



PIRONGIA VILLAGE CONCEPT PLAN REFRESH

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2020, Waipā District Council launched the Be Bold Pirongia campaign to collaborate with the community, partners, and stakeholders to gather ideas to help inform and refresh the 2010 Pirongia Village Concept Plan. This document forms a record of engagement undertaken during the project and identifies how it influenced the outcomes.

Waipā District Council was keen to hear the community's ideas and views on the future of Pirongia to help identify the next key actions and projects required to keep pace with the town's growth and ensure a place where people continued to be proud to live, work and visit.

To guide and inform decision-making on the project, Council partnered with mana whenua and established two groups; a Project Steering Group and a Council managers group. These groups were critical in the formulation of the Village Concept Plan Refresh vision, objectives, and key actions.

The engagement approach included a series of meetings and discussions with the local community, iwi groups, Pirongia Community Association, Project Steering Group and Council managers. A flexible and adaptable engagement approach was required to adjust to the global COVID-19 pandemic and acknowledge a rapidly changing environment.

Over the 6-month engagement period, 241 responses were received from the community and 11 meetings were held to gather local knowledge and ground-truth each bold idea.

Outcomes and next steps:

Updated vision statements (in English and te reo), four key objectives and various recommended actions were collaboratively developed through this campaign and through a community-led refinement process. Seven key actions (highlighted below) were recommended to go forward and form the Pirongia Village Concept Plan Refresh.

These actions will be considered for potential funding and implementation in the 2024-34 Waipā District Council Long Term Plan.

Waipā District Council will build on the interest and momentum generated from this campaign. Pirongia Primary school will be involved to further test and develop the ideas and ensure the future voice of Pirongia is also part of the conversation.



WAIPĀ RIVER

River access
River walk
River health



PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Youth activities
Franklin Street streetscape
Wayfinding



WALKING AND CYCLING

Safer ways to get to school

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

The Be Bold Pirongia campaign, launched by Waipā District Council in March 2020, engaged the community in the Village Concept Plan Refresh process. Through the process Council listened to ideas and visions for what the future Pirongia should look like.

There was a tremendous volume of ideas received from mana whenua, the community and stakeholders which were used to help shape the refresh of the existing Pirongia Town Concept Plan and inform Council's Long Term Plan in the future.

This report summarises all the engagement methods, activities and results during the preparation and development of the Village Concept Plan Refresh for Pirongia.

Each engagement record has been divided into three sections:

- 1** 'What we did' presenting the steps undertaken by the project team to consult partners, stakeholders and members of the community;
- 2** 'What we heard' summarising the outcomes of discussions or consultation; and
- 3** 'What we did with the information' outlining how the information gathered influenced the project.

PART 2

ENGAGEMENT RECORD

2.1 IWI ENGAGEMENT

The relationship with mana whenua is critically important to Waipā District Council. As project partners, mana whenua helped to shape the key recommended actions and were represented on the project steering group. A hui was also held online on 19 July 2020 with representatives from Pūrekireki marae.

What we did

At the start of the project, Council staff extended the invitation for mana whenua to provide a te reo Māori vision in recognition of their partnership status. This invitation was accepted and members of Pūrekireki marae formulated a vision for inclusion in the final Village Concept Plan Refresh.

A hui was held with the Council project team and representatives of Pūrekireki marae on 19 July 2020. This was to update mana whenua on the project progression and for them to review the refined list of bold ideas prior to the Council managers meeting. Mana whenua were asked to consider any themes or concepts the project team may have missed.

What we heard

After consideration of the short list of bold ideas, the representative of the Pūrekireki marae didn't feel that any themes or concepts had been left out from the short list of bold ideas, however reiterated Pirongia's heritage was important to mana whenua and needed to be reflected as such.

Mana whenua were enthusiastic to progress with the inclusion of a te reo Māori vision in recognition of their partnership status in the project.

What we did with the information

In recognition of the partnership status, mana whenua

E aro ana ki te ripa tauārai o Pūāwhē, ki te iwi e arohatia nei.

Acknowledging the ridge that leads to Pūāwhē*

* 'Pūāwhē' is an old name for Pirongia mountain and iwi have asked that what is now called 'The Cone' be recognised with that name.

voice and values have been integrated in each phase of project.

The te reo Māori vision was developed recognising and celebrating the history and land formation of Pirongia.

2.2 BE BOLD PIRONGIA, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Round 1 – 14 March to 29 May 2020

What we did

To create a source of information for Pirongia's community, Waipā District Council established the Be Bold Pirongia webpage on the Council website. This was used throughout the project to keep the local community informed and engaged in the Village Concept Plan Refresh.

The Be Bold Pirongia page introduced the project to the community. It hosted a link to the Social Pinpoint platform which had a survey and an interactive map to collect the community's aspirations and the long list of 'bold ideas' for the village.

Through the survey and the map, Council was interested to hear responses to the following questions:

1. How do Pirongia residents envision Pirongia in fifty years' time? (Free-text response).
2. How do Pirongia residents describe their 'preference vibe' for future Pirongia? (A single-choice response was available with the following options: an arty town, a bustling town, a tourist town, a green town, an historic town and a social town).
3. What big ideas do Pirongia residents have to improve access to the Waipā River, access to green spaces and other natural assets? (Free-text response).
4. What big ideas do Pirongia residents have to implement pedestrian and cyclist only zones, and safer ways for kids to go to school? (Free-text response).
5. What big ideas do Pirongia residents have to provide better connections throughout the town for all users – pedestrians, cyclists and motorists? (Free-text response).
6. What comments, suggestions and sentiments do Pirongia residents have in terms of the existing assets and how could they be improved? (Free-text response).

