysis of Submissions to Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan' be received

Recommendation 2

That Council receive submissions 001-272 made to the 'Framing 2023/24 Annual Plan' between 23 March and 25 April 2023, including the late submissions 216, 250, 254, 260-270, and 272.

Recommendation 3

With regard to officer comments made in response to submissions as listed in Attachments 6-9, Council has considered the Officer comments and accepts them with amendments / without amendments [*delete one*], noting they will be included as Council's response to submitters.

Recommendation 4

[For Key Choice One]

That Council approves the new budget for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre of \$14,000,000, to implement Option 1 – Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre, noting that Council has received \$1,883,000 from Better Off Funding towards this project.

That Council requests staff to focus on the completion of this project ahead of the Marton Civic Centre and start the design process from 1 July 2023 which is earlier than originally planned in the Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

Recommendation 5

[For Key Choice Two]

That Council proceeds with the "do minimum" option and strengthens the existing buildings at 46 High Street and the Marton library building to a minimum of 75% NBS and improves the facilities through minor renovations and space optimisation with a budget of \$[add here].

Recommendation 6

[For Key Choice Three]

That Council approves / does not approve [delete one] the additional unbudgeted (debt funded) spend of up to \$300,000 to construct the new footpath from Nga Tawa School to Marton along Calico Line.

Recommendation 7

Council continue with its proposed introduction of the Forestry rating Differential. For 2023/24 this will be a factor of 1.5 applied to the Roding Targeted Rate for properties classified as forestry.

Recommendation 8

That Council do/do not [delete one] request staff to liaise with Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to assess options for a shared pathway from Dixon Way into Taihape.

Recommendation 9

That Council does/does not provide funding of \$[add here] to Youthline for the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommendation 10

That Council consider/do not [delete one] consider dry-vault toilets at cemeteries as part of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process.

Recommendation 11

Council does/does not [delete one] support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80.

Recommendation 12

That Council do/do not [delete one] provide monetary support to the value of \$[add here] to Ratana Gym for a new storage shed

Recommendation 13

That Council reduce its expenditure and keep rate increases as low as possible by reducing the funding that is available for the community to apply for, including by:

- Reducing the Event Sponsorship fund to \$25,000
- Removing the Annual Path to Wellbeing Conference, Parks Upgrade Partnership, and Placemaking funds,

and encourage community groups and individuals to apply for funding through the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan process.

Recommendation 14

That Council suggest that representatives from the Poppy Places Trust apply to the Community Initiatives Fund.

OR

That Council does/does not include funding of \$[add here] in the 2023/24 financial year to install signage for Poppy Places.

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume One: 001-104

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
001	Nichola Anderson	5
002	Kelvin Anderson	6
003	Pania Dehar	7
004	Kylah Hesketh	8
005	Dawn Hesketh	9
006	Bernadette Nepe	10
007	Te Ru Steedman	11
008	Jack Howell Tangiwai Sawmill	12
009	Lynda McKnight-Wilson	13
010	Rochelle Baird	14
011	Kira Byford	15
012	Joe Byford	16
013	Francesca Murrell	17
014	Rochelle Drake	18
015	E George	19
016	Jocelyn Hunt	20
017	Jaime Reibel	22
018	Joanne Alcoba	24
019	Yvonne Chase	25
020	Damian Turner-Steele	26
021	Peter Kipling-Arthur	28
022	Rosie Gilbert	30
023	David Craig	33
024	Max Shierlaw	35
025	Corinne Doyle	38
026	Brianna Booth	40
027	Kira Swainson	42
028	Anonymous	44
029	Paul McKay	46
030	Robert James Collier Spring Farms NZ Ltd	48
031	Alysha Davies	50
032	Ben Coll	52
033	Louise Andrews	54
034	Gay and Rex Lewis	56
035	Darryl Hesketh	58
036	Jane Bell	59
037	Matt Potaka	63
038	Warren Couper	65
039	Sean Muncaster	67
040	Sharon McCarthy	69
041	Bennett Horton	71
042	Sherry Horton	72

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume One: 001-104

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
043	Yve Martin	73
044	Joy Scott	76
045	D Young	78
046	Raymond Burrows	80
047	Kevin Whelan	82
048	Anne Mould	83
049	Kathleen Munro	85
050	Cynthia Hammer	86
051	Jane Murray	88
052	David Stuteley	90
053	Amanda Collier	93
054	Greer Dorne	95
055	Emma Watson	97
056	Mel Port	99
057	Sherilyn Tasker	101
058	Ngaire Wishnowsky	103
059	Sharyll Gray	105
060	Charlotte Oswald	108
061	Charlotte Oswald Taihape Drama Club	110
062	Kimiora King	112
063	Deanna Green	114
064	Fran Robertson	116
065	Legynd Lucas Payne	118
066	Beth Carter	120
067	Graeme Munro	122
068	M Cairns and P Chadfield	124
069	Veronica Yardley	126
070	Veronica Yardley – President Friendship Club Taihape	128
071	M J Chase	130
072	Judith Brown	132
073	Kristin Churchward	133
074	Andrew Wilkinson	135
075	Gayna Setters	136
076	Win Houghton	138
077	Pauline Barnett	140
078	Albert Keuning	142
079	Lesley Keuning	144
080	V Jones	146
081	Bronwyn Troon	148
082	Lynette Collier	150
083	Marguerite Kauika	152
084	Myra Fleury	153

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume One: 001-104

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
085	Gail Larsen	155
086	Nevaeh Bowsher-Dehar	157
087	Hemi Dehar	159
088	Natalie Bowsher	161
089	Libby Rayner	163
090	Alison Jones	165
091	Naumai	167
092	Moana Raukawa	169
093	Karen Kennedy	171
094	Sue Foley	173
095	Janenne Oates	175
096	Graeme Oates	177
097	Simon Plimmer Plimmer & Co Farms	179
098	Heather Gee-Taylor Glencorran Farm Ltd	181
099	Steve Cross Vray Sound & Light Design	183
100	Sheryl Munro	193
101	Peter Munro	195
102	Allan Troon	197
103	Colin Baird	199
104	Margaret Baird	200

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Two: 105-189

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
105	Gordon Collier	5
106	Quentin Collier	7
107	Yve Martin Gumtree Motorhome Park	9
108	Murray Holdaway Federated Farmers	10
109	Barry Copeland	18
110	Kathy Clark Music Room	21
111	Terence Peter Baird Taihape Rugby and Sports Club	23
112	Taihape Housing Steering Group	25
113	Elizabeth Strange	28
114	Elisabeth Riley	30
115	Grant Wilson	32
116	Dean Raymond Heritage New Zealand	35
117	Michelle McKay	38
118	Allan McKay	39
119	Rachel McKay	40
120	Lara Maher	41
121	John Whittaker	46
122	Warihi Ormsby	48
123	Jennifer Abernethy Spinning & Friendship Group	50
124	Margaret and Trevor Benson	52
125	Joy Ormsby	54
126	Theona Ormsby	56
127	Alan Thomas Northern Wanganui Rugby Sub Union	58
128	Clara Reibel	61
129	Kim Welch	63
130	Joseph Byford Friends of Taihape	65
131	Cecily Evans	67
132	Margaret Coogan	69
133	Anthony Oswald	71
134	Wiremu Hirini	73
135	Denise Hirini	74
136	Marcus Hirini	76
137	Joshua Hirini	77
138	Sophie & Patrick Henderson Hinau Station	78
139	Jan Bond	81
140	Geoff McGuire	82

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Two: 105-189

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
141	Peter Kipling-Arthur Taihape Community Board	83
142	Shirley Russell Memorial Hall Vice Chair	87
143	James Russell	89
144	B R Howl	91
145	Hura Duffin	93
146	Helen Gordon	95
147	Katrina O'Brien	99
148	Tania Byford	101
149	Karina Baird	104
150	Terrence Peter Baird	105
151	Ken Mason	107
152	Gina Mason	108
153	Don Tantrum	110
154	Catherine Harrison	114
155	Brian Apps	116
156	Beth Wagstaff	118
157	Tony Hewitt	120
158	Lynne Sheridan	122
159	Harry Nichol	124
160	Elizabeth Tierney	126
161	Carolyn Kipling-Arthur	128
162	Rose Orr	130
163	Wayne Corbett	131
164	Belinda Corbett	133
165	Rita Elwin	135
166	John Vickers	137
167	Emily Vickers	140
168	Sarah Collier	142
169	Aaron Collings	144
170	Debbie Booth	145
171	Grant Scoones	147
172	Jo Rangooni	149
173	Vivienne Tantrum	151
174	Barbara Smissen	153
175	Dave Smissen	155
176	Maryann Vandyk	157
177	Jodene Carr	159
178	Carlie van dijk	161
179	Phillippa Williams Fairburn Holdings Ltd	163
180	Sarah	165
181	Ariana Hansen	167

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Two: 105-189

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
182	Gina Parkes	169
183	Helen Campbell and Lesley Carter Nga Tawa Diocesan School	171
184	Brylee Coley	173
185	Andrew and Fiona Morton Paki iti Farms Ltd	175
186	John Eames	177
187	Karen Rose	179
188	Jo Anson	181
189	Robin Rutherford	183

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Three: 190-253

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
190	Sarah Bell Taihape Tennis and Taihape Netball	4
191	Karen Addenbrooke	29
192	Trevor Clark	31
193	Robert Baines	33
194	Richard and Rachel Goodwin	35
195	Lucy Skou	37
196	Susan Benson	39
197	Shane Casey Youthline Central North Island	41
198	Matthew Thomas Friends of Taihape Charitable Society	43
199	Jan Byford	45
200	Geoffrey Wilson Treasure Trove	48
201	Susan Saunders	50
202	Steve Cross Town Hall Sub Committee	52
203	Pania Winiata	56
204	Ken Mason Taihape Movers	58
205	Heather McQueen McQueen School of Dance	60
206	Rita Batley	63
207	Angus Gordon	65
208	Belinda Harvey-Larsen	67
209	Interested Residents of Marton & Rangitikei	71
210	Robert Snijders	74
211	Christina M Andrew	81
212	Dan Cairns Alliance Group Limited	82
213	Anonymous	85
214	Carolyn Bates Marton Community Committee	90
215	Carolyn Bates	94
216 LATE	Michael McCartney Horizons Regional Council	97
217	Charlie Mete Ratana Community Gym	98
218	Brendan Poole ANZCO Foods	100
219	Gretta Mills	101
220	Charissa Lawlor	105
221	Alan McCubbine	107
222	Marton Development Group	109

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Three: 190-253

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
223	Lance Patterson Door of Hope Rangitikei	111
224	Krystal Property Brokers	113
225	Joseph Skou	115
226	Joy Oliver	117
227	Grant Huwyler Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa	119
228	Andrew Ramsay	121
229	Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell	123
230	Phil Shaw	129
231	Aron Moroney	131
232	CJ Atkinson-Kos	133
233	Luke Atkinson	135
234	Scott Parkes Huntermville Rugby Club	137
235	Angela McDunhaven Deer Park	139
236	Charity Davis Taihape Playground Group	144
237	Jason Port	146
238	Laura	148
239	Jack Baker/Jill Woolley Pariroa Farming	151
240	Gabriel McCartin	154
241	James Winiata-Moroney	156
242	Jean Osten	158
243	Pania Winiata Taihape Housing Steering Group	160
244	Craig Whitton	162
245	Timothy McCartin	164
246	Renee Russell	166
247	Helen Craig Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust	169
248	Vincent M	172
249	Jake White	174
250 LATE	Malcolm Leary	176
251	Chris	178
252	Roger Wilkinson	181
253	Anna McCartin	183

Annual Plan Submissions 2023-24 Volume Four: 254-271

Submission Number	Name and Organisation	Page
254	Tim Matthews	3
255	Elizabeth Mortland Taihape Older & Bolder Committee	46
256	Elizabeth Mortland	48
257	Elizabeth Mortland Taihape Neighbourhood Support Committee	50
258	Elizabeth Mortland Taihape Museum Committee	52
259	Michael Andrews	54
260	Judy Addington	57
261	Mark Jones	59
262	Alison Fargher	61
263	Robyn Woolaston	63
264	Miri Robinson	65
265	Judith and Steven Bradley	67
266	Nick Taransky	69
267 LATE	Teresa Lowry	71
268	Wendy Poananga	73
269 LATE	Alan Ramsay	75
270 LATE	Nyla Ramsay	77
271	Jarlia Warren	79
272 LATE	Rangitikei Youth Council	80

Key Choice One – Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre

Key Choice 1 included a consultation question about future design of the Taihape Town Hall/ Civic Centre. Council facilities housed in the Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre include the library, information centre and Council offices. The whole building is earthquake prone and would benefit from structural, safety and accessibility improvements.

The Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 includes a total project budget of \$9,700,000 for the Taihape Town Hall/ Civic Centre. Council was also successful in applying for Better Off Funding from Central Government for this project of \$1,883,000. It is intended that this project will be undertaken first, prior to the Marton Civic Centre.

In addition, Council has previously agreed funding support to earthquake strengthen the old Grandstand in Taihape Memorial Park, of up to \$1 million. Cost estimates indicate that earthquake strengthening to a basic level may cost up to \$2 million which does not include restoration. Costs in addition to Council's \$1 million funding will need to come from community led fundraising.

The two options provided were:

Option 1 – Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre (preferred option)

Estimated project cost: \$14 million

Impact on rates: \$0.89 million per year

Impact on debt: \$12.1 million

This includes new heating, improvements to fire safety and accessibility, and full restoration to improve all spaces. The Library, Information Centre and Council offices will return to the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

Under this option Council will continue to commit up to \$1 million towards the earthquake strengthening of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.

Option 2 – Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

Estimated project cost: \$15-\$18 million

Impact on rates: \$0.9-\$1.17 million per year

Impact on debt: \$13.1-\$16.1 million

This includes basic earthquake strengthening, heating and accessibility improvements to Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre but no further restoration to the building. This means that only the hall area will continue to function. The Library, Information Centre and Council offices will be relocated to a transformed and earthquake strengthened Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.

Submitters were able to choose and specify 'something else' if they did not support either option provided.

Of the 240 submitters that selected an option, 163 submitters were from Taihape. The breakdown in responses from those who live in Taihape, compared with those who live outside of Taihape is provided in the chart below.

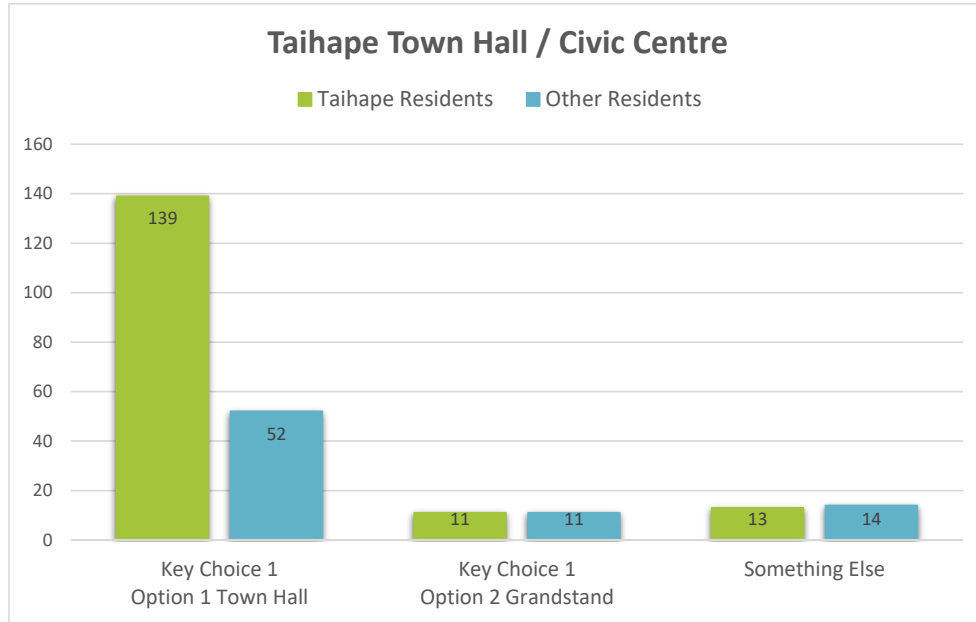


Figure 1. Submissions responses to Key Choice 1 – Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

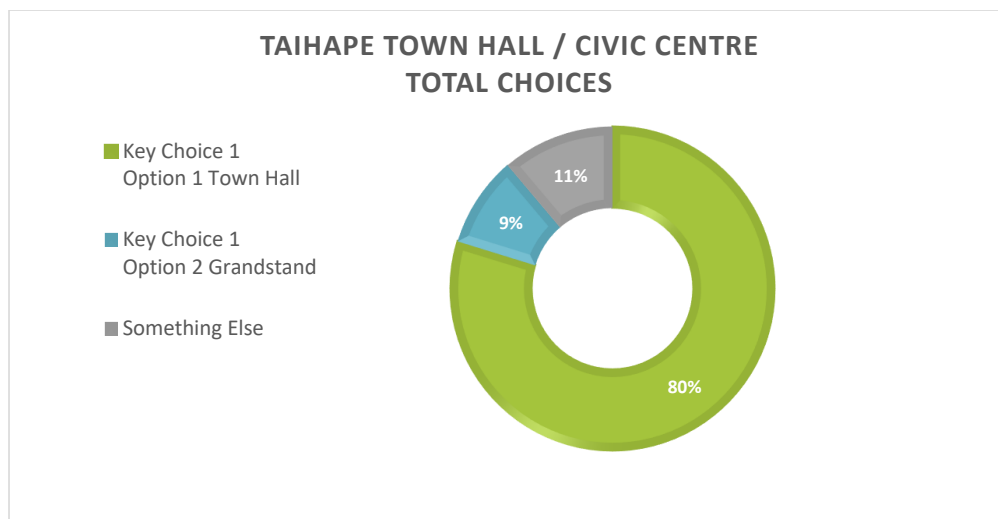


Figure 2. Submission responses to Key Choice 1 – Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

Option 1 – Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre (preferred option)

Of the 191 submitters that selected ‘Option 1’, 97 submitters provided comments. They are summarised by topics below.

Topic 1	Costs are too high
Topic 2	Grandstand
Topic 3	Keep Services Together
Topic 4	Main Street / Visibility
Topic 5	Modernisation
Topic 6	Planning Involvement / Feedback to layout
Topic 7	Restoration

Topic 1 - Costs are too high

Submissions

David Craig (23), Myra Fleury (84), Carlie van dijk (178), Marton Community Committee - Carolyn Bates (214), Charissa Lawlor (220), Jason Port (237), Craig Whitton (244).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 023, 084, 178, 214, 220, 237, 244 supported Option 1, pointing out the positive benefits that the restoration of the town hall / civic centre will have on the town but raised concerns around the high cost of this project and the effects on rates this investment will have.

Submitter 220 made a point about Council’s project management to ensure that the project comes within budget.

Submitter 244 does not support the restoration of the grandstand to be funded by Council rates.

Officer Comment

Costs could be reduced during the design and engineering process by reducing scope and complexity. For example, if some of the structure is built new behind the façade it could be less expensive as it is less complex to build new rather than strengthen the existing poor structure.

The original budget estimate was at the time not based on any specific design. The updated budget reflects the earthquake strengthening required as well as the cost increases the construction market has seen over the last 3-4 years. The challenges in the supply chain of

the construction industry and the rise in demand for construction has steeply increased and it is not expected that the costs will decline. Any further delay of any decision will likely lead to further increases in costs.

Staff are working on strategies to reduce costs where possible.

Topic 2 - Grandstand

Submissions

Max Shierlaw (24), Sherry Horton (42), Heritage NZ (116), Northern Wanganui Rugby Sub Union - Alan Thomas (127), Marcus Hirini (136), Tania Byford (148), Terrence Peter Baird (150), Taihape Movers - Ken Mason (204), Interested Residents of Marton & Rangitikei (209), Rangitikei Youth Council (272)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 024, 042, 116, 127, 136, 148, 150, 204, 209 requested that Council strengthens and restores the Grandstand at the same time.

