



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2026
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Membership: Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mr David Christison
Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mrs Jennifer Greener
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Mr Damian Turner – Steele
Mr David Woodbridge
Ms Philippa Hancock
Mr David Stantiall
Mr Evan McIntyre
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr John Hainsworth (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson (Ex-Officio)

Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided¹.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 23 November 22) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 917), or via email

kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz

¹ Appended to the Delegations Register

Notice is hereby given that a Marton Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 6.00pm.

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AGENDA

ITEM 6.1

1 Welcome

Members are invited to provide a brief introduction of themselves, along with what their anticipations are as a Committee member and what they hope the Committee will achieve during the 2025-28 triennium.

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

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

6 Reports for Decision

6.1 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair - Marton Community Committee

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Committee needs to elect its Chair for the Marton Community Committee for the 2025 – 28 triennium.

2. Election of Chair

- 2.1 Members are asked to nominate and an elect a Chair from the current membership.
- 2.2 Clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, which relates to voting systems for certain appointments (including the election or appointment of the deputy mayor, the election or appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson of a committee, and the election or appointment of a representative of the local authority), states that:
 - (2) ... a local authority or a committee (if the local authority has so directed) must determine by resolution that a person be elected or appointed by using one of the following systems of voting:—
 - (a) the voting system in subclause (3) ("system A");
 - (b) the voting system in subclause (4) ("system B").
 - (3) **System A—**
 - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and
 - (b) has the following characteristics:—
 - (i) there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and
 - (ii) if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
 - (iii) if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
 - (iv) in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
 - (4) **System B—**
 - (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
 - (b) has the following characteristics:

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- (i) there is only 1 round of voting; and
- (ii) if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

2.3 Once the voting is complete the Mayor or Ward Councillor vacates the chair.

3. Election of Deputy Chair

3.1 Members are asked to nominate and an elect a Deputy Chair from the current membership, using the voting system adopted as part of the previous item (Election of Chair).

Recommendation 1

That the Marton Community Committee, for the purpose of electing or appointing persons under Clause 25, adopt either System A, or System B.

Recommendation 2

That _____ be appointed Chair of the Marton Community Committee.

Recommendation 3

That _____ be appointed Deputy Chair of the Marton Community Committee.

7 Reports for Information

7.1 Guidance and Terms of Reference - Marton Community Committee

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Purpose of the Community Committee

- 1.1 The purpose of Community Committees is to provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community, and provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- 1.2 Community Committees are also charged with the delegated authority for the annual allocation defined small local works also referred to as the 'Small Projects Grant'.
- 1.3 Community Committees also help to ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure in the appropriate manner, through promoting the use of the Request for Service procedure and advising community members on how to use the Request for Service procedure.
- 1.4 It is not the role of the Committee to provide details of a Request for Service through their minutes; this needs to be done through direct contact with the Council office on 0800 422522 or through the 'Report it' section of the Council website.
- 1.5 Community Committees are to be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1 Committees have Terms of Reference which guides their meetings and purpose which is attached. These Terms of Reference have been updated as of the 12 February Council Meeting.
- 2.2 Committees will generally follow the Terms of Reference as listed below:
 - The term of membership of each Committee shall generally coincide with Local Government term of office, i.e. three years. The Committees shall be disestablished at each triennial election, the same as all other Committees of Council.
 - Each Committee will have power to co-opt other members, either from the public generally or representatives of specific community interest groups provide the maximum number of members is not exceeded.
 - One/Two liaison Councillor(s) is/are to be appointed by the Council to serve on each Committee, in order to provide a formal link with the Council at an elected member level. The quorum of a meeting must include at least one member of the local Authority.
 - Committees will determine their meeting frequency, with the option of holding informal workshop sessions if they choose.

3. Role of the Chairperson

- 3.1 The Chairperson of a Community Committee is elected at the first meeting of the triennium. If requested, Council will arrange training for the Chair on Chairing meetings and meeting procedures.
- 3.2 It is the role of the Chairperson to ensure that meetings are productive and correct processes are followed. This includes verifying that a quorum exists at the start of each meeting and is maintained throughout.
- 3.3 The Chairperson has the right, through a report, to direct the attention of a meeting to any matter which is on the agenda or which falls within the responsibilities of that meeting.
- 3.4 Community Committees provide a link between Council and the community, and it is the Chairperson's role to ensure that the issues facing the community are brought to Council's attention through the correct avenues.
- 3.5 Should the Chairperson wish to include an item in the agenda, it is to be sent to the Governance Advisor not less than two weeks prior to the meeting.
- 3.6 Should a committee member or a member of the community wish to include an item in the agenda, this is to be discussed first with the Chairperson.

4. Role of Committee Member

- 4.1 The role of a committee member is to engage in productive discussion during meetings and act as a liaison for the rest of the community with Council.
- 4.2 Committee members should bring to the Chairperson's attention any issues identified through the community that should be discussed at a committee meeting and potentially referred onto Council for further discussion.

5. Council support

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of Council to produce and distribute the Committee Order Paper. The Order Papers for Council and all Committees and Boards are uploaded to the Council website www.rangitikei.govt.nz and are available for the public to read at all Council offices and libraries.
- 5.2 Standing orders require that the Order Paper be sent to each member of a committee at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting. This may be by electronic means.
- 5.3 Questions relating to the agenda may be asked of staff at the meeting.
- 5.4 The minutes of the meeting will be taken by the Committee Support Officer.
- 5.5 Should the Chair wish to follow up on any undertaking by Council staff in relation to a previous meeting, they need to do so with Council's Governance Advisor.

6. Committee recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee can make a formal request of Council with regard to an agenda item, by way of a resolved recommendation. A good recommendation should stand alone with all relevant information for action contained within its wording. For example:

That, the Marton Community Committee recommend to Council that the 50 km speed limit zone on Whanganui Road is extended to at least, 2 km west of the main entrance to Huntley School on Wanganui Road.

- 6.2 A Committee recommendation to Council will be put to their next business meeting by way of confirmation under the Council agenda item ‘Minutes and recommendations from Committees’ or, if deemed necessary by staff, within its own agenda item.
- 6.3 This could include more information such as process, cost association or research required along with a supporting or alternative recommendation from staff.

