

# Framing 2023/24: Analysis and Responses to Submissions

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## Introduction

Council's Long Term Plan "Framing our Future" was adopted in 2021, setting out plans and budgets for the ten years 2021-31. Framing 2023/24 set out changes to projects and budgets for year 3 of this plan, which have arisen since the Long Term Plan was adopted.

Council created the Consultation Document (Framing 2023/24) which outlined Council's progress on projects and explained changes to Council's position from what was planned. The Consultation Document also outlined the Key Choices Council was seeking feedback on.

These key choices were:

1. Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre
2. Marton Civic Centre
3. New active mobility pathway for Calico Line, Marton.

Feedback from the community was sought during the formal consultation period in March-April 2023. Opportunities to learn about the plan and give feedback included online posts and a Facebook Live Session, newspaper advertising, and Councillors holding and attending meetings throughout the district. This document contains a summary of submissions received, grouped by topic, and any decisions Council made based on these submissions.

## **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.

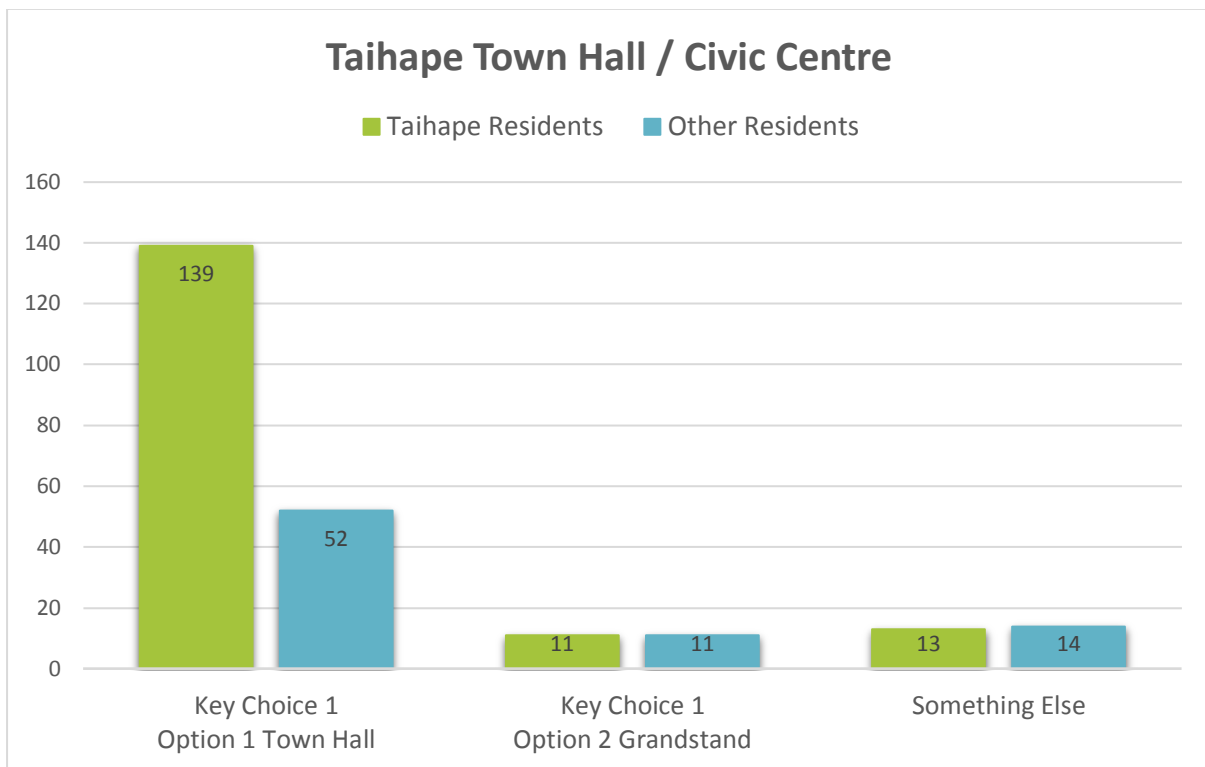


Figure 1. Submissions responses to Key Choice 1 – Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