Initially planned to run for four weeks, the first round of public engagement was extended by seven weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With face-to-face engagement restrictions in place, alternative engagement channels were utilised to gather maximum input from the community. The engagement activities were run as follows:

- Social Pinpoint – online platform;
- Community event – see details and figure 1 below;
- Facebook;
- Te Awamutu Courier Newspaper (see figure 2);
- Emails to Elected Members and campaign page link added to residents’ blogs; and
- Paper copies of the survey mailed out to each resident within the Pirongia village boundary with guidance on a local drop off point for submission.

Online engagement

The Social Pinpoint platform launched on Saturday 14 March 2020 and hosted a survey as well as a map-based idea submission tool.

The survey asked participants to project themselves into the year 2070, imagine how their future Pirongia would look and feel, and provide a description of it. The survey also asked the participants to choose a

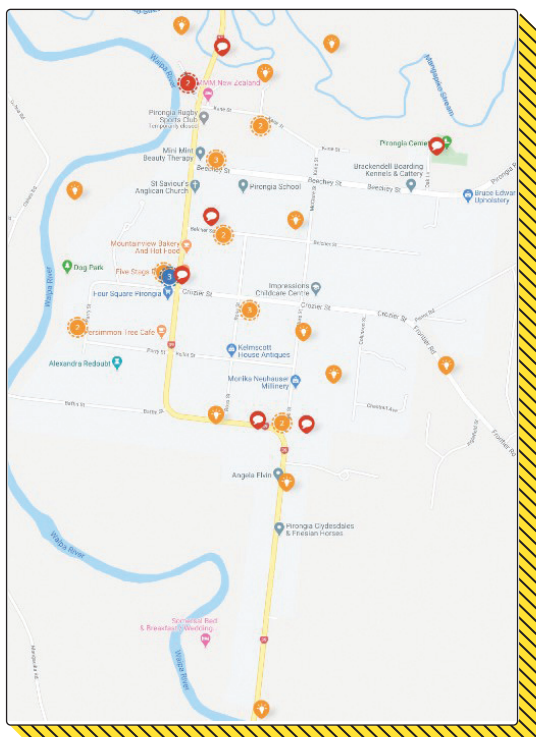


Figure 1: Social Pinpoint Interactive Map at time of survey closing (5 pm, 29 May 2020)

single ‘preference vibe’ for their future Pirongia. The map-based tool allowed participants to drop a pin and add their sentiments and comments on existing assets, as well as to provide suggestions for future ones. The Social Pinpoint survey was open for 11 weeks, and closed to community feedback 5pm, 29 May 2020.

Other public engagement

The Pirongia Community BBQ held on the 14 March 2020 at Rangimarie Reserve was the only event the project team could attend before public event restrictions came into force as a result of COVID-19. This community BBQ was well attended was a successful launch of the project and interactive tools. The project team used tablets to demonstrate how the online platform worked and excellent feedback was received from the community on the accessibility and user-friendliness of the interactive map.



Figure 2: Pirongia Community BBQ, 14 March 2020



Figure 3: Te Awamutu Courier, 21 May 2020

What we heard

140 responses were received from the community in the first round of engagement, with 74 surveys completed and 66 comments and suggestions added on the interactive map. The above results include paper copies and emails submitted separately to Council.

In response to ‘what are the first things you see and hear’ in Pirongia in 2070, the top three themes mentioned by respondents related to:

- 1 **Nature / River / Planting and birds**
(53 mentions)
- 2 **Amenities / Playground / Skatepark**
(44 mentions)
- 3 **Safe and people-friendly spaces**
(34 mentions)

For the ‘vibe preference’ question, **36%** of respondents wished for future Pirongia to be a **green town** making the most of open spaces, the river and other natural assets, **22%** voted for a **social town** with lots of places and spaces for relaxation, recreation and sport, and **18%** chose a **historic town**, rich in heritage and traditional character.

The overall result of the preference for future Pirongia are shown in the graph below.

While the remaining questions focused on the participants’ age group and place of residence, question five and six prompted them to think of locations for further improvements regarding access to the river, safety measures and better connections.

The following hotspots were identified for specific improvements:

- > Traffic speed reductions around Kane Street;
- > Separate footpaths in Kane Street, Belcher Street, Frontier Road and McClure Street;

- > Better north, south and west bridge crossings for pedestrians and cyclists;
- > Safer intersections on West Bellot Street, Parry Street and Crozier Street.

Additional stakeholders’ feedback

The following feedback was received during round one of engagement. Each was included in our analysis of the long list of bold ideas.

The **Ministry of Education** feedback outlined the following points:

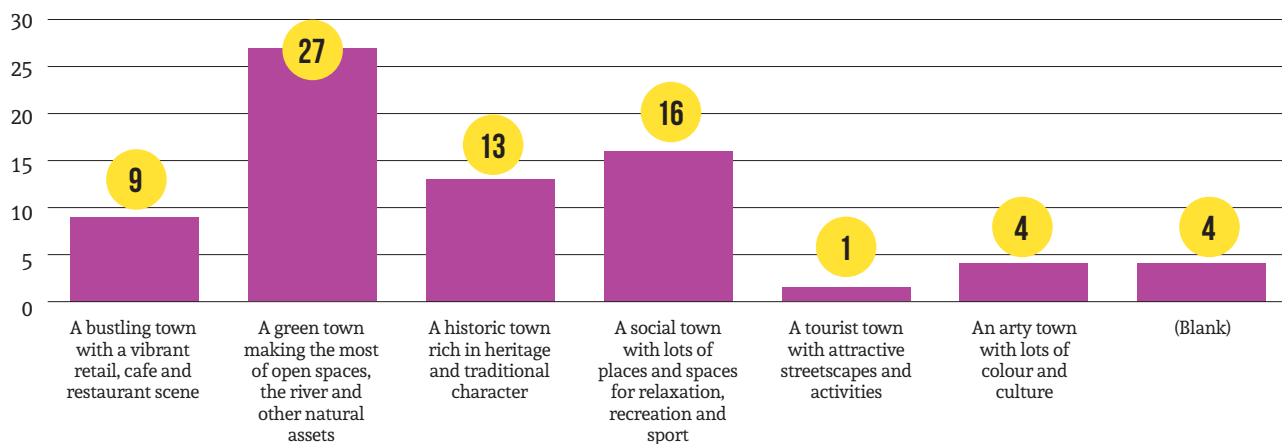
- > Schooling provisions; and
- > Walking and cycling connections to “enable a co-ordinated approach in safely accessing all forms of housing and social infrastructure provided in Pirongia”.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) feedback highlighted the HNZPT cultural, archaeological and built heritage listings located in Pirongia. This included two HNZPT Wāhi Tapu Areas, eight listed buildings and the HNZPT managed archaeological site known as Alexandra East Redoubt. HNZPT feedback reinforced the need to ensure the retention of historic heritage values and the recognition of the HNZPT regulatory role and consultation requirement.

Mount Pirongia Restoration Society focused their submission on the collaborative and engaged approach to the restoration of the Maunga and the Waipā River. The submission also recommended wayfinding and storytelling around the village.

Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society feedback requested the need for more wayfinding features to encourage tourists to stop and explore the village. It also highlighted the cycle trails to Te Awamutu, Te Pahu and Whatawhata; as well as the social hub capacity of the Rangimarie Reserve.

WHICH DESCRIPTION WOULD YOU USE FOR FUTURE PIRONGIA?



What we did with the information

The 140 responses were grouped based on the similarity of ideas. This exercise resulted in a medium list of 43 categories made up of bold ideas for how Pirongia could look in the future.

To understand what the main concerns were, the medium list of bolds ideas was further refined into problem statements which provided concise directives for the Village Concept Plan Refresh. Nine overarching statements emerged, describing the main points to address in the Refresh Plan.

The nine statements and their associated 'buzzwords' as mentioned in the survey by respondents are outlined below:

STATEMENT 1 – Pirongia does not have enough leisure (e.g. skatepark) and commercial facilities (e.g. shop, cafes, etc.) (88 mentions)

COMMERCIAL SENIOR
Parking **FRANKLIN ST**
RESERVE SKATEPARK
RANGIMARIE amenities
RETAIL ELECTRIC VECHICLES
PLAYGROUND

STATEMENT 3 – Pirongia does not feel safe walking and cycling around. Pedestrian crossings are in the wrong locations, children are at risk when walking to school, motorists and trucks travel too fast through the village, streetlights are not appropriate, and signage is not adequate (83 mentions)

USERS CONNECTIONS
for **SAFETY CROSSINGS**
INTERSECTIONS
KEA village **SAFER ALL**
AROUND and ENTRANCES

STATEMENT 2 – Pirongia is not using its natural assets fully (open space and river) (88 mentions)

RESERVE SAINSBURY
Mount Pirongia **WETLANDS**
ACCESS WAIPA RIVER
RIVER cyclist **BIRDS NATIVE**
MANGAPIKO STREAM
native **TRACKS PLANTING**

STATEMENT 4 – Pirongia does not have enough footpaths and cycleways to connect main destination points (48 mentions)

WALKING NORTHEN
cyclist **ENTRANCE THE**
CONNECTIONS VILLAGE
PEDESTRIAN *southern*
CIRCUIT

STATEMENT 5 – Pirongia should improve its access to the river and its surrounding green space (41 mentions)

FOOTPATH STATION
Mangapiko **WAIPĀ ACCESS**
LANDSCAPING *RIVER*
cyclist **FITNESS NATIVE**
STREAM TRACKS CONNECTIONS

STATEMENT 6 – Pirongia’s identity is anchored in its existing amenities and its historical heritage which can become eroded (22 mentions)

CULTURAL AUBIN ST
Franklin **MĀTAKITAKI PĀ**
REDOUBT SIGNAGE
HISTORICAL access
IDENTITY ALEXANDRA ST
Heritage

STATEMENT 7 – Pirongia’s growth could threaten its village character (21 mentions)

Village **CHARACTER**
REMAIN GROWTH

STATEMENT 8 – Pirongia requires pedestrian-only and cycle-only areas in the village (20 mentions)

PEDESTRIAN-ONLY
street **FOOTPATH**
CYCLE-ONLY **CYCLEPATHS**

STATEMENT 9 – Pirongia’s former Alexandra Auto Engineering is an eye-sore on the main street and needs to be addressed (18 mentions)

ART STREETScape
eye-sore **PUBLIC**
STREET FRANKLIN
FRONTAGE scrap-yard
MAINSTREET

The above statements were the foundation for the draft vision and draft themes to define the Plan's key objectives. Four action themes were identified, and key objectives drafted from those themes as listed below:

- **Theme 1: Connected people and places**
 - ◆ Draft Key Objective 1: A village with a safe, well-connected **walking and cycling network** meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.
- **Theme 2: Healthy green networks**
 - ◆ Draft Key Objective 2: A village which makes the best of its natural assets by **improving their health and access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia**.
- **Theme 3: People-friendly village**
 - ◆ Draft Key Objective 3: A **people-friendly village** well served by a variety of **recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services** for residents and visitors.
- **Theme 4: Pirongia image and character**
 - ◆ Draft Key Objective 4: A village that retains **strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity** through storytelling.

