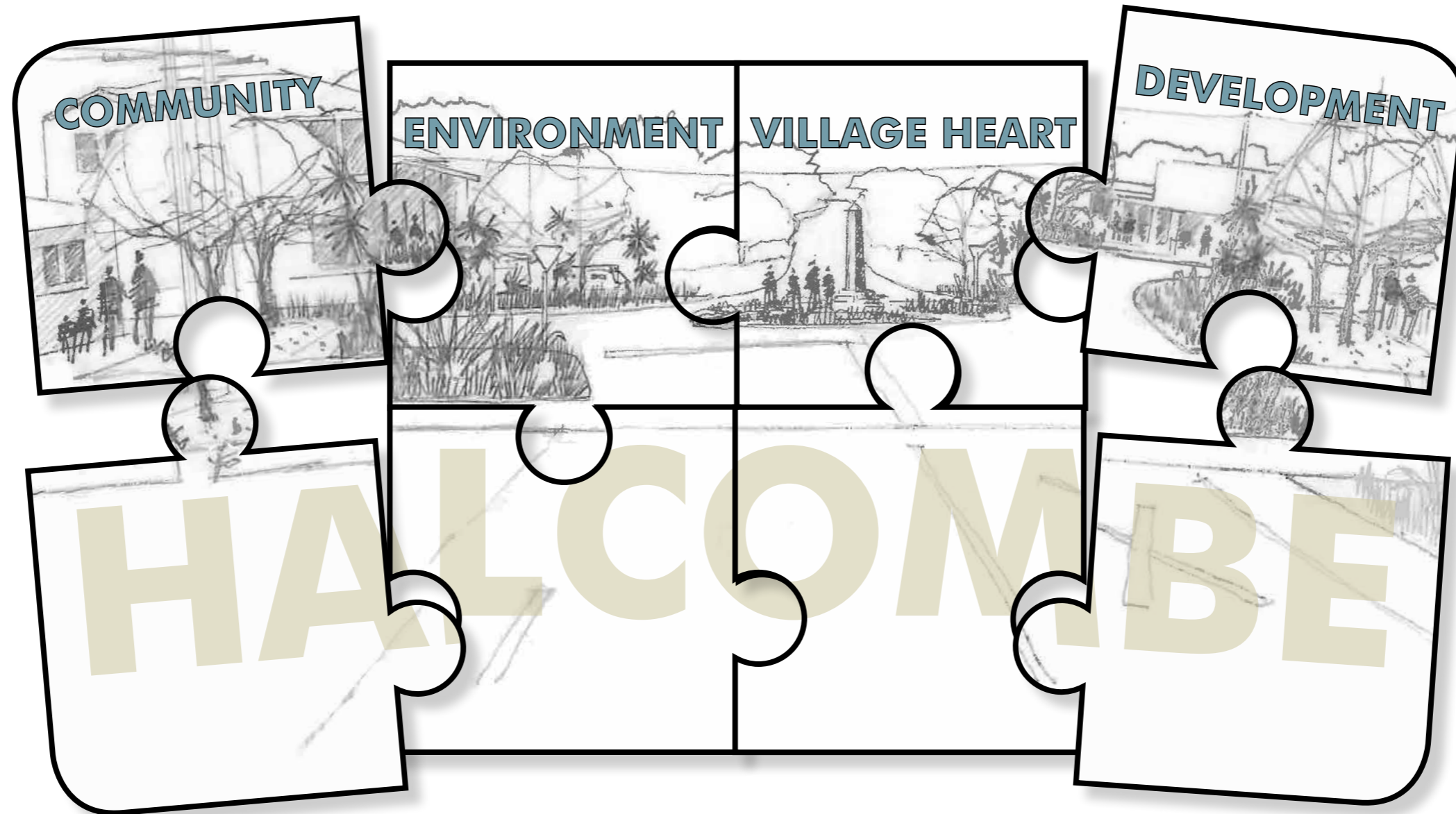


HALCOMBE COMMUNITY PLAN

A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE OF HALCOMBE

May 2013



***Halcombe will be a safe, supportive and progressive community.
It will be attractive, valued by all and well connected to the wider district.***

Document Quality Assurance



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Members of Halcombe community at Waitangi Day celebrations 2013

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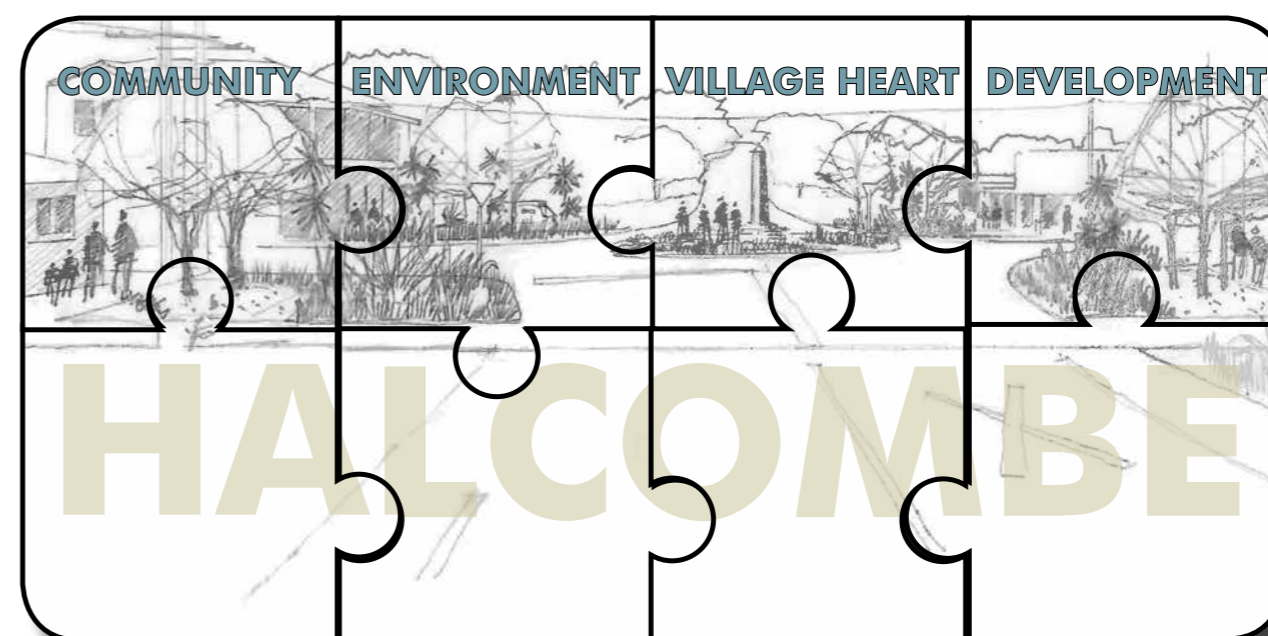


1. Foreword

This community plan represents a summary of outcomes from a series of community planning workshops and meetings that occurred from October 2012 through to March 2013. This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of Manawatu District Council and the community of Halcombe. 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.

The shared vision in this document has been developed by key members of the Halcombe community and builds on the work underway by the Halcombe Community Development Group (HCDG). This community plan also outlines the process used to establish the vision and illustrates some of the observations, constraints and opportunities for Halcombe.

This community plan identifies areas of focus that will help deliver the shared community vision. Specific actions have also been identified under each of these areas of focus.



Community with pride and identity

Beautify Village-Green corridor- **walkways linking Village** - improved footpaths- **develop a community heart and pride** - community events - **promote School**- celebrate history - strengthen community spirit: **unite community** - Create and enhance local business: **fill vacant shops** - working bees - connect and engage all groups -**amalgamate some clubs** - **tavern for sale** - community notice boards - **well defined village**, with wider connections: **celebrate culture and history: marae open days** - more visibility - **A place to stop** - No clear entrance point into the Village - Main Road: lower speed limit - Railway Line: increase safety at crossing - **Enhanced Environment: green swales** - **street trees**



2. Halcombe History

The history of Halcombe was compiled for the Halcombe Centenary 1877 - 1977, the text below summarises this.

