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1. Foreword

This community plan represents a summary of outcomes from a series of community planning workshops, meetings and exhibitions that occurred from August 2013 through to February 2014. This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of Manawātū District Council and the community of Āpiti. The observations, ideas and opportunities identified in this plan are intended to provide an over arching and holistic summary of the community's vision and a list of specific actions that help deliver this.

Although a relatively short document, this community plan is intended to be used as a starting place for the community, Council and other agencies who are working towards retaining, enhancing and promoting the values of the Āpiti community.

The shared vision in this document has been developed by members of the Āpiti community and builds on the work already underway by the Āpiti Community Committee. This community plan also outlines the process used to establish the vision and illustrates some of the observations, constraints and opportunities for Āpiti.

This community plan identifies three areas of focus and specific actions that will help the community deliver it's shared vision.

This community plan also recommends that there are five specific strategic projects that work towards achieving the community vision in a shared and holistic way.



2. Our Vision Statement



Āpiti is a place in a valley of great beauty with the stunning Ruahines as a backdrop. Āpiti is where community spirit, farming values, school and family life are interwoven to create hospitable and recreational opportunities for all. Āpiti is a place to visit, a destination with a history to celebrate, as well as offering a gateway to the Ruahine Ranges.

Our vision is retain, enhance and promote these values in order to flourish.

There are 3 topic areas that we can focus on to deliver this vision. These are:

1. Strengthening our brand and **image**
2. Establishing and sustaining our community **hub**
3. Providing **recreational** opportunities and facilities for all

Image
Hub
Recreation

3. Āpiti, our community and history



Key facts:

- Āpiti means “gorge” in Maori — an accurate description of the high hills and intersecting gullies of this little township and district situated 40 kilometres north of the nearest town of Feilding and 457.2 metres above sea level.
- We are a small rural township in northern Manawātū
- We see ourselves as the gateway to the Ruahine Ranges, a key natural asset of the Manawātū.
- Our township is well known for its hospitality and the great annual events held there.
- We have a small collection of ‘community’ buildings including a hall, public toilets and a local public house.
- We have educational facilities and a museum.



The Bush Post Office Āpiti, 1890's



Mrs Jacob doing her washing, 1890's



Āpiti Hotel, date unknown



Āpiti Post Office, date unknown

History summary:

The first European settlers arrived in Āpiti during July, 1886. They had been allotted their bush-covered sections as members of the Feilding Small Farm Association. The government of the day was intent on “putting the small man on the land” and the development of special settlement schemes was the result.

Associations were formed so that members could ballot for land which they were able to pay for in instalments. The “Feilding Special Settlement” group was allocated 10,000 acres of heavy bush country which was cleared for farming over the next twenty years. Some of the fine timber was milled, but much of it was burnt so that farms could become productive as quickly as possible.

Being some distance away from railway lines, major roads and characterised by both hilly topography and heavy forest, Āpiti proved a challenging environment for its European settlers.

The land in Āpiti was cleared for farming much later than central Manawatū, which had the use of the railway. At one point Āpiti had two sawmills, but the timber cut at the mills was mainly used locally, as it was too difficult to transport timber to larger centres.

Today Āpiti contains a memorial hall, heritage library, museum, school, native reserve, tavern, domain and Makoura lodge. The primary production is farming and cropping with other small business that helps to promote Āpiti.



Āpiti Domain



Āpiti War Memorial



Āpiti Volunteer Fire Brigade



Āpiti Tavern

4. The community planning process

Āpiti's Community Planning programme has been ongoing since August 2013. We have had a number of community workshops held in the community hall facilitated by Manawatū District Council.

The community workshops focussed on establishing a shared vision for what we want our village to be in the future. We discussed some of the current issues and constraints, but also focussed on opportunities for improvements. This information has informed our draft Community Plan.

