

Methven Community Board

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting

The meeting of the **Methven Community Board** will be held on:

Date: Monday 26 May 2025
Time: 9.00am
Venue: Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room
Main Street
Methven

Membership

- Kelvin Holmes (Chair)
- Richie Owen (Deputy Chair)
- Megan Fitzgerald
- Robin Jenkinson
- Allan Lock

Council appointees

- Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan
- Councillor Rob Mackle

Methven Community Board

Time	Item
9am	Meeting commences

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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.

Confirmation of Minutes

4	Methven Community Board – 14/04/25	3
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Matters for decision

5	Methven Community Strategic Plan	5
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Activity Reports

6.1	Infrastructure & Open Spaces	48
6.2	Democracy & Engagement	51
6.3	Compliance & Development	53
6.4	Business Support	54

Business transacted with the public excluded

7	Birdsong Initiative Trust	Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	PE 1
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4. *Methven Community Board – 14/04/2025*

Minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025, commencing at 9.00 am, in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board Room, 160 Main Street, Methven.

Present

Kelvin Holmes (Chair), Megan Fitzgerald, Allan Lock, Richie Owen, Robin Jenkinson and Liz McMillan.

In attendance

Ian Hyde (GM Compliance & Development) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown and Councillor Rob Mackle Sustained

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Methven Community Board meeting held on 10 March 2025, be taken as read and confirmed.

Fitzgerald/McMillan Carried

Matters arising

Nil.

5 Discretionary Grant Request – Mt Hutt College

That the Methven Community Board allocates \$3,820 from its discretionary grant to the Mt Hutt College for its education tourism campaign to attract international students.

Jenkinson/Fitzgerald Carried

6 Discretionary Grant Request – Methven Primary School

That the Methven Community Board allocates \$1,800 from its discretionary grant to the Methven Primary School to purchase Wonder Dash Bots

McMillan/Holmes Carried

7 Activity Reports

That the reports be received.

Fitzgerald/Lock Carried

7.2 Democracy & Engagement

- **Local Water Done Well**

The Chair is to prepare a submission, on behalf of the Methven Community Board, on the Council's consultation to support the proposed option 1 (stand-alone business unit).

- **MCB Grants & Funding**

A request was made for the accountability reports from recipients of funds from the Discretionary fund to be provided to the MCB members.

2022/23 Recipients

Methven Lions Club received for Skills Park Maintenance (not upgrade as reported).

2024/25 Recipients

Mt Hutt Bike Park received funding of \$3,000 to engage a professional photographer and videographer for the SI Secondary Schools Mountain biking champs 2025 and to undertake promotion photos of Methven (not included in grants summary list).

Business transacted with the public excluded – 9.57am

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	MCB Minutes 10/03/25 - Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Lock/Owen

Carried

There being no resolutions passed the Board resumed in open meeting and concluded at 10.04am.

Confirmed 26 May 2025

Chairman

5. Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 – Adoption Report

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

The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek confirmation that the amendments made to the draft Methven Community Strategic Plan, reflect those decided by the Methven Community Board during deliberations on 28th April 2025.
- Seek adoption of final Methven Community Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

1. That the Methven Community Board adopts the final Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 as attached (Appendix 1).

Appendix 1: Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025 (final)

Appendix 2: Summary of changes

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).

Plan Development

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. There are four strategic goals that the objectives and actions relate to;
 - 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

Community Engagement

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Following engagement, the plan was drafted based on feedback received from the community.
9. Once drafted, the Board initiated public consultation on the draft plan from 10 March – 6 April 2025.
10. [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.
11. Feedback was also sought at the Methven A&P show on the 15 March, where approximately 80 people engaged with the activity run by members of the board.

Hearings and Deliberations

12. 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.
13. Following the hearing, the Board deliberated on the feedback received to decide on the content of the final plan.
14. To support deliberations, a presentation was prepared by Council officers which highlighted key themes in the feedback received, these were supported with recommended amendments to the draft plan.
15. 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.

The current situation

16. 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 as detailed below.

Additional Aspirations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methven is resilient to weather/natural hazard events• Methven has well-established relationship with takata whenua	
Additional Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support initiatives that build resilience and reduce risk associated with weather/natural hazard events• Advocate for more business zoning to increase commercial activity• Grow a strong relationship with takata whenua• Advocate for improved pedestrian accessibility across the township	
Additional Actions	
Relevant objective	Additional Action
Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for disabled accessibility to existing and new walkways and cycleways• Work with RDRML to consider further development of cycling and walking activities along the RDR
Objective 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate surface treatment options for pavers in CBD area• MCB to submit to Council's future plans (Annual Plan/LTP) for potential maintenance/improvements• Work with ADC to identify additional disability parking spaces around the township• Advocate for existing kerbs be more disabled accessible
Objective 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for strengthened stormwater drainage system to mitigate flood risk
Objective 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for businesses to enhance disabled accessibility wherever possible
Objective 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit to Council on next district plan review

Objective 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with RDRML to support activities/events highlighting RDR's rich heritage
Objective 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with takata whenua on issues of significance to Methven
Objective 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to improve accessibility across commercial and community locations • MCB to submit to Councils future plans (annual plan / LTP) to install a crossing on Methven Chertsey Road and Forest Drive • Continue to advocate to NZTA to install a crossing on SH 77 • Work with Methven Care Trust and ADC to assess safe crossing options, possibility of no parking spaces and loading zone at Methven Central

17. The new aspirations, objectives and actions were added based on the feedback received during consultation of the draft plan.
18. The Board also amended wording of existing objectives and actions in the plan, details of which can be found in appendix 2.
19. Based on the feedback from RDRML at the submission workshop and subsequent changes made to this objective, officers are proposing to delete action 3 "promote kayaking as another recreational activity in Methven" from objective two in the plan.

Options analysis

Option one – Approve the proposed changes to the plan as directed by the board and adopt the final Methven Community Strategic Plan (recommended option)

20. Under this option, the board approves the final plan including changes made following submissions workshop and deliberations.
21. Staff recommend approving changes and adopting the plan as shown in Appendix 1. This includes all amendments agreed upon during deliberations, as outlined in Appendix 2.

