



Hiwinui Community Plan

A Plan for the future of Hiwinui | November 2017
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(Image source: Manawatu District Council)

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1. Foreword

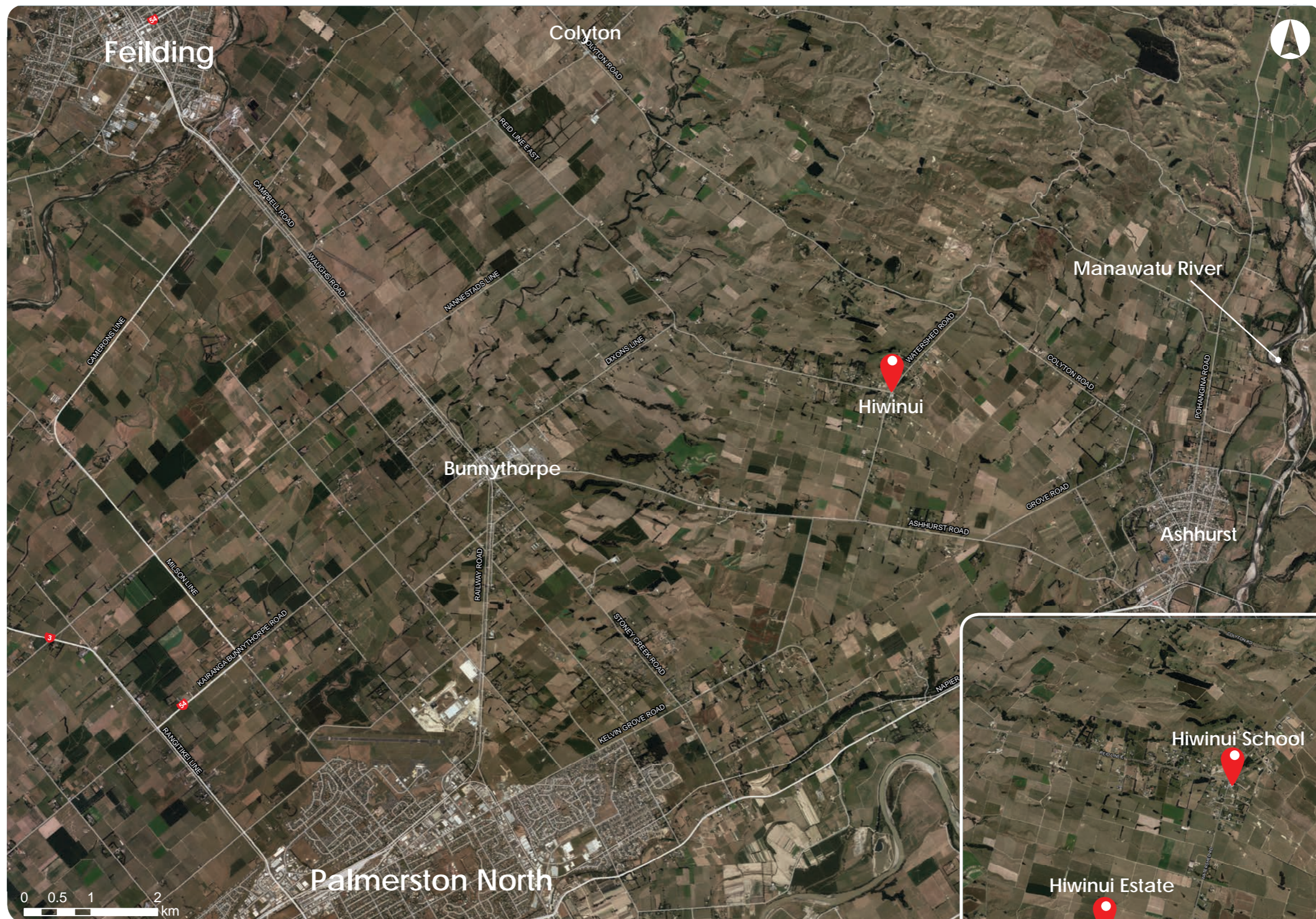
The Hiwinui Community Plan represents a summary of outcomes from community planning forums that occurred between May 2017 and June 2017.

This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd (environmental planning consultants) in conjunction with the community of Hiwinui. The plan provides an over-arching and holistic summary of the community's vision and goals for Hiwinui with a list of specific actions that help deliver them.

The Hiwinui Community Plan outlines the process used to establish the vision and goals, including the observations, constraints and opportunities identified along the way. There are several themes that have emerged from the community planning process that form areas of focus in delivering on the vision and goals. For each of these areas of focus there are actions identified.



2. Location Plan



3. Hiwinui History

The Manawatū was once heavily forested, with the only means of access the Manawatū River and a few Māori bush tracks¹.

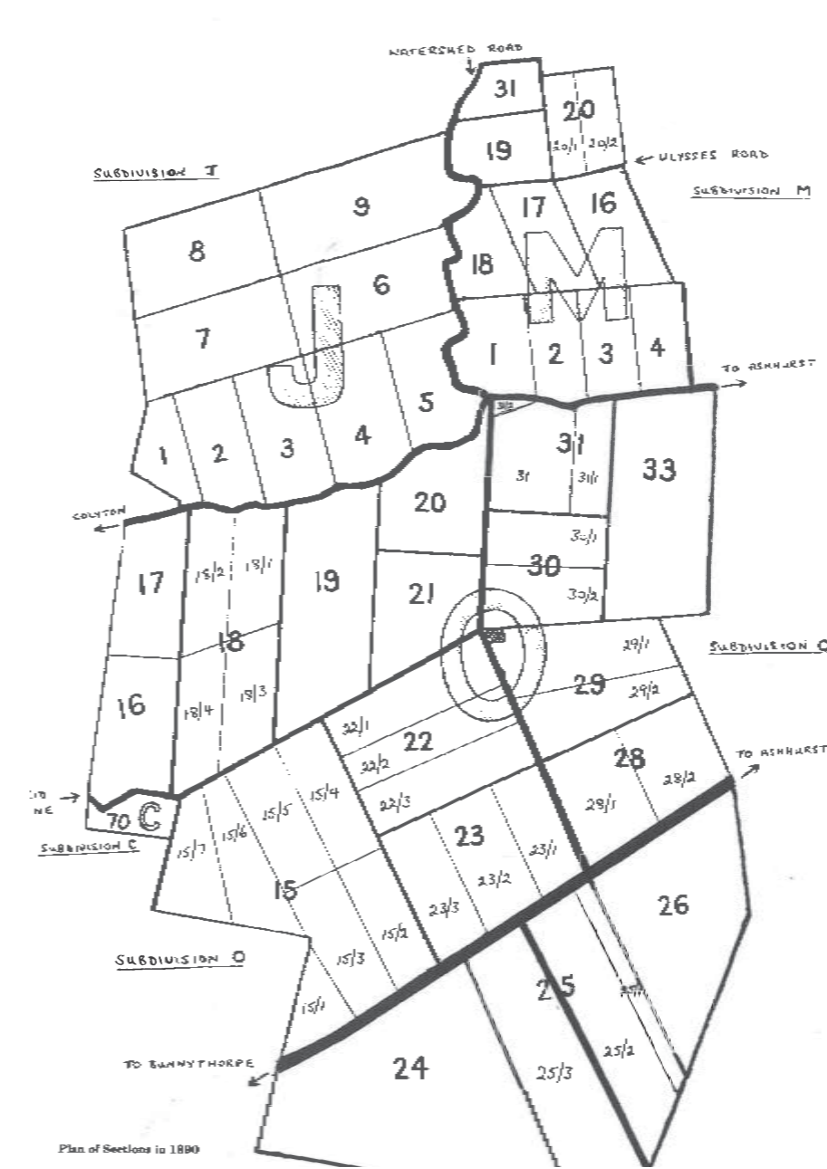
The Rangitāne people were the earliest known people to live in this area and they settled along the Manawatū River's lower reaches near important food sources such as eels and kerurū. Land purchased by the Government from Rangitāne between 1860 and 1870 was sold to European settlers². Initial settlement was slow due to the dense forest, but resources were plentiful, in the form of "an almost inexhaustible supply of the most valuable sawing timber"³.

