

# **Ashburton District Council**

## **AGENDA**

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### **Notice of Meeting:**

A meeting of the Ashburton District Council will be held on:

**Date:**           **Wednesday 18 June 2025**

**Time:**           **1pm**

**Venue:**       **Hine Paaka Council Chamber**  
              **Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton**

### **Membership**

Mayor	Neil Brown
Deputy Mayor	Liz McMillan
Members	Leen Braam
	Carolyn Cameron
	Russell Ellis
	Phill Hooper
	Lynette Lovett
	Rob Mackle
	Tony Todd
	Richard Wilson

## Meeting Timetable

Time	Item
<b>1.00pm</b>	Council meeting commences

### 1 Apologies

### 2 Extraordinary Business

### 3 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

### Minutes

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### Reports

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### Business Transacted with the Public Excluded

<b>11</b>	Council – 4/06/25		<b>PE 1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashburton Airport lease reviews</li> </ul>	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
	[Now in open meeting]		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Grants &amp; Funding 2025/26</li> <li>Contract WWAT0429 – Sewer pipeline relining 2025-30</li> <li>Civic Financial Services AGM</li> <li>Notice of Appeal against HHWET/RDRML resource consent decision</li> </ul>		
<b>12</b>	Methven Community Board – 26/05/25		<b>PE 4</b>
	- Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
<b>13</b>	Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum plant	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 5</b>
<b>14</b>	Award of Contract WWAT0391		<b>PE 58</b>
	- Wastewater pipeline renewals 2025/26	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
<b>15</b>	Award of Contract WATE0417		<b>PE 66</b>
	- Watermain renewals 2025-26 (Package 1)	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
<b>16</b>	Award of Contract ROAD0420		<b>PE 73</b>
	- Road resurfacing Ashburton District 2025/27	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	
<b>17</b>	Ashburton Oval Pavilion	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 81</b>
<b>18</b>	Eastfield Shareholding	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	<b>PE 98</b>

## **4. Council Minutes – 4 June 2025**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2025, commencing at 1.00pm in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

### **Present**

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan and Councillors Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Russell Ellis, Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Rob Mackle, Tony Todd and Richard Wilson.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Toni Durham (GM Democracy & Engagement), Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), and Phillipa Clark (Governance Team Leader).

Staff present for the duration of their reports: Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Erin Register (Finance Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager) and Tania Paddock (Legal Counsel).

Three members of the public attended.

### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Item 17 – The Mayor and Cr Cameron gave notice that they will leave the meeting for this item.

### **Long-service recognition – Jill Watson**

Council acknowledged the 50 years long service of Jill Watson who started with the former Ashburton Borough Council as a Children's Librarian in May 1975 and has continued with the Ashburton District Council as Library Manager since October 1989.

### **Kainga Ora presentation (3.21pm)**

Liz Krause (Regional Director Canterbury) and Zoe Puke (Senior Stakeholder Relationship Manager) were welcomed to the meeting and invited to update Council on Kainga Ora's activities.

Key points:

- Kainga Ora's focus is shifting from growing its portfolio to investing in the quality of housing stock
- Selling old, not fit for purpose homes to build new ones
- Nationally, have 78,000 homes with 264 properties across the Ashburton district currently

- Since 2021, 100 new homes have been delivered in Ashburton. In addition, have substantially renewed 79 older homes
- Currently 63 people on the social housing register who have indicated they would like to live in Ashburton.
- Need and demand has changed (nationwide) – i.e. smaller homes (1 and 2 bedrooms)
- Kainga Ora have recently introduced Social Pinpoint (web access) as a way for people to stay up to date on what's planned in an area
- With funding changes, projects for next year are under review. At this stage there are no further plans to build in Ashburton. Council will be updated when more is known.

Liz and Zoe were thanked for their presentation.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes – 21/05/25**

**That** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 May 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

#### **5 Ashburton Airport Subcommittee – 13/05/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Ashburton Airport Subcommittee meeting held on 13 May 2025.

Braam/Lovett

Carried

#### **6 Audit & Risk Committee – 14/05/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 14 May 2025.

Cameron/Ellis

Carried

- **EA Networks Centre Poolsafe Audit**

**That** Council receives the EA Networks Centre Poolsafe Audit Report 2025.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

- **Transwaste Canterbury Ltd Constitution and Shareholders Agreement**

**That** Council receives the report, noting the changes to Transwaste Canterbury Limited's Constitution and Shareholders Agreement.

McMillan/Lovett

Carried

#### **7 Three Waters Committee – 14/05/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 14 May 2025.

Ellis/Todd

Carried

#### **8 Creative Communities Assessment Committee – 29/04/25**

**That** Council receives the minutes of the Creative Communities Assessment Committee meeting held on 29 April 2025.

Todd/Hooper

Carried

## 9 Hakatere Reserve Bollards and Camping – June 2025

1. **That** Council confirms the 31 bollards remain permanently removed from the Upper Hakatere Reserve.
2. **That** Council confirms that camping is not permitted at the Upper Hakatere Reserve.
3. **That** Council disestablishes the Hakatere Working Group.

Lovett/Todd

Carried

**That** the minutes of the Hakatere Working Group meeting held on 8 May 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Ellis/Wilson

Carried

## 10 Financial Variance Report – April 2025

**That** Council receives the April 2025 financial variance report.

Ellis/Braam

Carried

### Business transacted with the public excluded 1.58pm.

**That** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
11	Council 21/05/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABE land [Now in open meeting]</li><li>• Award of Contract REFU0343</li></ul>	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
12	Airport Subcommittee 13/05 - Landing fee reviews	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
13	Audit & Risk Committee 14/05	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
14	Community Grants 2025-26	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
15	Award of Contract WWAT0429	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
16	Civic Financial Services AGM	Section 7(2)(a)	Protection of privacy of natural persons
17	Resource Consent Appeal	Section 7(2)(g)	Maintain legal professional privilege

Todd/Hooper

Carried

### Business transacted with the public excluded now in open meeting

#### • Community Grants & Funding 2025/2026

1. **That** Council allocates **\$263,009** in community grants and funding 2025/26 as per the following categories:
  - 1.1 Arts & Culture – Community Libraries Grant - \$15,500
  - 1.2 Community Development – Agency Grant - \$72,500
  - 1.3 Community Development – Community Projects Grant - \$33,100
  - 1.4 Economic Development – Community Events Grant - \$21,173
  - 1.5 Natural & Built Environment – Biodiversity Grant - \$16,080
  - 1.6 Natural & Built Environment – Community Infrastructure Grant - \$52,862
  - 1.7 Natural & Built Environment – Heritage - \$33,464

- 1.8 Sport & Recreation – School Holiday Programme Grant - \$5,330
- 1.9 School Prize-giving - \$3,000
- 2.0 Community Trail Maintenance Fund - \$10,000

- 2. **That** Council allocates **\$15,000** for the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund for 2024/25.
- 3. **That** Council allocates the remaining Community Development Funding of \$1000, Biodiversity Funding of \$833 and Community Events Funding \$147 to be included as part of the 2025/26 Discretionary Fund.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

- **Award of Contract WWAT0429 – Sewer pipeline relining 2025-2030**

**That** Council awards the five year contract WWAT0429 – Sewer Pipeline Relining 2025-2030 to Pipe Technologies Limited in the amount of One Million, one hundred and seventeen thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars \$1,117,720.00) excluding GST.

Ellis/Cameron

Carried

- **Civic Financial Services Annual General Meeting**

- 1. **That** Council formally receives the 2024 Annual Report of Civic Financial Services Limited.
- 2. **That** Council supports the nomination for the Board of Civic Financial Services Limited; and
- 3. **Delegates** the Chief Executive to appoint a proxy to vote on behalf of Council at the Annual General Meeting; and
- 4. **Delegates** the Chief Executive to complete and sign the proxy form on behalf of Council as a shareholder in Civic Financial Services Limited.

Hooper/Todd

Carried

- **Notice of Appeal against HHWET/RDRML Resource Consent Decision**

The Mayor and Cr Cameron left the meeting for this item from 2.53pm to 3.07pm.

- 1. **That** Council lodges a notice to join the Environment Court proceedings (ENV-2025-CHC022) between Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Environment Canterbury as an interested party under section 274 Resource Management Act 1991.
- 2. **That** Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive to sign any documentation related to the proceedings on behalf of Council, including any mediated settlement agreement (if any).

Lovett/Todd

Carried

Cr Mackle recorded his vote against the motion.

Council concluded at 3.08pm.

Confirmed 18 June 2025

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MAYOR

## 5. *Methven Community Board – 26/05/25*

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 26 May 2025, commencing at 9.00 am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

### **Present**

Mayor Neil Brown, Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald, Allan Lock, Richie Owen (via MS Teams), Robin Jenkinson and Crs Liz McMillan and Rob Mackle.

### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (CE), Mark Low (Strategy & Policy Manager), Renee Julius (Property Manager), Jacqui Watson (Property Legal Counsel), Lou Dunstan (Policy Advisory, Tayyaba Latif (Policy Advisor) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

### **1 Apologies**

Nil

### **2 Extraordinary Business**

**That** pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items of correspondence be introduced as extraordinary business – item 5.1:

- 1) Methven & Foothills Walking Festival letter of appreciation and accountability form (circulated via email)
- 2) Ron Hydes – letter requesting Council to consider tar sealing McCloys Road (tabled)
- 3) Huntley Grey – letter and photos requesting that trees on Cushmor Drive be trimmed (tabled)

McMillan/Jenkinson

Carried

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 14 April 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Jenkinson/Lock

Carried

### **5 Methven Community Draft Strategic Plan**

Amendments:

- Include titles on photographs of Board members (Chair, Deputy Chair, Western Ward Councillors etc)
- Our History – undertake further discussions with Ngāi Tauī/Arowhenua to revise the wording.
- Objective 12 – rename to Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective
- Remove reference to Experience Mid Canterbury as organisations to be involve as they are a brand and ADC is the governing body.
- Objective 22 – change to ‘develop and support sessions’
- Objective 23 (action 1) – remove wording ‘with stronger Methven focus’

**That** the Methven Community Board adopts the final Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 as attached (Appendix 1), incorporating amendments as discussed.

Fitzgerald/Holmes

Carried

## 5.1 Extraordinary Business

- 1) Methven & Foothills Walking Festival – letter of appreciation and a grant accountability form for the grant of \$1,000 received to assist with the costs associated to hosting the festival. This letter had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and no further action is required.
- 2) Ron Hydes – request will be referred through Council’s CRM process.
- 3) Huntley Gray – request will be referred through Council’s CRM process.

## 6 Activity Reports

**That** the reports be received.

McMillan/Jenkinson

Carried

## 6.2 Democracy & Engagement

### • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy

Megan Fitzgerald and Richie Owen are to prepare a submission on the Climate Change and Sustainability strategy on behalf of the Methven Community Board.

### • Elections 2025

The Chief Executive advised that a Candidate Information Briefing session will be held on 18 June, at the Council’s event space (5.30pm). People interested in standing in the elections are encouraged to attend.

Consideration is also being given to running a similar candidate information session in Methven, with a date for this to be confirmed.

## Business transacted with the public excluded – 9.50am

**That** the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
7	Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Fitzgerald/Owen

Carried

The Board resumed in open meeting and concluded at 10.25am.

