Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan on a page

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL

A thriving Te Awahou Foxton where our history is honoured, people and culture are celebrated, and natural surroundings are proudly treasured by all that work, live and play here.

Key Priority Areas

Supporting and enhancing the natural environment

The Manawatū River Loop offers residents and visitors an attractive natural and recreational environment close to the heart of Foxton, while Foxton Beach offers a life that embraces the beach, sun and sea. Multiple generations feel a connection to our natural spaces and are dedicated to respecting, understanding and enhancing the Manawatū River Loop, the internationally acclaimed Ramsar site and the dune reserves.

Fostering and supporting an inclusive and proud community spirit

Foxton and Foxton Beach offer a safe, inclusive and vibrant community with a range of housing options, both in the town and at the beach, with health and support services for every age and stage of life. New and existing residents of Foxton and Foxton Beach are engaged in the community, informed of the opportunities available to them and socially active.

Recognising our unique cultures and safeguarding our character and authentic sense of place

Foxton and Foxton Beach is a unique melting pot of cultures respecting its Māori heritage, while also embracing the influences of Dutch and other cultures that choose to live here. This is reflected in buildings, landmarks, traditions and artistic expressions, ensuring they are valued and preserved for generations to come.

Commercial and tourism activities, provide varied employment opportunities

Foxton and Foxton Beach have a clear, attractive and unique identity that draws people to visit and live here. Commercial and tourism activities enrich the local economy, fostering opportunities for employment, business growth and community engagement to benefit residents and visitors alike. People are choosing to live here due to the variety of education and employment opportunities, as well as its commutable distances to larger cities.

Ensuring infrastructure meets community needs

Connecting safe, future proof infrastructure and roading incorporating all types of transport modes to meet the needs of residents and visitors, while supporting community safety, economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Enhancing our community organisations, recreation facilities and assets

The natural recreational environment provided by the Manawatū River Loop at Foxton and Foxton Beach, allows residents and visitors to connect with nature, stay active and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. It is a community that prioritises making recreation accessible to all, while fostering safety and diversity that sees active participation in sports and leisure ensuring our people have ample opportunity to improve their wellbeing and thrive.

Foundation actions – how will the plan be implemented?

It is proposed that the Foxton Futures Group would take on the delivery function, and recruit representatives from the community to develop, manage, deliver and report on progress. As the lead, Foxton Futures will:

- Complete a review of Foxton Futures leadership, create the relevant structure that will enable community to action the plan.
- Develop a Community Communications Plan regarding the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan, ensuring that the community is consulted and updated on activity in this plan.
- Investigate and identify funding to support the function of the Foxton Futures Group.
- Develop an external funding plan that identifies potential funding opportunities for specific projects that support the enabling actions.
- Maintains and develops strong working relationships with Community Groups, Councils, organisations and businesses.

Enabling themes and actions

Nature and environment

Identify Central and Regional Government funds that can be lobbied to support the environmental protection and enhancement aspirations within Foxton and Foxton Beach.

Establish an Environmental Hub with ranger and volunteer coordination, who can facilitate regular community working bees.

Identify and prioritise actions from local environmental organisations and trusts to coordinate maintenance and improvement of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Upgrade signage and access viewing of sites and activities to enhance local and visitor understanding of the environmentally significant sites.

Improve water quality by influence and education of upstream users, and through working closely with Council to understand stormwater and infrastructure enhancements that contribute to improved water quality.

Community

Create a Communication Plan that will deliver to the various needs of the residents and visitors to provide information about events, services, local businesses and attractions.

Develop community hubs and work to identify and bring support groups together.

Ensuring community safety and emergency preparedness.

Prioritising and supporting community events.

Providing access to support and health services.

Celebrate and coordinate our volunteers.

Encouraging students and community members to develop into leaders within the community.

Culture and Heritage

Celebrate our local hapū story and history.

Encourage understanding and appreciation of shared local heritage through preserving sites, stories and taonga/historic items and demonstrate their relevance to both the present and the future of Foxton/Te Awahou.

Create and capture information about all the heritage sites and buildings, and any required investment, which can be used to inform planning activities about enhancing these places.

To celebrate and promote the unique cultural and historical fabric of Foxton and Foxton Beach, fostering a strong sense of community and connection among resident and visitors.

Encourage and support educational initiatives, exhibitions and public presentations featuring heritage and culture.

Commercial and Tourism

Appoint a representative that can work with businesses to market their business, nurture Māori and Dutch business and tourism capability, and work to develop the tourism for Foxton and Foxton Beach.

Coordinate greater collaboration between our community organisations and local businesses to provide a quality range of local, visitor and tourism experiences.

Ensure that there are purposely created linkages to the Main Street from SH1 in readiness of the opening of Ō2NL expressway.

Gather information on commercial and industrial requirements, now and for the future, then work with HDC to understand how changes can be enacted.

Identify current accommodation and eating options. Develop a plan to enhance current offerings and attract new providers.

Infrastructure and Transport

Identify current and required connections and links for all modes of transport. Identify enhancements and improvements that could be made to increase the safety for all road users.

Appoint a representative to manage the information and communication with the community and NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on Ō2NL impacts and changes.

Review and identify transport needs for the community and visitors, and assess where there may need to be new or additional services provided to meet required needs.

Explore different modes of transport that could be brought to Foxton and Foxton Beach, such as electric scooters and bike hire.

Identify and implement required visitor facilities and services, e.g. improved signage, public toilets, EV chargers, camper and caravan parking, outdoor seating etc.

Recreation

Identify all recreational activities and groups. Work with groups to understand aspirations and potential enhancements of the facilities that could attract more participation from residents and visitors alike.

Establish a representative for recreation who can coordinate organisations, volunteers and identify funding needs.

Take advantage of the changes that Ō2NL will bring to the community to ensure that good safety design and pathways are created that are inclusive of all users.