Submitter 024 suggested that the budget for the grandstand could be taken from the Marton Civic Centre project.

Submitter 116 pointed out that the use and changes suggested to the grandstand need to be carefully considered to ensure the heritage values are maintained so the alterations do not have a negative effect on the architectural understanding of the building.

Submitters 127, 136, 148 and 150 suggested that the changing and shower facilities under the grandstand are restored.

Submitter 127 requested that the grandstand will be restored with six large changing rooms, shower facilities for up to 120 people and storage space.

Submitter 272 requested the grandstand be retained for its current use.

Officer Comment

Council has previously agreed funding support to earthquake strengthen the old Grandstand in Taihape Memorial Park, of up to \$1 million. Cost estimates indicate that earthquake strengthening to a basic level may cost up to \$2 million which does not include restoration. Costs in addition to Council's \$1 million funding will need to come from community led fundraising. The current design is based on the space under the seating to not be utilised, if it was to be utilised further fire engineering design will need to be conducted which will increase the costs.

Within the consultation of the Annual Plan, the second option within this key choice suggested that both the grandstand and the town hall would be earthquake strengthened and the facilities improved. This option received very little support of the total of the submissions (9%).

The Taihape Amenities Building has been built to service the sport teams with four large changing / shower rooms. Currently there are no plans to include any additional changing and shower facilities in the grandstand space.

Topic 3 - Keep Services Together

Submissions

Corinne Doyle (25), Cynthia Hammer (50), Kristin Churchward (73), Barry Copeland (109), B R Howl (144), Brylee Coley (184), John Eames (186), Susan Benson (196), Pania Winiata (203), Gretta Mills (219), Aron Moroney (231), Judith and Steven Bradley (265)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 025, 050, 073, 109, 144, 184, 186, 196, 203, 219, 231, 265 suggested that the Council services should be kept together within one facility.

Submitter 025 pointed out that parking at Memorial Park could be challenging if the services were relocated there.

Submitter 184 suggested that changing where services are located could confuse some residents.

Submitter 231 suggested that the number of offices could be increased within the town hall.

Submitter 265 suggested that keeping the services together would be less expensive operationally and that this way the services are more visible.

Officer Comment

Within the consultation of the Annual Plan, the second option within this key choice suggested that all the core Council services would be relocated to the Grandstand. The only function that would be separated was the hall function, which is often used in isolation, after hours, when most events are taking place. This option received very little support of the total of the submissions (9%).

Topic 4 - Main Street / Visibility

Submissions

Nichola Anderson (1), Kelvin Anderson (2), Kira Byford (11), Joe Byford (12), Robert James Collier (30), Warren Couper (38), Sharon McCarthy (40), Bennett Horton (41), Sherry Horton (42), Joy Scott (44), D Young (45), Raymond Burrows (46), Anne Mould (48), Sharyll Gray (59), Deanna Green (63), Kristin Churchward (73), Win Houghton (76), Pauline Barnett (77), Lesley Keuning (79), Myra Fleury (84), Natalie Bowsher (88), Colin Baird (103), Barry Copeland (109), Elisabeth Riley (114), Lara Maher (120), Margaret Coogan (132), Helen Gordon (146), Catherine Harrison (154), Beth Wagstaff (156), Wayne Corbett (163), Rita Elwin (165), Sarah Collier (168), Debbie Booth (170), Ariana Hansen (181), Brylee Coley (184), Susan Benson

(196), Jan Byford (199), Christina M Andrew (211), Gretta Mills (219), James Winiata-Moroney (241), Judith and Steven Bradley (265)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 001, 002, 11, 012, 030, 038, 040, 041, 042, 044, 045, 046, 048, 059, 063, 073, 076, 077, 079, 084, 088, 103, 109, 114, 120, 132, 146, 154, 156, 163, 165, 168, 170, 181, 184, 196, 199, 211, 219, 241, 265 suggested that the services all need to stay on the main street of Taihape for them to be central, visible and easily accessible to the locals, general public, visitors and travelers.

Submitters 046, 076, 077 suggested that parking on the main street is easier.

Submitter 046 questioned why the strengthening of the town hall has not been scheduled earlier. He requested a timely turnaround of the design and construction of this renovation.

Submitter 077 questioned the costings as being vague and asked whether costings for a new build town hall have been prepared to be compared.

Submitter 079 suggested that more books should be available to choose from.

Submitter 146 suggested that the Town Hall is the only large venue in Taihape to host a variety of larger events.

Submitter 184 suggested that changing where services are located could confuse some residents.

Submitter 241 suggested that Council commits more money to improving facilities in Taihape.

Officer Comment

There has been strong feedback within the submissions for the Civic Centre facility to be on the Taihape main street and to be easily visible and reachable by locals.

The Taihape Town Hall project was included in the Long Term Plan 2021-2031, however the work relating to the town centre planning started as early as 2014.

The costings at this point are estimates but contingency has been allowed. A new building instead of strengthening / refurbishing the existing facility has not been costed.

There are a few other facilities including the Taihape Area School Hall or the Majestic Theatre which allow for stage productions.

Council has committed to a number of improvements within Taihape, with the Taihape Amenities Building, Papakai Pump Station and the Town Hall all being projects within the current Long Term Plan 2021-2031 improving facilities and infrastructure in the town.

Topic 5 - Modernisation

Submissions

Jaime Reibel (17), Sean Muncaster (39), Taihape Drama Club - Charlotte Oswald (61), Christina M Andrew (211)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 017, 039, 061, 211 suggested that there is an opportunity to modernise the building internally and externally while retaining the façade and sprung floor stage.

Officer Comment

There can be financial and planning benefits if a new building is built behind the façade. This will be considered during the design phase.

Topic 6 - Planning Involvement / Feedback to layout

Submissions

Taihape Drama Club - Charlotte Oswald (61), Fran Robertson (64), Judith Brown (72), Vray Sound & Light Design - Steve Cross (99), Gina Mason (152), Treasure Trove - Geoffrey Wilson (200), Susan Saunders (201), Marton Community Committee - Carolyn Bates (214), Carolyn Bates (215)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 061, 064, 072, 099, 152, 200, 201, 214, 215 suggested that Council should work closely with users of the Town Hall / Civic Centre to make sure the final design incorporates the ‘must haves’ such as changings rooms, library, meeting rooms, kitchen, bathrooms, offices, heating, stage, supper room etc.

Officer Comment

A process will be set up by the Project Team to make sure feedback from the users towards the design can be received throughout the design process, as was done with the Taihape Amenities Building. This does not mean all feedback can be included in the design due to financial or engineering restrictions.

To ensure that this is a smooth process, staff are open to suggestions around how such a user group could be created given the many diverse users of the different Council services and functions offered.

Topic 7 - Restoration

Submissions

Pania Dehar (3), Damian Turner-Steele (20), Corinne Doyle (25), Robert James Collier (30), Matt Potaka (37), Yve Martin (43), Raymond Burrows (46), Anne Mould (48), Cynthia Hammer (50), Charlotte Oswald (60), Fran Robertson (64), M J Chase (71), Albert Keuning (78), V Jones (80), Gail Larsen (85), Naumai (91), Moana Raukawa (92), Vray Sound & Light Design - Steve Cross (99), Colin Baird (103), Gordon Collier (105), Heritage NZ (116), Shirley Russell (142), James Russell (143), Helen Gordon (146), Ken Mason (151), Gina Mason (152), Brian Apps (155), Beth Wagstaff (156), Elizabeth Tierney (160), Carolyn Kipling-Arthur (161), Wayne Corbett (163), Belinda Corbett (164), Rita Elwin (165), Sarah Collier (168), Ariana Hansen (181), Robin Rutherford (189), Trevor Clark (192), Jan Byford (199), Town Hall Sub Committee - Steve Cross (202), Taihape Movers - Ken Mason (204), McQueen School of Dance - Heather McQueen (205), Interested Residents of Marton & Rangitikei (209), Marton Community Committee - Carolyn Bates (214), Carolyn Bates (215), Gretta Mills (219), Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell (229), Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust - Helen Craig (247), Elizabeth Mortland (256)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 003, 020, 025, 030, 037, 043, 046, 048, 050, 060, 064, 071, 078, 080, 085, 091, 092, 099, 103, 105, 116, 142, 143, 146, 151, 152, 155, 156, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 168, 181, 189, 192, 199, 202, 204, 205, 209, 214, 215, 219, 229, 247, 256 commented on the importance of the building for the town, that it is seen as the heart of the town and iconic, therefore should be restored to be brought back to its original state and ready to be reoccupied and used by the community.

Submitter 50 commented on the opportunities that this restored space brings to Taihape which would allow large events to be held.

Submitter 192 suggested that a Medical Centre could also move into buildings at the back of the Town Hall.

Submitter 256 suggested that Council should enquire with Arthur Morgenstern regarding his services around earthquake strengthening.

Officer Comment

There has been strong feedback within the submissions for Option 1, which includes a fully restored and earthquake strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre as well as new heating, improvements to fire safety and accessibility to improve all spaces. The Library, Information Centre and Council offices will return to the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

An unsolicited offer has been received from Arthur Morgenstern, which was presented to Council in March 2023. Council rejected the offer at that time, preferring instead to conclude the public consultation process.

Option 2 – Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Transformation of Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand

Of the 21 submitters that selected 'Option 2', 5 submitters provided comments. They are summarised below.

Submissions

Gayna Setters (75), John Vickers (166), Vivienne Tantrum (173), Belinda Harvey-Larsen (208), Vincent M (248),

Summary of submissions

Submitter 075 suggested that the Grandstand could be used for after school activities.

Submitter 166 questioned that the Town Hall may be too large.

Submitter 173 pointed out the heritage importance of both the Town Hall and the Grandstand.

Submitter 208 suggested that the façade is maintained and a café included.

Submitter 248 suggested that Council should focus on the basics before working on larger capital projects and added that Council should reconsider developer fees not to be subsidised by other rate payers.

Officer Comment

The submission points have been noted.

Something Else

Of the 26 submitters that requested ‘something else’, 26 submitters provided comments. They are summarised by topics below.

Topic 8	Do nothing – Costs are too high
Topic 9	Keep Façade & Modernisation
Topic 10	New Building
Topic 11	Restoration of both Town Hall and Grandstand
Topic 12	Other priority

Topic 8 - Do nothing – Costs are too high

Submissions

David Stuteley (52), Grant Wilson (115), Grant Scoones (171), Robert Snijders (210), Tim Matthews (254).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 052, 115, 171, 210, 254, raised concerns around the cost of this project and its affordability for the Council in these challenging economic circumstances and suggested delaying the project or even not to do anything now.

Submitter 115 suggested Council to consider making the Civic Centre an operational spend by leasing a facility developed by developers.

Submitter 210 was interested to understand the operational costs for the presented options.

Submitter 210 suggested that before any work continues, Council could work with local residents to bring forward a cost effective and clear strategic plan for the Town Hall and Grandstand.

Officer Comment

The original budget estimate was at the time not based on any specific design. The updated budget reflects the earthquake strengthening required as well as the cost increases the construction market has seen over the last 3-4 years. The challenges in the supply chain of the construction industry and the rise in demand for construction has steeply increased and it is not expected that the costs will decline. Any further delay of any decision will likely lead to further increases in costs.

Staff are working on strategies to reduce costs where possible.

Topic 9 - Keep Façade & Modernisation

Submissions

Music Room - Kathy Clark (110), The Chairman of Taihape Housing Steering Group (112), Jan Bond (139), Michael Andrews (259)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 110, 112, 139, 259 emphasized the importance of the façade of the Taihape Town Hall and suggested that a new purpose facility could be built behind the retained façade.

Submitter 139 suggested reducing the floorspace of the building.

Officer Comment

Reducing complexity can reduce costs during the design and engineering process. For example, if some of the structure were built new behind the façade it could be less expensive as it is less complex to build new, rather than strengthen the existing failing structure.

Topic 10 - New Building

Submissions

Graeme Munro (67), Simon Plimmer (97), B R Howl (144), Katrina O'Brien (147), Taihape Tennis and Taihape Netball jointly - Sarah Bell (190), Phil Shaw (230)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 067, 097, 144, 147, 190, 230 suggested that another option should be considered, which is to demolish the Town Hall and build a new purpose-built building.

Submitters 067 and 190 pointed out that a new building could be more cost effective to construct and more efficient in operational spend.

Submitter 144 suggested reducing the floorspace of the building.

Submitter 190 raised concerns of potential overspends when working on the refurbishment of existing buildings.

Officer Comment

The option to demolish and build new was not considered in the process due to the strong emotional bond of the public to the building's appearance (see consultation as part of the town plan in 2015).

There is a risk of cost overruns in any construction project and especially when there are unknown conditions in the renovation of an existing building.

Topic 11 - Restoration of Grandstand**Submissions**

Rosie Gilbert (22), Alysha Davies (31), Jan Bond (139), Harry Nichol (159), Taihape Tennis and Taihape Netball jointly - Sarah Bell (190), Robert Snijders (210), Taihape Playground Group - Charity Davis (236), Roger Wilkinson (252)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 022, 031, 139, 159, 236, 252 explicitly mention in their comments that they would like to see the Grandstand restored and strengthened as well as the Town Hall.

Submitter 190 suggested to build new for the Town Hall and strengthen the Grandstand.

Submitter 210 suggested that Council could work with local residents to bring forward a cost effective and clear strategic plan for the Town Hall and Grandstand

Officer Comment

Council has previously agreed funding support to earthquake strengthen the old Grandstand in Taihape Memorial Park, of up to \$1 million. Cost estimates indicate that earthquake strengthening to a basic level may cost up to \$2 million which does not include restoration. Costs in addition to Council's \$1 million funding will need to come from community led fundraising. The current design is based on the space under the seating to not be utilised, if it was to be utilised further fire engineering design will need to be conducted which will increase the costs.

Within the consultation of the Annual Plan, the second option within this key choice suggested that both the grandstand and the town hall would be earthquake strengthened and the facilities improved. This option received very little support of the total of the submissions (9%).

Topic 12 - Other Priority**Submissions**

Ben Coll (032), Angela (235), Laura (238), Jack Baker/Jill Woolley (239), Jean Osten (242), Chris (251),

Summary of submissions

Submitters 32, 235, 238, 239, 242, 251 did not comment on the Key Choice but instead raised other priorities in the comment box.

Submitters 032 suggested a reduction of speed along Hendersons Line from the corner of Pukepapa Road to Newmans Line

Submitters 235, 238 suggested that Council need to focus on infrastructure first.

Submitters 235, 239, 242, 251 suggested that specifically the Otara Bridge needs to be repaired first.

Officer Comment

These other suggestions have been passed on to the right officer to respond.

Misinformation / Incorrect assumptions

Officer Comment

A degree of misinformation can be identified within the submissions Council received. Some submissions seem to base their choice of preferred option on the assumption that if Option 2 was selected, the Town Hall would be demolished, which is not what Option 2 represents.

Option 2 included retaining, and earthquake strengthening the Town Hall to retain its function for events etc. Some areas such as the library would be up for discussion to be demolished, however the façade would be maintained to keep the iconic look of the building.

Option 2 would have been the opportunity to transform two buildings for the community, but due to some of the submissions received it could be that this option has not been explained well enough.

Summary Officer Comment

Staff engaged an expert to complete a Better Business Case for this project. The Better Business Case process helps to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options exist for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre. This process is founded on a series of workshops with local community members, iwi, elected members and staff.

Key sites identified during this process were the existing Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre and Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand sites. As part of this process, a wide range of realistic options were assessed against how well they meet the spending objectives and critical success factors for the project. Following this a short list was created with possible options which were examined in more detail. The short list of options was presented to Council and they decided that the community should be consulted on two options, both of which will provide much improved spaces to bring the community together.

For both options it was clear that at a minimum the façade of the current building should be retained to maintain the iconic look which is important to many (see this annual plan consultation and consultation as part of the town planning in 2015).

The recommendation of the Better Business Case is to continue with Option 1 which is in line with the majority of responses of this consultation process. Once Council makes a decision, the Better Business Case can be further completed, and staff will prepare a full Project Work Plan which will include feedback from a Facility User Group workshop facilitated by the PMO.

Actions

Staff will work with locals and Elected Members to form a relevant project user group to provide feedback into the project work plan and continued feedback throughout the design process.

Recommendations

That Council approves the new budget for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre of \$14,000,000, to implement Option 1 – Fully Restored and Earthquake Strengthened Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre, noting that Council has received \$1,883,000 from Better Off Funding towards this project.

That Council requests staff to focus on the completion of this project ahead of the Marton Civic Centre and start the design process from 1 July 2023 which is earlier than originally planned in the Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

Key Choice Two – Marton Civic Centre

Key Choice 2 included a consultation question about future design of the Marton Civic Centre. A new Civic Centre would bring Marton's library, information centre, council head office and emergency management under one roof. This new space will help to transform the Marton library experience into an inviting centre for learning and interaction, improve the customer and staff user experience of Council facilities, as well as increase the efficiency of Council services.

The Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 includes a total project budget of \$19m for the Marton Civic Centre. There are existing buildings and sites that could be sold to offset some of the costs. These have been provisionally valued at \$2-3 million.

The two options provided were:

Option 1. Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility (preferred option)

Estimated project cost: \$33 million
 Impact on rates: \$2.4 million per year
 Impact on debt: \$33 million

This includes demolishing the Cobbler, Abraham and Williams and Davenport buildings on the corner of Broadway and High Street, Marton, subject to resource consent. A new building would be constructed on the same site to accommodate civic functions from 46 High Street, Marton, a new learning and interaction centre (library) and various meeting spaces for the community.

Option 2. Refurbish Existing Buildings, Preserving Some Heritage Features, where possible

Estimated project cost: \$34 million
 Impact on rates: \$2.41 million per year
 Impact on debt: \$34 million

This includes refurbishing the Cobbler, Abraham and Williams and Davenport buildings on the corner of Broadway and High Street, Marton to accommodate civic functions from 46 High Street, Marton, a new learning and interaction centre (library) and various meeting spaces for the community. It is anticipated some heritage features will be preserved and some parts of the existing buildings will be demolished, this is subject to resource consent and design.

Submitters were able to choose and specify 'something else' if they did not support either option provided.

Council received 135 submissions on this issue.

The chart below shows the preferred option indicated by submitters based on their residential location.

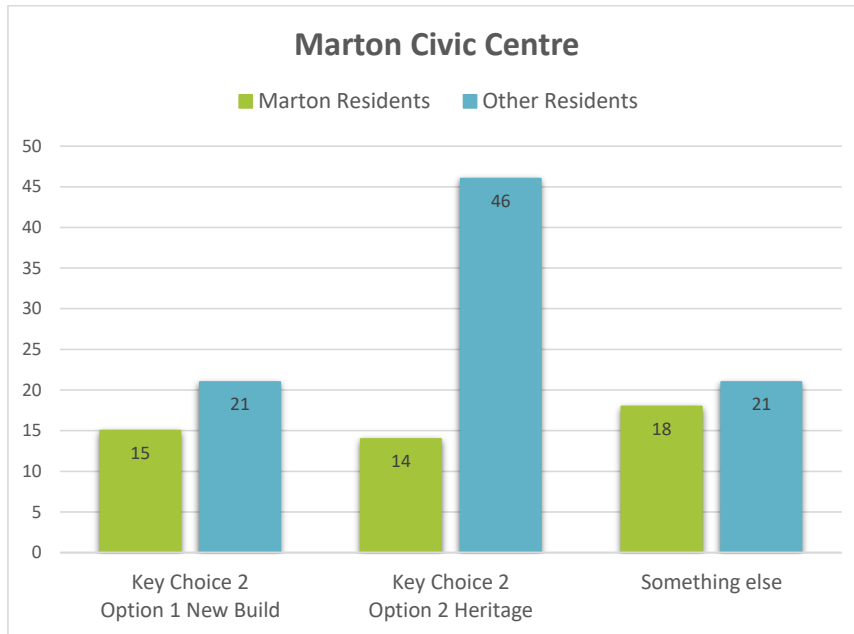


Figure 1. Submissions responses to Key Choice 2 – Marton Civic Centre.

