

ORDER PAPER

POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 10 February 2022

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Chair: Cr Angus Gordon

Deputy Chair: Cr Tracey Hiroa

Membership: Cr Cath Ash
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Dave Wilson
Mr Chris Shenton (TRAK representative)
HWTM Andy Watson

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Notice is hereby given that a Policy/Planning Committee Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitikei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 1.00 pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

No 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 with as a late item at this meeting.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 09 December 2021 are attached.

Attachments

1. Policy/Planning Committee Meeting - 9 December 2021

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 09 December 2021, **[as amended/without amendment]**, be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 9 December 2021
Time: 1.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

Cr Angus Gordon
Cr Tracey Hiroa (*via Zoom*)
Cr Cath Ash (*via Zoom*)
Cr Nigel Belsham
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Gill Duncan (*via Zoom*)
Cr Richard Lambert (*via Zoom*)
Cr Waru Panapa
Cr Dave Wilson
HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

Mr Peter Beggs, Chief Executive
Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager – Democracy and Planning
Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager – Corporate Services
Ms Gaylene Prince, Group Manager – Community Services
Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager – People and Culture
Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner
Ms Nardia Gower, Manager – Community Development
Ms Jen Britton, Strategic Advisor – District Promotions
Mr Jaime Reibel, Strategic Advisor – Economic Development
Ms Kelly Widdowson, Strategic Advisor – Youth / Rangatahi
Ms Aly Thompson, Welcoming Communities Coordinator
Mr Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

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ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1

1 Welcome

The meeting opened at 1.00 pm.

2 Apologies

Nil.

3 Public Forum

No public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

No changes.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/028

That the minutes of the Policy/Planning Committee meeting held on 14 October 2021, without amendment, be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr N Belsham/Cr W Panapa. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings**7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings**

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that the external funding for the Swim For All programme only subsidises the cost of transportation to the pool.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/029

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings' be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr D Wilson. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - December 2021

Taken as read.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/030

That the Chair's Report – December 2021 be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr N Belsham. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Welcoming Communities Update - November 2021

Ms Thompson advised that the external funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment is for \$50,000 per year, for three years. An additional \$10,000 of funding has been received from Immigration NZ.

In response to a query, Ms Thompson advised that there are 15 other councils taking part in the Welcoming Communities programme, led by Immigration NZ.

Ms Thompson will approach the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the future to seek their input and/or funding assistance.

In response to a query about whether Council's involvement in this programme will make it easier for skilled overseas workers to move to the district, Ms Thompson advised that she was unsure but this is a subject that she has raised with Immigration NZ.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/031

That the report 'Welcoming Communities Update - November 2021' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr W Panapa. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/032

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that:

- All elected members sign the Welcoming Communities Statement of Commitment for Rangitikei.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Democracy & Planning Group - Operational Update

The Committee discussed recent issues around freedom camping in the district. The Mayor noted that this is a particular issue that has arisen in Bulls recently. The Committee agreed to wait for Central Government to make their position clear with legislation around freedom camping before staff focus on this issue.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/033

That the report 'Democracy & Planning Group – Operational Update' be received.

Cr A Gordon/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

10.2 Community Development Update - October and November 2021

Ms Gower noted that the libraries have seen a lot of requests from people for assistance with getting their vaccine certificates.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/034

That the report 'Community Development Update - October and November 2021' be received.

HWTM A Watson/Cr W Panapa. Carried

10.3 MoU Partner Organisations Update - December 2021

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that funding for the MOU for Partner Organisations is reviewed via the Long Term Plan, and deliverables are reviewed yearly. Should the Harvest Fair event be cancelled, staff will consider options for the funding that was committed the MOU and bring this back to the Committee in 2022.

Staff will attempt to obtain the final AGM minutes and/or financials for Project Marton and bring this back to the Committee.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/035

That the report 'MoU Partner Organisations Update - December 2021' be received.

Cr Gordon/Cr Wilson. CarriedCr A Gordon/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10.4 District Promotions and Destination Management Plan Update - October and November 2021

In response to a query, Ms Britton confirmed that she was happy with the public response to the Destination Management Plan, Social Point Interaction and Face-to-face interaction. Ms Britton will present the draft strategic document to the next Committee meeting, which will include more information on the deliverable outcomes and associated timelines.

In response to a query about the Destination Management Plan Implementation Group membership, Ms Britton advised that this is made up of several business owners, tourist operators, internal staff, elected members and possibly TRAK members. Additionally, there may be room for other stakeholders from the wider community.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/036

That the 'District Promotions and Destination Management Plan Update - October and November 2021' be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/037

That the Policy/Planning Committee appoint the following councillors as members of the Destination Rangitikei Implementation Group.

- Cr Dalgety
- Cr Duncan

Cr A Gordon/Cr W Panapa. Carried

10.5 Economic Development Update - October and November 2021

HWTM left the meeting at 2.29 pm and returned at 2.34 pm.

In response to a query about engagement with external agencies on social housing, Mr Reibel advised that staff have been in touch with Habitat for Humanity, Manawatu Community Trust and a third organisation. Habitat for Humanity have indicated that they will partner with any other organisations within the district to develop social housing, and they have access to external funding which can be used to purchase land and develop housing.

The Committee noted that it while it could be understandably difficult for staff to obtain figures from local businesses (e.g., the number of new jobs created), it was worthwhile to continue seeking this information and presenting it to the Committee in future reports.

Cr Panapa asked if it was within the scope of the strategy to consider housing for families rendered homeless due to fire. Mr Reibel advised that it was not within scope, and that a first option in these occurrences would be emergency housing which can last up to seven days, and a second option would be long-term rental subsidies.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/038

That the 'Economic Development Update - October and November 2021' be received.

Cr A Gordon/HWTM A Watson. Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3.05 pm and re-convened at 3.15 pm.

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1

10.6 Youth Development Update October - November 2021

Ms Widdowson advised that five applications have been received for the 2022 Youth Council, with two of them coming from the Taihape area.

In response to a query about the safety of the boxing programme (Forge Boxing), Ms Widdowson advised that the participants are required to wear mouth guards and head gear. Additionally, participants are unable to spar unless a suitable adult is supervising, they are not allowed to aim for the head, and the class is taught by a professional boxer.

In response to a query around the future of the Marton Lobby, Ms Widdowson advised that staff are looking to close this permanently, as the cost/benefit of operating it is not sufficient.

In response to a query, Ms Gower advised that the Taihape Lobby is now occupied by the northern branch of the Mahi Tahi employment programme. Mokai Patea services will continue to be involved, and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa have met with staff to discuss the needs of rangatahi; they are now producing their own framework from that meeting.

Resolved minute number 21/PPL/039

That the report 'Youth Development Update October - November 2021' to the 9 December 2021 Policy/Planning Committee meeting be received.

Cr N Belsham/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

11 Late Items

11.1 Ms Nardia Gower's Resignation

The Committee acknowledged Ms Gower's resignation and thanked her for all of her work for Council, including her volunteer work in Marton.

The meeting closed at 3.39 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Policy/Planning Committee held on 10 February 2022.

.....

Chairperson

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings

Author: Ash Garstang, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Policy/Planning meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for each follow up, and a brief status comment.

2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

Attachments

1. **Follow-up Actions Register**

Recommendation

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
9-Dec-21	HWTM and Cr Gordon requested that staff arrange a workshop for Elected Members, to focus on housing within the district.	Jaime Reibel	As a first step ELT needs to be consulted before arranging a workshop. Although on the Agenda for the 26th January ELT meeting, there was no time to present. A housing strategy discussion is now scheduled with ELT for Wednesday, 2nd February. Following ELT's advice, a workshop will be scheduled in Feb. or March with Elected Members.	In progress
9-Dec-21	Cr Hiroa requested that staff investigate what the second gifted element (Pookura) is, and its source, for the Brand Style.	Jen Britton	The gifted element - Pohokura (Land Mokai) was designed by Te Mana Huwyler. It is in reference to the taniwha of Tamatea Pokai Whenua and acknowledges that particular story.	Closed
9-Dec-21	Cr Ash requested that staff seek the final AGM and/or financials, and information on unspent funds, from Project Marton for the 2020/21 year.	Jen Britton	Staff are working to get a copy of the AGM minutes for Project Marton for the year 2020/21.	In progress
9-Dec-21	Cr Belsham requested that if the Harvest Fair does not take place, that options around unspent MOU funds for Marton are advised back to the Committee.	Jen Britton	Marton Harvets Festival 2022 wont be going ahead this year due to being in the red traffic light system. Some funds are being spent on maintaing the martonnzn.com website and hosting as well as delivering the scarecrow competition. Projected unspent funds for the financial year 2021/2022 is \$30,099.	In progress
9-Dec-21	Regarding Welcoming Communities: staff to pass on questions to Immigration New Zealand regarding the programme's impact on skilled migrant visa applications, and refugee settlement.	Aly Thompson	Hend Zaki, Senior Advisor – Welcoming Communities, Immigration New Zealand has replied that a Council's involvement in the Welcoming Communities programme has no direct impact on immigration processes or visa streams. However, membership and accreditation in the programme is something Councils can leverage off when seeking to attract skilled migrants and international students. Immigration NZ is not currently looking to expand refugee resettlement locations in New Zealand as a result of the Welcoming Communities programme.	Closed