Confirmed 30 June 2025

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Chairman



## 6. *Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee – 3/06/25*

Minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Co-ordinating Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2025, commencing at 9.30am in the Wakanui Room, Te Whare Whakaterere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

### 1 **Welcome and Apologies**

**That** apologies for absence be received from Mayor Neil Brown, Cr Richard Wilson, Stephanie Poole (ACADS), Steve Burgerhout (NZ Police), Lesley Symington (Safer Mid Canterbury), Neil Simons (Principal Association), Chris Chambers (NZTA), Lucy Mehrtens (Road Safety Sth Canterbury)

Hooper/Crouchley

Carried

#### **Present:**

Liz McMillan	ADC Deputy Mayor (Chair)	John Skevington	Automobile Association
Phill Hooper	ADC Councillor	James Long	NZTA
Craig Chambers	FENZ	Shane Cochrane	NZ Police
Dan Farr	FENZ	Jim Crouchley	Ia Ara Aotearoa/Transporting NZ

#### **In attendance:**

Mark Chamberlain	Roading Manager	Carol McAtamney	Governance Support Officer
Georgie Wilson	Road and Safety Technician		

### 2 **Notification of Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

### 3 **Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Ashburton District Road Safety Coordinating Committee meeting held on 4 March 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Hooper

Carried

### 4 **Correspondence**

Nil.

### 5 **Reports/Agency Updates**

#### 5.1 **Ashburton District Road Safety**

- The Girls Can Do Maintenance event was well attended. It is planned to host another event later in the year.
- CoDrivR programme will be reviewed at the end of June, reports show that usage levels are low.

## **5.2 Safer Ashburton**

- Construction of the Bike Skills park is scheduled to start at the end of the year subject to funding being secured.

## **5.3 Ashburton Principals Association**

- The Roding team are arranging to meet with the Principal of Netherby school to discuss the possibility of islands being installed at their main pedestrian crossings.
- The Methven Community Board are to submit a proposal in support of the Methven School's request regarding the installation of an additional pedestrian crossing on the Methven Chertsey Road (near the new Elderly Residential facility).
- The Roding team are having surface repair work (eg: water cutting to remove surplus binder) costed to be undertaken on Longbeach Road adjacent to the school in the next financial year.

## **5.4 ACADS**

- Currently investigating collaborating with organisations with a view to reduce drink driving in our region.

## **5.5 FENZ**

- A report detailing road incident statistics was tabled and worked through.
  - 229 crashes recorded for Mid/South Canterbury compared to 225 last year.
  - Ashburton accounts for approximately 30% of data of the report.

### **NZ Police**

- A query was made as to what the expected response times from the Roding Contractors when responding to incident and emergency events on the roading network. This will be looked into and a response will be circulated to members.
- It was noted that one of the 30km electronic speed enforcement signs outside Longbeach School was not operating. This was due to a battery fault and has now been rectified.

### **Waka Kotahi/NZTA**

- Stop signs have been installed on both sides of the Thomsons Track intersection. Some widening and curbing is also to be undertaken.
- Speed limits over the Rakaia bridge and overhead bridge have returned to 100.
- The Rakaia township speed limit has reverted to 70 and consultation is currently being undertaken on whether it should return to 50. An outcome is expected within a few weeks.
- NZTA have taken over speed camera operations

### **Ia Ara Aotearoa/Transporting NZ**

- Some processing plants are no longer allowing stock trucks to empty their effluent tanks when delivering stock. This is causing issues for the trucks as they are then driving with full effluent tanks which can cause spillage on the roading network.
- Currently undertaking negotiations with processing plants/sale yards etc to allow trucks to unload.

### **Automobile Association**

- An additional 2,500 cycle lights have been ordered.
- Approximately 4k light sets have been distributed throughout the South Island.
- The Road Safety Committee for the AA national council that was established to advise and make recommendations to the Government has its final meeting this week.
- It was reported that there are currently no wait times for drivers licence tests.

### **6 Next Meeting**

The next meeting date is Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 9.30am.  
John Skevington (Automobile Association) registered his apology

Meeting closed at 10.38am

## 7. *Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025*

Authors	<i>Tayyaba Latif, Policy Advisor</i> <i>Lou Dunstan, Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Mark Low, Strategy and Policy Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham, GM Democracy and Engagement</i>

### Summary

- This report has been written by officers on behalf of the Methven Community Board who will present the Methven Community Strategic Plan to Council.
- The purpose of this report is to:
  - Provide Council with an overview of the Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 and the process undertaken to develop the Plan.
  - Seek Council endorsement of the Plan.

#### Recommendation

1. **That** Council receives the report.
2. **That** Council endorse the Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025.

### Attachment

#### Appendix 1    Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025

## Background

1. In 2024, Ashburton District Council (Council) allocated \$20,000 in year 1 of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan for the development of an updated Methven Community Strategic Plan (the plan).

### Community Plans

2. Community plans are an effective tool for capturing and prioritising the aspirations of communities and provide a “roadmap” for how to get there. Importantly, community plans are developed and led by the community.
3. Over the past two decades, Ashburton District Council has been enabling community led planning to ensure each community in our district can respond to their own unique needs and challenges. These plans allow communities to identify future needs, and plan accordingly.
4. ADC has facilitated community led planning for other communities in the district including the development of [Mount Somers Plan \(2003\)](#), [Rakaia Plan \(2009\)](#), and [Mayfield Plan \(2013\)](#).
5. Methven’s first community plan was developed in 1997 by the community in a process facilitated by Council. An example of a project undertaken as result of this plan was the design and redevelopment of Main Street.
6. In 2009, a subsequent [community strategic plan](#) was developed. This Plan was developed as a 10-year plan, with a [mid-term review](#) completed in 2014.

### Plan Development

7. The updated plan has been in development since September 2024. This work has been led by the Methven Community Board (the Board) with support from Council officers.
8. The purpose of the plan is to set out what the Methven community would like to achieve over the next 10 years. It defines short, medium, and long-term objectives and includes a series of actions to help achieve them; these support the community’s vision:

*“Methven, a recreational hub where natural beauty and vibrant communities come together. Thrilling tourism to chilled-out vibes are supported by thriving local businesses. A connected, safe, and accessible community for all.”*

9. This vision is supported by four strategic goals;

#### **Goal 1: Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work and play**

This means Methven:

- Is a leader in recreational offerings
- Has well utilised and cared for community spaces
- Is committed to being a biodiverse, resilient and sustainable community

**Goal 2: Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities**

This means Methven:

- Is known as the district's recreational hub
- Supports its business community to grow
- Is recognised as a year-round tourism destination

**Goal 3: Methven is a well informed and participating community**

This means Methven:

- Is a well-connected, participating, and welcoming community
- Is effectively represented by its Community Board
- Has a well-established relationship with takata whenua

**Goal 4: Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community**

This means Methven:

- Is safe for residents and visitors
- Has safe and efficient transportation options
- Provides accessible healthcare for residents and visitors

10. The plan has been developed based on the ideas and feedback the community shared through pre-engagement in relation to the four goals. Feedback received during the draft plan consultation has also been considered and reflected in the final plan.

**Community Engagement**

11. The first phase of consultation was carried out from the 18 November – 22 December 2024, the [“What do ya reckon, Methven?”](#) campaign was led by the Methven Community Board.
12. During pre-engagement the Board asked the Methven community to share their ideas online, via post, or through two public workshops held at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall.
13. The Board received [84 submissions](#) from residents, local businesses, community groups and interested organisations. Students from Our Lady of the Snow School also took part, providing feedback through [dedicated activity sheets](#).
14. Following engagement, the plan was drafted based on feedback received from the community. Once drafted, the Board initiated public consultation on the draft plan from 10 March – 6 April 2025.
15. [26 submissions](#) were received via the online and post surveys, with a further 26 students from Methven Primary School submitting their ideas using the dedicated activity sheets.
16. Feedback was also sought at the Methven A&P show on the 15 March, approximately 80 people engaged with the activity run by members of the board.

## **Hearings and Deliberations**

17. A submission workshop was held on the 28 April to allow submitters an opportunity to speak to their submissions in person and allow the Board to ask questions about the feedback provided. Two submitters spoke to their feedback in-person.
18. Following the hearing, the Board deliberated on the feedback received to decide on the content of the final plan.
19. During deliberations, the Board made a series of amendments to the plan, key changes included the addition of two new aspirations, four new objectives and fifteen new actions.
20. The new aspirations, objectives and actions were added based on the feedback received from the community.

## **Methven Community Board Adoption**

21. On 26 May 2025, the Methven Community Board adopted the final plan. The plan is now publicly available, and the Board has already commenced work on implementing short term and ongoing actions within the plan.

## **Council's Role as a Stakeholder in the Plan**

22. A community plan helps the Council understand the community's priorities, enabling informed decisions on resource allocation and funding during the Annual and Long-Term Plan reviews.
23. While Council has been listed as a possible stakeholder for several objectives within the plan, this doesn't necessarily mean Council will be the driver or funder of these projects.
24. Some of the objectives may overlap or run parallel with Council's operational activity or projects, consequently Council has been listed as a stakeholder with the intention that input and advice from specific teams will be sought (e.g. biodiversity, open spaces, governance, welcoming communities etc.) to ensure cohesion.
25. Where Council funding might be required, the Methven Community Board has specific actions to submit to future Annual Plans and Long-Term Plans to request funding. For example, this is noted in objective 7 and 25 where funding for these projects would need to be considered as part of the Council's roading programme.

## Options analysis

### Option one – Endorse the Methven Community Strategic Plan (recommended option)

26. Under this option, the Council would endorse the Methven Community Strategic Plan and support the implementation of the plan as a key stakeholder.

<b>Advantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council can show its support for the community plan through endorsement.</li><li>• Council can confirm its position as a key stakeholder of the plan.</li><li>• Endorsement provides the board and community with the confidence to progress the plan with support from the Council.</li></ul>	<b>Disadvantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nil identified.</li></ul>
<b>Risks:</b> Nil identified.	

### Option two – Do not endorse the Methven Community Strategic Plan

27. Under this option, Council can choose not to endorse the Methven Community Strategic Plan.

<b>Advantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nil identified.</li></ul>	<b>Disadvantages:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council will miss the opportunity to support the Methven Community Board and the community in the implementation of the plan.</li><li>• May impact existing relationship with the board and community.</li></ul>
<b>Risks:</b> Reputational risk – The Methven community may perceive the lack of Council endorsement negatively which may impact Councils reputation within the community.	

## Legal/policy implications

### Policy requirements

28. Council's Long-Term Plan is the primary document that highlights any future development and programmes in the Ashburton District, including Methven.



29. Methven's community strategic plan is not a legislative requirement. The plan is not adopted by Council, rather, it is a plan developed by the community, for the community to help define priorities and goals at a local level.

### Climate change

30. The Methven Community Strategic Plan includes aspirations and objectives related to climate change and sustainability. The Methven Community Board and community will work to achieve these over the next 10 years.

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	\$20,000
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	This project has been funded in year 1 of the LTP 2024-34
Where is the funding coming from?	LTP
Are there any future budget implications?	The development of Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 was completed within the budget. Any future budget implications will require investigation.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Medium
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The community will be informed via the usual channels of the Council's decision to endorse the plan.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low, Strategy and Policy Manager

## Appendix 1



## Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025



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### Glossary

ADC	Ashburton District Council
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
ECan	Environment Canterbury
FENZ	Fire and Emergency New Zealand
MCB	Methven Community Board
NZTA	New Zealand Transport Authority Waka Kotahi
RDR	Rangitata Diversion Race
RDRML	Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited
MHMH	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall



## From the Methven Community Board

Welcome to the 2025 Methven Community Strategic Plan. It is with great pleasure that we present a plan that has been developed by Methven, for Methven.

Our community has changed a lot over the last 15 years - there's been population growth, new commercial activities, increased diversity, all of which means the needs of our community have evolved. As a board, we want Methven to continue to thrive so we've been busy reviewing the Methven community strategic plan to help identify ways we can achieve this over the next 10 years.

The first strategic plan was developed in 1997 and reworked in 2009 after consultation with the Methven community. In 2014, there was a stocktake which highlighted the number of objectives that were achieved off the back of these two plans. Some highlights include the skate park, and the redesign of the town centre.

