

Hearings Thursday 7 May 2015

Rangitikei District Council

Submission Hearing on:

“What’s the Plan Rangitikei...?” the consultation document to Rangitikei District Council’s 2015-25 Long Term Plan.

Thursday, 7 May 2015, Marton

Submitter’s name	Submitter’s organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
<b>MARTON</b>			
Richard Redmayne		“What’s the Plan Rangitikei...?”	<p>Resident in Turakina; lives down beach road. Presented his submission to the hearing of the Midwest Disposals Ltd, Bonny Glen Landfill, resource consent and was told it would be more appropriate to submit it to Council’s Long Term Plan. The views expressed in the submission mirrors the views of many ratepayers. We as ratepayers are subsidising a commercial entity in terms of repairing roading. The submission compared the number of heavy traffic movements of a 200 head dairy farm with the number of heavy traffic movements by vehicles accessing the Bonny Glen Landfill; the dairy farmer is paying \$65 per movement within the roading rate, compared with \$0.48 per movement for Midwest Disposals Ltd. The solution to this inequality is a differential roading rate for these businesses that do the most damage to our roads.</p> <p>Cr Harris: Thank you for your submission. What if Midwest Disposals Ltd took us to court, because from their point of view, they feel they are paying their fair share in Road User Charges? The income received from Road User Charges is mainly used on State Highway’s; only a portion of Rangitikei District Council’s roading network is paid for by the New Zealand Transport Agency (which collects the income from Road User Charges).</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you asking for a differential roading rate based on the number of vehicle movements where a business exceeds a specified limit? What we need is some kind of mechanism to capture</p>

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			<p>some more of the revenue.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: What would you suggest we say when Midwest Disposals Ltd ask about quarrying and forestry? If there is a business making money at the expense of ratepayers (by causing damage to some of our infrastructure), they should be paying their fair share.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: In your submission you have outlined your rates and Midwest Disposals Ltd, is that the entire rates spend? It is only a roading component.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Thank you for your submission. Can you please confirm that what you are seeking is to see some fairness between businesses that contribute to the number of heavy vehicle movements in the District and the rest of the District? I would like to see some mechanism that captures the extreme industries in our District; any business with an excessive numbers of heavy vehicle movements.</p>
Keith Scott		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My submission is on the affordability of the Long Term Plan. Our population is declining; this is evident from Statistics New Zealand. How many people in these statistics are ratepayers? The numbers of elderly in our District are increasing, with the majority of these on fixed-incomes who can't afford to pay rate increase after rate increase. I agree with attracting immigrants to our District, but we need jobs to attract these people and affordable housing. I see the good intent behind establishing good relationships with groups outside of our District. There is a real trend with rural depopulation; Taihape and beyond Mangaweka (beyond commuting distance). I have heard from some real estate agents that rates are a main reason behind housing sales falling through. In the current version of the Long Term Plan, there is too much money being spent on projects for a small District. Can these projects be funded by a declining, aging population? No. It is all well and good to borrow for mandatory projects, but the ratepayer cops it in</p>

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			<p>the end. Thank goodness for the limit on debt. But the signalled debt levels are too high. Economic Development is a great idea; it is essential for this District. We need to expand the economic base to attract new residents. Central Government has to invest in the regional as well, instead of withdrawing and leaving it to Local Government to implement their standards. Why aren't other small Districts building up a roading reserve? Because they can't afford it. We are looking at building ours up too high too fast; I would be happier with spreading it out over a longer period. The increase over the next 10 years is too high. There is already too much money in overdue rates, and this will only increase. Only displaying the average increases for the year is unfair on those ratepayers that have higher increases. There is a need to implement a unitary authority over the District.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: In your submission you are questioning the affordability, yet you are happy with the spend of \$1.6M on a new community facility in Bulls, but not anywhere else in the District? What I mean is that the spend on new facilities in the three towns needs to be spread out over a longer period of time to limit the number and amount of rates increases.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Are you aware of the new FAR rates for emergency works for the Rangitikei District? Yes.</p>
Bruce Gordon	Dudding Lake Trust	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak to my submission. Slideshow of pictures of the lake on screen. Thank you to Rangitikei District Council for supporting the trust. The Trust's sole purpose is to maintain and improve the experience of those using the lake, and this would not be possible without support from Rangitikei District Council. Today, we are not seeking any financial support for the Trust. The driveway into the lake is in a bad state; small remedial work has been done on the driveway on an ad-hoc basis. The Trust needs help to repair the driveway. The Trust would</p>