Of the 135 submitters that selected an option, 47 submitters were from Marton. The breakdown in responses from those who live in Marton, compared with those who live outside of Marton is provided in the table below.

	Key Choice 2 Option 1 New Build	Key Choice 2 Option 2 Heritage	Something else	Total
Marton Residents	15	14	18	47
Other Residents	21	46	21	88
Total	36	61	38	135

Option 1 – Demolish existing buildings and replace with new purpose built facility

Of the 36 submitters that selected ‘Option 1’, 15 submitters provided comments. They are summarised by topics below.

Topic 1	Purpose built facility
Topic 2	Additional comments

Topic 1 – Purpose built facility

Submissions

Kira Swainson (027), Graeme Munro (067), Sue Foley (094), Barbara Smissen (174), Dave Smissen (175), Joy Oliver (226), Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa (227), Jason Port (237).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 027, 067, 094, 174, 175, 226, 227, 237 expressed support for a purpose-built facility.

Submitter 067 noted that restoration costs can be unjustifiable when a purpose-built facility can combine other services. This submitter also noted the benefits of the sale of unused assets to support the funding of the project.

Submitter 094 noted that a purpose-built facility signals the town is progressing and will be an asset.

Submitters 174 and 175 noted support for a redeveloped library.

Submitters 027 and 237 noted that a new build could be cheaper / better in the long term.

Submitter 237 notes that parking can be developed alongside a new build.

Officer comment

The comments about the benefits of a purpose-built facility are noted.

Topic 2 – Additional comments

Submissions

Anne Mould (048), Sherilyn Tasker (057), Charlotte Oswald (060), John Whittaker (121), Harry Nichol (159), Sarah (180), Robin Rutherford (189), Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki - Ngāti Apa (227).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 048 and 060 noted they did not live in Marton.

Submitter 057 did not consider the heritage is worth saving and submitter 180 suggests there are other safer store fronts that could be more easily preserved. Submitter 121 questions the impact on other buildings in the row.

Submitter 121 noted carparking is a problem and asks how the wall of the Cooks building complies with regulations.

Submitter 159 noted that the proposed new build could create a centre for Marton.

Submitter 189 raised concern about the process for Te Matapihi and the need to ensure costs are not cut. This submitter notes support for the existing library, with high ceilings and good ventilation and hopes the replacement would have the same qualities.

Submitter 227 suggested should this project go ahead, that room is made for Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa values to be included in the design and build in a way that demonstrates biculturalism and the history of the district.

Officer comment

The comments from submitters around heritage are noted. The proposed civic centre would aim to enhance the Marton town centre. The construction of the project would be led by Council's Project Management Office.

Part of the design process would be to make sure there is a strategy and solution for staff parking if the Marton Civic Centre was to be located in the centre of town on the corner of Broadway and High Street.

Early and ongoing iwi involvement will be an important focus should the decision be made by Council to build a new building or start a significant renovation. A process will be set up by the Project Team to make sure feedback from the users of the Marton Civic Centre will feed into the design process, just like it was done with the Taihape Amenities Building. This does not mean all feedback can be included in the design due to financial or engineering restrictions.

Option 2 – Refurbish existing buildings, preserving some heritage features, where possible

Of the 61 submitters that selected ‘Option 2’, 14 submitters provided comments. They are summarised by topics below.

Topic 3	Heritage and character
Topic 4	Additional comments

Topic 3 – Heritage and character

Submissions

Jaime Reibel (017), Anonymous (028), Gay and Rex Lewis (034), Albert Keuning (078), Karen Kennedy (093), Heritage New Zealand (116), Ken Mason (151), Nga Tawa Diocesan School (183), Brylee Coley (184), Lucy Skou (195), Krystal Spring (224), CJ Atkinson-Kos (232), Whanganui Regional Heritage Trust (247), Rangitikei Youth Council (272)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 017, 028, 034, 078, 093, 116, 151, 183, 184, 195, 224, 232, 247, and 272 provided comments about the importance of the heritage and character of Marton, including the buildings on the civic centre site.

Submitter 116 noted their support for past plans which focused on adaptive reuse of the buildings. The submitter considered retaining the buildings will be the best outcome for Marton, specifically for the historic continuum of the heritage character. This submitter referenced the 2016 document Marton Civic Centre & Heritage Precinct by Opus, and the 2019 Rangitikei District Council Feasibility Study Proposal and recommends that the Council considers the findings in these documents in preserving the unique heritage features of Marton. Submitter 116 suggested that any adaptation, alteration or removal would need to be carefully considered in relation to heritage values and that Council should be mindful of the high cost of demolishing some parts of the existing buildings, particularly in relation to embedded carbon.

Submitter 247 notes there is never a guarantee that a replacement building is affordable or will have the character desired due to budget limitations.

Submitters 017, 195 and 247 commented about the potential for Marton to leverage its heritage as part of economic development. Submitter 017 notes this as a point of difference. Submitter 247 provides comparison with Whanganui which is attracting interest for heritage tourism and younger residents attracted by the heritage experience. Submitter 247 references international experience that heritage increases values as a town centre regenerations strategy. This submitter suggests modern strengthening techniques can be

affordable and raises concern that if Council demolishes the buildings, other owners are likely to decide their buildings are worth restoring.

Submitters 034, 195 and 232 suggested a new build would be out of place.

Officer comment

The submitters' comments regarding heritage are noted.

Topic 4 – Additional comments

Submissions

Maryann Vandyk (176), Jo Anson (188)

Summary of submissions

Submitter 176 suggested that this option would suit the Marton town.

Submitter 188 requested Council consider the impact of potential changes to future functions in the planning of the project and what else could be co-located to reduce administration costs e.g. health facilities, NGOs.

Officer comment

The possible changes to local government are unknown and therefore have been considered as a risk to the longevity in the use of the buildings. Therefore, any potential building design needs to be as flexible and adaptable as possible.

Something else?

Of the 38 submitters that selected ‘something else’, 38 submitters provided comments. They are summarised by topics below.

Topic 5	Cost
Topic 6	Remain at current site
Topic 7	Fund other priorities
Topic 8	Sell the building / better use of the site
Topic 9	Additional comments

Topic 5 – Cost

Submissions

Jocelyn Hunt (016), David Craig (023), Kevin Whelan (047), David Stuteley (052), Grant Wilson (115), Shirley Russell (142), James Russell (143), Carlie van dijk (178), Trevor Clark (192), Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (209), Robert Snijders (210), Carolyn Bates (215), Gretta Mills (219), Charissa Lawlor (220), Alan McCubbine (221), Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell (229), Craig Whitton (244), Renee Russell (246), Vincent M (248), Tim Matthews (254)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 016, 023, 047, 052, 115, 142, 178, 192, 208, 209, 215, 219, 220, 221, 229, 244, 246, 248, 254 raised concerns at the cost of the project. Some submitters cite the cost of living as a concern.

Submitters 047, 178, 210, 220, 229 suggested Council consider a more cost-effective option. Submitter 143 suggests a more affordable new build.

Submitter 142 suggested that there should be an option to demolish and build new, to look like heritage.

Submitter 192 suggested that nothing should be done on this key choice, stay as it is and further suggested that the Marton residents should be paying a targeted rate.

Submitter 209 raised concern about the cost and resource load for the project for what they consider to be a risky development.

Submitter 210 suggested Council look to other projects which have been completed more cost effectively and suggests the proposed project is not economically viable.

Submitter 229 provided costings based on the civic centre being used for events.

Submitters 047, 229, 244 raised concerns about possible cost increases over time for the project. Submitter 209 raised concerns about the cost risk burden associated with delays, interest rate rises and changing regulations.

Submitter 244 suggests if a new building is developed, it should be done more cost effectively. However, notes the new design option as inappropriate for Marton, as it would be out of character and too expensive.

Submitter 254 suggested that this project would be delayed for a year except for design and consenting processes and noted a risk around delays when a heritage process is involved and suggested a design that is less industrial.

Officer Comment

The submitters’ comments are noted. The Long Term Plan has a budget of \$19 million. The projected cost would increase that budget by an additional \$14-15 million.

Costs could be reduced during the design and engineering process by reducing scope and complexity. For example if some of the structure would be build new behind the façade it could be less expensive as it is less complex to build new rather than strengthen the existing poor structure.

The original budget estimate was, at the time, not based on any specific design. The updated budget reflects the earthquake strengthening required as well as the cost increases the construction market has seen over the last 3-4 years. The challenges in the supply chain of the construction industry and the rise in demand for construction has steeply increased and it is not expected that the costs will decline. Any further delay of any decision will likely lead to further increases in costs.

Staff are working on strategies to reduce costs where possible.

Topic 6 – Remain at current site

Submissions

David Craig (023), Kevin Whelan (047) Anthony Oswald (133), John Vickers (166), Emily Vickers (167), Grant Scoones (171), Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (209), Marton Community Committee (214), Carolyn Bates (215), Gretta Mills (219), Alan McCubbine (221), Craig Whitton (244), Vincent M (248)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 023, 047, 133, 166, 167, 171, 208, 209, 214, 215, 219, 221, 244, 248 suggest Council remains at the current site.

Submitter 166 notes the current building was built by an architect that also designed a range of other buildings in the district that have stood the test of time.

Submitters 209 and 215 suggest the use of prefabricated buildings on the vacant land. Submitters 047 and 244 suggests a basic building on the existing site.

Submitter 047 provides a suggested approach for the redevelopment of the existing site. Submitter 215 provided a suggested three phase project for the existing site. Submitter 209 also suggested staging of the project, starting on the grassed area.

A number of submitters identified a range of reasons why the current site is suitable:

- Submitter 209 suggests it is easily accessed, not within the flood zone and most of the current buildings on the site can be demolished relatively easily.
- Submitter 219 notes advantages of the existing site – large flat site, not in a flood zone, ample parking.
- Submitter 166 suggests the location of the existing site is more practical.
- Submitter 244 identifies the current location has available land, parking which would not impact the main street.

Submitter 219 suggests that while the existing building is renovated Council staff could relocate to Te Matapihi.

Submitter 133 and 221 suggested Council does nothing.

Officer Comment

One of the options from the Better Business Case was to ‘do minimum’ which is to bring the current main office buildings at 46 High Street and the library up to current building code requirements, and to strengthen them to an agreed minimum. This could be achieved within the LTP budget of \$19 million.

There is more space for buildings and carparking at the current office site than there is at the suggested location on the corner of Broadway and High Street. The current office site is also outside of the identified flooding area. The site on the corner of High Street and Broadway is within the flood zone identified in the District Plan. A minimum floor height would be required for the redevelopment of this site.

Doing absolutely nothing will not be an option, there are certain legal requirements for buildings with an identified earthquake risk to be brought over at least 34% of NBS (National Building Standard).

Topic 7 – Fund other priorities

Submissions

Kevin Whelan (047), Pania Winiata (203), Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (209), Robert Snijders (210), Alan McCubbine (221), Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell (229), Angela (235), Laura (238), Jack Baker (239), Jean Osten (242,) Vincent M (248), Chris (251)

Summary of submissions

A range of suggestions were provided for funding other projects instead of the civic centre build:

- Submitter 047 considered the priority of this project should be considerably lower in the context of Council's other projects.
- Submitters 238, 239, 242, 251 suggested Council's priority should be to fix the Otara Bridge.
- Submitter 203 suggested the funds are used in Taihape.
- Submitter 208 suggested the money is used elsewhere.
- Submitter 209 suggested Council should focus on providing community services and its regulatory role.
- Submitter 210 questioned the prioritisation of spending on the civic centre compared with other projects such as footpaths, water, swim centre, and roading.
- Submitter 221 suggested Council should focus on basics such as water, roads, and consents.
- Submitter 229 suggested the \$33 million could be better used on critical infrastructure such as roads and water.
- Submitter 235 suggested that this project is not a high priority.
- Submitter 248 suggested Council funds water and infrastructure e.g. parks, roading, reserves.

Officer Comment

The submitters' comments are noted. Council will consider these comments when making a decision.

Topic 8 – Sell the buildings / better use for the site**Submissions**

Jocelyn Hunt (016), Damian Turner-Steele (020), David Craig (023), John Vickers (166), Grant Scoones (171), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (209), Marton Community Committee (214), Carolyn Bates (215), Gretta Mills (219), Alan McCubbine (221), Roger Wilkinson (252),

Summary of submissions

Submitter 020 suggests the buildings are unsuitable for Council purposes and would prefer them to be redeveloped for public/private mixed housing. The submitter suggested an alternative site as the Old Post Office building.

Submitters 023, 219 221 suggest the civic site is sold.

Submitters 166, 209 suggest a private developer to redevelop the site.

Submitter 209 notes the potential rates income if the site is redeveloped by a private party. Submitter 209 also suggests Council does not have a background in property development, and would be better to support a developer to refurbish the site.

Submitters 016, 171, 214, 215 suggested a better use for the site is retail.

Submitter 214 is concerned about the increased pressure on parking if Council was to locate there.

Officer Comment

The suggested alternative uses for the site are noted. Any sites or building that are not required for the Marton Civic Centre design could be sold to offset the costs of the new building / renovation.

Topic 9 – Additional comments

Submissions

Max Shierlaw (24), Kevin Whelan (047), Simon Plimmer (097), Federated Farmers (108), Lynne Sheridan (141), Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (209), Robert Snijders (210), Marton Community Committee (214), Gretta Mills (219), Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell (229), Craig Whitton (244), Roger Wilkinson (252)

Summary of submissions

Submitters 141, 2019 and 214 raised questions about Council’s Emergency Management functions if the civic centre was to be constructed in the town centre. Submitter 141 requested information on how much the Emergency Management Centre will cost and where it will be located. Submitter 209 identifies the proposed civic centre site is in a flood zone which will impact its use during emergency events and requested more information about the emergency management function. Submitter 214 questions the location of Civil Defence activities as the proposed site is in the flood zone.

Submitter 024 suggested that the budget for the Marton Civic Centre should be reduced to pay for the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand.

Submitter 047 does not consider selling the existing site to help fund the project as a key factor, particularly in the current real estate market.

Submitters 097 and 108 suggests exploring alternative options. Submitter 108 specifically suggests alternatives such as leasing a site or purchasing an existing property. This submitter suggested trends with remote working may reduce the scale of space needed.

Submitter 208 suggested there is an increased budget because the building has been left derelict.

Submitter 208 suggests if Council moves to the town centre, the existing site should become social/affordable housing or a motel.

Submitter 214 questions Council’s project management process. Submitter 210 questions the robustness of the business case process. Suggests the business case only considered one option. Submitter 219 questioned the transparency of the findings from the better businesses case. Submitter 214 questions whether there has been adequate consideration of alternatives.

Submitter 210 requested further detail on the ongoing operational costs.

Submitter 219 suggests that moving the civic centre into the town centre will not increase vibrancy as the building will be vacant outside of office hours.

Submitter 210 questioned what the plan was for the rest of the buildings in the town centre.

Submitters 210, 229 questioned the need for the building in the future due to upcoming reform.

Submitter 244 suggests the buildings in the main street should be demolished due to safety concerns. This submitter suggests retention of the facades to maintain the heritage features.

Submitter 252 raises concerns about the impact on the loss of heritage if the building is demolished. The submitter notes the large number of heritage buildings in the town centre which are an asset and not found in many towns. The submitter questions the long term impact of the demolition of the buildings and questions what Council wants to be remembered for or look like. This submitter does not consider the buildings are too deteriorated for restoration.

Submitter 214 suggests the new civic centre needs to include library, rooms that include hot desk facilities, after hours access for meetings, space for community support networks. Submitter 209 also suggested the building includes hot desks and space for volunteers and further to engage a landscape architect to look at enhancing the main street.

Officer Comment

The Civil Defence function is not part of the design of either option. The equipment for Civil Defence would be located either at 46 High Street or 7 King Street and these locations would be equipped to have a Centre functioning in case of any disaster (to be rated IL4). Any upgrades required would be funded from the civic centre budget.

The buildings on Broadway / High Street owned by Council have not been further invested into since 2019 however their structural state has not changed since the last reports around 2019. Staff have recently completed a building check with the structural engineers to confirm this.

Staff engaged an expert to complete a Better Business Case for this project. The Better Business Case process helps to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options exist for the Marton Civic Centre. This process is based on a series of workshops with local community members,

iwi, elected members and staff. All existing sites within Marton owned by Council were considered in the option creation.

The designs at this stage are concept level and it is not possible to calculate the final operational costs of the options.

The possible changes to local government are unknown and therefore have been considered as a risk to the longevity in the use of the buildings. Therefore, any potential building design needs to be as flexible and adaptable as possible.

Other comments on a desired layout have been noted.

Officer Comment & further information

1. Better Business Case

Staff engaged an expert to complete a Better Business Case for this project. The Better Business Case process helps to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options exist for the Marton Civic Centre. This process is founded on a series of workshops with local community members, iwi, elected members and staff.

Key sites in Marton owned by Council were identified during this process. As part of this, a wide range of realistic options were assessed against how well they meet the spending objectives and critical success factors for the project. Following this a short list was created with possible options which were examined in more detail. From the short list, the ‘preferred option’ was determined, the option with the most value for money.

All except the “Do-Nothing/Minimum” option from the short list came back with costings higher than the LTP budget. Staff presented the shortlist back to Council during a workshop, with the recommendation that staff could look further into the option within budget. Elected members decided that the community should be consulted on two options from the shortlist, neither of these were the “preferred option” or the “do nothing/minimum option” from the Business Case.

2. Consultation Feedback

The feedback from the consultation highlights the diversity of thinking between the local residents and also across the district. There is a spread of votes across three options:

- Demolish and build new
- Heritage Restoration
- Something Else

Across all options however, there is consistent feedback that the cost of both proposed options is excessive in the current economic climate.

Significant feedback was received suggesting Council stay at its current facilities and complete the earthquake strengthening work required for these sites. The buildings on the corner of Broadway / High Street will then be able to be sold or given to commercial developers to turn into retail or commercial spaces. There are limited retail spaces available in the Marton town Centre.

3. Town Centre Background information & Heritage

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Rangitikei District Plan

The Resource Management Act is the primary piece of legislation that manages land use and development. The Act sets out a hierarchy in its purpose and principles. Section 6 of the RMA identifies matters of national importance. One of these matters is *“the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development”*.

The Rangitikei District Plan is required to give effect to the RMA and has done this by identifying a list of buildings and sites that have heritage value, and providing for their future development through a set of objectives, policies, and rules. A specific management regime is set out for the Marton Heritage Precinct, which identifies 16 buildings with heritage significance. The three buildings owned by Council on the corner of Broadway / High Street are included in the Marton Heritage Precinct framework.

Marton Heritage Precinct

Work was done a number of years ago to better understand the Marton heritage precinct and the values within, and which buildings provided value. The figure below shows the results of this work and splits the buildings into significant heritage value (listed buildings), as well as moderate, minor and no heritage value. None of the buildings other than those listed are protected under the Rangitikei District Plan.



4. Resource Consent for full / partial demolition

Staff have engaged a planner from Whanganui to give independent expert advice around the pathway of a resource consent for a full or part demolition of the three heritage buildings. See full report attached, under separate cover.

The report outlines the various challenges in preparing a resource consent to demolish such significant heritage value, referencing the two existing unsuccessful attempts of trying to demolish part, or all, of the buildings and a number of existing heritage assessments. In summary there is a lot of risk in attempting to demolish the buildings fully, any such process can take 2-4 years and costs can be significant.

