



# 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



**Kelvin Holmes**  
(Chair)



**Richard Owen**  
(Deputy Chair)



**Allan Lock**



**Megan Fitzgerald**



**Robin Jenkinson**



**Cr Liz McMillan**  
Western Ward



**Cr Rob Mackle**  
Western Ward



The Methven Skate Park was one of the highlights of a previous Methven Community Strategic Plan. It's pictured here on opening day in July 2020.

# Executive Summary

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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.

## Our goals

### Goal One

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 Two

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 Three

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 Four

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 do 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.



Photo by Graham Shaw

## A bit of background





## 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 early 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 Feedback: Early Engagement Phase

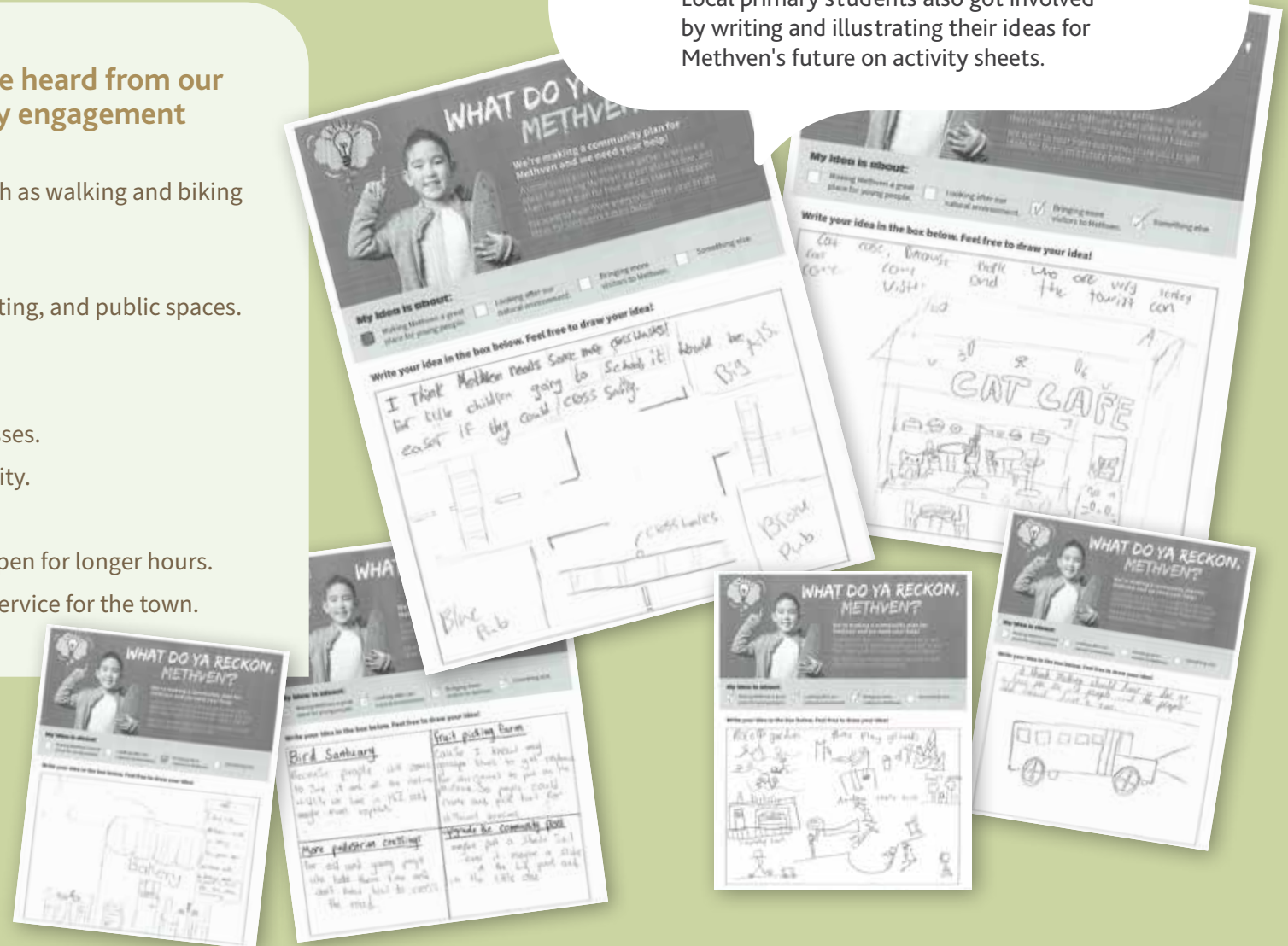
November / December 2024

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.

## What did our young people think?

Local primary students also got involved by writing and illustrating their ideas for Methven's future on activity sheets.





For Methven to be lively all year round, there should be activities that will attract visitors in summer as well as winter.