14-Oct-21	Regarding the Swim For All programme at Marton pool: Staff to check if the restriction on open spots are due to COVID restrictions, or something else, and advise Cr Dalgety of the answer.	Sheryl Srhoj	<p>The Swim for all programme involves Council (Strategic Advisor - Youth = Kelly Widdowson) raising external funding to help subsidise the transport costs for primary schools to transport the children to the swim centres for swimming lessons. The schools have an accountability form and are required to provide us with numbers of participant's and numbers of swim lesson undertaken, also providing proof of travel costs and an invoice from the school to Council for payment action.</p> <p>How much we subsidise the schools depends on how much we can raise from external agencies, we can't always guarantee full reimbursement.</p> <p>(Council waivers pool entry to any school aged child/teen that is attending a swim lesson either delivered by the pool swim instructors or a teacher or external swim instructor. The schools still have to pay for lane hireage or the swim instructor. Further Council waivers entry to all under five children and one caregiver).</p> <p>Any restrictions to Council Swim Centres are related to Covid only.</p>	Closed
2020	Policy on Disposal of Surplus Land and Buildings requires consideration of "cultural significance to hapu and iwi"	Graeme Pointon / Lequan Meihana	<p>A review of the Treaty Settlement legislation is being undertaken in light of the request from Ngāti Parewahawaha for the deferral of the sale of Bulls property. A letter was sent to Ngāti Parewahawaha 08 Apr 21.</p> <p>The draft Surplus Lands Policy will go to the ELT then Council. Update: An item will be included on a future Council agenda.</p>	In progress
2020	Traffic and Parking Bylaw	George Forster	<p>This Bylaw will be reviewed in 2022. It is noted that Cr Belsham and the CE, Peter Beggs will be included to take part in the review. A review will commence when the Policy Advisor starts.</p>	In progress

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - February 2022

Author: Angus Gordon, Councillor

Hello and welcome to today's meeting. As you will have noted we do have some interesting and much needed items on the agenda.

In that respect we are having to make a decision on the rates remission policy for Maori owned land, this item has been working its way through our policy machine for quite some time so it will be good to see a decision made on this item.

It the reports you will see that upgrades to some of our library functionality were delayed by both the closure of the building in Taihape and the move to the red light Covid setting. I know that for many, especially in Taihape the move to a different venue has caused quite a disruption, as has the need for vaccine passes and all that they entail for some in terms of access to the building. I wonder if these accessibility issues might be a catalyst for a review in some form of how our libraries operate, what services they seek to provide and how they provide them, as in many cases in life, necessity does become the mother of invention.

I must admit that I was pleasantly surprised at what roles our digital coordinator was undertaking in our community, I think with the fast changing pace of technology that this role will be invaluable, especially for the elderly and those that "glaze over" at the thought of learning yet another new piece of software, I definitely count myself in the latter category and will be making an appointment with our co-ordinator when I next upgrade my cell phone, assuming that these devices will be still going by that name when I get around to purchasing it.

I observe that a large number of our last youth council cohort have gone off to either trade training or university. What a wonderful outcome for those younger members of our community that chose to step up. Let's hope that in the future we may see some of them back, potentially even in this arena.

Lastly you will note that the welcoming communities program is underway and some of you may have even been contacted to be involved. If you have the time lets try and put our best foot forward as in most parts of life we tend to reap what we sow.

Angus Gordon

Chairman.

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – February 2022 be received.

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Rates Remission Policy for Maori Freehold Land

Author: George Forster, Policy Advisor

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Policy/Planning Committee with a proposed revised Rates Remission Policy for Maori Freehold Land (the Policy). Council's Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land (the Policy) was first adopted in 2004 with the last review undertaken in 2018. Normally a review would be undertaken every six years, however, changes to the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 (the Act) require Council to undertake and complete a review of the Policy by 1 July 2022.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Policy is required under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002. With the specific requirements set out under Section 108. The Policy must outline the objectives of the remission of rates, and the conditions and criteria that need to be met for remission.

Currently the Policy is consistent with the legislation that was in place at the time of the last review (2018).

The objectives of the Policy are to enable rates relief on Māori freehold land in multiple ownership, and to support owners to develop land for economic purposes; recognise the presence of Waahi Tapu; acknowledge the importance of housing for Kaumatua support and Marae; recognise the importance of land for its natural character and habitats; and take account of landlocked land.

Since 2018, the Act and Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 have had a number of amendments with many of them coming into force on 1 July 2021. These amendments mean that changes are required to be made to Council's Policy. These changes include:

- Inclusion of a new section in the introduction that supports the principles set out in the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- Amending Section 1.3 so that it aligns to Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 that outlines what land is non-rateable.
- Some conditions and criteria within the Policy mean that certain land is now non-rateable under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, therefore Section 3.1 of the Policy has been amended to reflect this, as remissions would no longer be applicable.
- Sections 3.5 and 3.6 of the Policy have been expanded and enhanced to reflect changes made to Section 114A the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. This is in reference to Māori freehold land under development.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 A review of the Policy must be undertaken in accordance with Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. It is proposed that the Policy be consulted on alongside Councils general Rates Remission Policy which is also undertaking a review.
- 3.2 Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa were consulted in the drafting of the amended policy. A report was first presented to the Komiti in October 2021 with a follow up report presented in December 2021 accompanied with an amended Policy. The Komiti made the following recommendation *“That Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa recommend the amended Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land be presented to the Policy/Planning Committee without further amendment.”*

4. Options

- 4.1 Elected Members have three options in reviewing the Policy:

Option one: Continue with the current Policy without adopting a new one.

Option two: Undertake the appropriate review of the Policy including public consultation.

Option three: Revoke the Policy.

Options one and three are not recommended as it means that Council would not be complying with legislation set out in the Act. Staff recommend that the Policy/Planning Committee recommend to Council that the Policy go through the appropriate process and allow the community to provide their feedback.

Attachments**1. Rates Remission Policy for Maori Freehold Land****Recommendation 1**

That the ‘Rates Remission Policy for Maori Freehold Land’ report be received.

Recommendation 2

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommend to Council that the Rates Remission Policy for Maori Land be adopted for public consultation.



RATES REMISSION FOR MĀORI FREEHOLD LAND

Date of adoption by Council	XX XX 2022 ¹
Resolution Number	
Date by which review must be completed	2028
Relevant Legislation	Local Government Act 2002 s102 and 108
Statutory or Operational Policy	Statutory
Included in the LTP	No

1 Introduction

1.1 Māori freehold land is recognised under the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 as a taonga tuku iho of special significance to Māori passed from generation to generation. An interest in Māori land is also considered a tangible whakapapa (genealogical) link for owners to their past and present whānau, hapū and Iwi, whether they live on or close to the land or not.

1.2 The Policy provides for the fair and equitable collection of rates from Māori freehold land, recognising that certain Māori-owned freehold lands have particular conditions, features, ownership structures or other circumstances determining the land as having limited rateability under legislation. This Policy also acknowledges the desirability of avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land.

Note: The policy applies to unsold land affected by the Māori Affairs Amendment Act 1967, which provided for Māori land owned by not more than four persons to be changed to General land. While this amendment was repealed in 1973, those blocks that had been changed remained as General land and therefore could be subject to compulsory sale to recover rate arrears.² The onus for identifying this status to the Council lies with the land owners.

1.3 Some provisions exist within the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 exempting land from rates; these are as follows and apply automatically to land of this nature:

- Land that ~~does not exceed 2 hectares and that~~ is used as a Māori burial ground.
- Maori customary land.

¹ This policy was first adopted 15 July 2004 (04/RDC/154), was reviewed 29 June 2006 (06/RDC/193) and 25 June 2009 (09/RDC/233)

² Te Puni Kokiri is currently working with the owners of the remaining titles to make them aware of the status of the land. In addition, Te Puni Kokiri and the Māori Land Court intend undertaking a programme to identify all Māori land titles affected by the Amendment and communicating this status of the titles to the current owners.