This era saw the forest depleted to be replaced by farmland. This forest clearance took place within the wider context of the transformation of New Zealand's lower North Island where the largest forest clearance in New Zealand's history took place, between 1870-1910⁴.

It is within this now pastoral landscape that the settlement of Hiwinui has established. The name Hiwinui means 'high ridge at the shedding of waters'⁵. The settlement is located on a ridge that was once a favoured passage for Māori passing from the Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa to the west⁶. The land which Hiwinui sits within was purchased from its Rangitāne tribal owners by the Provincial Council to encourage and assist emigration from Great Britain.

Surveying of the block was completed in 1878 with most sections approximately 80 to 130 acres in area. In 1890 Thomas Rowling supplied two acres (one being a gift) to establish Hiwinui School. The school opened on March 24th 1891 with 24 students. By May 1st the same year, the roll had increased to 36.

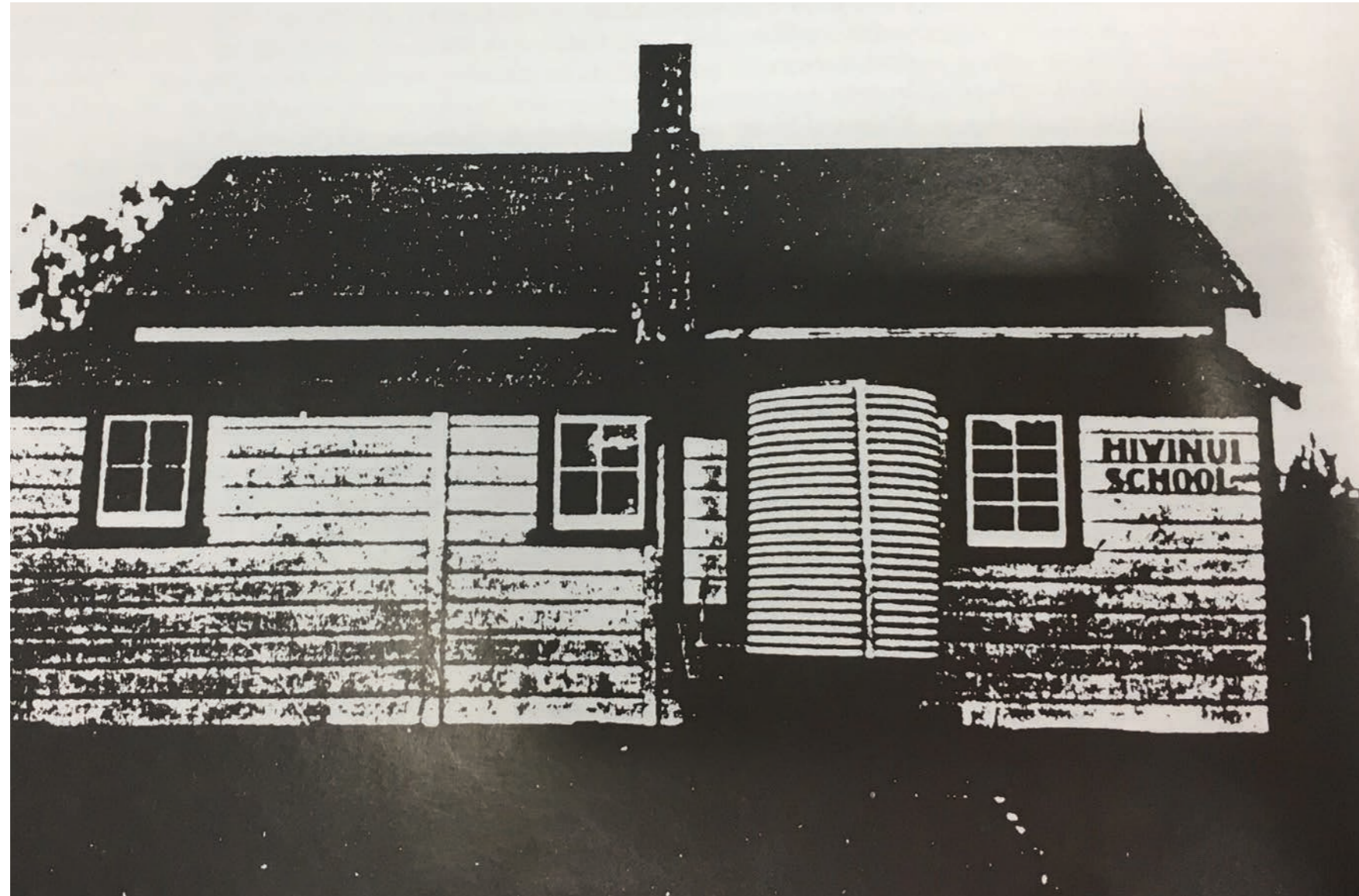
Over a hundred years on, many of the traditions the school observes remain important in the Hiwinui community. The school itself continues to form the heart of Hiwinui as it is the only community facility here.



Plan of Sections in 1890

^{1,2,3,4} Knight, 2013 *Creating a Pastoral World Through Fire: The Case of the Manawatu, 1870 – 1910*, Journal of New Zealand Studies

^{5,6} Kilsby, D. 1991 *Hiwinui*



The first Hiwinui School building, opened in 1891



McKay's Horse Team, carting milk 1921 (source: Hiwinui 1891-1991)



Hiwinui School pupils in 1932 (source: Hiwinui 1891-1991)

4. Hiwinui and its community

Hiwinui is located 12km north east of Palmerston North and 17km east of Feilding. Hiwinui has a rural setting, and residents are able to enjoy rural lifestyles while retaining an easy commute to Palmerston North or Feilding. The area is elevated above the relatively flat pasture land on a ridge, approximately 204 metres above sea level.

Since the 1970's, Hiwinui has developed into a rural residential place within a rural setting. There are no commercial, civic or industrial uses. The exception is the Hiwinui Lodge which supplies upmarket accommodation with associated spa and special events. Having said that, the surrounding rural sector still plays a prominent part in the community. There are also a number of small businesses that operate from home.

The primary spatial structure of Hiwinui is provided by Reid Line East and Watershed Road. Hiwinui School is located at the intersection of these two roads and forms the 'centre' of the community. There are no other local halls or public spaces.

Houses are primarily set back from the roads on rural-residential lots. The ridge line topography provides an attractive aspect and outlook over the surrounding landscape. Most lots have been connected to the main roads by private common access from subdivisions that have occurred.