It is important for people's wellbeing to live in an attractive town. This means tidy buildings in the town centre and plantings to enhance the area but not block out the mountains!

More suitable native trees and shrubs could be planted to entice native birds, in the parks in town and an extension of the Garden of Harmony.

Having more pedestrian crossings especially on the main road and near the pubs would be ideal to increase the safety of our tamariki in Methven.

## WHAT DO YA RECKON, METHVEN?



Let's be welcoming of newcomers - there are a lot of groups for parents, but if you don't have children it is hard to meet people.

Methven needs reliable, scheduled transport to and from Ashburton - to reduce work commuting, and improve access to hospital, shopping and community activities.

# Community Feedback: Draft Consultation Phase

March / April 2025

## 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.

We also visited the Methven A&P show and asked the 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









# 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. This 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 1930s-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 usual 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



The heritage-listed RDR pipe shed was restored this year. The shed was originally built from a giant piece of concrete pipe created for the construction of the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) in the 1930s. It was converted into a storage shed for explosives and remains on its original foundation in its original location on Council land near the Garden of Harmony.

# Our Community

## Population

Usual resident population

# 1,977

1,002



Male

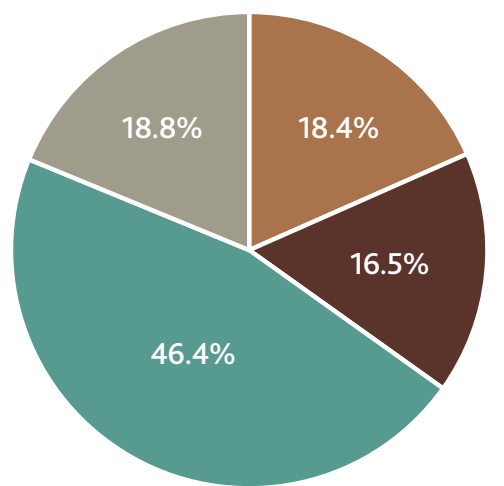
975



Female

Median age

# 39.6



Under 15 15-29 30-64 65 +

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<sup>2</sup>

# 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

<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%

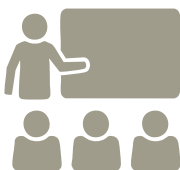


## Education<sup>3</sup>



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

## Workplace 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<sup>4</sup>

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



1. Tourism<sup>5</sup>
2. Healthcare
3. Agriculture

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Education Counts, School Rolls 2024

<sup>4</sup> Informetrics, regional Economic Profile, 2024

<sup>5</sup> 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 table on this page outlines major projects planned for Methven over the next 10 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
Community Group Annual Funding – Methven Pool, MCB discretionary grant, Methven Reserve	
Methven Lighting Project - \$116,000 Capex	
Methven Lighting Project opex of \$5,000 p.a	
Compactor installation - \$ 395,000	Methven Recovery Park site investigation - \$75,000
Methven Plan development - \$20,000	
District Bike Trail investigation - \$25,000	
Drinking water – watermain renewals - \$3.17m	
Water meters - \$80,000	
	Wastewater treatment plant projects Screen replacement - \$300,000
	Wastewater treatment plant projects Aerator renewal - \$182,000
Footpath renewals - \$1.62m	
Methven parks and open spaces projects- \$578,500	



[illegible]



## 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.



## Goal One

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 Two

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

# Methven's four strategic goals

## Goal Three

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 Four

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

# 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.

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:

## Timeframes

- ST Short-term**  
To be achieved within 1-3 years
- MT Medium-term**  
To be achieved within 3-5 years
- LT Long-term**  
To be achieved within 10+ years
- O Ongoing**  
Actions that run for the 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
<b>Methven is a leader in recreational offerings</b>	1. Support the development of youth-based activities	<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>	MT
	2. Diversify outdoor activities by investigating the use of the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR) for recreational activities and possible locations for a disc golf course	<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>	ST
		<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>	ST
	3. Enhance Methven's walkway / cycleway network by focussing on maintaining what we already have and supporting the development of additional tracks	<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>	ST



ST Short-term
 MT Medium-term
 LT Long-term
 O Ongoing

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes
<b>Methven's community spaces are well utilised and cared for</b>	4. Define the future use and purpose of Mt Hutt Memorial Hall	<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>	<span>ST</span>
	5. Improve the appearance of shops, buildings and surrounds in Methven's CBD area	<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>	<span>O</span>
	6. Enhance the appearance of town entrances on SH77	<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>	<span>MT</span>
	7. Ensure community spaces are easily accessible for all	<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>	<span>O</span>