We know that this is a process that works so we wanted to revisit it to see Methven into the future. Over the past few months, we've sought feedback from the community to better understand Methven's priorities. We heard a range of ideas through online and written submissions, received some fantastic ideas from students in our community, we also received valuable feedback during the two public workshops.

As much as possible, we want this plan to highlight our community's expectations for the next 10 years but also celebrate the accomplishments of the past. It's about acknowledging what we do well as a community, what we could do better, and what we want our future to look like.

This plan pulls together a range of ideas that sit under four key goals:

- **Goal One:** Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work and play
- **Goal Two:** Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities
- **Goal Three:** Methven is a well informed and participating community
- **Goal Four:** Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community

We thank the community for contributing your thoughts and ideas to help us develop this plan, we look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals.

### Methven Community Board



## Executive Summary

The Methven Community Strategic Plan outlines what's important for the Methven Community. The plan includes four strategic goals, associated objectives and an action plan to achieve them.

### **Goal 1: Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work and play**

This means Methven:

- Is a leader in recreational offerings
- Has well utilised and cared for community spaces
- Is committed to being a biodiverse, resilient and sustainable community

### **Goal 2: Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities**

This means Methven:

- Is known as the district's recreational hub
- Supports its business community to grow
- Is recognised as a year-round tourism destination

### **Goal 3: Methven is a well informed and participating community**

This means Methven:

- Is a well-connected, participating, and welcoming community
- Is effectively represented by its Community Board
- Has a well-established relationship with takata whenua

### **Goal 4: Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community**

This means Methven:

- Is safe for residents and visitors
- Has safe and efficient transportation options
- Provides accessible healthcare for residents and visitors

## The Community Strategic Plan

### Why we need a community strategic plan

A community plan acts as a roadmap for the future, highlighting priorities and issues significant to the community. It ensures community involvement in planning, setting a clear future direction, and goals. The plan usually highlights short to long term actions achievable in an outlined period of time. A community plan helps the Council understand the community's priorities, enabling informed decisions on resource allocation and funding during the Long-Term Plan review.

### A bit of background

<timeline graphic>

1997 – first community plan

2009 – second community plan

2014 – second plan review

2025 – current plan

## Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025

The Methven Community Board, in consultation with our community, created an updated Methven Community Strategic Plan (the Plan). Ashburton District Council funded and facilitated the development process.

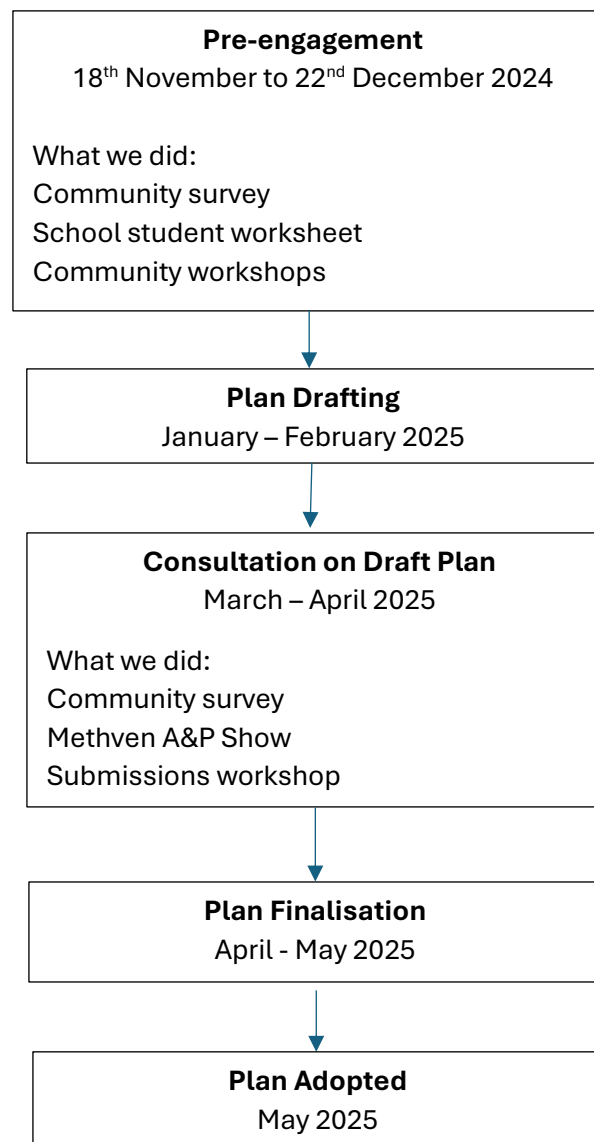
### How we developed this Plan

The Methven Community Board led the development of the community plan, this involved engaging with our community and interested stakeholders' multiple times to develop a plan that reflects the goals and aspirations of the Methven community.

We started with pre-engagement where we conducted an online survey from November to December 2024 and hosted two public workshops attended by Methven residents, local businesses, and community groups. School kids also shared their views on Methven's future by filling out dedicated activity sheets. The feedback received from this wide community engagement helped us draft the initial plan.

After preparing the draft Methven Community Strategic Plan, we consulted with the community to ensure it accurately reflected their feedback and ideas. The second round of consultation occurred from March to April 2025. During this period, community members shared their thoughts and opinions through submissions, with some speaking to them at the submissions workshop. We also engaged with the community at the A&P show, asking them to identify what objectives should be prioritised. We deliberated on the feedback received, and updated the final plan to ensure it reflects the collective vision and aspirations of our community.

## Methven Community Strategic Plan Development Timeline



## Community engagement: An overview (Incorporated at design stage)

These are some of the ideas we heard from our community as part of the early engagement phase:

- More recreational opportunities such as walking and biking trails, disc golf, and more.
- Improved town aesthetics.
- Better maintenance of gardens, lighting, and public spaces.
- Safer community.
- More community activities.
- Growth in tourism and local businesses.
- A well-connected Methven community.
- Affordable housing.
- Businesses and healthcare to stay open for longer hours
- Public transport options like a bus service for the town.



**(Incorporated verbatim quotes page at design stage)**

This is some of the feedback we heard from our community as part of the draft consultation phase:

- Need to strengthen objective 24 of the draft plan to specifically advocate for pedestrian crossings on Methven Chertsey Road and Forest Drive.
- Draft plan does not include any objectives to improve flood and weather-related resiliency of the township, particularly around Mt Harding Creek.
- MCB should engage with RDRML to define use of the RDR for recreational activity.
- Draft plan does not include objectives to advocate for more commercial zoning.
- Not enough in the draft plan to keep young, elderly, and less able people safe in the community.
- Helipad requires more consideration and planning to define use.
- Footpaths and slippery paving in CBD need to be prioritised – dangerous when wet.
- Support working with NZTA to install a second crossing on SH 77.
- The plan should include the history of Ngāi Tahu as occupiers of the land prior to 1848.

During consultation we sought feedback from the community at the Methven A&P show. Here, we asked our community to indicate what objectives they felt were the highest priority for each of the four goals. The top priorities were:

- Enhancing Methven's walkway/cycleway network
- Developing destination activities to attract visitors
- Ensuring Methven's community interests are well represented by the community board
- Advocating for improved pedestrian accessibility across town

**<insert images from the A&P show>**

# Our History

### How did we get here?

Ngāi Tahu occupied the land within the Ōuetō plain, between the Rakaia River and Hakatere (Ashburton) River. The area being one of mahika kai where kiore (Polynesian rat), koreke (quail) and tiroki were gathered. In 1848, the Crown purchased the land from Ngāi Tahu as part of the Canterbury Purchase, also known as Kemp's Deed. The purchase has had long-term consequences for Ngāi Tahu.

Methven township (as it is known now) began in early 1879 with the construction of Morgan & Hibbs's *Butchers, Bakers, Drapers and General Storekeepers* shop near a major crossroads, chosen as the terminus of the privately funded Rakaia and Ashburton Forks Railway, which opened early in 1880. Methven was the name of the closest landmark: a Post Office at a smithy, 3km north, on the south side of Robert Patton's farm "Methven", named after his hometown in Scotland.

The Post Office was moved into the new town store almost immediately, and the local governing body, the Mount Hutt Road Board, built a clerk's house, stables and their first office (still extant) near the corner of *now* Main Street & South Belt in late 1879. The town initially grew swiftly to support the farming settlers and new railway workers.

Methven's position under the foothills and its proximity to rivers proved valuable in advancing irrigation throughout the plains. A water intake constructed below Pudding Hill in 1881 still feeds stock water down through the plains and Methven became the location for the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) headquarters during its development in the late 1930's-early 1940s.

In 1973, the potential of Methven as a tourism hub began to be realised with the opening of the Mount Hutt Ski Field, which brought visitors, seasonal workers, and new businesses to town. Mount Hutt still plays a vital role in the local economy by bringing in thousands of tourists over the winter months. However, Methven is becoming a year-round tourism destination by the development of various scenic walkways, cycle trails, the Ōpuke thermal pools, and an increase in events and attractions.

The usually resident count has been increasing since the mid-1980s and Methven is currently the fastest growing town in the Ashburton District. Agriculture continues to be the biggest economic contributor, but tourism and education are also major employing industries, all of which need to be considered over the next 10 years.

*The information in this section has been collated in partnership with the Methven Historical Society and Aoraki Environmental Consultancy Limited.*

## **Overview**

- 1848** – Crown purchased land from Ngāi Tahu as part of the Canterbury purchases, known as Kemp’s Deed.
- 1879** – First building, a general store, opened in Methven and Mount Hutt Road Board office built
- 1880** – Privately-funded Rakaia-Ashburton Forks Railway to Methven opened & original Methven Hotel built
- 1882** – First Methven School opened with a roll of 41, and first Rakaia Gorge Bridge completed
- 1883** – Original Canterbury Hotel, Telegraph Office and privately-funded Library built
- 1884** – Second Rakaia Gorge bridge opened
- 1885** – Government took over branch railway
- 1908** – Methven Town Hall opened in Bank Street
- 1923** – Electricity installed in Methven
- 1925** – Methven District High School opened with a roll of 37, and high-pressure water supplied to Methven
- 1937-45** – RDR and Highbank Power Station constructed
- 1940-49** – Methven Linen Flax Factory operated
- 1956** – Mount Hutt Memorial Hall opened in Main Street
- 1973** – Mount Hutt Ski Field opened
- 1976** – Methven-Rakaia Railway closed
- 1979** –Methven Walkway opened
- 2011** – NZ Alpine & Agriculture Encounter opened at Hall
- 2021** – Ōpuke Thermal Pools opened

# Our Community

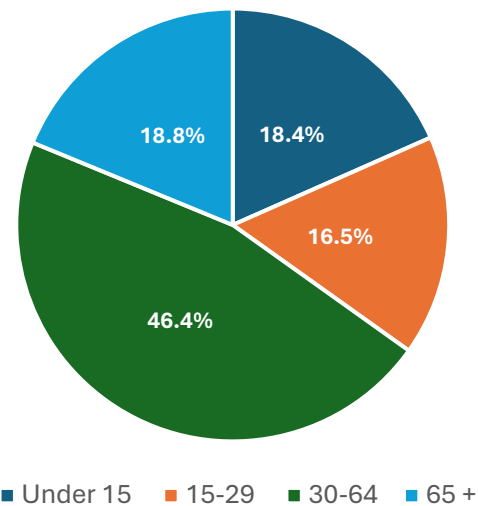
## Population

**Usual resident population - 1,977**

**Female – 975**

**Male – 1,002**

**Median Age – 39.6**



Methven's population is expected to grow to by at least 12.8% over the next 10 years

## Birthplace

**77%**

of Methven's residents were born in New Zealand<sup>1</sup>

9.8% were born in the UK

3.4% were born in Australia

2.4% were born in the Pacific Islands

## Ethnicity

**90.4%**

of Methven's residents identify as European

**10%**

of Methven's residents identify as Māori

**2.9%**

of Methven's residents identify as Pacific Peoples

**3.2%**

of Methven's residents identify as Asian

## Education

Methven has **3** schools with a total of **871** students enrolled

**35.6%** of the population over 15 have a high school qualification as their highest qualification

**43.4%** of the population over 15 have some form of post-school qualification as their highest qualification

2

<sup>1</sup> Stats NZ, Places and ethnic group summaries tool, 2023 census

<sup>2</sup> Individuals may identify as more than one ethnicity and therefore the total percentage will always equal more than 100%.