7. Small Projects Grant Scheme (as defined in the Terms of Reference within Council’s Delegations Register)

- 7.1 Community Committees are provided with an allocation for defined small local works. This grant is known as the Small Projects Grant Scheme and is funded through rates on a \$1 per rateable property basis. Committees are given an annual allocation and can carry-over up to 100% of that year’s allocation to the following year, but no more than that.
- 7.2 The objective of the Scheme is to allow Community Committees to fund purchases of small items or additional services which are not included in Council’s operating budgets and which will benefit the local community. Examples would be signage, park furniture, plants, paint, a leaflet or other publication or an event, including implementing community-led place-making initiatives.
- 7.3 Proposed expenditure must be approved –
 - by resolution at a publicly notified meeting (and at a time when the public is not excluded from proceedings).
- 7.4 Where the proposed expenditure will be paid to a community organisation, Council’s reporting requirements for its Community Initiatives Fund must be met.
- 7.5 The delegation does not extend to proposed expenditure which –
 - provides training or conference attendance for one or more members, or
 - constitutes an additional payment to an individual or organisation for goods or services subject to a contract with the Council, or
 - exceeds the annual allocation (including any carry-forward amount).
 Any such proposal must be referred to Council for decision.
- 7.6 A proposal for any forward-funding of works (using funding from the next financial year) would require approval from Council.

8. Standing Orders for 2025/28 Triennium

- 8.1 Standing Orders are attached under separate cover for the committee’s information.

Attachments:

- 1. **Terms of Reference - Marton Community Committee** [↓](#)
- 2. **Rangitikei District Council Standing Orders 2025-28 (under separate cover)**

Recommendation

That the report Guidance and Terms of Reference – Marton Community Committee be received.

Marton Community Committee

Terms of Reference

As at February 2026

Elected Members	One councillor determined by Council His Worship the Mayor as ex officio
External Members	Minimum of four and maximum of ten people with an interest in the Marton Community (excluding the councillor and service club representatives) One member appointed by Marton Lions Club (optional) One member appointed by Marton Rotary Club (optional)
Chair	To be elected by the members of the committee, all members eligible
Meeting frequency	Every two months
Reports to	Council

Purpose

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the Marton community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council’s consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation of \$3,500 (Plus inflation from 2025/26 financial year) for “defined small local works” in line with the guidelines.
- To help to ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council’s attention through the Request for Service procedure in the appropriate manner through promoting the use of the Request for Service procedure and advising community members on how to use the Request for Service procedure.

Terms of Reference (delegations)

- Authority to approve expenditure of the Small Projects Fund.
- Provide recommendations to Council on matters of relevance to the Marton community.

Process for appointment of external members

The Council will call nominations to the Marton Community Committee following committee re-establishment after the triennial election.

The nomination period will be a minimum of 20 working days.

Where fewer than four nominations are received by the closing date, the Council will issue a further public notice to seek additional nominations for a period of a minimum of 10 working days. If there are insufficient nominations after the further public notice, the Marton Community Committee will be deemed as unformed until the time there is enough interest.

Where more than ten nominations are received, Council will conduct an election at a public meeting by secret ballot.

A minimum of ten eligible voters are required to be present at any public meeting called to elect members to form the Marton Community Committee. Those eligible to vote must be enrolled on the most recent electoral roll and live the Marton Community Committee area.

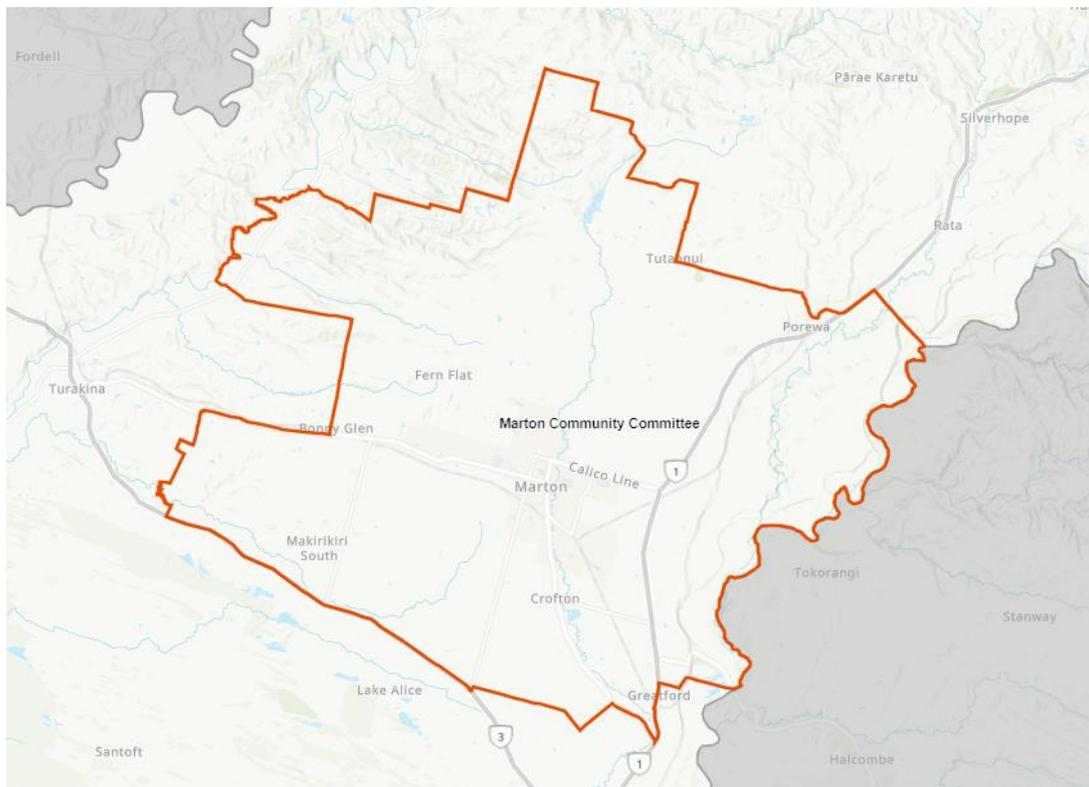
Nominators (and voters, should that prove necessary) for the Committee should reside within the Marton Community Committee Area.

Members are not required to reside within the Marton Community Committee area, but should have an interest in the area.

The membership will be notified on Council's website.

The Marton Community Committee will have power to co-opt other members, either from the public generally or representatives of specific community interest groups provide the maximum number of members is not exceeded.

In accordance with Schedule 7, Clause 30(7) of the Local Government Act 2002, the Committee will be discharged at the end of the triennium.



Small Projects Fund

The Committee holds delegated authority to allocate the annual Small Projects Fund. Eligible uses may include minor improvements such as:

- Small beautification works.
- Minor repairs or enhancements to public spaces.
- Supporting community groups with events or projects

All decisions to allocate funds must be made through a formal Committee resolution, with a record of the purpose and amount allocated included in the minutes.

