



The Future of Sports



Tamatea – Central Hawke’s Bay is well known for its outstanding sportspeople across the spectrum of sport in our community – from rugby to cycling and bowls.

Sport in this conversation is about all the organised activity we do where there are formal rules, competitions and conditions of play, such as rugby and netball. Most people who participate in sport often belong to a club, although ‘pay-for-play’ sport like indoor hockey at the Stadium, or business house tennis or squash are included, as they use similar facilities and often have similar benefits.

We’re thinking about play and active recreation activities like casual running and cycling separately, so we can best understand the specific sports needs in our district.

Why is sport important?

Participation in sport has many health benefits for all ages and is key to development of physical, social, and intellectual capabilities in children. Sport contributes to building strong, self-sufficient communities and community pride as evident in many places across our district. Some of our sports clubs have been around for over 100 years creating an incredible legacy for our communities.

Sport and Recreation Parks and some indoor facilities make up important infrastructure in the district for playing sport. These include (but are not limited to) Russell Park, Centralines Sports Complex, Central Park in Waipukurau, Coronation Park in Waipawa, Takapau Recreation Ground, Otane Recreation Ground and White Domain in Porangahau. There are also tennis and squash clubs, bowling clubs, and other sporting venues all with various ownership models. The majority of sports clubs and activities are run by volunteers.

Why are we having this conversation?

Levels of participation in traditional sports are continuing to decline, along with the availability of community and trust funding and often voluntary support. Despite this, the demands on clubs keep increasing, whether it be meeting new health and safety and legislative requirements, increased operating and insurance costs, auditing or growing building maintenance requirements.

Nationally, there is a move away from structured traditional sports and the ‘pay-for-play’ market is increasing, along with a greater choice of sporting activities on offer. In Central Hawke’s Bay sport participation levels while remaining fairly static, are being spread over a wider range of sports rather than the ‘traditional’ sports like rugby and netball.

We also know we’ve got a number of existing community sports assets that need investment and others will need upgrading in the near future. Historically, Council hasn’t always been equitable in its investment or support for clubs or activities. As a community we are also growing and need to be prepared for this.

We’re partnering with support and funding from Sport New Zealand and Sport Hawke’s Bay to understand what the future demand and need for our community is for sport. We want to do this collaboratively to understand not just the local need, but to also understand what facilities or services are best placed regionally. We also want to try and understand how we equitably fund and support our local clubs and sporting organisations and who pays for that.

Council also has a number of legislative responsibilities to meet under the Reserves Act 1977.

We have created this discussion document to start the conversation about the future of sport within our district. This conversation will take many forms over the next few months, and we hope that together we can all create a shared vision for the future of sport that will guide our community investment in the future.

How sport contributes to our Project Thrive outcomes

Connected Citizens	Sport brings our communities together to engage and interact in a healthy, fun and competitive environment.
Proud District	Sport contributes to our local identity and is a part of where we have come from and who we are today. Our sporting participation and achievements make us proud of our place in our region and nation.
Strong Communities	Sport brings our local communities together and contributes to creating a strong and thriving district.
Durable Infrastructure	Sport facilities, activities and programmes meet the needs of our community today and into the future.

Our Sports Facilities now

Sports facilities are provided in a range of ways across our district with a significant amount of community involvement in the provision, management, funding and use of these facilities.

Sports facilities can either be:

- Provided by Council.
- Provided by community organisations with Council having a role in supporting this through land or a contribution to development, management or operational costs.
- Provided by community organisations with no Council involvement.

Sports facilities include:

- Land primarily provided for this purpose (e.g. Sport and Recreation Parks),
- Facilities on that land including grass sportsfields, turf, courts, toilets, changing rooms, storage and clubrooms.
- Indoor facilities primarily provided for this purpose (Centralines Sports Complex – indoor stadium and area squash clubs). Community halls are also used for sport.

Council's current direction on sport is to provide "a range of parks and reserves that are affordable, well-maintained, safe and provide for the recreational (play and sport), cultural, and environmental well-being of the community." Attachment 1 of this document outlines our understanding of existing sports facilities and any known issues.