## Workforce and income<sup>3</sup>

<b>1,197</b> residents over 15 are in the workforce	<b>80%</b> are paid employees while the other <b>20%</b> are either an employer or self employed	<b>57.1%</b> are working full time	Average working week in Methven is 38.7 hours	The median total personal income in Methven is <b>\$45,600</b>
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## Housing

There are <b>954</b> private dwellings in Methven. <b>71.3%</b> of residents own, or partly own, their home or hold it in a family trust.
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## Economy<sup>4</sup>

<b>Methven's GDP</b>	<b>\$120.4m</b>
<b>Total Business Units</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>820</b>

### Fastest growing industries (based on GDP and employment growth)

- 1. Tourism**
- 2. Healthcare**
- 3. Agriculture**

### Snapshot of Methven's Top Industry – Tourism

Jobs – 205	GDP - \$13.6m
Visitors to Ōpuke – 100,000	Visitors to Mt Hutt - 155,000 (June 2024 – October 2024)
AirBnB's – 94	Other accommodation providers - 39
4,000 Te Araroa hikers spent \$515,400 in Methven in 2022	

<sup>3</sup> Stats NZ, Places and ethnic group summaries tool, 2023 census

<sup>4</sup> Infometrics, Regional Economic Profile, 2024

*Note: Tourism is comprised of multiple industries including accommodation and food services, rental, hiring and real estate services and arts and recreation services.*



# Our Future

### What Council already has planned over the next 10 years (LTP 2024-2034)

The Council delivers a range of activities within the district, including the Methven area, covering essential services such as water, roading, waste management and the maintenance of parks and open spaces. The following table outlines major projects planned for Methven over the next ten years, in addition to the council's regular activities. Capital works refer to projects that involve either new capital spending or renewal capital for upgrading existing infrastructure.

2024/25 Year 1	2025/26 Year 2	2026/27 Year 3	2027/28 Year 4	2028/29 Year 5	2029/30 Year 6	2030/31 Year 7	2031/32 Year 8	2032/33 Year 9	2033/34 Year 10
Community Group Annual Funding – Methven Pool, MCB discretionary grant, Methven Reserve Board & Mt Hutt Memorial Hall									
Methven Lighting Project \$116,000 Capex									
Methven Lighting Project opex of \$5000 p.a									
Compactor installation \$395,000	Methven Recovery Park site investigation \$75,000								
Methven Plan development \$20,000									
District Bike Trail investigation \$25,000									
			New drinking water reservoir - \$1.53m						
Drinking water – watermain renewals - \$3.17m									
Water meters - \$80,000			Water meters - \$142,185 + CCTV condition assessment - \$83,239						
Waste water renewals - \$4.58m									
		Treatment plan - \$300,000 Aerator renewal - \$182,000							
							Desludging - \$1.4m		
Footpath renewals - \$1.62m									
Methven parks and open spaces projects- \$578,500									

# Our Vision

**Methven, a recreational hub where natural beauty and vibrant communities come together. Thrilling tourism to chilled-out vibes are supported by thriving local businesses.  
A connected, safe, and accessible community for all.**

## Methven's four strategic goals

***Goal One: Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work, and play***

**Methven:**

- Is a leader in recreational offerings
- Has well utilised and cared for community spaces
- Is committed to being a biodiverse, resilient and sustainable community

***Goal Two: Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities***

**Methven:**

- Is known as the district's recreational hub
- Supports its business community to grow
- Is recognized as a year-round tourism destination

### **Methven's Strategic Goals**

***Goal Three: Methven is a well-informed & participating community***

**Methven:**

- Is a well-connected, participating, and welcoming community
- Is effectively represented by its Community Board
- Has a well-established relationship with takata whenua

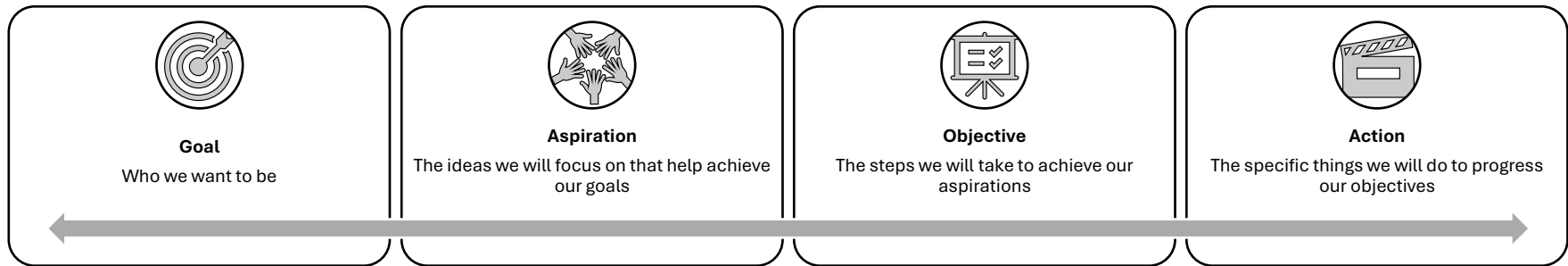
***Goal Four: Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community***

**Methven:**

- Is safe for residents and visitors
- Has safe and efficient transportation options
- Provides accessible healthcare for residents and visitors

# **Our Action Plan**

## How to read the plan



### Reporting and monitoring

We will report annually on the progress of the action plan implementation. A review of the plan will be conducted every three years to help inform Council's Long-Term Plan.

### Objectives

Objectives have been numbered for easy reference; these numbers do not indicate priority.

### Who could be involved?

We have identified various stakeholders that may have some interest, and in some cases, be able to contribute to the implementation of each individual objective.

**Advocate:** collecting and sharing community views with government, agencies, or organisation to highlight and improve community interests. This can be active or passive.

**Influence:** educate and work to change people's perceptions and behaviours to drive positive community outcomes.

**Support:** support groups, agencies, or organisations leading the work (e.g. research, funding, or stakeholder management).

**Resource:** Take a direct lead in achieving specific actions.

### Timeframes

The plan is designed to span 10 years. Multiple actions are required to achieve the objectives outlined under each goal. The actions range from further research, building partnerships, streamlining existing resources to supporting various initiatives. We have assigned varying timeframes to each goal, indicating when they are expected to be completed. The priority timeframes are divided into the four categories below:

**Short term** To be achieved within 1-3 years

**Medium term** To be achieved within 3 - 5 years

**Long term** To be achieved within 10 years

**Ongoing** Actions that run for entire life of the community plan

## Goal One: Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work, and play

**Methven is a town where natural beauty and recreation thrive together. As a community, we are kaitiaki of our shared spaces and natural environment, committed to sustainable growth.**

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<b>Methven is a leader in recreational offerings</b>	1. <i>Support the development of youth-based activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stocktake current youth-based activities – consider if any existing activities could be upgraded / repurposed to increase use</li> <li>• Connect with education providers and local sports clubs to understand needs/wants</li> <li>• Undertake feasibility analysis of suggested ideas – cost, challenges, benefits</li> <li>• Support funding mechanism for any development work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Education providers</li> <li>• Scouts</li> <li>• Bike Methven</li> <li>• Sports clubs</li> </ul>		✓		
	2. <i>Diversify outdoor activities by investigating the use of the RDR for recreational activities and possible locations for a disc golf course</i>	<b>Disc Golf</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research other examples in similar communities</li> <li>• Undertake feasibility analysis of suggested ideas – cost, challenges, benefits, scope possible locations for full 9-hole option and 3-hole option</li> <li>• Confirm proposed funding mechanism – community funded, sponsorship, MCB discretionary fund, ADC LTP / annual plan</li> <li>• Implement agreed option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Methven Reserve Board</li> <li>• Methven and Foothills Birdsong Trust</li> </ul>	✓			
		<b>RDR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with RDRML to explore use of the RDR for recreational kayaking</li> <li>• If feasible, develop a map for exit and entry points and areas of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• RDRML</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Event organisers</li> </ul>	✓			
	3. <i>Enhance Methven's walkway / cycleway network by focussing on maintaining what we</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support existing walkway/cycle way working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• Methven &amp; Foothills Walking Festival</li> </ul>				✓

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
	<i>already have and supporting the development of additional tracks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of a comprehensive map of all existing trails / tracks in area</li> <li>Support the development of a 10-year maintenance and development plan – including future funding, maintenance schedule, possible sites for development</li> <li>Advocate for disabled accessibility to existing and new walkways and cycleways</li> <li>Work with RDRML to consider further development of cycling and walking activities along the RDR</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of adding e-bike chargers to township and/or tracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lions</li> <li>Bike Methven</li> <li>Community groups / members</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Foothills trail group</li> <li>NZTA</li> <li>RDRML</li> </ul>	✓			
<b>Methven's community spaces are well utilised and cared for</b>	4. <i>Define the future use and purpose of Mt Hutt Memorial Hall</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing governance, planning and maintenance – ensure the hall is fit for purpose</li> <li>Develop a 10-year plan for the hall</li> <li>Investigate the use of hall for local business use / office space, community use and supporting community events</li> <li>Maintain the MHMH as an Emergency Management Incident Control Point and potential Civil Defence Hub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>Methven Emergency Response group</li> </ul>	✓			
	5. <i>Improve the appearance of shops, buildings and surrounds in Methven's CBD area</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local businesses to identify buildings that need maintenance</li> <li>Work with building/business owners to facilitate a maintenance plan</li> <li>Investigate using MCB discretionary grant / possible community assistance grant</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of a community owned property trust</li> <li>Support the Methven lighting project to completion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>Local businesses</li> <li>Building owners</li> <li>Lighting project group</li> <li>ADC</li> </ul>				✓



Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
	6. <i>Enhance the appearance of town entrances on SH77</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with ADC open spaces to develop a maintenance schedule</li> <li>• Investigate costings / feasibility of town entrance signage</li> <li>• Continue to work with Lions Club and ADC to facilitate the moving of town entrance signage</li> <li>• Include town brand in any design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Lions</li> <li>• NZTA</li> </ul>		✓		
	7. <i>Ensure community spaces are easily accessible for all</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with ADC and NZTA to improve accessibility to community spaces</li> <li>• Investigate surface treatment options for pavers in CBD area</li> <li>• MCB to submit to Council's future plans (Annual Plan/LTP) for potential maintenance/improvements</li> <li>• Work with ADC to identify additional disability parking spaces around the township</li> <li>• Advocate for existing kerbs to be more accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• NZTA</li> <li>• Local building/business owners</li> </ul>				✓
Methven is committed to being a biodiverse and sustainable community	8. <i>Increase native restoration and diversify native plant species throughout Methven</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with interested groups to identify possible sites for native plantings</li> <li>• Support development of a native restoration program to increase native planting and maintenance over next 10 years</li> <li>• Partner with interested groups to identify opportunities to share costs / maintenance responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust</li> <li>• ECan</li> <li>• DOC</li> <li>• Lions</li> <li>• LINZ</li> <li>• Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective</li> <li>• Businesses</li> <li>• RDRML</li> </ul>			✓	
	9. <i>Future proof investment and maintenance of Birdsong project</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Birdsong Trust to develop a 10-year plan – funding requirements, maintenance, scope of work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust</li> <li>• Methven Lions</li> <li>• Kāti Huirapa</li> </ul>	✓			