- Land that is set apart under section 338 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 or any corresponding former provision of that Act and used for the purposes of a meeting place, excluding any land used —
 - (a) primarily for commercial or agricultural activity; or
 - (b) as residential accommodation.
- Land that is a Māori reservation held for the common use and benefit of the people of New Zealand under section 340 of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993.
 - ~~(a) that is used for the purposes of a marae or meeting place and that does not exceed 2 hectares; or~~
 - ~~(b) that is a Maori reservation under section 340 of that Act. Maori freehold land that does not exceed 2 hectares and on which a Maori meeting house is erected.~~
- Land that is used for the purposes of a marae, excluding any land used —
 - (a) primarily for commercial or agricultural activity; or
 - (b) as residential accommodation
- Māori freehold land on which a meeting house is erected, excluding any land used—
 - (a) primarily for commercial or agricultural activity; or
 - (b) as residential accommodation.
- Land used for the purposes of a Kohanga Reo educational establishment.
- Māori freehold land that is, for the time being, non-rateable by virtue of an Order in Council made under section 116 of this Act, to the extent specified in the order.
- An unused rating unit of Māori freehold land.

2 Interpretation/Definition

General Land means land that is not Māori Freehold Land.

Papakainga means the development of dwellings on ancestral land (whether held in Māori Multiply-Owned land ownership or not), and where the development provides for the reconnection and resettlement of Iwi and hapu to their acknowledged ancestral lands. This definition does not apply to single developments or multi-lot subdivisions that are not intended for resettlement purposes.

Māori freehold Land is defined by section 5 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 as “land whose beneficial ownership has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order”. Only land that is the subject of such an order may qualify for remission under this policy.

Māori freehold land in multiple ownership means Māori freehold land owned by more than 2 persons.

Occupation for this policy is where a person/persons do one or more of the following for their significant profit or benefit (except if the land and its housing is used to contribute to the Kaumātua support and enhancement of the Marae):

- leases the land to another party, or
- permanently resides upon the land, or
- de-pastures or maintains livestock on the land, or
- undertakes significant commercial operations.

Unoccupied means, in respect of a block of land or a portion of a block of land, that there is no person, whether with a beneficial interest in the land or not, who, alone or with others:

- leases the land, and/or
- does any of the following things on the land, with the intention of making a profit or for any other benefit
- resides on the land
- de-pastures or maintains livestock on the land
- stores anything on the land.

Urupa means cemetery or burial site.

Waahi Tapu means a place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual and mythological sense.

3 Objectives

The objectives of this Policy is to provide rates relief for Māori freehold land to recognise, support and take account of:

- the use of the land by the owners for traditional purposes;
- the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands;
- avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land;
- facilitating any wish of the owners to develop the land for economic use;
- the presence of Wāhi Tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes;
- the importance of the land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated papakainga housing (whether on the land or elsewhere);
- the importance of associated housing in providing Kaumātua support and enhancement for Marae;
- the importance of the land for community goals relating to:
 - the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment;

- the protection of outstanding natural features; and
- the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- matters related to the legal, physical and practical accessibility of the land;
- land that is in and will continue to be in a natural and undeveloped state.

4 Conditions and Criteria

A. Unoccupied Land

4.1 Maori freehold land which is unoccupied qualifies for a rates remission if at least one of the following criteria is met:

- Wāhi Tapu is present that may affect the use of the land for other purposes. (A rates remission will be considered on a property or part of a property where the use of that property is affected by the presence of Wāhi Tapu).
- The site is used for preservation/protection of character or coastline, has outstanding natural features, significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna. Applications under this criterion need to be supported by an existing Department of Conservation or Regional Council Management Plan, or other supporting evidence (e.g. in the Department of Conservation Coastal Management Plan for the area).
- The site has accessibility issues - if it is difficult to legally, physically or practically access a property. Examples of accessibility issues are:
 - The property is landlocked by properties owned by other people/entities.
 - Access is legally available by paper road or easement but the road does not exist.
 - A road ends or passes a property but a river, ravine, cliff or other impediment prevents practical access.
- The site is in a natural and undeveloped state, and will continue to remain in such state.
- The land is placed under Ngā Whenua Rahui (conservation covenant)

4.2 ~~The land may be in multiple ownership (defined as two or more owners).~~

4.3 ~~Occupation for this policy is where a person/persons do one or more of the following for their significant profit or benefit (except if the land and its housing is used to contribute to the Kaumātua support and enhancement of the Marae):~~

- ~~• leases the land to another party, or~~
- ~~• permanently resides upon the land, or~~
- ~~• de-pastures or maintains livestock on the land, or~~
- ~~• undertakes significant commercial operations.~~

B. Economic Development

4.4 Māori Freehold land which has previously been unoccupied and is about to undergo development, is undergoing development, or has undergone recent development shall be entitled to a remission of rates.

4.5 Council may remit all or part of the rates if it is satisfied the development is likely to:

- Benefit the District by creating new employment opportunities
- Benefits the District by creating new houses (this extends to Papakainga Development)
- Benefit Council by increasing Council's rating base in the long term
- Benefit Māori in the District by providing support to Marae in the District
- Benefits the owners by facilitating the occupation, development and utilisation of the land

4.6 The length and degree of remission will be decided by having particular regard to the impediments to development suffered by any given piece of land and/or the ownership group or management entity thereof, the value of the economic activity compared with the value of the land, and to the extent to which the development will enhance the capacity of the land/ownership group to pay rates into the future.

C. Papakainga Development

4.7 Papakainga development implemented through the provisions of the Rangitikei District Plan and supported by a development plan shall be entitled to a remission of rates for the period of such development and a further period before and after the development up to a maximum period of five years.

4.8 The length and degree of remission will be determined having particular regard to the characteristics of the development and to the extent to which the development will maintain and enhance the capacity of Māori to live on their traditional lands and embrace their culture and traditions.

5 Exclusions

5.1 As a general principle rates will be payable on Māori Freehold Land where:

- a) The land contains a habitable dwelling and is occupied as a permanent residence.
- b) The land is leased to an external party.
- c) The land is used for the personal use of one of the owners.

6 Process of Application and Consideration for Rates Remission under this policy

Applications

6.1 On application to the Rangitikei District Council, consideration will be given for the remission of rates on Māori freehold land under this policy.

6.2 The application for rates remission under this policy shall include:

- details of appropriate contacts;
- details of property and occupancy;
- the condition(s), as listed in Section 3 of this policy, under which the application is made;
- any relevant information to support the application, such as historical, ancestral, cultural, archaeological, geographical or topographical information;
- details of the financial status of the land supported by full financial statements;
- a copy of any agreements or licenses to operate on the land; and
- a declaration stating that the information supplied is true and correct and that any changes in circumstances during that period of rate remission will be notified to the Council.

7 Consideration of Applications by Māori Land Rates Remission Committee

7.1 All applications for rates remission under this policy shall be considered and decided upon by the Māori Land Rates Remission Committee. The Māori Land Rates Remission Committee is to consist of three Council members and three Tangata Whenua, nominated by Te Roopu Ahi Kaa.

7.2 Any decision as to whether any land or part thereof meets or continues to meet the qualifying criteria shall be made by the Māori Land Rates Remission Committee.

Six Year Duration

7.3 Any remission of rates granted under this policy will generally apply for a six-year period.

7.4 All remissions are reviewed every six years. ~~The last review was 2015, therefore, the next review will be 2021.~~

7.5 If the use of a property changes within the period the owners will notify the Council immediately and the remission status of the property will be reviewed.

7.6 Any changes of rates remission status will be effective from the date the property use changed.

Right of Appeal to Full Council

7.7 If an applicant considers the decision of the Māori Land Rates Remission Committee is not correct they may appeal to the full Council.

8 Māori Land Rates Remission Committee can consider properties without Application by Owners (i.e. Committee-generated Applications)

- 8.1 If a property could apply for a rates remission but the owners have not applied for the remission, the Committee can consider the granting of a remission of rates under the criteria outlined in Section 3 of this Policy.
- 8.2 An example of the situation where this Committee-generated application could apply is where ~~land is unoccupied the presence of an unregistered urupa is publicly known~~ but an application has not been made as the owners are geographically dispersed.

9 Rate and Penalty Arrears Write Off

Intention to Write Off Rate Arrears and Penalties

- 9.1 For a number of landlocked properties considerable rate arrears have accrued over the past decade due to an inability of the property to sustain the rates assessed.

Council will write off rates arrears in respect of

- a) land that is subject to a Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata; and
- b) Māori freehold land that is unused (within the meaning of Schedule 1 of this Act).

~~Council intends to write off these arrears, on a case-by-case basis, once the Committee has approved a Māori land rate remission for individual properties.~~

Committee can recommend arrears write off to Council

- 9.2 When considering a Māori land rate remission the Committee is to assess any rates and penalty arrears on the property. If these arrears have resulted from the inability of the property to sustain the rates, the Committee is to recommend to Council that the arrears be written off.

10 Right to change conditions and criteria

- 10.1 The Council reserves the right to add to delete or alter in any way the above conditions and criteria from time to time.
- 10.2 When making such changes Council will follow its ~~consultation~~ Significance and Engagement ~~Policy~~ and ensure affected parties are engaged in the change process.

