

Hearings Friday 8 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.

Friday, 8 May 2015, Taihape

Submitter’s name	Submitter’s organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
<b>TAIHAPE</b>			
Gail Larsen	Taihape A&P Association	“What’s the Plan Rangitikei...?”	<i>Withdrawn</i>
Barry Thomas	Utiku Old Boys Rugby Club	“What’s the Plan Rangitikei...?”	<p>Sean Kelly and Jo Kelly were also present in support. I am also speaking on behalf of Taihape Squash, Taihape Netball, Taihape Rugby and Sports Club, Northern Wanganui Rugby Sub Union, Taihape Saturday Morning Rugby and the A&amp;P Association; all of these submissions contained the same letter of support for the installation of an in-ground irrigation system for Memorial Park, Taihape. Due to the dry summers we have had recently, the ground is extremely hard at the start of the rugby season. The lack of irrigation also makes it harder to repair the damage created by equestrian events held on the grounds. The Community as a whole would benefit from the installation of the irrigation system. The local rugby clubs have spent a significant amount of money on the facilities at the Park (mostly for the benefit of rugby). It would be good to get the Park as valued by Council as it is by the users.</p> <p>Cr Harris: What is the current state of the turf? At the moment it is not too bad, but it is earlier in the year that it was worse. Is there enough grass at the moment? It could be better but at the moment it is not too bad.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Would there be an issue with horse sports being held on the</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>grounds with the system being buried? No. Are you requesting an upgrade of the current facilities or new facilities? The current buildings is really old building and with new building codes, it would possibly be cheaper to build a new building.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Have you looked into other funding options? Yes for future projects.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Where will the water come from? Not sure; it could be an issue to get it from the river.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Is the \$70k a quote or rough estimate? It is a pretty good estimate, based on a Wellington company; further detail would need to be worked through before a detailed and accurate quote could be obtained.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: How much of the \$70k are you expecting from Council? As much as possible; we do not have a definite figure in mind.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: what are the current numbers playing rugby in Taihape? There used to be four clubs but now there are only two clubs, with 2 teams each. This year the premier teams are doing better and better which is attracting more people. We also have 100+ kids playing rugby this season. What is the catchment area; does it go through to Waiouru? Sometimes, we have four players from Waiouru this season.</p> <p>Cr Harris: Do the grounds currently receive any water? Yes, but the current system is not adequate.</p>
Geoff Mallalieu	Taihape Showjumping	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Thank you to Council for the improvement in the relationship over the past few years; it has been easier to get some irrigation on the Park in the past few years. Our oral submission is in support of Taihape Dressage and the A&amp;P Association as well. Our written submission is the same as</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>Barry's. [i.e. Barry Thomas]</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Is there a competing relationship between equestrian sports and the other sporting codes that use the Park, and how is this managed? All parties that use the Park agree that it is a necessary upgrade for the Park. The hardness of the ground causes injury to horses and does more damage to the ground. Would it make it easier to repair the grounds for other sporting codes? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: What is the state of the shower block currently used by the equestrian sports? It is not too bad at this stage.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: If Council gave you to ok to install the system, could the groups find the funding themselves? Yes. Combining as a Park users group would give us the 'grunt' needed to apply for funding. A significant amount of money is spent by the groups currently on the maintenance of the Park.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: How many irrigated grounds do you use and what difference does it make? A well irrigated ground provides a better base for jumping and less injury to the horse. The Park has a very 'springy' ground but not really enough of a grass base.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: What would the on-going maintenance costs for the system be? We do not have the on-going maintenance costs for the system yet. All of the groups are realistic in the thinking that some of the maintenance costs could be borne by the groups. The watering of the ground needs to be started relatively early in the season before the ground dries out too much.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Is the ground fertilised and is it sufficient? I am unsure. Improbably is needed as well as watering of the ground.</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>Cr Harris: Should we be getting more turf in before putting in this system? Possibly.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Are there other Council's that allow equestrian events on grounds that are used for other sporting codes? Horowhenua District Council.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: I think further discussion will need to be held with Peter Shore on any possible split in the funding of this project, prior to deliberations on submissions on 14 May 2015.</p>
Richard McMillan	Taihape Area School & Taihape Cricket	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Taihape Area School uses the Park more than anyone else really; we would like this to be a similar model to one used in Levin. The School doesn't go door knocking at local businesses due to the harsh economic climate. Cricket gets very few home games, and some have had to be cancelled due to the state of the ground. Taihape Area School has two rugby teams this year, first time in years.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Is there any funding through Ministry of Education for this project? No, but funding has been granted through Pub Charity to upgrade the pitch. Taihape Area School has 10 sports teams that compete in the weekends and all but 3 travel. Travel costs are the biggest challenge to the School participating; current subscription costs in Palmerston North and Wanganui are around \$100; travel costs for the School are in the vicinity of \$20k; funding is sought from wherever possible. I am unsure whether ratepayer funding can be used to 'bump-up' the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund. I feel that it is unfair for rural students to be penalised due to their rural isolation.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Do you have a sum in mind? No specific amount requested.</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>Cr Peke-Mason: Are you aware of the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund? Yes and we do apply, but it is a very small pot.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Have you asked the bus companies for assistance? We have for some events, but we have our own buses and they are cheaper for us to run.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Why won't other teams travel to Taihape? Some sporting codes do, but there is no hockey turf in Taihape and netball is exclusively in Palmerton North.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Have you approached the service stations for the fund they administer? We look into any funding avenues we can.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Are you also asking Council to be advocating for a larger slice of the pie for Rangitikei? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Would you be supportive of a \$1 for \$1 match of ratepayers funding on what is allocated to Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund? Yes.</p>