Aspirations	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes
<b>Methven is committed to being a biodiverse and sustainable community</b>	8. Increase native restoration and diversify native plant species throughout Methven	<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>	LT
	9. Future proof investment and maintenance of Birdsong project	<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> <li>• Implement the plan within ten years once developed</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> <li>• ADC (as landowner)</li> </ul>	ST
	10. Improve waste management and minimisation practices	<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 minimisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCB</li> <li>• ADC</li> <li>• Eco Educate</li> </ul>	ST
	11. Support community investment in pest control initiatives	<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>	O
	12. Support initiatives that build resilience and reduce risk associated with weather/natural hazard events	<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>	ST



## 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
<b>Methven is known as the district's recreational hub</b>	13. Develop branding to support the promotion of Methven as a recreational hub	<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>	LT
<b>Methven's business community is supported to grow</b>	14. Support the promotion of Methven's business community	<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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business owners</li> <li>MCB</li> <li>Mid Canterbury Tourism Advisory Group</li> </ul>	ST
	15. Advocate for more business zoning to increase commercial activity	<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>	O
	16. Facilitate collaboration between existing businesses	<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>	ST
<b>Methven is recognised as a year-round tourism destination</b>	17. Promote existing activities / offerings that are unique to Methven	<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> </ul>	ST
	18. Develop destination activities to attract visitors' year round	<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>	LT

## 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	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes
<b>Methven is well connected and participating community</b>	19. Support active participation, volunteer partnerships, youth involvement, and community events	<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>	MT
<b>Methven Community Board effectively provides local representation</b>	20. Ensure Methven's community interests are well represented by the Board	<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>	O
	21. Grow a strong relationship with takata whenua	<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>6</sup></li> </ul>	O
<b>Methven is a well-informed and welcoming community</b>	22. Streamline reliable sources of community-related information	<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>	O






ST Short-term MT Medium-term LT Long-term O Ongoing

<sup>6</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.



## 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	Objectives	Actions	Who could be involved?	Timeframes
<b>Methven is safe for residents and visitors</b>	23. Welcome our newcomers by guiding them to reliable community information sources and providing other opportunities	<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>	
	24. Support community safety through enabling collective efforts of the community and key organisations	<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</li> <li>Advocate to NZTA and ADC for speed management</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. Advocate for improved pedestrian accessibility across town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support efforts to improve accessibility across commercial and community locations</li> <li>MCB to submit to Council's 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. Investigate and support suitable public transport options	<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. Advocate for improved accessibility to healthcare	<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. Support development of a helipad in Methven to enable rapid emergency transfers			

# Other Community Ideas

There was a variety of feedback received, both during early 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.