There has been a high public profile around the Council’s purchase and investigations for developing the three heritage buildings. The effects of demolition of three heritage listed buildings will likely be “significant” and a matter of public interest. It is likely that any application to demolish one or all buildings fully or in part will be publicly notified and would go to a hearing. As per their submission Heritage NZ will not support the demolition of the buildings.

Summary of the report:

An application seeking resource consent for the total demolition of all three buildings, or total demolition of any one of the three buildings, is very high risk. This conclusion is reached having regard to:

- The national and district level heritage status of the buildings (based on consistency in the qualified heritage assessments undertaken in 2004, 2014, 2016 and 2019)

- The previously failed attempts in gaining resource consent for demolition of parts of the subject buildings;
- The need for a demolition application to include a thorough and detailed assessment of alternative locations and methods for delivering the civic centre, noting that it appears a number of alternative locations are reasonably available to RDC in addition to alternative methods (e.g. adaptive re-use). An alternatives assessment must be informed by stakeholder (i.e. community) engagement;
- The need for a demolition application to include an assessment, including costings analysis, of reasonable alternatives of retaining any heritage significance, including adaptive re-use and seismic strengthening of the street facades (for example as detailed in the WSP DSA), or stabilising the item for future repair;
- The need for a demolition application to demonstrate that the public benefit of a civic centre redevelopment could be achieved without the need to demolish the building(s);
- The potential for technical evidence having to be independently peer reviewed;
- The very high likelihood of a publicly notified demolition application receiving opposing submissions, as evidenced in the 2004 and 2014 applications;
- The very high likelihood of opposing submissions to a demolition application not being resolved, as evidenced in the 2004 and 2014 applications;
- A decision on a publicly notified demolition application being able to be appealed to the Environment Court.

An application seeking resource consent for the adaptive re-use of the building, involving some degree of partial demolition whilst retaining the street facades, presents substantially lower risk than total demolition of one or more of the buildings. This conclusion is reached having regard to:

- The generally accepted heritage principle that retaining street facades (facadism) maintains the heritage significance of buildings and heritage precincts where applicable;
- The application would unlikely need to include structural engineering assessments;
- The application would unlikely need to include an assessment of reasonable alternatives to retain the heritage;
- The application would not need to include a feasibility assessment of adaptive re-use;
- There would be no requirement for peer reviews in respect to heritage related matters;
- Heritage effects would likely be considered less than significant, avoiding the need to undertake a thorough and detailed assessment of alternative locations and methods for delivering the civic centre;

- Greater scope to assert that the effects on the (heritage) environment would not be more than minor, and therefore this element of the application would not trigger public notification;
- The recent granting of non-notified resource consents for ‘facadism’ heritage redevelopments in other districts as cited in this report, for example the Avenue Buildings, Whanganui and the Barry Brothers Building, Napier.

The cost and time associated with preparing the application ,including technical reports and initial hearings, could be expensive, in the vicinity of hundreds of thousands of dollars and then Environment Court mediation and hearing process needs to be factored in.

5. Structural state of the three heritage buildings

In 2019 a Detailed Structural Assessment (DSA) was commissioned to determine the overall condition, seismic performance and seismic ratings of the buildings. The DSA was informed by a physical inspection of the buildings.

The DSA concludes that the buildings have a seismic rating of 15% NBS. The report states:

‘The buildings are considered high risk structures and pose a relative risk to life safety that is 25 times higher as compared to a new building in accordance with the Guidelines.’

The DSA states that a building with an earthquake rating less than 34% NBS fulfils one of the requirements for the Territorial Authority to consider it to be an Earthquake-Prone Building (EPB) in terms of the Building Act 2004.

The DSA assesses the seismic rating of various structural elements, including amongst other items, the street facades, side walls and parapets. These elements are identified in the supporting WSP heritage assessment as being of either exceptional (street facades and parapets) or high (side walls) heritage significance.

The DSA sets out the strengthening works required for each structural element.

The seismic ratings (%NBS) and respective structural strengthening works of the street facades, side walls and parapets are as follows:

Structural Element	Cobbler Building	Davenport Brothers	Abraham and Williams
Facade	25% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete skin wall internal to façade • Create seismic gap between 1913 and 1914 Cobbler buildings 	30% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete skin wall internal to façade • Steel frame internally at ground level to support front openings 	20% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete skin wall internal to façade • Steel frame internally at ground level to support front openings

Structural Element	Cobbler Building	Davenport Brothers	Abraham and Williams
Side Walls	55% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove wall lining and install timber strong-backs and ply lining or concrete skin wall to internal face 	40% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove wall lining and install timber strong-backs and ply lining or concrete skin wall to internal face 	25% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete skin wall to internal face.
Parapet	15% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brace URM for OOP by concrete skin wall anchored to URM or tie it to side walls with steel framing 	15% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brace the URM parapet with concrete skin wall or tie it to side walls with steel framing 	25% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brace URM for OOP by concrete skin wall anchored to URM or tie it to side walls with steel framing

Based on a recent visual inspection (April 2023) the building condition has deteriorated further since 2019. Key elements of the building that need more urgent actions include the canopies for all buildings, water damage affecting the buildings and one specific concrete beam on the exterior showing new cracks.

6. Future of local government

Local government is experiencing significant changes at present and is expected to see even more changes happening over the next years. The way that local government operates at the moment and its responsibilities may change in the near future and investment into the district could focus on flexible facilities, and facilities that will be likely utilised for the long term future. Building a large new Civic Centre with space enough for all the head office staff could be an investment that may carry some risk – there are over 100 staff on the current Council site.

With the delay in the three waters transition Council will also need to carry the capital debt of the three water assets longer than expected and there is risk and unknowns around this transition even being completed. Should Council have to retain the three waters assets, Council will be very quickly at its debt threshold and may not be able to borrow further debt for future investments.

Summary

The feedback received from the submissions, and the extra information presented, reinforce that neither of the options presented during the Annual Plan consultation may be suitable to address the needs of the community. The very high risks associated with either of the two options could cause significant costs to occur during the resource consenting process before any work on the buildings will be able to start.

Therefore, staff recommend for Council to re-consider the original “do nothing / minimum option” of the Better Business Case shortlist that was within budget – which included earthquake strengthening the current facilities at 46 High Street and 31 High Street, to alter their layouts and fit-outs to improve the user experience for both buildings. This pathway will be much lower in risk and achievable in a much shorter timeframe and will still improve the user experience.

To enhance the town centre appeal, Council could also request staff engage a streetscape expert to get advice on how the town centre could be revived through changes around the footpaths and green spaces.

Recommendation

That Council proceeds with the “do minimum” option and strengthens the existing buildings at 46 High Street and the library building to a minimum of 75% NBS and improves the facilities through minor renovations and space optimisation with a budget of \$[**add here**].

Key Choice Three – Calico Line Pathway

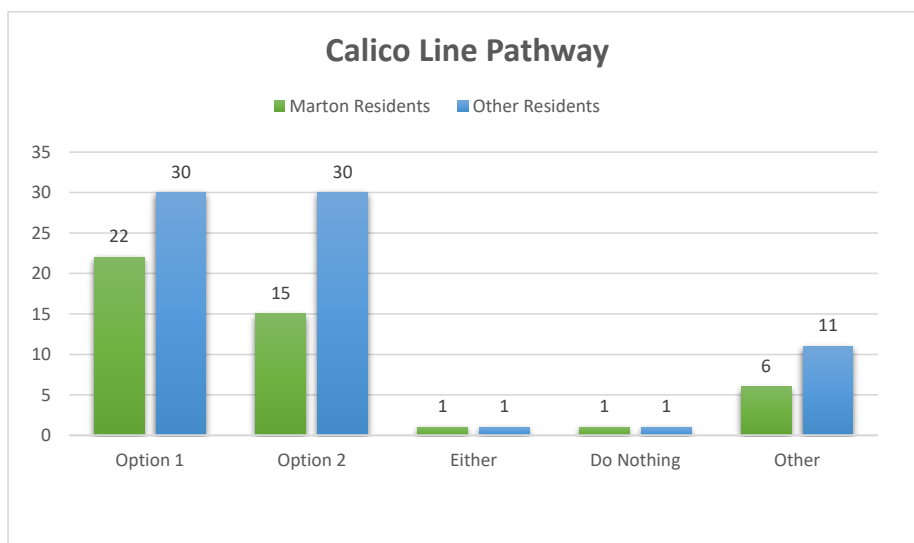
Council has been asked to consider installing an active mobility pathway along Calico Line, from Ngā Tawa Road to Marton town.

The draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, includes an active mobility pathway 'town loop' for Marton, which covers both Ngā Tawa Road and Calico Line from town to Ngā Tawa Road. While plans to construct a pathway along Ngā Tawa Road are already in place, Council sought community views on the Calico Line pathway. Ngā Tawa School requested the pathway along Calico Line be prioritised to address ongoing concerns about the safety of students who walk into Marton from the school.

Council considered two options. Whether the community would like Council to invest to make sure this path is planned in the 2023/24 financial year or delay the decision and seek funding from Waka Kotahi.

Council received 118 submissions on this issue.

The table below shows the preferred option indicated by submitters, with 52 responses in support of investment to make sure this path is planned in the 2023/24 financial year and 45 responses in support of delaying the decision and to seek funding from Waka Kotahi. 2 were happy with either option, 2 wanted Council to do nothing, and 17 requested something else.



Topic 1	Why Not Earlier
Topic 2	Infrastructure
Topic 3	Safety of Students
Topic 4	Nga Tawa Contribution
Topic 5	Waka Kotahi Funding
Topic 6	Council Considerations Before Works
Topic 7	Submissions Against
Topic 8	Otara Bridge Priority

Topic 1: Why Not Earlier

Submissions

Bryan Rendle and Elizabeth Russell (229), Renee Russell (246).

Summary of submissions

Both submitters stated that this should have been completed years ago.

Submitter 246 noted that Huntley School has a footpath.

Officer Comment

There has been no request for this pathway before now and no funding available. If the pathway is constructed in the 2023/24 financial year it will have to be unbudgeted and unfunded works.

Topic 2: Infrastructure

Submissions

Kira Swainson (027), Anonymous (028), Kevin Whelan (047), Graeme Munro (067), Sue Foley (094), Peter Kipling-Arthur (141).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 027 seeks clarification on: Why would you rip up the perfectly walkable tar seal and put gravel in instead? A gravel walkway would make it harder to get along there. It makes more sense to put dividers along the white line separating the side of the road walkway from the road.

Submitter 028 suggested that increased shared pathways and active mobility networks should be a high priority and can be achieved through rates and external funding with good forward planning now, for better results in the future.

Submitter 047 suggested that Council constructs the basic footpath along Calico Line without waiting for funding from Waka Kotahi, otherwise it might never get built. The submitter suggested the pathway along Nga Tawa Road should be prioritised ahead of Calico Line if they can't both be completed in the same year.

Submitters 067 and 094 suggested that this pathway not only be for Nga Tawa but for the general population and that this needs to be a proper pathway that extends Nga Tawa Road and joins up with Main Street so it will then get well used.

Submitter 141 noted that The Taihape Community Board agreed that a pathway was a basic health and safety issue; and should be acted on. Members also pointed out that in the Taihape Region there are two other pathways needed; and requested that Council consider and investigate; a walkway from the junction of Dixon Way and SH1 to Hautapu St; a walkway for Mangaweka, from the junction of Cage Road to the old bridge over the Rangitikei. That a "median refuge", pedestrian island, be built at Mangaweka: a safe crossing for pedestrians, (school students etc.) across SH1, along with a lowered speed limit to 50km/h.

Officer Comment

During the current Waka Kotahi three-year funding round, all shared pathway works were removed from the proposed program due to funding constraints. Only the design of the pathway along Nga Tawa Rd has been approved in this three year works program. Council will have to apply for funding for the construction of the Nga Tawa Road shared pathway in the next three-year funding round.

All works on State Highway 1 is the responsibility of Waka Kotahi and not a Council activity. This includes the setting of speed limits.

Topic 3: Safety of Students

Submissions

Jaime Reibel (017), Peter Kipling-Arthur (021), Kristin Churchward (073), Libby Rayner (89), Tony Hewitt (157), Jo Rangooni (172), Helen Campbell & Lesley Carter (183), Robin Rutherford (189), Lucy Skou (195), Jan Byford (199), Interested Residents of Marton & Rangitikei (209), Charissa Lawlor (220).

Summary of submissions

All submitters agreed that the safety of the students is the pressing need for this pathway, and this should be completed right away.

Submitter 073 noted that the pathway would encourage students to walk/bike, essentially reducing traffic and emissions.

Submitter 089 noted that: I live on Nga Tawa Road. The Main Street, Nga Tawa Road, Calico Line circuit is utilised by heaps of people walking, running, biking, walking dogs. We desperately need a safer area for this loop. I am disappointed that the marketing angle of this project has focused on Nga Tawa School instead of the wider community as I feel there will be less community support as a result of this slant. Just to confirm, I am in favour of this walkway in the immediate future and to have it extended along Nga Tawa/Main Street.

Submitter 172 advised they do not think the Rangitikei, with a very low average income, should be seen to support what would primarily be the funding of a private school walkway. It would be appropriate to find a benefactor/s and name the walkway after the funder.

Submitters 183 noted: While we recognise developing active mobility pathways is of huge benefit to all Marton residents, the proposed pathway along Calico Line will finally connect our school to the town in which it is situated. It will provide our Nga Tawa students with a much safer way to walk into town to shop at Marton businesses and access local facilities, such as the Marton Pool. We encourage our students and their parents to support the township of Marton wherever possible. The increased traffic on Calico Line and size of vehicles on the road means it is becoming increasingly dangerous for our girls to do that safely, particularly on mass. That current roadway is also used by many other people on a daily basis for physical wellbeing.

Submitter 209 noted that: IROMAR supports the design of a new safe pathway from Nga Tawa School to Marton. We consider that this pathway should be designed to provide an attractive and safe mobility connection from the School into the Town, however this should not be alongside a busy 100km main road. IROMAR considers that this relatively small expenditure should be increased but should be funded through a grant as per the footpath to Huntley School on Wanganui Road.

Officer Comment

Affordability of the pathway is a challenge as this work will be unbudgeted and not funded by Waka Kotahi. The rates rise is challenging due to inflationary pressure and all our communities are dealing with the cost-of-living crisis, and all these factors have to be taken into account.

Topic 4: Nga Tawa Contribution

Submissions

Jocelyn Hunt (016), Sherilyn Tasker (057), Myra Fleury (084), Lara Maher (120), Belinda Harvey-Larsen (208), Jason Port (237), Vincent M (248), Tim Matthews (254), Rangitikei Youth Council (272)

Summary of submissions

All submitters agree that Nga Tawa should fully or partially fund the path instead of Council as it would be the students making use of it everyday.

Submitter 208 requested: Could Nga Tawa make 50% contribution please. There are several schools in Marton where pupils have to negotiate crossing on foot without pedestrian

crossings. Four schools are on Wellington Road crossovers to get home safely. Would appreciate immediate installation of "warning tactile indicators" or "Decision Tactile". These should be installed to the walking surface not just for the sight impaired pedestrians and those who have a mobility impairment and need to use assisted items e.g., scooters, walkers to remain independent.

Submitter 248 suggested that a pathway down Calico line and Nga Tawa Road linking to Wilson Park would be more practical option and more benefit to the rest of the community (not just Nga Tawa). Nga Tawa to invest % of pathway if it goes ahead.

Submitter 254 suggested that it is difficult to justify unsubsidised funding for this project without co-funding from the school or some other outside source. If the traffic counts and vehicle composition are such that there is significant danger to pedestrians and cyclists, that should trigger NZTA funding. This is particularly accentuated when oversize vehicles are forced to use those roads to bypass the rail overbridge restrictions on S H 1, which NZTA has failed to remove.

Officer Comment

No cost sharing position has been presented to Nga Tawa school or elected members.

Topic 5: Waka Kotahi Funding

Submissions

Jan Byford (199), Gay and Rex Lewis (034), Win Houghton (076), Natalie Bowsher (088), Simon Plimmer – Plimmer and Co Farms (097), Lynne Sheridan (158), Alan Ramsay (269), Carlie Van Dijk (178), Brylee Coley (194), Karen Addenbrooke (191).

Summary of submissions

Submitters have suggested that Waka Kotahi fund the pathway, or that Council look into other avenues for funding.

Submitter 097 suggested that the Council defer commencement of a mobility pathway along Calico Line, Marton until subsidised funding has been confirmed by Waka Kotahi.

Submitter 158 suggested that external funding is required for this project - unsubsidised funding needs are always stretched when it comes to footpaths. There are still streets in Marton/the district that have no footpaths at all.

Submitter 184 suggested that: I believe that we as a community can come together on this. For our Nga Tawa students providing them with an alternative like a shuttle van and maybe for our locals who like their walks or runs out those ways, we can mark the safest path for them to do their activities until we can confirm funding for this pathway.

Submitter 191 suggested that: I consider the information in second paragraph Key Choice 3 document in the Annual Plan (Active mobility pathway along Nga Tawa Road) misleading. "While plans to construct a pathway along Nga Tawa Road are already in place..." Last year

many members of the public and residents saw contractors marking the Nga Tawa Road roadside and were advised by these contractors the pathway would be done by Christmas.

Submitter 269 noted that: This is a lot of money for a few and of the few not many are Rangitikei ratepayers.

Officer Comment

Waka Kotahi approved funding for design only of the Nga Tawa Road shared pathway. RDC will have to apply for funding for the construction of the pathway in the next three-year finding round that starts in the 24/25 financial year. It is not anticipated that Waka Kotahi will approve funding for the Nga Tawa school footpath along Calico line. No other external funding has been considered at this stage.

Topic 6: Council Considerations Before Works

Submissions

Trevor Clark (192), Judith & Steven Bradley (265).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 192 suggested that they would want to see a cost-benefit analysis of this before proceeding.

Submitter 265 suggested that Council do this now but, in the future, apply for grants if cycleways etc. continue to be a government priority.

Officer Comment

Comments are noted.

Topic 7: Submissions Against

Submissions

David Stuteley (052), Charlotte Oswald (060), Grant Wilson (115), Anthony Oswald (133), Robert Snijders (210), Carolyn Bates – Marton Community Committee (214) Carolyn Bates – Personal (215), Gretta Mills (219), Rangitikei Youth Council (272).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 052 stated that there are endless pathways and cycle paths being built at significant cost all around New Zealand, most of which are hardly used at all, and quickly fall into disrepair or require costly maintenance out of proportion to the benefits delivered. Save the money and reduce the rates increase.

Submitter 060 stated that the current walk to town is not dangerous enough to warrant this huge spend.

Submitter 115 stated that the whole financial basis for the annual plan consultation has been overtaken by Central Govt announcements and as such it is deeply flawed. The consultation document should be withdrawn and recast with what is now known.

Submitter 133 suggested that Council do nothing.

Submitter 210 suggested that this is a poorly costed and thought-out project. There is already a designated route. Currently, it is poorly used, and there are no safety grounds to justify the need. There are more important projects that need to be implemented than this. The \$300,000 should go to increasing the pool opening hours which potentially will save lives.

Submitter 214 stated that Marton Community Committee are opposed to the provision of a pathway along Calico Line. There are other activities which were committed to happen, but are still outstanding e.g., Cobber Kain Avenue has not yet been sealed. Car Parking/the area at the back of Memorial Hall was committed to be made good, it is still in need of rectification.

Submitter 215 stated that: A definite no from me, the cost outweighs the benefit with other calls on available funds. Additionally, the unsafe condition of footpaths around town to me ought to take priority for the Marton ratepayers, not just a new path for +/-200 students at one school.

