



Facebook feedback on the Key Choices and Rates

The comments posted on the following Facebook posts have been colated in this document:

- Key Choice 1: Marton pool – posted on 13 March 2024
- Key Choice 2: Kerbside collection – posted on 20 March 2024
- Key Choice 3: Marton main street revitalisation – posted on 25 March 2024
- Rates impact – posted on 7 March 2024 (one day prior to conultstion beginning)

Officer replies to the comments have not been included in this document.

Comments containing explicit language, are off topic, responding to other commenters that are not on toipc, or have referred to Officers have not been included.

Key Choice 1: Marton Pool – 13 March

There were 44 comments on this post from 33 different accoutns

- It would be a great opportunity for staff to have a full year job! To offer lessons all year round would be amazing. It would allow those super busy in the summer to have lessons in the winter!
- I think that would be a great value to the community 🤔 as it is another thing to do during the colder months. Also a great fitness while having fun .
- Halie Stowers It is costly yes but could be beneficial to the region as a whole bring peoples in to Marton from satellite towns
- Question: Is there ANY pool in the Rangitikei that the council owns that is open all year round?
- We do have a movie theatre with great kids movies! But the Pool should definitely be open all year round!
- A bowling lane would be great! They could have a Pizza oven and hot chips and all the kids in town could sit and talk on their phones to each other and play 10 pin bowls!
- The only covered Olympic size pool in the lower North Island!!
- Lessons all year round would be great!.
- I would like to know how you are going to keep it warm enough. We use it now for swimming lessons and my kids both get out cold. Does it need a lot of money spent on it to insulate it?
- The playground in Marton was a fundraising effort by the community not paid for by council. So get some parents involved and make a plan.
- Definitely. Finding lane space in other pools in winter is difficult as usage is at a premium.
- Could you post a financial analysis that identifies the increased costs against the expected additional revenue please? Maybe the final number won't be 1.2% but lower as the polled users might increase their patronage during Winter months (something more interesting to do on a cold day).
- Keep it seasonal our rates are already ridiculous
- I agree that swimming all year sounds great but for me with 2 full time working parents in the home and 4 children basic living costs in the current environment are becoming harder and harder to cover. It's a matter of priority.



- We also have many people who have to travel to fielding in off season for swimming and rehabilitation after hip and knee operations.
- The pool is such a huge asset we'll over due for a make over and yes all year round would be amazing
- You would think only Marton rates would go up
- When the Rangitikei District Council is spending millions on their private offices why don't they present this as rate increases!?
- Why pretend to open up a fake referendum or consultation if it is already pre-decided? Is this a distraction technique to avoid public focus on more concerning matters? Rangitikei District Council
- Rangitikei District Council Thanks Ben. Hope it will be seriously considered. :)
- User pays
- Taihape is in the same boat - we would like ours to be year round
- I think by creating a marketing plan with a focus on sports teams to use the pool for training would ensure the pool stays open. Target rugby and other sports teams.....we have an Olympic size pool!!! Target. Target. Target.
- A lot of people that are able to travel out of town over the winter months to have use of a pool in particular those using it for health reasons. Great idea for the community.
- If its a Marton pool then why keep the costs within Marton rather than passing onto other ratepayers in the Rangitikei? Keep the fees local Especially those businesses in other towns who will gain no use nor benefit. the entry could increase also what sort of business model has an increase of \$6000 per week for opening longer. In 2017 Makino was sited to cost \$2.2 million to run annually - \$1.5m is funded through rates and \$740550 through user fees. 130000 visitors per annum.
- If you can justify a 1/3 of a mil \$ spent to keep it open then sure why not. I think the public deserves to see where their money is going.
- Definately all year round...why shut an asset down for part of the year??
- Our triathlon group would prefer to swim in a 50m pool and when the making closes the outdoor pool we would love to come over and use the Marton pool with the others of us that live there.
- Or charge a slightly higher entry fee. Then the people using it are covering that increase.
- Will this put Marton rates up or all of Rangitikei rates?
- In that case I say no! Rates for rural Taihape are ridiculously high already.
- I'd like to be able to swim in Marton all year round
- Like sports grounds and in fact most local body recreational facilities swimming pools are not profit centres but public amenities. Any revenue simply offsets the costs. Just because the weather is colder should not be a reason for closing an indoor heated pool. In fact it's all the more reason to keep it open as adverse weather forces residents inside.
- Rangitikei District Council Are you able to disclose the annual management fee paid to the contractor CLM?
- why not something for taihape for a change? We have nothing here for kids to do our playground is completely out date and we have indoor pools yet only open during summer.
- [Marton Playground] an amazing playground it is! we do have a community page for fundraising. We also had a lot of Mahi go into the pools to replace and fix things that weren't up to standards. All for it to sit and not be used for 6 or so months and probably will need