<p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final plan will reflect the feedback received through both phases of consultation. • The Board and Methven community will have a strategic plan to implement over the next 10 years. 	<p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all feedback received was able to be included in the final plan.
<p><i>Risks:</i></p> <p>Not all community members may agree with the proposed changes.</p>	

Option two – Make further changes in the plan before final adoption of the Methven Community Strategic Plan

22. Under this option, The Board can choose to make further changes to the plan before approving it.

<p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further changes may prove to be useful for the plan. 	<p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the nature of changes, incorporation into the plan could need further investigation meaning additional time and resources will be required. • Making further changes could potentially undermine the public consultation to date.
<p><i>Risks:</i></p> <p>Reputational risk for the Board by making changes that do not reflect the feedback received by the community.</p>	

Option three – Do not adopt the Methven Community Strategic Plan

23. Under this option, the Board can decide not to adopt the final Methven Community Strategic Plan.

<p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	<p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not adopting final plan could undermine public engagement efforts to date. • Methven will have not strategic resource to guide community growth and development over the next 10 years. • The \$20,000 allocated to the project will be lost with no community benefit.
<p><i>Risks:</i></p> <p>High reputational risk for the Board, not adopting the plan may undermine the Community Boards relationship with the Methven community and Council.</p>	

Next Steps

24. After the adoption of Methven Community Strategic Plan, officers recommend following next steps regarding endorsement and implementation of the plan.
- a) Endorsement by Ashburton District Council: Officers recommend Methven Community Board present the final plan to the Council during 18 June 2025 meeting. Officers are of view that ADC is a key stakeholder in various actions, therefore Council's endorsement of the plan is essential for fulfilling relevant actions.
 - b) Initiate implementation Phase: Once adopted, begin implementation of the plan. The following are potential steps to enable plan implementation;
 - Identify ongoing and short-term (1 - 3 years) objectives and actions to be achieved in first three years.
 - Develop a work programme that outlines deliverables, timelines, and assign objectives and associated actions among Methven Community Board members.

- Incorporate regular progress updates in the Boards's agenda to track implementation. These updates can happen every second board meeting (three-month cycle) to review progress and make necessary adjustments.
- c) Project team handover workshop: As part of the handover process, the Board may wish to have a workshop with the Council staff to discuss an implementation roadmap outlining roles, expectations, key milestones.
- d) Introducing the Plan to the new Board: Following the election, in October 2025, the Board may consider presenting the Methven Community Strategic Plan to the newly elected Board, highlighting both ongoing initiatives and upcoming priority areas for the future.

Legal/policy implications

Policy requirements

25. Council's Long-Term Plan is the primary document that highlights any future development and programmes in the Ashburton District, including Methven.
26. 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

27. The Methven Strategic Community 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?	No –as long as the cost does not exceed the budget provision. Any future budget associated with actions in the plan will be considered as part of Council's planning process (annual plans or LTP)
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 of the Board's decision, and the final plan will be made publicly available following adoption. Submitters will receive a response to their submission. The Plan has had two rounds of consultation, including early engagement and consultation on the draft plan
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Mark Low, Strategy and Policy Manager

Draft 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.

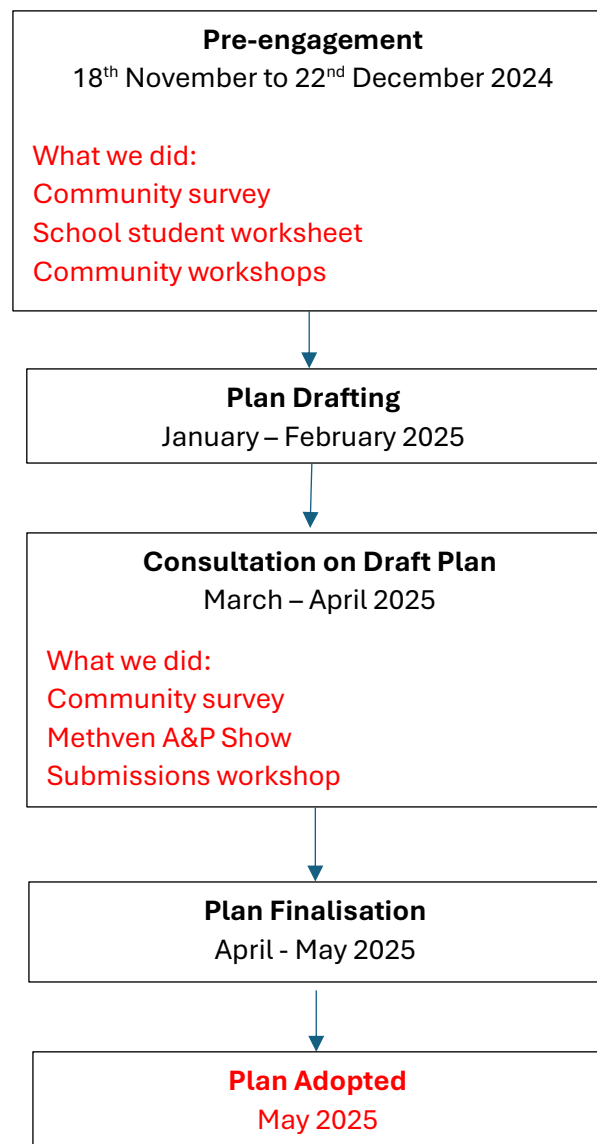
How we developed this Plan

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 Māori, disenfranchising them from the land they once occupied.

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–~~Rakaia~~ 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

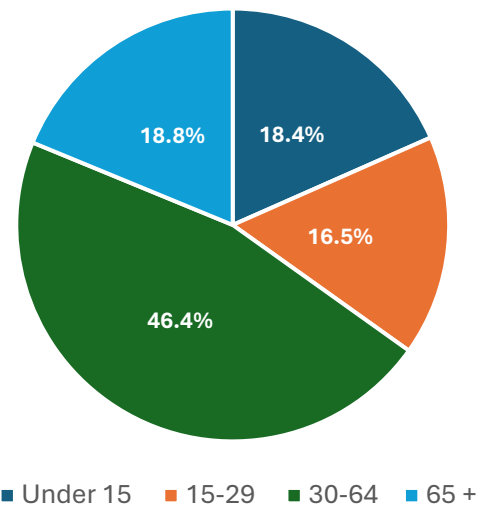
Population

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 Zealand¹

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

¹ Stats NZ, Places and ethnic group summaries tool, 2023 census

Workforce and income

1,197 residents over 15 are in the workforce

80% are paid employees while the other **20%** are either an employer or self employed

57.1% are working full time

Average working week in Methven is 38.7 hours

The median total personal income in Methven is **\$45,600**

Housing

There are **954** private dwellings in Methven. **71.3%** of residents own, or partly own, their home or hold it in a family trust.

Economy

Methven's GDP	\$120.4m
Total Business Units	303
Total employees	820

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	

² Stats NZ, Places and ethnic group summaries tool, 2023 census

³ 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)

