

OUR PEOPLE

Have your say on the future of our District!



Our Place

ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENT



"It's all about our people and our place, so tell us what you think!!"

Waitomo District Council has an opportunity to receive \$14.2M as part of Central Government's 3 waters 'better off funding' package.

It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend a significant amount of funds on community projects. As a starter for ten, we are refreshing our Town Concept Plans (TCPs) and we want to know what you think!

WDC's funding is worth \$14.2m and is split into two tranches. The first tranche of \$3.55m is available in September 2022 and \$10.64m in July 2024.

Chief Executive Ben Smit says the 'better off' funding package will enable councils to invest in their communities and help them prepare for the future.

"This includes opportunities to accelerate projects that build resilience to climate change and other natural hazards, deliver infrastructure for housing development and support community wellbeing. Council is not likely to receive such a large sum of funding again, so we want to know how best to utilise the funding available to us."

As part of the process, WDC is refreshing its Town Concept Plans and is looking to confirm whether they are still relevant. The current TCPs were completed four years ago and significant community engagement took place at that time, which helped to inform the Key Moves outlined in the TCPs. Key moves are actions that were suggested by the community via feedback.

There are currently 163 projects included in the TCPs. Council is engaging with the community to understand which projects and ideas are still relevant, what are new priorities and what is achievable using the 'better off' funding.

"Not many of the projects were funded by Council in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan or by other funders, and progress to deliver on these projects is slow particularly given the impact that these projects would have on rates and the difficult last few years with COVID-19 having a major impact on materials and staff shortages," says Ben.

Council is working closely with mana whenua and iwi and have developed five key principles which will underpin public consultation: Enhancing Identity (what our towns really are); Recognising History/Heritage (Maori and non-Maori); Supporting Growth and Redevelopment (housing and towns); Creating Opportunities for all (learning and employment, diversifying industry/lifestyle); Respect and Care for the Natural Environment.



Partnering for Social Good



We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date, but there are some projects that don't quite fit into the infrastructure project space, so we've given them their own key theme: "Partnering for Social Good". This encompasses housing, employment, education and wellbeing, among others.

Potential projects, which extend across the entire district, include:

Housing strategy, housing needs analysis and housing partnerships

This project would involve undertaking a district-wide assessment on the housing needs of our communities. The project would be quite involved as we would need to gather a wide range of information from real estate data, population and demographic statistics, land availability, and housing availability, as well as determining the types of housing we have in our district such as emergency housing, rentals, rent-to-own, executive homes etc. We would need to engage with someone who has expertise in this field. This information would be used to develop a Housing Strategy to ensure future developments meet the needs of the community.

Support for elderly community and facilities

This project would provide an assessment of the needs of our elderly residents, both now and in the future. We would look at how services, amenities and activities can be more age-friendly. Key issues such as housing, transport and mobility, social participation and accessibility would be taken into consideration.

Connecting with our Rangatahi

This project would provide support for rangatahi to have a voice within our community and could involve reviewing and redeveloping our Youth Council. We would actively engage with rangatahi, and those providing services to our rangatahi to determine what we can do for our younger residents to ensure they have investment in our community and develop a strong sense of ownership.

Community Gardens and Urban Food Forests

To create and build on our community gardens. Gardens promote engagement and belonging in a community along with providing kai for our whanau and a place to gather and learn.

Sports Club Collaboration

This project would involve the collaboration of a group to provide things like administrative support and shared procurement for our local sports clubs and teams. This could then progress to other initiatives over time. This would be facilitated by Sport Waikato.

Vocational Pathways

There is an opportunity to support local industries with career pathways and development programmes for local secondary school students and those not in employment. Rangatahi have become increasingly disengaged so a collaborative approach to dealing with this is required between schools, youth and employment providers, employers, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Social Development, with Council potentially facilitating.

Methamphetamine Programme

There is recognition that drug use is a significant issue in our community, Do you think we should support a programme to address this issue in partnership with key agencies?