11 No postponement of rates

- 11.1 Nothing in this policy is to be taken as providing or implying a policy providing for the postponement of rates on Māori freehold land.

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Democracy & Planning Group - Operational Update

Author: Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on key operational activities across the Democracy and Planning Group of the organisation. This covers Iwi/Hapu Engagement and Development; Policy and Bylaw Programme and Communications.

2. Operational Updates

2.1 Iwi/Hapu Engagement and Development

A revised version of the Whakamahere Haepapa Māori – Māori Responsiveness Framework was presented to members of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa at their December 2021 meeting. They provided positive feedback and guidance.

A request seeking a working relationship was sent to Ngāti Waewae via Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa with the offer of a Rangitikei River Accord alongside other iwi, Horizons and the Manawātū District Council.

2.2 Policy and Bylaw Programme

A report on the Rates Remission for Māori Freehold Land Policy is included in today's agenda. The Policy has been presented to Te Roopuu Ahi Ka twice, with the Komiti giving its approval on amendments made and for it to be presented to this Committee.

A number of new reviews are beginning to commence which can be seen in the work programme.

The Policy and Bylaw Work Programme is attached (Attachment 1).

2.3 Communications Update – December 2021, January 2022

Interviews have been held for the Communications and Engagement Advisor and it is hoped an update on that process can be provided at the meeting.

An update on Communications activity for the months of December and January are attached (Attachments 2 and 3).

3. Significance

- 3.1 This item is not considered to be a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Attachments

1. Policy and Bylaw work programme
2. Comms Update Dashboard (December 2021)
3. Comms Update Dashboard (January 2022)

Recommendation

That the report 'Democracy & Planning Group – Operational Update' be received.

Policy and Bylaw Work Programme

Policy Work Schedule 2019-2022	KEY	Complete	Underway	Upcoming	Future work
Policy/Bylaw/Work	Responsible	Rationale	Main Legislation	Dates	Workshop/Comment
Food Business Grading Bylaw	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	October - Adopted by Council	
Annual Residents Survey 2021	Policy	Operational/Research			Improvement plans presented to Committees
Local Easter Trading Policy 2016	Policy	Statutory	Shop Trading Hours Act 1990	December - Adopted by Council	
Rates Remission for Maori Freehold Land Policy	Policy	Statutory	Local Government Act 2002	Report presnted to 10 February 2022 Policy/Planning Committee	December 2021 - Report to TRAK
Road Naming Policy	Policy/legal	Operational			To be discussed at an upcoming workshop
Policy on Disposal of Surplus Lands and Buildings	Policy/legal	Operational			
Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017	Policy/Regulatory	Statutory	Land Transport Act 1998		Meting to be held with CE and Cr Belsham
Speed Limits Bylaw	Policy/Roading	Statutory	Land Transport Act 1998	TBC	On hold. Further work to be done with Waka Kotahi
Flying Drones on Council Parks - Interim Guideline	Policy/Roading/Regulatory	Operational	Civil Aviation Authority	TBC	

This report provides the Committee with an update on communications and media activity.

News Media



8

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



1

PUBLIC NOTICES



2

EDM (BULK EMAILS)

Council Website



12

TOTAL NEWS ITEMS



8,992

▲ 2,601

NEW USERS



15,330

▲ 3,734

TOTAL (SESSION) VISITS

Social Media



22

TOTAL POSTS



4,600

▲ 23

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



13,341

▲ 44.4%

PEOPLE REACHED

The number of people who saw any of our posts at least once this month.

News Media Activity

The table below outlines the media activity during December:

- Rangitikei Connect was published in the District Monitor twice in December.
- Rangitikei Connect was published in the Feilding-Rangitikei Herald twice in December.
- Council did contribute articles to the monthly community newsletters in Taihape and Bulls.

Date	Media Channel	Article Heading and Topic
2/12/2021	Feilding-Rangitikei Herald	Council call for youth involvement RDC is calling to young people who are keen to get involved. RDC Strategic advisor for youth Kelly Widdowson says representation is once again being sought for.
2/12/2021	Feilding-Rangitikei Herald	Grandstand budget 'a placeholder, not a goal' RDC Deputy Mayor Nigel Belsham was careful at the Nov 24 council meeting to emphasis their \$1 million budget to strengthen the Taihape grandstand was a placeholder not a goal.
7/12/2021	Whanganui Chronicle	Community fund RDC has opened applications to its Community Initiatives Fund which offers grants up to \$2500 to support community-based projects in the district.
11/12/2021	Whanganui Chronicle	Taihape Town Hall closed indefinitely over high quake risk Taihape Town Hall has shut its door indefinitely after an engineer's report identified the building as high risk.

Date	Media Channel	Article Heading and Topic
14/12/2021	Manawatu Standard	Quake-prone buildings a tall order Council was still to establish how many of its buildings required strengthening work.
16/12/2021	Whanganui Chronicle	Council: \$800k repair bill for flooding RDC has put a total cost of Monday night's flooding at \$800,000. According to councils project engineer for Roading, Phillip Gifford.
18/12/2021	Whanganui Chronicle	Temporary town hall and library for Taihape RDC has established a makeshift town hall, library, and information centre at 102 Hautapu Street, Taihape.
22/12/2021	District Monitor	Vaccine passes needed for Council facilities Anyone entering public council facilities must present their COVID-19 vaccination pass.

Public Notices

The list below outlines the public notices placed in the District Monitor:

Council also advertises in the Whanganui Chronicle and Feilding-Rangitikei Herald when required.

- December 30 **Temporary closure of various roads to vehicular traffic**
State Highway 3 – McHardie Road to Kilkern Road
State Highway 3 – Read Road to Wellington Road
State Highway 3 – Wellington Road to Makirikiri Road

Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) Activity

The table below outlines the Council bulk email activity sent in during December;

- Community Database - **589 people**
- Te Hononga Database - **122 people**
- Staff Database - **179 people**.

Date	Article Heading	Opens	%
December 3	Rangitikei Connect_ Issue 36	233	44.8%
December 24	Rangitikei Te Hononga_Issue 6	55	57.3%

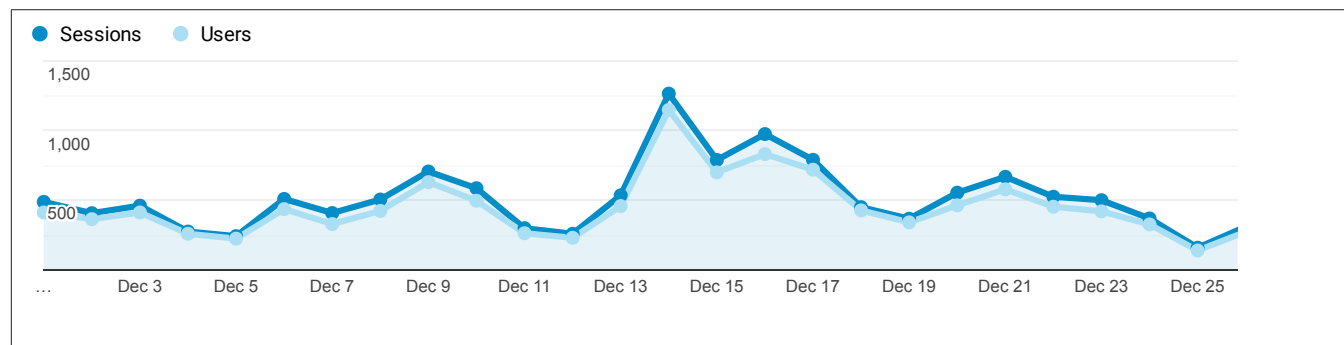
LGOIMA Requests

Requests under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)

At the end of December, **94 requests** for official information have been received so far this year.

Website Statistics

The graph below outlines the website activity during December:



Activity on Council's website for 1 - 31 December 2021:

In December 74.6% of those who visited Council's website were new visitors to the site.

Top 10 Council pages visited (December)

1. /homepage
2. /services/rubbish-recycling/transfer-stations/marton-transfer-station
3. /library
4. /services/rates/search
5. /council/about/contact-us
6. /services/rubbish-recycling/transfer-stations/taihape-transfer-station
7. /services/gis
8. /news/2021/huntermville-area-road-damage-and-closure
9. /services/cemeteries/database
10. /news/2021/taihape-town-hall-and-library-on-the-move

News items

There were **12 News Items** posted to our home page.

Date	Article Heading
December 03, 2021	Community Initiatives Fund Applications open
December 10, 2021	Taihape Town Hall and Library Closed for Earthquake Strengthening
December 13, 2021	Council Offices Closing this Friday afternoon
December 14, 2021	Rainfall Event
December 14, 2021	Mangahoe Road, Huntermville Update
December 14, 2021	Huntermville Area Road Damage and Closures
December 16, 2021	Taihape Town Hall and Library on the move
December 17, 2021	Huntermville clean up continues
December 17, 2021	Christmas tree not to be decorated this year
December 17, 2021	Job Vacancies - Customer Experience Officers
December 21, 2021	Vaccine Passes Required to Enter Council Operated Public Facilities
December 23, 2021	Huntermville Area Road Works

Social Media Activity

The table below outlines Facebook activity during December:

There were **22 posts** made to our Council Facebook page.