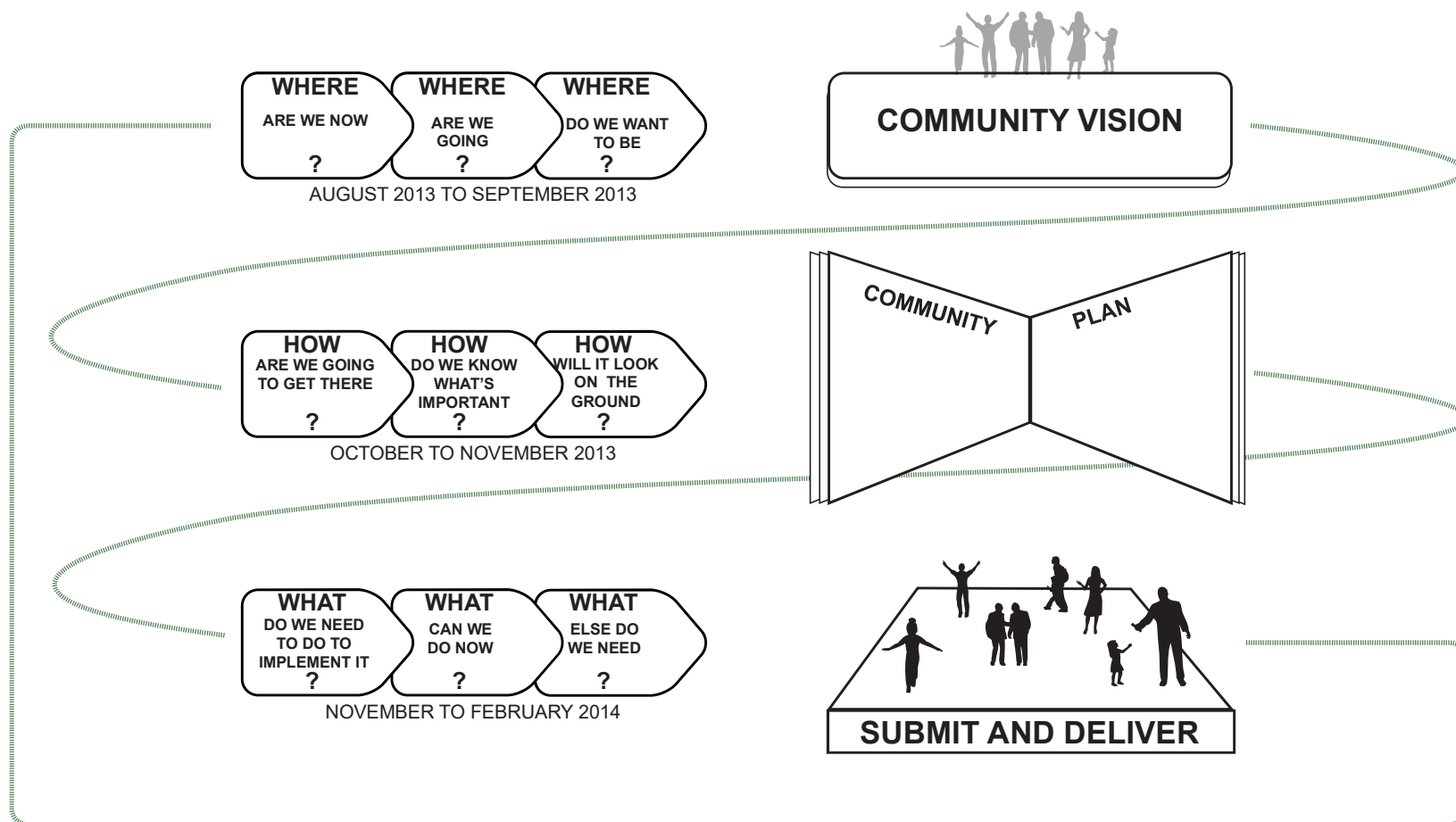
The Community Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations we have for our village and community. It also provides a list of actions that we feel are important to the whole community. Some of the actions we have identified may be easy to deliver, others are more challenging.

The thoughts, ideas, drawings and actions presented in this Community Plan are intended to encourage the community with the aim of working towards a shared vision and plan for the Āpiti community.

This Community plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatū District Council to help them identify projects that may be included in their future workplans.