Business Collaboration

Is there an opportunity for us to help facilitate further collaboration within the business community, and if so, how?

Funding Scale and Key

Small: Under \$20K

Major: \$250K – \$750K

Medium: \$20K – \$100K

Significant: \$750K+

Large: \$100K – \$250K

☺ Other funding can also be sought

TE KŪITI

The current Te Kūiti Town Concept Plan suggested 4 key moves. We have revised these to the following:

- › Improve our Town Centre Gateways – to support town identity
- › Create a Civic Heart Precinct - where our people can see themselves represented
- › Our awa, walkways and significant assets – our natural and cultural assets unite and connect us

We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date – what do you think?



Rototuna Community Hub, Hamilton- Chow Hill + BOON



Te wharehou o Wākaremoana, Te Urewera - Tennent Brown

Te Kūiti Community / Cultural Hub ☺

Indicative Cost: Significant +/- \$8M

This is a space to learn, participate and collaborate and feel part of our community, and is for all ages and sectors of our community. This should be in the centre of Te Kūiti and help bring a sense of identity for our community and a place that attracts visitors to stop. A list of what elements we could have in this follows:

- Library and resource provision
- Contemporary art, history and archives
- Community information provision
- Space for youth
- Access to technology
- Entertainment – small cinema
- Access to Council services
- Food and beverage
- Maori cultural celebration, history and enhanced feeling of connection
- Community space for meetings, activities and classes
- Support to access social services
- Education, learning centre eg digital literacy, reading programmes, story telling
- Employment services
- Business services – casual office space and meeting space
- Creativity eg music recording / sound-proof environment

Our awa, walkways and significant assets - unite and connect us

We have three potential projects included in this theme. Indicative Cost: Large (combined)

- Motakiora / Brook Park development and trail ☺

Indicative Cost: Medium

Audit of Te Arorua Trail from our district boundary in the North to Brook Park to assess access and directional signage. Development of track through felled Pines at the top of Brook Park (140m of track). Emphasise the cultural significance of Ngati Rora. History of park (botanic / European). Signage - direction and informational. Track formation in one place. Tree clearing and maintenance.

- Awa walkway upgrade and development through Te Kūiti ☺

Indicative Cost: Medium

An all weather track from Bosco Cafe to Te Kūiti Domain to be formed by the Mangaokewa Stream. Upgrade of track from the domain to Lawrence Street Bridge including trail width upgrades, and an upgrade of the retaining wall. Linkage should be developed from this walkway into the town centre. Investigate a safe swimming hole along the Esplanade. New track development from Lawrence Street Bridge to Inframax Construction Ltd Depot where the Te Arorua trail starts again. This is a new trail so we would need to assess potential trail routes.

- Te Arorua Trail to Mangaokewa Reserve

Indicative Cost: Medium

The Te Arorua Trail from Inframax Construction Ltd Depot out to Mangaokewa Reserve needs some major maintenance and clearing to make this a more appealing / useable trail to allow access to the reserve and viaduct. This part of the trail upgrade completes the total linkage of the trails.

Te Kūiti Town Centre environment

Indicative Cost: Major

As well as any potential development of a Community and Cultural Hub, it appears there is a need to look at the general environment in the Te Kūiti town centre. Is there a wish for Council to facilitate the need to regenerate commercial and retail buildings, Council street furniture and other infrastructure, and artwork? Is there a will to work toward a common colour palette, focus on dilapidated buildings? Is there a need for a 'joined up' approach to security and safety in the town centre?

Improving Amenities in Te Kūiti

Indicative Cost: Large

- Upgrade Te Kūiti Skatepark

With the completion of Te Ara Tika re-establishing the pedestrian link there is potential to further enhance this area that is close to the centre of town and highly visible. There is opportunity to refurbish the Skatepark area so that it is more appealing to young people and will build on the sport and recreational activities available.

- Centennial Park Revitalisation

This project could look at the future of Centennial Park and the surrounding area to improve the range of use, as well as improving the safety of the roads in the area.