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			<p>like to know if Council would put in the amount they receive from the New Zealand Transport Agency for its FAR rate (63%) towards the cost of repairing the driveway. The Trust will look for the rest of the funding in kind. The Trust asks people to charge at cost so they are not out of pocket. Mr Gordon then listed all of the recent upgrades that have been made to the area.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Do you have any ideas of the costs of repairing/upgrading the driveway? At this stage the Trust does not have any idea of the total costs to repair the driveway. Would Rangitikei District Council receive our portion back based on the invoices we provide to the New Zealand Transport Agency? Yes. Would it make it hard for Council to make a claim to the New Zealand Transport Agency if some of the work is 'in-kind'? Potentially.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: What are the average numbers of people using the lake and facilities? The lake and facilities are used mostly by locals; but over the summer period large numbers from the Wellington region use the lake and facilities; but we don't have any concrete numbers.</p> <p>*Cr Peke-Mason suggested that the group should be keeping track of numbers using the lake.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: So ultimately what you are wanting is for the driveway to be sealed? Not necessarily, just bring it up to standard.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Who owns the road? The lake is a reserve, so is administered by Council.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Is it a private road? The driveway forms part of the reserve which is administered by Council; the access to the lake is part of the Reserve.</p>
Nic Peet & Bruce Gordon	Horizons Regional Council	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	Thank you for the opportunity to speak to our submission. Horizons Regional Council is not seeking any specific funding in this Long Term Plan. We would like to acknowledge that there is a very good relationship

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			<p>between Horizons Regional Council and Rangitikei District Council, which is key for the District. We would firstly like to speak about Wastewater; Horizons Regional Council recognises the challenges seen by communities; standards have increased over the years and we would like to continue conversations with the Rangitikei communities and Rangitikei District Council. We are supportive of the proposed upgrades to treatment plants in the Rangitikei District. We would like to work with Rangitikei District Council on economic growth, especially in those areas that have a regional impact. We would also like to commend Rangitikei District Council for their commitment to the Enviroschools programme.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: In your team what capacity do you have to work with Rangitikei District Council and the community on the issue of the wastewater treatment plant in Mangaweka? There are areas where we can provide support (e.g. providing basic science). We are very open to any collaborative opportunities and we will be upfront if there was ever a conflict of interest. Who makes the first move? Both parties need to talk to each other more often.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: How many schools are there in the Rangitikei participating in the Enviroschools programme? There is one official Enviroschool (South Makirikiri), two friends of Enviroschools that are keen to become official Enviroschools and there are three other schools in the 'waiting room'.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: You have identified a willingness to work with the Mangaweka community regarding the future of their wastewater treatment plant, would you also be happy to be part of conversations with the communities of Koitiata and Ratana on their wastewater treatment plant issues? Yes very, Council to Council discussions would be most appropriate as a first step heading out to the Community. We are happy to provide Horizons Regional Council staff for any public meetings.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Regarding the Mangaweka wastewater treatment plant, does</p>

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			<p>technology expire so quickly or is it legislation? I am unsure of technology at the current plant. It ultimately depends on water quality and what the community can afford. We can't give you a concrete answer right now.</p> <p>Cr Harris: We have been told that the Rangitikei River is one of the cleaner rivers in the Country, would you agree? The Rangitikei River is broken up into three sections; the lower section is not the best partially due to the various discharges into that portion of the river (Bulls Wastewater Treatment Plant and Riverlands etc.), but there is good recreational use at this end of the river. Horizons Regional Council is not prepared to let it get any worse. The upper sections of the Rangitikei River are very pristine and we wouldn't want to see that change.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: You have seen that much of our spend in the proposed Long Term Plan is on capital upgrades of infrastructure, do you support our proposed prioritisation? Yes.</p> <p>Horizons Regional Council would like to thank staff for this relationship.</p>
	Whanganui District Health Board	<del>"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"</del>	<i>Withdrawn</i>
Jo Rangooni		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>My submission focuses on rates affordability in the District. Do larger properties and industries pay their fair share of rates in the District? We have a lot of residents on fixed-incomes that can't afford steep rates increases. The issue of acceptance of leachate from the Bonny Glen landfill appears to have been inherited from previous Councils, but it is an issue that does need to be dealt with. There are a lot of residents in Bulls that are keen volunteers when it comes to community issues, we could look at using them to help with the issue of leachate from the Bonny Glen Landfill.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: How could volunteers help with the leachate issue at the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant? Someone else suggested it to me, but I don't have any specific ideas on what could be done; we need the</p>