It is noted that while the majority of grants may be provided within the Committee’s area, if there are projects of interest outside the Marton Community Committee area (but within the Rangitikei District boundaries), the Committee has discretion to approve funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

Committee Members

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings and participate constructively.
- Represent the interests of the whole Marton community.
- Declare any conflicts of interest.
- Support and uphold the Committee's decisions.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for:

- Chairing the Committee meeting in accordance with Standing Orders.
- Representing the Committee to a high standard.
- Promoting and supporting good governance of the Committee.
- Ensuring all members have the opportunity to contribute to the meeting.
- Providing leadership to the Committee in helping to form consensus that is representative of the Marton community.
- Acting as the primary point of contact for the Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer.

Reporting and Accountability

In July each year, the Committee will provide Council with a short summary outlining:

- Highlights and achievements.
- Support provided for Council consultations and communication of local issues.
- Funding allocations for small works.
- Recommendations or priorities for the coming year.

The Governance Advisor and the Committee Support Officer will provide support to the Marton Community Committee to complete the accountability reporting.

Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

Members must act in accordance with the Community Committee Code of Conduct

Any conflict of interest must be declared and recorded.

Members with a conflict must abstain from related decisions unless otherwise agreed by the Committee.

Secretariat support

Council will produce and distribute the Committee Order Paper. The Order Papers are uploaded to the Council website www.rangitikei.govt.nz and are available for the public to read at all Council offices and libraries.

The Order Paper will be sent to each committee member by electronic means at least two clear working days before the day of the meeting (in accordance with standing orders).

If requested, Council will consider providing staff for secretarial support on the basis that frequency of meetings being normally not more than every second month, and that the meetings start time are negotiated with Council and finish formally within two hours.

7.2 Mayor's Report - February 2026

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good morning

With the Government introducing new legislation just prior to Christmas with submissions due now, the focus by Council staff has been to provide Councillors with draft submissions to consider. I thank staff for their time and the way they have worked with other councils to collaboratively prepare option reports. Council considered submissions at the Policy/Planning Committee working group session recently and they will be available through the Council website once lodged.

Council is also progressing work on its urban growth plan change, which will come to council at the end of February to adopt for public notification. The public notification process will mean everyone that has an interest can put in a submission on the proposal. This has been a huge volume of work for our Strategy Manager and I thank her for her outstanding work to date. The plan change sets the district up to future proof residential land supply to provide for long term growth in the south of the district. The process hasn't been without its challenges, with the project halted midway through the year due to the Government's plan stop, and then exempted to continue in December that year. This is just the beginning of the formal plan change process, with significant work to come with uncertainty around how many submissions we might receive and the ongoing challenge of RMA reform.

1. **The RMA (Resource Management Act)** is proposed to be replaced by two separate Acts – The Planning Act and The Natural Environment Act. The most telling is the Planning Act which will result over time in –
 - i) Fewer plans and regional spatial planning
 - ii) Standardised consents in many cases
 - iii) Limitations on appeals and Iwi involvement

Along with the proposal to Simplify Local Government, these Acts set the pathway for aggregation of councils, removing regional councils and a potential timeline for regional spatial planning, regional roading decisions and the loss of local voice for the Rangitikei.

So why would the Government progress this? There are several drivers for these changes -

- The existing RMA is flawed - decisions take too long and are too expensive to process.
- The national crown debt of around \$180b is sitting now in excess of 40% of our GDP, so productivity and efficiency gains must be made.

2. Our submissions also cover the impending **Rates Capping legislation** and the relevant points are –
 - i) Government will impose a maximum rate increase based on the use of a formula of economic indicators. At this stage the Government is suggesting this range could be of between 2 and 4%, starting in 2027 with full implementation in 2029. The range would be reviewed every three years.

- ii) There will be several exemptions to the proposal so parts of the rates covering new housing and three waters can be in excess of 4% and there is a variation process if your district is hit by dramatic weather events.
- iii) The Government wants councils to work towards the lowering of costs now and our council is doing that work now for the coming Annual Plan and the future Long Term Plan.
- iv) Our submission to Government opposes the Bill, while we absolutely focus on cost savings and our submission is based on -
 - Roading is 40% of our operational spend and roading cost increase are well over 4% per year.
 - Government has asked us to take on a number of other tasks and new structures and are charging us to do so by way of levies.
 - Our cost for things like electricity and insurance are increasing far faster than 4% a year.
 - The council will comply with the legislation when it is put in place – it will be law. But to do so there will be pressure to –
 - a) Charge higher fees
 - b) Reduce some services
 - c) Search council systems to reduce costs.

3. As has been reported earlier, Council has formed a new three waters entity called Central Districts Water (CDW) in collaboration with Horowhenua District Council and Palmerston North City Council. This new entity will provide drinking water, wastewater services and stormwater control starting 2027, replacing our council’s function.

- Our council control will be having 3 representatives - 2 councillors (proposed to be Mayor and Deputy Mayor plus Councillor Dalgety as the alternate) and 1 Iwi representative (plus alternate) on the Shareholders Committee, a process mirrored by Palmerston North and Horowhenua.
- The role of the Shareholders Committee will be to –
 - a) Appoint directors of the new company
 - b) Have input into strategy/costings
 - c) Have an appraisal function.
- The transition to CDW is on track with appointments due soon and Council will work on our Long Term Plans to implement the changes needed.

I urge you to look at our full Council submissions to understand the changes and challenges we face.

4. As always the new year for Council is about events. We've recently hosted the Shearing Sports in Taihape, the Turakina Highland Games, Kiwiburn and the Marton Country Music Festival.

Upcoming events include -

- Taihape Show Jumping - 7-8 February
- Marton Shearing Sports - 7 February at Memorial Hall
- Fest a Bull at Te Matapihi/Bulls - 28 February

Over the weekend Suze Redmayne, MP for the Rangitikei, and I both attended the Highland Games in Turakina and the opening of the third bridge in the Hautapu River Park Project in Taihape (now completed courtesy of JBS Dudding Trust funding). I look forward to the completion of the last two bridges in the project and the chance to celebrate the achievements of the full team in Taihape.

Funding of these events and community initiatives is assisted by Council. The next round of future funding closes on 31 March and details are available on Council's website.

5. I would like to take this time to congratulate Helen Cooper, who received a King's Service Medal in the New Year Honours for her service to the Bulls community. Helen has called Bulls home for 43 years, and her belief that if you live in a community, you support it, is a wonderful example to us all. I also congratulate John Eaden on receiving a King's Service Medal for services to Art, particularly his more than 45 years of contribution to Creative Communities, along with his mentoring of young and emerging artists and people with disabilities. John has recently relocated to the Rangitikei and we look forward to getting to know him and his work more.
6. Negotiations over the Christmas break have seen the extension of the log train contract where up to 1000 tonne of logs per day will be transported by rail to the Ports of Napier. The saving of damage to our roads, particularly the "Gentle Annie" is immense and I thank the parties for this approach. The challenge will be to work with KiwiRail and NZTA to best understand the cost to NZ Inc with regards rail versus road. This discussion is not unique to us, regional rail is important and the costs are, in my opinion, poorly understood.