Submitter 219 suggested that active mobility pathways should be sited well away from existing busy roads. The edge of the road on Calico Line between Nga Tawa Road and Bredins Line is far too narrow to be safe. Active mobility pathways should ideally be off-road and safe for people of all ages. Walking, riding slow moving scooters, wheelchairs etc. Alternative ideas: Subdivision Roading- the RDC/ratepayer already funds/has funded roadways into two new subdivisions in Hereford Heights (off corner - Bredins Line and Hereford Streets) and also off Nga Tawa Road. These roads have been provided for the community so it would be sensible to look at options to extend their use such as a new subdivision links an active mobility pathway through the trees at the rear of the Hereford Heights subdivision. There are already 'fenced alleyway' links at the rear of Hereford Heights.

Submitter 272 noted that this project would create debt when only a small number of students are currently using this pathway and suggested that Council work with students to understand other actions could encourage community connections with Nga Tawa.

Officer Comment

The submitters comments are noted.

Topic 8: Otaru Bridge Priority

Submissions

Angela (235), Laura (238), Jack Baker & Jill Woolley (239), Jean Osten (242), Chris (251).

Summary of submissions

All submitters want Otara Bridge to take priority over Key Choice 3.

Officer Comment

The repair work on Otara bridge will go ahead regardless of the decision made regarding the Nga Tawa school footpath along Calico Line.

Recommendation

That Council approves/ does not approve the additional unbudgeted (debt funded) spend of up to \$300,000 to construct the new footpath from Nga Tawa School to Marton along Calico Line.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Finance

Topic 1	Rates Affordability
Topic 2	Rates Increase
Topic 3	Forestry Differential
Topic 4	Debt
Topic 5	Roading Debt
Topic 6	Three Waters Infrastructure/Rates
Topic 7	Other

Topic 1: Rates Affordability

Submissions

David Stuteley (052), Federated Farmers (108).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 052 is opposed to Council increasing its borrowings to fund the Key Choices and, consequentially, increasing rates. The submitter notes that, not living in a town centre, they do not use Council services. The submitter also notes that the proposed rating increase will be unaffordable.

Submitter 108 states that a proposed 9% rates increase is not prudent nor sustainable. They also note that rates are a source of considerable financial pressure for all farmers.

Officer Comment

Submitters can be referred to Council's Rate Remission Policy that allows rates to be remitted in cases of financial hardship.

Action

Officers make the submitters aware of Council's Rate Remission Policy (financial hardship provisions).

Topic 2: Rates Increases

Submissions

Simon Plimmer (097), Federated Farmers (108), Grant Wilson (115), IRO-MAR (209), Anonymous (213), Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 097 and 108 request the 2023/24 rate increase be capped at the level stated in the LTP, and that Council reduce expenditure accordingly.

Submitter 115 comments that a proposed rate increase greater than that in the LTP suggests poor financial management.

Submitter 209 opposes any rate increase over 5%.

Submitter 213 objects to the LTP rate increase being deviated from, with little effort to justify the increase.

Submitter 219 states the rate increase be kept below 5 to 6%.

Submitter 097 also requests that average rate increase for rural properties not exceed that for residential properties, noting that a number of rural properties had rate increases (>20%) at the last review.

Officer Comment

Page 17 of the Consultation Document provides comments that relate to the additional costs Council faces, and the measures it has taken to address these, as follows:

“We know that there are significant pressures on our community, and we want to reduce Council expenditure where we can and keep rate increases as low as possible. As a result of increasing cost pressures from inflation, depreciation, the impact from significant weather events, salary payments to staff to align with the median of the local government sector, fuel increases, and water compliance, Rangitikei District Council are looking at reducing the funding that is available for the community to apply for, including removing half of the Event Sponsorship Scheme funding, removing the Parks Upgrade partnership funding, and removing the funding provision from the current placemaking fund. This reduction in the amount of funding for these initiatives will ultimately help to reduce Council expenditure and lower rates for 2023/2024.”

With reference to salary payments as mentioned above, the budget included in the draft Annual Plan was based on the most recent information available at the time. The following update reflects information received after the release of the draft Annual Plan.

Council has expressed that it’s desired position for staff salaries, effective from 1 July 2023, is the median of the national local government market. Council’s provisional sum in the 2023/24 Draft Annual Plan allowed for a 6% increase to pay bands. The Strategic Pay Local Government Remuneration Report March 2023 (received in May 2023) shows median movement over the 12 months to 1 March 2023 as being 5.5%, with the greatest change being in the six months to 1 March 2023 (4.4%). The Strategic Pay report describes (quote) “very

significant movements.....which are the highest seen in 20 years.....and are significantly higher than Local Government clients were forecasting 12 months ago". Strategic Pay describe the key reasons for high movement as being inflation, skills shortages, attraction and retention.

Actions

Officers contact Submitter 097 to find out more details about their comment that some rural properties had a > 20% rate increase recently.

Topic 3: Forestry Differential

Submissions

Federated Farmers (108), Marton Community Committee (214), Anonymous (227), Tim Matthews (254).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 108 requests that:

- a Forestry Rating Differential of 4.0 be introduced for ‘forestry exotic’ properties; and
- Council confirm:
 - how many properties would be affected by such a rating differential; and
 - the amount of forestry differential required to ensure the overall rate increase does not exceed the increase as per the LTP; and
 - what is meant by ‘forestry vacant’ and the lag time between revaluation if land is reclassified

Submitter 214 stated that restricting the engagement to iwi and members of the forestry sector is discriminatory.

Submitter 227 is a new entrant to the forestry sector and feels it is unfair to be charged for damage not caused by others, and not by them.

Submitter 254 believes the proposed differential of 1.5 is insufficient.

Officer Comment

The forestry sector has not provided the Heads of Agreement scheme that was to be considered as an alternative to the rating differential. This results in Council’s preferred option being the introduction of a Rating Differential:

- on rateable properties classified as Forestry
- on the Roding Targeted Rate.

Council has previously stated that a differential at a factor of 1.5 would be an interim figure that would be reviewed at the next LTP.

Around 100 properties would be impacted by the proposed differential.

Public consultation was conducted last year. As a result, Council decided to conduct further consultation with iwi and the forestry sector. Accordingly, the current consultation is essentially an extension of the public consultation conducted previously.

Council recognises that such a rating differential is not a perfect solution to this matter and that one of the concerns is in relation to the cyclical nature of harvesting compared to the annual raising of rates. In the absence of any viable alternative, Council considers the differential as representing the preferred solution to this matter.

Council undertakes a formal Property Revaluation every three years. This revaluation includes aerial inspections and roadside inspections to validate the status of each property's rateable classification.

Recommendation

Council continue with its proposed introduction of the Forestry rating Differential. For 2023/24 this will be a factor of 1.5 applied to the Rooding Targeted Rate for properties classified as forestry.

Topic 4: Debt

Submissions

David Stuteley (052), Grant Wilson (115), IRO-MAR (209), Anonymous (213), Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 052 is opposed to Council increasing its borrowings to fund the Key Choices and thereby increasing its cost base.

Submitter 115 states that the deferral of Three Waters reforms, and associated timing of debt repayment, requires a new consultation with ratepayers.

Submitter 209 opposes debt levels exceeding \$40m.

Submitter 213 objects to an increase in the debt ceiling.

Submitter 219 states that debt should only be used for absolutely essential services ie needs not wants.

Officer Comment

Officers note that any significant investment in new (growth) infrastructure in the absence of specific external funding will increase debt.

Council's current debt level of \$24m would significantly restrict such future investment should future debt levels be capped at \$40m.

Officers do not consider that further consultation with ratepayers would be useful at this stage due to the significant level of uncertainty still associated with the proposed reforms.

Council determines its preferred debt levels based on a balanced consideration of investing in growth infrastructure and other needs.

Officers continue to manage the financial implications of debt levels and Council makes these clear in Annual Plans and LTPs.

Topic 5: Roothing Debt

Submissions

Federated Farmers (108), Tim Matthews (254).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 108 requests that:

- Council clarify the proposed increase of roading debt included in the draft Annual Plan;
- Any increase in roading debt which is caused in non-rural areas be recovered from ratepayers in non-rural areas unless there is a demonstrable benefit to rural ratepayers

Submitter 254 expresses concerns regarding Council’s debt position, including using borrowings for roading expenditure.

Officer Comment

The increase in Roothing debt in the draft Annual Plan will be amended in the final Annual Plan as timing differences between the Income and Expenditure associated with the Marton Rail Hub will be better aligned.

Officers do not recommend introducing a differential for the roading rate, based on rural/non-rural split. Officers note that rates are a tax and not a fee-for-service and recommend the current model is appropriate.

Topic 6: Three Waters Infrastructure/Rates

Submissions

Federated Farmers (108).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 108 requests that rural landowners not be charged any rates for Three Waters services as they are not connected to any services that are funded by these rates.

Officer Comment

The rates that the Submitter is referring to are the three public good rates that are charged ‘as a fixed amount per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit’. There are three such public good rates that are attributed to the Three Waters.

As for all Council’s different types of rate, such rates are not a fee for service. They are best considered as a tax that all ratepayers pay regardless of what services they use (the same as for the General rate and UAGC and other types of public good rate).

Actions

Council continues to promote the message that ‘rates are a form of tax and not a fee for service’.

Topic 7: Other

Submissions

Taihape Community Board (141), Anonymous (231), Tim Matthews (254).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 141 noted that the Taihape Community Board is concerned over the change in Three Waters funding and notes the potential additional burden on the Rangitikei District Council with the withdrawal of Tranche Two Better Off Funding.

Submitter 231 lives in Utiku and, as they do not receive all Council services, considers he is entitled to a rate decrease.

Submitter 254 requests Council re-examine its roading targeted rate in the lead up to the LTP 2024, specifically regarding the contribution of the commercial and industrial sectors.

Officer Comment

Officers share the Taihape Community Board’s concerns regarding the proposed Three Waters reforms and continue to monitor the situation, providing regular updates to Finance/Performance Committee and Risk/Assurance Committee.

Council’s rates are not a fee for service. They are best considered as a tax that all ratepayers pay regardless of what services they use.

All of Council’s rates will be examined as part of the next LTP planning.

Actions

Officers continue to monitor the impacts of the proposed Three Waters reforms.

Council continues to promote the message that ‘rates are a form of tax and not a fee for service’.

Capital Projects

Topic 1	Taihape Recreational Facilities Upgrades
Topic 2	Council Basics for Capital Works
Topic 3	Taihape Grandstand Cost
Topic 4	Taihape Town Hall
Topic 5	Civic Projects
Topic 6	Civic Centres Cost

Topic 1: Taihape Recreational Facilities Upgrades

Submissions

Rosie Gilbert (022).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 022 suggested that some of the facilities within the Taihape Memorial Park are in need of upgrading for example new public toilets, changing tables, an improved playground, tennis courts, cheaper access to the swimming pools, more maintenance on main town public toilets (missing handbag hooks, sanitiser), toilets at the gumboot and increased space for parking at the gumboot.

Officer Comment

As part of the new Taihape Amenities Building there will be three public toilets, one with a baby change table. With the surface painting that the tennis and netball groups have committed to there will be enough space on the current courts for 5 tennis courts and 3 netball courts. This surface painting will be completed in December 2023, depending on weather.

Council has commitment \$50,000 towards a new playground at Memorial Park.

Council undertook a review of its swim centre entry fees a few years ago and the fees were less than or in line with other swim centres of a similar nature. Staff will contact the submitter to see if there is a particular fee they feel is too high, or whether it is fees in general, noting that the fees can be set by the contractor (but requiring Council approval).

The parking for visiting the Gumboot is located on SH1. Any proposal to extend this area to accommodate more parking spaces will have to be presented to Waka Kotahi for consideration.

Staff will contact the submitter to explain the request for service process.

The Taihape Gumboot is located in close proximity to the Mobil Service Station, and a number of visitors to the Gumboot use the bathroom facility at the Service Station. Council contribute towards consumables for this service.

Topic 2: Council Basics for Capital Works

Submissions

David Craig (023), Alysha Davies (031).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 023 suggested that Council should be looking at ways to get the basic right first, save ratepayers money, long before Council decides to spend \$20 million after the community rejected Council’s \$5 million plan for High Street.

Submitter 031 suggested that there is less talk and more action on these issues. Let’s get the jobs done before they continue to cost more.

Officer Comment

The submission points have been noted.

Topic 3: Taihape Grandstand Cost

Submissions

Max Shierlaw (024).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 024 suggested that the Council requires the Taihape Community to raise more than \$1m for the strengthening and refurbishment costs and that this is unrealistic for the size of the community. The submitter further suggests that this will result in either the Grandstand’s decay or a targeted rate for the Taihape residents.

Officer Comment

Within the consultation of the Annual Plan, the second option within this key choice suggested that both the grandstand and the town hall would be earthquake strengthened and the facilities improved. This option received very little support of the total of the submissions (9%).

Once the Annual Plan process is completed and should Key Choice 1, Option 2 not be selected staff will continue to investigate alternative strengthening methods which hopefully will help reduce costs.

There are currently no plans for a targeted rate for the work required on the grandstand.

Topic 4: Taihape Town Hall**Submissions**

Corrinne Doyle (025), Brianna Booth (026), Beth Carter (066), Myra Fleury (084), Natalie Bowsher (088), Moana Raukawa (092), Murray Holdaway – Federated Farmers (108), Jan Byford (199), Heather McQueen (205), Michael Andrews (259).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 025 and 026 suggested that Council was planning to demolish the existing Taihape Town Hall.

Submitter 066 suggested that the Town Hall should be reopened.

Submitter 084 noted regular use of the library and that staff are very helpful in obtaining more books from Marton if they are available. The submitter further noted that the town hall is very central and services easily accessible to passing through people.

Submitter 088 suggested that the Taihape town hall is irreplaceable.

Submitter 092 noted that Taihape is a small and resilient town and suggested that the Taihape Town Hall should be restored.

Submitter 109 compared the two options within Key Choice 1 and pointed out the benefits and disadvantages from an architectural point of view.

Submitter 199 noted concern for the future of the Taihape Town Hall and suggested that any changes need to be cost effective and beneficial to all users. The submitter suggested that the size of the auditorium needs to be retained and that there are areas that could be redesigned or used in a more efficient way. The submitter further suggested that local users need to be able to give feedback during the design process.

Submitter 205 suggested that Council would not change the layout and that toilets must be kept in the supper rooms.

Submitter 259 suggested for Council to build a new building behind the façade in Taihape, similar to Bulls, include a changing room and space for 300 seats.

Officer Comment

Key Choice 1, Option 2 included retaining, and earthquake strengthening the Town Hall to retain its function for events etc. Some areas such as the library would be up for discussion to be demolished, however Council could consider to maintain the façade to keep the iconic look of the building.

A process will be set up by the Project Team to make sure feedback from the users towards the design can be considered throughout the design process, similar to that done for the Taihape Amenities Building. This does not mean all feedback will be included in the design due to financial or engineering restrictions.

To ensure that this is a smooth process, staff are open to suggestions around how such a user group could be created given the many diverse users of the different Council services and functions offered.

Other submission points have been noted.

Topic 5: Civic Projects

Submissions

Federated Farmers (108), IROMAR (209), Robert Snijders (210).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 108 suggested that the Council defer the projects for Taihape Memorial Park Amenities and Marton Rail Hub to later years and reconsider these in the next Long-Term Plan.

Submitter 209 stated that: IROMAR believes Council will need to scrutinise its Capital Works programme; and its ability to manage the significant risks of cost increases. IRO-MAR wishes Council to maintain prudent and risk adverse fiscal management of rate payer funds.

Submitter 210 suggested that Council should find cheaper ways to build buildings and that early contractor engagement is important. The submitter further noted that from his point of view the Better Business Case was biased towards the most expensive option and that there are unknowns in the future for local government, especially around three waters and the debt transfer. The submitter assumed that Council has not considered what other authorities have done nearby or further afield and suggested that Council could consider prefabricated offices.

Officer Comment

The Taihape Amenities Building cannot be deferred as it is nearly completed and will be opened in June 2023. Other projects could be deferred however government funding may be lost as a consequence.

Staff engaged an expert to complete a Better Business Case for the Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre project. The Better Business Case process helps to understand the wider context, the problems and potential solutions, the objectives and needs of the community, and what options exist for the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre. This process is founded on a series of workshops with local community members, iwi, elected members and staff.

Other submission points have been noted.

Topic 6: Civic Centres Cost**Submissions**

Charissa Lawlor (220).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 220 suggested that is not the best time to spend millions of dollars when so many people are struggling to make ends meet and not everyone in the Rangitikei District will benefit from the new or upgraded Civic Centres. The submitter also questioned what investment will be made in Hunterville.

Officer Comment

Council acknowledges it is a difficult time with inflation rising and all costs increasing. These cost increases also apply to Council operations. Currently there are no major capital projects planned in Hunterville but work is being progressed to future proof the Wastewater treatment plant for future growth and compliance in Hunterville.

Three Waters

Topic 1	Bulls Water Infrastructure
Topic 2	Bulls Flood Risk
Topic 3	Three Waters reforms
Topic 4	Marton Water Strategy
Topic 5	Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project
Topic 6	Water – Climate change

Topic 1: Bulls Water infrastructure

Submissions

Anonymous (213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 suggested that Bulls has a significant problem with water. The submitter request the removal of asbestos cement pipes and raises health concerns. The submitter also raises concern about PFOS levels.

Officer Comment

The asbestos cement water supply pipes will be replaced with more modern pipe material over time as available budgets allow. The replacement of water pipes is determined by asset performance and asset condition across the district.

PFAS (and PFOS) levels are monitored in accordance with the new water services act and requirements from Taumata Arowai (new water services regulator). The tests and analysis to date showed that the water complies with the current requirements for drinking water limits.

Actions

Council continues to replace existing asbestos cement pipes with more modern pipe material when needed. Council will continue to monitor the Bulls drinking water in accordance with the requirements of the Water Services Act and Taumata Arowai requirements.

Topic 2: Bulls flood risk

Submissions

Anonymous (213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 suggested that the flood risk of Western Bulls is well known and evidenced. To help reduce this risk and to open land for growth, it would seem prudent to provide some form of flood protection. This could be stop banks, over level diversions or mandated detention upstream to reduce the influent. The increased values for existing homes, plus the increased land development areas would provide offsets and improve cost effectiveness. The effect from Rangitikei River flooding can be mitigated by allowing channel works to resume. While this is not something RDC has control over, they do have influence.

Officer Comment

Flood protection activities are the responsibility of Horizons Regional Council. Council considers the flood risk in land use planning decisions and will advocate for good affordable community outcomes at all opportunities.

Topic 3: Three Waters reforms

Submissions

Anonymous (213), Marton Community Committee (214), Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 suggested that with recent changes to Central Government’s plans, we see no reason that that money could be redirected to improve items perceived by the ratepayers as key, e.g., expedite improving Marton’s Water supply.

Submitter 219 seeks clarification on: Improving Three Waters Infrastructure \$14.2m - this expense will presumably be affected by the planned ‘Water Services Reform Programme.’

Submitter 213 suggested that the Council has not listened to ratepayers and should become more community focused. The submitter raised concern about the funding Council received from the Government.

Officer Comment

It is unclear what the source of the “money” mentioned in submission 214 is. It is not possible to comment on that point.

The three waters capital spend will not be affected by the water services reform process. The only factor that will become more important is the timing of when the program will be taken over by the newly formed entities.

The comments made by submitter 213 regarding the funding and the future of the three waters reform reflects the view of the submitter and is not for comment by staff.

Topic 4: Marton Water Strategy

Submissions

Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 219 seeks clarification on: The Marton Water Strategy (including new bore) \$11m- is this going to result in Marton having ‘quality’ drinking water.

Officer Comment

The Marton water strategy will deliver improved quality drinking water for now and into the future. Council will continue to deliver the Marton water strategy as provisioned in the 2021-2031 LTP.

Topic 5: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project

Submissions

Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 219 seeks clarification on: Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project \$25m – the process for building the pipeline and impact of transfer to the new entity.