Date	Article Heading and Topic	Type
22 December	Manager community development Vacancy	Post
20 December	Our offices will close on Friday 24 December at midday for the holidays.	Post
20 December	My Vaccine Pass is going to be a condition of entry for Councils public facing locations and staff areas. Read more...	Post
20 December	Kia ora koutou, a mobile Hauora and Vaccination Clinic will be at New World today...	Post
16 December	We're on the look out for two exceptional Customer Experience superstars.	Post
16 December	Hey folks, just a heads up the top end of Queens Park and Bruce Park toilets are temporary closed.	Post
15 December	Yah!! We've found a new home for our Taihape Library and Information Centre..	Post
14 December	LIVE Streaming Audit & Risk	LIVE
14 December	Our Audit and Risk Committee meeting will be live streaming soon at 9am.	Post
13 December	Kia ora koutou, There are a number of roads in the Hunterville area that have suffered damage due to the recent heavy rainfall.	Post
13 December	Covid 19. Here's a few tips to look after yourself and your family.	Post
13 December	Hey folks, please be aware Mangahoe Road, Hunterville is closed due to land slip.	Post
13 December	Pop up Hauora & Vaccination Clinic now at Te Poho o Tuariki	Post
13 December	Rainfall event update 14 December 7.30am	Post
13 December	Flooding in the Hunterville area - 13 December 10pm	Post
13 December	Please be aware that Turakina river levels are projected to rise - we will monitor this overnight and tomorrow and issue any updates that are needed.	Post
12 December	The clock tower in Taihape is being repainted!	Post
9 December	The Taihape Town Hall and Library has been closed due to the risk it poses to staff and the public following a detailed seismic assessment (DSA) report.	Post
8 December	LIVE Streaming Policy and Planning	
8 December	REMINDER: Today's Policy and Planning Committee meeting will be live streamed here at 1pm.	Post
8 December	LIVE Streaming Assets & Infrastructure	LIVE
8 December	Our Assets & Infrastructure Committee meeting will be live streaming soon at 9.30am.	Post

Post with the most Engagement: 13 December

Flooding in the Hunterville area - We are aware of flooding issues from the Ongo Road stream at SH1, Hunterville - please avoid this area - our crews are in the area monitoring the situation. - **Post**

- 6,067 People reached
- 137 Reactions, comments & shares
- 67 Comments
- 15 Shares

Facebook insights: (December 2021)

- People reached (The number of people who saw any of your posts at least once): **13,341 people up 44.4%**
- Page visits (The number of times that your Facebook Page was visited): **1,346 up 241.6%**
- Total page likes: **81**

Total page followers: 4,600

Operations Activity

The information below outlines design and marketing activity completed during December:

Infrastructure

- Sheep Grazing Sign
- Rangitikei Active Gym Works Sign
- Scout Hall Demolition Sign
- Marton RSA and Citizens' Upgrade sign
- Taihape Info Centre Earthquake (Closed Sign)
- Taihape Grandstand (Earthquake Prone Sign)

Strategy and Community Planning

- Libraries and Info (Xmas Movie Poster)
- Mahi Tahi Window - Taihape
- Youth Council promotion
- Tuia Program Promotion
- Visit Rangitikei Tees
- Vaccine Passes Help Poster
- Digital Drop in Promotion
- Welcoming Communities promotion
- Volunteer Guidebook
- Visit Rangitikei Ballot Box

Democracy & Planning

- Community Initiatives Fund

Finance and Support

- Sensitive Expenditure Policy
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Kapua

Regulatory

- RDC Dog Refund Form
- Simpli Promotion

Community and Leisure

- Public Toilets (Tui Street) Sign
- Bruce Park Clean Up Sign

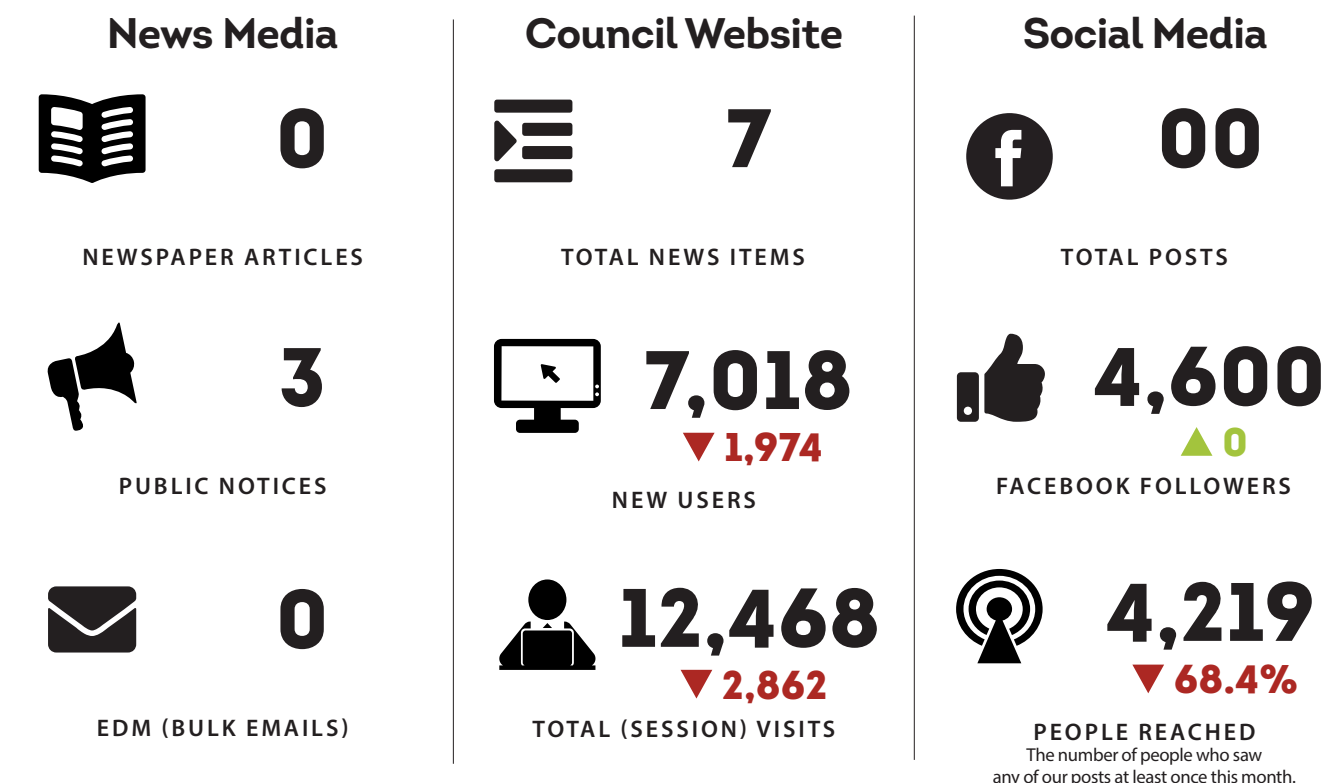
Executive

- Xmas Office Closure Promo

People & Culture

- Covid Vaccination Policy
 - Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Nga Whetu o Nga Kaunihera guideline
-

This report provides the Committee with an update on communications and media activity.



News Media Activity

The table below outlines the media activity during January:

- Rangitikei Connect was not published in the District Monitor or Feilding-Rangitikei Herald in January over the holiday period
- Community newsletters in Taihape and Bulls were not published over the holiday period.

Date	Media Channel	Article Heading and Topic
News Media Articles were not collected during January		

Public Notices

The list below outlines the public notices placed in the District Monitor:

Council also advertises in the Whanganui Chronicle and Feilding-Rangitikei Herald when required.

- January 6 **Temporary closure of various roads to vehicular traffic**
State Highway 3 – McHardie Road to Kilkern Road
State Highway 3 – Read Road to Wellington Road
State Highway 3 – Wellington Road to Makirikiri Road
- January 6 **Notice of Meetings** - February
- January 25 **Council/Committee Meeting Time Changes**
Two meetings scheduled for the 27 January 2022 have had their times changed.

Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) Activity

The table below outlines the Council bulk email activity sent in during January;

- Community Database - **589 people**
- Te Hononga Database - **122 people**
- Staff Database - **179 people**.