While on all things rail, the vandalism to the Marton Railway Station and elsewhere in our district is sad. Council cannot justify contributing to a rebuild of the Marton Railway Station and to be honest the decision by KiwiRail to demolish the building is justified. At present it is and has been a poor gateway to our district and an embarrassment and without a future need at any scale a rebuild would only continue to attract further graffiti. We can only hope that Marton can re-find its place as the Lower North Island Central Rail Hub for both passenger and freight.

7. Council has a Standing Committee called the Risk/Assurance Committee, a committee that has the ability to challenge Council on both practices and risk. As such there is the need for independent oversight by way of an Independent Chair. The Council went to market seeking applications for this role and the application process is now closed, resulting in 8 applications which will be reviewed, shortlisted and interviewed by myself the Group Manager of Council Corporate Services, with a goal to appoint at the next Council meeting.

This triennium Council has also established the Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee. I have used by delegation as Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act

to appoint members of this committee as Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson, Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Cr John Hainsworth and Cr Fi Dalgety and myself as Mayor.

8. This year the JBS Dudding Trust has granted in excess of \$1m to recipients that either provide services to, or are based solely within the Rangitīkei. Without the Dudding Trust the Rangitīkei would be a much, much poorer place. These grants literally enable things to happen. Major recipients this year have been the Taihape Papakai Bridges Project, enabling the completion of the last 3 bridges, the Santoft Domain Committee, the Te Araroa Trail Walkway and the B&C Dam Restoration Projects in Marton. These effectively provide a great geographic spread of funding throughout the Rangitīkei. There were literally hundreds of other smaller grants made enabling services to continue to be provided throughout our district. I thank John Dudding for his foresight and the perpetual gift that he keeps on giving and the Public Trust for the administration of the service.
9. I want to express Council’s sincere condolences to the whānau and loved ones of the road worker who was tragically killed on the Taihape-Napier Road last month. Any loss of life on our roads is felt deeply across our communities. Rangitīkei has some of the most challenging roads in the country and the safety of people working on and around them must always remain paramount.
10. Last month I was honoured to attend the Rātana celebrations at Rātana Pā. It was a privilege to stand on the paepae, to listen and to acknowledge the shared whakapapa and values that shape both our district and our country. I include a copy of my speech -

*“Matua, Tama,
Wairua tapu
me ngā
Anahera pono
me ta Māngai hei
tautoko mai,
aianei,
ake nei,
ae.*

I acknowledge our CE Carol Gordon and Councillors with me today, we have five new Councillors, most of whom will not have been aware of the significance of the birthday of TW Ratana and the incredible deeds and legacy that he left. For them it is a learning experience and a journey that I started on many years ago. We will work with you to guide that journey.

Often our Church Ministers make reference “that we live in uncertain times”. We surely do. Last year I thanked the paepae and Morehu for the respect and friendship I have been accorded at Ratana, believing it may have been my last opportunity to do so. That changed in October, so sorry you’re stuck with me for another 3 years!

Equally with the Three Water reforms by Government, we were to be in marriage with Whanganui and Ruapehu as water buddies in a new entity. That changed and we now sit in the new entity of Central Districts Water with Palmerston North and Horowhenua. However we will continue to work closely with Whanganui in the future.

As part of the water reforms Government has lowered the environmental thresholds for waste water disposal allowing an easier pathway in consenting which may return waste to our waterways. Yes, potentially those reforms will save the country millions but as decision-makers we must realise that disposal of waste to land was a decision to make because it was the right thing to do. Lake Waipu needs to be clean.

However, I congratulate the Government ministers Shayne Jones and Tama Potaka who have granted \$10m to do the urgent building work required on the Manuao. I understand the consents have been lodged and council will work with Ratana to make it happen.

At the last election we lost Māori Wards for the Rangitikei referendum. In my naiveite I expected them to be retained – the value that Councillors Coral Raukawa and Piki Te Ora Hiroa bring to our Council is incredible. I feel that I have let them and you down. While I stated that I publicly supported Māori Wards I should have done more to outline why and push for their retention.

Ratana is an remarkable community and is continuing to grow - the Wharekura now has a roll of 60 students, primary and secondary and I look further to working further with Whaea Candace Hemi Mason.

Council appreciates the support and conversations we have with the Community Board chaired by Charlie Mete.

My associations and friendships with Ratana are extremely important to me and it is a privilege to serve here

Tēna koutou katoa”

Mayor’s Engagements

Due to the new configuration of Council meetings that now fall in the middle of each month, the Mayor’s Engagements will be listed following this cycle.

January 2026

6	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
15	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with Taihape ratepayer
16	Attended monthly Economic Development meeting with staff Attended monthly meeting with Police Attended Change of Command Ceremony at NZDF Base Ohakea
20	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended site visit to Kiwiburn

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	Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
21	Attended monthly comms team meeting with staff
22	Attended Ratana 25 th celebrations
23	Attended Ratana 25 th celebrations
24	Attended Ratana 25 th celebrations
25	Attended Ratana 25 th celebrations
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	Attended Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
28	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Community Volunteer Awards Panel Meeting Attended January BA5 Event in Bulls
29	Attended Council Workshop
30	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group online meeting Attended CDW CCO online meeting regarding directorship Attended Project Oversight Group Central Districts Water online meeting
31	Attended the Turakina Caledonian Games

February 2026

2	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayor’s Briefing before Council with staff Attended meeting with Scotts Ferry Community members Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
3	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Co-Chair meeting Attended Manfeild Park Trust Special General Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Governors Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting
5	Attended Zone 3 Online Hui Attended meeting with Mokai Patea iwi re landlocked land CDW Independent Chair interviews
9	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee meeting Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Hunterville Community Committee Meeting

10	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Komiti Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended Ratana Community Board Meeting
11	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
12	Attended Council Meeting and Council Workshop

Recommendation

That the Mayor’s Report – February 2026 be received.

7.3 Mayor's Report - December 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

Council is starting to wind down a little towards Christmas, however there is still so much happening and crucial decisions to be made. The new Councillors' commitment to workshops, training and meetings throughout the district has been incredible and I thank them.

Government continues to make many significant changes with the promise of more to come before Christmas. Cynically, I would suggest that the changes made before Christmas, especially for those that need consultation, is a deliberate ploy to put them out now so that the consultation period includes the holiday break. There are a number of things I wish to comment on and hopefully I will know more as legislation is being drafted allowing me to expand on later.