The draft vision and draft key objectives were presented and workshopped during our first Project Steering Group (see section 2.5).

2.3 PIRONGIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, Meeting #1 – 18 March 2020 and Meeting #2 – 15 May 2020

The Pirongia Community Association (PCA) is an independent organisation that exists to represent Pirongia's residents and ratepayers and its immediate surrounds. The organisation includes an elected member, and Waipā District Councillors are encouraged to attend their meetings which are also open to the public.

What we did

The project team met with the group at their March and May monthly meetings to present the project and seek input from its members. The first meeting was held face-to-face and introduced the project. The second meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions and was focused on gathering individual feedback on the survey. All survey questions and the map-based tool were explained and explored during the session.

What we heard

The PCA acknowledged the need for a Concept Plan Refresh as the community's aspirations had changed

since the publication of the last one ten years ago.

There were some initial concerns with the timeframe allowed for responses as not all residents in Pirongia would have easy access to the survey and map digitally. The group was keen to be engaged regularly during the project timeline which reiterated the proactiveness the community continued to demonstrate in delivering community-led initiatives.

The following themes/bold ideas came from the PCA meetings:

- Pirongia's character and identity
 - ◆ Future Pirongia is a green and historic village;
 - ◆ Village character needs to be retained, and subdivision of large land parcels should be avoided; and
 - ◆ Previous Town Concept Plan heritage objectives should be maintained in this Concept Plan Refresh.
- Environmental surroundings
 - ◆ Recommended action should emphasise vistas to Mount Pirongia and the River;
 - ◆ The community is very environmentally focused;
 - ◆ River access with kayaking entrance and a walkway extended with additional native planting would be good; and
 - ◆ Review access to the Sainsbury Road Reserve.
- Neighbourhood – Safety and amenity
 - ◆ Level of amenities matching the Council's growth projections;
 - ◆ Safe pedestrian crossings for children; and
 - ◆ Kane Street needs to be safer, and its walkability enhanced.
- Connections
 - ◆ Additional cycleways and footpaths including a walking circuit around the village and cycleway to school;
 - ◆ Better access to public transport;
 - ◆ Better connection between Crozier Street and Inglefield Street;
 - ◆ Walkway access to Collinson Street; and
 - ◆ Provide multi-modal access and passage on the southern bridge.

What we did with the information

Following the PCA initial feedback, a paper copy of the survey was mailed out to all residents within Pirongia with guidance on where they could return them to.

The bold ideas were included in the analysis and included in the medium list for further evaluation.

2.4 PROJECT STEERING GROUP, Workshop #1 – 9 June 2020

The Project Steering Group (PSG) gathered representatives from various groups and institutions including Council, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi), Waikato Regional Council (WRC), Pūrekireki marae, Pirongia Primary School, Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga and members from Pirongia Community Association. A series of PSG meetings were held throughout the project. This group acted as a sounding board for the project, testing and ground-truthing ideas and actions for progression.

What we did

The first meeting aimed to review and test the statements which were interpretations of the community feedback. The results from the long list of actions were presented, as well as the draft of the key plan objectives and the vision statement.

What we heard

Statements 1, 4 and 6 (outlined in section 2.1) were revisited to make them more focused, which helped to draft more precise key objectives. A brainstorming exercise on the public engagement responses highlighted the following points:

- Pirongia has many commuters with around a third of the residents travelling to Hamilton and Te Awamutu for work (Stats NZ);
- Attracting passage visitors is essential; and
- Village residents are environmentally focused and want to build an image around this.

The following figures show the development of the vision and key objectives:

DRAFT VISION AND OBJECTIVES

DRAFT VISION

In 50 years... Pirongia is celebrated as a village strongly connected to the mountain and river; it's a place where people live and visit to play, shop and learn amongst safe streets, and where our unique culture and heritage is clearly articulated.

KEY ACTION THEMES

People-friendly village	Healthy green networks	Pirongia image and character	Connected people and places
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DRAFT KEY OBJECTIVES

A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.	A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health and access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.	A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling.	A village with a safe, well-connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.
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Figure 4: Draft vision, key action themes and draft objectives reviewed during the first Project Steering Group.

DRAFT VISION AND KEY OBJECTIVES – REVISION #1

The key action themes were agreed, and a couple of attempts on the visions were made during the first Project Steering Group meeting. The concept of connectedness was essential to the group, and the wayfinding element was added to the ‘heritage and identity’ objective. To represent the river and stream surrounding the village, the ‘blue’ element was also added to the environmental key action theme.

DRAFT VISION #2

Suggestion 1:
 In 50 years... Pirongia is celebrated as a **resilient** village strongly connected to the mountain and river; it’s a place that is **liveable and loveable**, where people live and visit to play, shop and learn amongst safe streets, and where our unique culture and heritage is clearly articulated.

Suggestion 2:
 In 50 years... Pirongia village embraces the **connectedness** it has to the people, the mountain, the river and its heritage.

The growth aspect is missing

This is important to the community

KEY ACTION THEMES

People-friendly village	Healthy green & blue networks	Pirongia image and character	Connected people and places ✓
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DRAFT KEY OBJECTIVES #2

A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.	A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health and access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.	A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.	A village with a safe, well-connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.
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Figure 5: Draft vision, key action themes and draft objectives suggested changes.