Date	Article Heading	Opens	%
EDMs were not sent out during January			

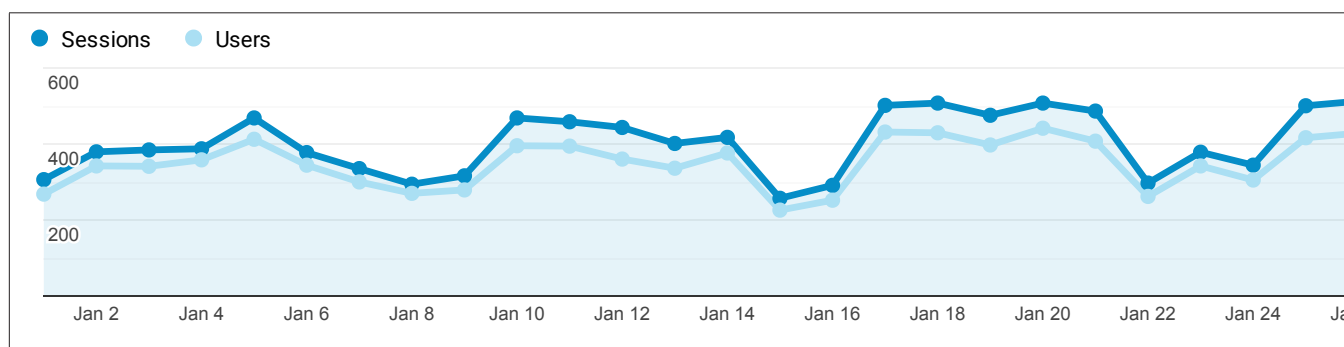
LGOIMA Requests

Requests under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)

At the end of January, **5 requests** for official information have been received so far this year.

Website Statistics

The graph below outlines the website activity during January:



Activity on Council's website for 1 - 31 January 2022:

In January 72.4% of those who visited Council's website were new visitors to the site.

Top 10 Council pages visited (January)

1. /homepage
2. /services/rubbish-recycling/transfer-stations/marton-transfer-station
3. /services/cemeteries/database
4. /services/rates/search
5. /library
6. /services/gis
7. /council/about/contact-us
8. /services/rubbish-recycling/transfer-stations/taihape-transfer-station
9. /council/careers/current-vacancies
10. /district/parks-open-spaces/campgrounds

News items

There were **7 News Items** posted to our home page.

Date	Article Heading
January 18, 2022	Meeting time change 27 January 2022
January 20, 2022	Council Office closed for Wellington Anniversary
January 24, 2022	All of New Zealand is now at Red
January 24, 2022	Taihape Lobby Update
January 28, 2022	Marton RSA & Citizens' Memorial Hall re-opened
January 31, 2022	Marton it's time to conserve water
January 31, 2022	Audit and Risk Committee meeting change

Social Media Activity

The table below outlines Facebook activity during January:

There were **12 posts** made to our Council Facebook page.

Date	Article Heading and Topic	Type
31 January	Whether you need your first, second, or booster shot the mobile vaccination clinic will be in the following areas	Post
30 January	An update to the Comprehensive Development Plan had been made based on the recent work by the project team.	Post
30 January	Hey Marton folks, warmer weather means it's time to conserve water.	Post
27 January	Great stuff!! - Stage one of the Marton RSA & Citizen's Hall is complete.	Post
26 January	Rangitikei District Council was live.	LIVE
25 January	Taihape Lobby will reopen on Tuesday 1 February.	Post
23 January	All of New Zealand is now at Red... read more here.	Post
20 January	Kia ora koutou, Taihape Lobby's re-opening has been delayed... Read more here	Post
20 January	REMINDER: Our office will be closed on Monday 24 January for Wellington anniversary.	Post
15 January	Here is the latest update from NZ Civil Defence on coastal information following the Tsunami in Tonga	Post
5 January	REMINDER Customer Experience superstar roles.	Post
3 January	New year, New role, New you?? Communications and engagement advisor-vacancy	Post

Post with the most Engagement: 24 January

All of New Zealand is now at Red... read more here... - **Post**

- 1,828 People reached
- 3 Reactions, comments & shares
- 10 Comments
- 1 Shares

Facebook insights: (January 2022)

- People reached (The number of people who saw any of your posts at least once): **4,291 people down 68.4%**
- Page visits (The number of times that your Facebook Page was visited): **351 down 73.8%**
- Total page likes: **21**

Total page followers: 4,600

Operations Activity

The information below outlines design and marketing activity completed during January:

Strategy and Community Planning

- Libraries Click and Collect

Democracy & Planning

- LGOIMA Requests Policy

Finance and Support

- Annual Report
- Summary Annual Report

Regulatory

- GoBuild Flyer
 - GoShift Vetting Form
-

10.2 Community Development Update - December 2021 and January 2022**Author: Anne McLeod, Manager - Community Development****Authoriser: Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community Services****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This report covers the operational areas of Social and Cultural Community Well-being activities undertaken by the Community Development team during the months of December 2021 and January 2022, with separate report updating Economic Development and District Promotions.

2. Te Matapihi – Events and Venue Activity

- 2.1 Booking numbers for December and January were 30 and 13 respectively. Bookings included weekly vaccination clinics hosted by the Whanganui DHB, our first wedding on-site, Council bookings, and community group bookings. Ongoing bookings are still in place for vaccination clinics for the upcoming months. Over 53% of the bookings are for Council related activities such as meetings and training sessions.

3. Libraries

- 3.1 Under COVID-19 restrictions all Library and Information sites are open, complying with Government guidelines for such facilities. The change to the Traffic Light system has reduced the distancing from 2 metres to 1 metre which has increased capacity levels.
- 3.2 Effective from Wednesday 22 December Council required vaccine passes, or a negative PCR test to be presented to enter Te Matapihi/Bulls Community Centre, Marton Library and Information Centre, and the Taihape Library and Information Centre. The administration of entry requirements will initially be undertaken by contracted security personnel located in the entrance to these premises. Security personnel will also be available to support behaviour management and compliance with other requirements such as mask wearing. The provision of security personnel will be reviewed after three months.
- 3.3 On the 10th of December the Taihape Town Hall and Library was closed due to the risk it posed to staff and the public following a detailed seismic assessment (DSA) report. A new suitable space has been found and staff have moved into the new facility in the old BNZ building in Taihape. We have moved most of the library stock and furniture but are still waiting for permanent shelving and the public APNK internet and Wi-Fi to be moved. This is scheduled for installation in early February.
- 3.4 Vaccine Pass Assistance: In December when the government introduced the requirement for Vaccine Passes to be produced to enter establishments under the new Traffic Light system, we experienced a huge demand from residents to assist with obtaining and printing these passes. Across the District we assisted hundreds of residents to obtain their passes. We were very grateful to have had the assistance of our Digital Engagement Co-ordinator and our Community

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Engagement Librarian who spent a large amount of time assisting our customers, as did the staff at our sites.

- 3.5 Staff – Sara-Jane Sowden has resigned her position as Library Assistant at Marton Library after 14 years as she has accepted an offer of employment elsewhere.
- 3.6 Events/Programmes/School Holidays – The COVID 19 restrictions continue to affect the ability to run events and programmes in our spaces. We are currently supplying take-away activity packs for Primary School aged children during holiday periods and are looking at ideas for working within the restrictions.
- 3.7 RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) Implementation at Marton and Taihape Libraries – Our install date on the 21st of December had to be postponed due to the sudden closure of the Taihape Library and Service Centre the week beforehand. We are expecting this to be rescheduled in early February.
- 3.8 Community Engagement with Libraries (position funded by New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme {NZLPP}) Lynda Hunter has commenced her role and has been visiting/connecting with schools, community libraries, and the wider community introducing herself and seeking feedback on our services.
- 3.9 Digital Co-ordinator update (position funded by NZLPP) The Digital Co-ordinator, Rashmi Natarajan, recommenced her classes at the end of January now that we are down to a restriction of 1 metre distancing in our facilities. The new course she is running is "Digital Essentials - Get to know your Smart Phone" was designed for elderly and had been scheduled to start before the 16 Aug 2021 lockdown. Code Club will recommence in the new school term.
- 3.10 Ms Natarajan ran Digital Drop Inn sessions in Bulls, Marton, Ratana and Taihape during December/January as well as working across all sites assisting residents with obtaining their Vaccine Passes. The Vaccine Passes is still on-going as people continue to get their vaccinations.

4. Youth Development

- 4.1 The Rangitikei Youth Council of 2021 held an informal picnic in the park to wrap up their year of service, celebrating the highs of the year, talking of the challenges, and writing one piece of advice each to pass onto the selected council for 2022.
- 4.2 Positives for the year included holding a successful Youth Awards event, attending Festival for the Future, and being an integral part of community hui as the voice and representation for Youth in our district. The data collected from these meetings was valuable and helped implement positive changes for youth, through programme delivery and developing plans for the future.
- 4.3 Challenges revolved around COVID-19, lockdowns, expectations on youth and the pressure on mental health that produced.
- 4.4 The end of the year saw seven councillors move on to work or university, with four councillors going on to study or work in the field of law and politics. Youth council applications for 2022 are currently still open, with 7 spots to fill. Interviews will be held mid-February. Application forms can be found here: <https://forms.gle/SPAupeLbEpZ91XGC6>.