1. **Changes to Regional Councils** – for some time several Government ministers and officials including the Prime Minister have hinted about the need to look at Regional Councils with indications of possible changes. This is what I think we know at this stage –

- Minister Bishop has announced that Regional Council Governorship will be replaced by the Mayors in some form of regional body.
- This is not law yet and we have yet to see detail.
- Timeframe – the Minister has said that recently elected councillors to Regional Councils may not serve their entire time, so this appears to be fast-tracked.
- Regional Councils are a regulatory body covering such things as compliance to matters involving the environment, flood control, pest control, public transport, Regional Civil Defence functions and many other roles. Presumably all of these functions will move to the "Mayors" to govern but will remain in place.
- There are a number of Regional Councils facing court action and possible claims arising from such things as flood events etc. It would be concerning to me if the responsibility for these passes to ours and other councils.
- Staffing should remain however the Government has also suggested some of the changes should remove duplication, gain efficiencies and enable a faster track to consenting.
- This comes at a time when Councils are facing changes to many other reforms.

2 **Indications of other major reforms:**

- Local Water Done Well (LWDW) and the supporting of new regional entities. As I have reported several times, we are one of the new regional entities to deliver waste water services, water and storm water with Palmerston North City and Horowhenua District Councils. That work is on track but has significant work ahead over the Christmas period. The shareholders committee should be put in place by the three Councils over the next

few days and is highlighted within this Council meeting. The search for Board membership is in place now and should be finalised early next year.

- The reform of the RMA (Resource Management Act) is a process that is known but as a reminder, “The Government is reforming the RMA to make it easier, faster and simpler to get projects approved. The goals are to remove complexity, improve environmental protection and support housing and infrastructural growth”. The RMA will be replaced by two new acts, which concern land use planning and natural resource management with a focus on the enjoyment of private property rights. These acts include the standardisation of consenting approaches throughout the country and new regulatory bodies. Essentially development should be easier but with an aim to reduce costs, fast track consents and drive GDP growth.
- Government has announced the Local Government Systems Improvement Act. This bill seeks to return Local Government to limit Councils’ spending and rates to core services. There is more to this bill and the description of what are core services is not complete. For example, does Council have a responsibility for employment? Perhaps not under the bill but at the same time Government has asked Local Government through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs to find work for those on unemployment registers. There will also be, as part of the bill, a naming and shaming of Councils that are not performing.
- The Government has also signalled changes needed in roading with a move to regional roading entities.
- Government has too signalled the introduction of a rates pegging legislation which will limit the ability of rate increases by authorities in the future. Key points are –
 - i) Legislation is yet to be passed but it is indicated that it will apply from 2027/2029 on.
 - ii) The Minister for Local Government has said that although legislation will be from 2027 his expectation, and public demand, is that Councils should comply with this immediately, i.e. the Annual Plan for next year.
 - iii) Some sections of Local Government rates will be exempt, such as delivery of Three Waters services, which will mean that the picture is not quite clear yet where it will apply and hence the average increase right across all Council rates.
 - iv) The legislation will support a range of rate increases permitted, at present looking to be a band between 2-4% increases.
 - v) There will be an appeal process, for example a significant event such as Cyclone Gabrielle, but the threshold for appeal will be extremely high.
 - vi) The 2-4% range was selected by reference to the CPI (Price Index) sitting around 3.5%. I will note that roading cost increases which are the significant cost to our Council are well beyond that in recent years.
 - vii) Councillors and staff will continue to look to make rates affordable and will certainly look to comply. Inevitably the consequence may be increased charges and lower levels of service. This will be incredibly challenging for all Councils.

All of these reforms, in particular the Regional Council reforms, Water reforms and RMA will drive Councils towards amalgamation. Government has said that talks of possible Council amalgamations are not being forced but that is the likely outcome. Amalgamation will undoubtedly gain efficiency and the argument often repeated by Government that we have about 80 authorities for a small population while Japan has about 13? is valid. However, the outcome from amalgamation is loss of local voice.

3. **Roading** - as part of the induction for new Councillors, Council roading staff, Downer contractors, the Chief Executive and Elected Members took part in a road trip to look at significant roading issues in our district. With reduced funding available, maintenance of our roads is a serious challenge. In particular the Gentle Annie Road running between Taihape and Hastings needs significant reinstatement and resealing work over the summer amounting to around \$3.5m. This needed expenditure will limit spend on other required roading issues in the district. Much of the damage is associated with forestry cartage and I am in discussions with commercial interests and rail to see if I can review the log train contract due to expire at the end of January. I will report back on this later in the new year.

4. In August I received an email from Sandy Paterson, Company Sergeant Major of 2nd Workshop Company located in Linton, Palmerston North. Part of Sandy's job is taking care of the history of the unit and ensuring all traditions are carried out. Sandy informed me that the Corps of Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers currently hold the Freedom of the Borough for Taihape which allows them the honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough with drums beating, band playing, colours flying and swords drawn. It also imparts the honour of viewing and inspecting the Corps on the Mayor.

In 1997 the Royal New Zealand Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was disbanded, and all Maintenance Support trades were merged with those of Combat Drivers, Logistic Specialists, Movements Operators, and Caterers, forming the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Corps, RNZALR. The charter for the freedom of the borough of Taihape was not transferred to the RNZALR and the last parade was conducted in 1996 or 1997.

Sandy believes the 2nd Workshop Company, as part of 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion and the RNZALR is the best unit to transfer this charter to. They have strong ties with the community of Taihape, parading at ANZAC Day commemorations and engaging with the community through the local RSA.

With the above in mind, Sandy has requested if Council would consider transferring the charter for the freedom of the borough of Taihape to 2nd Workshop Company. This would formalise the relationship between us and allow the company to conduct a parade in Taihape either once a year or once every second-year dependant on the council's appetite for formal occasions.

I have attached a series of documents and photographs to this report.

5. **The Tornado** – earlier this month we had a localised tornado hit Dudding Lake. One caravan in particular was lifted into the air and dropped upside down with a person inside. He was very fortunate to escape with relatively minor issues. Other caravans were lifted, small buildings demolished and many trees uprooted or damaged. Power sources to the camp were also lost. Carol our Chief Executive has acted quickly and the camp was restored over a couple of days – many thanks go to staff, Lance and Tiff onsite and contractors who worked hard to reinstate. I have included some images to illustrate the damage.