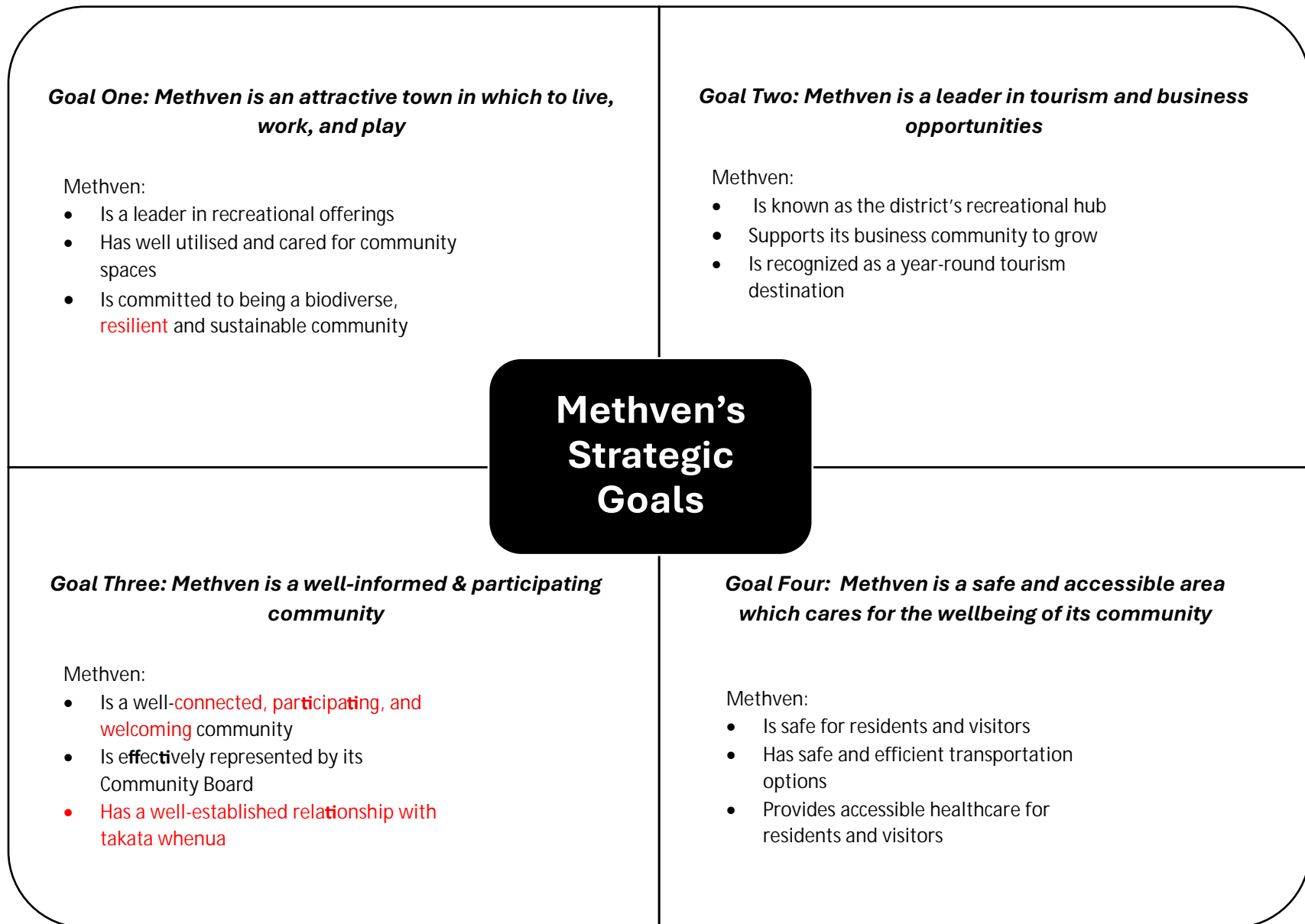
The Council delivers a range of activities within the district, including the Methven area, covering essential services such as water, roading, waste management and the maintenance of parks and open spaces. The following table outlines major projects planned for Methven over the next ten years, in addition 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

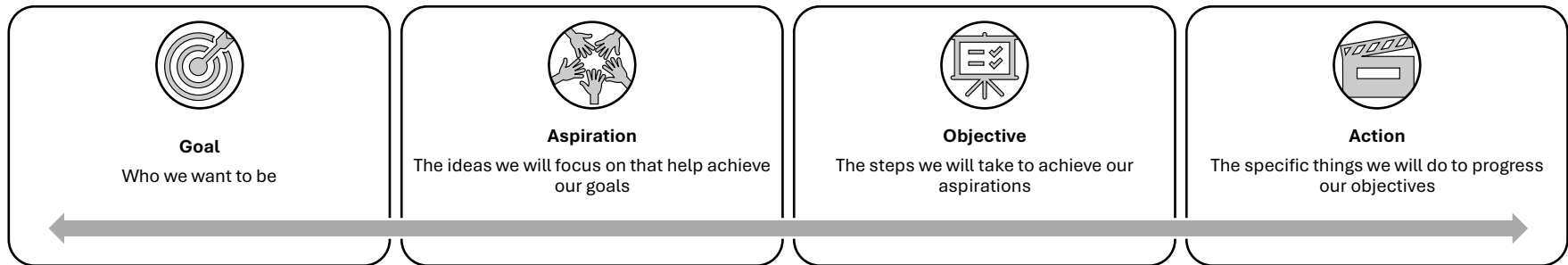
**Methven, a recreational hub where natural beauty and vibrant communities come together. Thrilling tourism to chilled-out vibes are supported by thriving local businesses.
A connected, safe, and accessible community for all.**

Methven's four strategic goals



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

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

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

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes			
				Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
		requirements, maintenance, scope of work • Implement the plan within ten years once developed	• Methven Lions • Kāti Huirapa • ADC (as landowner)				
	10. <i>Improve waste management and minimization practices</i>	• Investigate if there is community need for a central drop off station / community green waste centre • Work with ADC to facilitate community education on waste minimization	• MCB • ADC • Eco Educate	✓			
	11. <i>Support community investment in pest control initiatives</i>	• Support Birdsong's investment in their trapping library • Work with other agencies / community to identify ways to improve pest management • Submit on behalf of the community where new pest control policies are being developed	• MCB • Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust • DOC • ECan • ADC				✓
Methven is resilient to weather/natural hazard events.	12. <i>Support initiatives that build resilience and reduce risk associated with weather/natural hazard events</i>	• Advocate for strengthened stormwater drainage system to mitigate flood risk	• Mid Canterbury Catchment Group • ECan • Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust • ADC • MCB	✓			

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

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

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
Methven is well connected and participating community	19. <i>Support active participation, volunteer partnerships, youth involvement, and community events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue funding and supporting volunteer and community groups base in Methven Running information sessions on available ADC and national grants, and guidance on securing funding Support and endorse funding applications from local organisations. Work with the ADC's events team to educate community on how to arrange community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCB ADC Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury Community groups such as Wellbeing Ōpuke, Birdsong Initiative Trust, Methven Care Trust Lions/Service Clubs Snowfed 		✓		
Methven Community Board effectively provides local representation	20. <i>Ensure Methven's community interests are well represented by the Board</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADC and MCB continue to work closely together towards ensuring that the Methven community is effectively represented. Keep the community informed about the Community Boards activities and ADC expenditure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCB ADC 				✓
Methven has well-established relationship with takata whenua	21. <i>Grow a strong relationship with takata whenua</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with takata whenua on issues of significance to Methven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCB Kāti Huirapa⁴ 				✓
Methven is a well-informed and welcoming community	22. <i>Streamline reliable sources of community-related information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolve the services available at I- Hub to meet the needs of the community and visitors Streamlining existing reliable sources of information Continue to support sessions at I- Hub to assist community with variety of issues like rates rebate application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADC MCB Snowfed Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board 				✓

⁴ 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
		assistance, building inspections , Justice of Peace (JPs) etc.					
	23. <i>Welcome our newcomers by guiding them to reliable community information sources and providing other opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamline ADC's website created under Welcoming Communities program with stronger Methven focus Work with ADC to arrange a Learning Hub for parents Support local groups and schools in their efforts that help newcomers integrate into the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCB ADC – Welcoming Communities team Local groups such as Wellbeing Ōpuke Schools 				✓