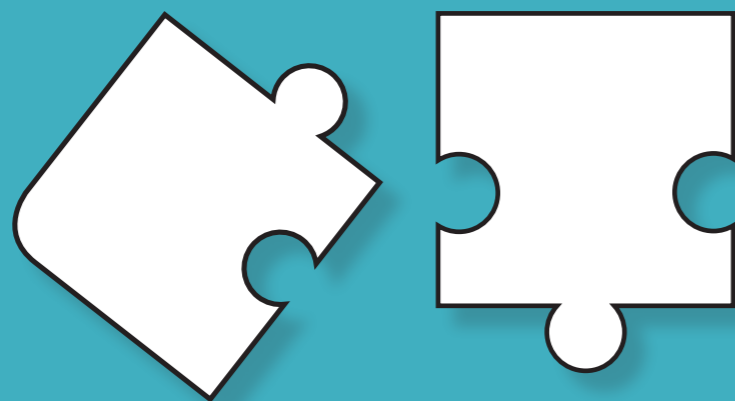
Both Reid Line East and Watershed Road are typical rural roads that do not have footpaths, kerbs and channel or stormwater drainage.

The vegetation in Hiwinui is limited to the gardens of the rural residential properties and the farmland context.



Hiwinui School Hoedown

The Community Planning Process



Hiwinui

5. Community Planning in the Manawatu

The Manawatu District Council supports a Community Planning Programme which enables communities to develop a shared vision for their place. It provides a mechanism for collaboration between communities, Council and other agencies to implement improvements.

The programme's objectives are:

- To set clear strategic direction for places, reflecting each community's unique characteristics.
- To provide a pathway for the community's vision and priorities to be reflected in council's and other agencies strategies and work plans.
- To grow community spirit and attract and retain residents.
- To enable community residents to create the communities they want.
- To further develop constructive working relationships between councillors, community residents, businesses and council staff.

Hiwinui's Community Planning Programme began in 2017 following the establishment of the Hiwinui Community Committee which identified the need for a community plan. Two community workshops were held at the school. The workshops focussed on developing a shared vision for the future of Hiwinui. The current issues and constraints were discussed, as were opportunities for improvements. This information has informed the Community Plan.

The Community Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations for the community. It also presents a list of actions that will be implemented over time. Some of the actions identified may be relatively quick and easy to undertake, but others will require more work to shape and implement.

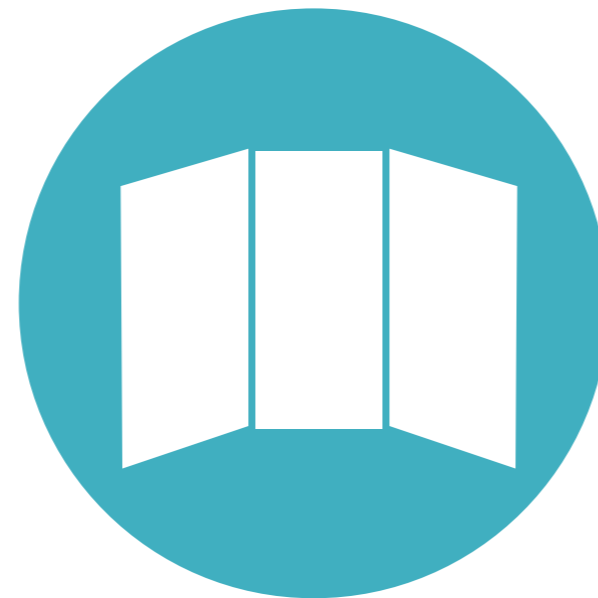
This Community Plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatu District Council in late 2017. It will be used to allow those actions Council can assist with to be considered as part of the Long-Term Plan.



Hiwinui School 2014 (Source: Hiwinui School)



Two community workshops



A community exhibition



A community plan for Hiwinui



Actions for the community and key stakeholders to implement

6. Community workshops: Workshop One

Two workshops were held in May and June 2017 to gather information from Hiwinui about their community - the reality or what it's like now and their aspirations for the future.

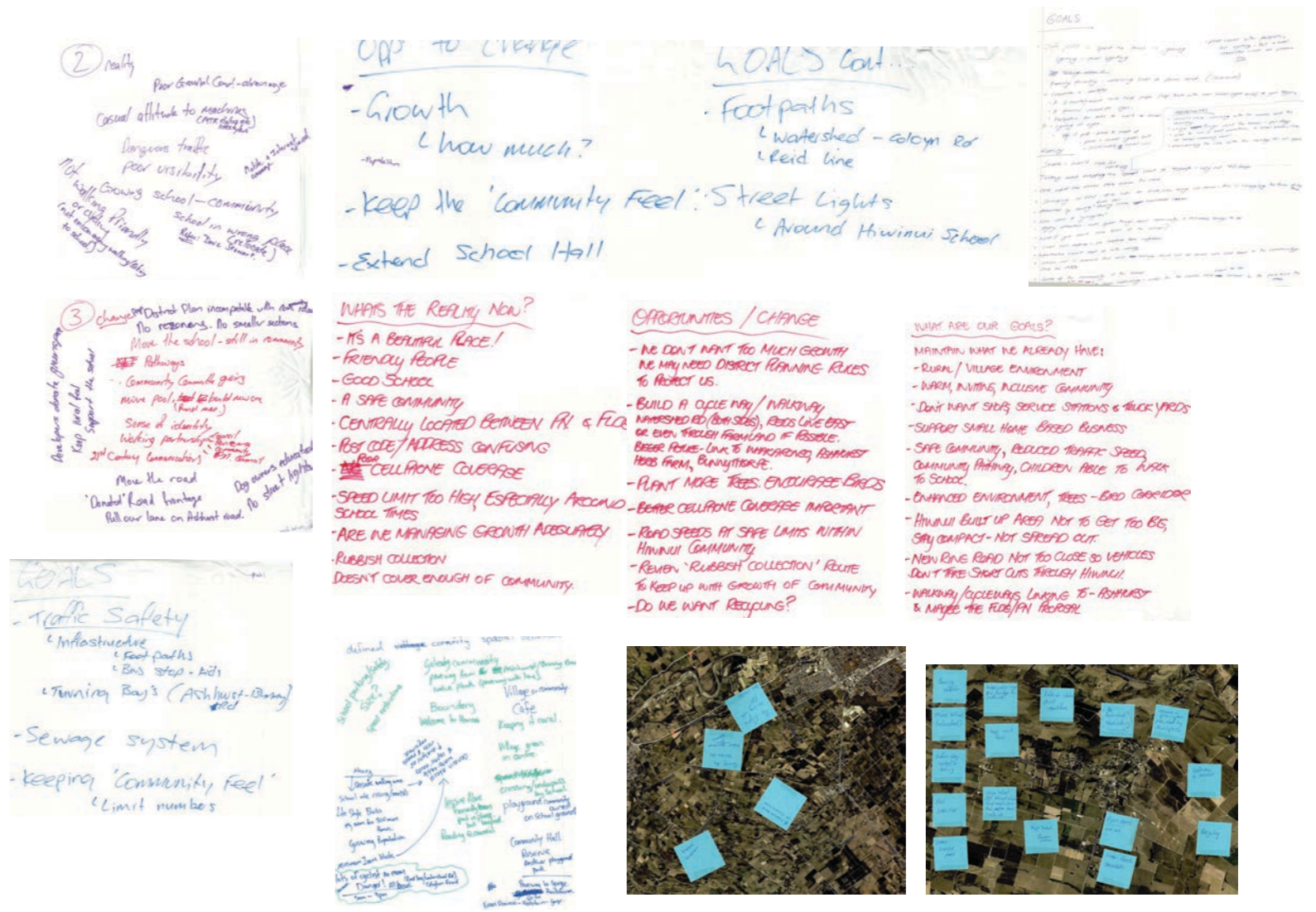
Workshop One, held on Tuesday 16 May at the Hiwinui School brought 33 people to discuss the future of Hiwinui.

