

A dark sky rural village, home to a safe and friendly community

Tikokino Community Plan 2022

The next chapter in the future of Hampden



Night sky photography by Andy Williams

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Rārangi Take

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1. Foreword

This draft community plan was created following a community planning workshop held on the 18 July 2021 and a number of subsequent meetings and conversations to develop a plan to guide the delivery of the shared vision of the Tikokino Community.

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council facilitated and assisted with the drafting of the plan – but it is not the Council's Plan. The plan has been developed by members of the Tikokino community, for the Tikokino Community.

This community plan articulates the vision of the community for the future of Tikokino through four goals. These goals have actions and priorities to deliver on the communities' vision for Tikokino now and into the future.

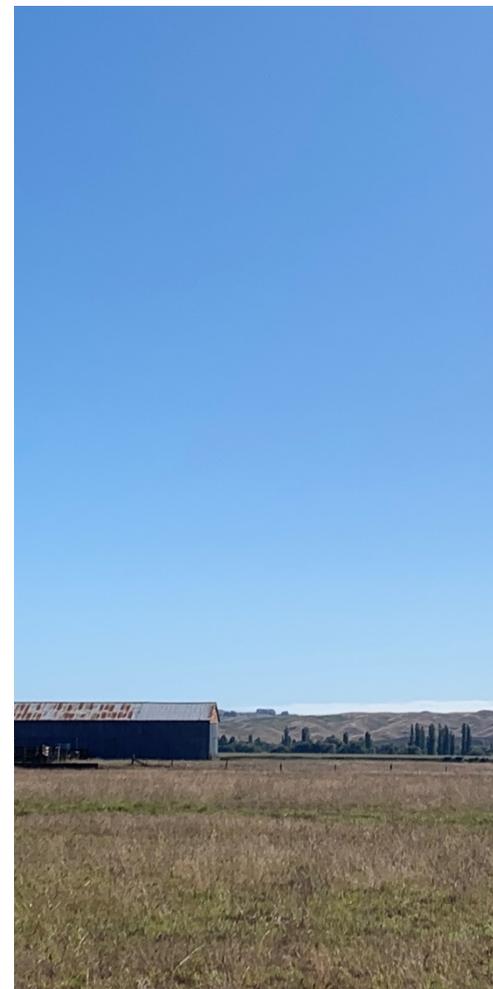
The Tikokino Working Group met to review the initial draft of the Tikokino Plan to make sure nothing was lost in translation before circulating this to the wider community.

A number of subsequent working group meetings were held to develop the plan to its final version. One of the main difficulties in a process like this is that absolute consensus is rarely reached. Both the Council and the working group have worked hard to make sure consensus understanding of key terms, like 'rural village' are understood and the responses acceptable by the majority.

The success of the plan will be realised through the commitment of the community to advocate for and directly action the delivery of the plan. Central Hawke's Bay District Council commit to supporting this process.

The Council's support can come through changes to service delivery, policy and bylaw tools, advocacy support or investment or a combination of these and other tools.

To keep the plan alive and relevant it will need to be owned by the people of Tikokino and kept alive through regular action, monitoring and review. Central Hawke's Bay District Council commits to supporting this through increased partnership and communication.



2. The Community Plan Workshop Day

On the 18 July 2021, around 45 Tikokino residents participated in the Tikokino Community Plan workshop in the Tikokino Community Hall. The community workshop focused on establishing a shared Vision for Tikokino for the future – this vision was strongly grounded in the things that are valued about Tikokino’s past and Tikokino now.

We discussed some of the current issues and constraints but also focused on opportunities for improvement and growth. This information has informed our draft Community Plan.

Earlier in 2021 a small group of locals had come together to form a Community Plan working group. The purpose of this working group was to be a conduit between the Council and our community to ensure that this process was locally based, delivered and true to the discussion of the day.

We started with a shared lunch followed by the afternoon workshop.

At the beginning of the workshop we lined up in order of who had lived in Tikokino the longest through to the latest arrivals. With the group spanning from 1941 through to the week prior to the workshop we certainly had diversity in our perspectives of Tikokino and what made it a great place to live and what needs to happen to continue making it a great place to live.



We sat around the workshop tables and worked through the following questions:

What made Tikokino unique in the past, what is currently valued and what does the future look like?

What are some of the current issues and opportunities?

What is our action plan - for us and for Council and others?