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

Other ideas our community were interested in

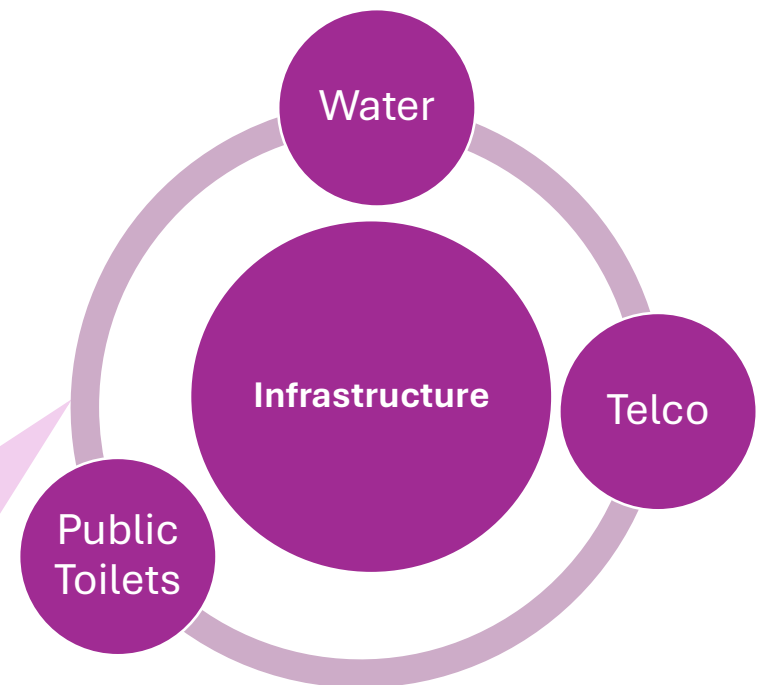
There was a variety of feedback received, both during pre-engagement (November-December 2024) and the draft plan consultation phase (March-April 2025). The Methven Community Board considered all the feedback received and deliberated if, and how, the ideas could be incorporated into the plan.

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.



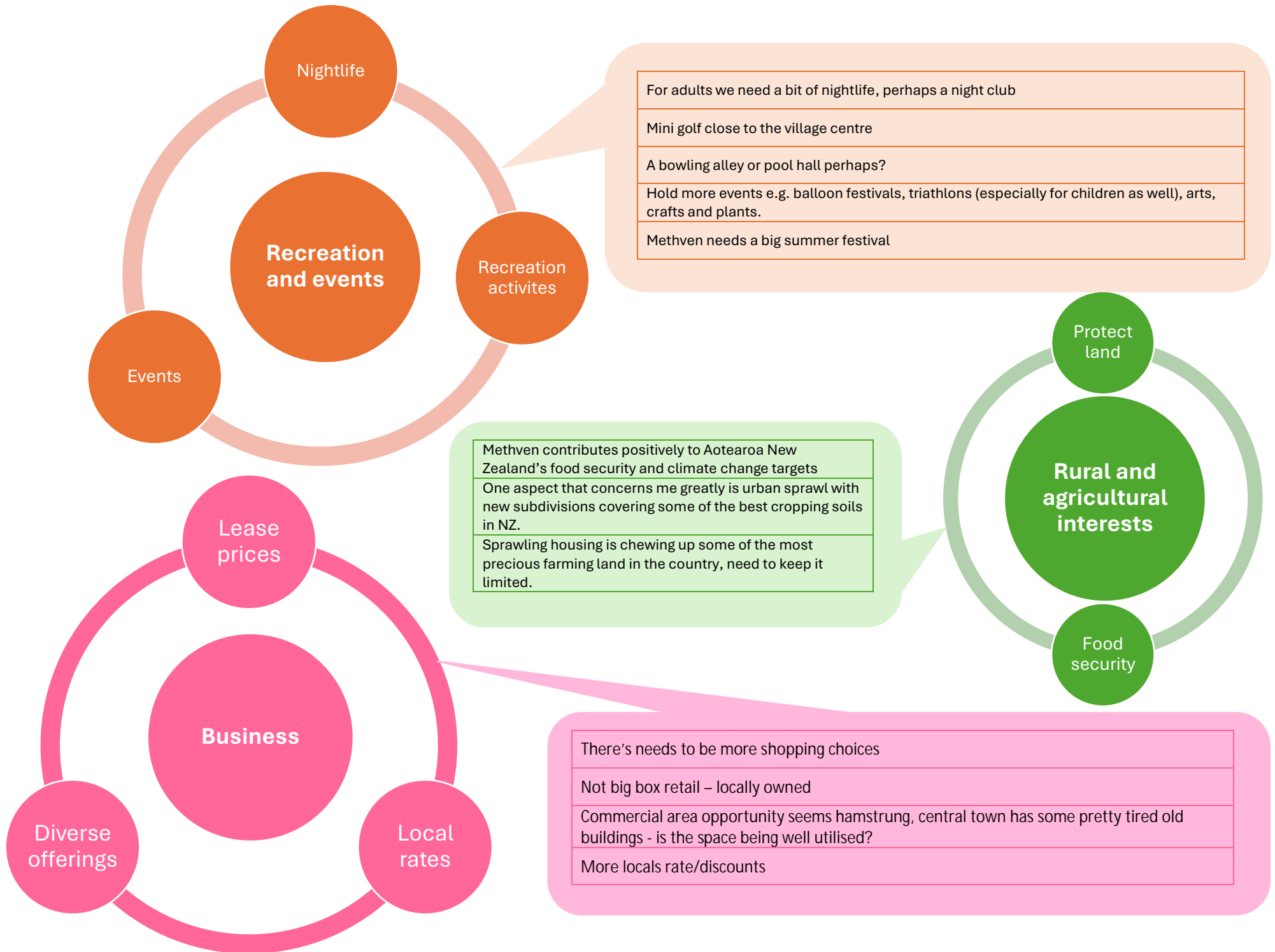
Expand the town boundary and free more areas for development.
There isn't enough accommodation for Mt Hutt staff or visitors on a budget in winter
Methven needs more affordable housing options
Affordable housing- rent control needs to be introduced the rapid change of landlords switching between short 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



Appendix 2: Summary of Changes

Plan Content Changes

New Sections	
Section	Change
Our History	Māori context added
Amended Sections	
Section	Change
Executive Summary	Editorial change
How we developed this plan	Editorial change
Community engagement overview	Added content to reflect draft consultation feedback
LTP	Editorial change
Strategic goals	Editorial change