	Federated Farmers	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Fraser Gordon, Tim Matthews, Kristy McGregor. The base of our submission is a return to a 'user-pays' basis. We would like to commend Council for the reduction in rates for the rural ratepayer and the removal of Water, Wastewater and Stormwater from the General Rate. We would like to see Introduction of a differential rate for rural properties to align property values more closely with the use of services. We would like to see Council increase the use of the Uniform Annual General Charge which will reduce the reliance on the property value general rate. We encourage Council to play a facilitative role when it comes to resource management and regulatory issues. We believe that Economic Development should be rated using a combination of the Uniform Annual General Charge and a targeted rate from those properties that receive a direct benefit from this</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>service.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Was Council's investment in the Strategic Water Assessment a good idea? Yes. And you see no issue with urban ratepayers subsidising rural business? If it is supported by other funding, no.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Should Council only be in the facilitative role and not the funding role? The Rangitikei is heavily reliant on the agricultural industry, and an increase in this industry vs. an increase in tourism is not equal. In early consultation the rural community identified roading as a priority, but your submission downplays this? Wanganui District Council is experiencing a decreasing FAR rate and losing a large lump sum from their funding, the situation is different for Rangitikei.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: A large number of Council's halls are in the rural zone and these communities requested that Council continue to own and maintain these halls, so should they not be paying for them? We are suggesting that rating for these in the Uniform Annual General Charge is more equitable.</p> <p>Cr Ash: Less than 10% of Rangitikei's roading is urban, so suggesting the rest is rural? Your submission requests that street lighting and berm mowing are mostly borne by rural rate payers but a large amount of berm mowing is within the rural zone so would that not seem fair? Would not an increase in the UAGC impact most on those who can least afford to pay? Not Council's job to know what people's income is or to redistribute wealth. Rates rebate scheme is available through central government. Activities that are not subsidised by NZTA should be removed from the roading rate, to make it a lot more transparent.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Is farming a commercial activity? Yes. So, are you asking</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>Council to give the farming community special treatment over the rest of the commercial industry? The current system is unfair towards the rural zone.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Have you done a breakdown of the on-going maintenance costs per property? No, don't see the need to (what is more expensive to maintain, sealed or unsealed).</p> <p>Cr Harris: Do you have any examples of history of differential rates? A number of Council's use a differential. It is quite uncommon for a Council not to have any differential rates.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: What about rural businesses that have a tourism component? Those businesses that display a brochure in an i-Site would see a benefit.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: How do you know that the number used for a differential is right? Comes back to the Revenue and Financing Policy and should be based on benefit.</p> <p>*We would like to see a page in future consultation documents that allows ratepayers to more easily define what their rates will be for future years.</p>
John Eames		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>My submission focuses on the Wastewater system in Mangaweka. I believe that the suggested population decline in the District is assumed and that Council should be planning to maintain the current asset; it is a well-performing asset at the moment. I think Council needs to recognise the effects signalling this kind of position in the Long Term Plan will have on property values in the town. There is potential in Mangaweka but this proposal by Council will have an effect on potential businesses and residents moving to the area. I would like to see this statement removed from the Long Term Plan as Council's preferred option for this issue.</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>Cr Ash: What do you want to see going forward for the plant? I would like to see a maintenance plan that keeps the current system compliant, with some potential improvements to the plant.</p> <p>Cr McManaway: Would you be happier if it was worded more towards investigation and being open to various options that would keep the plant compliant? Yes, I am open to looking at all of the options available.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Would you like to see Council ensure that the community is fully involved in all future discussion on this plant? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Is Mangaweka growing, declining or remaining the same? I would say that at this stage it is remaining the same, but there is potential for growth. Although it is difficult to find a rental property in the town.</p>
Michele Fannin	Taihape Community Board	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>I am currently employed by the Taihape Community Development Trust and I sit as the Chair of the local Community Organisation Grant's Scheme committee. I have had several issues with the Long Term Plan process this year. I have had trouble getting hard copies of the entire Long Term Plan document for all Board members; I think that Councillors should be taking more notes during oral hearings; I couldn't find a full copy of all of the submissions anywhere prior to today's meeting.</p> <p>We are disappointed that the heating and filtration systems in the Taihape pool, which was prioritised at the end of 2014, has not yet progressed that and the carpark upgrade at the Taihape Pool has been deferred until the completion of the Taihape Town Centre Plan process. The users of the Taihape skate park have outgrown what is currently there and are frustrated at the length of the process that has been undertaken to get any upgrades to this park. The Board feels that the irrigation of Memorial Park in Taihape is an urgent requirement. I would like to bring to Council's</p>



Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>attention that we are in a 'dead-zone' in terms of external funding; there are very few funders that we can apply to. And I would like to clarify that the service stations fund will not fund travel. The footpaths in Taihape are extremely slippery and dangerous, in both wet and dry conditions. I have the name of someone who can help sort out the issue of the slippery footpaths in town: Angus McMillan. I don't think it is up to Council staff to tell those who make a complaint about the slipperiness of the footpaths that they aren't wearing appropriate footwear. The performance of the Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plant is excellent and we are confused by the inclusion of this option in the Long Term Plan.</p> <p>We believe that any changes to the Uniform Annual General Charge and the Roothing Rate effects, low-middle income and fixed-income residents the most. This makes it hard for these residents to afford their rates along with everything else they need to. We believe that the Sport NZ Rural Travel fund is insufficient and Council should be advocating for a bigger slice of the pie.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: In regards to the Taihape Pool, what is your role within the Trust? I am employed by the Trust and I know that they want to move forward with their ideas for improving the facilities at the Pool, and that they have the funds to do this.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Can you please elaborate on the footpath issues in Taihape? The footpaths in Taihape are very slippery and I have heard of several instances where people have slipped. It is hard to get people who do slip to lodge a complaint with Council.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Is the Board in support of this submission [noting that the oral submission canvassed more issues than in the written</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>submission]? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Ash: How would a heavier Uniform Annual General Charge affect local residents? There is no clear understanding at this stage. I believe that it mostly effects the low-middle income earners and I would like to see some examples.</p>
Gary Johnson		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>The Taihape Swimming Pool is extremely under-utilised and not very user friendly (in terms of opening times). There are also issues with capacity during the school holidays. We need to make the pool into a family experience for the whole day.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you aware of the cost of keeping to pool open year round? No, but it needs to be made more attractive and I'm sure that money is being lost on the pool. Would you be happy with a \$65 increase to the UAGC to keep them open year round? No, but the pool does need to be made more family friendly and this would bring in more revenue. Your submission is to keep the pool open and increase the charge? Yes and bring in other facilities (gym etc).</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: What are the Christmas hours? Pre-school holidays, the pool opens at 6.30am, but during the school holidays the pool does not open until lunchtime.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Have you brought up any of these issues/ideas with the managers? Yes, but the feeling is that putting in a gym would create competition with the gyms that are currently operating in town.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Have you done any survey work about whether or not adding in these additional facilities would attract people? I have done some among friends and family, and the general feeling is that they would, but nothing with the wider community.</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
Irene Loder		"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>My submission focuses on the town of Mangaweka. I would like to see any further discussion on the Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plant to involve the community; I know that something needs to be put into the plan. I wonder if the plant is failing or having any compliance issues. I would like to bring to Council's attention that there are developments in the town. I feel that Mangaweka needs a town plan. I think that the Town Plan should encompass the following: public toilets; a bus shelter; we need to utilise the old Broadway (this area contains the best vestige of an early 1920s New Zealand village). It could be used as a tourist attraction; there is a large amount of tourism potential within the village and Council needs to better promote the village.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: Are you asking Council to facilitate a Town Centre Plan in Mangaweka? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Is it Council's job to install a bus shelter? Unsure – His Worship the Mayor: it would need to be funded and maintained by Council.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: How 'big' do you want the Town Centre Plan to be? I want it to be 'effective'. I think we should change the name from 'Mangaweka' to 'Mangaweka Village', we need decent signage and to promote Mangaweka as a historic village (remnants of a historic village).</p> <p>I also think Council should investigate Ministry of Health funding for the Taihape Pool, as there is a health aspect to keeping the pool open for longer.</p>
Clemency Boyce	Taihape Kindergarten	"What's the Plan Rangitikei...?"	<p>Clemency Boyce (Wanganui Playcentre), Lisa (Head Teacher at Taihape Kindergarten). Up until two-three years ago the road was maintained by Council; someone made Council aware that the 'road' was a private driveway and we could not find any paperwork to confirm the ownership</p>