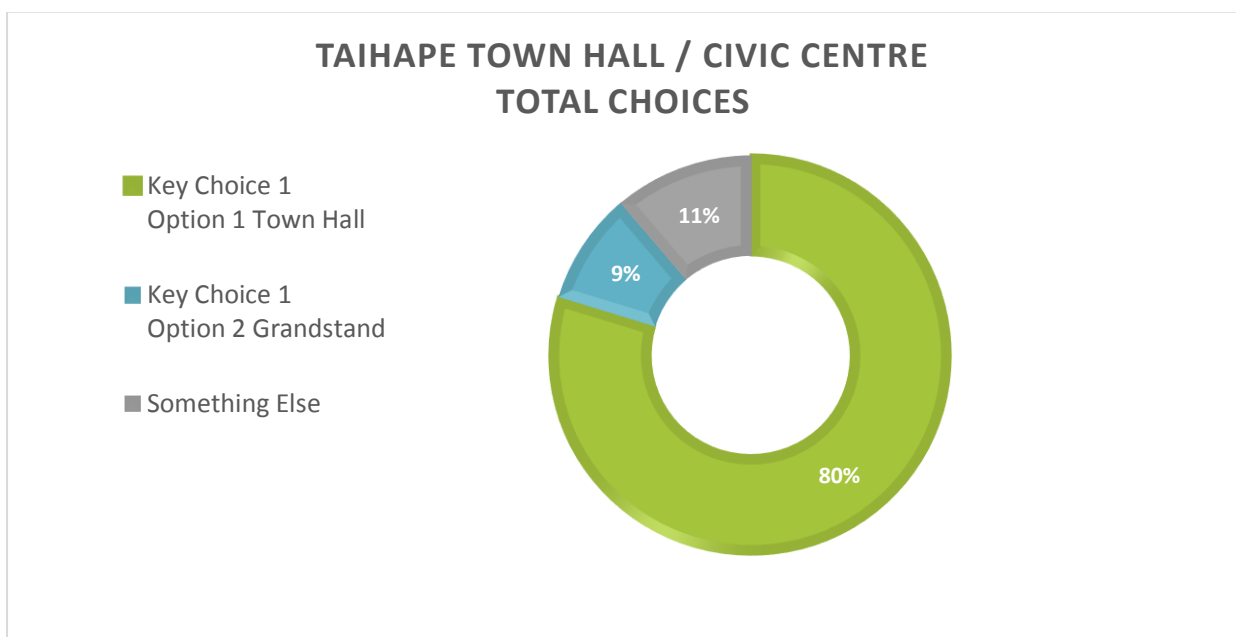


Figure 2. Submission responses to Key Choice 1 – Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre.

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

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

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

### **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**

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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

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

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

### Topic 8 - Do nothing – Costs are too high

#### Submissions

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

#### Summary of submissions

Submitters 052, 115, 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**

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#### **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**

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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**

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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.

## **Resolutions**

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### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/172**

That Council approves the new budget for the Taihape town hall/civic centre, broadly outlined as option 1 in the key choices section of the consultation document, of up to \$14 million noting that Council is likely to receive \$1,883,000 for better off funding towards the project included in this budget.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/173**

That Council directs staff to focus on the completion of this project ahead of the Marton civic centre and starts the design process as from 1st July 23 which is earlier than planned in the long term plan 2021-2031

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/174**

That prior to preparing tender documents the council engages with key users of the Taihape Town Hall and civic centre to clarify community needs regarding the design.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/175**

That the design process calls for tenders to provide for the following elements

- i. Earthquake strengthening of the town hall civic centre
- ii. To meet compliance issues for the strengthened building
- iii. To provide for efficient heating
- iv. To meet current fire standards
- v. To provide for power upgrade
- vi. To consider users expectations re design

Tenders will be considered for all or individual elements of the design.