Action Plan Changes

New to the Action Plan		
Related Goal	Addition	Reason
Goal One	<p>Add new aspiration: "Methven is resilient to weather/natural events"</p> <p>Add new objective 12: "Support initiatives that build resilience and reduce risk associated with weather/natural events"</p> <p>Add two following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ADC and other interested parties to identify flood prone areas • Advocate for strengthened stormwater drainage system to mitigate flood risk <p>Add following as stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Canterbury Catchment Group • ECan • Methven and Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust • ADC • MCB <p>Updated wording in objective 5 from buildings to buildings and surrounds.</p> <p>Updated wording in objective 5 actions from: Maintain the MHMH as an emergency management response hub To: Maintain the MHMH as an Emergency Management Incident Control Point and potential Civil Defence Hub</p>	<p>Added in response to the feedback received from two submitters who expressed concern about the resiliency of flood prone areas in Methven township area.</p> <p>Updated wording to more accurately reflect the use of MHMH during emergency situations.</p>
Goal two	<p>Added new objective 15 'Advocate for more business zoning to increase commercial activity'</p> <p>Add following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to Council on next district plan review <p>Add following as stakeholders:</p>	<p>Added in response to feedback received during pre-engagement and through the draft plan consultation – submitters felt that more</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADC • MCB • Business Owners 	commercial space needed to be developed in Methven.
Goal Three	<p>Add new aspiration: 'Methven has well-established relationship with takata whenua'</p> <p>Update objective 21 wording to: "Grow a strong relationship with takata whenua"</p> <p>Add following action: Engage with takata whenua on issues of significance to Methven Added the following stakeholders: Replace Iwi/AEC with Kāti Huirapa</p>	Added in response to feedback received from Arowhenua Environmental Consultancy.
Amended in Action Plan		
Objective	Change	Reason
Objective 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced kayaking with recreational activities • Removed action "Investigate the potential use of the RDR for recreational activities" • Removed action "Promote kayaking as another recreational activity in Methven" 	To reflect feedback received from RDRML.
Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated wording of first three actions to include the word "support..." <p>Added the following actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for disabled accessibility to existing and new walkways and cycleways • Work with RDRML to consider further development of cycling and walking activities along the RDR • Added RDRML as a stakeholder 	<p>Changes and additions made to better reflect Methven Community Board's role.</p> <p>Additional actions added in response to feedback received during the draft plan consultation.</p>
Objective 4	<p>Updated wording of last action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the MHMH as an Emergency Management Incident Control Point and potential Civil Defence Hub 	
Objective 7	<p>Added the following actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate surface treatment options for pavers in CBD area • MCB to submit to Council's future plans (Annual Plan/LTP) for potential maintenance/improvements • Work with ADC to identify additional disability parking spaces around the township • Advocate for existing kerbs be more disabled accessible 	<p>Additional actions added in response to feedback received throughout pre-engagement and draft plan consultation.</p> <p>Added to strengthen the existing objective.</p>
Objective 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update wording of first action to 'Work with interested groups to identify possible sites for native plantings.' • Update wording of second action to 'Support development of a native restoration program to increase native planting and maintenance over next 10 years' <p>Added the following stakeholder RDRML</p>	Changes made to better reflect Methven Community Board's role.
Objective 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated wording from "make" to "develop" a 10-year plan <p>Added the following stakeholder Methven Lions</p>	Editorial

Objective 14	<p>Add following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for businesses to enhance disabled accessibility wherever possible 	Added in response to feedback received through draft plan consultation.
Objective 18	<p>Add following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with RDRML to support activities/events highlighting RDR's rich heritage <p>Added the following stakeholder RDRML</p>	Added in response to feedback received from RDRML.
Objective 22-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated wording in action one <p>Added the following as a stakeholder Schools</p>	Editorial to reflect current situation
Objective 25	<p>Add following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to improve accessibility across commercial and community locations • MCB to submit to Councils future plans (annual plan / LTP) to install a crossing on Methven Chertsey Road and Forest Drive • Continue to advocate to NZTA to install a crossing on SH 77 • Work with Methven Care Trust and ADC to assess safe crossing options, possibility of no parking spaces and loading zone at Methven Central <p>Add following as stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCB • ADC • NZTA • Local building/business owners • Methven Care Trust 	<p>Added in response to the feedback received throughout pre-engagement and draft plan consultation.</p> <p>Additional actions added to strengthen existing objective.</p>
Objective 26:	Add ECan as stakeholder	To reflect Environment Canterbury's role.
Objective 28:	<p>Update objective 28 wording, replace construction with 'development' recreational activities</p> <p>Added the following stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADC • CAA • FENZ • Methven Reserve Board 	To better reflect the process and include stakeholders who are currently involved in the development of a helipad.

6. Activity Reports

6.1 Infrastructure & Open Spaces

6.1.1 Roading

With the reseals and rehabilitations completed for the year, routine maintenance work (seal repairs, channel cleaning, etc.) is being carried out until the end of the June.

A footpath paver cleaning in the town centre is planned for late May/early June.

The “Pedestrians Give Way” messages on footpaths have been repainted on the six crossings that didn’t previously get painted.

Drainage on Methven Chertsey Road has had some further investigation, with another soak pit to be constructed.

CRM Request	Received	Summary details	Status
CRM1600334/25	08/04/2025	Dolma St – vegetation	No action required
CRM1600343/25	11/04/2025	McPhail Talbot walkway – footpath cleaning	Completed
CRM1600344/25	11/04/2025	Talbot Pl – repainting median island	Work programmed
CRM1600360/25	14/04/2025	Forest Dr – damaged sign	Work programmed
CRM1600382/25	22/04/2025	Methven Chertsey Rd – pothole	Completed
CRM1600379/25	22/04/2025	McMillan St – inadequate drainage	Monitor
CRM1600374/25	22/04/2025	Methven Chertsey Rd – damaged sign	Completed
CRM1600515/25	01/05/2025	Arrowsmith Dr – inadequate drainage	No action required
CRM1600484/25	01/05/2025	Barkers Rd – blocked drainage	Completed
CRM1600566/25	05/05/2025	SH77 – surface detritus	Completed

6.1.2 Methven festive lighting

The Methven Lighting Group is progressing its project for the Methven Central business district and town entrances. The group has had a specialist lighting consultant undertake an assessment of possible options. Staff understand there is an initial draft plan provided to the Methven Lighting Group for its initial feedback and comment. Once this work concludes it will set the scene for further consultation with the MCB and all stakeholder’s before fundraising and implementation endeavours are progressed.

6.1.3 Open Spaces

- **Reserves**

The growthy late summer weather pattern has continued into Autumn however, cooler temperatures have now curtailed growth and accentuated the Autumn leaf tones around the town. This also transpired into autumn cleanup tasks for staff with every wind event now adding to the workflow task-list.

The CBD annual beds have been replanted, and the new plants are settling in well with some colour already evident.

Playground inspections and maintenance continue on a weekly cycle throughout the District. Staff are awaiting delivery of soft fall mulch top-up for the Railway Reserve playground – now that containment boxing amendments are complete.

The Methven CBD lighting project for new in-ground under-tree lighting infrastructure is progressing well. The manager met onsite with the contractor in early May to confirm the globe locations. As soon as a new power source is fitted there will be underground cabling installed to three lights under the Peace Tree (Oak) and one each for the two adjacent Cedar trees. The cabling will be thrust under paths and lawn areas will be hydro-vac trenched. Work is scheduled to commence in May.