Halcombe was named after Arthur William Follett Halcombe who was Residents Agent to the Colonist and Emigrants Aid Corporation.

In 1871 the Corporation bought from the Provincial Council 100,000 acres between Te Reu Reu Reserve and the Ruahine Ranges. This 100,000 acres plus 6,000 acres for roading and railways was to be known as the Manchester Block and was part of the Rangitikei - Manawatu Block purchased from Maori tribes in 1866.

Four sub tribes were living on Te Reu Reu Reserve which is the land on the south bank of the Rangitikei River between the Ranataua and Waitapu streams since approximately the 1850's.

In 1875 a number of German families arrived in Halcombe. The first immigrants were provided with a free passage to New Zealand, an acre of land with a shack on it. Danish settlers also arrived early on.

Work offered by the corporation was mainly bush felling and road construction. To provide more work, in 1878 the Corporation made larger blocks of land available.

The railway arrived in Halcombe in 1877 and in 1878 the line to Wanganui was completed which gave Halcombe options for transportation to and from the district. Halcombe's Station became an important place because it was the only Refreshment Rooms between Foxton via Palmerston North and Wanganui. At one point 35 trains passed through Halcombe each day. The focal point of the village became the Railway Station, which also included a post office and bar, but sadly burnt down in 1962.

The original planners believed that Halcombe would one day become a major centre, however this was not the case and Halcombe didn't expand as the planners expected. Halcombe reached its peak during the late 1880's. By this time roads had been completed, the timber trade was falling and at the time of the Golden Jubilee in 1937 the town had become a rural village.

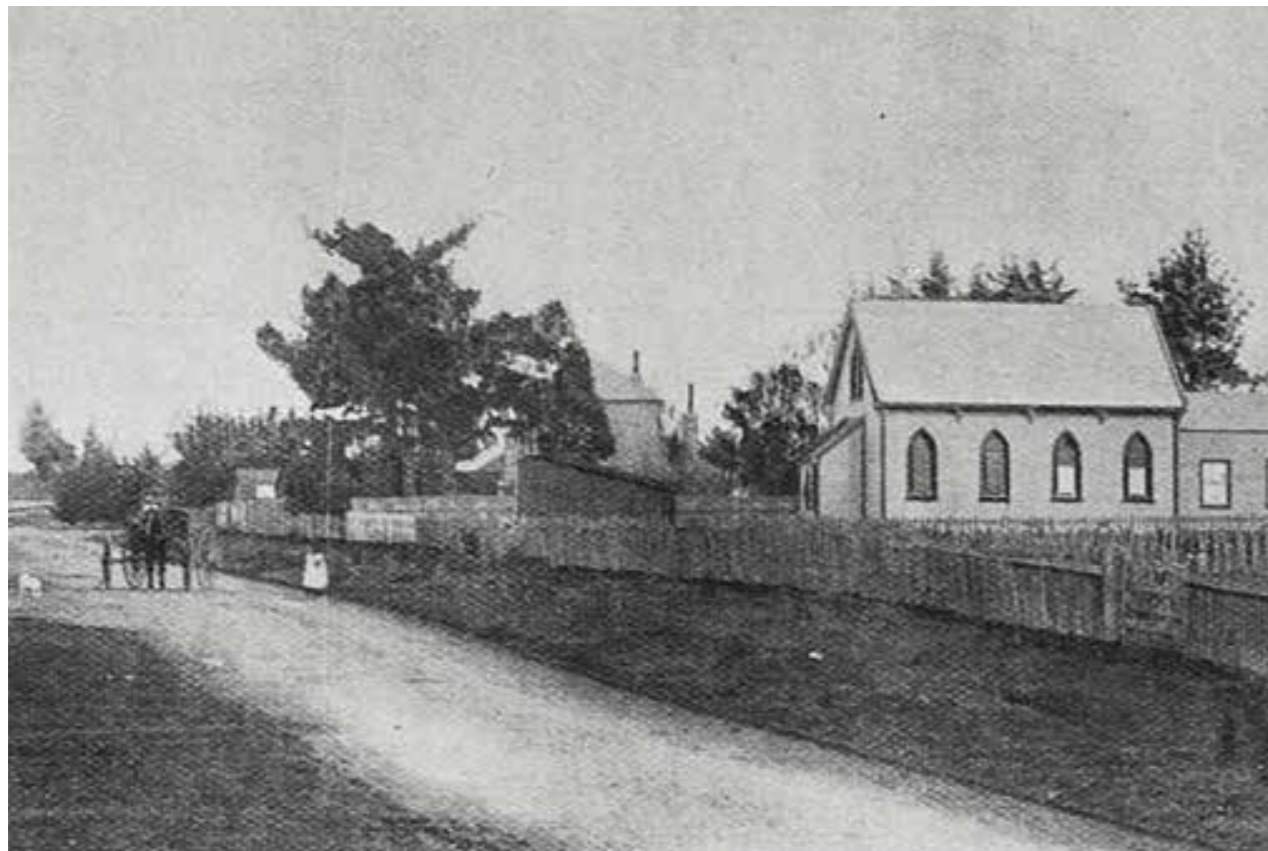
Local business started to establish with a local store, blacksmith, wheelwright, hotelier, butcher, carpenter, midwife, undertaker, sale-yards and Town Board.

The first church was erected in 1876 by the Methodists, with Lutherans to follow in 1878.