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			<p>right people and the right person leading any project. Do you see it more as Community Group input? Unsure, but the community is powerful.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: The Bonny Glen Landfill is turning into a regional 'dump' and should not just be the responsibility of the Rangitikei District Council; should we be looking outside the Rangitikei for help with a solution to the issue? Council should advocate for collective wisdom, with the right people; we need all stakeholders on board as well.</p> <p>Cr Harris: With regard to your question "do large land owners pay their fair share", I would have thought that large land owners would pay more than their fair share of rates? I am only talking from my perspective, it might not be accurate.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Thank you for your submission. We are proposing pretty low rate increases (depending on what we do), are you happy with what Council are proposing for Bulls over the next 10 years? I haven't done much research into the rates increases or what is proposed for Bulls in the Long Term Plan, but I think Council does the best it can.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: With regards to the Rates Rebate scheme, is there more work Council could do to promote the scheme? The most important thing is relationships; people need someone to talk to in private about their entitlement. The Trust might consider helping in this area.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Do you think the rebates are enough of an incentive? I haven't done any research into it.</p>
Jo Rangooni/ Jayme Anderson	Bulls and District Community Trust	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>The Trust would like to acknowledge the great relationship between the Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council, from their perspective. Our submission focuses on the support given by skilled volunteers. These days, volunteers need a high level of skill to carry out some of the work they do. Some people are quick to criticise but are unaware of the skills of those people involved with the Trust; we have now taken over all of the Bulls &amp; District Enterprise assets; we have a</p>

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			<p>strong working relationship with the Bulls Community Committee and we would like to thank Rangitikei District Council for their support; things only work because of the great relationship the Trust has with Council.</p> <p>Our submission on the youth projects in Bulls focuses on the need to have youth projects in Bulls due to the rural isolation; there is no high schools in Bulls so all of our students travel out of town for Schooling. We need to give them a reason to come back and stay in the town and this requires continued Council support.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: What are the numbers of youth participating in these projects and what is the geographical spread? The youth involved in the projects are residents of the Bulls Ward that need a reason to come back into town, with up to 30 youth involved in the project.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Are you taking in any Central Government funding? This was the first project that the Trust has taken on.</p> <p>Cr Harris: I would like to commend the Trust and Jayme for their work in the town; it hasn't been easy.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Are you dealing with mostly urban kids? Yes. How are they isolated? Having to travel out of town for Schooling and being able to see the opportunities that are afforded to those students in larger centres that aren't available in the Rangitikei District.</p>
Trevor & Karen Nicholls	Nicholls Swim Academy	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<i>Withdrawn</i>
Robert & Ruth Snijders		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>We are both new residents to the District and we are taking an active interest in what happens in the District. We went to the both the Long Term Plan and the Marton Town Centre Plan presentations in 2014. There are some very loaded questions on the submission form, with not all options presented. The options that are presented in the submission form are very narrow; I struggled to find supporting documentation (to support the options preferred by Council). Option 1 &amp; 2 are very similar and can be</p>



