



HIMATANGI BEACH COMMUNITY PLAN

Reviewed in March 2022





BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE FOR CITATION:		
Boffa Miskell Limited 2015. <i>Himatangi Beach Community Plan</i>		
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Status: Adopted by the community	Revision/version: 3	Issue date: 18 March 2015
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1. Foreword and Vision

This community plan represents a summary of outcomes from a series of community planning workshops and meetings that occurred from September 2014 through to March 2015. This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of Manawatu District Council and the community of Himatangi Beach. The observations, ideas and opportunities identified in this plan are intended to provide an overarching 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 members of the Himatangi Beach community and builds on the work underway by the Himatangi Beach Community Committee. This community plan also outlines the process used to establish the vision and illustrates some of the observations, constraints and opportunities. This community plan identifies strategies that will help deliver the shared community vision. Specific actions have also been identified under each of these strategies.

In addition to the strategies and the list of specific actions, this community plan also suggests some key priority strategic projects that will help deliver coherent and comprehensive results for Himatangi Beach. These priority projects should be considered as important ways forward for the community and its partners to deliver the Vision.

The general content of this community plan is intended to be updated on a regular basis as actions get delivered and new actions come from the community. New actions should be measured against the shared vision to ensure that they are helping deliver this. It is recommended that the vision statement be reviewed and refined every 3-5 years to ensure it reflects the community of Himatangi Beach and remains specific, realistic and forward focused.

Our Community Kaupapa:

We want to deliver a safe, well-kept, dynamic, coastal village destination which embraces the culture and values of the community.

Some of our values:





2. Himatangi Beach History

••• Himatangi's Origins •••



The oldest known inhabitants of the Himatangi area are the Rangitane people, believed to have settled in the Manawatu region around 500 years ago.

Rangitane tradition says the name Himatangi was derived from a legend about a famous warrior chief, Matangi, who fished up and killed a taniwha (water monster) responsible for eating his relatives.

The taniwha lived in a lake near the present village of Rangiotu - 19 kilometres from Himatangi Beach. The verb Hi (to fish) was added to create the name Himatangi.

The coastline, which later became known as Himatangi Beach, was a seasonal gathering place for Maori who camped there specifically to catch and eat fish and shellfish. Leaving the shell in piles called middens they created a fascinating archaeological record of what the area once looked like.

Oven stones and charcoal have been found among the hundreds of middens known to exist behind the first two rows of sand dunes, where the beach line sat in the 1800s. The oldest known middens can be found near a series of lagoons 4 kilometres inland, indicating where the beach line was 500 years ago.

1850s •••



At 20 kilometres wide, the Himatangi sand dunes make up New Zealand's largest sand country area and they are getting wider. The beach is slowly moving westward (seawards) due to sand being brought in by strong currents and westerly winds that characterise the coastline.

The dunes were once covered by a variety of stabilising native grasses and vegetation. However, following the 1850s when European settlers began grazing them, the native grasses slowly disappeared.

This created problems for Robert Wilson and Kenneth Dalrymple who, in the first half of the last century, owned and farmed huge tracts of land along the Himatangi coastline. In 1910 they decided to drain the swampland around Lake Kaikokopu, to give them improved grazing for their stock. The stream they cut is the same stream that white baiters flock to each year and in a further twist, it was Robert Wilson who introduced the marram grass still being planted to stabilise the Himatangi sand dunes.



••• 1900s •••

By the early 1900's, the name Himatangi was applied to all land between Manawatu River and State Highway 1, plus the junction off SH1 and the road to Palmerston North known as Himatangi corner.

The name Himatangi was also adopted by Palmerston North detective Ted Barling who around 1935 purchased 650 acre of sand country from Dalrymple and 200 acres of beach front from Wilson. Determined to build a beach resort, Barling drew up his original plans in 1941, which included a two and a half mile access road from Himatangi corner. He Planted a reserve of 25,000 pine trees and land was set aside for a surf club building, a children's playground, tennis courts, the store and many other amenities that remain today. As Barling sold off his land, the village slowly took shape but the fact it was built on pure sand has created problems.