6. Onto some great news –

- The Marton Op Shop is currently I think, at the time of writing this report, in the race to be called The Best Op Shop in the Country. Of course they are!! Voting will have closed on Saturday 13 December but I have looked at how I could promote this through Facebook before the deadline. The Op Shop is largely serviced by volunteers, donations and governed by church and service groups etc. The service the Op Shop provides is amazing, so please support them. Drop them a card to say Merry Christmas – it will be appreciated.
- The Tender Documents have been sent out for the roof replacement of the Marton Pool with expected decisions early in the new year. This is great news and a significant step forward. Yes, it will mean another summer without the pool and Council will see how we can support local Learn To Swim programmes etc.
- The next fortnight is full of local events such as Christmas Parades, Marton Market Day, school prizegivings and wind-ups and myself and Councillors will be at as many as possible. I understand the that the Op Shop is also looking to sell tickets to the Marton Christmas Community Lunch this year – I have yet to see details but of course I will look to support it this year.

Finally, in case I don't get a chance later – Councillors and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, travel safely.

Mayor's Engagements

December 2025

1	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Joint Iwi Waste Water Standards Hui</p> <p>Attended 3-CL Mayors/CEs meeting with Waikato/Hawkes Bay Councils to discuss water entities</p> <p>Attended Regional Mayors/CEs meeting</p> <p>Attended Mayoral Forum</p>
2	<p>Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
3	<p>Attended fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p>
4	<p>Attended Roding Control Authority Forum in Wellington</p>
5	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended MTFJ meeting with James Towers and Louise McCoard</p>

ITEM 7.3

	<p>Attended Standing Orders Training Workshop</p> <p>Attended meeting with Taihape Station Owners</p>
6	<p>Attended Marton Market Day</p> <p>Attended FENZ Gold Star Presentation to Chris Hope</p>
7	<p>Attended Otiwhiti Graduation Ceremony</p> <p>Attended RSA Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Attended Marton Christmas Parade</p>
8	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Meeting</p>
9	<p>Attended meeting with Robert Martin</p> <p>Attended MTFJ Mayor’s Update online meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
10	<p>Attended monthly Governor’s Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended Crown Response into Abuse in Care Team Webinar - Survivor Support and Recognition Fund for Unmarked Graves</p>
11	<p>Attended Council Induction and Workshop</p> <p>Attended Council Meeting</p>
12	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend monthly meeting with Police</p> <p>To attend Marton School Prizegiving</p> <p>To attend Council End of Year Function</p>
13	<p>To attend Taihape Christmas Parade</p> <p>To attend Bulls Community Christmas at the Domain</p>
15	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend MTFJ Governance Group online meeting</p>
16	<p>To attend Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs' fortnightly catch-up</p> <p>To attend Citizenship Ceremony</p> <p>To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>To attend Defence Hub End of Year Function</p>
17	<p>To attend fortnightly Marton Water Strategy meeting with staff</p>
18	<p>To attend Council Workshop</p>
19	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend CDW meeting in Palmerston North</p> <p>To attend staff End of Year function</p>
22	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p>
23	<p>To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
24	<p>To attend Hunterville Christmas Parade</p>

25	To attend Marton Community Christmas Lunch
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Attachments:

1. Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - letter of request [↓](#)
2. Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - letter from Buckingham Palace [↓](#)
3. Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - historical photographs [↓](#)
4. Freedom of the Borough of Taihape - Charter [↓](#)
5. Dudding Lake Pic 1 [↓](#)
6. Dudding Lake Pic 2 [↓](#)
7. Dudding Lake Pic 3 [↓](#)
8. Dudding Lake Pic 4 [↓](#)
9. Dudding Lake Pic 5 [↓](#)
10. Dudding Lake Pic 6 [↓](#)
11. Dudding Lake Pic 7 [↓](#)
12. Dudding Lake Pic 8 [↓](#)
13. Dudding Lake Pic 9 [↓](#)
14. Dudding Lake Pic 10 [↓](#)
15. Dudding Lake Pic 11 [↓](#)
16. Dudding Lake Pic 12 [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the Mayor’s Report – December 2025 be received.



Farrier Lines
 Building D76
 Linton Military Camp
 Palmerston north, 4830

From: Company Sergeant Major, 2nd Workshop Company.

19 November 2025

Rangitikei District Council
 Private Bag 1102
 Marton, 4741

Dear Members of the Rangitikei District Council

Reconfirmation of the Freedom of the Borough Charter for Taihape

In 1973, the Royal New Zealand Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RNZEME) was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Taihape, with the Corps first exercising this honour during a parade on 14 December 1973.

Following the amalgamation of RNZEME into the Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment (RNZALR) and the restructuring of local governance—where Taihape Borough became part of the Rangitikei District Council—the charter has not been exercised since approximately 1996.

2nd Workshop Company (2 WKSP Coy), based in Linton, recently engaged with Rangitikei District Council to clarify the status of this historic charter. Having not been exercised for nearly 30 years, we see this as an opportunity to reaffirm the enduring relationship between the New Zealand Army and the Rangitikei District, and to honour the historical significance of this tradition.

Permission is being sought from the Chief of Army for approval to reconfirm the Freedom of the Borough of Taihape and this letters serves to request the same from Rangitikei District Council. On approval planning can begin on the formal ceremony and details of the charter.

With the council’s permission, the suggested form of resolution to be passed by the council, as outlined in the NZ Army publication NZ P6A, NZ Army Ceremonial, would look like the below.

“That in appreciation of the honourable traditions of the Second Workshop Company and recognition of its long and intimate association with the Borough of Taihape the Council confer upon the Second Workshop Company the rights, privilege, and honour of marching through the streets of Taihape on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying ; that the Corporate Seal be affixed to the necessary Deed of Grant and that the name of the second Workshop Company be inscribed on a panel in the Town Hall.”

This reference also contains the format for the Charter outlined below.

(Crest)

Community of Taihape
Charter
Second Workshop Company

WHEREAS the Mayor, Councillors, and Citizens of Taihape being sensible of the honourable record and traditions of the Second Workshop Company and being desirous of recognising, cementing, and fostering the intimate association which is now and has for so long been enjoyed between the City and the Company in which so many of its citizens have been proud to serve.

NOW THEREFORE the Mayor and Councillors of the Rangitikei District Council, on behalf of the borough of Taihape, do hereby confer upon the said Second Workshop Company the right and privilege, without further permission being obtained, of marching (when such processions are approved) with drums beating, band playing, colours flying, bayonets fixed, and swords drawn, through the streets of the Town of Taihape

AND

DO HEREBY accept the honour of viewing the Second Workshop Company or part thereof, when approved, for the purpose of an inspection by His/Her Worship the Mayor

AND

DO HEREBY accept the further honour of having an officer of the said Company in uniform in attendance upon His/Her Worship the Mayor on important official occasions in Taihape.