work put into it again like it has the last few years... before opening for the new season. Why spend all that money into something that's not open all year round? Just seems silly to me..

- My youngest loves going to the movies but the older ones are too cool lol
- Yes please! This would be so beneficial to the community for a wet weather activity consistency with swimming lessons and fitness. Will the rates still go up by 1.2% if we all vote against your preferred option of a \$2.1 million upgrade to the Main Street of Marton?! What a waste of money that would be especially when most of the money would go into consultation and design fees.
- If it was run better it could make money to subsidise these costs for all year round use.
- We deserve to see where the money is being spent and how much of it is actually serving us. Start budgeting better to spend on the most important aspects for the people like our water... Why pay more for wants when our needs are not met.

Key Choice 2: Kerbside collection – 20 March

There were 20 comments on this post from 12 different accounts

- We have moved a number of times over the years Marton is the first place we've lived that doesn't offer kerb side recycling isn't this what we pay our rates for? Kerb side recycling should be offered to all residents with no increase in rates!
- Why isn't glass included in the recycle description. Plus what is classed as general waste. Everything we put in our bin is covered under garden and food waste.
- Yes I agree wholeheartedly on this one.
- Why in 2027 not now?? No point asking people who live here NOW what's wanted in 3 years we might all move because rates become too much...
- Households that receive the service pay for it.
- I don't want them at all. I am very happy with the current arrangement
- The recycling centre are open hours that are pretty much accessible to everyone. Convenience is great but how much will it cost the community?
- Rangitikei District Council Thanks Ben. 😊
- Rangitikei District Council Who would have the contract? I think our current system is great.
- Rangitikei District Council So the \$138 is an estimate?
- Option to opt out and not raise my rates AGAIN
- Does the definition of ""urban"" include places like Ratana Koitiata or Turakina?
- We don't get kerbside pickup. Yet we pay for it for others. Sigh.
- Rangitikei District Council I am corrected. So just what do my rural rates pay for?
- I can't believe it...how many households have at least 1 car...as we do....drive to transfer stn recycling and minimal rubbish dropped off. We also have 2 compost bins for green waste and food scraps.. We may have 1 general rubbish bag over a month or 2...simple.
- Does the proposed kerbside recycling include general waste collection as well as recycling or will that remain the responsibility of residents and their various contractors?
- Will residents still have access to the Transfer Station for greenwaste etc?
- Rangitikei District Council any idea of what size the general waste bins will be?



Key Choice 3: Marton Main Street – 25 March

There were 49 comments on this post from 41 different accounts.