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			<p>lumped together; businesses in the District are unhappy with Council's approach to local business, and its lack of approachability; won't approach their local Councillors. Should we be knocking on the owners' doors and finding out what support they need? Council needs to review what it is proposing to do in the area of town centre rejuvenation. There needs to be a policy shift in terms of the standard of potable water; are consultants just providing a compliant option or should they be finding more robust options? The District's swimming pools need to be reassessed in terms of their business plans; large amounts of money lost each month and only open part of the year – they should be open year round (during the summer months the majority of people are using beaches and rivers over pools). We believe that social housing could be expanded in Marton and that options for making this activity more viable should be investigated. We support Council bringing parks &amp; town maintenance back in-house. The Emergency Roading Fund should be expanded to encompass emergency works in more of Council's activities.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Thank you for your submission. Are you aware of the current state of our community housing? Yes, but still believe it is a valuable asset (debt free).</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you aware that Council does not make a profit on community housing, but runs at a net loss and this is common practice around the country? Yes, and let's break the mould.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Are you referring to the Project Marton work plan or the Marton Town Centre Plan? The Marton Town Centre Plan; all the groups involved in the community should be working together.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: In most of your written submission you don't support Council's preferred options, but your oral submission was more positive; was it more that there weren't enough options? Yes, I thought the best way was to say 'I don't support Council's decision' and then put my ideas forward in the comments.</p>

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			Cr Jones: Welcome to Marton.
Brya Dixon	Southern Rangitikei School's Principals Cluster Inc.	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>I am the Principal of Marton School and I am here on behalf of the Southern Rangitikei School's Principals Cluster Inc. All of the Schools in the Cluster Group have prioritised swimming within our curriculum due to our geographical location. Historically, school teachers have taken the swimming lessons, but they are not as competent as qualified instructors. We can only have 8-10 lessons per year, as that is all the funding that can be sought. In the past not all year levels have been funded each year, so schools have had to prioritise certain years or cover large bills. Some Schools have their own pools and would like to see instructors visit their pools, especially for younger students. Marton Schools would definitely make more use of the pool if it were more affordable. Any funding needs to be confirmed much earlier in the year. There has been some suggestion that when the Marton Pool was built, and Marton School decommissioned their pool, there was an understanding that Marton School would have free access to the Marton Pool.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Is it always on a lesson basis? Not necessarily, we could hire lanes and pay an entry fee. Only 10 swims a year? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Is there any documentation on the rumoured understanding that Marton School would have free access to the pool? No, the hearsay is that any documentation was destroyed the fire.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Is our asset underutilised due to the cost? The cost is part of the barrier, but there have also been issues with the management of the pool. Is that the management now or historically? There is a better relationship now, but there are still some issues. Why would some Schools keep the costs of maintaining their own pool? These Schools are further away from the pools and this presents another challenge for schools.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Have you engaged with Council staff? Yes, a meeting was had in April 2015 with Samantha Whitcombe on the</p>

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			programme and funding assistance.
Greg Carlyon	Tutaenui Stream Restoration Society	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak to my submission. I will take the submission as read (but provide short summary) and answer questions. The Tutaenui Stream is spring fed and, for a portion of the year, has no flow. It has some wastewater discharge into it and over-flow from the new bore, then travels through a large amount of unfenced farmland, and then flows into town where it is 'ignored'. The stream is also subject to discharge from Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant; this is at times non-compliant. I acknowledge that Council is working towards making the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant compliant. There is a lot of opportunity for recreational activities along the stream (mountain biking, walking etc.), we should be taking better care of this stream and installing better community pride in the stream and surrounding area. The Society will be engaging directly with landowners near the stream to bring them on board, developing a management plan (in consultation with Rangitikei District Council) and co-ordinating an annual stream clean up with the Cluster Schools (Horizons Regional Council also does some clean-up work each year), among other things. The funding sought from Council (\$10k per year) is to be used for on the ground work, and would be released subject to an agreement with Council. An annual report would be produced each year for Council, and we would welcome a Council rep on the Society.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Do you consider that too much recreation could add to the pollution? There is more potential for contamination from other sources other than responsible human beings; public access would need to be monitored.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Thank you for your submissions. How many other groups/individuals are involved in the project involved? There are six-seven landowners involved at this stage; four have been brought onto the</p>