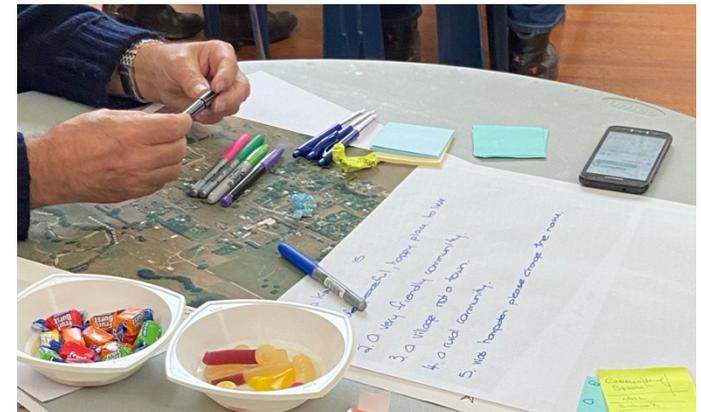
Early in the afternoon we agreed that the rural village character of Tikokino defined our character and in turn helped us to set a really clear vision of

A dark sky rural village, home to a safe and friendly community

For the rest of the afternoon, we worked on collectively defining and agreeing what we meant by rural village character and what we and others needed to do to protect and enhance this.

Absolute consensus is rarely reached. Both the Council and the working group have worked hard to make sure consensus understanding of key terms, like 'rural village' are understood and the responses acceptable by the majority.

The Community Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations we have for our Village. It also includes a list of actions that we feel are important to the whole community, some of which may be easy, other's may be harder and more longer term.



3. What is unique about Tikokino – Past – Present - Future

The Hawke's Bay Provincial Council established Hampden in 1860, revenue raising for developments such as roads and bridges in the Province. Many original buyers were land speculators, but gradually settlers arrived to mill the Bush, and develop businesses and farms. Once the houses and settlement were built the commercial sawmilling phase began in the 1870s.

Short lived excitement occurred in the early 1870s, when the surveying of three possible railway alignments identified Hampden as an option. The Waipawa option was selected as the final route.

Hampden also played a key role in the wider district, having a Theatre Royal that, in its heyday attracted coach loads of visitors from Waipawa for different events.

The history of Tikokino is long and varied. What is stated below only provides a glimpse into Tikokino over the years.

Churches, stables, barracks, the Hall, a fire brigade, a motel, a store and a range of other businesses including a butcher, a garage, a bootmaker, carpenters, tailors, a hawker, a bakery and a photographer were all part of the early days of a thriving Hampden community.

On April 1, 1886, the Hampden Post Office became known officially as the Tikokino Post Office. By 1888 it was proclaimed that "officials do not recognize Hampden, Hawke's Bay, as a postal town".

Through the 1900s Tikokino, like many small New Zealand towns slowly started to lose services to larger centres. The Post Office was closed in 1983 and services moved to the Tikokino General Store. In 1988 postal services were no longer provided from Tikokino. The general store in Tikokino closed in the mid 1990's.

The Playcentre, which started was started in 1968 and moved to the Hall in 1978 is still active today..

Today, Tikokino is home to the following key activities that form the civic heart of the community:

- The Tikokino Primary School. Our school celebrated its 150th jubilee in 2019.
- The Community Centre (The Hall).
- Sawyers Arms Hotel.
- The Fire Brigade.

In 2018 192 people called Tikokino home. This was an increase of 25 from 2013.

This plan recognises the special relationship of Mana Whenua.

As part of the workshop we all contributed our thoughts on what made Tikokino great in the past – and what makes it great now. The two-word clouds on the following page capture our collective views from this exercise. The larger the word the more times it was mentioned.

TIKOKINO PAST



A word cloud for 'TIKOKINO PAST' featuring various terms related to the area's history and industry. The most prominent words are 'Sawmill' and 'Forestry'. Other significant words include 'Hampden', 'Maternity Annex', 'Pioneers Cottage', 'Intergenerational', 'Pub', 'Stables', 'Historic', 'Homestead', 'Post Office', 'Old World', 'Logging town', 'woodchopping and sawing competition in pub paddock', 'Character has remained for over a century', 'Tikokino A & P Show Shop', 'Part 90 Mile Bush', 'Old Flynns Store', 'Catholic Church', 'Peaceful', and 'Trees'. Smaller words include 'Safe', 'farming', and 'Rivers'.