Members of Āpiti community at Workshop 1, held on 29 October 2013



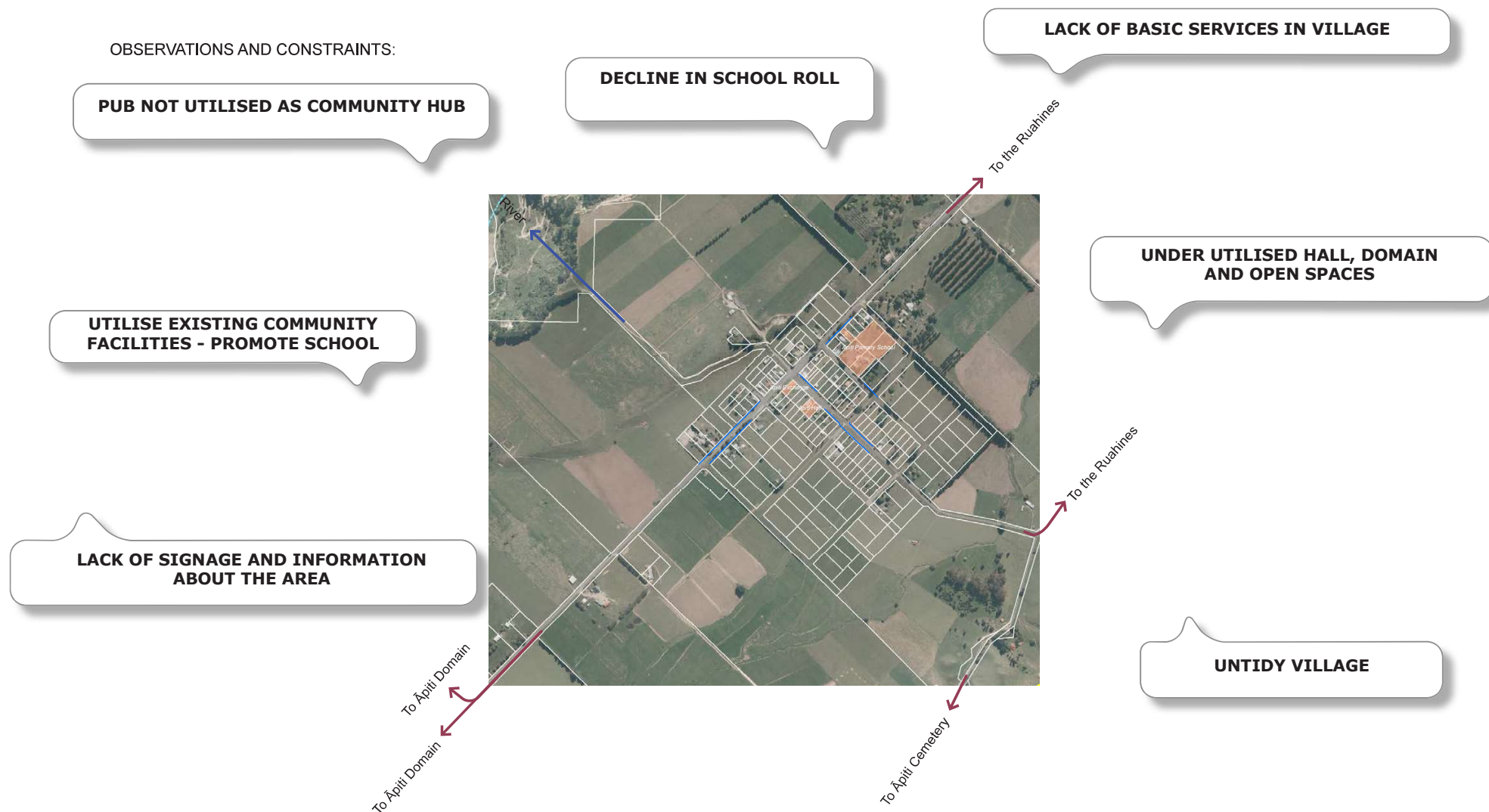
Simplified diagram illustrating the community planning process with key dates

The community planning process

From August 2013 to February 2014 we met on a regular basis to discuss and develop our Community Plan. We see this community plan as a starting point, a 'living document' that will be reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis.