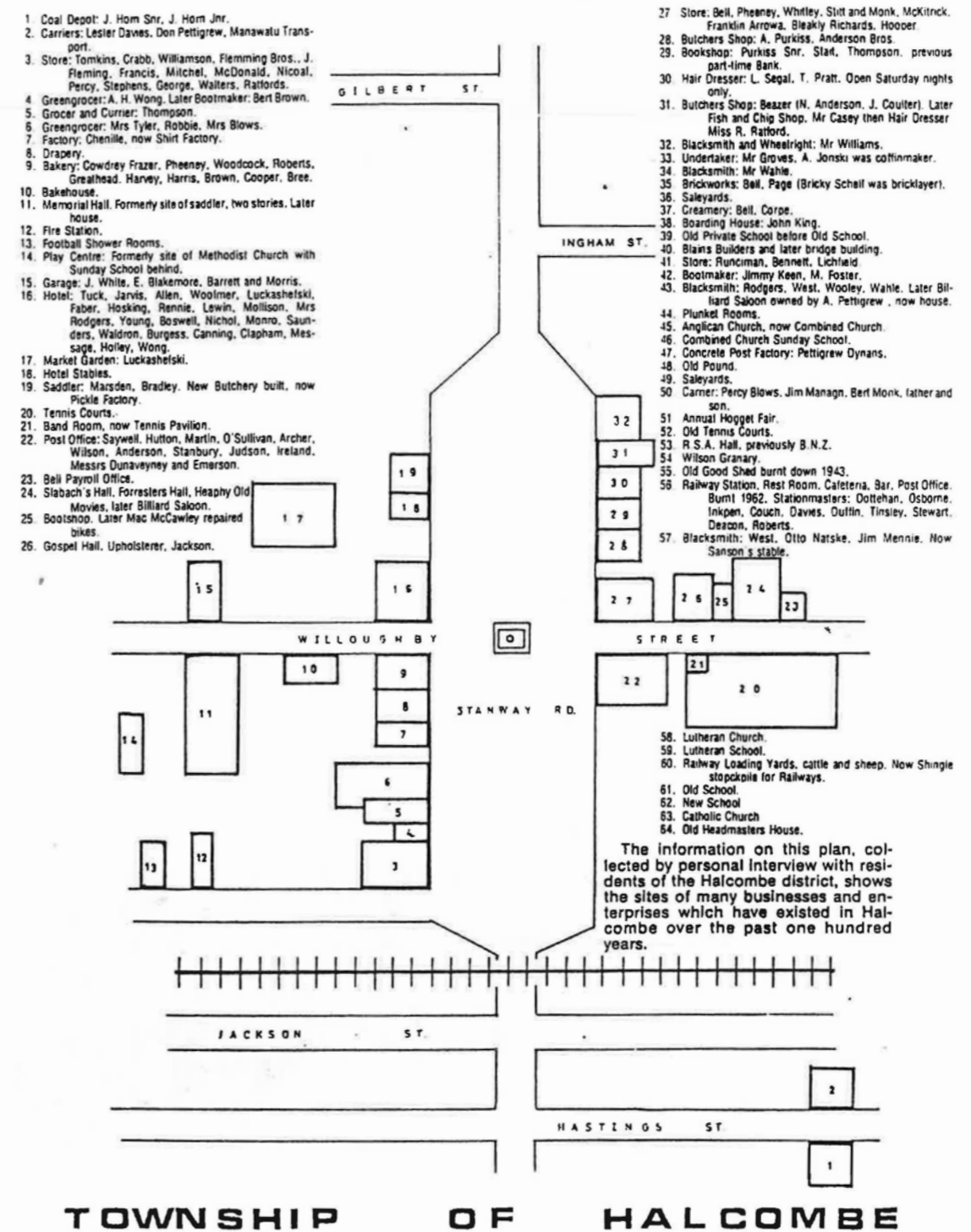


A view of Halcombe, Rangitikei district, about 1878

By 1895 five churches had been built in Halcombe, the largest Cheese factory on the west coast and a brick kiln had all established. Many groups flourished, including the Chamber of Commerce, Debating Society, Brass Band, Foresters Lodge, Ploughing Match Association, Rifle Club and Nigger Minstrel Troupe. Halcombe even had its own town crier who rang his bell and made announcements. The school at this point had a roll of 191, but from this high point the township began to drop in population and it was World War One that dealt a final blow to many activities.



The Main Thoroughfare, Halcombe 1904 (Image from National Library website)



Plan showing the Halcombe businesses that existed over the past 100 years

3. Halcombe and its community

Halcombe is a small rural settlement, population 432 (2006 census), located within the undulating countryside of the Manawatu Plains 10 km north west of Feilding and 4 km east of the Rangitikei River. The village occupies a low lying gully / basin at approximately 120 - 140m above sea level which form a visible backdrop from the centre of the village.

The Halcombe village is currently bisected by Halcombe Road and the Railway Line. Residential housing is not evenly dispersed though the village and many vacant sections and paper roads still remain. The road network is based on a grid but only partially developed from what was originally planned. Houses are all set back from the streets, mostly all with low level fencing and outlooks onto the streets and surrounding landscape. The streets are wide with limited footpaths, large grass berms and un-vegetated swales is some locations.

The village is centralised around the war memorial. The centre of Halcombe contains a memorial hall, tavern, Marae, domain, school, toilet facilities and a playground, all within walking distance of the war memorial.

The primary production is farming and cropping. The vegetation cover in Halcombe is limited, not structured and mostly exotic. Native vegetation exists on parts of the railway corridor with some older stands of *pinus radiata* along Halcombe Road. Many of the original businesses have ceased trading. Their premises have been redeveloped into residential properties. The Domain provides a large recreational openspace for the community, this includes the tennis courts, the playground and toilet facility.

Halcombe has a rural setting, that gives residents the benefit of a rural lifestyle while retaining an easy commute to Feilding. The population of Halcombe was 432 in the 2006 Census. Many of the people who live in the area would commute to Feilding, Palmerston North and Ohakea.



A view of Halcombe, March 2013

4. The community planning process

Halcombe's Community Planning programme has been ongoing since October 2012. We have had a number of community workshops held in the community hall facilitated by Manawatu 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.

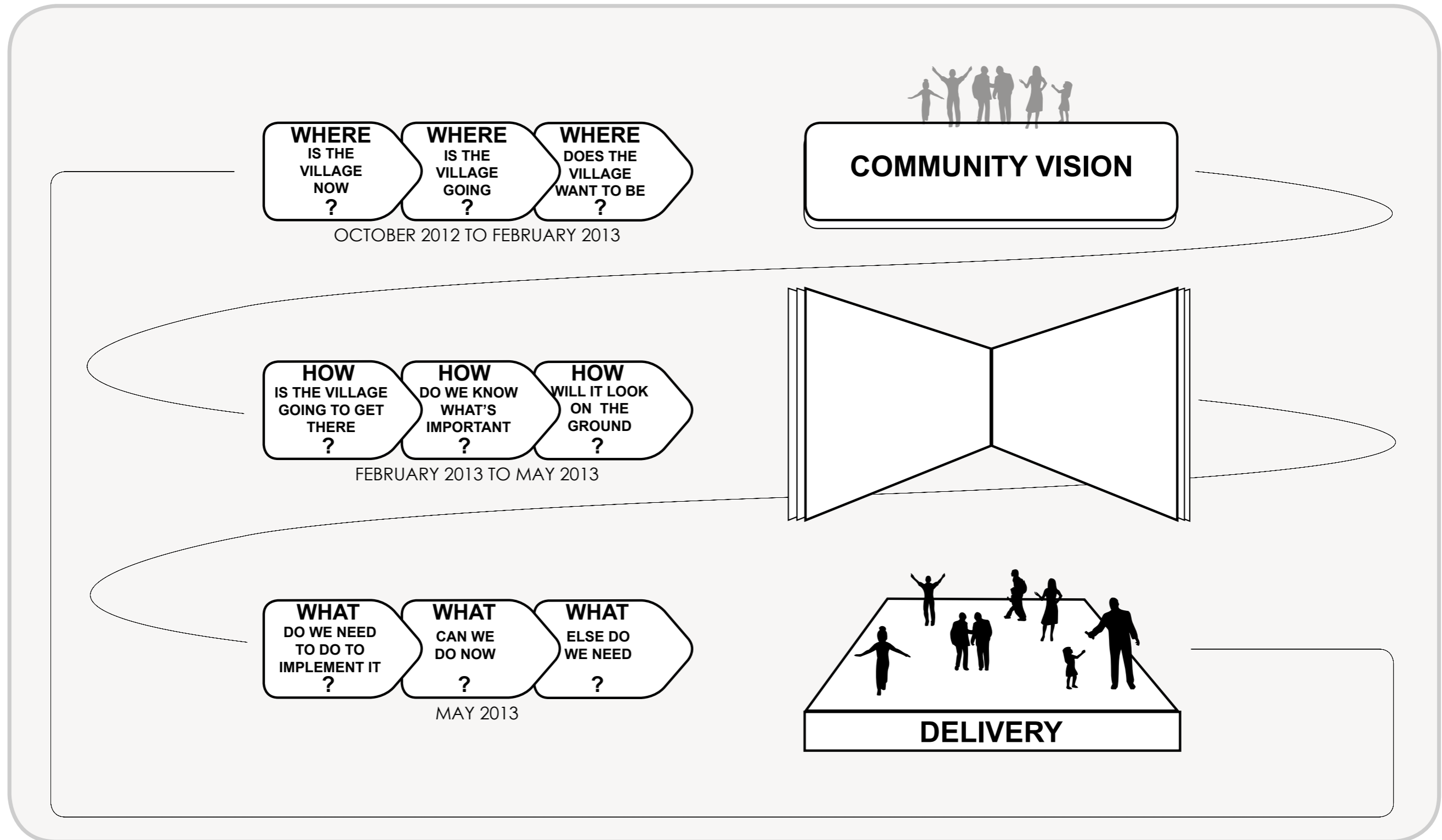
The Community Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations we have for our village. It will also indicate a list of actions that we feel are important to the whole community. Some of the actions we have identified may be easy, others are more challenging.