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the plan within ten years once developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADC (as landowner)</li> </ul>				
	10. <i>Improve waste management and minimization practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate if there is community need for a central drop off station / community green waste centre</li> <li>Work with ADC to facilitate community education on waste minimization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Eco Educate</li> </ul>	✓			
	11. <i>Support community investment in pest control initiatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Birdsong's investment in their trapping library</li> <li>Work with other agencies / community to identify ways to improve pest management</li> <li>Submit on behalf of the community where new pest control policies are being developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust</li> <li>DOC</li> <li>ECan</li> <li>ADC</li> </ul>				✓
<b>Methven is resilient to weather/natural hazard events.</b>	12. <i>Support initiatives that build resilience and reduce risk associated with weather/natural hazard events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for strengthened stormwater drainage system to mitigate flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective</li> <li>ECan</li> <li>Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>MCB</li> </ul>	✓			

## Goal Two: Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities

**Methven aims to be recognised as the recreational hub of Mid Canterbury, bustling with thriving businesses and year-round events. We strive to make our town accessible and welcoming to all visitors.**

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<b>Methven is known as the district's recreational hub</b>	<i>13. Develop branding to support the promotion of Methven as a recreational hub</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local businesses and ADC district promotion team to create a brand</li> <li>Identify landmarks, events and activities that support the brand</li> <li>Create a strong visual identity through a logo, colour scheme and tagline</li> <li>Facilitate brand use across social media, online and physical promotion</li> <li>Incorporate the brand into any development projects – town entrance signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>Local business owners</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Snowfed</li> </ul>			✓	
<b>Methven's business community is supported to grow</b>	<i>14. Support the promotion of Methven's business community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate a platform for centralised online information and promotion</li> <li>Establish a working group who will inform and update the official channels for promoting Methven – upcoming events, business promotions, deals</li> <li>Establish roadside noticeboards for local event and business promotion</li> <li>Advocate for businesses to enhance disabled accessibility wherever possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business owners</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Event organisers</li> <li>MethvenNZ</li> </ul>	✓			
	<i>15. Advocate for more business zoning to increase commercial activity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit to Council on next district plan review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADC</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>Business owners</li> </ul>				✓
	<i>16. Facilitate collaboration between existing businesses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a business leaders' group who can identify business opportunities in Methven – opening hours, late nights, events</li> <li>Work with Mid Canterbury Tourism Advisory Group to increase business sector knowledge and resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business owners</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>Mid Canterbury Tourism Advisory Group</li> </ul>	✓			

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<b>Methven is recognised as a year-round tourism destination</b>	<i>17. Promote existing activities / offerings that are unique to Methven</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stocktake current events and dates to develop a base line event calendar which can be marketed</li> <li>• Work with local providers to assess possible expansion / development of existing events</li> <li>• Establish a relationship with Connecting Mid-Canterbury to share event information</li> <li>• Establish a communication link with ADC to increase knowledge around event application process and costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> <li>• Event organisers</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Connecting Mid-Canterbury</li> <li>• Experience Mid-Canterbury</li> </ul>	✓			
	<i>18. Develop destination activities to attract visitors' year round</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify gaps in calendar and report possible options for events during those times</li> <li>• Work with local providers to identify annual event opportunities</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility of partnering with national ventures – festival organisers, trail events, cultural events</li> <li>• Work with ADC to get more support for Methven run events</li> <li>• Work with RDRML to support activities/events highlighting RDR's rich heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> <li>• Event organisers</li> <li>• RDRML</li> </ul>			✓	

### Goal Three: Methven is a well-informed and participating community

Methven is an informed, engaged, and well represented community that fosters strong relationships among people of diverse backgrounds.

Aspirations	Objective	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<b>Methven is well connected and participating community</b>	<i>19. Support active participation, volunteer partnerships, youth involvement, and community events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue funding and supporting volunteer and community groups base in Methven</li> <li>Running information sessions on available ADC and national grants, and guidance on securing funding</li> <li>Support and endorse funding applications from local organisations.</li> <li>Work with the ADC's events team to educate community on how to arrange community events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Volunteering Mid &amp; South Canterbury</li> <li>Community groups such as Wellbeing Ōpuke, Birdsong Initiative Trust, Methven Care Trust</li> <li>Lions/Service Clubs</li> <li>Snowfed</li> </ul>		✓		
<b>Methven Community Board effectively provides local representation</b>	<i>20. Ensure Methven's community interests are well represented by the Board</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADC and MCB continue to work closely together towards ensuring that the Methven community is effectively represented.</li> <li>Keep the community informed about the Community Boards activities and ADC expenditure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> </ul>				✓
<b>Methven has well-established relationship with takata whenua</b>	<i>21. Grow a strong relationship with takata whenua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with takata whenua on issues of significance to Methven</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>Kāti Huirapa<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>				✓
<b>Methven is a well-informed and welcoming community</b>	<i>22. Streamline reliable sources of community-related information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolve the services available at I- Hub to meet the needs of the community and visitors</li> <li>Streamlining existing reliable sources of information</li> <li>Develop sessions at I- Hub to assist community with variety of issues like rates rebate application assistance, Justice of Peace (JPs) etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADC</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>Snowfed</li> <li>Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board</li> </ul>				✓

<sup>5</sup> Kāti Huirapa are whānau who whakapapa (descent from one's ancestors) to Kāti Huirapa ki Arowhenua and who are represented by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, and whānau of other Papatipu Rūnaka who share interests with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. Kāti Huirapa hold mana whenua in Ashburton district.

Aspirations	Objective	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
	23. <i>Welcome our newcomers by guiding them to reliable community information sources and providing other opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streamline ADC's website created under Welcoming Communities program for newcomers in Methven</li> <li>Work with ADC to arrange a Learning Hub for parents</li> <li>Support local groups and schools in their efforts that help newcomers integrate into the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC – Welcoming Communities team</li> <li>Local groups such as Wellbeing Ōpuke</li> <li>Schools</li> </ul>				✓

**Goal Four: Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community**

**Methven prioritises well-being of both residents and visitors by focusing on varying aspects of safety and accessibility.**

Aspirations	Objective	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<b>Methven is safe for residents and visitors</b>	24. <i>Support community safety through enabling collective efforts of the community and key organisations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure CCTV cameras are present at strategic/significant locations across town</li> <li>Support neighbourhood watch groups in Methven</li> <li>Ensure that provision of street lighting is at required standard across Methven Advocate to NZTA and ADC for speed management</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>Methven Lighting Group</li> <li>NZTA</li> <li>Methven Emergency Response Group</li> <li>Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>CCTV Trust in Methven</li> </ul>		✓		
	25. <i>Advocate for improved pedestrian accessibility across town</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support efforts to improve accessibility across commercial and community locations</li> <li>MCB to submit to Councils future plans (annual plan / LTP) to install a crossing on Methven Chertsey Road and Forest Drive</li> <li>Continue to advocate to NZTA to install a crossing on SH 77</li> <li>Work with Methven Care Trust and ADC to assess safe crossing options, possibility of no parking spaces and loading zone at Methven Central</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>NZTA</li> <li>Local building/business owners</li> <li>Methven Care Trust</li> </ul>		✓		
<b>Methven has safe and efficient transportation options</b>	26. <i>Investigate and support suitable public transport options</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertise presence of Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle transport service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>ECan</li> <li>Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust</li> </ul>				✓
<b>Methven has improved accessibility to healthcare for residents and visitors</b>	27. <i>Advocate for improved accessibility to healthcare</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with health sector businesses to identify areas of improvement.</li> <li>Engage with appropriate agencies to facilitate development of helipad in Methven to ensure rapid emergency transfers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAA</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>ADC</li> <li>St Johns</li> <li>Health sector</li> <li>Lions</li> <li>Methven Reserve Board</li> <li>FENZ</li> </ul>	✓			
	28. <i>Support development of a helipad in Methven to enable rapid emergency transfers</i>						

## Other ideas our community were interested in

There was a variety of feedback received, both during pre-engagement (November-December 2024) and the draft plan consultation phase (March-April 2025). The Methven Community Board considered all the feedback received and deliberated if, and how, the ideas could be incorporated into the plan.

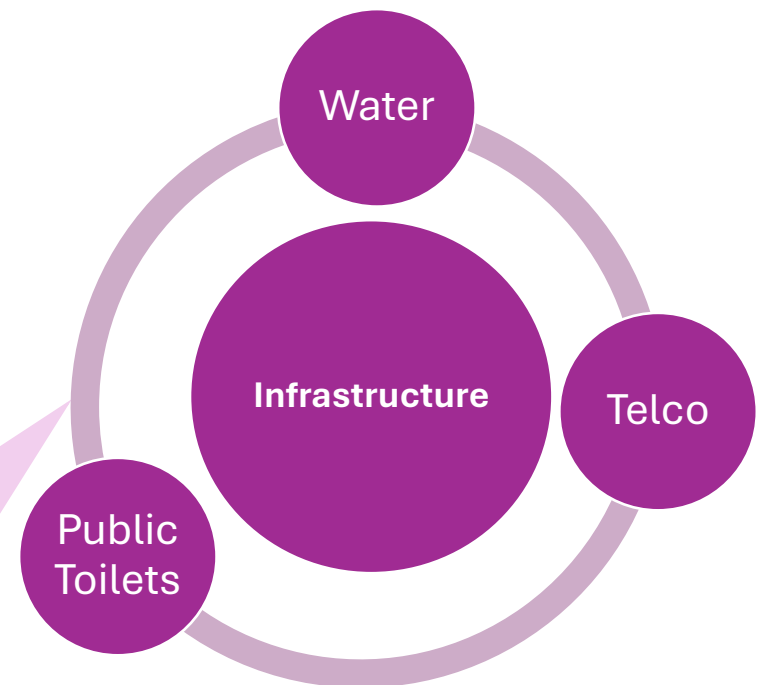
The ideas in this section were determined to be outside of the scope of the Methven Community Strategic Plan, either because there are more appropriate channels for this work to be progressed, the work required is outside of the Board's influence, or because there was not enough community feedback to support progressing the ideas.

We thank everyone who submitted their ideas in support of this plan.