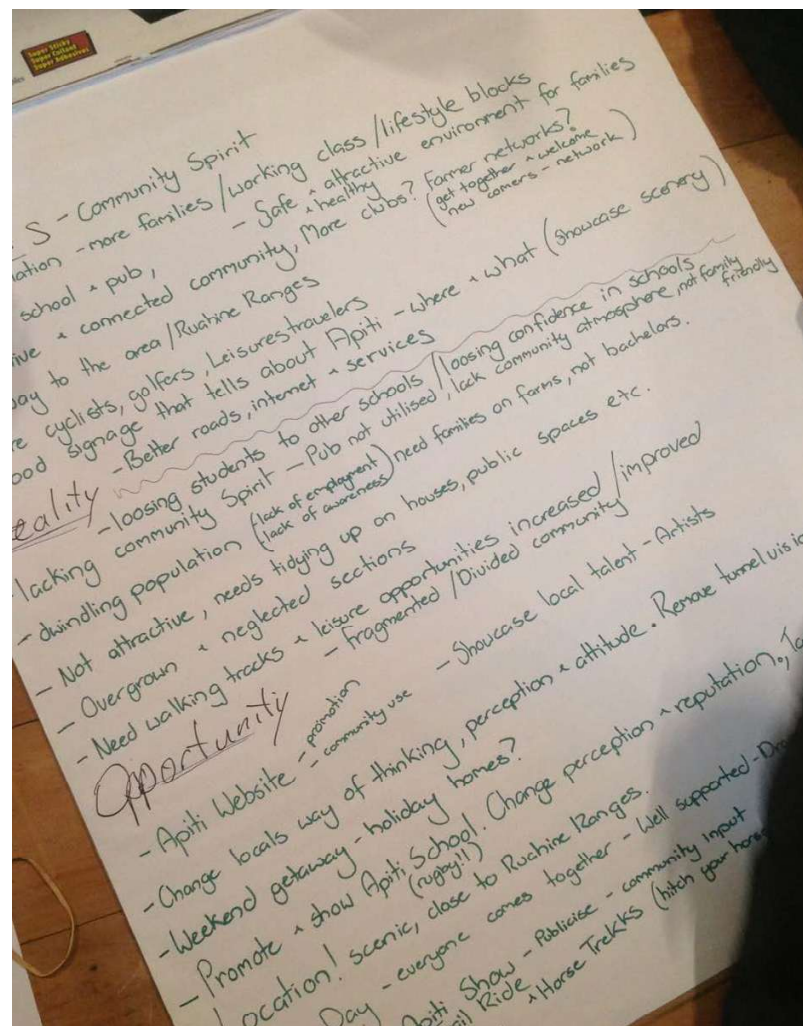


Members of Āpiti community coming together to discuss the emerging Community Plan.