2.5 WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL MANAGERS, Workshop #1 – 11 June 2020

The project team gathered relevant activity area managers from across Council. It included staff from parks and reserves, property and transportation departments. This group helped the project team to understand the progress made on the actions that had been set during the previous plan and the feasibility for the programming of the next round of actions.

What we did

The group was presented with the results of the first round of public and stakeholder engagement and the outcomes of the first PSG workshop. The workshop continued with a review of all the 75 actions which had been set during the Pirongia 2010 Town Concept Plan and further alignment of those actions with the most recent community aspirations.

An opportunity and constraints brainstorm exercise was also undertaken to understand the present context.

What we heard

The group suggested that the vision could be more robust and could better acknowledge the diversity in Pirongia's population and identity.

The review of the previous set of actions found approximately 70% had been completed or were underway at the time of the meeting, and the remaining aligned with the community aspirations.

Discussions included:

- The Mātakitaki pā historical burial site and its cultural significance status;
- Conducting a review of the paper roads in Pirongia to inform future land use planning; and
- Rangimarie reserve and the appropriateness for further development within the site.

What we did with the information

The discussion formed the basis for understanding the key opportunities and challenges for implementing the list of actions. The workshops helped identify actions aligning with Council's capital programme and next 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP).

HOW WE REFINED TO THE SHORT LIST

To further refine the medium list of bold ideas and align with the stakeholders and partners input, a scoring exercise examined how the ideas were rated using a multi-criteria analysis. Each idea was scored against a set of criteria based on the project scope.

23 actions emerged as being in scope of this Village Concept Plan Refresh. They formed the preliminary short list to be workshopped at the following PSG meeting.

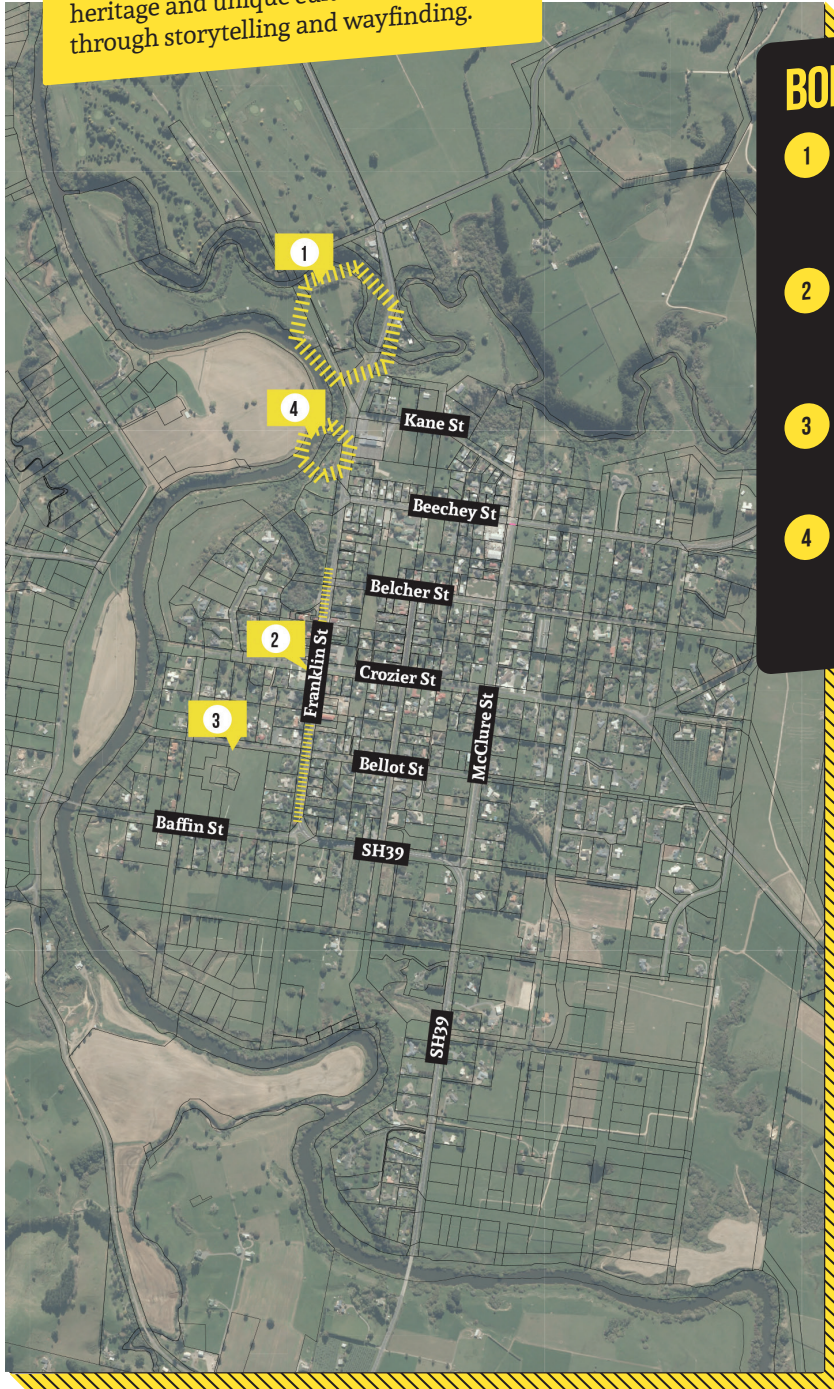
2.6 PROJECT STEERING GROUP, Workshop #2 – 23 June 2020

What we did

This workshop focused on reviewing the vision statement and the short list of actions. The group was presented with themed action maps and asked to vote using a dotmocracy technique on their preferred actions, resulting in prioritisation of the 23 ideas.