## 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

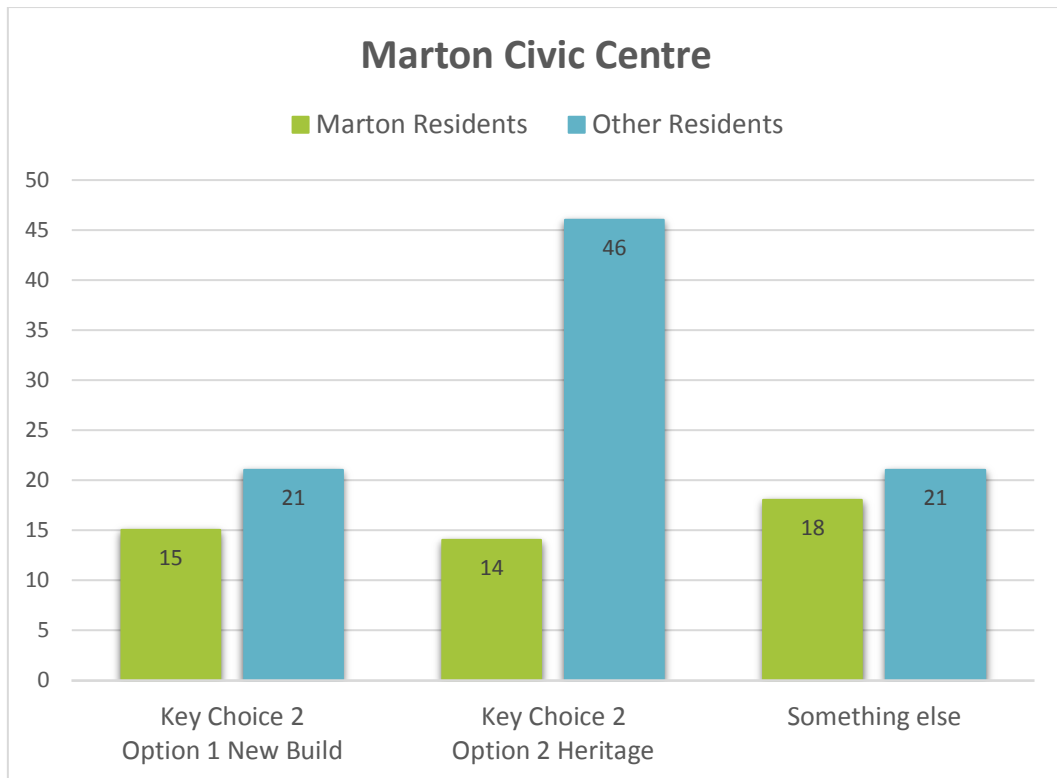
Impact on debt: \$34 million

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.

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

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

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

<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Purpose built facility</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>

### **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

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

<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Heritage and character</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>

### 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), Rangitīkei 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 Rangitīkei 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?

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

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

### 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 Rangitīkei (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 Rangitīkei (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**

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### **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 Rangitīkei 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 Rangitīkei 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 Rangitīkei 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"> <li>• Concrete skin wall internal to façade</li> <li>• Create seismic gap between 1913 and 1914 Cobbler buildings</li> </ul>	30% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete skin wall internal to façade</li> <li>• Steel frame internally at ground level to support front openings</li> </ul>	20% Strengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete skin wall internal to façade</li> <li>• Steel frame internally at ground level to support front openings</li> </ul>

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

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

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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.

## Resolution

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### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/176**

That Council pauses the build process for the Marton Civic buildings and to allow for a fuller understanding of councils debt analysis with the government changes in 3 waters and looks to a deliberation in the next long term plan.