Planning staff are still working with Commercial Property and consultants relating to the Garden of Harmony / Methven Birdsong Initiative project.

New hedge plants in front of the Methven dog park have been planted and shade cloth has been installed along the entire front southern boundary. This will afford site users some level of protection from the weather while the hedge line grows.

- **Methven Cemetery**

General maintenance continues at the cemetery. Mowing activities are now declining. The planted bunds and cemetery berm edges have again been re-sprayed for weeds.

The installation of a new 40 plot cremation berm at Methven Cemetery is underway.

Planning and works are underway to extend the Eastern bund at the Methven Chertsey Road end.

Staff organised a Department of Corrections team to work in the Cemetery moving mulch and at Camrose subdivision cleaning up a retention pond planting.

- **Public toilets**

These are functioning well with no recent issues.

CRM Request	Received	Summary details	Status
CRM0200012/25	12/05/2025 09:33	A grave has slumped after recent rains	12/5/2025 - We are aware and hope to have topped up by end of the week. There are many similar due to recent rain event. Sextons topped up 13/05/2025. DD
CRM1200056/25	02/04/2025 11:33	Methven dog park - Large gate has no padlock on it, when they should have as this is restricted access area	Rang resident and said that we have contractor mowing, there hasn't been an issue before. RG 2/04/2025

CRM1200067/25	07/05/2025 15:42	There is a piece of playground equipment which the D shackle has come out and the whole thing has broken it is like a see saw type thing that you sit on and rock.	Broken equipment was removed by caller and uplifted by staff from the caller 7/5/2025.
CRM2300063/25	31/03/2025 09:51	Trees overhanging the footpath from Garden of Harmony	Trees will be trimmed by arborist. RG 2/04/2025
CRM2300065/25	03/04/2025 12:47	Tree was cut down in front of property on Colcord Place, stump has sunk and left a hole that needs filled	Staff instructed to fill with soil 7/04/2025 RG
CRM3200011/25	06/05/2025 08:17	Leaf blower has been left behind near the Mount Hutt College. The caller thinks it may belong to council or ACL for those who take care of the gardens around the area	Staff in Methven were notified of blower. RG 7/05/2025 Not ADC's.

6.1.4 Three Waters

CRM Request	Received	Summary details	Status
CRM100503/25	01/04/2025	Leak/Burst pipe	Past
CRM100523/25	07/04/2025	Leak/Burst pipe - Footpath/Toby	Past
CRM100596/25	29/04/2025	Reported that there is something wrong with his water. The milk i curdled but his milk wasn't expired.	Current
CRM200036/25	30/04/2025	Blockage & Overflow	Past
CRM500021/25	24/04/2025	Water - Low Pressure	Past

6.1.5 Solid Waste Management and Collection

CRM Request	Received	Summary Details	Status
CRM3900630/25	02/04/2025	Yellow Bin - Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900631/25	02/04/2025	Yellow Bin - Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900652/25	07/04/2025	Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900655/25	07/04/2025	Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900657/25	07/04/2025	Yellow Bin - TAKEN - Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900658/25	07/04/2025	Yellow Bin - TAKEN - Gross Contamination	Current
CRM3900661/25	07/04/2025	Request new Bin - Both Red and Yellow	Past
CRM3900676/25	09/04/2025	Kerbside Collection-Missing/Replacement Bin Yellow	Past
CRM3900685/25	10/04/2025	Bin Damage - Red Bin	Past
CRM3900747/25	22/04/2025	Request new Bin - Both RED , YELLOW and Green Crate	Current
CRM3900752/25	22/04/2025	Request new Bin - Both Red and Yellow	Current
CRM3900756/25	23/04/2025	Request new Bin - Red, Yellow and Green Crate	Current

CRM3900782/25	28/04/2025	Request new Bin - Red, Yellow and Green Crate	Current
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6.2 Democracy & Engagement

6.2.1 Strategy & Policy updates

- **Annual Plan 2025/26**

Council have completed work on the Draft Annual Plan and Budget 2025/26, with the plan proposing a 7.3% overall increase in Council's rate take. The Plan is going to the 21 May Council meeting for adoption.

- **Methven Community Strategic Plan**

The Board had a hearing/workshop on 28 April where they heard from submitters, considered submissions and agreed changes for the final plan. The plan is on this agenda for adoption.

- **Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy**

A draft strategy was considered by Council at a workshop in late April. The Draft Strategy is going to Council on 21 May for adoption for consultation planned from 26 May to 18 June. Submission hearings are planned for 26 June.

- **Water Races Bylaw**

A draft bylaw was considered by Council at a workshop in late April. No significant changes are required for the bylaw, but a review is required under legislation. The draft bylaw is going to Council on 21 May for adoption for consultation planned from 30 May to 29 June. Submission hearings/deliberations are planned for 13 August.

- **Policy and Strategy Reviews/Development**

Work continues on policy reviews, including the Gambling Venue Policy, Sportsfield and Domain Use Policy and Development Contributions Policy. The Procurement Policy and Library Collections Policy have completed their reviews and been adopted by Council.

Work also continues on the next stage of work for the elderly housing and forestry reviews.

- **Pre-Election Report 2025**

Work continues on preparing the Pre-Election report required prior to every local body election. The report is planned for release by the end of June.

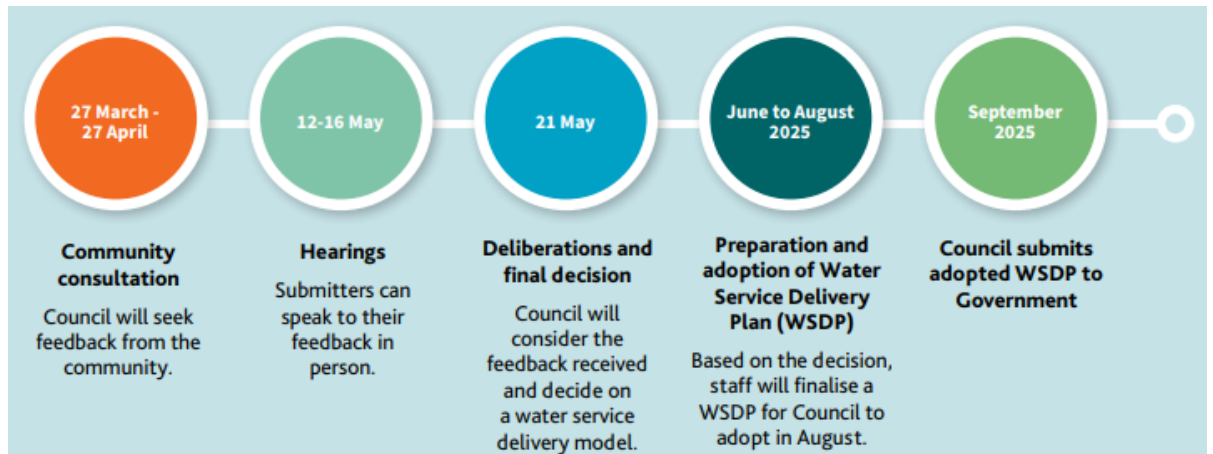
- **Local Water Done Well**

Council consulted on Local Water Done Well from March 27 to April 27. A Consultation Document has been delivered to district households, with two public meetings in Methven and Ashburton and widespread promotion and publicity through radio, online and newspaper advertising.