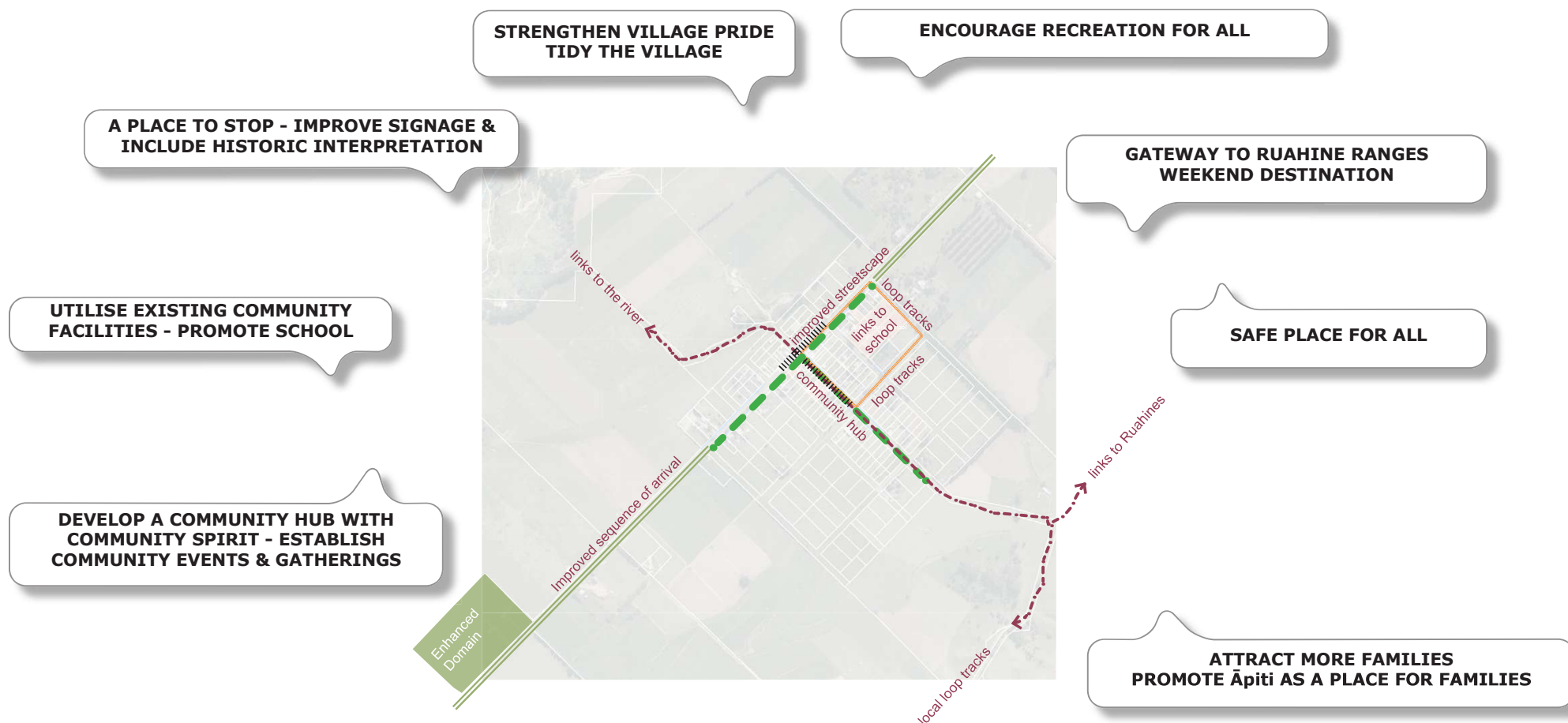
5. The emerging opportunities

We have identified a number of emerging opportunities that relate to physical enhancements / development across Āpiti. We have also identified a number of programmes, events and activities that will help us work towards delivering our Community Vision. The opportunities have come from our community planning workshops and are based on where we want to be heading in the future.



Some Goals, Reality and Opportunities mapped during the first community planning workshop

OPPORTUNITIES IDEAS AND MAPPING:



6. Areas of focus and action plans



Our Vision Statement is:

Āpiti is a place in a valley of great beauty with the stunning Ruahines as a backdrop. Āpiti is where community spirit, farming values, school and family life are interwoven to create hospitable and recreational opportunities for all. Āpiti is a place to visit, a destination with a history to celebrate, as well as offering a gateway to the Ruahine Ranges.

Our vision is retain, enhance and promote these values in order to flourish.

There are 3 topic areas that we can focus on to deliver this vision. These are:

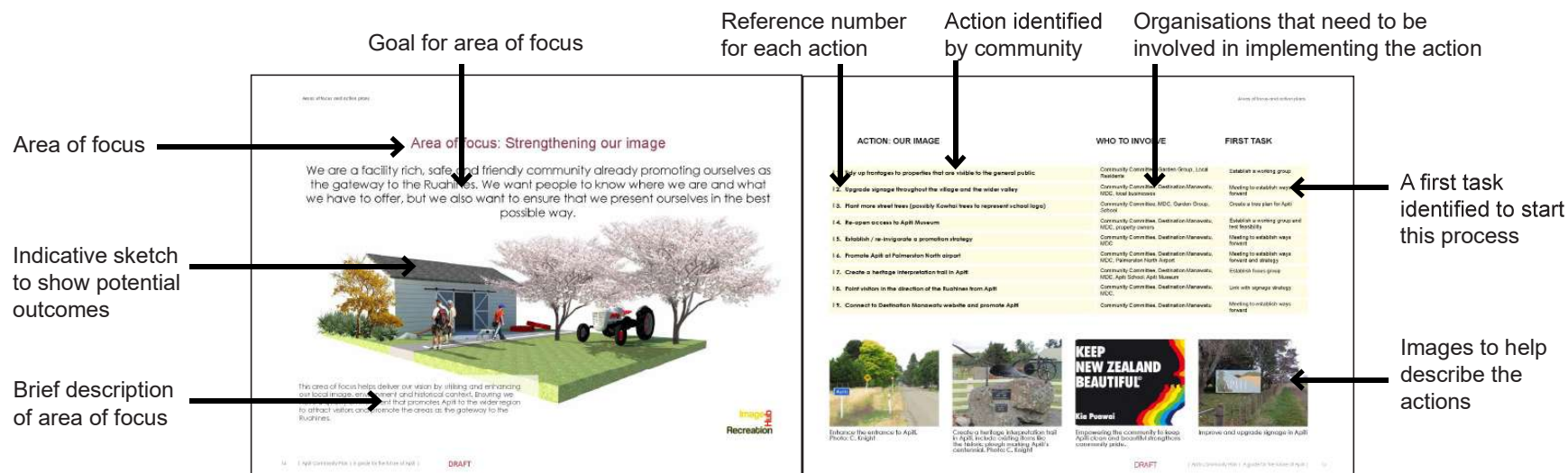
1. Establishing and sustaining our **community hub**
2. Providing **recreational** opportunities and facilities for all
3. Strengthening our brand and **image**