Description: Stamped on back – 827 Himatangi Radio Station with rushes in foreground paddock

••• 1953 •••

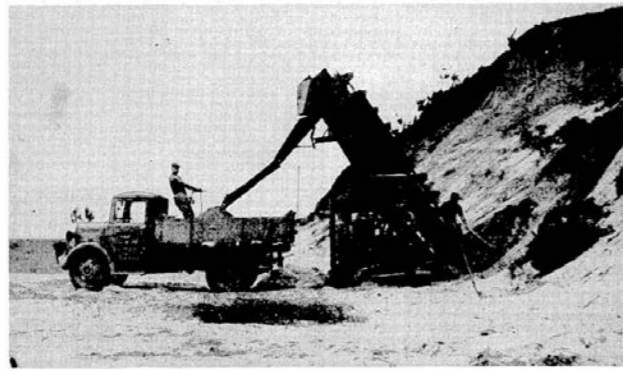
Himatangi Radio Station started in 1953 and was dismantled in 1993.



Men Planting Northland Dune, 1950s



Planting marram grass by tractor in Northland, 1950s



"Young Tom" This lorry being loaded with sand between Himatangi and Sanson, about six miles north of Foxton. The main road, which runs nearby, is being laid down in bitumen and the sand is used in the mixture for the road surface.

1937

A lorry being loaded with sand between Himatangi and Sanson, about, six miles north of Foxton. The main road, which runs nearby is being laid down in bitumen and the sand is used in the mixture for the road surface

1991

Rows of grass plantings form foreground to horizon. Dark cloud above. Source: Wayne Barrar (1991).



2014

Himatangi Beach Community Planning process commences

2014

Palmerston North SLSC construct new club rooms on Himatangi Beach



1990s

In the 1990s the Himatangi Beach sand dunes were so big, that they threatened houses. Dramatic pictures taken at the time show sand build-up pressing against the door of one property. Whose responsibility it was to deal with the problem was not clear, but after several years of discussions, Manawatu District Council and the New Zealand Army agreed to move and level tons of sand. Volunteers living in the village continue to help Manawatu District Council implement a planting programme, which both parties believe will have highly beneficial and long term benefits for the whole community. Apart from stabilizing the dunes, the trees and mix of plants (provided by the council) that are being established along the beach front will slowly transform Himatangi Beach in to a picturesque beach settlement.





3. The community planning process

The Himatangi Beach Community Planning programme has been ongoing since September 2014. A number of community workshops facilitated by Manawatu District Council were held in the Surf Life Saving club and the Community Centre. The programme also included a public exhibition.

The workshops were focussed on establishing a shared vision for what the community want the village to be in the future. Current issues and constraints were discussed as well a focus on opportunities for improvements. This information has informed what is presented in this document.

This Community Plan intends to summarise the vision and aspirations that the community have for Himatangi Beach. It also provides a list of actions that the community feel are important to them and provides a framework for the community to carry forward. Some of the actions identified may be easy to deliver, others are more challenging and may take some time.

This Community Plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatu District Council to help them identify projects that could be included in their future work plans (Annual Plan and Long Term Plan).

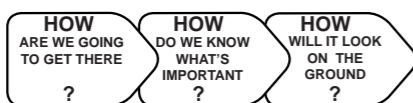
“The Community Planning Programme is a partnership between district communities and council to develop and implement shared visions”

Community Workshop

Community workshop facilitated by Manawatu District Council, held in the Surf Life Saving club.

Community Exhibition

The exhibition gathered even more ideas and helped to refine our vision, as well as some ideas for how to implement our vision.



"We certainly look forward to making more positive contributions to our community"

Community Workshops

Further workshops to finalise the content were held in the Community Centre during February and March 2015