Officer Comment

The pipeline is a connection between the Marton wastewater treatment plant and the Bulls wastewater treatment plant that is a fundamental piece of infrastructure to achieve the centralisation. The pipeline was principally funded by Central Government. The pipeline will connect the two plants to allow for treatment on one site or both sites with the treated effluent then being discharged at one discharge point yet to be determined. The construction of the second pipeline will take the treated effluent to the point of discharge, wherever that might be, and this second pipeline will not be constructed for some time.

The program of works will continue as planned regardless of the ownership of the activities and residing with RDC or with the new water entity.

Actions

Council will continue with the Marton to Bulls centralisation project as planned until the ownership of the assets transfer to the new water entities.

Topic 6: Water – Climate Change**Submissions**

Jo Rangooni (172).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 172 suggested that with climate change and present water/wastewater issues ensuring first class reticulation and finding of adequate clean water for all communities should be a priority.

Officer Comment

The effects of climate change are considered and included in all infrastructure projects and designs. Resilience of good quality drinking water supplies are covered by existing projects and infrastructure.

Actions

Council will continue to include climate change and resilience factors in all designs and infrastructure projects.

Roading

Topic 1	Otara Bridge repair
Topic 2	Active mobility pathways Taihape
Topic 3	Path from Wellington Road to Crofton
Topic 4	Path on Mill Street
Topic 5	Paths on Edward Street, Bulls
Topic 6	Parking in the Outback
Topic 7	Taihape pedestrian crossings
Topic 8	Traffic – Kokako Street
Topic 9	Main Centre - Taihape
Topic 10	Mobility access to sites in Marton
Topic 11	Street lights
Topic 12	Racing events – animal welfare
Topic 13	Speed Limit Reduction – Hendersons Line
Topic 14	Future of roading after Three Waters
Topic 15	Taihape – Napier Road funding
Topic 16	Roading contract and service
Topic 17	Road sealing in Rangitikei rural areas
Topic 18	Pave Cobber Kain Avenue
Topic 19	Curls Bridge
Topic 20	Cage Road, Mangaweka undercutting

Topic 1: Otara Bridge Repair

Submissions

Heather Gee-Taylor – Glencorran Farm (098), Murray Holdaway – Federated Farmers (108), Lara Maher (120), Sophie & Patrick Henderson – Hinau Station (138), Phillippa Williams – Fairburn Holdings Ltd (179), Andrew & Fiona Morton (185), Richard & Rachel Goodwin (194), Dan Cairns – Alliance Group (212), Brendan Poole – ANZCO Foods (218), Andrew Ramsay (228), Bryan Rendle & Elizabeth Russell (229), Angela – McDunhaven Deer Park (235), Laura (238) Jack Baker & Jill Woolley – Pariroa Farming (239), Jean Osten (242), Renee Russell (246) Chris (251).

Summary of submissions

The 17 submitters all requested that Otara Bridge receive urgent repairs to reinstate normal use including heavy vehicle access, indicated by most submitters as 46,000kg.

Submitters gave a range of concerns about current detours and suggestions for resolution:

Submitter 138 suggested a newly constructed bridge would be preferable, and submitter 246 requested a new bridge should be costed. Submitter 229 requested the community are consulted on repair options, and consideration be given to the best option long-term.

Submitter 098 and 179, 229, 235, 246 suggested both Rangitikei and Manawatū District Councils need to contribute to costs. Submitter 185 indicated they were sending their request to Manawatū District Council as well as Rangitikei District Council.

Submitter 229, 238, 239 246, 251 suggested Council reflect on prioritisation of expenditure including key choices, indicating infrastructure should be fixed first.

Submitter 138, 179, and 185, 194, 120, 228, 229, 235, 238 239 provided concerns with detour roads including Sandon Block Road and Ruahine Road being poorly maintained, unreliable, or susceptible to closures during weather events. Submitters 120 and 229 suggested Ruahine Road be proactively improved to ensure it remains open.

Submitter 229 suggested that these roads are not only unsuitable for larger traffic, but the heavy vehicles using these roads makes other users feel unsafe. Submitter 239 noted that cyclists use the roads that are being used as detours and is concerned there will be a serious accident. Submitter 239 and 251 suggested that additional use of these roads will increase dust related nuisances and health concerns.

Submitter 179 indicated concern that the Otara bridge would be closed entirely. Submitter 229 noted that closures on Ruahine Road contributed to additional use of the bridge, so should have increased maintenance schedules, and stated that previous reports to Council (August 2017) and suggestions from a meeting March 2023 have not been actioned. Submitter 238 also noted that the Otara bridge has been used for detours for State Highway 1 or used to access Vinegar Hill Campground, so closures and restrictions will have wider impacts than the local community.

Submitter 228 and 238 239 noted that current roadblocks risk damage to vehicles using the bridge, are not visible enough, and in some cases vehicles within weight limits cannot access the bridge due to road blocks. Submitter 229 noted that the detour may damage trucks.

Submitter 238 suggested the weight limit is currently not well displayed, while Submitter 229 stated that the weight limit was not clearly stated previously, so overweight vehicles may have contributed to damage to the bridge. Submitter 229 suggested that clear signage around weight limits is installed on bridges, as well as added to mapping or dispatch programmes so companies can understand which routes are suitable. Submitter 235 239 requests that a one vehicle limit sign is added.

Submitter 229 requested Council investigate if work completed in 2018 caused the failure. There is community support to engage engineers to review the 2018 work, but the submitter encourages council to do this, in particular assess whether the fixing of the bridge to the road has caused failures to the swing bridge mechanism. If it is found the work completed in 2018 has contributed to the bridge failure, the submitter requests Council remediate the full damage and not just visible damage.

Submitter 239 and 242 251 requested a turning bay into Otara Road, suggesting that Council should not wait for a fatal accident to take action, when there are high volumes of traffic at times, including tourists who are not aware of the risks. At times police also park here, further narrowing the road.

Submitters outlined the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the current restrictions:

Submitter 120, 138: emphasized the value of bridge to connect the Rangitikei and Manawatu districts. Submitter 108, 120 and 98, 138, 185, 194, 212, 218, 228, 229, 235, 238, 239, 242, 246, 251 noted usage that has been affected. Examples include emergency services access, transport of freight, animals, and farm products, farm support services, farm contractors, school buses, tourists, and farmers who own properties on both sides of the river. Submitters noted that the use of the bridge was vital to businesses, and the detour routes available are longer, creating more emissions and costing businesses more to undertake the same work, if it is affordable to service properties at all. Submitter 239 also stated that drivers can take fewer loads due to maximum driving hours, and animals may miss their scheduled processing time and be returned to farmers.

Submitter 108, 138, 212, 218, 229, 239 stated longer travel times impact animal welfare. Submitter 212 also indicated that some customers have agreed maximum transport times in place for animals, meaning market access is being limited for farmers affected by the detour.

Submitter 138, 228 noted that equipment cannot be taken across the bridge, adding to costs as they are forced to contract this work while machinery goes unused.

Submitter 120,179, 185, 194, 229, 246 acknowledged some of the properties directly affected by the weight restrictions on the bridge are Manawatū ratepayers, but these submitters and submitter 138, 228 note that they have relationships with businesses, schools and community events within the Rangitikei district, which they access via the Otara Bridge. Submitter 138

suggested groups may no longer be sustainable if families can no longer attend. Submitter 229 suggested that while both districts have reason to support the bridge, Rangitikei would be the most affected by the restrictions as more people will chose to take their business to Feilding.

Officer Comment

Both RDC and MDC view the repair of the Otara Bridge as high priority. We are currently progressing all work as fast as possible to be able to complete a repair as soon as possible. Currently, we have the following update on progress:

Task	Start	Finish	Progress	Comments
Review existing structure and model	Feb 23	Mar 23	100%	Complete
Review construction Records	Feb 23	Mar 23	100%	Complete
Bridge Survey	Feb 23	Apr 23	10%	Surveyor engaged, will complete survey by the end of May.
3 D Model Bridge	Feb 23	Apr 23	95%	Draft report under final internal review with the aim to issue by middle of May – this is to confirm the current capacity of the bridge.
Hanger Test and Interpretation	Mar 23	May 23	30%	Marking/identification and site measurement of hangers completed, fabrication of replacement hangers completed. Subcontractor to conduct site visit today (08 May) and aims to send price through on 11 May for MDC/RDC to raise PO for hanger removal.
Design Replacement of Truss	Apr 23	May 23	50%	Options for repair / replacement / methodology still on-going. Checked effect of removal of damaged top chord / truss on the bridge. Options for strengthening on-going.
Design replacement to end Deck Panel	Apr 23	May 23	0%	To be completed after truss design.
Peer Review	May 23	Jun 23	0%	To be completed after deck panel design.
Tender Package	Jun 23	Jun 23	0%	To be completed post peer review.

Further updates will be posted on the RDC website to allow users to follow progress of the repair.

Action

RDC and MDC will progress work in accordance with the reported works program above while making sure all delays are avoided where possible. RDC will post regular updates on progress to allow users of the bridge to follow progress with the repair.

Topic 2: Active mobility pathways Taihape**Submissions**

Jane Bell (036), Gina Mason (152), Elizabeth Mortland (256).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 036 and 256 suggested that they would like a path from Dixon Way into Taihape.

Submitter 152 suggested that a mobility pathway from town to cemetery in Taihape would be a great asset to the town and to the many daily walkers who get wet feet from the long grass or who must walk on the road.

Officer Comment

A pedestrian link between Dixon Way and Taihape will include pedestrian access along SH1 and crossing a rail corridor. Both Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail will need to be involved in funding and decision making. Council could investigate this further with Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail.

Recommendation

That Council do/do not request staff to liaise with Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to assess options for a shared pathway from Dixon Way into Taihape.

Topic 3: Path from Wellington Road to Crofton**Submissions**

Jane Murray (051), Carlie van Dijk (178).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 051 suggested that Council provides a footpath out to Crofton along Wellington Road

Submitter 178 also suggested that Council find funding for a basic footpath from Crofton on Wellington Road that will be used by the whole community.

Officer Comment

The new footpath was declined by Waka Kotahi in the current activity management plan and program of works. It will be included in the program submission for the next three-year funding application.

Actions

Include a new footpath along Wellington Road to Crofton in the next three-year funding application to Waka Kotahi.

Topic 4: Path on Mill Street**Submissions**

Louise Andrews (033).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 033 suggested that a footpath on the other side of Mill Street is something that needs to be a priority. James Cook is currently the largest school in Marton, and it is incredibly unsafe for children having to cross the road on the corner of Pukepapa and Mill Street. If there was a footpath on the other side of Mill Street there would be no need to cross the road as children could walk down to the pedestrian crossing.

Officer Comment

The new footpath was declined by Waka Kotahi in the current activity management plan and program of works. It will be included in the program submission for the next three-year funding application.

Actions

Include a new footpath on Mill Street Marton in the next three-year funding application to Waka Kotahi.

Topic 5: Path on Edward Street, Bulls**Submissions**

Emma Watson (055).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 055 suggested that Edward Street, Bulls is a busy street for people using it as a turnaround spot for the school, and for people who missed a turn to get back into Bulls. The street needs paths.

Officer Comment

Due to the small number of houses (4 in total) and the limited use of a footpath, this has a low priority when compared with other needs in the district. A new footpath will be considered once all other high priority works has been completed. Edward Street has a total length of 100 meters with a footpath and a School Patrol controlled pedestrian crossing on SH3 at Flower Street 250m from Edwards Street available.

Topic 6: Parking in the Outback**Submissions**

Elizabeth Mortland (256).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 256 suggested that Council ensure parking in the Outback is not taken up by a local business - keep the carparks for visitors to town and motorhomes.

Officer Comment

Council does not have any time restrictions on the parking areas surrounding the Outback Park area, which means enforcement is not currently possible. Implementing parking restrictions is possible, however, Council would need to determine the scale of the issue to understand if implementing parking restrictions in the area is needed. Consideration would be needed regarding associated enforcement costs and staff capacity, particularly in the absence of a dedicated parking warden. Currently officers advise there is limited capacity to add this to a work programme.

Topic 7: Taihape pedestrian crossings**Submissions**

Taihape Community Board (141), Tania Byford (148).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 148 suggested that something needs to be done about Taihape's pedestrian crossings, particularly the ones from Greenstone to Wild Roses and the one outside Blush Florist to Oki Sushi. The amount of traffic has increased substantially since the return of international tourists and every Friday, regardless of it being a long weekend, there is backed up traffic. Every long weekend is worse 10km from town both north and south traffic crawls along. This isn't great for business, by the time they reach town they want to keep travelling due to the hold up. It's caused by the extra vehicles but mostly because of the uncontrolled crossings. One person crosses at a time bringing the traffic to a stop or sometimes they don't stop, and pedestrians must take evasive action to avoid being hit.

Submitter 148 also suggested that Waka Kotahi look at moving the crossings away from the intersections and further to the middle of the street, put in 1 set of light controlled crossings at the northern end (Honda to New World) and remove the crossing outside Blush Florist, installing a courtesy style walkway (not an official crossing) to Zacci Hair across to the Lobby with a safe landing (small island) in the middle. Gretna corner crossing stays as it is. Submitter 148 feels this is the solution to keep the traffic flowing, preventing backed up traffic, preventing the possibility of an imminent bypass of Taihape due to the bottleneck. Pedestrians can wait to cross; traffic can flow more freely, and pedestrian safety improves hugely.

Submitter 141 suggested that the Taihape Community Board has noted increasing concern from Taihape businesses and residents over the increased traffic flow through the town on holiday weekends and the impact of the pedestrian crossings positioning. Several businesses have suggested that the crossing be repositioned in the middle of a block rather than on busy intersections on SH1 (Hautapu Street) and/or there are pedestrian lights installed to regulate pedestrians crossing. The TCB would submit that RDC and Waka Kotahi be approached to see how this can best be managed.

Officer Comment

Any improvements or construction on State Highway is managed by Waka Kotahi. Council staff will discuss the proposals in the submission with Waka Kotahi.

Actions

Council staff to discuss Submission 148 related to the location of pedestrian crossings in Taihape with Waka Kotahi.

Topic 8: Traffic – Kokako Street**Submissions**

Albert Keuning (078), Lesley Keuning (079).

Summary of submissions

Submitters 078 and 079 suggested that traffic is already bad in Kokako St, truck stops overnight and during the day, don't need any more traffic.

Traffic in Kokako St has not been taken into consideration. Sports, school, swimming pool general traffic. I often park in Kokako to use Memorial Park. Further traffic does not take residents into consideration. Is the liquor ban for Memorial Park still in place or is alcohol now allowed? The greatest users of the park are families with children. Trucks also park up and use Kokako on a daily basis.

Officer Comment

The submitter's comments regarding the increase in traffic is noted. The liquor ban is still in place across the park and includes the carpark and the shearing pavilion.

Topic 9: Main Centre - Taihape

Submissions

James Winiata-Moroney (241).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 241 suggested that Council needs to invest more money in Taihape rather than Marton, particularly on the main street. This includes keeping the gutters clean.

Officer Comment

Council have improved the condition of all the gardens, parks, open spaces, and cemeteries in Taihape over recent years and will continue to maintain these spaces to a high standard. Unfortunately, the condition and maintenance of buildings along SH1 is the responsibility of the private property owners and not a Council activity.

Council have also invested in the Taihape Amenities Block, Taihape Tennis/Netball courts, and pledged funding for a new playground. In addition, Council is consulting with the public via this Annual Plan regarding the Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

Topic 10: Mobility access to sites in Marton

Submissions

Carolyn Bates (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 suggested that Marton is a community heavily reliant on private vehicles to move around town and wished it to be a top destination in the Rangitikei Rural district pointing out there are environmentally limited mobility networks with 68% of low-income earners/MSD benefit receivers being unable to afford to go out of their township even though they own a vehicle, so they shop locally. This can be a limiting existence for some. Submitter 214 further suggested that mobility access to interesting education sites, heritage buildings, museums, and parks would improve the wellbeing of many.

Officer Comment

Mobility access is included in the design of all modern Council activities and facilities and improved where these facilities are older and constructed under a different regulatory framework. These upgrades are programed as they are identified and as budgets allow.

Actions

Council will continue to improve disability access to activities and facilities.

Topic 11: Streetlights

Submissions

Robert Snijders (210).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 210 noted concerns around issues with streetlights.

Officer Comment

Council is aware of a current issue with the streetlights across the district and working with our electricity suppliers to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Feedback about the problem and how it has been resolved will be shared with the public once we have certainty about the cause of the problem.

Actions

Council will continue to work with our electricity supplier to identify the cause of the streetlight problem and resolve the issue. An update on the resolution of the issue will be made public once the work has been completed.

Topic 12: Racing Events – Animal Welfare

Submissions

Angela – McDunhaven Deer Park (234).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 234 expressed that: There were car race concerns impacting the deer’s welfare should Council support these types of events.

Officer Comment

Council views the race events from a perspective that includes cultural sensitivity, possible damage to assets and infrastructure, benefits to the district with regards to visitor numbers and possible economic and social contributions as well as any potential damage to the receiving environment. It is possible for future events to also consider animal welfare.

Actions

Further car races in the Rangitikei that are considered by Council include animal welfare considerations.

Topic 13: Speed Limit Reduction – Henderson’s Line

Submissions

Ben Coll (032).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 032 requested a reduction of speed along Henderson’s Line from the corner of Pukepapa Road to Newman’s Line. Currently speed limit is set at 70kph about halfway along.

Officer Comment

Speed Limits are no longer set by a Bylaw adopted by Council. Instead, speed limits are managed in a more holistic way across all of the roading network in the district. Council is now required to develop a Speed Management Plan which sets out the objectives, policies, and measures for managing speed over a 10-year period.

A consistent approach to setting speed limits is expected across the region. To achieve this the Regional Council is required to produce a ‘Regional Speed Management Plan’ that collates the information from across each district.

Finally, the adoption of the ‘Regional Speed Management Plan’ is aligned to the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) for the 2024-27 period commencing in June 2024. The work done to date by Council on changing speed limits will be included in the ‘Speed Management Plan’ scheduled to be released for public consultation in mid-2023.

Actions

Council will continue to work on finalising the draft Speed Management Plan due for public consultation by the middle of 2023.

Topic 14: Future Roding After Three Waters

Submissions

Anonymous (213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 suggested that if Three Waters comes to pass, roads will become the single biggest cost to our region. The submitter noted the challenges of maintaining a large roading network with a small ratepayer base.

Officer Comment

Council can make roading data available on our website as and when roading network data is produced.

Actions

Make roading data available to the public via our website when roading network data is produced.

Topic 15: Taihape-Napier Road Funding**Submissions**

Simon Plimmer (097).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 097 suggested that further lobbying should be done by Council to have the Taihape-Napier Road fully funded by the state rather than local government. The road is more and more being used by non-rural transport companies and tourists - particularly recently with both the Taupo-Napier and Manawatu-Napier roads having significant delay and/or closures.

Officer Comment

Significant lobbying has been led by Mayor Andy Watson and will continue. Council is aware of the significance of this road as part of the national state highway network.

Action

That Council continue to lobby for greater funding contributions from Waka Kotahi for the Taihape to Napier Road.

Topic 16: Roding contract and service**Submissions**

Tim Matthews (254), John Vickers (166), Craig Whitton (244).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 254 raised concern regarding the perceived decline in roading service over the last 14 months, in particular related to re-metaling and slip removal. The submitter noted their contribution to opening the roads and raised a number of specific issues. They raised concern about management of the roading contract. The submitter also raised comment around cycle safety on rural roads that are popular cycle routes.

Submitter 166 raised concerns about roads, and their importance for the national network.

Submitter 244 suggested that Higgins needs to be more accountable for the roading. The road repairs around Rangitikei are very poor.

Officer Comment

Council staff will investigate all the complaints noted in this submission and reply directly to the submitter once all the updated information has been collected. The CouncilRFS system notes that the culvert in question was repaired in April this year, but this will be confirmed by a site visit and a reply to the submitter. All Council customers are encouraged to make use of the RFS system as this keeps records of what faults has been reported and how the contractor is performing. The current road maintenance contract has a range of measurable KPIs in place to monitor their performance. It is worth mentioning that the focus of the contractor over the last year and this summer was largely driven by weather events causing substantial damage across the district and prioritisation of urgency of all roading work was necessary.