The Common Seal of the Body)
Corporate called the Mayor,)
Councillors, and Citizens of)
the *City of Blanktown* was) Mayor
hereto affixed pursuant to a)
resolution of the said) Town Clerk
Council this)
day of20.....)
in the presence of -

I attach at enclosure 1. A photo of the charter of Foxton as an example.

On approval from the Rangitikei District Council and the Chief of Army, 2nd Workshop Company will engage with the council in order to begin planning of the formal ceremony to bestow the charter.

A rough outline would look like 2nd Workshop Company marching through the main road of Taihape to the front of the town hall. Once in place the Company will give a general salute then be inspected by the Mayor and a senior representative of the NZ Army. On completion of the inspection the mayor will ask 2nd Workshop to accept the charter conferring on it the honour of freedom of entry into the borough on ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying. The charter will then be read. The Company will once again give a general salute then march off. The ceremony will take less than half an hour.

On approval of the above 2nd Workshop Company look forward to engaging with the council and members of the community of Taihape and reaffirming our relationship with the community.

Kind regards

Sandy Paterson Digitally signed by Sandy Paterson
Date: 2025.11.26 12:08:27 +13'00'

SANDY PATERSON
Warrant Officer Class Two
Company Sergeant Major



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I am delighted to hear that the relationships between the Corps and the citizens of Taihape are so good that they are to receive formal recognition in the offer of the Freedom of the Borough.

I send my warmest congratulations to the Corps of Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and I hope it will be a very happy occasion for the Corps and for the citizens of Taihape.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip', is written in a cursive style.

1973.

ITEM 8.3 ATTACHMENT 3



FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH
TAIHAPE
6 December 1985

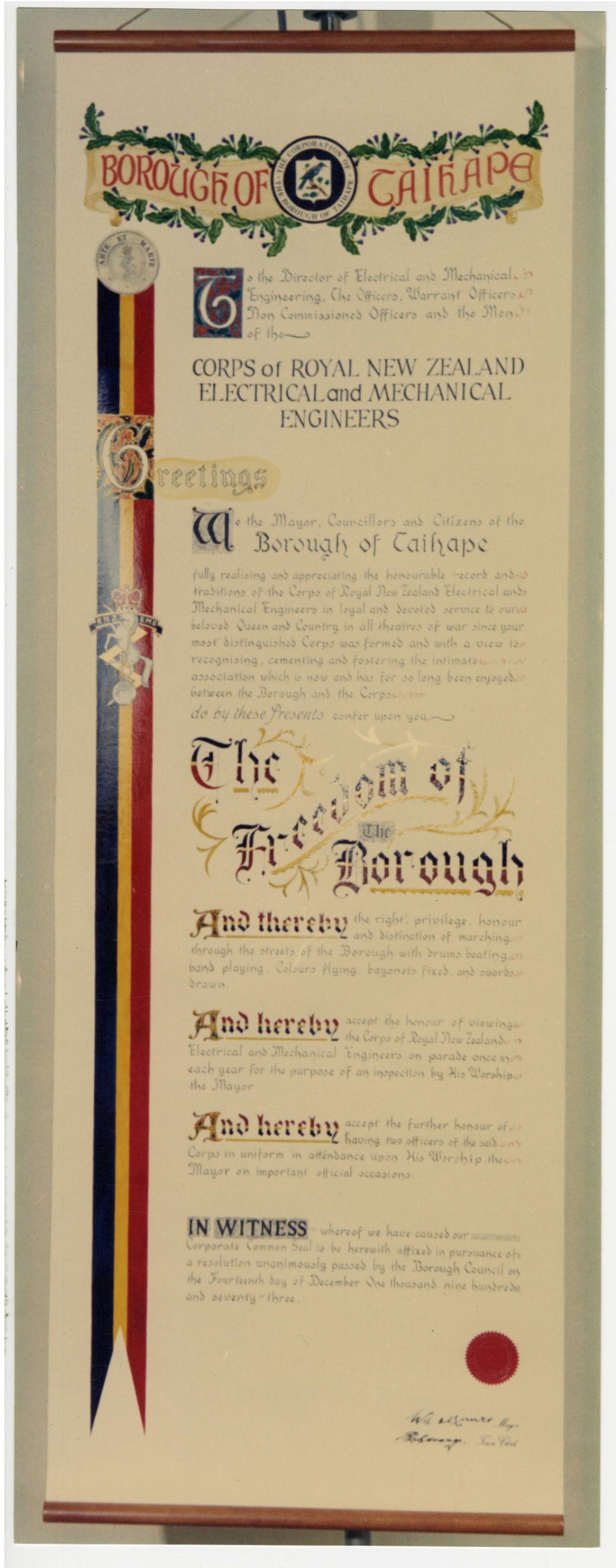


PARADE COMMANDER: MAJ D.J. MOWAT
2IC: CAPT H.P. SEBBORN
RSM: WDI A.R. BAKER

CHARTER BEARER: 2LT M.T. WILLIAMS
ESCORTS: WDI C.P. DAVIS
WDI M. ALTY

PLATOON COMMANDERS: 2LT A.E. COE
2LT A.D. McLEAN
2LT F.J. RZOSKA

MARIA GALLERY
PHONE 58-381
36 TAUPO QUAY
WANGANUI.



ITEM 8.3
ATTACHMENT 5





ITEM 8.3
ATTACHMENT 7





ITEM 8.3
ATTACHMENT 9





ITEM 8.3 ATTACHMENT 11





ITEM 8.3 ATTACHMENT 13





ITEM 8.3 ATTACHMENT 15





7.4 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2026**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Allocation**

1.1 The yearly allocation of the 2025/26 Small Projects Fund for the Marton Community Committee is \$3,500. CPI is still to be added.

2. Breakdown

2.1 The committee paid Te Kai Whaka Ora – Marton Community Trust by grants of \$1,000.00

2.2 The committee paid Marton Budget Services \$400.00

2.3 Remaining funds are \$2,100.

Recommendation

That the report Small Projects Fund Update – February 2026 be received.