Image
Hub
Recreation

The following pages identify a list of specific actions that relate to each of the areas of focus.

How to use the Action Plans

The following diagram shows the Actions Plans purpose and how they should be used:



Area of focus: Strengthening our image

We are a facility rich, safe and friendly community already promoting ourselves as the gateway to the Ruahines. We want people to know where we are and what we have to offer, but we also want to ensure that we present ourselves in the best possible way.



This area of focus helps deliver our vision by utilising and enhancing our local image, environment and historical context. Ensuring we have a quality environment that promotes Āpiti to the wider region to attract visitors and promote the areas as the gateway to the Ruahines.

ACTION: OUR IMAGE**WHO TO INVOLVE****FIRST TASK**

• Upgrade signage throughout the village and the wider valley	Community Committee, CEDA, MDC, local businesses	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Continue access to Āpiti Museum	Community Committee, CEDA, MDC, property owners, School	Establish a working group and test feasibility
• Work with the Āpiti Tavern to Establish / re-invigorate a promotion strategy	Community Committee, CEDA, MDC, School	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Create a heritage interpretation trail in Āpiti	Community Committee, CEDA, MDC, Āpiti School, Āpiti Museum	Establish focus group
• Continue to Point visitors in the direction of the Ruahines from Āpiti	Community Committee, CEDA, MDC,	Link with signage strategy
• Connect to CEDA and the irugates website and promote Āpiti	Community Committee, CEDA	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Make a video of Āpiti that can be used for promotion	School, CEDA, MDC	Work out story board
• Develop relationships with DOC, CEDA, Āpiti School and Āpiti Taven owners	DOC, CEDA, School, Tavern, Community Committee	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Advocate on behalf of residents in regards to district plan and rules to have an early voice	Community Committee, MDC	Awareness of district plan changes from Council



Enhance the entrance to Āpiti.
Photo: C. Knight



Create a heritage interpretation trail in Āpiti, include existing items like the historic plough marking Āpiti's centennial. Photo: C. Knight



Empowering the community to keep Āpiti clean and beautiful strengthens community pride.



Improved and upgraded signage in Āpiti

Area of focus: Establishing and sustaining our community hub

We want to retain and enhance a positive caring attitude at the heart of our community. We therefore need to have a place or a number of places in Āpiti that enable our heart to beat.



This area of focus helps deliver our vision by utilising, enhancing our local environment and creating a community hub for all. Important to ensure a quality environment promotes Āpiti's charm and character that will help sustain our sense of pride and entice visitors to come here time and time again.

Image
Hub
Recreation

ACTION / IDEA: OUR COMMUNITY HUB**WHO TO INVOLVE****FIRST ACTION**

• Enhance external spaces throughout the village (such as outside hall) and the Domain	MDC, CEDA, Community Committee, Planners, Engineers and Designers, business owners	Identity areas to be upgraded (on a plan) and meet to discuss
• Have more regular community events and promote a calender of events	MDC, CEDA, Community Committee, Local Residents, School	Meeting to establish ways forward / set up a focus group
• Continue to use the Community Hall for events	Community Committee, Local Residents	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Continue to utilise the Domain and Āpiti Tavern for events, shows and markets	MDC, Community Committee, CEDA, Local Residents,	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Continue the relationship with the school	School, Community Committee, Local Residents	Establish a programme and ensure community are aware
• Create a welcome pack for new community members	Community Committee	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Support community dinners	Community Committee	Meeting to establish ways forward



The Community Hall to become the central hub for community events



Enhance external spaces throughout the village (such as outside hall) and the Domain



Involve the whole community at events, shows and markets at the Domain



Have more regular community events and promote a calender of events

Area of focus: Providing recreational opportunities and facilities for all

We have a history of providing and encouraging recreational opportunities for our community and its visitors. We want to ensure we continue to do this and have the right facilities in place to enable this.