Submit to MDC

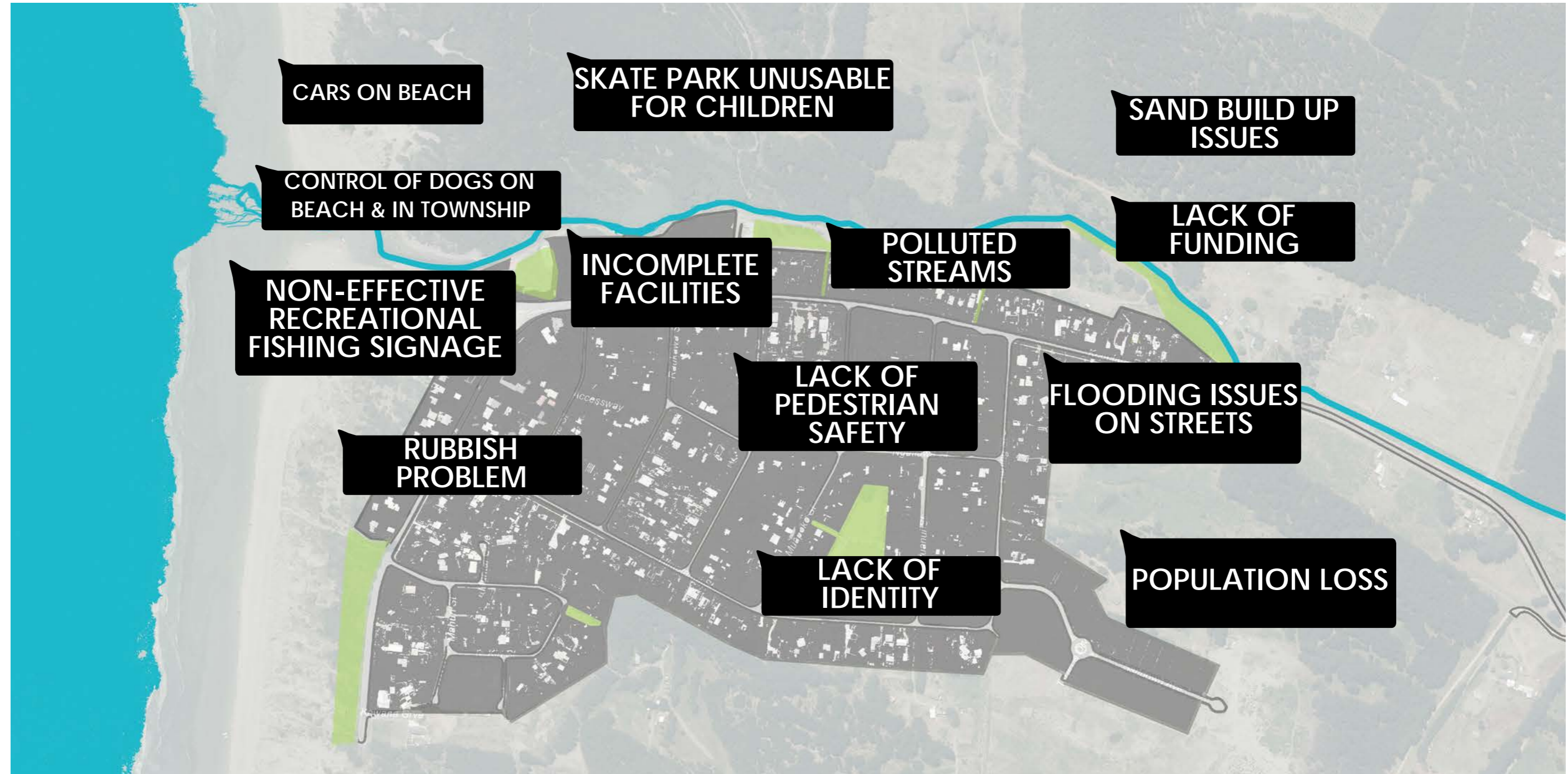
"My family is all positive, I think our village will look awesome"





4. Current issues and constraints

Through the Community Planning process we have identified the following key issues, constraints and challenges for our community:



Cars on the beach has its benefits but also presents challenges



The frontage to the community buildings, the skate park and our open spaces look and feel unfinished and could do with improving