7.5 Project Update Report - January 2026

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council staff.
- 1.2 These updates are provided in the Council order paper and are copied here for the Marton Community Committee's information.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects

Wastewater Projects

3. Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)

- 3.1 At a workshop in late September 2025 the Project Team refined the shortlist options down to the following. The 100% Land Disposal options (Options 1 and 2) were eliminated from the process due to affordability considerations.
 - Option 3 - Combined discharge to land and river. - This is still ~\$40M more expensive than all other remaining options.
 - Option 4 - 100% Discharge to river – standards as per the draft Wastewater Discharge standards (moderate dilution environment).
 - Option 5 - 100% Discharge to river – discharge requirements as per the Horizon One Plan (i.e. the treatment assumptions in the long list options report).
 - Option 6 – Option 4 with an I/I reduction program.
 - Option 7 – a full new mechanical plant not requiring the existing oxidation ponds for treatment capability.
- 3.2 Options 4, 5, 6 and 7 all have similar capex estimates of just under \$50m. These are likely to be refined downwards given recent sampling of septage at the inlet of the Marton plant has confirmed that BOD loadings are significantly less than assumed from sampling done previously.
- 3.3 A Design Report on each of these Options has been presented to the project team in August and has been refined through an iterative process of value engineering.
- 3.4 The publication of the new Wastewater Discharge Standards by regulator Taumata Arowai was carried out in December. Remaining options are being refined incorporating the contents of the Regulations contained in these Standards.
- 3.5 The Regulations require RDC to undertake a risk assessment of algal growth in the river at the Bulls discharge site. This review is now underway and will be completed by the end of April.
- 3.6 Updated capital costs for the project are likely to be available by early June.
- 3.7 Based on the newly revised project program, identification of a preferred option is programmed for the end of June, to be ratified at the Council's meeting in July.

- 3.8 Consent lodgement is now targeted for the end of October/early November.
- 3.9 At a meeting with Horizons Regional Council (HRC) on 10/12/25 it was identified and acknowledged by HRC that the time limit of 30/06/26 for consent lodgement would need to be extended to meet the requirements of the new Regulations. At the next meeting with HRC now planned for February 9, they will be alerted to the new program and its planned consent lodgement date of early November.
- 3.10 Some additional investigative works are now also underway (including some monitoring bores to assess likely current pond leakage).

Water Projects

4. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Gwilym van Hoffen)

- 4.1 Testing of the pilot nanofiltration test plant at the Reservoir Bore site is now complete and the GFS test rig was demobilised from the reservoir site in mid-December. We have collected good data on the performance of the proposed pre-treatment rapid biological sand filter (RBDF), which will remove iron, manganese and ammonia from the bore water, and the direct nano-filtration (dNF) membrane unit, which will remove hardness (CaCO₃).
- 4.2 A full analysis of the test results and findings of the trial investigations is being prepared by WSP engineers, as independent process engineers. A report summarizing the trial findings, updated cost estimates, and recommendations for next steps in the design process is expected towards the end of January.
- 4.3 The WSP report will enable RDC to objectively assess the efficacy and lifecycle costings of the proposed GFS treatment system, including further investigating the wash water disposal options, and reviewing the overall costs of producing water using the proposed GFS process (capital, operational, maintenance, and lifecycle renewal costs).
- 4.4 RDC staff are also investigating several short-medium term enhancements to improve the quality of Marton's drinking water in the meantime, whilst the design process is proceeding.
- 4.5 Staff are keeping the Marton community up to date with progress. Ongoing updates are being published to the council website and social media pages.

Community Facilities

5. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)

- 5.1 Developed designs for the EOC have been completed and the Architects have proceeded onto detailed design works. These designs are expected to be completed by March 2026.
- 5.2 Resource consent application for the EOC has been lodged.
- 5.3 Maycroft is working closely with Team Architects with the view of being able to present a construction cost estimate as soon as the detail designs are completed.

Marton offices:

- 5.4 Maycroft finalised the soil contamination management strategy for the site. The soil from the existing car park area at the back of the site shall be removed off-site and replaced with contaminated soil excavated from the central concrete area.

- 5.5 Concept floor plans were approved in Dec 2025, and Maycroft have moved onto the preliminary design development works. These are expected to be completed by March 2026 along with a confirmation of the construction cost estimate.

6. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation (Project Manager – Eswar Ganapathi)

- 6.1 A Request for Information (RFI) has been raised on the Consent application which is expected to be dealt with and closed off in early February, and the consent expected to be issued by mid-February 2026.
- 6.2 Staff engaged a QS to prepare a cost estimate for the work. The current cost estimate for the construction is \$4.9 million. The total project cost that includes all activities since the failure of the roof as well as items such as professional fees, site investigations, possible power supply upgrades, consents and on-site remedial works is estimated at \$6 million.
- 6.3 Tender submissions closed on Friday, 30 Jan 2026 with two compliant responses being received. The Tender Evaluation Team will complete their evaluations by early February with a final moderation session planned for mid-February 2026. A recommendation report is expected to be presented to Council at the 25 February Council meeting.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

8. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 8.1 No impacts on strategic risks

9. Strategic Alignment

- 9.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

10. Mana Whenua Implications

- 10.1 All mana whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

11. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 11.1 There is no climate change impact.

12. Statutory Implications

- 12.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

That the report Project Updates Report – January 2026 be received.

7.6 Funding Schemes Update - February 2026

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Overview

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
 - a. Community Initiatives Fund
 - b. Events Sponsorship Scheme
 - c. Creative Communities Scheme
 - d. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
 - Scotts Ferry Community Committee
 - Marton Returned Services Association (Incorporated)
 - Alzheimer’s Whanganui
 - Scout Association of New Zealand
 - The Parkinson’s New Zealand Charitable trust
 - Itty bitty kitty committee
 - Cancer Society of NZ Whanganui Rangitikei Waimarino Centre Inc
 - Taihape Art Club (Society)
 - Manawatu Multiple Sclerosis Society Incorporated
 - Marton & Surrounds ICT Hub Charitable Trust Board
 - Marton & District Historical Society Incorporated
- 2.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Decision was made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 11 September 25 to allocate the funding to the below groups:
 - Hunterville Huntaway Festival
 - Hunterville Squash Racquets Club Inc
 - Bulls & District Community Trust
 - Marton Country Music Festival
 - Marton Arts & Crafts Centre
 - Opaea Marae
 - Rangitikei Shearing Sports Inc
 - Taihape Dressage

- Taihape Area Show Jumping

3.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 31 March with the decision date the 30 April 26.

4. Creative Communities Scheme

4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

4.2 Creative NZ has allocated \$24,397.80 + GST to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Decisions for round one for 2025/26 were made on the 12 November 25 and below are the successful groups.

- RuapehuREAP - He Taonga Tuku Iho - Korowai Wānanga
- Bulls & District Community Trust - Bulls 148th Annual Rose Show
- Art4Arts Sake 2026
- Flynn's Celtic Strings
- Beautify Bulls - Bulls Rugby Club Mural
- Turakina Caledonian Society Incorporated

4.4 Round 2 2025/26 is now open and closes on 30 April with the decision date the 20 May 26.

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

5.3 The round will be opened 11 August 25 and will close 29 March 2026. Decision will be made by the Sport NZ Travel Committee in April 2026.

6. Further Information

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – February 2026 be received.

8 Meeting Closed.