CELEBRATING PIRONGIA'S IMAGE

A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.



BOLD IDEAS

- 1 Matakiki Pā improvement**
Restore the Matakiki Pā site and access path (signage to be refreshed)
- 2 Franklin Street historical interpretation**
Highlight village historical aspects along Franklin Street
- 3 Highlight the redoubt**
Highlight the redoubt through wayfinding signage
- 4 Plaza on the river**
Provide an open space connecting to the river with a seating area and picnic facilities

HEALTHY GREEN-BLUE NETWORKS

A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health and access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.

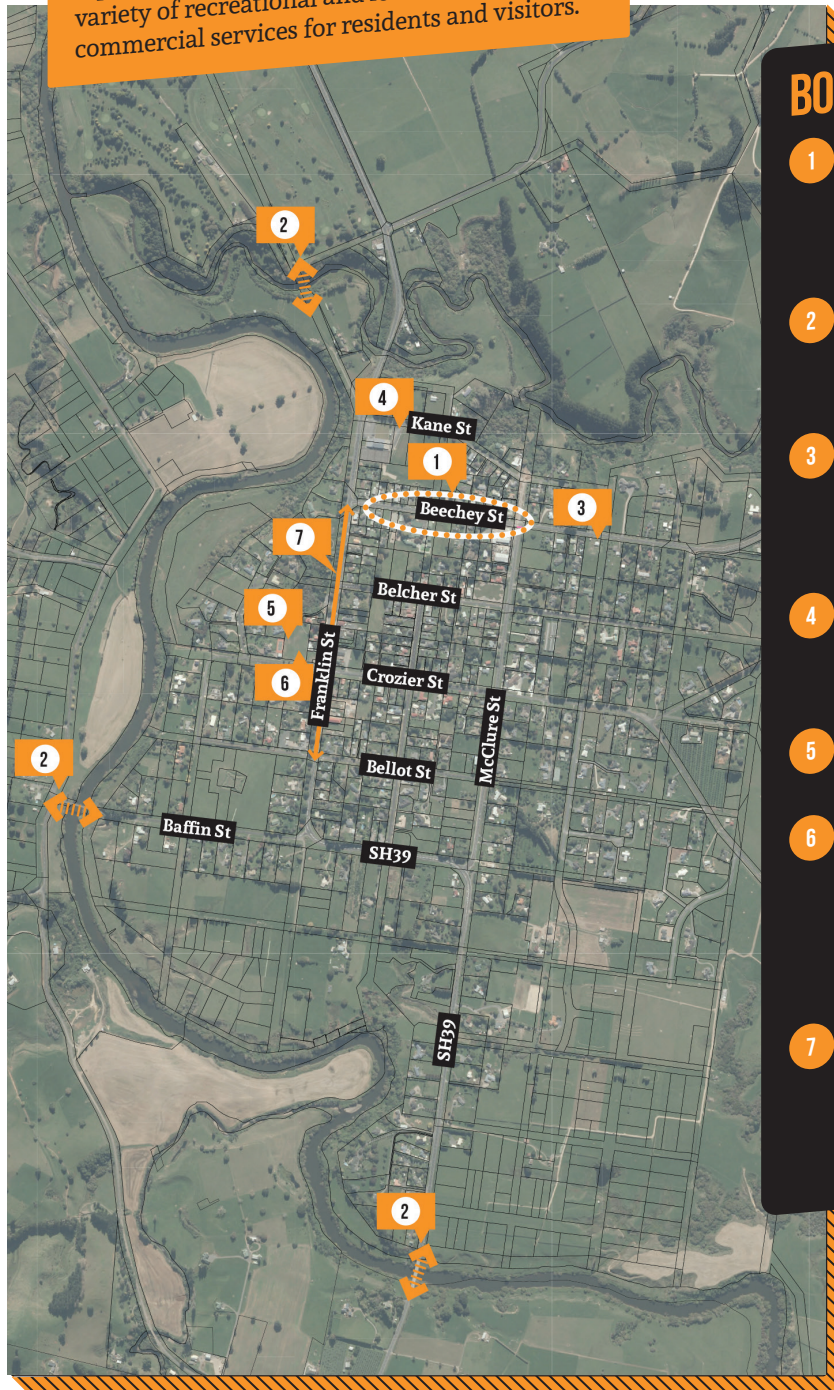


BOLD IDEAS

- 1 Fruit trees**
Plant edible fruit trees along streets
- 2 Riverfront improvements**
Footpaths for improved connections, workout stations, native plant landscaping with botanical information boards, better connections point signage
- 3 Mangapiko reserve**
Develop a Mangapiko Stream reserve plan
- 4 Te Ngahere reserve amenities**
Refresh Te Ngahere reserve - Swings, picnic tables, signage

PEOPLE-FRIENDLY VILLAGE

A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.



BOLD IDEAS

- 1 **Safe ways to school**
Pedestrian safety improvements on Beechey Street next to school, improved walking connections to school.
- 2 **Improve bridges for all users**
Develop safe bridge access for all users including pedestrians, mobility devices and cyclists.
- 3 **Traffic calming**
Reduce traffic speed, install traffic calming measures, particularly on Beechey Street/Pirongia Road.
- 4 **Improve parking areas**
Better parking facilities on Kane Street for sports park and improved access to playground
- 5 **Park/activity for youth**
Skatepark / teenage playground
- 6 **Improve Rangimarie reserve amenities**
Expand existing playground near Rangimarie reserve - add electric BBQ, picnic tables, performance stage, drinking fountain, sheltered space, etc
- 7 **Enhance Franklin Street**
Improve the Hoddy's Scrap Yard with mural, artist work, broader Franklin Street streetscape improvements

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

A village with a safe, well-connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.