With regards to the question about cycling and pedestrian use of Kauangaroa, Mangatipona, Mangahoe and Onga Roads, Waka Kotahi removed funding for these kind of activities from this three-year work program. It is unclear if funding will be available in future funding rounds for these kind of activities in an environment where available funding is limited.

The road maintenance contract includes a wide range of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to measure the performance of the contractor. It is important to note that the KPIs are directly connected to the cost of the contract and what can be afforded by rate payers. Currently the contractor complies with all the KPIs set in the contract. RDC does however respond to all Requests for Service (RFS) regarding road condition complaints regardless of the KPIs set in the contract.

Actions

That Council continue to measure the performance of the contractor by using the KPIs set in the current contract and will investigate all RFSs regarding road condition complaints.

Council will investigate all the issues noted in Submission 254 and report back to the submitter directly.

Topic 17: Road sealing in Rangitikei rural areas**Submissions**

Murray Holdaway (108).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 108 suggested that the Council continues to improve and seal more roads in Rangitikei District's rural areas.

Officer Comment

Council will seal and improve roads in the rural areas of the district as budget availability allows.

Topic 18: Cobber Kain Avenue**Submissions**

Jocelyn Hunt (016).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 016 suggested that Cobber Kain Avenue is paved.

Officer Comment

The construction of Cobber Cain Avenue is included in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

Topic 19: Curls Bridge**Submissions**

Kevin Whelan (047).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 047 suggested that one other possible road safety improvement that should be considered for the future is widening of the bridge situated at the bottom of Wellington Road, near State Highway 1. It operates as a two-lane bridge but is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass side by side, especially if one is a truck turning into Wellington Road from the highway.

Officer Comment

Curls Bridge is currently on the program for assessment to consider future upgrade options. At this stage it's unclear what those options might be and when those option could be considered for funding.

Actions

Council will complete the bridge assessment as part of the current three year work program.

Topic 20: Cage Road, Mangaweka undercutting**Submissions**

Lara Maher (120).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 120 suggested that the cliff is slipping away on Ruahine Road at the end of Cage Road Mangaweka and substantially undercutting the road making it vulnerable to collapsing.

Submitter 120 also suggested that this is a health and safety issue as the very busy road could collapse at any time. It is the main transport route for livestock and farming services in and out of the Kawhatau Valley along with school groups and large buses. Submitter 120 further suggested the affected piece of road needs to be repositioned away from the cliff side before it slips into the river.

Officer Comment

Moving Ruahine Road further away from the cliff face is included in the current three year works program. Council is currently working on the necessary resource consent application to allow for this work to be completed.

Solid Waste

Topic 1	Bulls – Waste Dump Station for Caravans
Topic 2	Recycling
Topic 3	Utiku – Rubbish Costs

Topic 1: Bulls – Waste Dump Station for Caravans

Submissions

Anonymous (213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 suggested that one argument put forwards is to make Bulls a destination town. Increasing infrastructure to support this, such as bus stop, community centre, commercial hub, etc. To fully cement home "Destination Bulls" or "Stop-A-Bull" for the tourist is to provide a waste dump station for caravans and campervans. Presently these facilities are only locally provided in Marton and Sanson, and people travelling there to discharge will stop and linger instead of at Bulls.

Officer Comment

The construction of an additional caravan waste dump station in Bulls has been investigated in detail on previous occasions and it was found to be cost prohibitive and that it will not add value to users as there are existing dump sites in Sanson, Marton and Taihape.

Topic 2: Recycling

Submissions

Marton Community Committee (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 noted that: Marton Community Committee would like RDC to reconsider their decision with regard to curbside recycling, this service would be beneficial to many. An option could be to have once or twice a year an occasion which would allow residents to recycle/dispose of more than general refuse.

Officer Comment

Council has taken the management of the solid waste activities back in-house and will have greater control in the future. The focus from central government is currently on the recycling of the organics waste fraction of domestic waste and RDC are working on a plan to allow

Council to consider available options. Recycling facilities across the district will also be considered for improvements to make recycling easier and a more attractive option at our transfer stations.

Action

Staff will continue with the creation of an options report for the collection and management of organic waste from households and present this to Council at a future Council meeting for consideration.

Topic 3: Utiku - Rubbish Costs**Submissions**

Aron Moroney (231).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 231 suggested that as Utiku does not have rubbish collection, would like to see a reduction in cost at the Taihape Waste Transfer Station.

Officer Comment

None of the Rangitikei District Council customers across the district receives rubbish collection. Utiku is about 8.5kms from Taihape and some customers in the district will travel distances much further than this to reach the existing transfer stations or they would have a commercial relationship with a private service provider to collect their waste. It is not financially viable to consider a discounted rate for all customers that live some distance from our existing transfer stations.

Community

Topic 1	Marton and Taihape pools
Topic 2	Springvale Bridge toilet
Topic 3	Family features in Taihape
Topic 4	Youth services in Taihape and Marton
Topic 5	Housing – Taihape
Topic 6	Housing – General
Topic 7	Toilet facility – Taihape Cemetery
Topic 8	Te Matapihi – Positive comments
Topic 9	Support to Residents – Improvements of Amenities and Gatherings
Topic 10	Submission for Funding – Lighting Upgrade
Topic 11	Suggested New Building – McIntyre Reserve, Ohingaiti
Topic 12	Replacement of the Storage Shed at Ratana Community Gym
Topic 13	Library Usage and Council Building Visitors
Topic 14	Māori and Pasifika Communities
Topic 15	Heritage
Topic 16	Arts Funding
Topic 17	Community Funding – Parks/Events/Placemaking
Topic 18	Taihape Playground Update
Topic 19	Community Leadership and Community Wellbeing budgets

Topic 1: Marton and Taihape pools**Submissions**

Louise Andrews (033), Ngaire Wishnowsky (058), Kristin Churchward (073), Alan McCubbine (221).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 058 suggested that Marton Pool be insulated and remain open all year.

Submitter 033 also suggested that the Marton swimming pool open all year around so that families can go to swimming lessons in town all year.

Submitter 073 suggested that Taihape pool be kept open over winter as an activity for the children.

Submitter 221 also requested that Council spend the money proposed for the active mobility pathway along Calico Line on keeping the swimming pool open year-round, benefitting far more residents.

Officer Comment

In the 2021-31 Long Term Plan it was identified that investigation of a longer opening swim season/year-round opening would be investigated in Year Three (2023/24).

Funding has been allocated in 2023/24 for asset condition reporting to determine what building and/or plant works would be required to enable a longer season.

Additional funding was also allowed for in Year Four (2024/25) for contractor management for a longer season (to be reviewed as part of the overall investigation process in 2023/24). The swim centre contractor is aware of the potential to extend the swim season.

The active mobility pathway is considered a well-being priority from a pedestrian road safety perspective with a number of pedestrians, including those on mobility devices or pushing strollers, using this pathway.

Topic 2: Springvale Bridge toilet**Submissions**

Simon Plimmer (097).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 097 suggested that there is an error in the Annual Plan stating the Springvale Bridge has been installed.

Officer Comment

The Annual Plan document was a draft document. The dry vault toilet is scheduled to be installed late May. If there is a delay in the installation, this statement will be removed from the published document.

The submitter has been advised of the installation timeline.

Topic 3: Family features in Taihape**Submissions**

Kristin Churchward (073).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 073 suggested that there should be more family features in Taihape. For example, improving the current playground, making a bike pump track for the kids near the rec and working on the mountain bike track as another adventure activity for Taihape. This would be a people and tourist attraction. Also, better public toilets around the playground.

Officer Comment

A new playground is presently being planned for Taihape, to which Council has pledged \$50,000. Friends of Taihape are developing tracks as part of the Hautapu River Parks project. Council is also developing a district-wide Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and carrying out an Urban Design Plan for the Taihape Domain. Further developments including public toilets will be considered as part of these plans

Topic 4: Youth services**Submissions**

Shane Casey (197), Carolyn Bates (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 197 requested funding for Youthline Central North Island Inc to deliver additional youth services in Taihape - \$19,656.

Submitter 214 suggested that a youth club would be beneficial for the youth in Marton.

Officer Comment

Currently we provide the youth space, The Lobby, in Taihape. It is a space that is available for providers and organisations to deliver programs in support of Rangatahi/young people. The Taihape staff are working with Youthline presently, through the programme at Taihape Area School, and have offered them space at The Lobby. Staff also offered to assist with ideas for fund raising, and funding opportunities, to help cover costs for Youthline visiting Taihape

more often. Mokai Patea Services also provide supportive services for the wellbeing of Taihape youth.

The previous youth space in Marton was closed due to lack of support. Staff are presently liaising with another organisation about providing a youth space/hub for activities in Marton for youth. Council's Community Services group also network with various organisations and groups to provide a number of different opportunities (and hence vicinities) for youth programmes. For example, boxing at Sir James Wilson Park, youth activities at Marton Swim Centre, art opportunities through liaising with Rangitikei College, creation of youth programmes delivered from Marton Library.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not provide funding of \$[add here] to Youthline for the 2023/24 financial year.

Topic 5: Housing - General

Submissions

Jo Rangooni (172).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 172 suggested that Council needs to be seen to support affordable housing.

Officer Comment

The Rangitikei District Council is involved in a variety of activities to provide and promote affordable housing within the district. Several key activities include:

- The Council currently owns and manages 72 community houses (pensioner flats) in Bulls, Marton, Ratana and Taihape that are rented to, primarily, seniors (aged 65+). These are small one-bedroom flats ideally suited for single people and a few double-sized flats that are affordable on the NZ superannuation.
- A consultancy will begin in July 2023, paid for with \$50,000 Department of Internal Affairs 'Better Off' funding, to provide housing options to RDC for the use of land that it owns at 22 Tui Street, Taihape. The study will look at general housing needs in Taihape, including for additional pensioner flats and a shared accommodation/group home for seniors and the elderly, and affordable housing for low income earners.
- The RDC Strategic Advisor, Economic Development works to strengthen two not-for-profit, volunteer social housing groups in the district – Door of Hope Rangitikei Charitable Trust located in Marton and the Taihape Housing Steering Group based in Taihape – providing institutional and capacity building support. This assistance has resulted in Door of Hope signing a Heads of Agreement with Habitat for Humanity NZ to collaborate in the provision of social housing and shared equity and rent-to-buy home ownership for low-middle income families throughout the district.

Topic 6: Housing - Taihape

Submissions

Gayna Setters (075), Kathy Clark (110), The Chairman – Taihape Housing (112), Elizabeth Strange (113), Susan Benson (196), Pania Winiata (203/243), Elisabeth Riley (114), Jennifer Abernethy (123), Jane Bell (036), Taihape Community Board(141).

Summary of submissions

These submitters suggested that Council purchase additional land to create housing for senior citizens. Land parcels cited were land adjacent to 22 Tui Street or making use of some of the empty commercial buildings for apartments.

Submitter 110 suggested that housing is important. Shared accommodation in relational centres will keep families and communities together.

Submitter 123 suggested that there is single person housing developed on the flat in Taihape. People need to get off the hill making more family homes available.

Submitter 112 suggested that housing for senior citizens be based on the Abbeyfield House model.

Submitter 141 their support for the Northern Housing Group in their efforts to maximise the use of opportunities for social or shared housing in and around Taihape.

Officer Comment

Included in the Better Off funding agreement with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is money to pay for a consultancy that will provide Council with options that will inform decisions around the potential development of land into residential sections for owner-occupied, rental, and social housing district wide.

Amongst interrelated issues and concerns, the consultancy will offer recommendations for the development of the Council-owned land at 22 Tui Street, Taihape. possibly for additional stand-alone pensioner flats or as part of a larger integrated housing development on the flat in the centre of town. It will consider whether the existing Huia Street pensioner flats are adequate and still fit for purpose or whether they may be better suited to an alternative demographic and if so how to realise that transition.

The consultancy will commence in July this year, providing material for Council’s 2024-34 Long Term Plan discussion of the issues raised and the solutions proposed.

Actions

Elected members and Council staff continue to liaise with Otaihape Health Trust, Taihape Community Development Trust, and Taihape Housing Steering Group to consider housing options in Taihape.

Topic 7: Toilet facility – Taihape Cemetery

Submissions

Taihape Community Board (141).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 141 noted that: The TCB supports the submission made in Public Forum in 2022 for a toilet facility at the Taihape cemetery. It would also support the RDC in forming a user group to seek solutions to any issues that may arise.

Officer Comment

Council currently administers eight public cemeteries within the district. All eight cemeteries are located outside of town centres, and do not have public toilets. Installing a new toilet facility at the Taihape cemetery could set an expectation that toilets would be installed at other sites.

As there is no option to connect to the town’s wastewater system, a dry vault unit would need to be considered. Costs for the off-site construction and installation of a such a facility would be in the vicinity of \$100,000. On-going costs would also need to be considered e.g. consumables, depreciation, staff time for cleaning and for unlocking/locking the facility.

Recommendation

That Council consider/do not consider dry-vault toilets at cemeteries as part of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan process.

Topic 8: Te Matapihi – Positive Comments

Submissions

Jo Rangooni (172)

Summary of submissions

Submitter 172 noted that: I use Te Matapihi learning centre and library and am delighted by positive comments about the toilets, the attractiveness and functioning of the building.

Officer Comment

Elected members and staff are also appreciative of the positive feedback received on the Te Matapihi facility and the services provided there. Staff continue to look for further opportunities for Te Matapihi as a venue, and for the services provided from there.

Topic 9: Support to Residents – Improvements of Amenities and Gatherings

Submissions

Ken Mason (204).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 204 suggested that RDC support residents who are endeavouring to improve the town amenities and walkways. Support public gatherings, e.g., adequate sound system for dawn parade.

Officer Comment

Council staff collaborate, liaise, and support many different groups and organisations throughout the district regarding various projects to improve public amenities and facilities. Opportunities to support public gatherings may be available through Council’s Small Project’s funds, and the Event Sponsorship, and Community Initiatives funds. The Venue & Events Coordinator is able to provide information on these schemes, while the Managers of Library Services and Community Development are also able to assist by suggesting other external funders.

Actions

Council staff will contact the submitter to discuss any projects that they have in mind, that staff may be able to assist (or suggest means of assistance) with.

Topic 10: Submission for Funding – Lighting Upgrade

Submissions

Sarah Bell (190).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 190 requested that The Taihape Tennis Club, and Taihape Netball Club jointly wish to apply to RDC for funding to upgrade the lighting at our facilities in Memorial Park, Taihape. We would specifically like to apply for funding from either the Parks Upgrade Partnership Fund, or funding through the Annual Planning Process.

Officer Comment

As Taihape Tennis have already received funding from Council through the 2021-31 Long Term Plan submission process and intend to use part of this funding (\$50,000) towards lighting, an application to the Parks Upgrade Partnership towards lighting would be seen as ‘double dipping’ and would therefore not be recommended.

(NOTE: The remaining funding allocated to Taihape Tennis has been committed to the re-surfacing of the Taihape courts, new poles, and nets).

While the submitter requests a commitment from Council for the amount of \$48,393.80, they have noted that they have the ability to seek funding from outside funders for a portion of these funds.

Council may wish to contribute \$48,393.80 as their support to Taihape Netball, to (approximately) match the amount granted to Taihape Tennis that is being used for lighting.

Recommendation

Council does/does not [delete one] support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80.

Topic 11: Suggested New Building – McIntyre Reserve, Ohingaiti

Submissions

Richard and Rachel Goodwin (194).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 194 suggested that they would love to see a new building at the McIntyre Reserve, Ohingaiti. This is a well-used venue for large gatherings and the building is no longer providing suitable amenities. The toilets have constant issues, the kitchen is well below standard for serving food and there are holes in the floor which has created room for rodents to live inside.

Officer Comment

The McIntyre Reserve Management Committee are delegated to expend budget as approved by Council in applicable Annual/Long Term Plans for the management and maintenance of McIntyre Reserve. They currently have a balance of \$21,294.43 available in the McIntyre Reserve Fund for maintenance or renewal.

Council will be undertaking condition assessments of all Council property within the Rangitikei District in the 2023/24 financial year. As it is not clear what the Reserve Committee are looking for in a new building (and whether this is a submission from the Committee or from a member as an individual), staff will liaise with the submitter and the Committee to determine their vision for the Reserve buildings.

Actions

Council staff will meet with the McIntyre Reserve Management Committee with a view to understand the committee’s direction on reserve buildings.

Topic 12: Replacement of the Storage Shed at Ratana Community Gym**Submissions**

Charlie Mete (217).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 217 suggested that the storage shed at the Ratana Community Gym needs replacing. Council owns the land and buildings currently. At the moment we are storing equipment inside the gym which is not ideal. We would like to replace the shed with something bigger which there is room on the section to do so.

Officer Comment

Due to the condition of the current storage shed, the Ratana Community Gym are looking at replacing it with a 6m x 4m shed. The larger shed will allow for other sporting equipment to be housed such as the portable netball hoops. Staff do not know the total value of the shed, but understand the submitter is seeking \$10,000 from Council. Staff also do not have details of the shed to determine any consenting requirements.

Actions

Council staff to meet with a representative from the Ratana Community Gym to gather further information and report back to Council

Recommendation

That Council do/do not [delete one] provide monetary support to the value of \$..... to Ratana Gym for a new storage shed

Topic 13: Library Usage and Council Building Visitors**Submissions**

Robert Snijders (210).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 210 asked what the library usage is and the number of visitors to the Council buildings.

Officer Comment

Council does not record the number of persons entering Library buildings or Council buildings.

Topic 14: Māori and Pasifika Communities

Submissions

Carolyn Bates – Marton Community Committee (214)

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 suggested that more opportunities need to be created to connect with the Maori and Pasifika communities.

Officer Comment

The Community Services group continuously look for ways to connect and engage with all ethnicities in our district, for example, through the Welcoming Communities programme, youth programmes, library programmes, Mayors Task Force for Jobs, community housing liaison.

Actions

Members of the Community Services group will liaise with the submitter to hear their thoughts and recommendations.

Topic 15: Heritage

Submissions

Joseph Skou (225).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 225 suggested that there is the inadequate protection of pre-European archaeology. We would like to work with Council on improving the protection of our heritage in line with perhaps a greater effort to capture and protect the history and heritage of Rangitikei.

Officer Comment

The Community Services group are presently looking at Cultural well-being, including the capturing of history and heritage of our district.

Actions

Members of the Community Services group will liaise with the submitter to hear their thoughts and to consider how we can work collaboratively on such projects.

Topic 16: Arts Funding

Submissions

Kathy Clark (110).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 110 suggested that the arts are an integral part of building a sustainable community. Arts need a home so they can hold events to fundraise. You are cutting funding to the arts - how about giving them a place in future developments, you did it for Bulls - what about the rest of the lovely Rangitikei.

Officer Comment

The submitter suggests that Council is cutting funding to the Arts and would like any development/renovation/new build of Council facilities in Taihape to take into consideration (for the social and cultural well-being of residents and visitors) the suitability of the facility for various art form e.g. musical, dance, drama events.

Council indicated that it intended to reduce the Events Sponsorship by 50% to \$25,000, remove the Placemaking (\$12,000) and Parks Upgrade Partnership (\$100,000), on the understanding that groups/organisations could still apply for funding through the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan process, and remove the Path to Wellbeing - Theme Groups Conference (\$14,000). There is no proposed reduction to Creative Communities, which is externally funded but administered by Council.

The submission points have been noted.

Topic 17: Community Funding – Parks/Events/Placemaking

Submissions

Marlon Community Committee (214), Anonymous (028), Carolyn Bates (215), Marlon Development Group (222), Joseph Skou (225), Scott Parkes (233), Peter Kipling-Arthur (141).