Residents were asked to form discussion groups, given sheets of paper and aerial photographs of Hiwinui to annotate. They were asked to structure their conversations around the following questions:

- **Goals** - What do we want Hiwinui to be like in the future?
- **Reality** - What's happening in Hiwinui at the moment?
- **Opportunities** - What could we do to reach our goals?

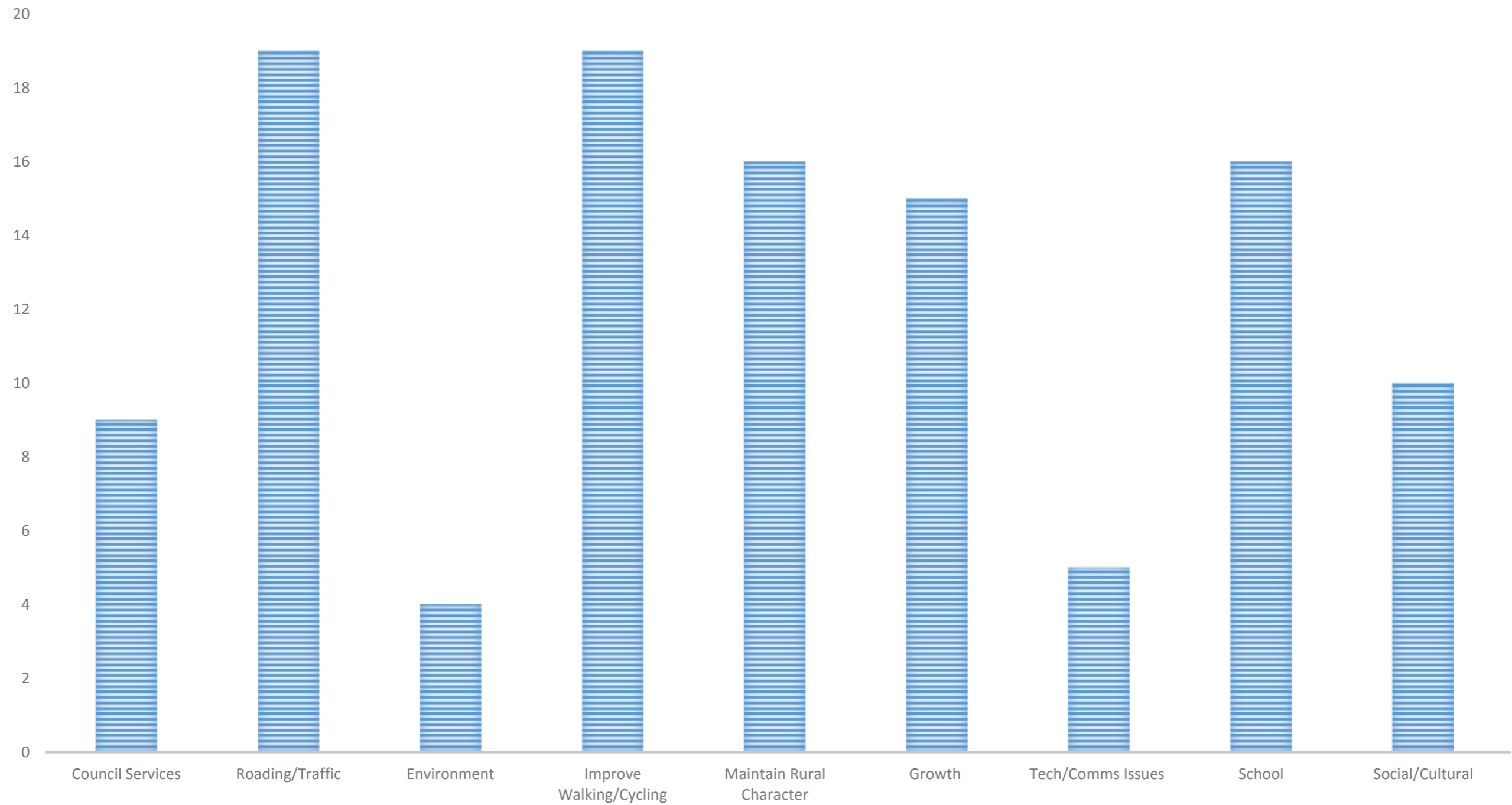
Residents then shared their feedback with the wider audience, provoking more discussion. The Hiwinui school students were also supplied with materials to complete the exercise.

Feedback was compiled by Boffa Miskell and arranged in themes. The graph (following page) shows the key themes that emerged.



Some of the outputs from Workshop 1

Common Themes from Workshop One Feedback



7. Community Workshops: Workshop Two

Workshop Two was held on Tuesday 13 June at the Hiwinui School. 17 people were in attendance.

A report back was given to the group, presenting the outputs from Workshop One.
























It was recognised that the rural character of Hiwinui was valued and people wanted this to be retained in the face of continued growth, that people wanted to see walking and cycling safety improved and that the school continues to be supported as a focus for the community.

Workshop Two therefore focussed on building a draft vision for Hiwinui that captured aspirations for the future as well as the good things that the community sought to protect and maintain now. This would use everyone's words to create a first draft for the community to test at the exhibition day.

Rural character was sought to be better understood by a group workshop exercise (see right). This exercise and discussion helped with the bigger picture as to the place Hiwinui aspired to be.

The worksheet to the right provided a range of options for what rural character could be described as and the most popular options are described on page 15.

Our Rural Place: What's Most Important?

<p>How our kids experience Hiwinui</p>						<p>Instructions: Place a coloured dot on TEN images that most represent what you want Hiwinui to be like</p>	
	Our Kids play at Playgrounds	Our kids play in nature	Our kids can safely walk	Our kids get dropped off	We can all safely and comfortably walk and cycle to local places		
<p>How we connect with each other and our place</p>							
	We can walk to the local shop to grab a few things	Events connect our community	We have a local place to meet, eat and drink	We can feel part of the community at a village green	We have places for recreation and relaxation		Our school is our social hub
<p>How we experience the great things about Rural Life</p>							
	We can see the stars at night	We have views and wide open spaces	We have space to keep large animals	We have the space to grow our own produce	We know our Neighbours	We see our native flora and fauna and healthy ecosystems are important to us	
<p>How we live and get around Hiwinui</p>							
	We have large houses on spacious sections	We have smaller sections but we're still rural	Around the community roads are slow	We have fast open roads	We have street lights for safety and visibility	We have footpaths	

This worksheet was used at Workshop Two to try and define the qualities people sought for Hiwinui and its rural character

The most important aspects of rural character to the community identified in Workshop Two:



We have views and open spaces



We can all comfortably walk and cycle



We have footpaths



Around the community roads are slow



We can see the stars at night



Our kids can walk safely

8. Analysis: Constraints and Opportunities

Through the community planning workshops, a number of aspirational themes were determined. We also identified existing constraints and issues which would need to be addressed to produce a realistic and achievable Community Plan.