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			<p>Society. Are you seeking funding from Horizons Regional Council? No, but we have had conversations with staff. Horizons Regional Council see the value of the stream as a flood protection asset rather than a recreational asset.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Have you approached some of the Community outcome groups (Enjoying Life in the Rangitikei and Treasured Natural Environment Group)? I am the Chair of one of Council's community groups and a member of another, so they will be kept in the loop.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: I would have thought it would be prudent to make a submission to Horizons Regional Council as well. Rangitikei District Council needs to be careful with our rates spend, could the spend on the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant be seen as Council's contribution? Horizons Regional Council doesn't believe that the stream is a worthy asset. Any funds allocated to the project by Council would be seen as being for the community from the community. I have heard that spending \$2M on the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant isn't going to be enough and it is a much bigger issue.</p> <p>Cr Harris: Fencing the stream through farmland should be compulsory; can we do anything? Horizons Regional Council has a fund for the fencing of waterways.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Have you considered organisations that give away plantings? We have been making enquiries, and may have found an avenue to supply plantings on a yearly basis.</p>
Greg Carlyon	Rangitikei College	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>This submission is the thank Council for its on-going support of Rangitikei College and acknowledge the strong support the School receives from Council. The School roll is decreasing because of the declining population in Marton; however the School is tapping into a higher portion of the available pool. We have seen a noticeable increase in our students success in NCEA; a goal that was set by the School. Truancy levels have decreased,</p>

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			<p>as well as the number of stand-downs.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Could Councillors be given a tour of the School? Certainly, we will be organise something with the Principal.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Is there anything else Council can do to help the School continue with positive progress? Not really; we always get the support needed when we ask for it. More of the same really.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Is the School interacting with the business community? Yes, the current Principal has a strong network of connections within the District.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Have you thought of any mechanisms for capturing those students that do leave the District? The School is looking at ideas. We don't market the School as such, we let it speak for itself. Are there transport options to bring students from outside the District here for Schooling? We don't believe that students should be sitting on a bus for hours a day to get to their schooling, we would rather focus on securing those students already in town.</p>
Maree Brannigan (via Skype)		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>I feel that there has been a lack of research into option 1 and there is little information available as to where Council's preference for this option has come from. I am concerned about what it will do to the community (in terms of the property market; property value, and how it will effect immigration into the town). Does Horizons Regional Council have any concerns about the workability of option 1? I know the value of 10-year planning and understand the need for it, but I feel that any project in this plan should have in-depth research behind it.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Would the community welcome engagement by Council with them to look into all options rather than signalling a preference to an option? Yes. I am concerned with what signalling a preference in the Long Term Plan will do to the 'pull' of the town.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Do you feel we have phrased this option incorrectly? Yes,</p>

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			<p>there is some criticism of the way the option is phrased as being Council's preference.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Thank you for your submission. Would a focus group be appropriate for finding the best possible option over the next ten years, and would there be a number of people in the community that would be willing to engage? Yes, the community would be very forward focused in creating a dialogue with Council.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Do you agree that Council should keep a budgetary amount in the Long Term Plan for this issue? No, it gives the indication that this option has already been worked through and plans created, that a budget would arise from. I do not agree that there should be a budget line without clarity of what it constitutes. If we added wording that was explicit that this money was for investigation work only? Yes I would be happy with a budgetary line if it was worded as if it was a contingency plan rather than a planned project. Anything could happen in the next 10 years.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: How many of the properties in Mangaweka are connected to the service and how has it changed in the past few years? I don't have those figures; I would assume Council would have those figures.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: We need the Community on board when we go into battle with Central Government, as the lack of funding is the biggest challenge to Council. Yes, I would be behind you in lobbying Central Government.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: I would like to express my thanks to you and Community.</p>
Maree Brannigan	Mangaweka Town Meeting & Friends opposed to option 1	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	The submission letter came about after the town meeting in Mangaweka; the group is not supportive of option 1 for the Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plant, so are, by default, supportive of option 2 (given that there are no other options). There is great concern within the community on the feasibility and do-ability of option 1, and wonder where the