Sand blows off the beach onto the street



Our stream corridor could do with some improvements

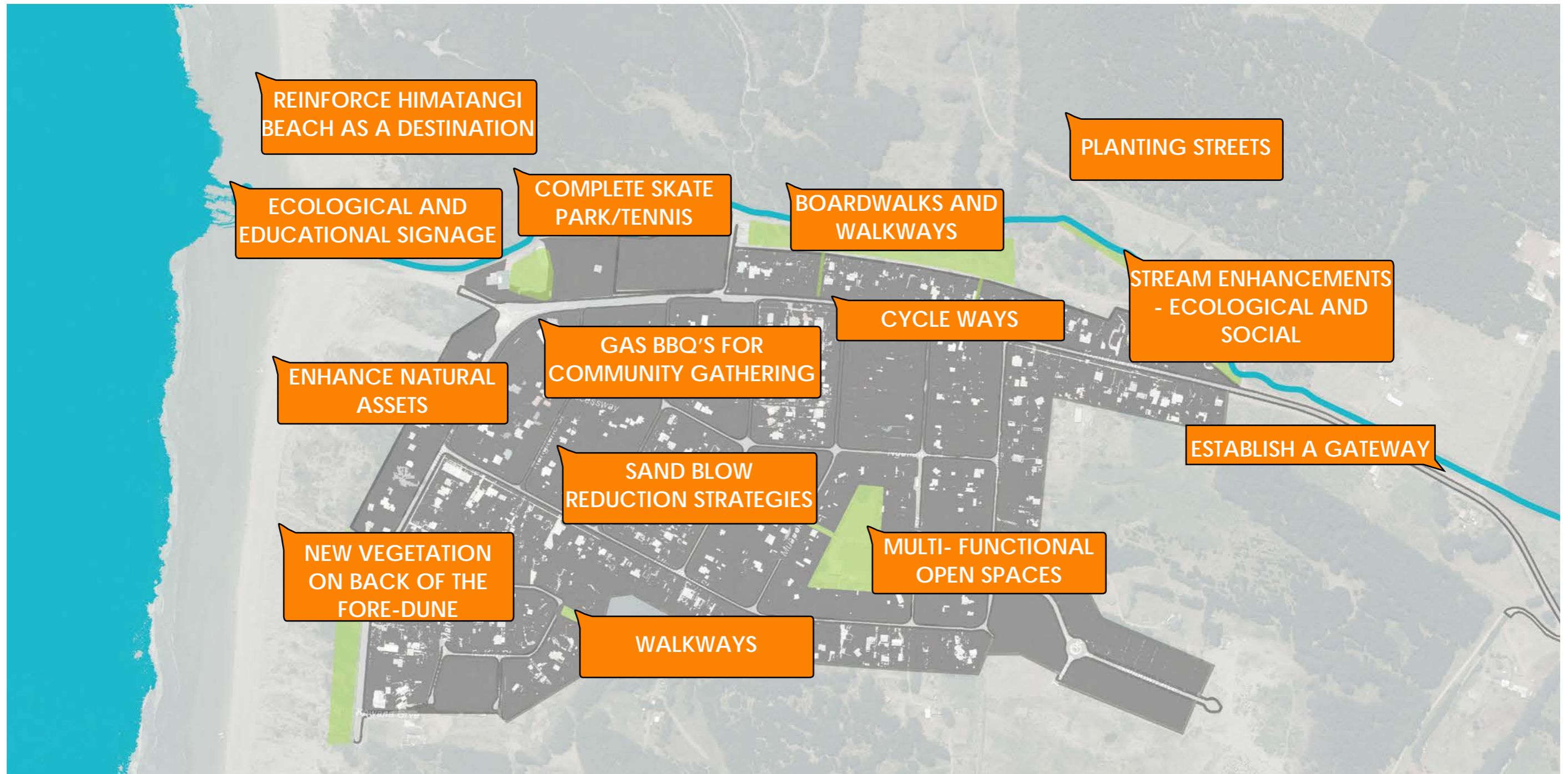




5. The emerging opportunities

Considering what we want Himatangi Beach to be like in the future, our Vision statement and the current constraints, we identified and discussed a number of emerging ideas and opportunities.

These ideas have been turned in specific actions in the action plan section of this Community Plan



What these ideas might look like:

Defined pedestrian accessways down to the beach can provide ways to protect our natural assets.



Interpretive and information signage to inform behaviour and etiquette on the beach, and further enhance experience of natural assets in Himatangi.



Finish projects, such as the skate park.



Multi- functional open spaces to facilitate community markets and events.

Community BBQs and recreation areas to encourage community engagement and strengthen community spirit.





6. Strategies and action plans

In order to deliver our Community Vision, we have identified three strategies. Each strategy has a list of actions that will help us deliver our vision.

Our Community Vision

WE WANT TO DELIVER A SAFE, WELL-KEPT, WELL-LOVED, DYNAMIC, COASTAL VILLAGE DESTINATION, WHICH REFLECTS THE VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY

Our Community Strategies:



Finish and celebrate projects that have already started



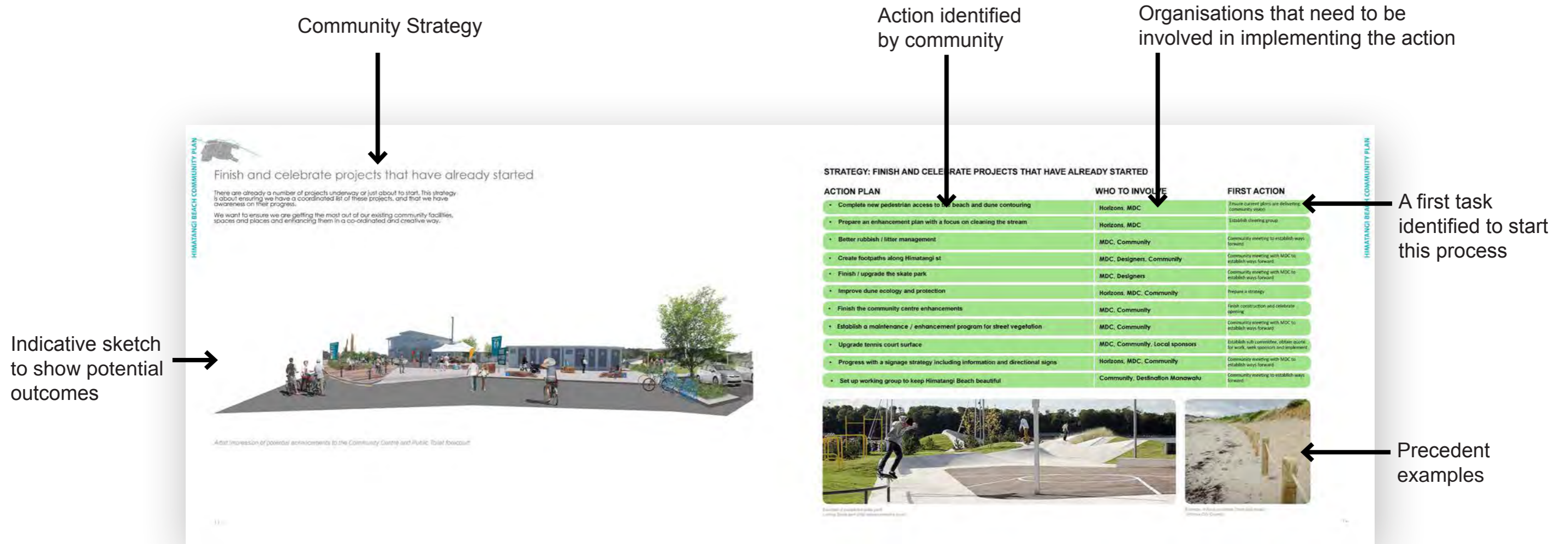
Prepare for the future whilst recognising the past



Strengthen community pride and celebrate our values

How to use the Action Plans

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





Finish and celebrate projects that have already started

There are already a number of projects underway or just about to start. This strategy is about ensuring that we have a coordinated list of these projects, and that we have awareness on their progress.

We want to ensure we are getting the most out of our existing community facilities, spaces and places and enhancing them in a co-ordinated and creative way.



Artist impression of potential enhancements to the Community Centre and Public Toilet forecourt

STRATEGY: FINISH AND CELEBRATE PROJECTS THAT HAVE ALREADY STARTED

ACTION PLAN	WHO TO INVOLVE	FIRST TASK
• Install a new pedestrian access to the beach along the stream	Horizons, MDC	Ensure current plans are delivering community vision Establish steering group
• Prepare an enhancement plan with a focus on cleaning the stream	Horizons, MDC	Establish steering group
• Increase capacity of the recycling centre to avoid overloading the bins and making centre untidy	MDC, Community	Community meeting to establish ways forward
• Maintain village footpaths	MDC, Designers, Community	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
• Finish / upgrade the skate park including lighting	MDC, Designers	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
• Improve dune ecology and protection	Horizons, MDC, Community	Prepare a strategy
• Finish the community centre enhancements	MDC, Community	Finish construction and celebrate opening
• Set up working group to keep Himatangi Beach beautiful	Community, Destination Manawatū	Community meeting to establish ways forward
• Maintain and improve infrastructure to sustain a growing community	MDC	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward



Example of completed skate park
Lemvig Skate park (<http://www.landezine.com/>)



Example of beach accessway through dunes



Prepare for the future whilst recognising the past

The identity of Himatangi Beach relies on protecting its natural environment as well as thinking carefully about new development and how physical change or intervention can change the character of our coastal village.

We want to plan for our future growth and encourage people to live in Himatangi by making it an attractive, healthy and safe coastal village for all ages and cultures.