- So that 2.1 million gets me what kind of return? If it's only a feel good exercise for town beautification I will not support it. Please bump all the nice to have projects onto the back of the stove. Focus on the must haves that's where my rates and my neighbour's rates will have the most benefit to all residents. Repairs maintenance and forward planning for infrastructure that is necessary for the Rangitikei must always be considered first.
- I don't see the need for a revitalisation when roads have potholes and drinking water reeks. Maybe after there are no more potholes that need fixing and the water has no smell and any other infrastructure that needs attention we can do the feel good exercise with town beautification. Are you a council employee by chance? Do you also know what ad hominem means?
- Waterblast the footpaths
- WHERE'S IT RANGITIKEI....community Engagement...Huntermuir had a meeting on 11 March BUT delivery day of your pamphlet arrived on the 15th ? Doesn't give me much hope -
- The return is a revitalised town centre which is written right on the post plus what benefits that brings. Although if you can't read the original post perhaps you won't be able to read this comment either.
- Should plant natives that don't need mowing in these spaces save money long term and provide spaces for native species.
- How about clean drinking water?
- Leave Broadway alone spend money elsewhere. Roads etc.
- Take away the angle parks on Countdown side of the road. A lot of the cars and trucks are too long for these parks. Also too many drivers back out without worrying about what is coming towards them. Plenty of parking around back of shops.
- I cannot make a preference for option 1 or option 2 as there is no explanation on what option 1 actually entails. I think having the Main Street pedestrian only would be great as there are people crossing constantly not on the crossings. But would the heavier traffic be ok with that? Looking forward to answers cheers.
- NOPE!
- Spend the money on getting infrastructure fixed before spending on none essential items.....
- Spend the money on improving your water it's always been disgusting
- Why specifically revitalise Marton main street. There are other towns in the district to consider. As others have said there are more important items you need to consider. There was a water main leak in the southbound lane heading out of Bulls. The road repair is very poor....fix it. What about the Marton and Bulls sewerage systems both are out of consent and there is an uncompleted sewer pipeline from Marton to Bulls. Spend the money where it is most needed.
- The on going problem is money. We don't have any or just put it on our tab and put the rates up even more 😞 I like everyone would like lots of good things for this region but let's get real our rates are already high and the RDC debt ceiling is not too far from being maxed out . So short answer yes we want it NO we can't afford it .
- There are so many things that need to be fixed before this.
- I'll do it for \$1million.... start tomorrow if you like? We got a waterblaster and paint rollers...



- You know what's better for community wellbeing? Safe and tasty drinking water 🍷👍
- Time to reduce expenditure not spend it on window dressing projects.
- The Council obviously has more detail on the work than they are providing in the plan because they have costed it at 2.1 million. More secrecy from the Mayor and Councillors and just more wasteful expenditure plans. There are other priorities and the Mayor knows this
- Save it so we don't have another massive rates hike! Won't be able to afford to own a house in 7 years if they keep going up at this rate.
- You can only do so much to "revitalise" a town of dilapidated old buildings and there's only so much lipstick you can put on a pig. Waste of money if you ask me
- I think our main street is lovely already. It's got character and friendly shop owners great cafes. What more could we want? 🍷👍 Let's put the money into drinkable water. 🍷👍
- Curious to know what council expects to "revitalise" for just \$2m? That's only a couple of speed bumps these days...
- Rangitikei District Council asking rate payers to spend \$2m on something that clearly won't be significant and branding it as "revitalising" then saying you don't know what you will "revitalise" is a bit arse about face. By the time this change comes into effect \$2m will be enough for the traffic management to close the main streets and repaint the lamp posts. If you want rate payers to give informed feedback to council council actually needs to stump up some better detail than asking for a \$2m maintenance slush fund that promises to "revitalise" our town. The risk is we end up with a rates rise in part due to a poorly planned proposal from council that rate payers end up getting SFA value from.
- Build a strip club
- Rangitikei that's not a good start. I vote no especially when many are more broke than they were. Love it how it is anyway. Revitalised often means gentrified making it more like a city which isn't the charm of Marton.
- So we're going to spend \$100 000 to consider options then consult review the \$2 100 000 budget (probably increase it) to plant some plants change some carparks around not modify any buildings on the main drag and then pass this cost onto the ratepayer? What was my rant about efficiencies earlier? Let's rather focus on our 3 waters so we're not drinking our own poo. I dare not call it third world infrastructure because I lived in the so called third world for 17 years and I didn't drink water mixed with poo. Or have problems with water treatment or flooding. What we have here is far worse and an embarrassment. The fact that you want to claw more \$\$\$ out of us and then ""beautify"" the main drag when there are much more urgent matters is a bit infuriating.
- So. Back in 2016 we had a bit of revitalization thanks to David Engwicht. A group of people from various community groups got together to help put colour and some happy notes in the core. We had laughs and fun planning and THEN THE WORK. Friendships were born. And a feeling - pride of place. Revitalization is always welcomed. We also need tasty drinking water and an infrastructure that will allow more homes to come on board.
- Fix the roads mow the roadsides clean up the rest stops. fix the basics first please.
- What would have been great is if Council had gone ahead with the plans it consulted on last LTP of which Option 2 was most popular with the public to restore the buildings on the cnr of Main St and Broadway for the Council offices. This would have enhanced this particular



quadrant as an architectural focal point fully realising its value as a vital part of the CBD Heritage values. Unfortunately the Council has opted not to back the public's choice and is a lost opportunity for the Council to model restoration and regeneration of our built heritage.