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			preference for option 1 came from.
Anne George & Nathan Kane	Marton Community Committee	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Our submission, for the most part, follows the issues outlined in the consultation document. Issue one; we support option three due to the figure of \$105K for local initiatives. Council should use this money to employ a marketer for the District, to be a liaison between new business and the Council. They would use local events as the forum for interacting with potential business owners. The job description would encompass the following: encourage event organisers to bring their events to the District (attendees of these events spend money in town), then initiate a conversation with these people about opening a business in town. Council could consider offering some kind of 'Welcome' gift for new business owners (e.g. paint), not necessarily a rates rebate. It would also be this person's job to travel the country and market the District.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Council used to have an Economic Development Officer? Yes. Was there a measureable increase in business in the District? No, but this job would be different from that of the old Economic Development Officer.</p> <p>Nathan Kane from the Marton Youth Club (Hype Academy) addressed Council on the second part of the submission. The Marton Youth Club was established 2012 with the idea of establishing a 'safe' place for youth to spend their time. We offer organised events to encourage confidence and give the youth something to do in town. The older kids that used the Youth Club prior to High School are now bringing their siblings along. There is a significant number of youth using the Marton Youth Club and Taihape Youth Hutt. The events are designed to involve the families as well. Looking towards the future we would like to turn the Youth Club into a 'One-Stop-Shop' for social services (e.g. suicide prevention, drug/alcohol addiction etc.). But we need funding to keep it going until it is well established as a 'One-Stop-Shop' and could be self-sustainable.</p>

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			<p>Cr McManaway: Have you been to the service clubs for funding? Not for funding, but we do have a relationship with Project Marton for events.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Thank you for the work you do. Are you able to explore the funding offered by Central Government? This is an area we need to be proactive in; it is an area we want to work in.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Historically this activity has been supported by the Ministry for Social Development/the Ministry for Youth Development, but now you are seeking \$36K from Council? Yes. Aer you still seeking funding from the Ministry for Social Development/the Ministry for Youth Development? Yes. If Council didn't provide the \$36K, would the Marton Youth Club close? Yes.</p>
Carolyn Bates		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Could the funds tagged within the Economic Development be assessed against the Town Centre Plan's? The aim of this position should be to encourage the establishment of new businesses in the District.</p> <p>I have some concerns about the colour pallets being used in the Marton Town Centre Plan; Marton is a heritage town and we shouldn't be using 'children's playground colours' to spruce the town up. I feel that Project Marton are very focused within Marton and wonder what is being marketed within the rest of the country. I have concerns regarding the level of consultation with the Mangaweka community on their wastewater treatment plant, and I have an issue with the thought that it will fail by 2024. I wonder whether the Marton pool is being marketed appropriately. I am hopefully that we will eventually achieve a 'break-even' point with our community housing. I wonder if a community group raised an amount of money to be put towards an upgrade of a Council-owned park, would Council contribute a similar amount. I support keeping the Library, ICT Hub and Youth Club open. I support increasing Council's Roding Reserve and wonder whether an idea of rating trucks regardless of what they are carrying to increase the reserve could work. I support</p>



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			<p>continuing the Town Centre Plan support role within Council. The District needs to be marketed at a wider regional level. Could an upgrade to the public toilets in Marton be a community project? I also had an idea around discount cards for local residents.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Some of your ideas have come across the table before, are you aware of this? No, but they can always be brought up again.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: You mentioned potential discount cards for residents, can you elaborate? In Porirua if you are a resident you get a card that allows you free access to the local dump. If you choose to use that dump but live outside of Porirua you are charged. There is potential for a similar type of system in the Rangitikei.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: You don't like the idea of debt, but you support several capital projects; are you suggesting that these should then be funded in one year? No, I think we should be saving for these projects instead of going into debt.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: In this District, storm events have a large impact on our roading networks. We need the reserve to rectify these damages, how do you propose we fund these repairs? I would like Council to investigate the costs of insurance cover. Council has done a lot of research into insurance cover for its infrastructure and premiums are huge (as is evident from Christchurch), would you be ok with rating to cover these premiums then? Yes, as long as the increase wasn't too steep.</p>
Jim Howard		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>My submission focuses on the unfairness of the split between urban and rural rates. The figures I have provided in my submission give a pretty detailed picture. There is an unfair loading on rural ratepayers, particularly in the Southern half of the District. I would like to see average rates increases expressed over a longer period of time rather than just one year. This illustrates a fuller picture of rates increases.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you aware of the changes that have been</p>