This area of focus helps deliver our vision by acknowledging the importance of community facilities for residents, groups, sporting clubs, local businesses and visitors. Through careful planning we want to make sure that we have appropriate facilities that are accessible, safe and useful. Any new facilities should also help contribute towards growing Āpiti.

Image
Hub
Recreation

ACTION / IDEA: OUR RECREATION**WHO TO INVOLVE****FIRST ACTION**

• Work with CEDA to establish and map walking tracks that start and finish in Āpiti	MDC, Community Committee, Local Residents, Artists and Designers	Plan and design the tracks.
• Establish sports and rec clubs for Āpiti eg: Table Tennis, Tennis, Bowls	MDC, Community Committee, Sport Manawatū	Meeting to establish ways forward
• Continue to upgrade and enhance the Domain	MDC, Community Committee, Landscape Architects	Prepare a concept plan for Domain
• Continue to utilise and leverage from recreational events in the valley eg: cycling	MDC, Community Committee, CEDA, Local Residents, Hotel Owner	Establish a focus group
• Continue to make Āpiti more of a destination for visitors by providing a choice of recreation opportunities	MDC, Community Committee, CEDA	Prepare a recreation plan
• Promote the hall as a facility that provides recreational activities	MDC, Community Committee, CEDA	Establish a marketing plan



Providing a choice of recreation opportunities and establish 'trampers support' to encourage more visitors



A continuous cycle / walkway can be used by the local community and visitors



Horse Trekking



Continue to make Āpiti more of a destination for visitors by providing a choice of recreation opportunities

7. Summary of Recommendations

We have identified five specific priority projects that will help deliver a number of actions under all three of the areas of focus. Each project will require careful coordination and resources, and will typically involve a number of different stakeholders. Using these strategic projects as a guide will help deliver individual actions in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

Our recommendations are:

Prepare a Streetscape enhancement plan for Āpiti.

This should consider:

- Enhance the character of the main streets
- Designing appropriate thresholds in and out
- Working with business and land owners
- Safety and accessible routes
- Traffic movement, parking and bus stops
- Planting strategy
- Ongoing maintenance
- Improve Drainage
- Tidy up frontages to properties that are visible to the general public
- Heritage and interpretation - Āpiti Trail

Establish a Signage & Promotional Strategy for Āpiti.

This should consider:

- The character of Āpiti
- Accessibility and legibility
- Heritage and interpretation, re-open access to Āpiti Museum
- Viewpoints and tourist destinations
- Local and regional facilities
- The Country Road
- Establish / re-invigorate a promotion strategy
- Promote Āpiti at Palmerston North airport
- Point visitors in the direction of the Ruahines from Āpiti
- Connect to CEDA website and promote Āpiti
- Involving the school in promotional material

Establish a Community Events Group for Āpiti.

This should consider:

- Utilising existing community facilities such as the school, the domain, hall, tavern and Makoura Lodge
- Utilising existing community groups and initiatives
- Develop a calendar for events, shows, markets, Community dinners and movie/sport nights
- Involving the school in events management

Prepare a spatial plan for the Domain.

This should consider:

- Existing enhancements
- Entrance & exiting buildings
- Views and access into the domain
- Flexibility of space for events and programmes
- Signage and interpretation
- Ongoing maintenance
- Vegetation strategy
- A place for young people
- Links to Āpiti
- Community Hub

Prepare a Recreation Strategy for Āpiti.

