

Hikurangi Steering Group for Council's Placemaking Plan

Meeting held on Monday, 7th September 2020 at Lighthouse Playgroup

20 George Street, Hikurangi

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

Present:

Alex Smits (FH), Alicia Lawrie (WDC), Paul Cook (FH), Injoo Riehl (WDC), Shayn Rouse (HBA), David (Lions), Ian Hodgson (HBA), Jocelyn Apeldoorn (HBA), John Edwards (Maori Wardens), Mary-Ann Vogt (Maori Wardens), Larissa Lauder (Resident), Lynette Wharfe (Rugby Club), Sharlene Morris-Ross(Playgroup), Ryan Maraki (Sport Northland).

Apologies:

Steve (Free Masons), Pete (Police), Ray (Lions).

General Business:

Alex welcomed those present to the meeting of the Hikurangi Steering Group for Council's Placemaking Plan. He then asked the room to introduce themselves.

Alicia introduced the Placemaking Plan and discussed the progress to date. She presented the "Summary of Feedback" from the online survey which had 140 responses from Hikurangi. The summary identified key themes, which were connectivity, heritage and character, and destination. It also identified key issues, which were beautification, activity and amenity, community support, active transport, and growth. Specific topics began discussions:

1. Heritage buildings: It was suggested a review of current heritage buildings is in order. Specific buildings of interest/concern were the Hikurangi Pub, the bare section next to the hall, the old BNZ building opposite the Mormon Church, and the building on the corner of Valley Road.
2. Tourism & Beautification: "Beautifying Hikurangi" was a key theme raised from the survey and issues of tourism opportunities were raised. New signs at each entrance to Hikurangi advertising our town is suggested, NZTA is in charge of road signs. Some issues were raised by Jocelyn of the visibility and knowledge of the maori history of Hikurangi. It was suggested the main strip through Hikurangi needs an upgrade and structural work on many of the buildings is necessary. It was suggested to look at improving pathways and to revise how well the new road lines are (these are causing issues with visibility of pedestrians at the crossing). Lynette suggested looking at doing Hikurangi up as a shanty town to add more character to the township. Ryan suggested possibilities of incorporating mine tours into the township and using it to target tourism to bring more people in. It was discussed Hikurangi is the gate way to the Tutukaka Twin Coast Discovery drive and we can promote this more to the wider public.
3. Bus Service: Alicia informed the group that Northland Regional Council are going to look at starting a bus service between Hikurangi and town one day a week, likely starting Oct/Nov 2020. It was discussed that this was unlikely going to meet the needs of the community if it is set hours one day a week. Perhaps a van service that is by booking will work better for

Hikurangi. Tornado Youth used to do this and could contact them for information of how their system worked etc. It was mentioned by David that the train is possibly a better way for transport between Hikurangi and town in the future. He advised of various works taking place around the wider region so trains can be used for transporting again to get truck off the highways. Can we tap into the railway usage, especially on weekends, for locals and for tourism attraction?

4. Bike track: Alicia asked if there was any interest in a bike track or any other type of space for the locals to utilise. It was suggested to run a bike track along the railway, Lynette suggested lighting and cctv if this was to take place. Having a bike track in Hikurangi would give more opportunities for outdoor free play for families and children especially. It was suggested using the Glenbervie Forest to put a bike track through to Hikurangi so a loop could be created.
5. Gomez Park: Shayn advised that the Gomez Park needs to be readdressed with the council to utilise the council land on Gomez Road. This has been in plans for around 10 years but last time it was organized it was done wrong and made some community members upset. It was noted some residents had worries about noise issues. Shayn presented the plan verbally that the idea for the park would be to put in motorcross and mountain bike tracks that would allow the land to be utilised by local community groups/clubs to hold trail bike rides, mountain bike rides, horse treks, or other similar events for fundraising purposes. It was noted that the local annual trail bike ride held on Jubilee Road raises anywhere from \$8000-\$10,000 in one day. The events would be proposed to be held at a maximum of once per month. It was discussed that currently young people ride motorbikes around the roads in the local community which is unsafe. It would be good if they had a designated area to go. The section next to the rubbish dump was mentioned as a possible location for development for motorbikes and dogs.
6. Zoning: The topic of areas for growth for businesses and residential areas was discussed. Currently Hikurangi is the service town to a much wider community going all the way up to Towai and beyond. There is currently no areas targeted for growth in Hikurangi. It was suggested if the section next to the hall could be purchased by any of the Hikurangi community groups it could be turned into parking to support local businesses in this area to have more customers come in because often cars are seen unable to find parking space so they do not stop off.
7. Upgrade Areas: It was noted the area between the pub and the bridge was looking good but is under utilised as it has no seating there and the footpath leads onto the road. A suggestion was made to have the footpath continue over the bridge on the same side of the road to go towards the library. The bridge railings/fencing could also do with an upgrade.
8. Markets: Alicia asked if the markets still continued in town. The answer was no and that the Tikipunga markets were now the nearest markets. The reason given for closing the markets was largely to do with the markets moving indoors instead of along the main street how they used to be when they were thriving.
9. Lake Waro: David raised the query as to whether lake Waro can be used to run a triathlon. It used to happen years ago but doesn't anymore. It was suggested this could be mentioned to Healthy Hikurangi.
10. Sports Hub: David mentioned Hikurangi could do with a sports hub to utilise the facilities better and to give the locals something to do. Travel for parents taking kids to sports in town is an issue. Ryan informed the group that local sports clubs are meeting and have been discussing options around a "sports hub" or "sportsville". The last meeting held recently had 18 people turned up and the general vibe was that everyone wants to work

together to help the clubs out as numbers are dropping. The members who attended are going back to their groups for further discussions and will come back to the next meeting with further suggestions/ideas.

11. Council informed the group of their next set of actions and they intend to hold 2 public meetings somewhere around mid-late October. This public meeting seeks further feedback from residents and all community members in regards to the target areas the survey has provided. It is likely one meeting will be held during the day and one will be held in the evening. The meeting will likely be in the hall and will be advertised in advanced in the bulletin, on the Hikurangi website, and on relevant social media. It is possible a separate flyer may be provided within the bulletin.

Alex thanked the group for their attendance. The next meeting will include maps of the area for people to draw their ideas on, and possibly an idea board for brainstorming with post-its.

Next Meeting: Monday 5th October 7pm @ Lighthouse Playgroup

Meeting closed 9pm.