The majority of the sports facilities in the district are concentrated on or in the vicinity of Russell Park which hosts football, touch, dog sports, and had its first ki o rahi tournament this past Matariki. Russell Park includes Centralines Sports Complex. The Complex's outdoor turf caters for hockey and netball while the indoor stadium and gym has a sprung wooden floor and is used for basketball, indoor football, netball, indoor hockey and miniball. Miniball and Trampoline are available within Waipukurau Memorial Hall (also located on Russell Park).

Adjacent to Russell Park are the A&P Showgrounds and Central Park. A&P hosts equine events and Central Park is home to CHB Rugby and a boxing gym. Waipukurau Squash and Tennis border Central Park. There is also a nearby bowling club (Francis Drake Street/Mt Herbert Road) making this area a 'sports precinct.'

Council provides minimal turf maintenance and manages bookings for the Russell Park sports_fields while the operator of the Centralines Sports Complex manages the bookings for the outdoor turf complex and indoor stadium and pool. Sport_clubs sited on other district sports_fields tend to manage bookings and usage of sports_fields.

Some buildings, mainly in sport and recreation parks, are owned by sport clubs. Similarly, the sporting assets such as goalposts, nets, and lighting are mostly wholly owned by the sports clubs. The Centralines Sports Complex within Russell Park includes a hockey turf, netball courts, fencing and lighting, stadium, gym, and swimming pools and is owned by the Central Hawke's Bay Community Trust.

There are also a number of clubs and sports facilities that Council has no involvement in and we are hoping that this process will help get a better picture of what else is out there.

Council works in partnership with Sport Hawke's Bay to promote and support sporting opportunities and participation within Central Hawke's Bay District.

During the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan process submitters identified the following:

- Support to further develop Russell Park making it more accessible with amenities and change rooms that are fit for purpose.
- Encouragement of clubs to actively participate in the *Places and Spaces for a Thriving Future* Programme (the work that we are doing now).
- The growth of a number of sports that currently use Russell Park and vicinity and the need for facilities to service this growth (e.g. some clubs do not have a base to operate from, no changing facilities, ageing facilities, small facilities that clubs have outgrown etc),
- Support for exploring the feasibility of a multi-sports facility for a range of clubs on Russell Park and Central Park.

Direction has also been provided through community planning processes:

- The Ongaonga Community Plan recognises the importance of recreation and sporting activities to their community.
- The Takapau Community Plan has a strong focus on continuing to support the number of thriving sports clubs including tennis, rugby and squash. It seeks to ensure clubs are future focused and sustainable, and to promote and encourage community ownership and support for clubs.

Some national trends around the future of sport include (sourced from Sport New Zealand):

Levels of participation in traditional sports continue to be under pressure. Nationally, there is a move away from structured traditional sports and the 'pay-for-play' market is increasing, along with a greater choice of sporting activities on offer.

Active New Zealand surveys indicate that during teenage years there is a significant drop-off in participation, particularly the number of hours spent on sport and active recreation. Sport involvement trends have significantly reduced over time from 72% involvement in 2006 to 59% in 2019 of secondary school students. Research shows that teenage participation in sport is declining for multiple reasons, including the professionalism of sport at all levels from an increasingly younger age. A major focus for Sport New Zealand is ensuring young people develop a lifelong love of sport and recreation and continue participation into adult years. This focuses on maximising participation and skill development over early specialisation and winning.

Volunteer levels and family involvement in sport has also declined as this base of support is ageing and under pressure of time commitments elsewhere. Accountability requirements can be excessive, with volunteer staff time spending too much time on reporting requirements to show that funding conditions have been met. This can be at the expense of ensuring participants have good experiences. However, some sports have seen increased participation, in particular in informal, non-membership-based activities like 'pay-for-play' social sports.

National data indicates that those less able or on lower incomes continue to experience impediments in getting to or accessing facilities, events, or places. The lack of facilities or open spaces close to where people live combined with poor and expensive public transport exasperates the issue of accessibility. The sheer cost for some participants (e.g., fees, gear, travel, etc.) remains a significant barrier for broad participation for some community sectors.