- It would be good to see the assets created by the community maintained. Leaving things to deteriorate and then propose a 'revitalization' simply does not make sense. Would seem practical and cheaper for ratepayer money to do maintenance in the first place on a regular basis.
- Actually go speak to the kids at the high school and ask them what would make Marton more inviting.. seriously kids give the most brutal honest answers !!
- What about fixing the state of the water? People here are buying water from the shops?
- I have only been here 6 yrs but yes the water is terrible taste like mud
- Rangitikei District Council agree with the previous person fix the water system as I've had a water allergies all my life because of town's water for over 50 years when I bathe I can come out in a rash and my skin is itchy and irritable and I've come to the conclusion that it is because of this town's water
- I'd prefer the contractors whoever they are to mow at Blue Gum Corner regularly. An absolute embarrassment for visitors coming into Marton. And all the potholes around especially the country roads in Marton.
- Other than a map up on the village green it's fine as it is.
- [Map on the village green] for out of town visitors to know what's here. The shops & cafes and Lyns pet food & shoe shop over in junction and the arts and craft centre pool parks sports clubs etc
- Main street foot paths could do with a good wash down go take a good look.
- I don't live in Marton but know many who do. Wouldn't the money be better spent on decent drinking water? Healthier water healthier people. When you say revitalize are you meaning like the paint job on the old post office building
- It's an embarrassment coming into Taihape as well especially from the south



Rates Impact – 7 March

There were 63 comments on this post from 29 different profiles.

- \$1.97 for community 🤖🤖😂😂😂😂😂😂, sorry what?
- A pool that's closed half the year a library that hasn't seen a lick of paint in years & events that usually involve spending money. Beautiful.
- Rural properties getting charged one of the highest rates and I would assume that rural residents use and need less council services than others and some won't even have access to some services - eg rubbish collection water supply sewage!!
- Good to see our hard earned money going somewhere really useful
- Wot??? I pay 82cents a day for a community leadership that borrows money and constantly increases rates. How is this sustainable in the long term? Please get the Mayor to answer the question
- Why is the rural community charged more when we get a heck of a lot less than the towns? We have our own sewerage systems our own water system no footpaths no street lights no rubbish service we use the town services less than those who live in it. I have been into the



library once in about 5 yrs. What's the extra charges for? Certainly not the roads have you seen the condition of the rural and state roads?