- 4.5 FORGE boxing wrapped up for 2021 on 14 December. As mentioned in previous reports, growth of this programme has seen the current venue become too small to accommodate the numbers attending. FORGE has signed a three-year lease to occupy the Marton wrestling club premises, backing onto Marumaru Street. The venue needed a lot of work to get it ready to open, because of this, programmes will commence for

ITEM 10.2

2022 at the later date of 4 February 2022 from this location, running the same times and age groups.

- 4.6 FORGE is aiming to begin providing adult boxfit classes to enable the youth programme to continue at no cost to youth or their families.
- 4.7 Both the Marton and Taihape Lobbies were closed over the Christmas/New Year period. COVID-19 restrictions made opening the Marton Lobby after lockdown very difficult with space restrictions.
- 4.8 The Taihape Lobby reopened in the week beginning 10 January but closed again reopening on 1 February as staff and Council worked through appropriate protocols for the Covid Red setting. At this stage it is planned to continue to open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and staff will take the opportunity during this time to monitor and review the service.
- 4.9 By way of background, Committee members may recall that prior to the pandemic the Lobby was receiving intermittent use from young people. During its LTP discussions last year, Council and Community Development staff deliberated on the ongoing future of the service and whether the money earmarked could be better spent on events/activities which would support a wider group of youth. It was agreed at that time to continue with the service in the interim and to report back at a later date with options for the future.

5. Welcoming Communities

- 5.1 Execution of Phase 1 the communication plan for Welcoming Communities is underway: fact sheets have been created for different target audiences; a webpage has been added to RDC website; internal information sessions have been held for staff; external outreach to targeted organisations and the public is being undertaken via email, Facebook, and phone calls; information sessions are being arranged for Tāngata Whenua and other community organisations which are expected to be completed throughout February; media engagement has been undertaken in relation to the Statement of Commitment – at the time of reporting results are not yet available.
- 5.2 Interest is being sought for the Welcoming Communities Rangitikei advisory group, and terms of reference are being drafted. It is expected that members will be finalised by end of February, with the first meeting held in early March. The first order of business will be to agree and finalise the terms of reference with the group, incorporating any feedback and personal preferences from members of the group.
- 5.3 Planning of the stocktake process is underway; stakeholder groups will be invited to workshops, surveys, and focus groups. This will take place from March through May.
- 5.4 The first six-monthly report has been submitted to MBIE, see Attachment (appendices not included).
- 5.5 The Statement of Commitment will be signed in the near future, and we will then be eligible to apply for Stage 1 Accreditation. Welcoming Communities Coordinator Aly Thompson has submitted the Accreditation application form and evidence to MBIE and is awaiting confirmation.

6. Marton Harvest Festival

- 6.1 With the announcement that all New Zealand will be in the RED setting of the traffic light system from 11.59 pm Saturday 22 January, the Community Development team have made the decision to not proceed with the Marton Harvest Festival set to be held on 27 March.
- 6.2 The annual Scarecrow Trail Competition will still go ahead and be led Lynda Hunter - Community Engagement Librarian in conjunction with the Marton Library.
- 6.3 Should Covid settings permit, 'pop-up' activities may be able to be organised at short notice celebrate the Harvest with the community.

Attachments

1. **Welcoming Communities Rangitikei six-monthly report July-December 2021**

Recommendation

That the report 'Community Development Update - December 2021 and January 2022' be received.

Welcoming Communities Six-monthly Reporting Template

Report July to December 2021

Note: please provide your completed six-monthly report by 31 January 2022

Region:	<i>Manawatū-Whanganui (Horizons Regional Council)</i>
Council:	<i>Rangitikei District Council</i>
Name:	<i>Aly Thompson</i>
Role:	<i>Welcoming Communities Coordinator</i>
Date:	<i>14 January 2022</i>
Period covered:	Six months from July to December 2021.

(1) Planning and implementing activities

Briefly describe any activities you did to support newcomers or implement your Welcoming Communities Plan. This could include:

- *Implementing other Welcoming Plan activities*
- *Establishment of relevant groups*
- *Activities that support other Welcoming Community stakeholders*

- Following our acceptance into the programme in July, the Welcoming Communities Coordinator was appointed and started in November.
- A project plan has been created for the first 12 months. Key outcomes stated are to achieve Stage 1 Accreditation, create a Welcoming Communities Communication plan, establish a Welcoming Communities advisory group, Complete a stocktake of the District, and develop a Welcoming Plan for Rangitikei.
- The communication plan has been established, and execution of Phase 1 is underway, which focuses on introducing the Welcoming Communities programme to Rangitikei and seeking interest for the advisory group.
- Our elected members and representatives of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa will sign the Statement of Commitment on 27 January during the Council meeting, which will be live-streamed to the Public. Media will be invited to attend; at the time of reporting, results are not available.

(2) Stakeholder engagement

Briefly describe any engagement you had with Welcoming Communities stakeholders. This could include:

- *Involvement and engagement with tangata whenua*
- *Welcoming Communities networking and attendance at stakeholder events*
- *Meeting with stakeholders to progress your Welcoming Communities Plan.*

- Formal reports have been submitted to Councils Policy/Planning and Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa committees in December, detailing the programme, project plan and upcoming work.
- Welcoming Communities has been introduced internally through an information session, an intranet post and a fact sheet. A second information session will be held on 25 January.
- Welcoming Communities has been introduced externally by email to Tangata Whenua and priority stakeholder groups, with information sessions being arranged throughout February for those groups.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further outreach to the community is underway via email and Facebook, and through our existing networks
<p>(3) Understanding community needs</p> <p><i>Briefly describe any work you have done to understand newcomers' needs, including learning from successful or unsuccessful activities. This could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stocktakes</i> • <i>Formal needs assessments</i> • <i>Post-activity reflections or debriefs about how the programme is meeting newcomer needs</i> • <i>Other activities that seek perspectives from newcomers</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocktake planning is in progress. • Research has been undertaken to gather population statistics for the District. Census data is not granular enough to reflect the true ethnic make-up of our community, which creates a dependence on knowledge of Council staff and stakeholders in the community. • Information about RSE workers in our District has been gathered from Frankie Tran, MBIE and the Recognised Seasonal Employer list on INZ's website.
<p>(4) Knowledge sharing activities</p> <p><i>Briefly describe any ways in which you have shared your experiences, knowledge, good practice or lessons learned regarding Welcoming Communities . This could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge sharing with other Welcoming Communities sites</i> • <i>Knowledge sharing with your council elected members or other staff</i> • <i>Changes you have made as a result of learning from others</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined the workshop "Turning Ideas to Action" on 18 November • Connected with Community Development teams from Horowhenua, Manawatū, Tararua and Whanganui at a regional forum on 3 December. • Exchanged ideas and work processes one-to-one with Olivia from Horowhenua and Silvia from Queenstown-Lakes in December. • Contributed ideas in Welcoming Communities Co-ordinator Teams group • Introduced Welcoming Communities within the Community Development team at Rangitikei on 16 December; sought feedback on project plan and advice for how to approach different aspects. • Planning to seek cultural advice for specific ethnicities represented in our communities, as a result of advice from within my team

(5) Outcomes

Briefly describe what happened as a result of any completed or significant activities and engagement. These could be expected and unexpected outcomes. If possible, include evidence to support these outcomes. Outcomes could include:

- Significant milestones/achievements
- Lessons learnt from Welcoming Communities implementation activity
- Any outcomes that appear in your pathway to change
- Any impact observed or reported by newcomers or stakeholders
- Any media coverage or photos of Welcoming Communities in your region or comments from participants

Create a project plan:

- Project plan approved internally & by Policy/Planning and Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa committees

Stage 1 Accreditation:

- Agreement on signatories for Statement of Commitment from Policy/Planning and Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa committees
-

Summary of expenditure under the Funding Agreement 2020/21

Please fill in the table below:

Seed Funding – \$50,000 plus GST

Itemise what it was spent on	Amount \$
Wages – Welcoming Communities Coordinator	[redacted]
Total expenditure to date 2020/21:	[redacted]
Balance remaining (if relevant):	[redacted]

Note: if this money has not been spent in full please provide information on how you intend to spend it in the next six months.

Activity for the next six months

Under this heading, provide a high-level list of key deliverables or milestones and their approximate dates over the next six months. Bullet point notes can be used. This could include implementing specific Welcoming Plan activities and any other programme-related activities.

- Expenditure for next six months will cover wages for Welcoming Communities Coordinator
- Establishing advisory group, regular advisory group meetings
- Stocktake activities: workshops, focus groups, surveys, community engagement

Issues, risks and challenges

Under this heading note any issues, risks or challenges arising or expected to arise and how you have or intend to manage them.