Hampden
Maternity Annex
Pioneers Cottage
Intergenerational
Pub
Stables
Historic
Homestead
Post Office
Old World
Logging town
woodchopping and sawing competition in pub paddock
Character has remained for over a century
Tikokino A & P Show Shop
Part 90 Mile Bush
Old Flynns Store
Catholic Church
Peaceful
Trees
Safe
farming
Rivers

TIKOKINO PRESENT



A word cloud for 'TIKOKINO PRESENT' focusing on community and lifestyle. The most prominent words are 'Safe', 'Village life', 'Rural Paradise', 'Hunting', 'Community Hall', 'Caring sharing town', 'School', 'Neighbours talk', 'Village School', 'Sunrise Hut', 'Laid back', and 'Peaceful'. Other words include 'Ruahines', 'Quiet keep fire station', 'old houses', 'Rivers', 'Trees', 'School', 'Pub', and 'Part 90 Mile Bush'.

Village life
Ruahines
Vibe Rural Paradise
Hunting
Quiet keep fire station
old houses
Safe
Rivers
Community Hall
Hall Caring sharing town
Trees
School
Neighbours talk
School
Village School
Pub
Sunrise Hut
Laid back
Peaceful
Part 90 Mile Bush



This photo hangs in the Tikokino Community Hall. The photo was taken in the 1960s. The Sawyer Arms Hotel is front and centre. The green roofed building in the bottom left of the photo is the original Local Ruahine Lodge of Oddfellows Hall opened in 1896 with a grand social and dance (Tikokino: A History 1855 – 1990 Judy Mathews and Sally Butler, 1991). The rugby posts at the Tikokino Primary school can be seen in the distance in the far left of the photo.



This plan shows the original layout of Hampden (now Tikokino)

4. A vision for our future

As stated earlier the vision that emerged from the workshop day is:

A dark sky rural village, home to a safe and friendly community

The balance of the plan sets out the first iteration of the action plan to achieve this vision. The action plan is also in line with the detailed responses developed by each table at the workshop and the individual responses that people noted on post-it notes and posted on the wall – these are captured in the diagram below.

WALKING TRAILS ON EXISTING PAPER ROADS
Walkway on bridge on SH50 between Owen St and Phillips St
Basic footpaths on Owen Street to get children and walkers off roads to be safe

INTERGENERATIONAL VILLAGE
BETTER CELL PHONE COVERAGE
NIGHT SKY
want to walk to pub along highway
Reclaim paper roads for walking and bikes
FIBRE PETROL BOWSER
BROADEN CODES SPORTS CLUBS

Community Plan Action Plan: key location moves

The following plan shows the give key location moves that we identified. The full action plan follows



GOAL ONE

Moving around safely

Moving around safely was a shared goal for all of us. But there were a number of different opinions on how this could be delivered. For example, differences of opinion on the need for more footpaths and cycleways throughout Tikokino.

By the end of the afternoon there seemed to be some agreement that if more footpaths and cycleways were developed to increase safety then they should be in keeping with the rural character of the village – no concrete, no signs and limited lighting.



GOAL ONE: Moving around safely

Actions	Who to Involve	First Steps	Priority			
			<1 year	1 – 3	3 – 5	5 + y.
<p>Explore a network of walking and cycling links using the existing paper roads and rural pathways. The pathways should connect key destinations, like the school, the community centre and the pub.</p> <p>See Map 1: Draft walking and cycling network.</p>	Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC), local community,	The Tikokino Community Plan Working Group to work alongside CHB District Council to review the draft network developed at the workshop and identify next steps.	✓			
<p>Identify a longer two-to-three-hour walking / cycling trail around Tikokino township and surrounds to provide a longer walking option based from the town.</p>	CHBDC, local community, landowners	The Tikokino Community Plan Working Group to work alongside CHB District Council to communicate the project and identify responsibilities for delivering.		✓		
<p>Create a safe walking / cycling route along State Highway 50 between Sedgwick Street and Buckland Street, including a pedestrian crossing of the bridge on State Highway 50 between Owen Street and Phillips Street</p>	CHBDC and New Zealand Transport Agency / Waka Kotahi	CHBDC to arrange meeting with New Zealand Transport Agency / Waka Kotahi (Waka Kotahi) to investigate options to create a safe walking path along this section of SH 50		✓		
<p>Identify opportunities and initiatives to slow and calm traffic between Sedgwick Street and Buckland Street</p>	CHBDC and New Zealand Transport Agency / Waka Kotahi	CHBDC to arrange meeting with Waka Kotahi to investigate options to create a slower speed zones along this section of SH 50	✓			
<p>Create safe pull over areas at Buckland Street, Phillips Street, Owen Street and Sedgwick Street intersections with State Highway 50</p>	CHBDC and New Zealand Transport Agency / Waka Kotahi	CHBDC to arrange a meeting with Waka Kotahi to investigate options to improve safety of cars entering and leaving Buckland St to join SH 50.	✓			