## Key Choice Three – Calico Line Pathway

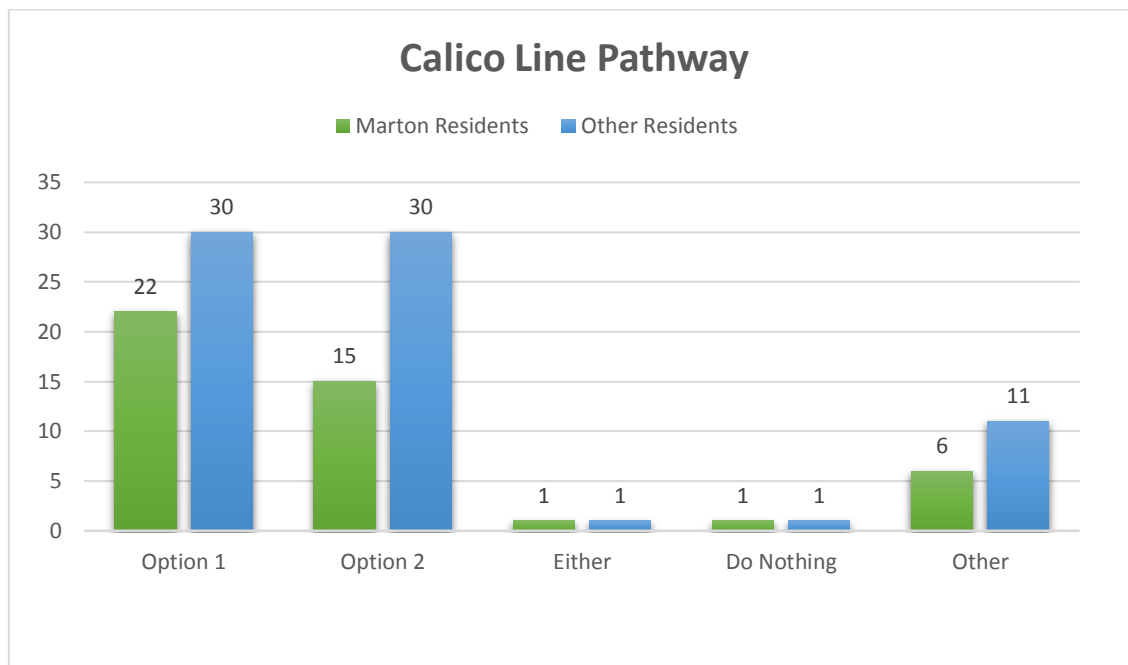
Council has been asked to consider installing an active mobility pathway along Calico Line, from Ngā Tawa Road to Marton town.

The draft Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei 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.



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

## **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 Roding- 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: Otara 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.

### **Resolution**

That Council does 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.

## Finance

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

### **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 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/179**

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.

## **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.



## **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.

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.

## Capital Projects

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

### 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

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<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Bulls Water Infrastructure</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Bulls Flood Risk</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Three Waters reforms</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Marion Water Strategy</b>
<b>Topic 5</b>	<b>Marion to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation Project</b>
<b>Topic 6</b>	<b>Water – Climate change</b>

### 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

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

## **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 Rangitīkei and Manawatū District Councils need to contribute to costs. Submitter 185 indicated they were sending their request to Manawatū District Council as well as Rangitīkei 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/180**

That Council do 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 Roading 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

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<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Bulls – Waste Dump Station for Caravans</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Utiku – Rubbish Costs</b>

### **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

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<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Marion and Taihape pools</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Springvale Bridge toilet</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Family features in Taihape</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Youth services in Taihape and Marion</b>
<b>Topic 5</b>	<b>Housing – Taihape</b>
<b>Topic 6</b>	<b>Housing – General</b>
<b>Topic 7</b>	<b>Toilet facility – Taihape Cemetery</b>
<b>Topic 8</b>	<b>Te Matapihi – Positive comments</b>
<b>Topic 9</b>	<b>Support to Residents – Improvements of Amenities and Gatherings</b>
<b>Topic 10</b>	<b>Submission for Funding – Lighting Upgrade</b>
<b>Topic 11</b>	<b>Suggested New Building – McIntyre Reserve, Ohingaiti</b>
<b>Topic 12</b>	<b>Replacement of the Storage Shed at Ratana Community Gym</b>
<b>Topic 13</b>	<b>Library Usage and Council Building Visitors</b>
<b>Topic 14</b>	<b>Māori and Pasifika Communities</b>
<b>Topic 15</b>	<b>Heritage</b>
<b>Topic 16</b>	<b>Arts Funding</b>
<b>Topic 17</b>	<b>Community Funding – Parks/Events/Placemaking</b>
<b>Topic 18</b>	<b>Taihape Playground Update</b>
<b>Topic 19</b>	<b>Community Leadership and Community Wellbeing budgets</b>

## **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 toilet 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. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is being presented to Council for approval on 29 June 2023. 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/181**

That Council does not provide funding 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/182**

That Council considers 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/183**

Council does support funding of lighting at the Taihape Courts to the value of \$48,393.80 if other funding cannot be found within 6 months.