Summary of submissions

All submitters are opposed to the intention to reduce or cut any funding for parks/events and placemaking.

Submitter 214 stated that: MCC strongly object to the plan(s) to remove or reduce funding for Parks/Events/Placemaking. We believe these are opportunities to encourage community involvement. RDC claim to want to be a Welcoming Community, but here is another barrier to making things happen or improve facilities in any way.

Submitter 028 suggested that Council should retain the events funding to avoid the risk of telling anyone looking to grow or develop an event that the Rangitikei is closed, and we are

not welcoming. Events provide a great way for the host community to connect socially and gives it much needed promotion.

Submitter 225 added that without these available funding options it is very difficult for community groups to access funding for their projects. By getting funding through these avenues, it encourages community groups that the council is in support of their ideas and projects.

Submitter 233 stated the intention of Hunterville Rugby Club committee to undertake an upgrade to the lights at Hunterville Rugby Club. This will allow training at night and night games. This is a Council owned ground, and we would like some assistance in the costs from the Parks and Recreation Fund.

Submitter 141 stated that the Taihape Community Board strongly opposes reductions in any or all community funding. The reason being that access to funding from Council, however small, is motivational to rural communities and their community groups. This then enhances the people and the place.

Officer Comment

Due to significant pressures on our community, and the increased cost pressures from inflation, depreciation, compliance etc. Council signaled its intention to reduce expenditure where it could, to keep rate increases as low as possible.

It is proposed to remove funding for the Annual Path to Wellbeing Conference (\$14,000), reduce the Event Sponsorship by 50% to \$25,000, and remove the Parks Upgrade Partnership (\$100,000) and Placemaking (\$12,000) funds. It is intended that applications for parks upgrades, place-making, and other community projects could still be made, but through the annual plan or long-term plan process, particularly as a number of the projects have a total value of more than \$25,000 (Parks Upgrade Partnership) or \$12,000 (total funding available in the Placemaking Fund).

The reduction in Event sponsorship could have a negative effect on social, cultural, and economic well-beings if funding was the difference between an event being held or not. There is also opportunity to review the criteria of the event sponsorship scheme to ensure events enhance the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the district by show-casing diversity of our community, promoting community engagement and participation, stimulate local business activity and generate tourism and other economic benefit for the district.

Recommendation

That Council reduce its expenditure and keep rate increases as low as possible by reducing the funding that is available for the community to apply for, including by:

- Reducing the Event Sponsorship fund to \$25,000
- Removing the Annual Path to Wellbeing Conference, Parks Upgrade Partnership, and Placemaking funds,

and encourage community groups and individuals to apply for funding through the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan process.

Topic 18: Taihape Playground Upgrade

Submissions

Charity Davis – Taihape Playground Group (236).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 236 stated that: The Taihape Playground Group seek the approval from the Rangitikei District Council to grant us permission to upgrade the current playground on the existing site at Taihape Memorial Park. We also seek formal permission to use the site north side of the grandstand adjacent the parks toilets for a small children's/parents play area. This will allow us to take the next step to get in a playground designer. We need funds for this. The RDC have offered \$50k to our group which we have not yet received. Can we please have this money put into our playground account so we can then pay for a designer. We would love more funding as well please as this project will be very costly.

Officer Comment

The upgrade of the playpark is included in the Parks, Open Space and Sporting facilities strategy. The position of the new upgraded playpark is the unknown at the moment. We are working with BECA to complete the Urban Design work for Taihape Memorial park, and this work will determine the best position for the new playpark. The Urban Design work will be completed by the end of 2023.

Council previously resolved that ‘That Council provides a capital provision of up to \$50,000 (in Year 2 of the LTP) to the Taihape Playground Group for the upgrading of Taihape Memorial Park Playground, subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.’

Action

Officers will work with the Taihape Playground Group on accessing the \$50,000 previously agreed to by Council.

Topic 19: Community Leadership and Community Wellbeing Budgets

Submissions

Carolyn Bates – Marton Community Committee (214), Carolyn Bates (215).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 and 215 questioned more detail what the Community Leadership and Community Wellbeing budgets are spent on and suggests collaboration with community groups.

Officer Comment

The \$3.2m referenced to by the submitter refers to the proposed budget of \$1.5m for Community Leadership and \$1.2m for Community Wellbeing. These budgets include items identified in the table below.

Community Wellbeing	Community Leadership
Placemaking Mayoral Youth Scholarship Mayors Taskforce for jobs. Swim for all Funding for MoU groups - Bulls & District Community Trust, Taihape Community Development Trust, Rangitikei Environment Group. Events Sponsorship Grant.	Elected Member salaries and training (set by the Remuneration Authority). Community Board salaries (set by the Remuneration Authority). Elections Committee small projects funds Community Initiatives Grant Community Awards

Democracy and Planning

Topic 1	Māori Wards
Topic 2	Climate Change
Topic 3	Communications / Consultation
Topic 4	District Plan and Community Spatial Plan

Topic 1: Māori Wards

Submissions

Anonymous (213).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 advised they did not want Māori Wards and questioned Council’s process around the implementation of Māori Wards, in particular the consultation.

Officer Comment

Māori Wards – the introduction of Māori Wards was undertaken in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Council discussed Māori Wards in April 2021. Public Notice was issued in August 2021 and submissions were called for, submissions closed on 8 October 2021 and oral submissions were held on 14 October 2021. A final public notice was issued in November 2021. Maori Wards were in place for the 2022 elections.

Topic 2: Climate Change

Submissions

Anonymous (213), Horizons Regional Council (216).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 213 questioned all the information relating to Climate Change.

Submitter 216 supports Council undertaking a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan and suggests Council consider ‘greenbuild’ design features for its major building projects and low or no emission vehicles for its fleet.

Officer Comment

Council has committed to undertaking a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan in 2023/2024 which will provide expert advice specific to our District and an Action Plan to be implemented.

Topic 3: Communications / Consultation**Submissions**

Naumai (091), Marton Community Committee (214), Carolyn Bates (215), Robert Snijders (210), Gretta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 091 suggested that the document regarding Key Choice 1, was repetitive and that it was difficult to read.

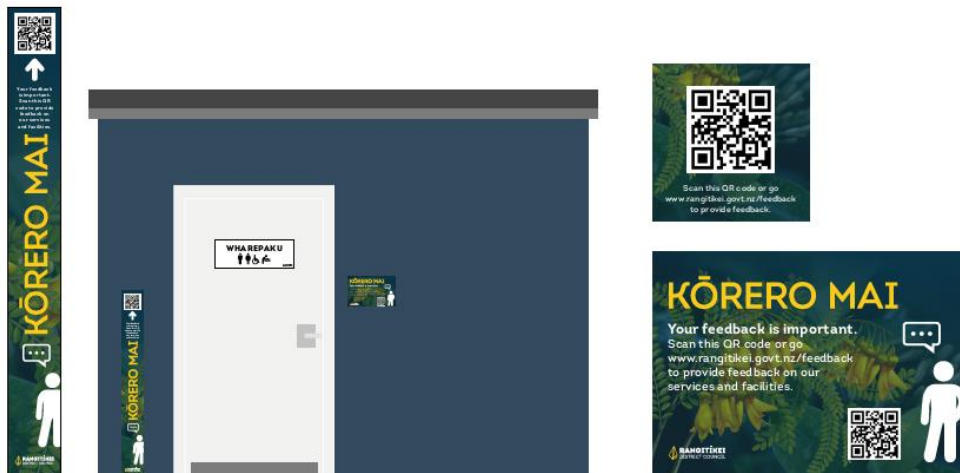
Submitters 214 and 215 raises issues with Council's communications and website; and how the Community Committee is communicated with. The submitter also produced a mockup of a sign and suggested wording for installing at Council's public toilet facilities.

Submitters 210 and 219 made comments on public consultation events being poorly attended and suggested Council look at other examples of Consultation Documents and consultation methods.

Officer Comment

A Communications Manager has just commenced at Council and there is an intention to recruit for an Intermediate Comms role in July (if funding is approved by Council). This will increase the level of resource in the Comms area.

Regarding the suggested signage for public toilets – Council recently embarked on simple feedback approach by installing signs with QR code links to Council's website so feedback can be provided (see example below). The Korero Mai – Have your say, feedback form can be found here [Feedback Form \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). These signs have already been installed at a number of parks, toilets and public facilities across the district with more planned as needed. Responses received via this system are reported to the Finance / Performance committee each month.



In 2022 Council has allocated a staff member from the Community Services team to attend Community Committee meetings in the role of ‘Community Partner’. They act as a conduit between the committee and council. Through this relationship to date, it has been identified that there is a need to establish and facilitate more effective communication processes between the Community Boards and Committees, their Council representatives, and Council to ensure effective processes that help to streamline actions and communications between all involved. Community Boards/Committees will shortly be invited to meet with their ‘Community Partner’ to understand what communications are currently happening and through what channel, and to identify areas for improvement.

Elected Members and staff are always looking for innovative, and best practice ways to engage with people across our extensive district. A number of different methods are tried and tested, using technology, print and in person, it is impossible to reach everyone. The large number of submissions and ‘reaches’ for this year’s annual plan and spatial plan indicates that we getting this mostly right – but there are always areas for improvement and we will look at these during our ‘lessons learned’ session at the end of the project.

Topic 4: District Plan and Community Spatial Plan

Submissions

Gayna Setters (075), Yve Martin (107), Robert Snijders (210), Malcolm Leary (250).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 075 suggested it should be easier to subdivide for housing, and old shops could be used as apartments.

Submitter 107 requests the lifting or the loosening of the restrictions for the Taihape West Slip zone, noting observations of improvements following drainage works undertaken.

Submitter 121 suggested section sizes need to be looked at, more infill housing and servicing should be addressed.

Submitter 210 suggested the spatial plan is a way to “bring a DP change by stealth”.

Submitter 250 requests controls on the hours for using bird scarers.

Officer Comment

Draft Community Spatial Plan

Submitters 075 and 121 raised comments regarding subdivision and housing. These comments align with the draft strategic directions identified in the Community Spatial Plan. Any rule changes will occur alongside the subsequent District Plan review.

Taihape West Slip Zone

The West Taihape Slip zone overlay restricts development in the area within the overlay, seeking to avoid new habitable buildings or a significant increase in the floor area of existing habitable buildings. The current provisions were implemented through the district plan review, operative in 2013 and went through minor amendments in the 2016 plan change process.

A plan change, or review process under the Resource Management Act 1991, is required to change any rules related to this area. To remove or loosen the requirements under the District Plan, supporting technical evidence from a geotechnical specialist would be required. The latest technical report on the landslide is a 2009 report by GNS Science and Tonkin and Taylor. The last major phase of movement identified started in April 2004, noted as possibly being in response to the 2004 flood event. Movement of the landslide can be affected by the presence of water, the incision of the toe of the landslide by the Otaihape Stream or seismic events.

There is currently no monitoring data to understand current movement in the area. However, the area remains a natural hazard, where movement could be accelerated in response to seismic or heavy rainfall events.

A phased approach to reviewing the District Plan has recently commenced. The natural hazards section is intended to occur in Phase 2 or 3. Council could accelerate the completion of an updated report on the slip zone, however, for this to occur additional funding would be required.

Community Spatial Plan vs District Plan

Submitter 210 suggests the Community Spatial Plan process is a way of undertaking a District Plan Change underhandedly. The community spatial plan sets out the district’s growth strategy. The District Plan review will follow which will undertake any rezoning, and changes to provisions in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act.

Bird Scarers

Submitter 250 has been experiencing concerns associated with bird scarers on the neighbouring property for a number of years. In 2010 Council issued an abatement notice against the neighbouring property to cease the noise. This notice was appealed to the Environment Court, but the issue was never resolved.

The Operative Rangitikei District Plan sets out noise requirements which percussive bird scaring devices are required to comply with. There are issues measuring the noise under the current standards as the noise is intermittent which is best measured using a C weighting (rather than the A weighting provided for in the District Plan).

A plan change or review process under the Resource Management Act 1991 is required to change any rules related to noise. The District Plan review would be the most appropriate time under review the noise rules related to bird scarers. The District Plan review will be undertaken through a phased approach. The timing of review of the section which covers noise is yet to be scheduled.

Chief Executive

Topic 1	Employment of additional staff
Topic 2	Poppy Project
Topic 3	Maraton Rail Hub
Topic 4	Council vehicle fleet

Topic 1: Employment of additional staff

Submissions

Maraton Community Committee (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 suggested that the money saved on not installing a pathway be put towards other key activities such as employment a staff member to reduce waiting times for building consents for improving communications.

Officer Comment

Council thanks the submitter for their suggestion. Should Council decide not to proceed with a pedestrian walkway on Calico Line (Key Choice Three), the financial impact will be a reduction in total Council debt and as such would not be transferred to operational activities.

Topic 2: Poppy Project

Submissions

Maraton Community Committee (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 214 recommends Council are actively involved with the Poppy Project to achieve street signs to include a poppy to commemorate veterans throughout the district, not just in Maraton.

Officer Comment

The Poppy Places project for the Rangitikei was discussed by Council during the 24 May 2023 Council meeting and resolved to be included during Annual Plan deliberations.

Information was provided during the meeting outlining costs of \$300 per sign, plus resourcing. 13 sites have been identified. Costs are unlikely to exceed \$6000. The Poppy Places Trust is recommended to apply for funding under Council’s Community Initiatives Fund.

Recommendation

That Council suggest that representatives from the Poppy Places Trust apply to the Community Initiatives Fund.

OR

That Council include funding of \$_____ in the 2023/24 financial year to install signage for Poppy Places.

Topic 3: Marton Rail Hub

Submissions

Greta Mills (219).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 219 suggests the Marton Rail Hub project \$9.1m has already been overspent and if it proceeds it has many unknowns that have not been fully costed.

Officer Comment

The Submitter claims the Marton Rail Hub project has already been overspent, which is incorrect. Council is progressing with the Marton Rail Hub project, as previously indicated, and do not expect to spend more than the current budget allocation.

Topic 4: Council Vehicle Fleet

Submissions

Robert Snijders (210)

Summary of submissions

Submitter 210 has requested Council to consider reducing the number of Council vehicles leaving the district every day. The submitter writes that most vehicles are single occupancy and suggests that not all of the employees (leaving the district in Council vehicles) are ‘on-call’.

Officer Comment

There are some situations where Council workers (employees and contractors) drive Council vehicles between their place of work and their place of residence outside of working hours. This is usually due to the worker being on-call and needing to be available to respond promptly to urgent service requests outside of their usual working hours.

7.2 Agreement - Mayors Task Force For Jobs

Author: Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community Services

Authoriser: Peter Beggs, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek:

1.1.1 Approval from Council to enter into an agreement with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the delivery of the Mahi Tahī Programme (Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) - Community Resilience Programme) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

1.1.2 A decision from Council on the means of delivery of the MTFJ programme.

2. Context

2.1 The MTFJ is a network of Mayors, organised and administered by LGNZ, who work together towards the vision of all young people under 25 being engaged in employment, education, and training.

2.2 The MTFJ developed the Community Resilience Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development. Its aim is to match employers and jobseekers and deliver programmes and outcomes primarily for youth aged 16-24 years, disabled youth, and to deliver employment outcomes for those disadvantaged in the labour market who are not able to readily access MSD products and services.

2.3 To successfully deliver the programme requires extensive networks, particularly with employers, and good local knowledge. Those working in this field require an in-depth understanding of job seekers and employer needs and specialist, and technical skills in working with young people. The pool of people/organisations set up to deliver this type of work in the Rangitīkei is limited.

2.4 Council has been advised that the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs has received funding for a further two years, starting in July 2023. Previously, this has been a one-year programme, renewed annually. Council has the ability to apply for funding up to \$400,000 in each of Years One and Two (to achieve 50 Placement Outcomes), noting the Year Two tiers of funding are still to be confirmed. It is proposed that amount of funding that is confirmed for 50 outcomes be applied for.

3. Procurement

3.1 As part of the agreement with LGNZ, some of the funding (for example, \$120,000 in 2022/23) provides for work and staff-related costs including a full-time Programme Co-ordinator. Therefore, Council could choose to appoint a person to this position as a staff member. While funding is provided for this role, the timeframe for appointing someone to this position may cause delay to the commencement of the project. A further risk is that candidates may not have the extensive knowledge of networks that is required. There is a cost, however, for Council staff to oversee and administer this contract and Council will retain \$10,000 of this funding to cover staff costs.

- 3.2 Council could also choose to continue to contract out the delivery of the project. Forecast cashflows for the delivery of MTFJ from July 2023 to 30 June 2025 are expected to be in excess of \$250,000.
- 3.3 Under Council’s current procurement policy, suppliers must be given an equal opportunity to bid for contracts with value greater than \$250,000 (Rule 4). However, Rule 11 of Council’s policy provides for valid opt-out procurements. Specifically, Clause 1c of this rule validates opt-out procurements of technical/functional specialists:

Where a supplier is deemed to provide a unique or specialist service that is specific to the needs of Council. This may include a service that is not available from any other supplier or a preferred service from a specific supplier based on Council’s ...

(Rangitikei District Council Procurement Policy, Page 12)

- 3.4 Functional Specialist Service - undertaking an open tender process at this stage in the delivery of the programme is not recommended. Council has not yet received contract documentation from LGNZ. The late circulation of the document results in an open tender process delaying the commencement of the programme. It would also be unlikely to render a competitive field because of the unique and specialist nature of the service. In addition, the uncertainty that accompanies the tendering process could act a disincentive and place the service at some risk.
- 3.5 If Council chose to apply the Procurement Policy Rule 11 Opt-out, Council could consider an Expression of Interest process. Two potential providers are James Towers Consultants Ltd, and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa.
- 3.6 James Towers Consultants Ltd (current contractor) has the prerequisite knowledge and skills to deliver the MTFJ Programme and a proven record. In addition, the company has the infrastructure in place necessary for delivery. In Council’s current contract with James Towers Consultants Limited, there is a clause that notes that “the term of the contract may be extended with the agreement of both parties in writing.”
- 3.7 Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa is another local service provider that could provide this service. They also have the infrastructure in place. Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa also have the skills in place and have business and community relationships in place through their work with MSD, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health, as well as local businesses. Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, that notes Mayors Taskforce for Jobs as a project the two parties agree to collaborate on.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Council staff recommend that Council continue to participate in the MTFJ programme, and that Council apply the opt-out procurement rule to delivery of the MTFJ programme to 30 June 2025.
- 4.2 Both James Towers Consultants Limited and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa have the prerequisite knowledge and skills, and proven track record, to successfully deliver the MTFJ programme.
- 4.3 Staff recommend that Expression of Interest be invited from both James Towers Consultants Limited and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, and that a working group including His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors be authorised to determine the means of delivery for the MTFJ programme, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025, including the amount of funding and number of total outcomes to apply for.

Recommendation 1

That the report ‘Agreement – Mayors Taskforce for Jobs’ be received.

Recommendation 2

That Council approves / does not approve [*delete one*] entering into an agreement with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the delivery of the Mahi Tahi Programme (Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) - Community Recovery Programme) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025.

Recommendation 3

That Council authorises the Mayor or Chief Executive to sign the agreement with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the delivery of the Mahi Tahi Programme (Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) – Community Recovery Programme).

Recommendation 4

That Council:

- a. Endorses applying the opt-out procurement rule (Rule 11) of the procurement policy for the appointment of a Contractor to deliver the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, invites Expression of Interest from both James Towers Consultants Limited and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa, and that a working group including His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors be authorised to determine the means of delivery for the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025, including the amount of funding and number of total outcomes to apply for.;

OR

- b. Directs Community Service Staff to undertake a tender process in accordance with Rule 4 of Council’s procurement policy.

8 Public Excluded

Resolution to Exclude the Public

The meeting went into public excluded session [enter time](#)

Recommendation

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
8. 1 - Waste Transfer Station Operation Tender Recommendation Report	s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	s48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding or the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

9 Open Meeting