BOLD IDEAS

- 1 **Cycle paths**
Develop cycle paths separate from traffic within village centre.
- 2 **Cycle paths (regional)**
Develop cycle paths to Te Awamutu and Lake Ngaroto.
- 3 **New footpaths**
Develop footpaths separate from traffic (Kane St / Belcher St / Frontier Rd / McClure St).
- 4 **Northern access improvements**
Pedestrian / Cyclist access to the village from the golf course (northern side connectivity)
- 5 **Walking circuit**
Create a walking circuit around the village
- 6 **River access/pathways**
Develop access and river tracks for cycling and walking
- 7 **Safer Intersections**
Establish safer intersections (at West Bellot Street, Parry Street and Crozier Street)
- 8 **Develop village entrances**
Improve the appearance of the village entry points, and their function for pedestrians and cyclists

Note: all locations and extents of projects shown on this map are notional, for the purposes of discussion and engagement, and will change.

What we heard

The Project Steering Group (PSG) agreed with the comments made on the draft vision statement during the Council managers meeting.

A final vision statement was formulated during the meeting to include the following elements.

- Connectedness; and
- Road user hierarchy prompting for more safety.

The dotmocracy exercise identified the following ideas as priorities for the group:

- Enhance and improve the riverfront with footpaths, workouts stations and landscaping;

- Develop a Mangapiko stream reserve management plan;
- Create a walking circuit around the village;
- Restore the Mātakitaki pā site and access path;
- Provide pedestrian/cyclist access to the village from the golf course;
- Enhanced Rangimarie reserve amenities; and
- Enhance Franklin Street streetscape.

What we did with the information

The vision statement and key objective were finalised as below:

FINAL VISION

In 50 years Pirongia village is renowned for its close community ties, with a mountain and waterways that are accessible and full of vitality. It has people-friendly streets, recreational and leisure activities and strong links to its heritage.

FINAL KEY OBJECTIVES

<p>A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.</p>	<p>A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health and access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.</p>	<p>A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.</p>	<p>A village with a safe, well-connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.</p>
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Figure 6: Final vision and key objectives.

To reflect the decision made during the formulation of the vision and to align with the community aspirations, Council retitled the project from Town Concept Plan to a Village Concept Plan.

The PSG priority actions combined with the top-ranked ideas from the multi-criteria analysis formed the short list of 10 ideas that were taken to the second round of Be Bold Pirongia public engagement.

2.7 BE BOLD PIRONGIA, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Round 2 - 13 July to 07 August 2020

What we did

This second round of public engagement presented the 10 shortlisted bold ideas to the community and asked them to rank the ideas in order of preference. An online survey and paper copy version of the survey were used by participants to rank the ideas.

To spread the word across the village, large signs (see figure 7) were put up for the duration of the engagement period in prominent locations. The signs

displayed the finalised vision statement and the short list of bold ideas.

A member of the project team also attended Pirongia Market on Sunday 26 July 2020 to distribute paper copies of the survey and raise awareness of this second round of public engagement. The survey was also advertised through social media and residents' online blogs.



Figure 7: Sign temporarily located in front of the Pirongia Heritage & Information Centre.

What we heard

The survey received 101 responses, including completed paper copies received by Council. The following table shows how the short list of ideas were ranked overall by the community:

Rank	Category	Idea	Rank score
1	Healthy blue-green networks	River Access – Create new and improved Waipā river access for recreational purposes, including amenities like picnic tables, fitness stations, lookout, and benches.	6.63
2	People-friendly village	Youth Activities – Providing more recreational places for youth, such as a skate park.	6.60
3	Healthy blue-green networks	River Walk – Create a walking trail along the town belt that includes connection to the Waipā river.	6.26
4	Healthy blue-green networks	River health – Improve biodiversity along the Waipā river by adding more native planting along the river corridor and working with landowners adjacent to the river.	5.96
5	Connecting people and places	Walking to school – Safer ways to school, focusing on Beechey Street and popular routes that children use to walk and cycle.	5.75
6	People-friendly village	Improve Rangimarie reserve – More amenities and options for activities. These could include more shade, drinking fountains, electric BBQs and picnic tables.	5.66
7	People-friendly village	Franklin Street placemaking - Make Franklin Street more pedestrian friendly near the shops, including some public arts and street furniture.	5.11
8	Connecting people and places	SH39 crossings – Safer pedestrian crossing of State Highway 39.	4.78
9	Wayfinding & storytelling	Wayfinding – Improve wayfinding signage for historic sites and cultural locations in the community, including entryways signage to Pirongia, to highlight the rich heritage of the village.	3.63
10	Wayfinding & storytelling	Mātakitaki pā – Improve the access point to Mātakitaki pā from Franklin Street. This could include improved signage, parking, and a seating area that reflects the cultural heritage of the site.	3.31

While the above shows the overall community action prioritisation, the below table highlights the top three ideas which were ranked as a first-place action by the community.

Idea	Rank # 1 Count
Youth activities	22 respondents ranked this idea as the highest priority.
Walking to School	15 respondents ranked this idea as the highest priority.
River access	11 respondents ranked this idea as the highest priority.

What we did with the information

The above results were summarised and presented at the next PSG meeting, and were reviewed by Council managers to develop the list of actions that are highlighted in the 'recommended key actions' section of the Village Concept Plan Refresh.