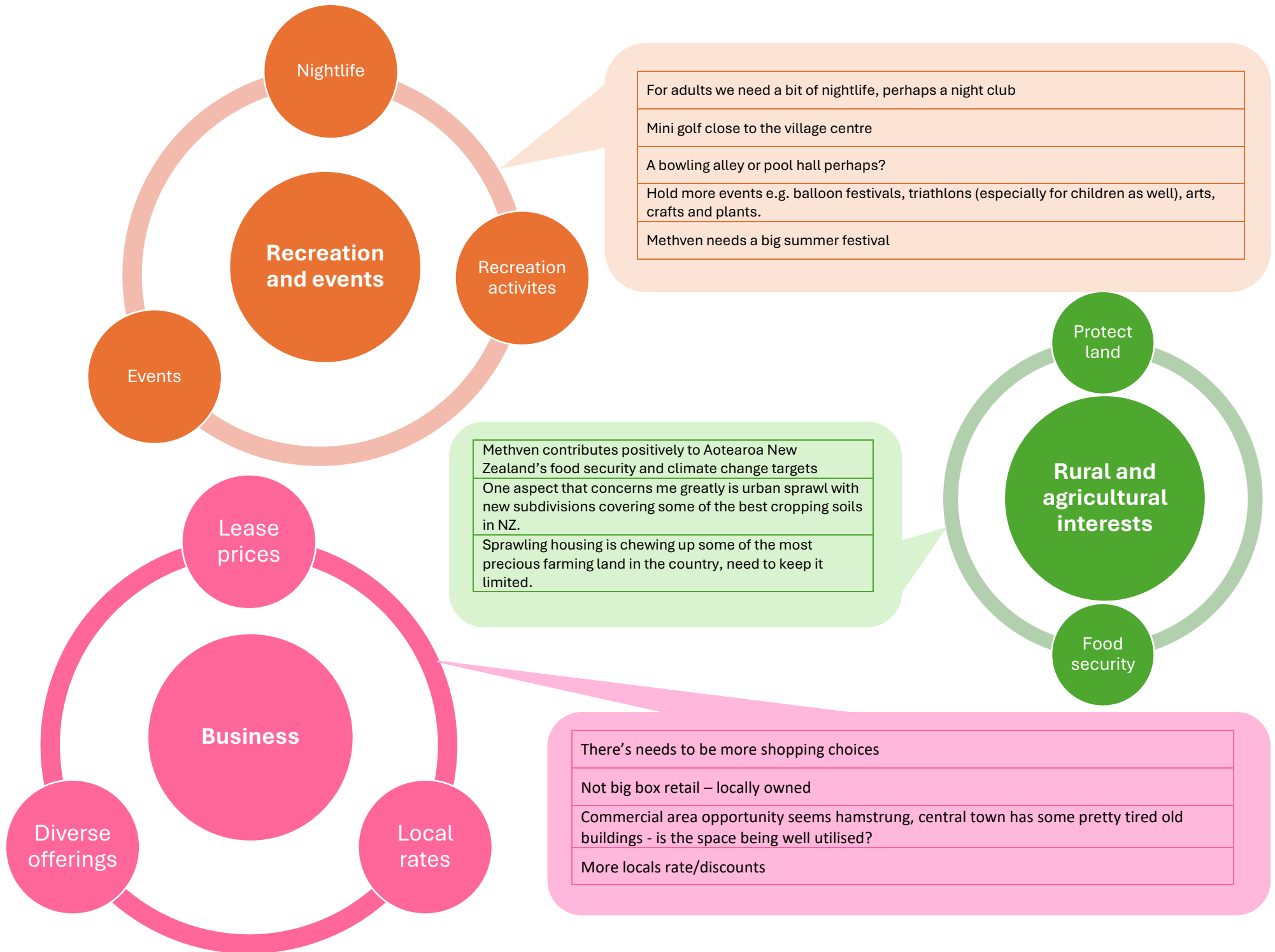
Expand the town boundary and free more areas for development.
There isn't enough accommodation for Mt Hutt staff or visitors on a budget in winter
Methven needs more affordable housing options
Affordable housing- rent control needs to be introduced the rapid change of landlords switching between short rentals to airbnb depending on the season is unhelpful and benefits only them and seasonal winter staff leaving year round tenants struggling to find long term rentals
More farmland could be designated for building



5G cell service introduced to the area and a better service connection all together along highway 77 connecting Methven to Ashburton. To still have complete dead zones isn't helpful in the slightest.

Sewer, waste and fresh water pipes should be in easily accessible locations for quick repairs. Currently there are a number that pass under schools and the GOH extension and there must be others.

Public toilets along by walkways



## 8. *Review – Use of Pole Mounted Banners Policy*

Author	<i>Richard Mabon, Senior Policy Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Janice McKay, Communications Manager</i>
Executive Team Member	<i>Toni Durham, Group Manager, Democracy &amp; Engagement</i>

### Summary

- The purpose of this report is to review the existing policy on use of pole-mounted banners to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- Since the last review in 2019:
  - Street flags are regularly displayed from the FlagTrax® pole mounts.
  - Since 2019, the capacity to display banners (over East Street or over the East Street water feature) has ceased. Council is the only organisation that installs street flags.
- While it remains possible for a community group to purchase street flags and seek to install them, the cost of street flags and the widespread use of social media and other channels to promote events make this unlikely.
- Officers see little value in maintaining a public-facing policy and recommend the existing policy be revoked.
- If Council prefers to retain a policy, an amended version that reflects the current operations is enclosed.

### Recommendation

1. **That** Council revokes the Policy on the Use of Pole Mounted Banners.

### Attachment

#### Appendix 1 Policy on the Use of Pole Mounted Banners

## Background

### The current situation

1. Council has a policy that regulates the display of banners and street flags. The policy was last reviewed in 2019.
2. The Policy applies to 28 FlagTrax street flag mounts on street lighting poles on East Street and West Street/State Highway 1. In the past it also applied to the hanging of banners over East Street and over the East Street water feature. Capacity to hang banners there ceased around 2019 with the CBD upgrade.
3. The brackets mounted on lighting poles can be installed and removed by staff on the ground using a hand-held pole device. No cherrypickers or traffic management plans are needed.
4. The only party to use the brackets since 2019 has been Council itself. A full set of street flags costs about \$6,500. Council has banners for the following themes. These are funded from the Festive lighting cost centre when budget allows.
  - Spring / Summer - featuring local flora / fauna
  - Haere Mai, Welcome to Ashburton
  - Anzac Day
  - Glow in the Park
  - Christmas
  - Winter tourism activity flags - ski, dine, hike, bike.
  - Matariki

### What is the policy problem or opportunity?

5. The policy's origins pre 2014 was to manage public demand to fly banners and street flags in Ashburton. A policy was needed to manage access, to decide between competing applications, and to ensure installations could be changed safely.
6. In 2025, there is only one organisation that installs street flags. There is no need to decide between competing applications. The FlagTrax pole mounts have eliminated the hazards of cherrypickers, working near powerlines and the need for traffic management. In summary, the demand no longer exists and we do not expect it to reappear.

## Options analysis

### Option one – Amend the policy to update it for accuracy.

7. Under this option the Policy will receive minor amendments and will be reviewed again in five years time.
8. Minor amendments are highlighted in Appendix One and include updates to reflect the scope of what is available, current management responsibilities and current formatting of policy.

9. Officers consider that the Policy is no longer needed. However, should Council disagree, then an accurate and up-to-date policy is preferred to one that is out-of-date.
10. The key updates are:
  - Referring to street flags rather than banners. Banners are typically longer and fastened at two points. Street flags is the term used in the industry and avoids confusion with national flags which are also pole mounted.
  - References to mounts, supports or brackets has been standardised to “brackets” or “FlagTrax brackets”
  - Reference to Banners over East Street has been removed as these cannot be installed any longer.
  - Reference to “up to three weeks’ in condition seven has been altered to “up to four weeks” as this is a more typical process, recognising that some events fall on dates that can shorten the time between events.
  - Condition nine has been expanded to include other public holidays (ANZAC Day, Matariki) and significant Council events (Glow in the Park) which have been recognised since 2019.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate assignment of management responsibilities.</li> <li>• A policy is in place in the event that a community group does apply to install street flags in future.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies generally regulate public activities. This activity has essentially become an internal activity where two, and sometimes three council departments routinely work together.</li> <li>• Ongoing requirement to review the Policy every five years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>The implementation of the policy is LOW risk.</p>	

### Option two – Revoke the policy (Recommended Option)

11. Under this option, Council would revoke the policy as, for all intents and purposes, it currently serves only to regulate Council’s own use of its own infrastructure. This is currently being managed with communication between internal stakeholders and common sense.
12. If the policy were revoked, and a community organisation wished to use the Flag Trax brackets to display street flags, staff would assist this to occur.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <p>No future requirement to review the policy saves staff time.</p>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <p>If a community group did apply in future, there would be no policy guidance to inform staff decisions.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p>	

Some staff involved in working under the policy were unaware it existed, suggesting that the lack of a policy framework is LOW risk.

## Legal/policy implications

13. This is a non-statutory policy. When reviewed in 2019 it was compliant with the District Plan and the Advertising Signage Bylaw. There has been no change to the Bylaw or the District Plan since 2019 which alters the level of compliance.

## Climate change

14. The emissions of greenhouse gases from this activity is negligible, making the climate change adaptation or mitigation implications of this matter very minor.

## Strategic alignment

15. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcomes of:
- A district of great spaces and places
  - A prosperous economy based on innovation and opportunity

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	Some banners support the local tourism industry, and other support community events managed by the Economic Development Team
Environmental	✓	The flora and fauna banners promote local biodiversity
Cultural & social	✓	Some banners support important cultural or social events like ANZAC Day, Matariki, Christmas Day

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	The review of the policy, and its implementation, are funded within operating budgets in the various Teams that can become involved including Communications, Customer Services, Economic Development, Open Spaces & Strategy & Policy. The cost of banners themselves is funded from the festive lighting cost centre in Open Spaces.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes.
Where is the funding coming from?	External contractors (where required) would be paid for by the applicant
Are there any future budget implications?	No.
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	N/A
Level of engagement selected	Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	This level of engagement is proportionate to the significance of the matter.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

# Appendix 1

# Policy

## USE OF POLE MOUNTED ~~BANNERS~~STREET FLAGS

<del>COUNCIL COMMITTEE:</del>	<del>Finance and Business Support Committee</del>
<del>DEPARTMENT TEAM:</del>	<del>Customer Services</del> <u>Communications</u>
RESPONSIBILITY:	Communications Manager
ADOPTED:	16 April 2019
REVIEW:	Every five years, or as required
CONSULTATION:	As determined by Council.
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	Ashburton District Council Advertising Signage in Public Places Bylaw 2017; <u>Ashburton District Plan</u>

### Policy Objectives

1. To enable community organisations to have reasonable access to Council ~~banner supports~~street flag brackets in the Ashburton CBD to promote community events.
2. To ensure that temporary display of promotional ~~banners~~street flags does not create a nuisance, cause offence or present a hazard or a danger to pedestrians or vehicles.

### Definitions

**Community Organisation:** A non-profit organisation whose purpose and activities are for the improvement of community wellbeing, based in the Ashburton District.

**Council:** means Ashburton District Council, a territorial authority under the Local Government Act 2002, or any officer of the Council acting under delegated authority.

**Nuisance:** has the meaning contained in the Ashburton District Council Advertising Signage in Public Places Bylaw 2017

### Policy Statement

#### Context

1. Council-owned ~~banner brackets~~FlagTrax brackets have been installed on streetlight poles in the Ashburton CBD and along State Highway 1. ~~and above the East Street water feature.~~ These ~~supports~~brackets are available for community organisations to temporarily display promotional ~~banners~~street flags. No commercial or political advertising is permitted.

#### Conditions of Use



2. All applications for use of pole-mounted ~~bannersstreet flags~~ must be made in writing. ~~on the appropriate form.~~
3. Applications will be addressed on a “first-in, first served” basis, except for applications for the periods described in clause 9 of this Policy.
4. ~~BannersStreet flags~~ must comply with the District Plan and with all other relevant bylaws and other restrictions.
5. No structural alteration to poles and brackets is permitted.
6. ~~BannersStreet flags~~ must be erected and removed by an approved contractor, with any associated costs to be paid directly by the applicant. The applicant is responsible for arranging this work with the approved contractor.
7. ~~BannersStreet flags~~ can be erected up to ~~three-four~~ weeks prior to the date of the event commencing, and must be removed within five working days following the date that the event finishes.
8. Repair of any damage to persons or property is the responsibility of the applicant. The applicant should obtain public liability insurance that indemnifies the Council and the applicant against any claim arising out of the erection, flying and removal of these ~~bannersstreet flags~~.
9. ~~Banner bracketsStreet flag brackets~~ are unavailable to community organisations from the last Monday in November to the following 10 January each year inclusive, to allow for the display of Christmas banners;when required by Council for the display of street flags for ANZAC Day, Matariki, Christmas or significant public events.

#### **Council may decline any application**

10. Council reserves the right to decline any application for the use of pole mounted ~~bannersstreet flags~~ if the mounts are already in use, are booked, or the erection of the ~~bannersstreet flags~~ or the ~~banners-street flags~~ themselves are in any way deemed inappropriate or non-compliant with this Policy.