The identified goals and areas for focus for Hiwinui include:

- Maintaining the rural character of Hiwinui
- Managed and sustainable rural residential growth
- Improving the safety of existing roads for everyone to be able to walk and cycle safely around the community

Existing issues and constraints:

- Rural sprawl: Hiwinui is experiencing low-density sprawl without a structured plan for growth
- Pressure on the natural environment and its ecosystems as increasing numbers of septic tanks are required to treat waste
- High speed roads make walking and cycling unsafe
- Difficult access to Hiwinui School
- Hiwinui School is unable to expand physically due to surrounding development despite the expansion of its school roll
- No footpaths or cycle paths

The emerging opportunities for Hiwinui include:

- To improve and create new opportunities for walking and cycling
- To manage a planned, sustainable rural residential growth and improve the infrastructure for existing rural residential areas
- To improve access to Hiwinui School
- To explore opportunities for enhancing the natural environment



Hiwinui School Lamb, Calf and Pet Day

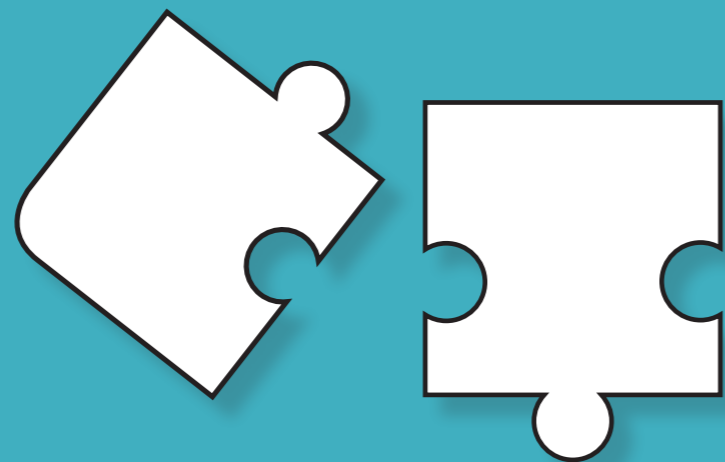
Analysis: Constraints



The Emerging Opportunities



Vision and Goals





9. Our Community Vision:

Hiwinui is a safe, walkable, socially connected and environmentally conscious community where sustainable future growth and development reflect the character of our rural environment.



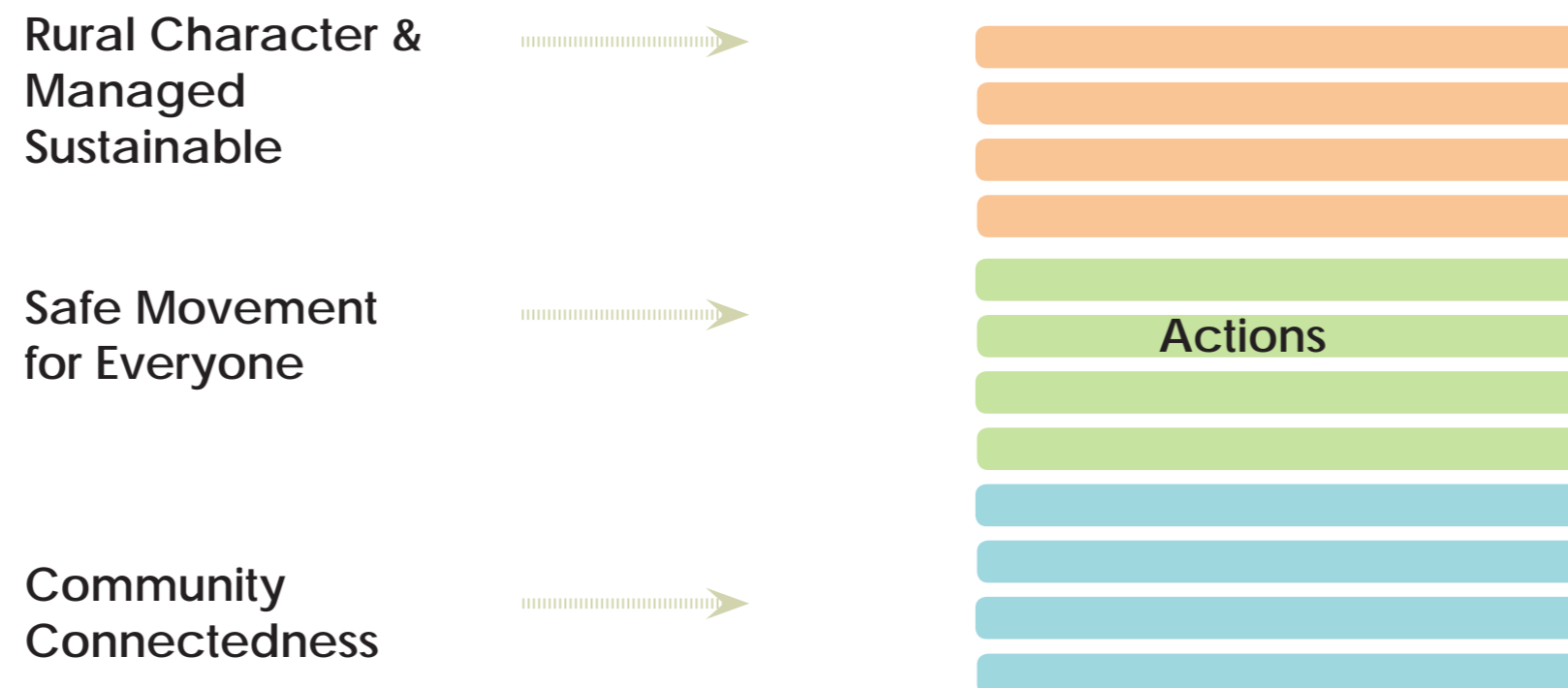
10. Vision and Areas of Focus

There are three key areas to focus on towards achieving the vision which are expressed as goals. These are:

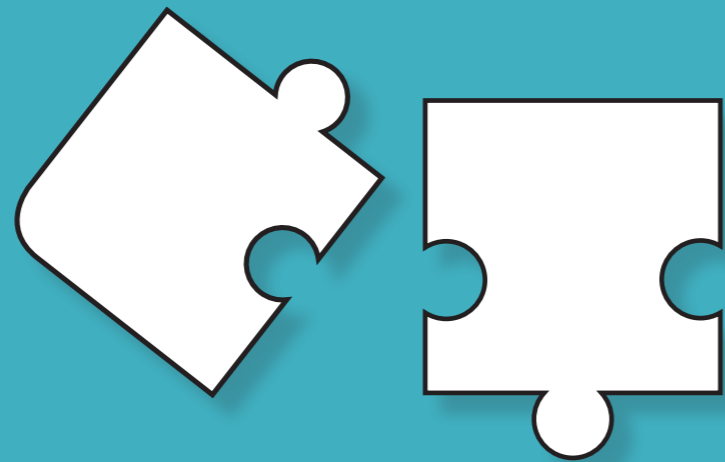


Goals
There are three key goals for achieving our vision

Actions
There are a number of specific actions identified under each of the three goals. The following pages list these actions and provide details on who should be involved in implementing them and what the first task might be.