## **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

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/184**

That Council do not provide monetary support 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**

Marion Community Committee (214), Anonymous (028), Carolyn Bates (215), Marion 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/186**

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.

<b>Community Wellbeing</b>	<b>Community Leadership</b>
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

## Parks & Reserves

<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Pest Control</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Reserve Management Plan – Koitiata Recreation Reserve</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Equal Reserve Support Across the District</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Dog Waste Bins on Walkways</b>

### Topic 1: Pest Control

#### Submissions

Hura Duffin (145).

#### Summary of submissions

Submitter 145 suggested that Council introduce a pest trapping programme and work with Horizons towards Old Man's Beard eradication in areas like the Omatane reserve. This submitter also suggested that Council focus on clean rivers and waterways, and support Māori inclusion in all major decision making. Submitter 145 reiterated a closer co-operation with Horizons Regional Council with shared goals.

#### Officer Comment

Council does not currently offer pest control activities and do not have the staff or expertise to assist in this area. The management and protection of rivers and waterways is the responsibility of Horizons Regional Council. Council works closely with Horizons to ensure improved environmental outcomes for the district. Council also has close working relationships with Iwi in the District and involves Iwi in our activities where appropriate.

#### Actions

Council will continue to work closely with Iwi and Horizons Regional Council to achieve good environmental outcomes for the district.

### Topic 2: Reserve Management Plan – Koitiata Recreation Reserve

#### Submissions

Jo Anson (188).

#### Summary of submissions

Submitter 188 advised that The Koitiata Community is seeking the development of a Reserve Management Plan for the Koitiata Recreation Reserve. A plan would ensure the sustainability

of the current community-based wetlands restoration project by bringing together relevant partners (community/RDC/Horizons/Ngāti Apa) to support and agreed programme of work to enhance the biodiversity of the Reserve.

### **Officer Comment**

A Reserve Management Plan will be a valuable addition to ensure long term activities are aligned with the desired outcomes. Many of our parks and reserves across the district needs new or updated Management Plans and these plans will be developed according to the priorities set in the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy. At this stage it is uncertain when the Koitiata Management Plan will be developed, but it is included in the strategy.

### **Actions**

Council will continue to create new Park Management Plans where required or update existing Park Management Plans when required.

## **Topic 6: Equal Reserve Support Across the District**

### **Submissions**

Matthew Thomas (198), Don Tantrum (153).

### **Summary of submissions**

Submitter 198 suggested that RDC's support for Parks and Reserves be equal across the district. The submitter comments on issues with Old Man's Beard in the Taihape reserves. They note support given by Council to the Tutaenui Reserves - seats, shell rock for paths, agreement to weed release for the first three years and a clicker counter to count the people using the reserve. The submitter suggests a similar arrangement occurs with other groups. The submitter also requests Council works alongside them in relation to Council branding and destination management activities.

Submitter 153 referred to previous communications sent to Council regarding the work of the Rangitikei Environment Group, Friends of Mount Stewart and Friends of Taihape. In particular, the submitter noted the limited follow up maintenance carried out by Council including control of Old Man's Beard and other weeds. The submitter requested Council increase staffing to ensure further maintenance can be carried out.

### **Officer Comment**

Council contributes \$20,000 per annum to the REG group for the control of Old Man's beard mainly in the northern parts of the district. More regular communications with the REG group can be used to make sure REG activities are targeted at the critical areas of importance to FOT to make sure the money is spent in the correct areas.

Council does not have resources to assist with the additional maintenance. Council could consider additional support to REG through the long term plan process, in consideration of a

strategic approach to support the wide range of community environmental projects occurring throughout the Rangitikei.

It should be noted Council have spent considerable resource supporting Friends of Taihape on other activities, including obtaining \$375,000 of Central Government support to the Hautapu bridges project.

Correspondence was received from Submitter 153 on 7 February 2023, and was forwarded to Elected Members as requested on 8 February 2023.

### **Actions**

Officers undertake more regular communications with the REG group to ensure weed control activities are happening in the desired areas.

That Council considers support given for environmental initiatives across the district through the Long Term Plan 2024-34, including the potential for additional funding of the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG).