- Lack of response / engagement from outreach communication to key stakeholders > follow up with phone calls and offer 1-to-1 meetings; paid advertising to increase visibility of public information
- Lack of interest to join advisory group > make explicit invitations to individuals, adjust the workload / responsibilities to suit
- Cultural etiquette and customs > seeking guidance from cultural leaders to gain knowledge and understanding

Appendices

1. Welcoming Communities Rangitikei project plan
2. Welcoming Communities Rangitikei communication plan

10.3 Economic Development Update - December 2021 and January 2022**Author:** Jaime Reibel, Strategic Advisor - Economic Development**Authoriser:** Gaylene Prince, Group Manager - Community Services**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This report summarises the programmes, activities and focus areas initiated or undertaken as part of Council's Economic Development work during the months of December 2021 and January 2022.

2. Meetings/Events Attended

- Taihape Rural Health Centre Integrated Redevelopment meeting
- Tour of the Taihape Rural Health Centre (Taihape Hospital General Services Building) and discussion with Otaihape Health Trust trustees

3. Business Support

- 3.1 Meetings/conversations were held during the reporting period to support the following businesses (excluding those that are commercially sensitive):

- two commercial property investors (Marton)
- an industrial manufacturer (Marton)

4. Housing

- 4.1 Senior and Elderly Shared Accommodation/Group Home (Taihape)

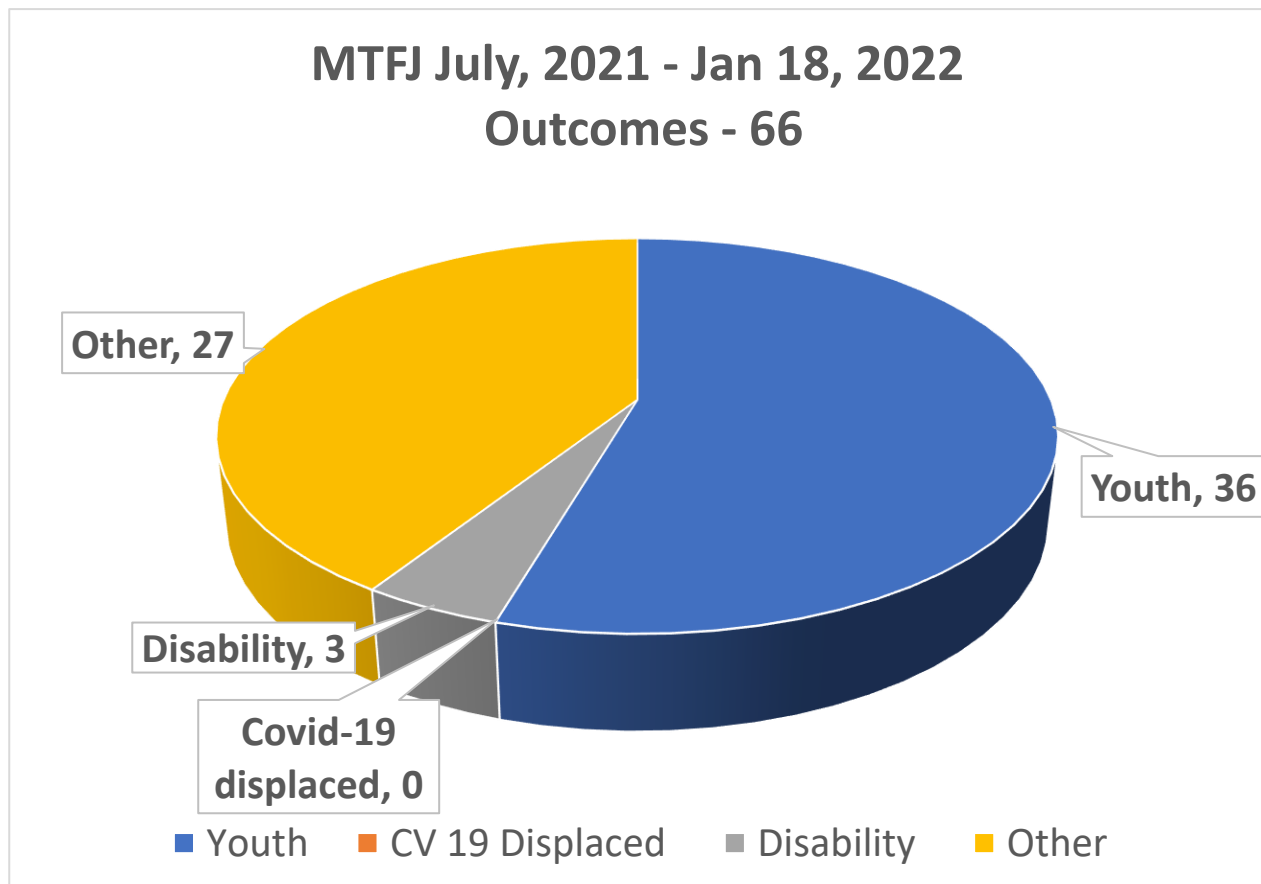
- Several Otaihape Health Trust trustees have expressed their concern over the long-term financial viability of a group home at the General Services Building, given the past history of the Ruanui Rest Home. They support the idea of a group home but want to also explore converting the building into a 3-4 apartment complex.
- It was agreed that a simple way to determine the viability of a shared accommodation/group home is to consult with independent and mobile Taihape community seniors and elderly to identify how many people are interested in becoming residents of a group home and how many of those who express interest will provide a down-payment to secure their place in a future facility. Based on the results, a determination will be made as to whether the project will continue or not.

5. Mahi Tahi – Employment Programme

- 5.1 The Mahi Tahi Programme placed 11 youth and older persons in employment during December and 13 in January¹.

¹ Through 18th January 2022.

- 5.2 This brings the total number of jobs filled from July 2021 – 18 January 2022 to 66, which surpasses the annual target of 50 sustainable jobs (defined as 30 hours/day x 30 days).
- 5.3 During the period placements were made in the primary (food processing and horticulture), civil construction and hospitality sectors.
- 5.4 Mahi Tahi continues to have many more jobs available than applicants to fill them.



6. District Promotion

6.1 Visit Rangitikei website

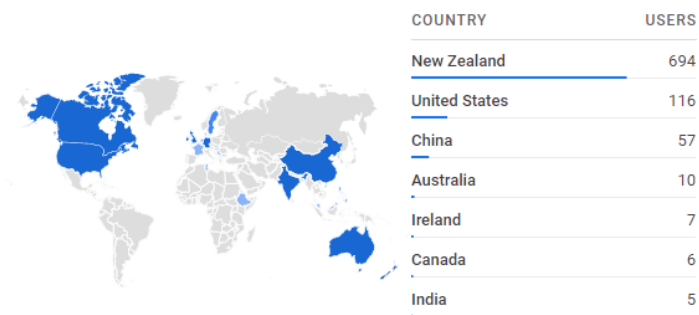
- 6.1.1 Total engagement for the period November 30, 2021 - January 14, 2022 was, as follows:

ITEM 10.3



6.1.1 Where our visitors came from

Users ▾ by Country



6.2 Shop Local Rangitikei

6.2.1 Businesses continue to be promoted via the Shop Local Rangitikei Facebook group.

6.3 Destination Rangitikei Project Timeline

When	Who/What	How
February (end of month)	Initial Draft	
February/March	Implementation Group review draft document	Pre-reading and in-person workshop
	ELT review	Via e-mail at their discretion
	Elected Members review	Via e-mail at their discretion
March/April	Community Committees/Boards focused session	Both in-person and online
	Key Stakeholder group	Facilitated both in-person and online

	Policy overview – Department of Conservation, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Horizons, Whanganui Māori Regional Tourism Organisation, Te Puni Kokiri.	Facilitated both in-person and online
April	Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa	Reports via Komiti meeting
	Policy Planning	Reports via Committee meeting
	Council – Adoption	Reports via Council meeting

6.4 Town Signage

6.4.1 Whangaehu – A location has been agreed in principle with a member of the town signage committee and staff are engaging with Waka Kotahi for approval.

6.4.2 Mangaweka – The sign at the southern entrance will be erected during the next reporting period, with the northern sign location still in discovery phase.

6.4.3 Bulls – signage is awaiting the white frames that will be made in the next reporting period, while the 3rd sign location on SH 3 is still in negotiation.

6.5 Visit Rangitikei Brading – Updated

6.5.1 Visit Rangitikei Brand document has been updated to reflect the correct spelling of Pohokura and include the story of the overall design and elements gifted by Iwi...

Rangitikei Aotearoa

Logo explained



ITEM 10.3

Recommendation

That the 'Economic Development Update - December 2021 and January 2022' be received.

11 Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 14 April 2022 at 1.00 pm.

12 Meeting Closed