- Road Safety Park

This project would be to create a family friendly Road Safety Park for our younger residents. The park would be a fun environment for children aged two to 10 years where they can learn about basic road safety in an interactive environment.

- Cultural embellishments for King Country Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre ☺

The new stadium in Te Kūiti will open in the new year. There is an opportunity to showcase the district's past and/or our future through localised artwork and design with a Maori narrative. The artwork would be on display in the stadium for the community to enjoy.

- Solar panels for King Country Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre

There is an opportunity to install solar panels on the roof of the new stadium to reduce energy bills and provide renewable clean power that is available every day.

Te Kūiti Gateways Project

Indicative Cost: Major

The town concept plan for Te Kūiti emphasised the need to "weave" the township back together. Te Kūiti is severed by State Highway 3 and 30, and the North Island Main Trunk rail line. The three gateways would require significant landscaping, improved signage, and lighting. Historical and cultural aspects would be incorporated to create a sense of identity and arrival through each gateway, and tell the story of Maniapoto and European history. Improving safety will be a major consideration.

Northern Gateway



PIOPIO



There are 4 key moves suggested in the current Piopio Town Concept Plan. They are:

- › Build on the visitor experience and encourage people to stop and discover Piopio
- › Reinforce a sense of place
- › Build a resilient local economy
- › Improve safety and ease of access in and around the Town Centre

We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date - what do you think?

Improve safety and ease of access around town

Indicative Cost: Medium

The project would involve putting measures in place to ensure vehicles park in a manner to allow visibility through the main street of Piopio. Paving and signage would be used to encourage people to walk into town and creation of safe places for pedestrians to cross the main street.



Gateways, traffic calming, carpark sealing

Indicative Cost: Large

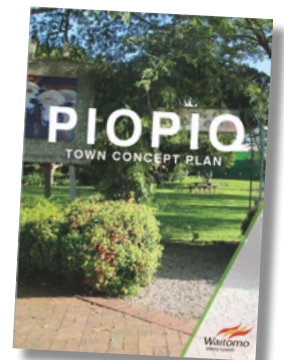
The project would involve the two gateways into Piopio on State Highway 3 around the main entrance ways at the 50km mark. The project aims to build on the sense of arrival and place and introduce traffic and calming measures to be incorporated to improve pedestrian safety. This project would also include sealing the Piopio Cosmopolitan Club Carpark to reinforce its use as a public carpark.



Further development of The Village Green space

Indicative Cost: Medium

The Village Green has potential for development and some additional amenities that the community would like to have in this central location.



Visit our website to read the full version of this Town Concept Plan
<https://www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/our-people-our-place-community-consultation/>

MŌKAU & MAROKOPA

There are 4 key moves suggested in the current Mōkau Town Concept Plan. They are:

- > Create attractive, safe gateway entrances and public spaces in Mōkau
- > Mōkau is changing - how do we protect its character?
- > Improve footpath connections and access
- > Improve viewpoints and access to the coast and river

We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date - what do you think?

Gateways including parking and pedestrian safety

Indicative Cost: Major

The Mōkau River is the southern entry point to the King Country and a critical landmark demarcating tribal boundary, and it is the boundary into the Waikato Region. The gateway design would announce arrival and recognise the significance of this gateway and its mana and history. The project would involve landscaping, planting, signage and cultural aspects. The northern gateway would also include traffic calming measures to slow traffic to the posted 50 km, and additional truck and car parking.

Better access to the beach

Indicative Cost: Large

This project would provide improved accessway for two of Mōkau's beach or river access tracks. Tokopapa access, Beach Road access, and Bamboo walkway access are possible sites. Improved signage would also help direct visitors to these access points.

Mokau Toilets - Tokopapa Street ☺

Indicative Cost: Medium

This is to add a set of public toilets on Council land adjacent to beach access. There is no reticulated wastewater system at Mōkau. Currently, demand for toilet facilities at the proposed location is addressed using Portaloos. This is expensive and only a short-term and low quality level of service. The proposed toilets are to be two-pan, mono-pitched roof with stainless steel pans and basins, auto shut off taps, and dryers, LED lighting. Significant Tourism Infrastructure funding has already been received for this so the required funding is only for the remaining balance.