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			<p>made to Council's Uniform Annual General Charge (less on capital value of a property)? A small amount, but not in great detail.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: The figures detailed in your submission, is it one property in each area? Yes. Wouldn't that show a skewed view of rates increases? Yes, but it is too much work for one person to do to investigate any further.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Should we do a historical trend? Yes, we should show the last 10 or so years. This would give a better idea of the changes to rates historically (specifically between rural and urban rates).</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Would you like to see a zero contribution from rural ratepayers on urban water and wastewater supplies? Potentially, but that wouldn't be sustainable.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Do you want the 'dotted lines' between Wards and between urban and rural zones, brought back? Potentially, but it would be difficult to say confidently until we see the historical numbers.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: A large portion of rates goes into roading, and a large portion of roading is in the rural zone, would it be fair to say that urban ratepayers are subsidising rural roads? Urban roads are more expensive to maintain than rural roads.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: The rural sector have some ability to offset the cost of rates against their business, urban wouldn't? Fair comment.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Rural ratepayers use urban facilities, so should they not contribute? Yes, but they currently pay too much.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Do you think rural ratepayers benefit from urban centres? Yes.</p>
Jim Howard & Hew Stewart	Rangitikei Environment Group	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Firstly, we would like to provide a brief overview of who REG are and some of the work that has been undertaken in the past year. REG is made up of key stakeholders within the District. We meet in Taihape and our work programme is carried out through the summer months (no wages</p>

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			<p>are paid in winter months). The Rangitikei District Council contractor was asked to spray all of the Old-Man's Beard within 10m of the road reserve, but we were disappointed with the job the contractor did (there was a lack of knowledge of what plants were to be sprayed). During the past year we have undertaken a large amount of track maintenance in the Taihape Reserves; work teams have made remarkable progress in several areas. We need the funding from Rangitikei District Council to make the track safe for the work team to bring in a truck to complete the work. Work has been done with Taihape Area School, but there has been no consistency in the seedlings being grown. In our submission we have outlined four areas of funding, totalling of \$40k per year.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: In previous discussion with Rangitikei District Council staff and Neil Mickleson (Horizons Regional Council), it was concluded that \$10k per year would be sufficient, with support from Council's contractor. Your position seems to have changed? The figure we received from Neil Mickleson is \$30k; we are not sure where the \$10k came from. If the contractor did a sufficient job there would be less support needed.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Was the \$10k grant from Council last year new funding? Yes. I haven't seen anywhere that Council's contractor would support REG? It was agreed last year. Would you not have seen it would fail from the outset? There was potential. Does Horizons Regional Council provide any funding to REG? They are the main funder; this funding covers wages, running of vehicles and purchase of spray.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Council should be taking \$10k out of the contractor costs and giving it to REG? Yes, effectively.</p>
Chris Shenton	Treasured Natural Environment Group	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	I would like to start my submission by acknowledging and thanking Council for its support. The main aim of this project is to attract people to the river instead of driving by. We see Council playing a facilitative role to

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			<p>enable groups to access resources and funding. We as a group are supportive of Council's existing initiatives and proposed future initiatives. The group notes the value of the Wastewater Treatment Plants and Water Treatment Plant's, and supports the idea of land-based treatment of wastewater as opposed to discharge into waterways. We believe that Council should be investigation land-based treatment at least in summer months.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Do you have a plan for the proposed access points? There is no formal plan in place at this stage; the information needed to develop a plan is easily accessible and a plan would be relatively easily assembled. Is the main aim at recreation? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Do you have a map of the access points? Not really; a lot of these are within Horizons Regional Council's floodplains. Is pulling together local groups to formalise something part of the groups long term view? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Are you working with the Tutaenui Restoration Society? To date we have not had a lot of interaction with the group, but Greg Carlyon has attended several Treasured Natural Environment meetings. Would you be comfortable working with this group in the future? Yes.</p>
Barry Williams		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Marton is a declining population and services are reduced; but I firmly believe that people will come to Marton if we give them a reason to. It could be through public art. Currently there is very little public art in Marton and historically there has been a lack of Council support for public artwork. We could use the WW1 centenary as a theme; put up a new panel on Memorial Hall every XX years. As was identified in the Marton Town Centre Plan, we need to create 'linger nodes'. Possible ideas: "Marton: Town of Art"; Christmas lights/light competition.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Have you thought about joining Project Marton? I am looking at joining more community groups now that I am retired.</p>