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 Halcombe community.

This Community plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatu District Council in May 2013 to help them identify projects that may be included in their future workplans.



Members of Halcombe community at Halcombe School Gala, March 2013



Typical community planning process with key dates for Halcombe

“I think the ideas in the plan look exciting. It’s great that they have asked all the people what they think, especially kids”

Quote from Halcombe School student

“I value the opportunity to provide feedback to the HCDG on what promises to be an exciting development for Halcombe”

Quote from Sue Simpson, Halcombe School Principal

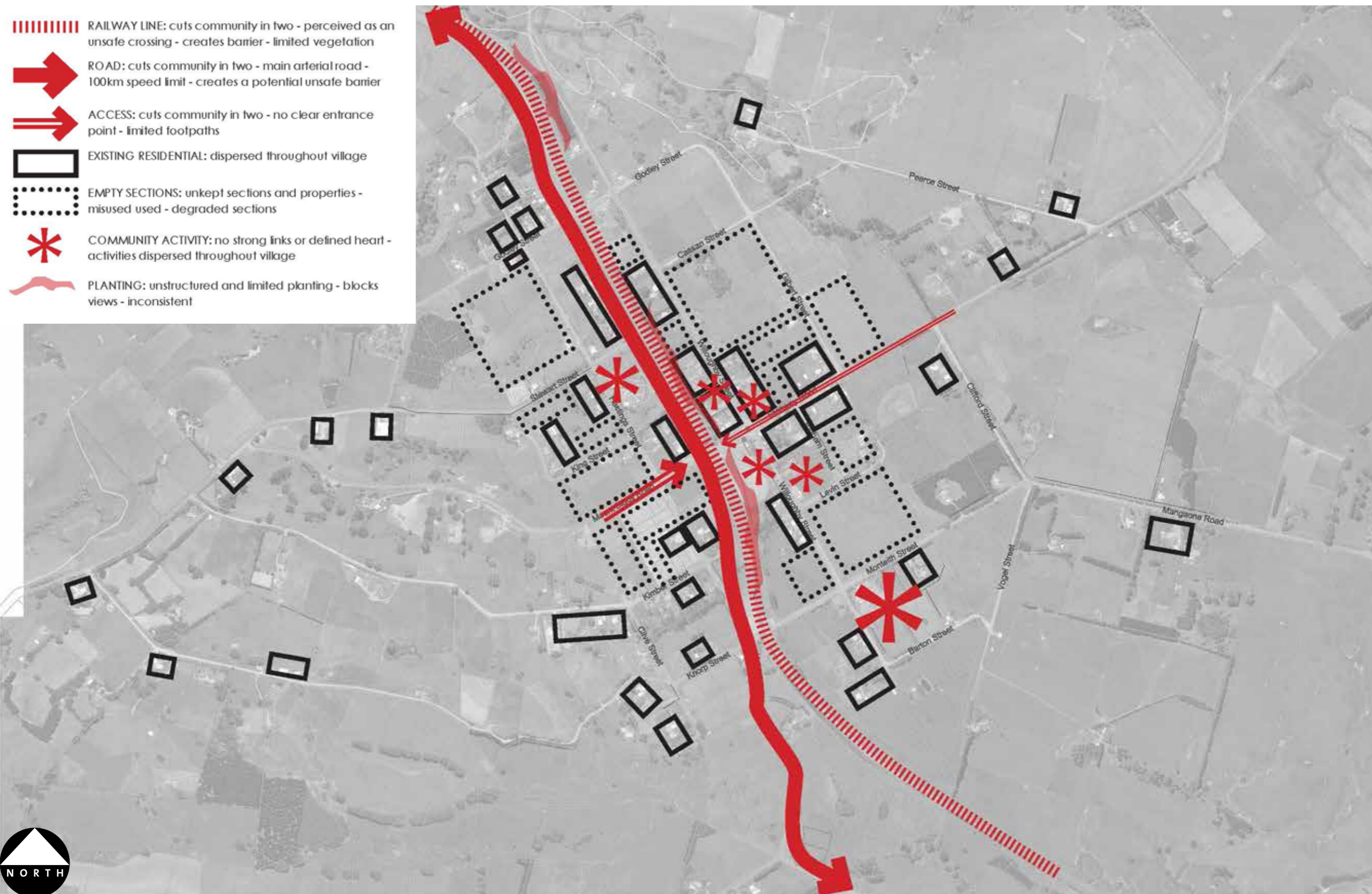
“This was a true community project and only the beginning of more great things to come as Halcombe works to put together its Community Plan”

Quote from Rachel Lane in an article about Halcombe Public Toilets Refurbishment Project featured in the Feilding Herald, March 2013



Community Planning exhibition at Waitangi Day celebrations

CURRENT OBSERVATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS PLAN:



5. The emerging opportunities

Through our community planning workshops we identified a number of goals for future development of the village. We also identified existing constraints and issues which informed consideration for a number of emerging opportunities for this Community Plan.

The identified goals for Halcombe include:

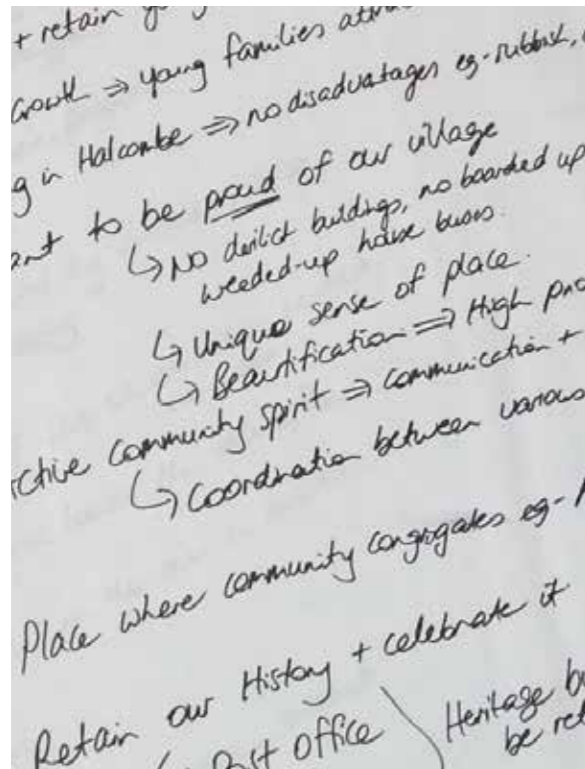
- Ensuring that there will be a well connected and thriving community that works together on developing Halcombe for the future.
- Creating and enhancing publicly accessible spaces and places.
- Delivering a quality environment for those living, working and visiting in Halcombe.
- Sustaining the quality and the community spirit of Halcombe.

The identified existing issues and constraints include:

- Too many physical barriers across the Village, such as Halcombe Road and the railway line.
- Lack of coordination between the different community facilities, events and programmes.
- No clearly defined village heart with appropriate and planned for community facilities.
- Uncoordinated vegetation and weed management across the village.