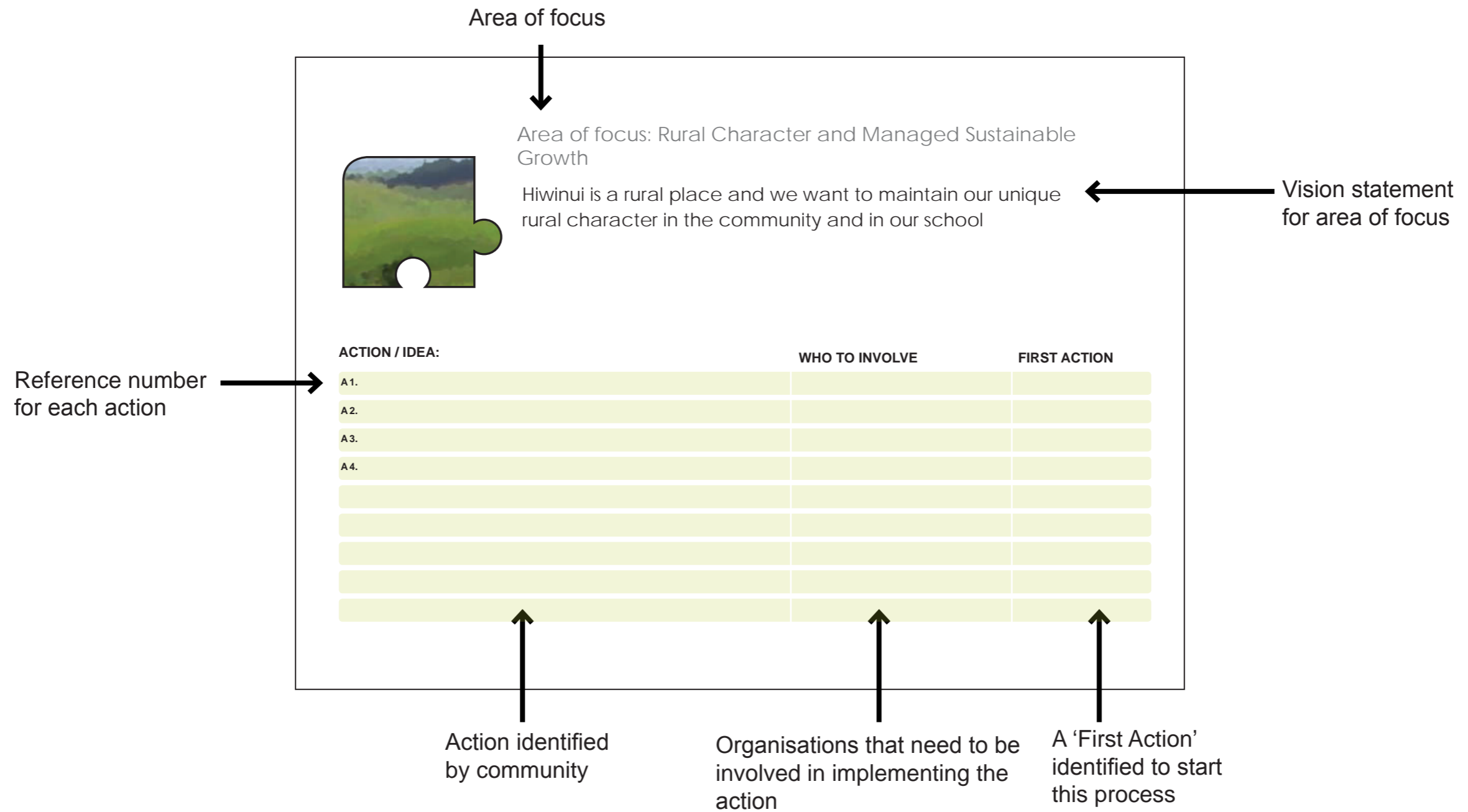


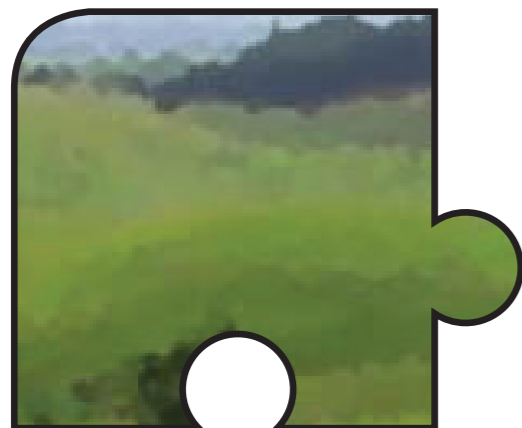
Action Plans



11. Action Plans

The following diagram shows the Actions Plan's purpose and how they should be used:





Area of focus: Rural Character

Hiwinui is a rural place and we want to maintain our unique rural character in the community and our school

ACTION / IDEA:	WHO TO INVOLVE	FIRST ACTION
A1 Continue to advocate for a rural lifestyle zone taking into account the community's desire to maintain a minimum lot size to retain rural character, with consideration given to community infrastructure requirements for more intensive housing (eg septic tanks, stormwater and roading)	MDC + Landowners in the rural lifestyle zone + Hiwinui Community Committee	MDC to consult with the Hiwinui Community Committee and the community Council to investigate where stormwater is going eg Bridge before Dixon's Line
A2 Explore opportunities for future development of facilities and land for the community's use	MDC + Hiwinui School Board of Trustees (on behalf of the Ministry of Education) + Hiwinui Community	Hiwinui School Board of Trustees to continue communicating with the Hiwinui Community Committee
A3 The Hiwinui community continue to work together and engage with Council through submissions on the District Plan Review and the Long-Term Plan to communicate the community's vision and aspirations detailed in the Community Plan	Hiwinui Community Committee	Hiwinui Community Committee to consult with MDC
A4 Investigate the feasibility of installing additional security cameras to those already in place at the school	Hiwinui Community Committee	Hiwinui Community Committee to investigate feasibility
A5 Establish a predator eradication programme to promote birdlife in our community	Hiwinui Community Committee and potential partners (Horizons, Trusts/ Grants, Env't Network Manawatu)	Hiwinui Community Committee to consult with Horizons Regional Council and/or other agencies on pest control



Area of focus: Safe Movement for Everyone
 We want our community to be a place where movement is safe for everyone and we can safely drive, walk or cycle

ACTION / IDEA:

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

B1	Work with the MDC, landowners and the community to improve Watershed Road and Reid Line East to reflect a safe walkable rural community by extending the current lime walking and cycleway pathway.	MDC + Landowners in the rural lifestyle zone + Hiwinui Community	MDC to meet with Hiwinui Community Committee to discuss options
B2	Continue to review the speed limits for Hiwinui with a view to having variable speed limits from 60 to 40 past the school and a reduction of the current 100 to 80 from the corners of Watershed Road including painting the 80 on the road at both ends	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	MDC to continue with the review of speed limit appropriateness for Hiwinui
B3	Establish and maintain plantings in the Hiwinui Community	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Arrange plants from MDC and organise a working bee to plant them
B4	Investigate options to improve school entry by installing a pedestrian crossing and supporting Hiwinui School parking needs	MDC, MOE + Hiwinui Community Committee + Hiwinui School Board of Trustees	MDC, Hiwinui Community Committee to meet Min. of Ed and identify process to review school pedestrian and parking needs
B5	To work with Hiwinui School, as required, to ensure the health and safety of children moving to and from school, in particular wearing hi-vis and how this can be reinforced with students and parents.	MDC + Hiwinui School Board of Trustees (on behalf of the Ministry of Education) + Hiwinui Community	Hiwinui School Board of Trustees to continue communicating with the Hiwinui Community Committee
B6	Identify safe locations along walking paths for viewing the landscape and consider locating seating and history boards here	MDC + interested land owners	Hiwinui Community Committee to meet MDC to progress
B7	Investigate recreation/walking tracks across private land to the Gorge Track and the Herb Farm	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Hiwinui Community Committee to arrange meeting with rural landowners to consider informal path network interest
B8	Improve the visibility for drivers on the Watershed and Colyton Road intersection	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Hiwinui Community Committee to advocate to Council for improvements by submitting to each Annual Plan and Long Term Plan
B9	Continue to advocate for roading improvements along Kelvin Grove Road with the Palmerston North City Council	PNCC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Hiwinui Community Committee to advocate to Council for improvements by submitted to each Annual Plan and Long Term Plan



Area of focus: Community Connectedness

The school is our social hub and we should build on this to make it a place for the whole community

ACTION / IDEA:

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

C1	Work with the community to establish the best method to maintain a network of communications	Hiwinui Community Committee + Hiwinui School	Committee to maintain database for emailing, facebook, and letter drops, or texting as well as develop a welcome pack for new residents
C2	Work with Hiwinui School and the Hiwinui Community Committee to develop an annual programme of events for the Hiwinui community - this should connect with all people, not just the school community. It can also identify any interest groups that might meet more regularly. This could include regular community get togethers eg pot luck dinners, intercommunity events eg cricket match against Colyton community, letterbox decorating competition at Christmas, a Food Drive, Quiz Night, and promotion of other interest group meetings in the area	Hiwinui Community Committee + Hiwinui School	Committee to meet and develop a programme of events
C3	Investigate options for having a community space / spaces that may include a green space, hall or community centre that can be connected with the school	Hiwinui Community Committee	Committee to discuss options that could be investigated further
C4	Establish and maintain a Emergency Community Response Plan	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Work with MDC Emergency Management Team on training and keeping the plan up to date
C5	Investigate the feasibility of installing a “book box” for the community’s use in sharing books	Hiwinui Community Committee	Survey the residents to see whether there is an interest in installing a “book box”
C6	Advocate for an improved cell phone coverage for the community	MDC + Hiwinui Community Committee	Advocate to Chorus for improved cell phone coverage
C7	Explore enhanced recycling and/or education of recycling options for Hiwinui Community. This may include collection of unwanted/expired chemicals at a set event, enhanced recycling options for the community, and/or working with council on education around waste minimisation.	Hiwinui Community Committee + School + MDC	Refine options



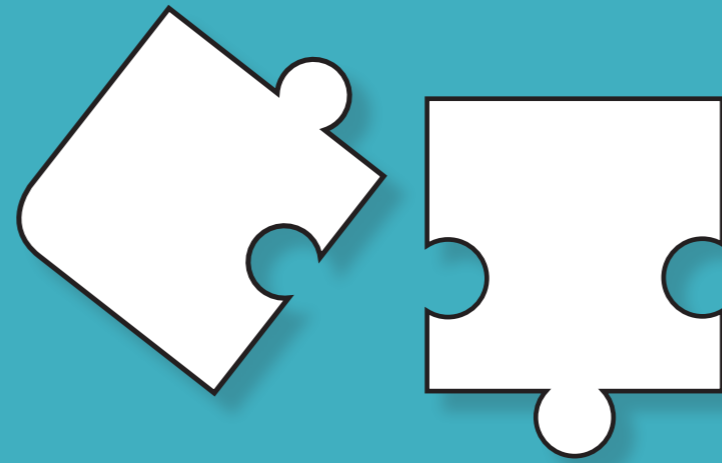
Hiwinui School Hut making



Planting at Hiwinui School



Wood chopping at Hiwinui School



Community Feedback Summary



Van Campbell with his awards from Hiwinui Lamb, Calf and Pet Day

Appendix: Community Comments

I'd like to see support for extending the school hall as it is used for community purposes/ meetings

School [as a social place] would be great but may not be enough space to expand to include all amenities in which case an alternative 'hub' could be investigated

Like the extension of footpaths, we currently get a lot of water run off from the road

Roads/walkways - Even underpass to school to connect

No [range of densities] this is merely creating a property subdivision - no longer rural!

No café! Trying to move us from a rural focus

Query "sustainable growth" - don't want to become a busy, noisy residential subdivision, I don't believe there is a need for a café or shop

Prefer an emphasis on limiting growth. I am not in favour of an increase in residents in this area

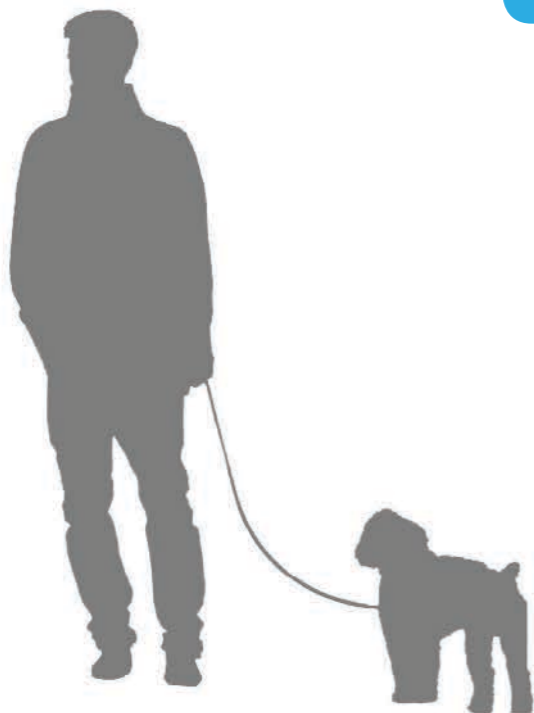
Not sure if "walkable" needs to be a big focus, but would be good to have foot paths to/from school

More consideration is required for existing land owners

Need a café! Support Ashhurst/Herb farm. Keep noise/speeds down

Slow vehicles and walking to school

Reserve [and] another playground park



Proposed vision is good. Definitely want to maintain that rural feel.

Rural character is already lost. Urban roading i.e. footpaths cycle way etc are needed



No 800-1200m² small density lots. MUST retain current section size requirements

4000m² min [lot sizes]

Keep lot sizes to 4000m² or bigger

Guiding future development - keep rural feel and limit it

Minimum 1 acre blocks. Concern about water table and septic tanks.



Consultation with Hiwinui Community firstly. Cyclists - no lights back/front, poor road skills.

Not sure about combining walk and cycle ways



The school security lights to be reduced or change the movement sensor triggers (with sky aim). Restrict house height so that views are maintained.

Reduce over abundance of lighting at the school. Maybe reduce to a few small constant lights plus a larger motion sensitive one? Would reduce power cost too.

It would be great if adjacent land could be purchased for parking / school growth if it was ever subdivided



Build a cycle way/walkway Watershed Rd (both sides), Reid Line East or even through farmland if possible. Bigger picture - link to Whakarongo, Ashhurst Herbfarm, Bunnythorpe.



Appendix: Community Comments

Talking about dropping the speed limit to 70kmph - why not 40kmph?

Safe community, reduced traffic speed, community pathway, children able to walk to school.

Road speeds at safe limits within Hiwinui Community

Infrastructure hasn't kept up with reality

We don't want too much growth. We may need District Planning rules to protect us.

Walkway/cycle ways linking to Ashhurst and maybe the Feilding/Palmerston North proposal.

Pathway to Gorge. Go to Herbfarm. From Hiwinui - Herbfarm - Gorge.

Not walking or cycling friendly. Not encouraging walking/biking to school.

Improve bend at Dixons Line

Widen roads

Move the school - still in community

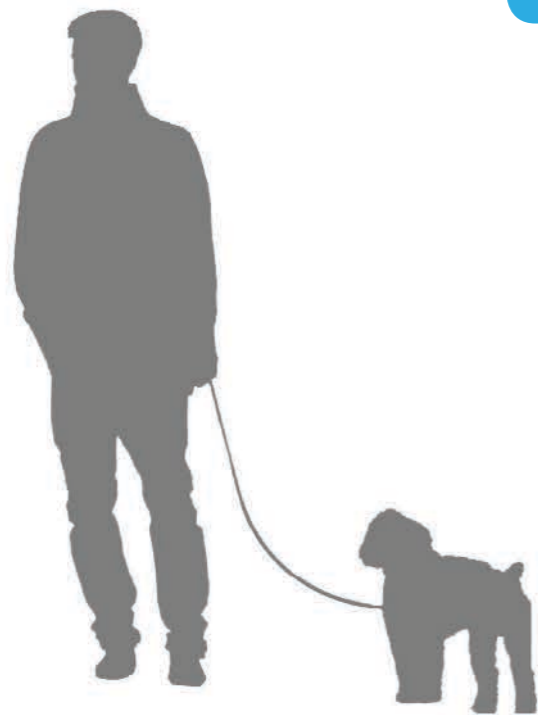
Move pool. Build new one (fundraise)

School in wrong place (relocate) have dual purpose, tennis courts etc.