All information, including background documents (e.g. modelling) can be found at [What's next for our Water?](#)

234 submissions were received, with 88% favouring the Council's proposed option of a stand alone business unit (SABU). Submission hearings and deliberations are planned for Thursday 14 May, with Council to decide on the service delivery approach on May 21.

Timeframes are summarised below:



- **ADC Submissions**

Submissions have been made since the last meeting on:

Organisation	Submission Summary	Type	Due Date	Status
Environment Canterbury	Environment Canterbury Draft River Gravel Management Strategy	Council	22 April	Lodged

6.3 Compliance & Development

6.3.1 Building Services

The table shows 24 consents have been issued, 11 of which have been new housing (last year 37 of the consents were for houses). Methven numbers have slowed slightly since the big start to the year, but we are hearing that work is picking up in the area. No new CRMs were received in this reporting period for the building team.

2024 Consents	Issued	Issued YTD	Value of Work	Value of Work YTD
January	3 (5)	3 (5)	\$1,571,500 (\$1,640,000)	\$1,571,500 (\$1,640,000)
February	3 (4)	6 (9)	\$1,950,000 (\$844,150)	\$3,521,500 (\$2,484,150)
March	4 (6)	10 (15)	\$1,246,000 (\$3,434,700)	\$4,767,500 (\$5,918,850)
April	8 (5)	18 (20)	\$1,932,750 (\$811,982)	\$6,700,250 (\$6,730,832)
May	5 (11)	23 (31)	\$1,911,445 (\$1,655,062)	\$8,611,695 (\$8,385,894)
June	3 (7)	26 (38)	\$111,500 (\$1,780,092)	\$8,723,195 (\$10,165,986)
July	4 (10)	30 (48)	\$895,000 (\$2,332,200)	\$9,618,195 (\$12,498,186)
August	11 (1)	41 (49)	\$7,961,000 (\$1,500,000)	\$17,579,195 (\$13,998,186)
September	7 (6)	48 (55)	\$2,392,000 (\$983,106)	\$19,971,195 (\$14,981,292)
October	2 (2)	50 (57)	\$943,000 (\$1,295,760)	\$20,914,195 (\$16,277,052)
November	9 (3)	59 (60)	\$3,252,000 (\$1,721,884)	\$24,166,195 (\$17,998,936)
December	3 (6)	62 (66)	\$2,550,000 (\$1,438,721)	\$26,716,195 (\$19,437,657)

2025 Consents	Issued	Issued YTD	Value of Work	Value of Work YTD
January	10 (3)	10 (8)	\$3,341,750 (\$1,571,500)	\$3,341,750 (\$1,571,500)
February	3 (3)	13 (6)	\$515,000 (\$1,950,000)	\$3,856,750 (\$3,521,500)
March	6 (4)	19 (10)	\$1,619,000 (\$1,246,000)	\$5,475,750 (\$4,767,500)
April	5 (8)	24 (18)	\$811,000 (\$1,932,000)	\$6,286,750 (\$6,700,250)
May	(5)	(23)	(\$1,911,445)	(\$8,611,695)
June	(3)	(26)	(\$111,500)	(\$8,723,195)
July	(4)	(30)	(\$895,000)	(\$9,618,195)
August	(11)	(41)	(\$7,961,000)	(\$17,579,195)
September	(7)	(48)	(\$2,392,000)	(\$19,971,195)
October	(2)	(50)	(\$943,000)	(\$20,914,195)
November	(9)	(59)	(\$3,252,000)	(\$24,166,195)
December	(3)	(62)	(\$2,550,000)	(\$26,716,195)

Note: figures in brackets are for the corresponding month, the previous year.

6.3.2 Environmental monitoring

CRM Request	Received	Summary details	Status
CRM0100169/25	7/3/25	Wandering Dog	Owner located
CRM0100171/25	8/3/25	Wandering dog	Contractor attended
CRM0100184/25	11/3/25	Lost Dog	Owner located
CRM0100203/25	18/3/25	Barking Dog	Contractor attended
CRM0100277/25	9/4/25	Barking Dog	Contractor attended
CRM1000069/25	16/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000070/25	16/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000072/25	20/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000075/25	26/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor monitoring
CRM1000076/25	26/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000077/25	26/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000079/25	28/3/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM1000090/25	18/4/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor monitoring
CRM1000100/25	25/4/25	Excessive Noise	Contractor attended
CRM2600053/25	15/4/25	Inconsiderate Parking	Staff attended
CRM2300076/25	28/4/25	Overhanging Trees	Staff attended

6.3.3 Economic Development

- **Ashburton District Cycle Trail**

Staff have previously reported on the District Cycle Trail feasibility study. Initial consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders and an initial route study undertaken. The next stage is to seek targeted feedback from landowners.

6.4 Business Support

6.4.1 Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust Project

The Board has been working with the Methven & Foothills Birdsong Initiative Trust to progress this project which aims to increase native birdsong in Methven. A number of steps have been taken towards this aim, including the need to lease land from Council and then enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Trust. Council gave its approval for the Birdsong Concept Plan and for a change of land use to the area known as “Garden of Harmony” from being privately leased to a publicly accessible property.

The relevant parties have been advised of Council’s decision, and the full resolution is now publicly available and attached as **Appendix 1.**

6.4.2 Finance Report

The March and April 2025 income and expenditure reports are attached. **Appendix2**

Hamish Riach
Chief Executive

Appendix 1 Council resolution 16/04/25

Development of Methven for Birdsong Initiative

1. **That** Council agrees to the principle of the change of land use in line with the landscape concept plan (being the **Final Concept Plan** attached at amended Appendix 3) for 59 Main Street, Methven, legally described at Part Lot 2 Deposited Plan 48204 and commonly referred to as the “Garden of Harmony” site, from being a privately leased property to a publicly accessible property, but amends the MCB recommendation to retain the commercial lease with Big River Builders Limited, this lease to be reviewed in 2032.

McMillan/Braam

Carried

2. **That** Council approves the Final Birdsong Initiative Concept Plan for Methven, as shown in Appendix Three (amended to exclude the builder’s yard), and agrees to review this Plan in 2032.

Braam/Cameron

Carried

3. **That** Council leases that part of the property at 59 Main Street, Methven as is shown on the landscape concept plan (being the **Final Concept Plan** attached at amended Appendix 3) to the Methven Community Board and that the lease be generally in accordance with the following terms:

- a) *Term*: 35 years less one day
- b) *Rent*: Nominal
- c) *Permitted Use*: the development of the Premises in accordance with the landscape concept plan prepared by Botanic Landscape Architects to encourage native birdsong in Methven and protect that habitat from pests and predators.
- d) *Special Terms*:
 - a. the Lessee may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Methven and Foothills Birdsong Trust (**Trust**) to set out the role that the Trust will take in developing the Premises in accordance with the landscape concept plan prepared by Botanic Landscape Architects (**Birdsong Initiative**) and how the Lessee and the Trust will work together to maintain the Birdsong Initiative;
 - b. the Lessor may direct changes to the Birdsong Initiative to ensure the Birdsong Initiative does not impede on the Lessor’s primary purpose in holding 59 Main Street, Methven, being stormwater detention.