The emerging opportunities for Halcombe include:

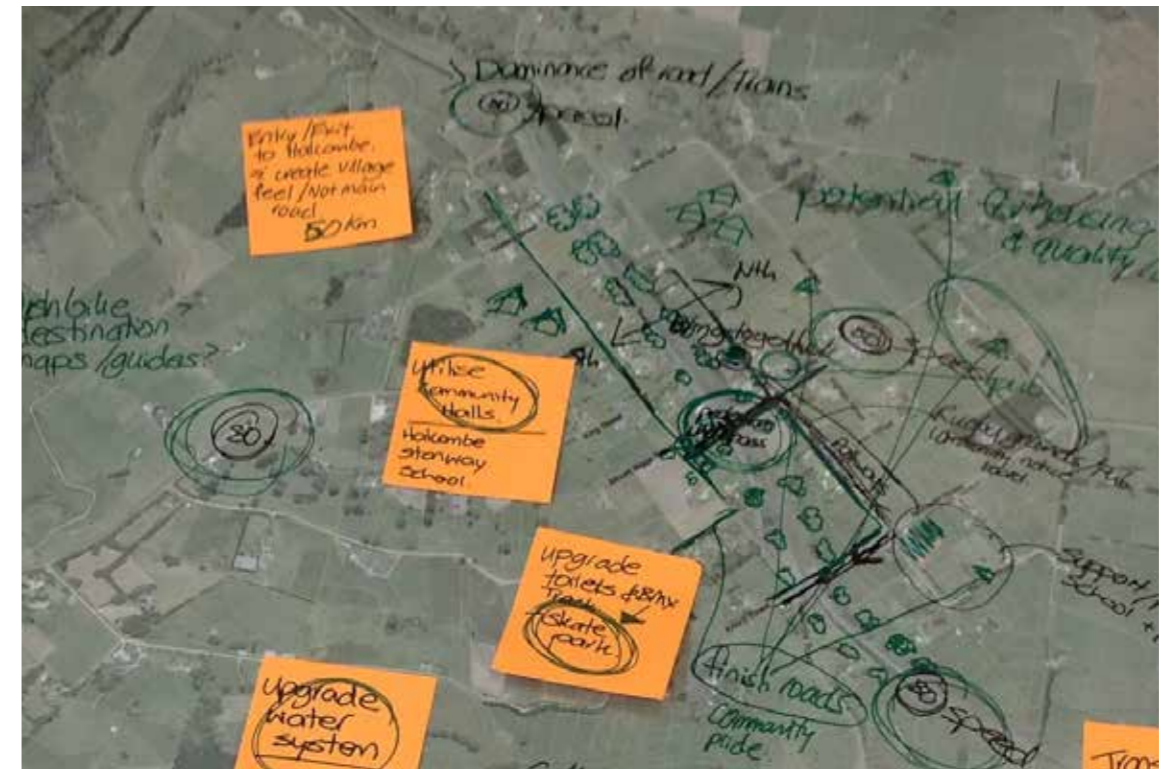
- Improve communication across the community.
- Improve access, safety and connections across the village.
- Enhance the physical environment and community facilities.
- Ensure future development is 'adding value' to Halcombe.



Brainstorming



Emerging ideas



Emerging actions / opportunities

OPPORTUNITIES PLAN:

-  RAILWAY LINE: improve the safety at crossings - green railway corridor
-  MAIN ROAD: lower speed limit - plant street trees - enhance entrance - improve safety and perceived safety at crossings
-  LOCAL ROADS: plant street trees - enhance open drains by planting native vegetation - safe crossing - improved footpaths
-  EXISTING RESIDENTIAL: strengthen community spirit - unite community
-  DEVELOPMENT: Promote Halcombe as a place to live: establish a development / structure plan - prepare a village design guide that controls development character
-  COMMUNITY ACTIVITY: strengthen community activity: create and enhance local business, working bees, connect and engage all groups, investigate opportunities for the tavern to be a community hub
-  PLANTING: enhance the physical environments of Halcombe through environmental improvements and enhancements: railway corridor vegetation - environmental enhancements on private land
-  MARAE: open days to celebrate culture and history - more visibility
-  OPENSOURCE: enhance and upgrade community and public facilities across the village: green, upgrade toilets, skate park, notice board
-  COMMUNITY HEART: define the heart of Halcombe by enhancing the areas around the memorial, improve footpaths and upgrade community / public facilities across the village - enhance links between existing clubs, school and groups

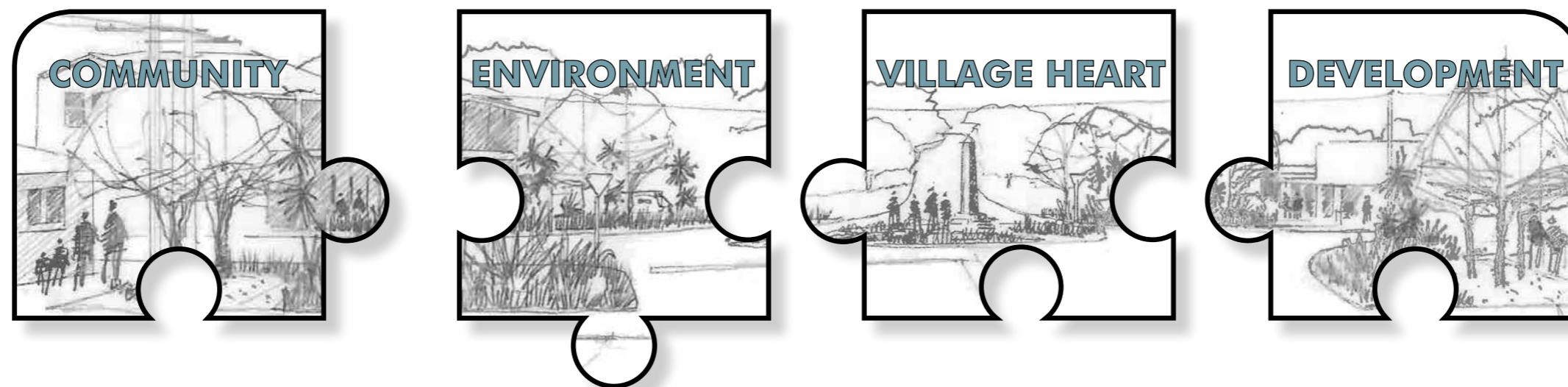


6. Vision and areas of focus

Our vision statement is:

Halcombe will be a safe, supportive and progressive community. It will be attractive, valued by all and well connected to the wider district.

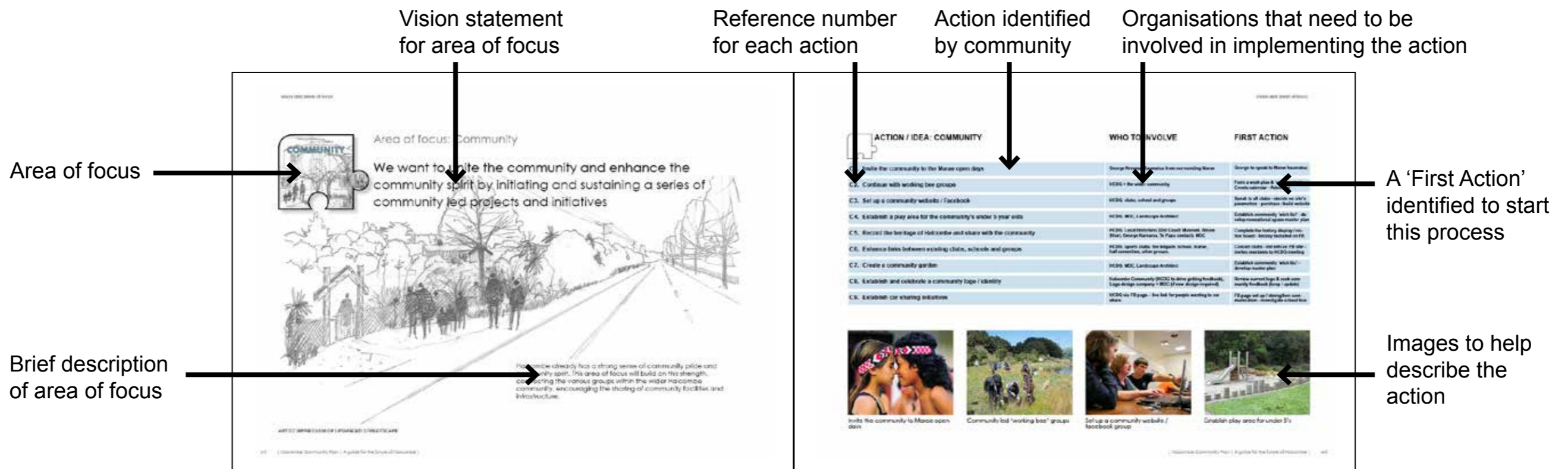
There are 4 key areas to focus on to achieve this goal. These are:



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

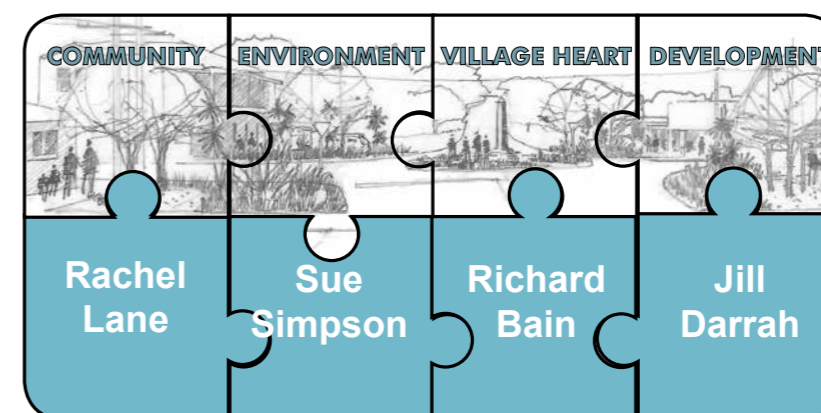
How to use the Action Plans

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



For each of the areas of focus a member from the Halcombe community has been identified as a 'go to person' for members of the community who want to become involved. They are also responsible for providing progress reports about their areas of focus to the Halcombe Community Development Group (HCDG). These progress reports will be recorded in the Groups monthly meeting minutes which are then forwarded to Council.

The Halcombe Community will be kept updated on progress via various media mediums that are currently available: HCDG website, Community Newsletter, School Newsletter and newspaper articles.





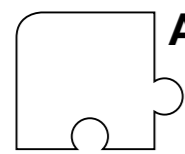
Area of focus: Community

We want to unite the community and enhance the community spirit by initiating and sustaining a series of community led projects and initiatives



Halcombe already has a strong sense of community pride and community spirit. This area of focus will build on this strength, connecting the various groups within the wider Halcombe community, encouraging the sharing of community facilities and infrastructure.

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF UPGRADED STREETScape



ACTION / IDEA: COMMUNITY

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

C1. Invite the community to the Marae open days	George Kreama, Kaumatua from surrounding Marae	George to speak to Marae kaumatua
C2. Continue with working bee groups	HCDG + the wider community	Form a work plan & 'working bee' Events calendar - Advertise
C3. Set up a community website / Facebook	HCDG, clubs, school and groups	Speak to all clubs - decide on site's parameters - purchase / build website
C4. Establish a play area for the community's under 5 year olds	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Establish community 'wish list' - develop recreational space master plan
C5. Record the heritage of Halcombe and share with the community	HCDG, Local historians (Old Coach Museum, Alison Short, George Kareama, Te Papa contact), MDC	Complete the history display / notice board - history included on FB
C6. Enhance links between existing clubs, schools and groups	HCDG, sports clubs, fire brigade, school, marae, hall committee, other groups.	Contact clubs - list info on FB site - invites members to HCDG meeting
C7. Create a community garden	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Establish community 'wish list' - develop master plan
C8. Establish and celebrate a community logo / identity	Halcombe Community (HCDG to drive getting feedback), Logo design company + MDC (if new design required)	Review current logo & seek community feedback (keep / update)
C9. Establish car sharing initiatives	HCDG via FB page – live link for people wanting to car share.	FB page set up / strengthen communication - investigate school bus



Invite the community to Marae open days



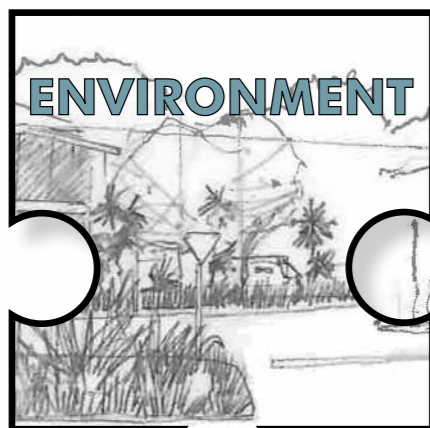
Community led 'working bee' groups



Set up a community website / facebook group

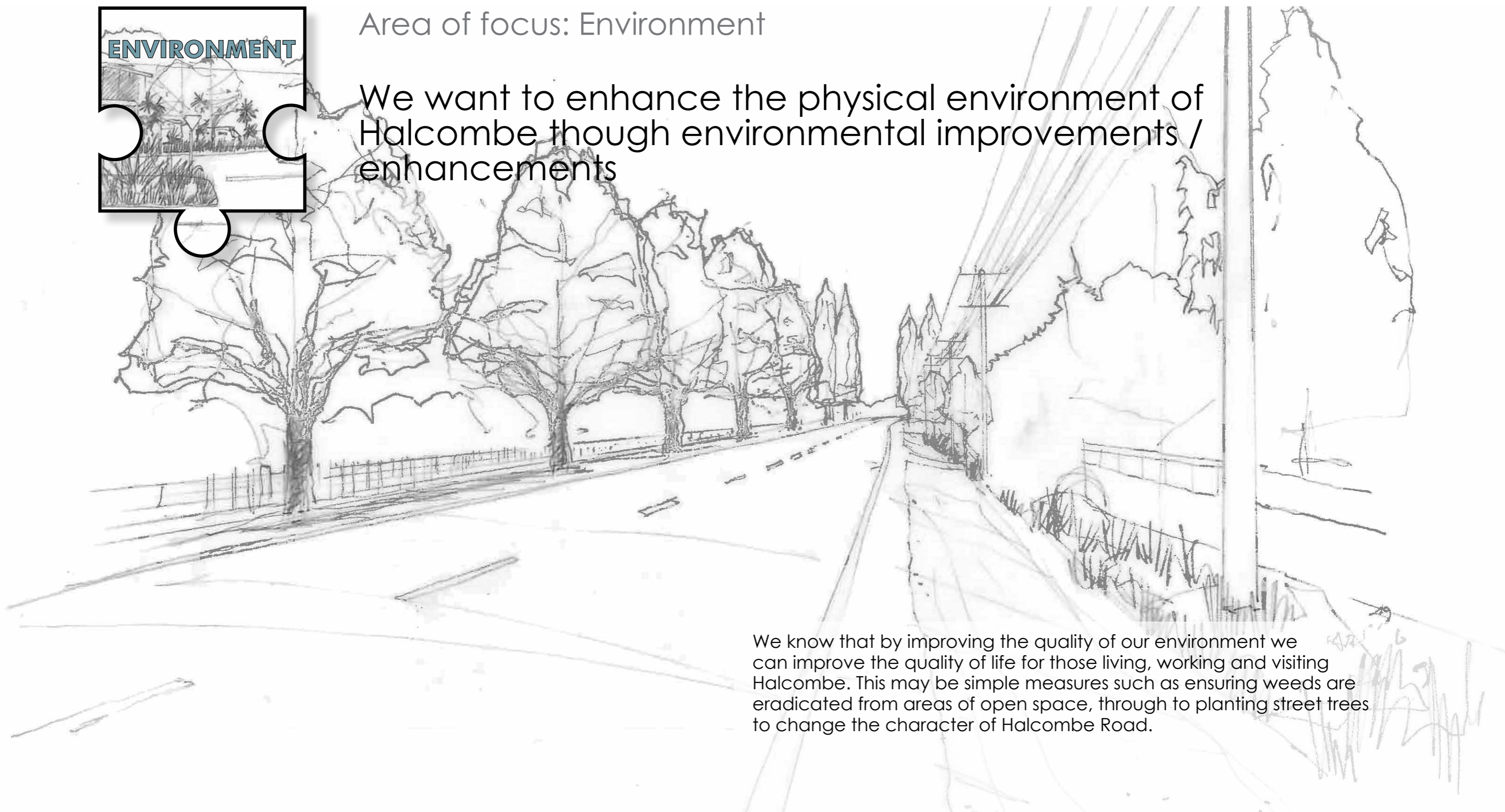


Establish play area for under 5's



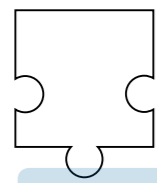
Area of focus: Environment

We want to enhance the physical environment of Halcombe through environmental improvements / enhancements



We know that by improving the quality of our environment we can improve the quality of life for those living, working and visiting Halcombe. This may be simple measures such as ensuring weeds are eradicated from areas of open space, through to planting street trees to change the character of Halcombe Road.