Submitter's name	Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)	Topic	Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.
			<p>and responsibility for the road. The driveway is also an access way to the Mt Stewart walk from the driveway. What we are asking for is that Council undertakes the maintenance of the driveway on an on-going basis. The kindergarten can contribute \$20k towards the cost of the initial work. We have a quote obtained two years ago for \$58k. There are a significant number of vehicle movements along the driveway every day, and more so when a school holiday programme is run.</p> <p>His Worship the Mayor: So you are asking Council to take over the maintenance of the road under the roading programme and you can contributing \$20k? Yes.</p> <p>Cr Sheridan: Is there any signage that indicates the car parking is for the kindergarten? No, this is why it appears to be public.</p> <p>Cr Jones: Was the \$20k raised for this purpose specifically? The money was earmarked from the income of the kindergarten for this project.</p> <p>Cr Belsham: Does the quote include correcting the drainage? Yes, and this would stop the current damage from reoccurring.</p> <p>Cr Peke-Mason: Do you own or lease the building/land? The property is leased from the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>Cr Gordon: Is there no private land adjacent to the site that could be used for a driveway? No.</p> <p>Cr Harris: Is there a quick fix? No, the drainage issues would not make a quick fix adequate.</p> <p>Cr Rainey: Does the Association upkeep any other driveways? No. There is no road maintenance undertaken by the Association at any of its other kindergarten sites; there is some car parking maintenance undertaken, if the car park is purely for the use of the kindergarten.</p>

Hearings Friday 8 May 2015

<b>Submitter's name</b>	<b>Submitter's organisation / affiliation (if any)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Summary of key questions posed by Elected Members and responses.</b>
			Cr Peke-Mason: What is the current role for the kindergarten? 65. *Any information held by Council on this issue to be distributed to Councillors.

Hearings Closed – 11.59 am