Funding and memberships are often not enough to keep some local organisations viable. This can lead to organisations placing too much focus on securing funding at the expense of meeting the needs and aspirations of their communities. Costs for maintaining or building facilities are substantial. Securing sponsorships for many local and national competitions has become increasingly challenging.

Some Active New Zealand survey trends for Central Hawke's Bay

Secondary school student involvement in sport has plateaued over the last few years, with higher participation trends in lower decile schools.

Rugby and touch rugby have had significant losses in participation but sport participation rates in codes like basketball and softball has increased. Netball participation levels have varied over the last 10 years with a significant increase in 2015, followed by a decline and now growth in participation.

The data seems to indicate that participation levels while remaining fairly static, are being spread over a wider range of sports rather than the 'traditional' sports like rugby and netball.

We think that the key principles guiding the future of sport in our district could be:

- Our community and volunteers are critical to the provision of sporting opportunities in our district.
- Sport contributes to our health and wellbeing and creates community cohesion and identity.
- A wide range of sport opportunities are available across the district and are accessible to all our community regardless of age, income, ethnicity or ability.
- Sport is inclusive and flexible to cater to different and changing needs over time.
- Create pathways to enable clubs and individuals to be sustainable and to reach their full potential whether they are players, coaches, administrators or volunteers.
- Provide good quality sports facilities that service our district needs first and foremost, recognising our proximity to larger regional sports facilities in Napier and Hastings.
- Make the most of what we have available to ensure it meets the need of current and future communities.

The opportunities we have identified so far include:

- Sport NZ has a bold vision of Every Body Active. This means that all tamariki, rangatahi and adults in Aotearoa are physically active through play, active recreation and sport. They have prioritised their resources and funding on tamariki (5-11 yrs) and rangatahi (12-18 yrs), geographic or social communities where there are barriers to engaging in physical activity, female participation and disabled participation in sport.
- Increasing physical activity levels through sport makes a huge contribution to improvements in physical and mental health, creation of social connections, reflection of cultural identity, improved knowledge and skills, and aspirations.
- Project Thrive engagement identified the need to develop a sports strategy and for this to explore opportunities to extend, supplement or consolidate sporting facilities.
- A better understanding of the condition of assets and required programme of improvements will enable us to work with our communities to make better investment decisions.
- A better understanding of the use and capacity of our sport facilities will continue to help us thrive and ensure we are able to provide for growth and identify opportunities for pooling of assets and resources.
- This work will mean we have a better understanding of the wider network of sports facility provision. This will provide us with a better picture of all the sporting opportunities available and help us to determine where Council is best placed to provide support.
- Facilitate korero with clubs, schools and colleges to develop coaching capability and increase youth involvement in sport.
- Explore opportunities to achieve efficiencies in the provision of sports facilities through 'hubbing' and co-location.
- More accessible funding for sports clubs (know what is there, more funding options).
- Leverage the expertise of other coaches across the district
- Better promotion of sport opportunities available
- Greater opportunities for collaboration between all sports clubs across the district

The challenges we have identified so far include:

- Facilities no longer fit for purpose due to growth, ageing assets and changing sport preferences.
- Accessibility influences participation. Difficulties in getting to or accessing facilities and events/competition lead to reduced levels of activity or enjoyment. The cost of travel (and time that it takes) is a real barrier to participation in sport across our district
- The relevance of changing sport participation trends in our secondary schools and what this means for our sports facilities and other requirements to respond to changing needs (for example if there are a wider range of sporting opportunities that students want to participate in such as basketball and softball).
- Increased demand for storage, changing and toilet facilities and irrigation across the network.