What if you don't have kids at the school?

Centre of the community is the school

School roll is almost full and zoning could cut off locals who have been in the community since the 1930s



Warm, inviting, inclusive community

Maintaining the link with the country for all ages

Used to run a half marathon, wheel barrow races an "annual community event"

It's a beautiful place!

A safe community

Reserve and green space. Provided by developers

Better cellphone coverage important

Post code/addresses confusing

Turning Bays (Ashhurst to Bunnythorpe)

Native plants

'Welcome to Hiwinui' sign

Village or community cafe

Keep it rural

Community-owned playground on school grounds

Attracted by having rural feel, family close, traditional school

New waves of "youngsters"

We don't want to keep subdividing - rules for the nodal zone need to be looked at to protect the place

Sewerage system

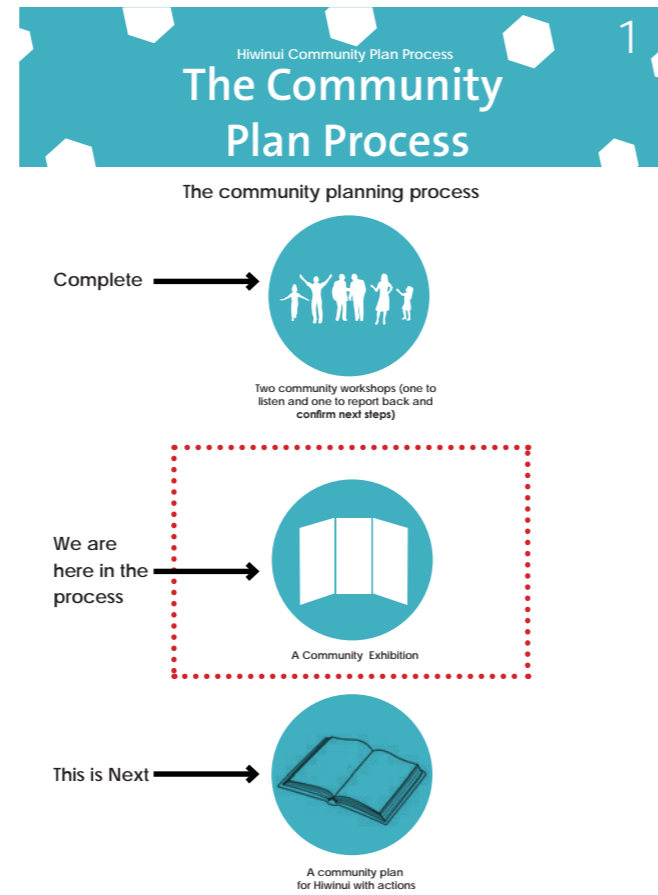
Pub

Small scooter park

Bus shelter



Appendix: Community Exhibition Boards



Hiwinui Community Plan Process

Future Hiwinui: Vision and Goals

Our Vision:

Hiwinui is a safe, walkable, socially connected community where future growth and development reflects the character of the rural environment

Our Goals:

- Rural Character Feel
- Community Connectedness
- Safe Movement for Everyone
- Sustainable Growth

Question 1. Should the Hiwinui Community Plan adopt these goals and vision? Or are there other goals or visions that you would prefer? Answer this question on the question sheet provided

Hiwinui Community Plan Process

Rural Character

Rural character means different things to different people. These were the top 6 characteristics you chose from 24 options in the survey

- We have views and open spaces
- We can all comfortably walk and cycle
- We have footpaths
- Around the community roads are slow
- We can see the stars at night
- Our kids can walk safely

Question 2. How do you think the Hiwinui Community Plan could provide for these characteristics in Hiwinui? Answer this question on the question sheet provided

Hiwinui Community Plan Process

Growth in Hiwinui

What are our options for addressing residential growth?

Existing Situation: Unplanned Growth

Future Unplanned Growth

Key Features of unplanned growth:

- No potential to service
- Increased risk of groundwater pollution
- Limited living choices
- No community focal point/heart

Some Density Variations and Community Focal Point

Density Variations, Community Focal Point and Networks of Roads

Key Features:

- A community green space
- Some smaller 800-1200m² lots with services
- A community green space
- Some smaller 800-1200m² lots with services
- A small shop or cafe
- A connected road network

Hiwinui Community Plan Process

A Walkable Hiwinui

Safer Walking : Current Plans

Proposed extent of footpaths by Council

Two footpaths: Watershed Road (North of School) and Reids Line

A process is underway to lower the speed limit around Hiwinui School from 80km/hr to 60km/hr during peak times with a warning sign

Safer Walking : Future Ideas

As the community grows it could be possible to extend the network of paths to serve more people and we could even look at introducing trees in the future

Possible Future extension of footpaths

Here's a long-term idea for Watershed Road (South of School)

Hiwinui Community Plan Process

Hiwinui School Parking

What could we do about parking at the School?

Here are a few ideas to consider

These ideas would need to be supported by the School

- Drop off/pick up area for parents with short-term parks and a one way in/out system*
- Visitor parking outside the school boundary as per the current arrangement
- Drop off/pick up area for parents with short-term parks and a one way in/out system*
- Outside parking is formalised and with a one way lane with clear entry/exit points
- Drop off/pick up area for parents with staff/visitor parks and a one way in/out system. Visitors and staff park in this area*
- A planted berm shields the school from the intersection creates a new front entrance for the school

Key

- school front entrance
- staff/visitor parking
- student pick up/drop off + parking

*Turnaround concept: Hiwinui Safety Assessment (Reco, 2014)

Hiwinui Community Plan Process

Our Social Place

Is the school our primary social place?

What about a community green for social occasions?

Would more paths as a network help connect us?

Question 3: Do you think the Hiwinui Community Plan should provide for:

- A connected road network for slow vehicle speeds and safe walking and cycling?
- A range of densities so that people can downsize when they need to but stay in the community?
- Services in the area to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination as the population grows?
- All of the above
- None of the above

Question 4: Should the Hiwinui Community Plan include:

- Investigations into provision for walking and cycling in the current road network?
- Investigations into collaboration with landowners for walking and cycling paths across private land?

Answer this question on the question sheet provided

Question 5: Should the Hiwinui Community Plan include:

- Investigations into a 'turnaround' drop off space for Hiwinui School?
- Investigations into a 'turnaround' drop off space and formal visitor parking out front for Hiwinui School?
- Investigations into a 'turnaround' drop off space and a main entrance away from the road corner for Hiwinui School?

Answer this question on the question sheet provided

Question 6: Should the Hiwinui Community Plan include:

- Investigations into a helping the school remain our primary place for social connections?
- Investigations into a community green that could be our primary place for social connections?
- Investigations into a connected network for walking and cycling to help us connect socially?

Answer this question on the question sheet provided

Sources:

Kilsby, D. 1991 Hiwinui 1891-1991

Knight, 2013 *Creating a Pastoral World Through Fire: The Case of the Manawatu, 1870 – 1910*, Journal of New Zealand Studies