GOAL TWO

Retaining our dark sky and rural character

Those of us at the workshop were unanimously supportive of retaining the dark sky rural character of Tikokino. The dark sky concept was borne out of the belief that Tikokino has one of the largest skies in the world. The concept of rural was defined at the workshop as:

“a village, not a town, quiet, small and community focused with larger property sizes”



GOAL TWO – Retaining our dark sky and rural character

Actions	Who to Involve	First Steps	Priority			
			<1 year	1 – 3	3 – 5	5 + y.
Change the type of streetlights throughout Tikokino to minimise light pollution and ensure our dark sky is protected, with a commitment not to increase the number of streetlights in the village.	CHBDC and local community.	Ensure that Central Hawke’s Bay District Council, including the Land Transport team is aware that the protection of the Tikokino dark sky is extremely important to our community.	✓			
Actively participate in Central Hawkes’s Bay District Council processes that may have an impact on the future of our rural character, for example: District Plan, Long Term Plan and Bylaw processes	Local community.	Link to Actions in Goal Four - Tikokino and CHBDC talking to each other.	✓			
Advocate for no more building consents being issued along unformed (paper) roads until fire-fighting access is ensured.	Local community FENZ	CHBDC to provide information on current approach to approving building consent in relation to ensuring fire-fighting accessibility from paper roads		✓		
Advocate for character building status-to protect the rural and pioneer character of Tikokino. Eg Heritage NZ	Local community	CHBDC to provide information on how this could be achieved.		✓		
Advocate for retaining the current boundaries of the Tikokino village to avoid spread into surrounding rural areas.	Local community	Raise awareness (through communication and information sharing) of the provisions included in the Proposed District plan for the rural settlement of Tikokino and surrounding areas.	✓			

GOAL THREE

Taking a lead in increasing our community connections

We believe that our community is friendly and welcoming, but with the increasing number of new community members moving into Tikokino many felt that there was an ongoing need to work on reinforcing our sense of community.

We see the Tikokino Community Hall and the School as being key hubs in our community. The strong connections between the school and community need to be protected and enhanced. We need to increase our local connection to and use of the community hall.



GOAL THREE – Taking a lead in increasing our community connections

Actions	Who to Involve	First Steps	Priority			
			<1 year	1 – 3	3 – 5	5 + y.
Create more community activities to support people getting to know each other.	Local community, CHBDC HB Tourism	Local community identifying a series of potential events and discussing possible support with Council Events Team.	✓			
Learning more about the governance and management of the Tikokino Community Hall and becoming more involved in the Hall committee to advocate for lower hireage prices for locals.	Local community, Hall Committee	Members of the Community Plan Working Group to meet with Community Hall Committee to develop an education piece to inform the wider community on what the committee is focused on achieving and why.	✓			
Investigating the possibility of creating an income earning Charitable Trust that through commercial venture could provide more direct support, including the school, community facilities and community infrastructure projects.	Local community	Form a small group to create a discussion document that outlines the possibilities and the requirements of this idea.		✓		



**GOAL
FOUR**

Better partnerships and communication between us and Council

We think there needs to be more two-way engagement between Council and our community. This will assist in removing the misinformation or old information circulating locally and help to build a stronger more positive relationship with Council.



GOAL Four – Better partnerships and communication between us and Council

Actions	Who to Involve	First Steps	Priority			
			<1 year	1 – 3	3 – 5	5 + y.
CHBDC to work with the community to develop more face-to-face methods of engaging with our community so that issues that impact on our community can be heard. Continue to use Talking Tikokino and the school newsletter as ways of communicating.	CHBDC / local community	Community Plan representatives to meet with CHBDC to discuss the possibility of local elected member clinics and information nights in Tikokino to address current issues and concerns. For example, future of Tikokino under new District Plan	✓			
Encouraging our local contractors to become 'approved contractors' with Council so we can buy local and support our community through our procurement choices.	Local contractors / CHBDC	Local contractors to engage with Council to achieve approved contractor certification.	✓			
Undertake a review of potable water and sewage infrastructure to ensure sustainable, healthy and safe management of water.	CHBDC	Part of CHBDC ongoing waters review.		✓		
Advocate to Chorus for improved broadband, fibre and cellphone coverage to Tikokino	CHBDC / local community	CHBDC to discuss with Chorus and report back to Tikokino Community Plan working group.	✓			