This should consider:

- Accessibility and legibility of entire region
- Signage, heritage and interpretation
- Viewpoints and tourist destinations
- Local and regional facilities
- Establish local connections
- Flexibility of space for events and programmes
- Ongoing maintenance
- Recreational needs for community and visitors

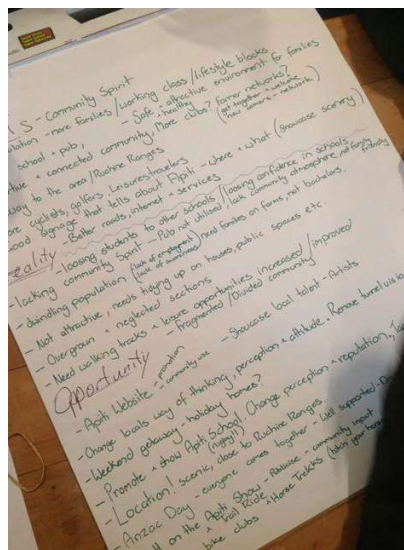
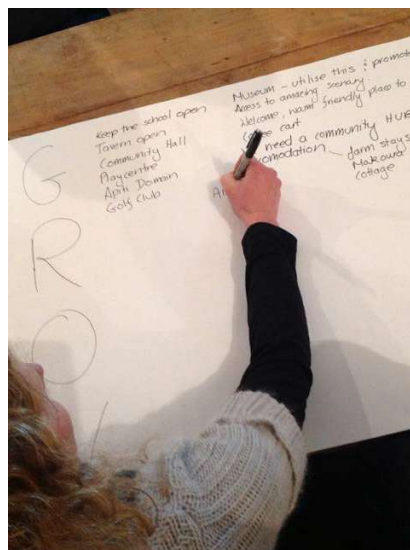


Appendix:

Appendix:

Photographic record of community planning process

WORKSHOP 1: 26 August 2013 at Āpiti Community Hall




EXHIBITION 1: 29 October 2013 at Āpiti Community Hall



Āpiti's Community Planning Programme

Area of focus: Our image



We are a facility rich, safe and friendly community already promoting ourselves as the gateway to the Ruahines. We want people to know where we are and what we have to offer, but we also want to ensure that we present ourselves in the best possible way.

We have compiled the following actions that will help deliver this strategy.

ACTION / IDEA LINK IT!


- dy up buildings to properties that are visible to the general public
- Upgrade signage throughout the village and the wider valley
- Plant more trees (Kawhai trees)
- an access to Āpiti Museum
- ish / re-invigorate a promotion strategy
- Promote Āpiti at Palmerston North airport
- Create a heritage interpretation trail in Āpiti
- Point visitors in the direction of the Ruahines from Āpiti

Help us think about what you think by choosing 2 actions you feel are important. Use the sticky dots provided.

6

Āpiti's Community Planning Programme

Areas of focus: Our recreation



We have a history of providing and encouraging recreational opportunities for our community and its visitors. We want to ensure we continue to do this and have the right facilities in place to enable this.

We have compiled the following actions that will help deliver this strategy.

ACTION / IDEA LINK IT!


- Establish and map walking tracks that start and finish in Āpiti
- Establish 'rampers support' (transport and equipment hire)
- Provide clear signage to recreation opportunities
- Establish sports and rec clubs for Āpiti eg. Table Tennis, Tennis, Bowls
- Upgrade and enhance the Domain
- Enhance areas for families to recreate, socialise and have fun
- Utilise and leverage from recreational events in the valley eg. cycling
- Make Āpiti more of a destination for visitors by providing a choice of recreation opportunities

Please tell us what you think by choosing 2 actions you feel are important. Use the sticky dots provided.

5

Āpiti's Community Planning Programme

Area of focus: Our community hub



We want to retain and enhance a positive caring attitude at the heart of our community. We therefore need to have a place or a number of places in Āpiti that enable our heart to beat.

We have compiled the following actions that will help deliver this strategy.

ACTION / IDEA LINK IT!

- Enhance external spaces throughout the village (such as outside hall)
- Have more regular community events and create a calendar of events
- Use the Community Hall for events
- Establish movie nights or SKY TV nights for the community
- Have community dinners at Makoura lodge
- Utilise the Domain for events, shows and markets
- BBQ nights and events at the Tavern
- Open the school up more for community use

Help us think about what you think by choosing 2 actions you feel are important. Use the sticky dots provided.

4

Appendix:

Sausage Sizzle workshop: 25 November 2013 at Āpiti Community Hall