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF UPGRADED STREETScape



ACTION / IDEA: ENVIRONMENT

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

E 1. Prepare a Vegetation Framework for Halcombe Village (ie a planting plan)	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward
E 2. Specify and plant appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1
E 3. Enhance the railway corridor vegetation	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Kiwi Rail, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1
E 4. Specify and plant appropriate street trees on local roads	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1
E 5. Establish appropriate weed control / maintenance protocols	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1
E 6. Enhance open drains by planting native vegetation	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1
E 7. Enhance the identity of Halcombe through environmental enhancements on private land	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Meeting to establish ways forward and how this fits within E1



Plant appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road



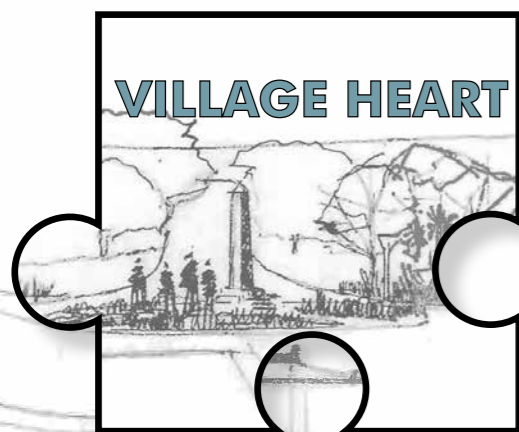
Enhance the railway corridor vegetation with appropriate planting



Plant appropriate street trees on local roads



Establish appropriate maintenance protocols / weed control



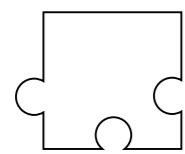
Area of focus: Village Heart

We want to define the heart to Halcombe by enhancing the area around the memorial, improving footpaths and upgrading community / public facilities across the village.



We would like to see Halcombe's Village Heart enhanced by making improvements to the physical appearance and function of the area that encompasses the war memorial, community hall and the recreation ground / open space. Defining and enhancing the Village Heart should be planned, designed and implemented in a coordinated and cohesive way to ensure we deliver and retain a unique sense of place for Halcombe.

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF UPGRADED STREETScape



ACTION / IDEA: VILLAGE HEART

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

V1. Create an outdoor 'hang out' zone for teenagers	Teenagers, sports clubs, school and groups, HCDG	Meeting with teenagers to establish ways forward & requirements
V2. Upgrade the public toilets	MDC, Community Working Bee, HCDG	On site meeting with MDC property adviser - evaluate latest upgrade
V3. Design and install an appropriate community notice board	HCDG, sports clubs, school & other groups, Landscape Architect	Speak to all clubs - decide on site's parameters - purchase build website
V4. Enhance the area around the memorial	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Meeting to outline & establish brief
V5. Improve the railway land and make it more of a community open space	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Kiwi Rail, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Meeting to outline & establish brief
V6. Promote fitness by installing trim trail & fitness equipment	HCDG, MDC, sports clubs, school, Marae, Community Working Bee Group, Landscape Architect.	Meeting to outline & establish brief
V7. Improve the safety and perceived safety across the village	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Kiwi Rail, NZTA, Landscape Architect	Identify safety issues - get a comprehensive audit commissioned



Create a 'hang out' zone for teenagers



Upgrade and enhance the public toilets making them distinctive to Halcombe



Design and install an appropriate community notice board



Enhance the area around the memorial

DEVELOPMENT

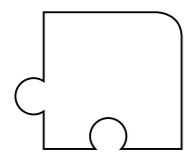
Area of focus: Development

We want to ensure that future development and enhancements are of high quality and will help reinforce the vision and aspirations set in the Community Plan



We understand that development will occur over time. We also want to ensure that any future development and / or physical change to Halcombe is of a high quality. We also want to ensure that appropriate community / public facilities / infrastructure are considered when looking at the future of Halcombe. This area of focus will need to consider both short and long term development.

ARTIST IMPRESSION OF UPGRADED STREETScape



ACTION / IDEA: DEVELOPMENT

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST ACTION

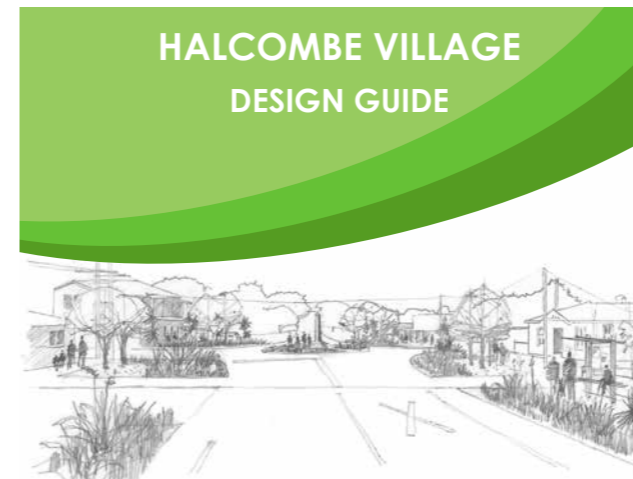
D1. Investigate opportunities for the Tavern to be a community hub	Tavern Owner, HCDG, MDC	Evaluate feasibility
D2. Promote Halcombe as a place to live	HCDG, Horizons, Destination Manawatu, School, Ohakea, local Real Estate Agents	Develop a marketing strategy - information hand out
D3. Prepare a Village design guide that controls development character	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Check by-laws, establish community priorities, develop brief
D4. Establish a river / recreational area such as at Vinegar Hill	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Destination Manawatu, Private & Public Property Owners	Identify possible locations - Establish community 'wish list'
D5. Ensure street and park furniture are unique to Halcombe Village	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Develop a regional design competition, develop brief (sponsorship)
D6. Plan for and development a local BMX and skate park	HCDG, MDC, Landscape Architect	Establish community 'wish list' - develop brief
D7. Establish a development / structure plan for Halcombe	HCDG, MDC, Planner / Landscape Architect	Establish community 'wish list' - develop brief / framework
D8. Seek to enforce 50km/h speed limit within Halcombe village	HCDG, MDC, Horizons, Kiwi Rail, NZTA, Police, Landscape Architect	Review / Identify safety Issues - get a comprehensive audit commissioned



Investigate opportunities for the Tavern to be a community hub



Promote Halcombe as a place to live



Prepare a village design guide that controls development character

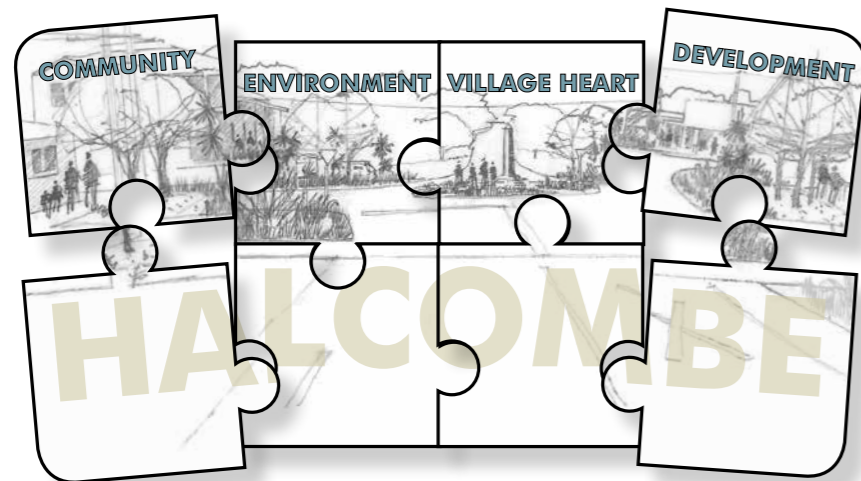


Establish a river / recreational area such as at Vinegar Hill

7. Summary of Recommendations

We have identified five specific projects that will help deliver a number of actions delivering all four 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 spatial plan for the **domain**.