Artist impression of potential enhancements to the entrance into Himatangi Beach

STRATEGY: PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE WHIST RECOGNISING THE PAST

ACTION PLAN

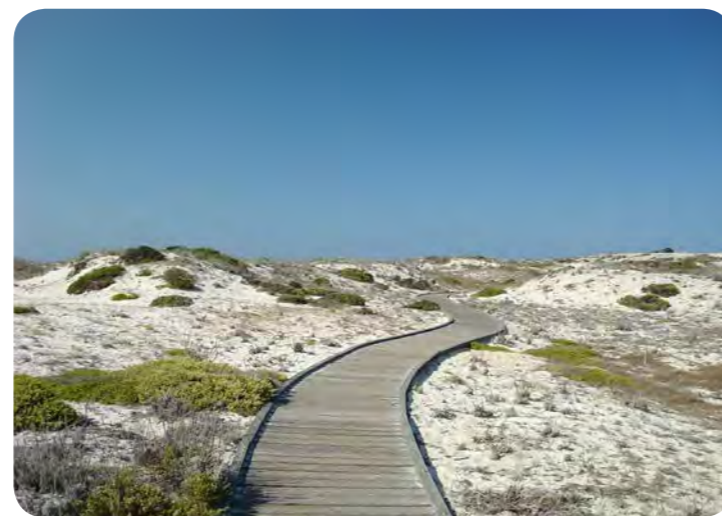
WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST TASK

• Enhance further the gateway into Himatangi beach	Horizons, MDC, CEDA, Designer	Prepare a plan/design
• Install educational signage on walkways incl. Māori history interpretive signage	Horizons, MDC	Prepare a strategy for this
• Develop a track and walkway network to existing natural areas	MDC- Parks and Reserves	Consider as part of spatial plan
• Establish a tourism promotion strategy	Horizons, MDC, CEDA	Set up meeting to discuss
• Create a village walkway loop	MDC	Consider as part of spatial plan
• Support pop-up shops and coffee stands	MDC, Community	Community to approach potential vendors
• Investigate changing direction of stream to allow a safe entrance for vehicles and pedestrians on to the beach	Horizons, MDC, Community	Community meeting with MDC and Horizons to establish a way forward



Pop up coffee shop (Photo by Marc Smith)



Asilomar State Beach Boardwalk (Photo by John Ioo)



Interpretive signage (Brockholes Nature Reserve)





Strengthen community pride and celebrate our values

In addition to making physical changes to our coastal village, we want to enhance and strengthen the way we come together as a community and work with others. We also want to make sure that physical enhancements that are made now are being well looked after and maintained after they have been built or planted. This will take careful and considered thinking between the community and its partners.



Artist impression of potential enhancements to Kaikokopu Stream

STRATEGY: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PRIDE AND CELEBRATE OUR VALUES

ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN	WHO TO INVOLVE	FIRST TASK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an effective communication Strategy between MDC and the Community 	MDC, Community	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Kaikokopu stream focus group to develop and maintain stream 	Horizons, Community	Community meeting to establish ways forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Himatangi Beach Community Patrol to support their work 	Community	Meet regularly with representatives from the Community Patrol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Trust in establishing regular community events 	Community	Meet regularly with representatives from the Trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install an events board in the community hub area 	MDC, Community	Community meeting with MDC to establish ways forward - to tie in with signage strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a community bike rack at the end of the island 	MDC, Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build a relationship with the Police in Charge of the Foxton Police Station to ensure visibility of Police in the village 	Community	Meet regularly with the Police in Charge of the Foxton Police Station
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market the Event Centre and facilities as a destination 	Community, Trust	Community meeting to establish a way forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate financing in conjunction with the Trust to find suitable security cameras to install in the village 	Community, Trust	Community meeting to establish a way forward



Community markets and events



Community group planting day



7. Priority Strategic Projects

We have identified three specific priority strategic projects that will help deliver a number of actions under all three of the strategies. 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:

Review the current concept plan for the village. Revise this and bring it up to date

This should consider:

- Recently built projects
- Traffic movement, parking and bus stops
- Recreational opportunities
- Ecology
- Planting strategy
- Signage strategy
- Sand movement and management
- Economic development opportunities
- Ongoing maintenance



Establish a signage & interpretation strategy

This should consider:

- Character and identity of Himatangi Beach
- Educational signage
- Local Iwi for Maori interpretive signage
- A community gateway and signage from the main road
- Informative signage regarding beach use and etiquette
- Recreational fishing rules
- Destination Manawatu signage strategy



Establish a communication and promotional strategy

This should consider:

- Himatangi Beach - the brand
- Community Committee and its role
- Celebrating positive events
- Working with Destination Manawatu and other partners



Closing Words

In summary, this community plan is just a snap shot of the passion, interest, enthusiasm and commitment the community of Himatangi Beach have for their coastal village. They have articulated their values in a number of ways throughout the community planning process. The words and images that are shown in this Community Plan are intended to illustrate these. By moving forward together as a community and working closely with their partners, this vision will become reality.

We want to deliver a safe, well-kept, dynamic, coastal village destination which embraces the culture and values of the community.