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			<p>Cr Jones: There is a lot of negativity and resistance to change in Marton, how do we get around this? We need to adopt a "Run them down" attitude.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Who should get involved with Council to attract people? Art people and the art community.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: How do we attract motorcyclists? Market Marton to motorcycle clubs. Make a motorcycle orientated competition.</p> <p>Cr McNeil: Are you aware of the Creative Communities grant and the fact that we struggle to get applicants? I am aware, didn't know there was a struggle to find applicants.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you requesting that we commission a sculpture? Yes. And a suggestion would be another panel at Memorial Hall? Yes.</p>
Kathleen Reardon		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>I am concerned with the acceptance of leachate from the Bonny Glen Landfill, and thought it should have been included in the options for public consideration. Council needs to better communicate the issues at the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the acceptance of leachate from the Bonny Glen Landfill with the community. The dumping point for effluent in Marton not always ideal from the point of view of contractors.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Are you aware of Council's proposed upgrades to the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant to better deal with the acceptance of leachate from Bonny Glen? Yes, and I am pleased that something is being done.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Council is concerned with this issue as well; we are addressing the issues outlined in your submission? I think the biggest issue is that Council needs to take advice from the right people.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: The Bonny Glen Landfill has a regional aspect to it, do you think we should be pushing for the leachate to be dealt with outside of our District? I don't see that we can push it out now. I would be happier if</p>

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			<p>it was better treated by Mid-West Disposals Ltd before entering the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Do you feel that we have the right people around the table to make these decisions on your behalf? I think it lies more in the staff/engineers that provide Council with information.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: We are looking at setting up a focus group for the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project, do you see a role for that? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Could you suggest anyone for this focus group? Yes, but they should put their own hands up.</p>
Drew Ferry		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>I feel that the preferred option for issue 3 gives an indication that the community had been consulted on and were in favour of this option. The community has not seen any research or investigation into whether or not on-site waste disposal will work in the Town; the main soil type in Mangaweka is clay, which does not promote drainage. Would Horizons Regional Council even grant consent for the placement of on-site waste disposal?</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: If we didn't get the wording right, what would have been the right wording? At this stage we have put the 'cart before the horse'. What was put to the community was that Central Government required Rangitikei District Council to put a preferred option to any of the issues identified in the consultation document. The community feels that all of the investigation work is being done now, after a preference has been signalled. The plant is currently compliant (many of the other plants in the District aren't), so why change it. The community are adamant that on-site treatment will not be feasible in the Town.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Should we signal an amount of money, as a contingency, to allow for various options/investigation? Yes, it is what we need to do.</p>

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			<p>Cr Jones: Do you believe there should have been some public discussion prior to Council signalling something in a plan? Yes, it would have mitigated the angst felt in the community.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Something had to be flagged in the Long Term Plan as it was to happen in the next 10 years; do you think we just got the wording very wrong? Yes. The reasoning behind the lack of consultation is that there is more than one opportunity to review the plan before the consent is due to expire? I can see the need to put something in the plan, but I still think that consultation should have come first.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Should Council's first point of call be to initiate discussions with the community on the wastewater issue in Mangaweka? Yes, it should definitely be the first point of call.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: How could Council better communicate with ratepayers and how can we make it easier for ratepayers to communicate with us? For me, my local Councillors would be first point of call and then the Mayor. I would not consider the Taihape Community Board as I feel it is a bit removed from Mangaweka.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Could we not say that the controversial nature of the consultation document shows democracy in action? Yes you could say that, but I still feel that consultation should have come first.</p>
Peter Lissington		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>My submission focuses on Bonny Glen Leachate. The Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant is not compliant and this is an expensive future cost to the Rangitikei District Council. When Council owned the Bonny Glen Landfill there was only a small amount of rubbish being dumped, now there is a significant amount of waste being dumped from outside the District. Which in turn has created a substantial increase to the amount of leachate being treated at the Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant now compared to when Council owned the Landfill. We should be able to calculate the amount of leachate that can be attributed to the waste from</p>

Hearings Thursday 7 May 2015

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			<p>outside the District and we should be shipping this leachate back to the origins of this waste.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Are you aware that Council is working to rectify the compliance issues at Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Midwest Disposals Ltd are contributing financially to the plant? I am aware of it, but I question whether it is enough.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Does the community see the information that comes across Council's table? I am not aware of all of it and don't spend a lot of time on Council's website; but now that I know it's there I will check it out.</p>

Hearings Closed – 3.50 pm