#### **Council may remove ~~bannersstreet flags~~**

11. If any of the conditions in clauses 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 are breached, Council will issue the applicant with a notice requiring ~~bannersstreet flags~~ to be removed within 48 hours. All costs involved with removal will be at the applicant’s expense.
12. Council reserves the right to remove ~~bannersstreet flags~~ in the event that the applicant fails to comply with the notice under clause 11 and at any time for any other reason.

## 9. Options for Event related Closure of East Street South, Ashburton

Author *Ian Hyde; GM Compliance & Development*  
Executive Team Member *Hamish Riach: Chief Executive*

### Summary

- The area of East Street south of Havelock Street (East Street South) has historically been a primary venue for community and commercial events. However, since the upgrades to the wider Central Business District (CBD) and associated road layout changes, closure of this part of the town centre has become more complex.
- Since these changes, Baring Square East, and the area surrounding it, have been redeveloped to provide the primary civic and event space for Ashburton.
- Following the 2024 Market Day Council received a deputation from town centre landowners and business people. At its 4 December 2024 meeting Council considered a staff report relating to the impacts of road closure events in the southern part of East Street. At the meeting staff were directed to further investigate options for future events in this area.
- The purpose of this report is to present updated recommendations on issues and options regarding road closures on East Street for events which incorporate feedback from Ashburton CBD businesses and the organiser of Market Day.

### Recommendation

1. **That** Council deems events requiring the closure of East Street, south of Havelock Street and involving trade and associated equipment such as caravans, stalls, tents or other structures, are not permitted on East Street, Ashburton, south of the intersection of East Street and Havelock Street between the hours of 8am and 5:30pm, Monday to Saturday.

### Attachments

- Appendix 1** Map of CBD area  
**Appendix 2** Copy of the Survey Questionnaire  
**Appendix 3** Survey Results: Event Road Closure in the Ashburton CBD – February 2025

## Background

1. East Street South has long served as a prominent location for both community and commercial events in Ashburton. During the recent CBD upgrade project, events were temporarily relocated, and some, such as the Waitangi on East event and the Santa Parade, have not returned to East Street South. The upgrades also introduced permanent changes to traffic flows, particularly on Burnett and Tancred Streets, which now operate as one-way roads. Because of this new layout, closure of East Street south now also requires closure of the one-way Burnett and Tancred Streets.
2. Ashburton central business activity is generally heaviest on weekdays during traditional business hours (approximately 8:30am – 5pm), there is a reasonable level of activity on Saturday, particularly in the morning as many businesses are open for at least part of the day, while Sunday is generally quiet.
3. The updates to the CBD and the move of Council offices and Ashburton Library to Te Whare Whakare have resulted in several changes to the CBD. Among these is the creation of a new civic space on Baring Square East which includes movable seating, lighting and bespoke infrastructure to cater for events. This space and surrounding streets have been successfully used for community Christmas events and food markets such as the Hakatere Noodle Festival.
4. Following the September 2024 Market Day, Council received a deputation from a group of CBD retailers expressing concerns about the effect of road closures on customer access and daily business operations. In response to an information paper in December 2024, staff were directed to investigate and provide options around the use of East Street for events.
5. To support this, two key pieces of engagement were undertaken:
  - A CBD Business Survey, conducted in February 2025, which received 25 responses from retailers, business owners and operators. A copy of the questionnaire is attached to this report as **Appendix two.**
  - A one-on-one interview with the organiser of Market Day, held in March 2025 to explore operational challenges, impacts, and future event needs from the organiser's perspective.
6. The CBD Business Survey found:
  - 68% of respondents believe events in the CBD have a *positive impact*, such as increasing community spirit and bringing visitors into town.
  - However, 83% flagged *loss of turnover* as a key issue to consider when approving road closures, and 59% supported the development of Event Management Guidelines as their preferred approach.

- Open-ended responses highlighted the importance of timing (e.g. holding events after-hours or on Sundays) and better communication with retailers.
7. Insights from the Market Day organiser provided further context. Market Day is the only remaining event that applies for a closure of East Street South and has operated for over 40 years. The organiser described the event as a signature day for the town, drawing both local and out-of-town visitors, with roughly half of attendees coming from outside the district. While acknowledging the disruption to some retailers, it was also suggested that Market Day boosts economic activity for participating stallholders, local food vendors, and surrounding services such as hospitality and accommodation. The organiser expressed openness to adjustments in event location, timing, and engagement with businesses—provided Council supports a clear, consistent framework and continued access to the CBD as a viable event space.
  8. It is noted that Council's town centre pedestrian counters showed a significant increase in foot traffic on Boulevard Day 2024, with approximately 600 individual counts compared to an average of between 200 and 300 on the Mondays before and after.
  9. Taken together, the survey and organiser insights reinforce the need for a more structured approach to managing events that require road closures of East Street South. The community values events, but there is a clear call for better coordination, communication, and balancing of business and community needs.
  10. Staff also considered a number of options in relation to the matter, these included differentiation of types of events and what parts of a road closure were most significant.
  11. It was clear that having events in the town centre generally were supported, both from feedback and from previous experience shown by public attendance of similar events. Feedback from the survey undertaken and appended to this report showed that concerns primarily related to conflict between businesses and the road closure associated with events as well as the event itself.
  12. Officers also considered trying to differentiate community and commercial events, however often events will have elements of both and a robust separation was difficult to resolve.

## Options analysis

13. While the survey indicated the development of Event Management Guidelines as an option, officers consider that given the problem definition is the impact on business from the timing and disruption of events, that the guidelines will not address the problem.
14. With this in mind, the following options have been developed for Council consideration.

### Option one – Maintain current approach

15. Under this option, Council would retain the current event approval and road closure processes without introducing any new policy or guideline. Events would continue to be assessed individually under the Local Government Act 1974 and associated bylaws. The process would include recent improvements, such as requiring event organisers to conduct a letter drop to affected businesses prior to public notification.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <p>Retains existing flexibility for organisers and minimal administrative burden for Council.</p> <p>Ensures compliance with statutory processes.</p> <p>Improved communication methods already in place may help reduce stakeholder complaints.</p>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <p>Does not provide any clarification or revision to current systems and processes.</p> <p>Does not directly respond to concerns raised by retailers or provide event organisers with clearer expectations.</p> <p>Does not encourage event applicants to consider other areas which might be more suitable for events.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>Perception that Council has not acted on community and business feedback.</p> <p>Possible repeat of past issues where retailers feel uninformed or excluded, this risk is considered to have been lowered given the improvements made to systems.</p>	

### Option two – Escalation to Council for all Central Business District Events that would require a road closure

16. All applications for road closures on East Street South would be referred to Council for a decision. Officers would prepare a paper that considers the impacts on traffic disruption and impacts on the potentially affected businesses operating in the CBD with a recommendation as to whether to approve or decline the road closure.
17. This process would need to occur every time an event is considered. Recent history has been that this occurs only once a year, specifically for the Market Day event. This path would raise an additional level of complexity, for example if an objection to the road closure occurred after Council approved the event.

18. There is another protocol already in place for motorsport events closing public roads. As a requirement of the Land Transport Act 1998, Councillors are required to sign off all events. However, extending this to CBD closures would add additional administration to the current process, particularly if no objections were received.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <p>Council retains control of the events taking place in the CBD.</p> <p>More certainty for local businesses and event organisers.</p>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <p>Each decision would require a report from Officers.</p> <p>Increased cost of doing business for event organisers and local businesses.</p> <p>May not solve the problem that local businesses are articulating, rather deferring the issue to a later date.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>If more events come forward in the future with road closure requests in the CBD this could become onerous.</p>	

### **Option three – Limiting events in East Street South to outside business hours (Sunday only).**

19. This option would allow all street closure events to continue but would restrict them to evenings and weekends when effects on town centre business would be reduced.
20. This would substantially reduce the conflict between business and the event.

<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <p>Reduces conflict between business and road closure events.</p> <p>Encourages event applicants to consider other areas which might be more suitable for events.</p>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <p>Removes discretion for decision making around events which might otherwise be acceptable.</p> <p>Reduction in foot traffic and vitality in the CBD generated by events.</p> <p>Issues could reemerge if weekend or night time trading becomes more popular.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>Possible negative public reaction to removing long-standing traditions like the annual Market Day on East Street South occurring during a week day although this would be lowered if an alternative location was available</p>	

#### Option Four – No events in the Central Business District

21. This option would prohibit all events on East Street South that require road closures, regardless of their type. This ban would apply uniformly to ensure that normal business operations in the CBD are not affected by interruptions to traffic and pedestrian flows.
22. All future events such as Market Day, Waitangi on East, and the Santa Parade—would be required to relocate to other suitable public venues, noting that many have already done so. Options other than the previously discussed Te Whare Whakatere, include the Ashburton Domain, EA Networks Centre and the A&P Showgrounds. This approach prioritises certainty for retailers and allows Council to promote alternate event precincts within the district.
23. The restriction would not apply to events that do not require road closures, nor would it affect passive public gatherings that comply with normal public space bylaws.

<b>Advantages:</b> Complete clarity and certainty for CBD businesses.  Eliminates the need for complex TMPs or consultation in the CBD area.	<b>Disadvantages:</b> Total prohibition removes discretion for decision making.  Could reduce foot traffic and vitality in the CBD arising from events.  Potentially alienates event organisers and community participants.
<b>Risks:</b> Possible negative public reaction to removing long-standing traditions like the annual Market Day on East Street South although this would be lowered if an alternative location was found.	

#### Option Five – Applications for trade related closures restricted to Sunday and outside of business hours on other days (Recommended option)).

24. This option proposes that road closure activities which involved trading activities food, drink or items for sale and involving caravans, tents or other structures would be prevented from operating on East St south except for Sundays and outside of business hours (8:30am and 5:00pm) Monday to Saturday. This would remove the majority of the conflict with CBD businesses.
25. Trading associated with events is generally associated with the erection of structures, trailers and other buildings which result in reduced access to businesses, competition with established providers and disruption during operation and pack up and pack down. In previous events this has been from early morning until the evening.

26. This option would, allow non trade related closures such as parades which are less disruptive to existing businesses to continue to apply for closures as applicable.
27. An additional control, based upon feedback would be that that the limitation on trade based events would be in force during business hours and would also exempt Sunday when business activity was less.



<p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <p>Provides compromise solution to identified concerns.</p> <p>Encourages businesses to consider other areas which might be more suitable for events.</p> <p>Provides a clear separation of types of event to allow consistent application.</p> <p>Any road closures would likely reduce conflict with business due to being of a shorter duration than currently.</p>	<p><b>Disadvantages:</b></p> <p>Would still allow for road closures in East Street South in certain instances.</p>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>Possible negative public reaction to removing long-standing traditions like the annual Market Day on East Street South although this would be lowered if an alternative location was found.</p>	

## Legal/policy implications

28. The following legislation and Council Bylaws are relevant to this report

### Public Places Bylaw:

29. The purpose of the [Public Places Bylaw](#) is to:
  - ensure Public Places are used in a manner that will not cause obstruction;
  - protect the public from nuisance, and
  - protect, promote and maintain public health and safety

### Trading in Public Places Bylaw:

30. The [Trading in Public Places Bylaw](#) covers trading in public places in order to protect the public from nuisance and to protect, promote and maintain public health and safety. Anyone selling goods, for example, at Market Day, must get the necessary authorisation to do so under this Bylaw.



31. If Council wished to utilise an existing Bylaw to impose controls on East Street South, this could occur through either the Public Places Bylaw or the Trading in Public Places Bylaw if appropriate.