This should consider:

- Play area for under 5's
- Outdoor 'Hang Out' zone for teenagers
- Upgrade public toilets
- Promoting fitness
- New community notice board
- Community gardens



Prepare a **Vegetation Framework** for Halcombe.

This should consider:

- Enhancement of the railway corridor
- Establishment of appropriate weed control / maintenance protocols
- Enhancement of open drains with native vegetation
- Community gardens



Prepare a spatial plan for upgrading the **Memorial Square**.

This should consider:

- Investigating the opportunity for the tavern to be transformed into a community hub
- New community notice board
- Enhancement of the area around Memorial Square (seating, new planting & street trees)
- Improvements to safety and access
- Celebrating and recognising heritage



Establish a **Traffic Calming Strategy**.

This should consider:

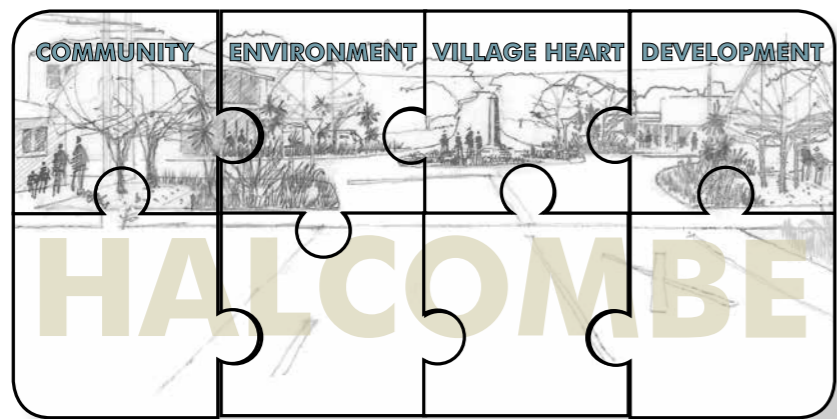
- Improving safety and perceived safety across the village
- Seeking to enforce 50km/h speed limit within Halcombe village
- Planting appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road and local roads
- Enhancement of open drains by planting native vegetation



Prepare a **Structure Plan** for Halcombe.

This should consider:

- Strategic planning policies
- Development controls and densities
- Land use and designations
- Transport and environmental improvements
- A Village Design Guide that controls development character



Appendix: Community consultation

The following information in the Appendix records information gathered from the community events and exhibitions which has informed a prioritised list of 'Actions' for the Halcombe community under the four Areas of Focus (Community; Environment; Village Heart; and Development).

These 'Actions' have been used to develop the 'Action Plans' for the community.



Represent a Total of 5 Votes - these votes have then determined the prioritised list of 'Actions'.












Appendix: Community consultation		DRAFT
Summarised Outcomes from the Halcombe Community Waitangi Day Exhibition: 6th February 2013		
ACTION / IDEA: COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Invite the community to the Marae open days		
Continue with working bee groups		
Set up a community website / Facebook		
Play area for under 5's		
Record the heritage of Halcombe and share with the community		
Enhance links between exiting clubs, schools and groups		
Community garden		
Establish and celebrate a community logo / identity		
Car sharing initiatives		
ACTION / IDEA: ENVIRONMENT		COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Specify and plant appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road		
Enhance the railway corridor vegetation		
Specify and plant appropriate street trees on local roads		
Establish appropriate weed control / maintenance protocols		
Enhance open drains by planting native vegetation		
Enhance the identity of Halcombe through environmental enhancements on private land		

Summarised Outcomes from the Halcombe Community Waitangi Day Exhibition: 6th February 2013







ACTION / IDEA: COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Invite the community to the Marae open days	
Continue with working bee groups	
Set up a community website / Facebook	
Play area for under 5's	
Record the heritage of Halcombe and share with the community	
Enhance links between exiting clubs, schools and groups	
Community garden	
Establish and celebrate a community logo / identity	
Car sharing initiatives	

ACTION / IDEA: ENVIRONMENT

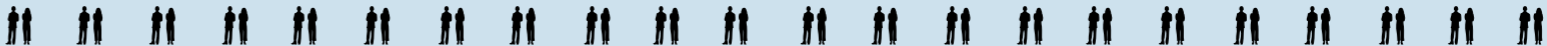







COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Specify and plant appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road	
Enhance the railway corridor vegetation	
Specify and plant appropriate street trees on local roads	
Establish appropriate weed control / maintenance protocols	
Enhance open drains by planting native vegetation	
Enhance the identity of Halcombe through environmental enhancements on private land	

Summarised Outcomes from the Halcombe Community Waitangi Day Exhibition: 6th February 2013

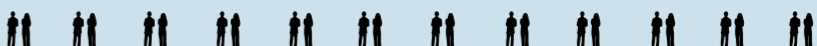







ACTION / IDEA: VILLAGE HEART

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Create a community skate park	
Upgrade the public toilets	
Design and install an appropriate community notice board	
Enhance the area around the memorial	
Improve the railway land and make it more of a community open space	
Promote fitness (trim trail & fitness equipment)	
Improve the safety and perceived safety across the village	
Outdoor 'Hang Out' zone for teenagers	

ACTION / IDEA: DEVELOPMENT


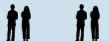




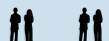


COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Investigate opportunities for the Tavern to be a community hub	
Promote Halcombe as a place to live	
Prepare a Village design guide that controls development character	
Establish a river / recreational area such as at Vinegar Hill	
Ensure street and park furniture are unique to Halcombe Village	
BMX and skate park for kids	
Establish a development / structure plan for Halcombe	
50km/h Speed limit within township	

Summarised Outcomes from the Halcombe School Gala: 16th March 2013




ACTION / IDEA: COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Invite the community to the Marae open days	
Continue with working bee groups	
Set up a community website / Facebook	
Play area for under 5's	
Record the heritage of Halcombe and share with the community	
Enhance links between exiting clubs, schools and groups	
Community garden	
Establish and celebrate a community logo / identity	
Car sharing initiatives	

ACTION / IDEA: ENVIRONMENT








COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Specify and plant appropriate street trees on Halcombe Road	
Enhance the railway corridor vegetation	
Specify and plant appropriate street trees on local roads	
Establish appropriate weed control / maintenance protocols	
Enhance open drains by planting native vegetation	
Enhance the identity of Halcombe through environmental enhancements on private land	
Improve cycleways and links across and outside of the village	
Improve footpaths and walkways across the village	

Summarised Outcomes from the Halcombe School Gala: 16th March 2013








ACTION / IDEA: VILLAGE HEART

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Outdoor 'Hang Out' zone for teenagers	
Upgrade the public toilets	
Design and install an appropriate community notice board	
Enhance the area around the memorial	
Improve the railway land and make it more of a community open space	
Promote fitness (trim trail & fitness equipment)	
Improve the safety and perceived safety across the village	

ACTION / IDEA: DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Investigate opportunities for the Tavern to be a community hub	
Promote Halcombe as a place to live	
Prepare a Village design guide that controls development character	
Establish a river / recreational area such as at Vinegar Hill	
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