Improve amenities (including playground)

Indicative Cost: Large

This project would be to create a small local park in a preferred location which provides and would be designed for local school aged children. There would be the addition of street furniture including picnic tables, seating and lighting. There are various site options available.

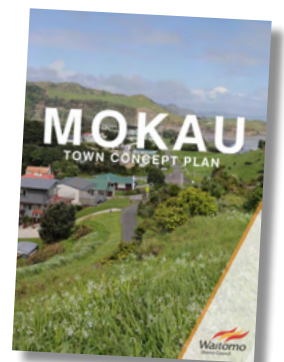
What is the future of the Marokopa Campground and block of land?

Indicative Cost: Medium

The Marokopa Campground has been subdivided into two Records of Title. One Record of Title contains the existing camping ground and fire station. The second Record of Title contains the tennis court and old school building. As part of the development and use of this site, Council is considering leasing the campground, and the site that contains the old school building and tennis court. To better enable use of the site containing the old school house, Council is proposing to demolish it to provide for an alternate use of that site (to be decided by a future lease).

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MANIAITI/ BENNEYDALE



There are 2 key moves suggested in the current Benneydale Town Concept Plan. They are:

- › Strengthen the visitor experience as the gateway to the Timber Trails. Look at future ways to encourage people to stop/visit and explore
- › Increase the public and community facilities for people living in Maniaiti/Benneydale

We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date – what do you think?

Gateways, traffic calming

Indicative Cost: Large

The project would involve the two gateways to Maniaiti/Benneydale on State Highway 30 around the main entrance ways at the 50km mark. Traffic calming measures would be incorporated to improve pedestrian safety.



Improving amenities

We have three potential projects included in the 'Improving Amenities' theme.

Indicative Cost: Large

- Rugby Ground Upgrade

Improve field drainage and lighting to make the rugby ground more useable.

- Sealing area in front of hall

Tarsealing the area in front of the hall to make the area better for parking and pedestrians while improving the look and feel of the area. Curbing and planting would also be considered to enhance the space.



- Playground

This project would create a multifaceted playground area with some activities aimed at teenagers with skatepark, basketball half court. Seating, lighting, and pathways would be upgraded. The vegetation and under growth would be removed to improve visibility and access. The project would also include some ecological restoration along the stream.



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WAITOMO CAVES VILLAGE



There are 4 key moves suggested in the current Waitomo Caves Village Town Concept Plan. They are:

- › Strengthen the visitor experience for Waitomo Caves Village
- › Establish a distinct character for Waitomo Caves Village that differentiates it from the wider Waitomo District
- › Identify the future land uses and their character to ensure future developments meet the needs of the village as well as reinforcing the identity of the village
- › Improve the pedestrian connectivity within the village to enable safer and more legible connections between the activities

We have developed some potential project ideas based on the current TCP and feedback to date - what do you think?



Gateways (where does the gateway begin?)

Indicative Cost: Large

The project would involve the gateway to the Waitomo Village on State Highway 37 around the main entrance to the village. Traffic calming measures would be incorporated to improve pedestrian safety.

OR

The Hangatiki roundabout gateway would involve improved signage and a sculpture artwork or to identify the significance of the area that would create a more defined entrance to the Waitomo District.



Improve amenities, maintain natural landscape, improve paths and cycleways, signage

Indicative Cost: Large

The project is to upgrade the central area in a cohesive and integrated manner in collaboration with iwi, land-owners, Department of Conservation and Waka Kotahi. Pedestrian access will be improved with upgraded pathways and pedestrian crossings.

Improve amenities including installing toilets

Indicative Cost: Large

Are additional public toilets that have 24-hour access required? if so where should they be?



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How to have your say!