### **Road closure process**

32. A road closure request must follow the process in Schedule 10, clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974

#### *Schedule 10*

*11. The council may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit (including the imposition of a reasonable bond), and after consultation with the Police and the New Zealand Transport Agency, close any road or part of a road to all traffic or any specified type of traffic (including pedestrian traffic)—*

*...(e) for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 31 days in any year for any exhibition, fair, show, market, concert, film-making, race or other sporting event, or public function:*

*provided that no road may be closed for any purpose specified in paragraph (e) if that closure would, in the opinion of the council, be likely to impede traffic unreasonably.*

33. Council's Roading engineers have also noted that event organisers are required to carry out their own due diligence by clearly communicating, consulting, and coordinating with all stakeholders involved. This is a requirement that they need to meet under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

### **Climate change**

34. The recommendations and decisions made by Council will not have any effect on climate change outcomes.

### **Strategic alignment**

35. The recommendation relates to Council's community outcome of a prosperous economy built on innovation, opportunity and high quality infrastructure and a district of great spaces and places because the Market Day and other events add to the vibrancy of our district; however, Council is committed to being business friendly and supporting businesses to be economically sustainable is also key to the district's success.

Wellbeing		Reasons why the recommended outcome has an effect on this wellbeing
Economic	✓	When a commercial event is held year on year, it can be assumed it is profitable to do so for the event owner and stallholders. However, some retailers have commented that events have a detrimental impact on their businesses which can take a long period to recover from. However, there is also potential benefit arising from increased activity in the town centre and for those participating in events.
Environmental	✗	
Cultural	✗	
Social	✓	Residents and visitors are positive about the events on East Street.

## Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Should the recommended option be adopted, staff would review existing documents, identify changes and include them in business as usual workstreams.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	N/A
Where is the funding coming from?	N/A
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Erin Register; Finance Manager.

36. This decision relates to the use of Council space and does not require any additional budget from Council to administer the decisions made. The existing event support that the Council provides to community event organisers is covered within the Economic Development budget and will not be impacted by this decision. Any changes to policy documents or bylaws would be undertaken through business as usual workflows.

## Significance and engagement assessment

37. This matter is considered low significance overall. Elements in the significance criteria are high and Council may wish to consider the impact on the community and their views around events in the CBD.

38. The Central Business District retailers making the deputation clearly feel impacted by the current events in the CBD, and a survey has been undertaken however there may be others in the wider community who have other views.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Rationale for selecting level of significance	The proposal affects a small area of the Ashburton CBD and relates only to certain activities which occur infrequently. The matter has low impact on budgets or the lives of the community generally.
Level of engagement selected	Inform
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The recommended option affects a small number of parties who would have to go through an application process. Some engagement has occurred with affected parties, but wider community engagement is not required
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low; Strategy and Policy Manager

## Next steps

37. If the recommended resolution is adopted, staff will take it into consideration when assessing applications in East Street South for future applications and will add appropriate changes to relevant bylaws, policies or other documents into workflows.

## Appendix 1 – Aerial view of impacted area



*Yellow dotted line represents the area referred to as “East Street South” in this report.*

## Appendix 2 – Survey Questions

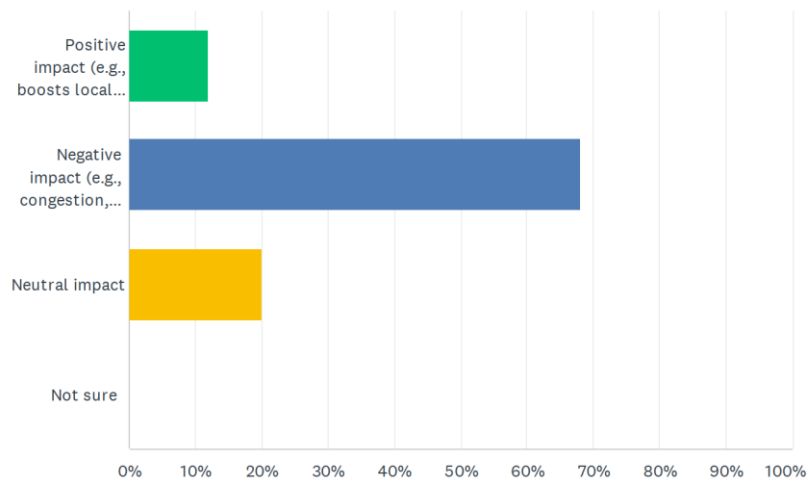
The following is a summary of questions relating to CBD events asked of participants, more detail of response options and responses received are contained in Appendix 3:

- 1) In your opinion, what is the current impact of events in the Ashburton CBD?
- 2) What factors do you believe should be considered when deciding to approve events in the Ashburton CBD?
- 3) Ashburton District Council are considering four options for events taking place in Ashburton CBD. Please indicate your preferred option.
- 4) Are there any other suggestions or concerns you would like to share regarding events in the Ashburton CBD? (Free text).

### Appendix 3 – Survey Results: Event Road Closure in the Ashburton CBD

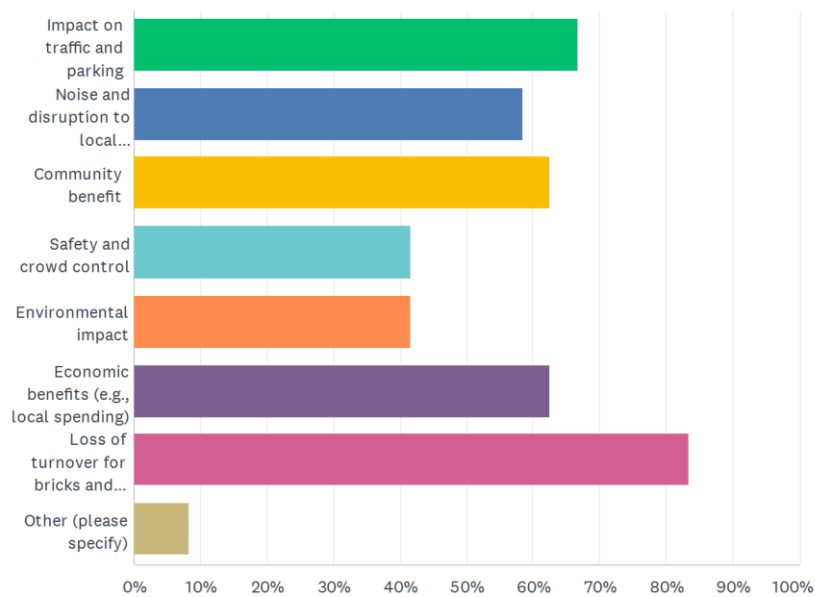
Q1 In your opinion, what is the current impact of events in the Ashburton CBD? (select one)

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



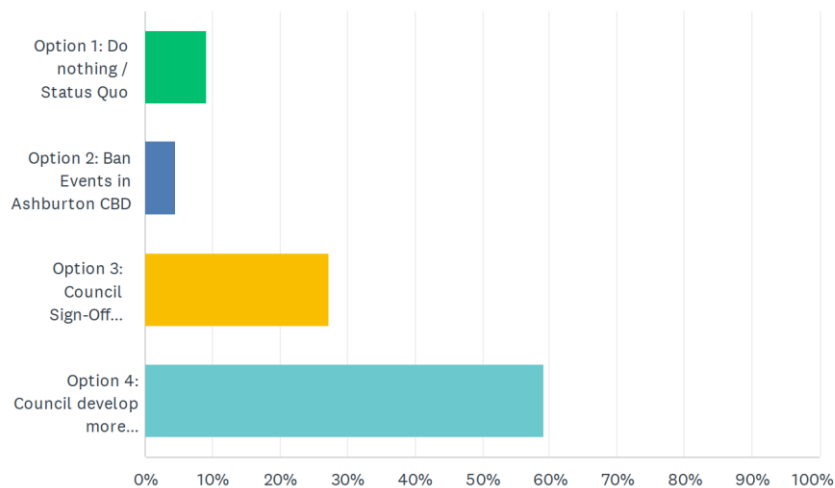
Q2 What factors do you believe should be considered when deciding to approve events in the Ashburton CBD? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 24 Skipped: 1



**Q3 Ashburton District Council are considering four options for events taking place in Ashburton CBD. Please indicate your preferred option below:**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 3



**Q4 Are there any other suggestions or concerns you would like to share regarding events in the Ashburton CBD?**

Answered: 9 Skipped: 16

This was a free text question and answers are summarised as:

- 39. Make it easier for community groups to apply
- 40. Noted that there are other locations for events that don't require the closure of the Main Street of the CBD.
- 41. Events not disrupting access by vehicle or foot traffic or outside normal business hours would be ok.
- 42. Suggestion of after hours or particularly Sunday like other towns.
- 43. Want events but arranged so business doesn't suffer and make it hard for customers to reach them.

44. Events should only be approved if not impacting options in question 3. More than happy for events to take place out of regular trading hours or closing the road for a time period i.e. 1-2 hours for a quick parade.
45. Parking needs to be monitored having had experience of cars parked on-street all day.
46. Council develop more comprehensive event management guideline in conjunction with CDB retailers.



## 10. Mayor's Report

### 10.1 Local Government New Zealand – Annual General Meeting

LGNZ's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting is being held on Wednesday 16 July at Te Pae, Christchurch

#### Recommendation

**That** the Mayor be authorised to vote on behalf of Council at the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting on 16 July 2025, and (in the Mayor's absence) the Deputy Mayor be the alternate presiding delegate.

### 10.2 Road Network Maintenance and Operations Contract

At the 6 June Council meeting it was agreed to appoint two Council Members to observe the tender evaluation process of the Road Network Maintenance and Operations contract.

The role of the nominated Councillors will be to observe the process to gain a better understanding of the key issues, the quality and capability of the proposers and the rigour / robustness of the evaluation and selection process.

They will need to be available to attend meetings and presentations on 14 and 15 August (both full days).

#### Recommendation

**That** Council appoints Councillors ..... and ..... to observe the tender evaluation process for the Road Network Maintenance and Operations contract.

### 10.3 Meetings

#### • Mayoral calendar

#### May 2025

- 22 May: Tim Barnett and Alister Wing, Mid South Canterbury Community Trust with CE Hamish Riach
- 22 May: Ed Tapp, FarmRight with CE Hamish Riach
- 23 May: Simon Coleman, Ashburton College with CE Hamish Riach
- 23 May: Leeann Watson and Tait Dench, CECC with CE Hamish Riach

- 23 May: Paul O'Hara, Deputy Ambassador – Embassy of Ireland with Crs Liz McMillan and Tony Todd
- 23 May: Janine Bowden and Vicki Walker, NZ Police with Cr Liz McMillan and CE Hamish Riach
- 26 May: Methven Community Board
- 26 May: Advance Ashburton
- 26 May: Airport User Group
- 27 May: Water Zone committee
- 27 May: LGNZ DIA release of Council Metrics (via MS Teams)
- 27 May: Zonta Club changeover dinner
- 28 May: Activity Briefings
- 28 May: Friendship Lane Elderly Persons Housing site blessing
- 29/30 May: Canterbury Mayoral Forum, Kaikoura with CE Hamish Riach

### June 2025

- 4 June: East Street bus shelter handover from Pakake Lions
- 4 June: Council meeting
- 5 June: Rebecca Whillans, Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited with CE Hamish Riach
- 7 June: New Zealand Indoor Bowls nation championships opening
- 9 June: John Sunckell, Environment Canterbury with Cr Liz McMillan and CE Hamish Riach
- 11 June: Ministry of Social Development, Ashburton office site visit with Cr Liz McMillan
- 11 June: RMA National direction workshop
- 11 June: Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Board meeting with CE Hamish Riach
- 13 June: Ministry of Social Development catch up with CE Hamish Riach
- 13 June: Hekeao Hinds Enhancement Trust
- 17 June: Hokonui radio interview
- 17 June: Tony McCormick, RDR with CE Hamish Riach
- 18 June: Citizenship Ceremony
- 18 June: Council meeting

### Recommendation

<p><b>That</b> Council receives the Mayor's report.</p>
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Neil Brown  
**Mayor**