- Ageing buildings and structures creating health and safety issues and/or they are no longer meeting the needs of the sports clubs that use them and often own them, with limited access to funding to improve these conditions.
- Council investment and support for clubs or activities has not always been equitable in the past.
- Limited information on usage of our sports facilities and participation trends over time.
- Sport New Zealand activity and participation insights and local insights indicate significant growth in basketball yet there are limited indoor and outdoor facilities available in our district to enable this growth.
- To what extent are our sports facilities flexible enough to cater to changing demands and ensure inclusiveness of all our community, for example, growing cultural sports being provided for.
- Sport in our district has a huge reliance on volunteers to manage facilities, run clubs and sporting programmes. This places significant pressure on these groups to operate in a sustainable way, now and into the future.
- Sport was the most compromised domain in terms of ability to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to other forms of physical activity like walking and cycling. Impacts include lost revenue, cash flow difficulties, reduced capacity and change of membership. All these things have hit the sector hard and will present ongoing challenges to respond and adapt to.
- Increasing costs of participating in sport such as uniforms, travel and membership fees impact on the ability for everyone to be involved in sport.
- Requirement to meet legislative responsibilities under the Reserves Act 1977.
- The district receives just under \$10,000 for travel from Sport New Zealand, which the Council distributes through the Rural Travel Fund. The fund is always oversubscribed, recognising the volume of travel required for clubs to compete and train within the district and regionally, not even considering inter-regional or national travel.
- Coaching capability is stretched as there are limited training options and most coaches are doing this in a voluntary capacity.
- Need to look at how we can get more youth involved in sport in our communities.

Let us know your ideas?

We're still in the early phases of this work, however we are keen to hear your ideas to support sport in Tamatea - Central Hawke's Bay. You can do this by completing our online survey at www.chbdc.govt.nz/thriving-places-and-spaces or emailing us on thrivingplacesandspaces@chbdc.govt.nz

Place Based Information - Council's Sports Network The Future of Sport

Place		Primary Club/ Codes	Facilities	Key considerations already identified
White Domain, Porangahau	Council administered crown land Have traditionally not been charged field hireage rates Recreation Reserve NZGZ 1982 p181	Porangahau Sports Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Football • Netball 	No. 1 field Training fields (lit) Playground Helicopter pad Public toilets Changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubrooms located separately, building issues. • Club working to develop multi-sport hub at White Domain to include squash and a gym. • Ability to help fund through sale of existing clubrooms land. • Travel costs and time for away games. • Membership increasing across all codes. • Netball travel to Waipukurau for training and competition. • Complementary to Country Club in terms of codes they provide for and users. • Most rangatahi play some form of sport.
Otane Recreation Ground, Otane	Council owns land Council mows and maintains public toilets. Have traditionally not been charged field hireage rates	Otane Sports Club: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Netball • Tennis • Touch rugby • Basketball 	1 field Clubrooms 1 marked Netball/3 tennis courts (lit) Public toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club looking at options for upgrade or development of new change facilities. • Kitchen improvements, indoor and outdoor connections within building. • Basketball team, huge growth but limited facilities.
Takapau Memorial Recreation Ground (Memorial Sports Park), Takapau	Council owns land. Recreation Reserve NZGZ1953 p671 and owns the Grandstand clubrooms. Separate buildings for Squash and rugby are owned by clubs. Council provides operational grant to Takapau Memorial Park Sports Association	Rugby Squash Netball Pony club	Clubrooms grandstand squash court and tennis/netball courts alongside skateboard halfpipe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing facilities – buildings and courts • Accessibility issues to the toilets • Need for basketball facilities
Takapau Cenotaph Reserve, Takapau	Local Purpose Reserve (Public Park and War Memorial NZGZ 1994 p.3092	Takapau Tennis Club	Clubrooms Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site also includes RSA, Lions Club and Scouts • Council removing former bowling club shed and pump house with asbestos
Russell Park	Total 13.033 ha Only the front sport fields and buildings 4.4 ha is council administered Crown Public Recreation Ground NZGZ 1983 p2399 The remaining 8.6ha is fee simple Council land	On the Public Recreation Ground: Two grassfields, Public toilets & change rooms Skatepark Splash pad Playground Exercise/fitness trail Centralines Pool & Gym, Paved carpark Waipukurau Memorial Hall, On the remaining Council land: BMX Track Centralines hockey turf and netball courts, Carpark and Tukituki Trails access point,	Football (junior main users) Softball Touch Rugby BMX track Dog sports	<p>Premier sports park for district Status of 2014 concept plan High utilisation Scout hall proposed relocation Insufficient funding to 'complete' past projects Inability to water/maintain sportsfields Only half of lighting on main fields is operational</p> <p>Funding in year 1 of LTP to complete footpath and lights</p> <p>Funds included in Year 4 of the Long Term Plan of \$217,909 as a capital grant towards Russell Park Changing Rooms, part funded by development contributions.</p> <p>There is a request to put in artificial cricket pitch between two main fields.</p>