There are several ways you can have your say:

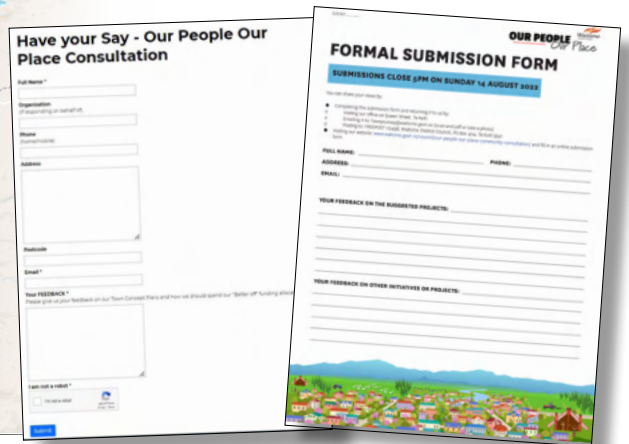
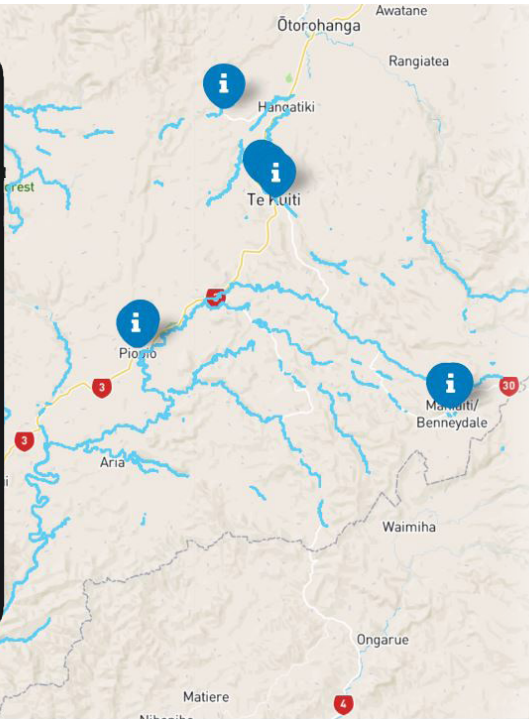
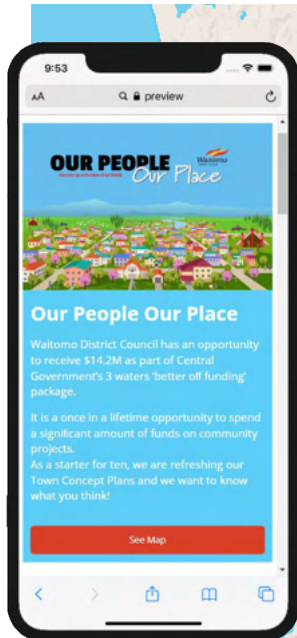
Visit our Social Pinpoint Consultation Page



socialpinpoint

<https://waitomdc.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/our-people-our-place-consultation>

**Fill in a paper form or
online submission form**



Attend one of our Drop in sessions

www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/our-people-our-place-community-consultation/

Tuesday 19 July 2022	Piopio Drop in session	2pm-7pm	Piopio Memorial Hall
Thursday 21 July 2022	Waitomo Caves Drop in session	2pm-7pm	Waitomo Caves Museum
Wednesday 27 July 2022	Maniaiti/Benneydale Drop in session	2pm-7pm	Benneydale Library
Friday 29 July 2022	Te Kūiti Drop in session	11am-5pm	Railway Building 3, Rora St



SUB NO: _____

FORMAL SUBMISSION FORM

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 5PM ON SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2022

You can share your views by:

- Completing this submission form and returning it to us by:
 - o Visiting our office on Queen Street, Te Kūiti
 - o Emailing it to: haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz (scan and pdf or take a photo)
 - o Posting to: FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- Visiting our website: www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/our-people-our-place-community-consultation/ and fill in an online submission form

FULL NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE SUGGESTED PROJECTS: _____

YOUR FEEDBACK ON OTHER INITIATIVES OR PROJECTS: _____