- I totally agree we take care of our own water sewage rubbish. Don't get me started on roading because my hubby mows the side of the road. He clears slip cause council is too busy but people out here have to get to work and kids to school. He asked via thr proper process to have our road graded because of the ruts nope nothing done so he will probably do it with no thanks from council.
- Is community leadership council staff salaries??
- Can public transport
- The Average Weekly increase for Rural Taihape Rate payers \$11.35 is completely miss leading. What is the low \$figure and the highest figure for this calculation .I assume the sewage water supply storm Water and community Leadership (what ever that is) doesn't concern us .Now please go figure the true value the Daily Breakdown!
- \$3530.90 \$3868.80 \$4291.23 a percentage increase of around 9 to 10%pa. When I retire in 31 years time (assuming the retirement age is still 65 and we all know it won't be) my rates bill will be about \$90 000 per year. It's easy saying oh it's only \$10 a week more. World vision's tagline is oh it's only a dollar a day... That's still \$520 increase per year. It's faster than our highest inflation rate how is it sustainable when will it be capped where is the proper cost breakdown what efficiencies can be found why is it left to my generation to fix all the crap that has fallen apart over the years. We can't get ahead two steps forward one step backwards. The compound interest on my mortgage alone means I'll be paying about the same in interest as the actual loan I took out because I'm just scraping by on almost twice the median wage so can't pay it off any faster even though I have no kids and no other debt and try to live as frugally as I can. Can you see why people are annoyed?
- It's in my comment find efficiencies. We use machines to reduce labour costs but then the operators of the machinery takes the piss to such an extent that one would be better off employing people with pick axes to do the same work for cheaper. What's it cost to rent a digger? How much dirt does that digger actually move in a day? What if we threw an equivalent amount of labour at it to move the same dirt? Would it cost less? What if we planned earthworks better so the same area isn't dug up more than once during construction? Efficiencies... Negotiate material prices and lock them in when cheaper. Automate IT systems and processes wherever possible. It is to be expected that the cost of things goes up over time but why is it going up faster than inflation? We haven't seen inflation like this in over a decade and yet what the council is asking for exceeds that again. Where is the justification the numbers. Quite frankly I don't like the feeling of the wool over my eyes.
- Sounds like a little bit it's like an avalanche out here atm...a few dollars here a few dollars there would be great if Rangitikei District Council led the country in giving their ratepayers a zero percent increase if we were inventive and sustainable and found other ways of doing the business now that would really attract new people to the region!
- 🙄 thanks yes I'm aware of this but a line needs to be drawn difficult yes but impossible maybe not...
- Our rates are currently \$3880 a year for bulls it is absolutely ridiculous we pay more than some people in fielding and palmy and they have more facilities. It should be renamed Rangitikei ripoff.



- I would expect Wellington to be high but Bulls is a very small town
- It is ridiculous
- Don't see much getting spent on Taihape
- Kia ora our Lil community much way way smaller than Bulls pay the same in 3000k figure....
- Get a consultant in!!
- Public toilets are for those who drive through our roads..locals use their own loos
- Rangitikei District Council can only go to the toilet till 5pm then the public get locked out...no loo
- So that will make it over \$4500 for me in Bulls. Scary
- So how do you propose for these works to happen if they don't increase the rates the cost of doing the work increases each year. Yes it's painful on the wallet but what is your solution I live in another district and our rates increase significantly each year as we have a very small population for a very large area.
- What if people don't have the extra money to pay the increase?
- Yes bonkers. People can't pay the increase in rates so let's fine them more money they can't pay. Then when it's massive enough apply to seize property. But let's build a flash \$19000000 building for ourselves so we've got nicer offices to sit in. Doesn't appear the council are doing it hard like the rest of us.
- Why should farmers pay for stormwater sewerage and water supply. Our stormwater goes into our tanks sewerage into the septic tank
- The town hall that shutdown because the council wasn't maintaining it properly? Sorry but why are we in Taihape having to pay more for less than Marton?
- What is community leadership? I'm serious what does it include? Might be trimmable? We all want lower rates right?
- Please explain why farmers have to pay for sewage and stormwater! Our rates go towards the upkeep of all the culverts and streams but are very overgrown with weeds etc. and in a terrible state. They do mow the sides of the roads occasionally but don't CLEAR the culverts so the storm water can flow freely causing flooded paddocks and roads. Rate payers deserve value for money don't you think 🙄😏
- Agree with your first paragraph Ben no argument there however my major concern currently is I have only seen Rangitikei Council workers mowing the sides of the road (I live the south end of Tutaenui Road) in the country but the culverts are so overgrown they have become a fire hazard also the stream needs clearing so is that Rangitikei Council responsibility if not I would appreciate it if you would pass on my concerns to Horizon. With winter upon us this should be dealt with immediately to prevent flooding and I should not be the one to tell all concerned there job 🙄.
- A more in depth breakdown of each cost and what exactly it goes into please!! We have to provide exactly what we spend to get any loan.. if you are asking us for more of our hard earned dollars... provide a post that takes longer than a hour to make with proper cost increase proposal.. I am sure this is not enough information to sign off a rates increase. This is the bare minimum. Where is the spread sheets? This is not an option for us it is compulsory and it seems any chance to take more than necessary you will.