2.8 PIRONGIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, Meeting #3 – 22 July 2020

What we did

This session provided an opportunity for the PCA to be kept informed on the project to date and to explain how the short list of bold ideas had been formulated. It was also an opportunity to encourage the group to spread the word about the second round of public engagement.

What we heard

The group was supportive of the previous actions taken to short list the bold ideas. It was concluded the short list was consistent with the discussions within the community.

2.9 PROJECT STEERING GROUP, Workshop #3 – 12 August 2020

What we did

The purpose of the meeting was to present the results of the prioritisation survey completed during the second round of public engagement and the six workstreams selected to be translated into a list of priority actions.

What we heard

The following main points were recorded:

Bold ideas	Possible related actions
River access	> A jetty could be installed
Youth activities	> A skatepark or teen playground should be located somewhere visible
River health	> Actions should include the Mangapiko stream
River walk	> Having fitness stations along the walk would be an attractive feature to the river walk
Improve Rangimarie reserve	> Reserve require signage from Franklin St > No additional playground to be built in the reserve
SH39 crossings	> Action should focus on the bridges crossing for walking and cycling

What we did with the information

The PSG feedback was used to develop the list of recommended key actions.

HOW WE SELECTED THE RECOMMENDED KEY ACTIONS

From the top ten short list of bold ideas, six workstreams were selected by the project team as they aligned with the vision and support the key objectives.

These were:

Waipā River

- > River access
- > River walk
- > River health

Public Activities

- > Youth activities
- > Rangimarie reserve

Travel to school

- > Walking to school

2.10 WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL MANAGERS, Workshop #2 – 14 August 2020

What we did

The final workshop with the council managers was used:

- to review a list of opportunities and constraints identified throughout the project to see if any were missing;
- to validate the list of actions or projects developed from the feedback received during PSG meetings; and
- to align potential future projects with internal priorities and business cases being prepared for Council's Long Term Plan.

What we heard

The opportunities and constraints mapping exercises provided discussions on the following points:

- Existing stormwater and wastewater facilities;
- Additional work to take place to understand flooding events and locations along the river;
- Council land ownership; and
- Opportunity for more water sensitive design.

A second exercise looked at a poll survey vote asking each manager to rank the ten ideas from the short list in order of priority to be implemented in Pirongia over the short and long term. The group ranked the short list of ideas in the following order:

- 1 Franklin Street placemaking** - Actions taken should prioritise the heart of Pirongia and enhance its public realm;
- 2 River access** – With the recent section of the esplanade walkway being completed, additional improvements would increase the area legibility;
- 3 River health** – The strong direction of the recent National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 provides a robust foundation for related projects on the Waipā River and the Mangapiko stream and provides an opportunity to activate projects utilising volunteers;

- 4 Walking to school** – Tactical urbanism approach to achieve traffic calming and safer crossings;
- 5 Mātakitaki pā** – Actions already happening in this space as part of the Te Ara Wai Journeys project;
- 6 Youth activities** – Agreed that there is action to be taken in this space;
- 7 Wayfinding** – The group noted the missed opportunity to tell the story of the village through creative signage;
- 8 SH39 crossings** – Acknowledged that SH39 is under Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency jurisdiction;
- 8 Rangimarie reserve** – With the substantial investment on amenity improvements of the reserve over recent years, the group did not feel further investment would be likely at this stage.

A third and final exercise focused on reviewing and cross-referencing community ideas, related council projects and proposed actions to establish the list of recommended key actions.

This discussion allowed for some ground-truthing of the priority actions and their staging over the short and long term.

What we did with the information

The workshop provided additional information on the opportunities and constraints map, the list of recommend key actions and the programming that can be found in the Village Concept Plan Refresh.

Actions related to the Franklin Street placemaking idea were added to the final key action list.

2.11 PROJECT STEERING GROUP, Workshop #4 – 10 September 2020

This meeting provided a final opportunity for the PSG to review the final recommended key workstreams and actions, and to provide additional information about ongoing community-led initiatives that would align with the recommend actions.

KEY PROJECT OUTCOMES

VISION



In 50 years **Pirongia village is renowned for its close community ties, with a mountain and waterways that are accessible and full of vitality. It has people-friendly streets, recreational and leisure activities and strong links to its heritage.**

E aro ana ki te ripa tauārai o Pūāwhē, ki te iwi e arohatia nei.

Acknowledging the ridge that leads to Pūāwhē*

* 'Pūāwhē' is an old name for Pirongia mountain and iwi have asked that what is now called 'The Cone' be recognised with that name.

OBJECTIVE 1

A people-friendly village well served by a variety of recreational and leisure facilities and commercial services for residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVE 3

A village that retains strong links to its heritage and unique culture and identity through storytelling and wayfinding.

OBJECTIVE 2

A village which makes the best of its natural assets by improving their health, access to the Waipā River and Mount Pirongia.

OBJECTIVE 4

A village with a safe, well connected walking and cycling network meaning walking and cycling is a pleasure for all ages.

Action No.	Action descriptions
Action No. 1	River access – Provide new and improved access point(s) to the Waipā River for recreational purposes.
Action No. 2	Waipā river walkway – Develop a more extensive walking path network along the riverside.
Action No. 3	Improved health of Waipā river and Mangapiko stream – Projects focusing on improving biodiversity and water quality.
Action No. 4	Youth activities – Provide an activity area for older youth.
Action No. 5	Franklin Street placemaking improvements and activation – Projects that will help strengthen the village social hubs and heart.
Action No. 6	Wayfinding – Signage to help residents and visitors to understand the location and route to key attractions and pathways in the community.
Action No. 7	Safer ways to get to school – Provide a safe and child-friendly road environment.



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