		Back (junior) field 2 nd toilet block Some land leased to A&P and has our bore		
Centralines Sports Complex – Stadium (Russell Park)	Council land (and lease). CHB Community Trust own the stadium. Council has a service agreement with the Trust to provide swimming and recreation services to the district. Aqua Management contracted by the Trust to manage pool, stadium, gym and turf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball • Indoor Soccer • Netball • Indoor Hockey • Miniball • Holiday programmes • Meeting room • Gym - largest in town and well used. • Mezzanine used for yoga and spin classes • Functions 	Sprung wooden floor Full court markings for basketball and netball Pull out seats Protective flooring and curtains to enable use for functions and other purposes.	Opportunity for indoor and outdoor flow. Demand for another court space out towards the fields. Utilises Waipukurau Memorial Hall for overflow miniball Gym has enough demand for it to be extended, and include Pilate's space
Centralines Sports Complex – Multi sport turf (Russell Park)	Council land (no lease) and \$250k contribution to development. CHB Community Trust own the turf. Aqua Management contracted by the Trust to manage pool, stadium, gym and turf.	HB hockey HB netball User fees and charges for turf? Hockey turf primarily used for hockey but marked for netball as well. Also used for league and holiday programmes.	Full size hockey turf Three asphalt netball courts Lights	Future developments have also been proposed to include a canteen, changing room and toilet facilities. Issues with turf users accessing indoor court change facilities but do use for competition purposes. Lots of demand for turf – bookings info available
Central Park	No involvement. CHB Rugby Trust own land CHB Rugby lease from the trust Council provides access to our bore for irrigation	CHB Rugby Boxing club in basement Rugby and netball. Also adjacent is Tennis and Squash located on Mitchell ST next to Rugby. And A&P Showgrounds bowling club is nearby on Francis Drake Street	Clubrooms building Grandstand No 1 field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to CHBDC LTP for development of a multipurpose sports hub. • Rugby identified need for a bigger building and change facilities.
Coronation Park, Waipawa	Council owned land. Subject to Section 308(4) Local government Act 1974	Waipawa United Rugby Club	Used for most sports. 4 sportsfields Grandstand Public toilets Access to Regional Council's River trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partly closed due to Chilean needle grass. • Underutilised at the eastern and western end. • Irrigation issues impact on the fields in summer when water levels are low. • Potential site for motor caravan dump station. • Artificial cricket wicket soon to go in between the two main fields.
Forest Gate Domain, Ongaonga	Council owned land Recreation Reserve NZGZ 1981 p1919 Domain Board manage and Council provides an annual grant for mowing.	CHB Cricket Ongaonga Golf Club	Golf Cricket pitch and oval, and pavilion Council-owned Toilets	

Takapau Golf Course	Council land Public park or pleasure ground subject to resrvs and dmoain act 1953	Takapau Golf Club	Golf walkers	
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Other known sports facilities where Council has limited involvement or no involvement

- Waipukurau Bowling Club
- Waipukurau Racecourse
- Waipukurau Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club (Clubrooms and 9 courts)
- Porangahau Country Club – golf, tennis, bowls, fishing base, netball
- Waipawa Bowling and Tennis Club (Clubrooms and 9 courts)
- Ongaonga - Private sportsfield and courts
- Tikokino rugby fields North of Tikokino` (private) Matthews Memorial Park (Trust)
- Elsthorpe rugby fields
- CHB College – sportsfields, cricket pitches, hard courts, grass athletics track
- Otane Lawn Bowls
- Waipawa Golf Club - Some crown land involved
- Waipukurau Golf Club
- Takapau Squash Club
- Waipukurau Karate Club, based in own building at CHB College grounds
- Wallingford Smallbore Rifle Club at Wallingford Hall