## **Topic 4: Dog Waste Bins on Walkways**

### **Submissions**

Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (214).

### **Summary of submissions**

Submitter 208 suggested that dog poo bins via Stallon Plastics, could be placed on our walkways, Sir James Wilson Park, Centennial Park, Follet Street Park and Green area Village Green.

Submitter 214 suggested that Dog Poo Bins should be installed at parks in Marton, we also would be supportive of such bins being installed throughout the district.

### **Officer Comment**

The suggested bins are in the shape of a dog and creates problems when trying to empty them. If bins need to be installed throughout the proposed locations, officers recommend normal litter bins are installed which serve litter and doggie waste. Across the district we have a carry in/carry out philosophy with regards to doggie waste and it works well for most of the time. Council currently spends around \$6,500 per year on litter bin bags alone. This excludes the staff time to empty them, and it excludes the dump charges to dispose of the waste. Every new bin will increase annual expenditure.

### **Action**

That the need for additional dog waste bins is considered through the Long Term Plan 2024-34, including the walkways in Marton, Sir James Wilson Park, Centennial Park, Follet Street Park and Green area Village Green.

## Democracy and Planning

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<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Māori Wards</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Communications / Consultation</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>District Plan and Community Spatial Plan</b>

### 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.

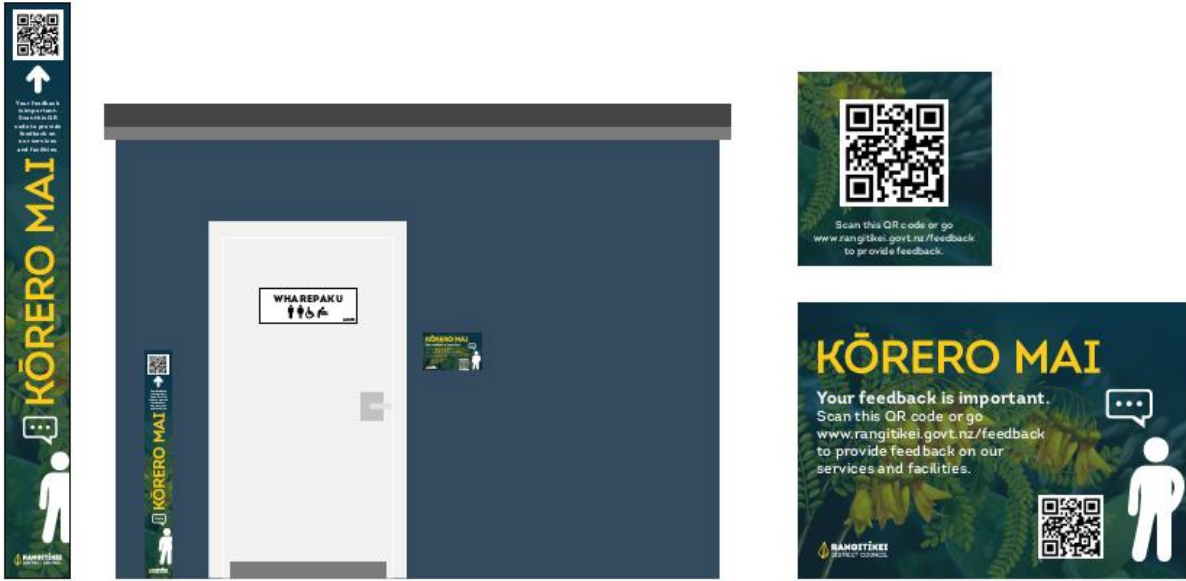
Submitters 214 and 215 raises issues with Council's communications and website; and how the Community Committee is communicated with. The submitter also produced a mockup of a sign and suggested wording for installing at Council's public toilet facilities.

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://www.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

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<b>Topic 1</b>	<b>Employment of additional staff</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Poppy Project</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	<b>Marton Rail Hub</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Council vehicle fleet</b>

### Topic 1: Employment of additional staff

#### Submissions

Marton 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

Marton 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 Marton.

#### Officer Comment

The Poppy Places project for the Rangitīkei 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.

### **Resolved minute number 23/RDC/187**

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

## **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.