Braam/McMillan

Carried

Monthly Income and Expenditure Report - 139 - Methven Community Board
For the Month Ended 31 March 2025

	Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Full Year Budget	Remaining Full Year Budget
Income				
Targeted Rates	10,718.97	96,314.05	119,736.96	23,422.91
Total Income	<u>10,718.97</u>	<u>96,314.05</u>	<u>119,736.96</u>	<u>23,422.91</u>
Expenditure				
Salary / Wages	2,067.81	13,773.10	21,661.00	7,887.90
Staff Training	0.00	0.00	999.96	999.96
Allowances	0.00	3,100.00	3,500.04	400.04
Indemnity Insurance	0.00	5,894.69	2,075.04	-3,819.65
Conference Expenses	0.00	153.04	999.96	846.92
Staff Travel Costs	0.00	185.48	500.04	314.56
Subscriptions / Periodicals	0.00	275.00	300.00	25.00
Suppers & Receptions	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Grants	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Sundry Expenditure	0.00	32,694.80	38,315.00	5,620.20
Room Hire	0.00	260.86	0.00	-260.86
Executive Team	1,383.48	11,002.91	12,508.72	1,505.81
People and Capability	328.59	2,921.90	4,233.68	1,311.78
Treasury	135.22	969.26	1,481.45	512.19
Rates	-364.01	-21.56	1,004.12	1,025.68
Business Support	307.07	2,040.93	3,401.01	1,360.08
Communication	1,084.37	7,717.61	10,810.44	3,092.83
Total Expenditure	<u>4,942.53</u>	<u>105,968.02</u>	<u>127,890.46</u>	<u>21,922.44</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>5,776.44</u>	<u>-9,653.97</u>	<u>-8,153.50</u>	<u>1,500.47</u>
Capital Expenditure				
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Movement	<u>5,776.44</u>	<u>-9,653.97</u>	<u>-8,153.50</u>	<u>1,500.47</u>
Cash Reserves				
Separate Reserves	0.00	0.00	8,477.00	
Plus Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-9,653.97		
Less Capital Expenditure		0.00		
Closing Cash Reserves		<u>-9,653.97</u>		

Monthly Income and Expenditure Report - 139 - Methven Community Board
For the Month Ended 30 April 2025

	Month Actual	Year To Date Actual	Full Year Budget	Remaining Full Year Budget
Income				
Targeted Rates	10,718.97	107,033.02	119,736.96	12,703.94
Total Income	<u>10,718.97</u>	<u>107,033.02</u>	<u>119,736.96</u>	<u>12,703.94</u>
Expenditure				
Salary / Wages	1,378.54	15,151.64	21,661.00	6,509.36
Staff Training	0.00	0.00	999.96	999.96
Allowances	0.00	3,100.00	3,500.04	400.04
Indemnity Insurance	0.00	5,894.69	2,075.04	-3,819.65
Conference Expenses	0.00	153.04	999.96	846.92
Staff Travel Costs	0.00	185.48	500.04	314.56
Subscriptions / Periodicals	0.00	275.00	300.00	25.00
Suppers & Receptions	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Grants	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Sundry Expenditure	0.00	32,694.80	38,315.00	5,620.20
Room Hire	359.13	619.99	0.00	-619.99
Executive Team	672.22	11,675.22	12,508.72	833.50
People and Capability	321.19	3,243.14	4,233.68	990.54
Treasury	85.72	1,055.28	1,481.45	426.17
Rates	269.84	248.28	1,004.12	755.84
Business Support	231.85	2,273.17	3,401.01	1,127.84
Communication	926.09	8,646.42	10,810.44	2,164.02
Total Expenditure	<u>4,244.58</u>	<u>110,216.15</u>	<u>127,890.46</u>	<u>17,674.31</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>6,474.39</u>	<u>-3,183.13</u>	<u>-8,153.50</u>	<u>-4,970.37</u>
Capital Expenditure				
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Movement	<u>6,474.39</u>	<u>-3,183.13</u>	<u>-8,153.50</u>	<u>-4,970.37</u>
Cash Reserves				
Separate Reserves	0.00	0.00	8,477.00	
Plus Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-3,183.13		
Less Capital Expenditure		0.00		
Closing Cash Reserves		<u>-3,183.13</u>		

Methven Community Board

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Methven Community Board is to represent the Methven community's interests in Council decision-making in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. The Board's role is as set out in Section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002, to give effect to the purpose of local government in Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Membership

Membership of the Committee comprises:

- Kelvin Holmes (Chair)
- Richie Owen (Deputy Chair)
- Megan Fitzgerald
- Robin Jenkinson
- Allan Lock
- Cr Liz McMillan (Western Ward Councillor)
- Cr Rob Mackle (Western Ward Councillor)

The quorum is four members.

Meeting Frequency

The Methven Community Board will meet on a six (6) weekly cycle, or more frequently on an as-required basis as determined by the Board and Council.

Committee members shall be given not less than 5 working days' notice of meetings.

Meeting and administrative support will be provided by Council's governance and community services staff.

Roles and Function

The Methven Community Board's functions, duties and powers are set by statute as well as delegated by Council. The Board's delegations are as set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (s52) –

- represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community
- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

Delegation

1. Council shall consult with the Board on issues that impact on Methven community's area and allow sufficient time for the Board's comments to be considered before a decision is made.
2. Consider matters referred by Council officers, and Council, including reports relating to the provision of Council services within the Methven Community Board area, and make submissions or recommendations in response to those matters as appropriate.
3. Represent the interests of the Methven Community at Council, committee or subcommittee meetings when a motion under debate relates to a matter that the Board considers being of particular interest to Methven residents.
4. Monitor the Board's budget and approve criteria for, and disbursement of, discretionary funding as approved through the LTP or annual plan.
5. Promote and identify opportunities for Methven to support economic growth.
6. Appoint representatives to the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Board and the Methven Reserve Board.

This will include:

- a) monitoring and keeping Council informed of Methven community aspirations and the level of satisfaction with Council provided services through proactive engagement with residents;
- b) providing input in to Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan, giving a local perspective on the levels of service, expenditure, rate impacts and priorities;
- c) providing input into strategies, policies, bylaws and plans that impact on the Board's area;
- d) providing input into proposed District Plan changes.

Communications

- The Methven Community Board Chair will, on behalf of the Board, undertake to meet regularly with the Mayor and/or Council's Chief Executive (or nominated officer) to provide two-way updates on what the Council and the Board have been and propose to be involved in.
- All information released to the media on behalf of the Methven Community Board shall be through the Chair, or his nominee, with assistance from Council's Communications resources.

Reporting

The Methven Community Board will report to Council.

Adopted

Adopted by Council 29/10/20

[updated Board membership May 2023]