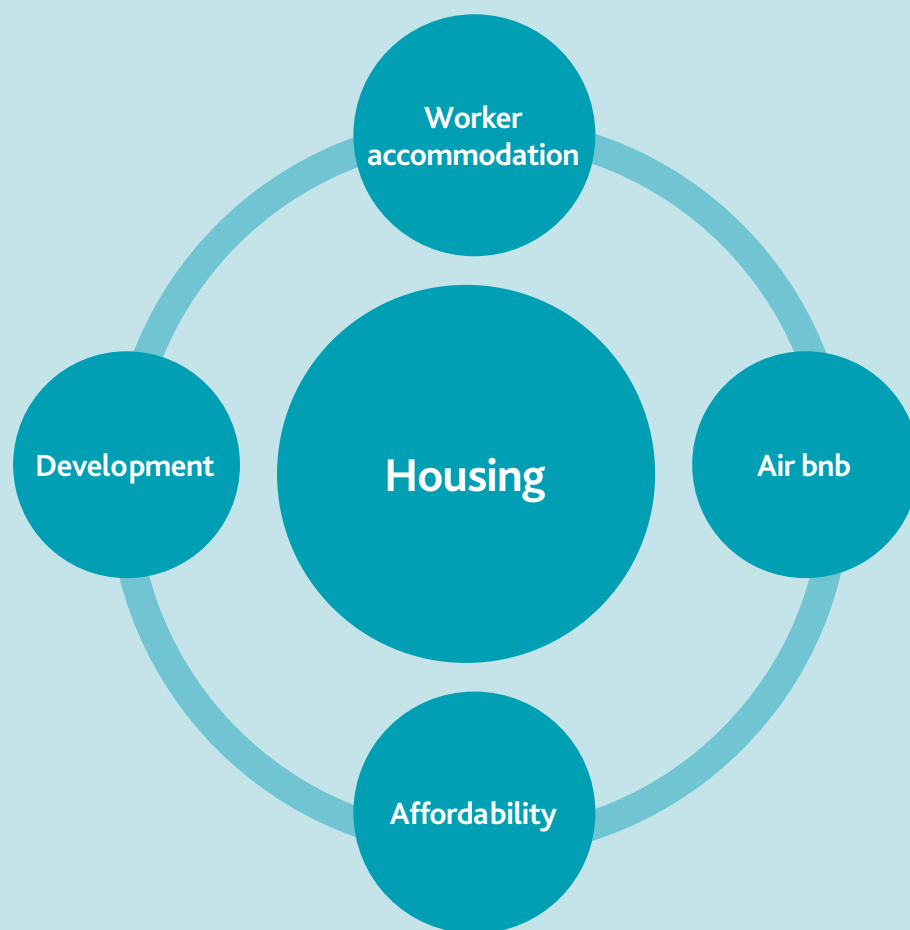




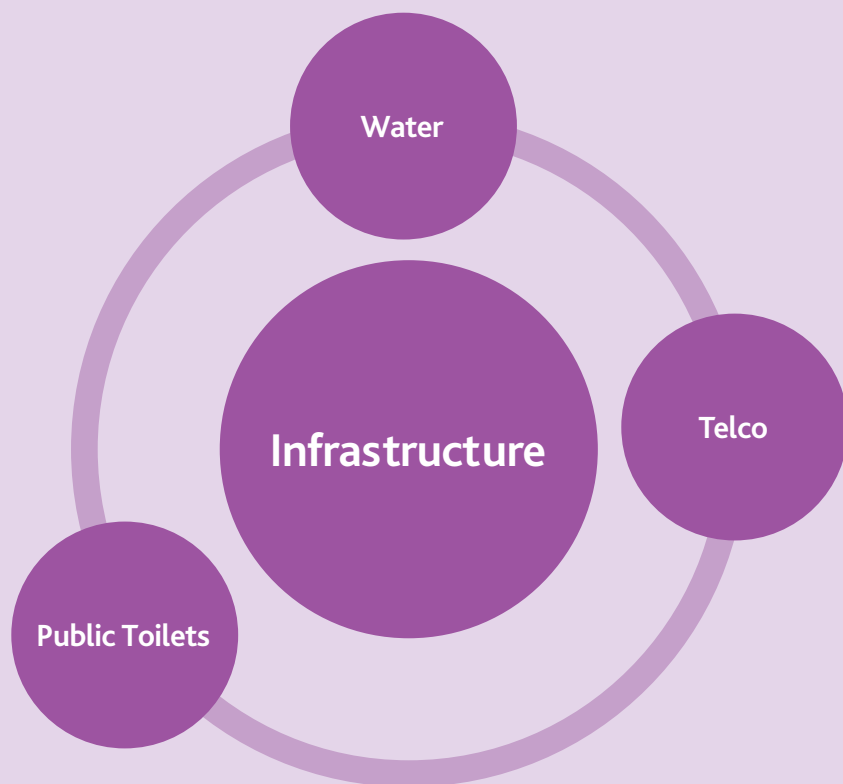




## Other Community Ideas



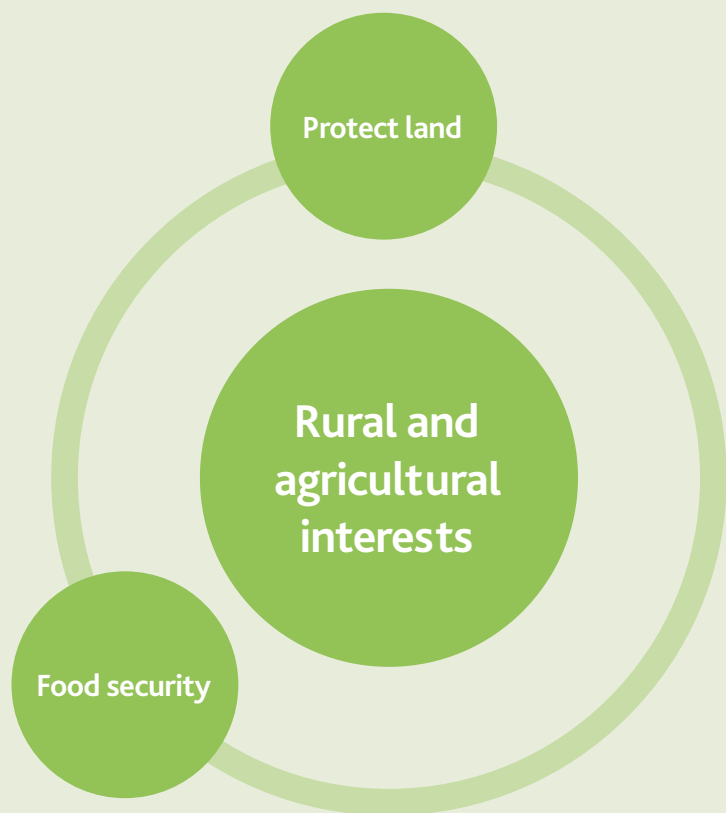
- Expand the town boundary and free more areas for development.
- There isn't enough accommodation for Mt Hutt staff or visitors on a budget in winter
- Methven needs more affordable housing options
- Affordable housing- rent control needs to be introduced the rapid change of landlords switching between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



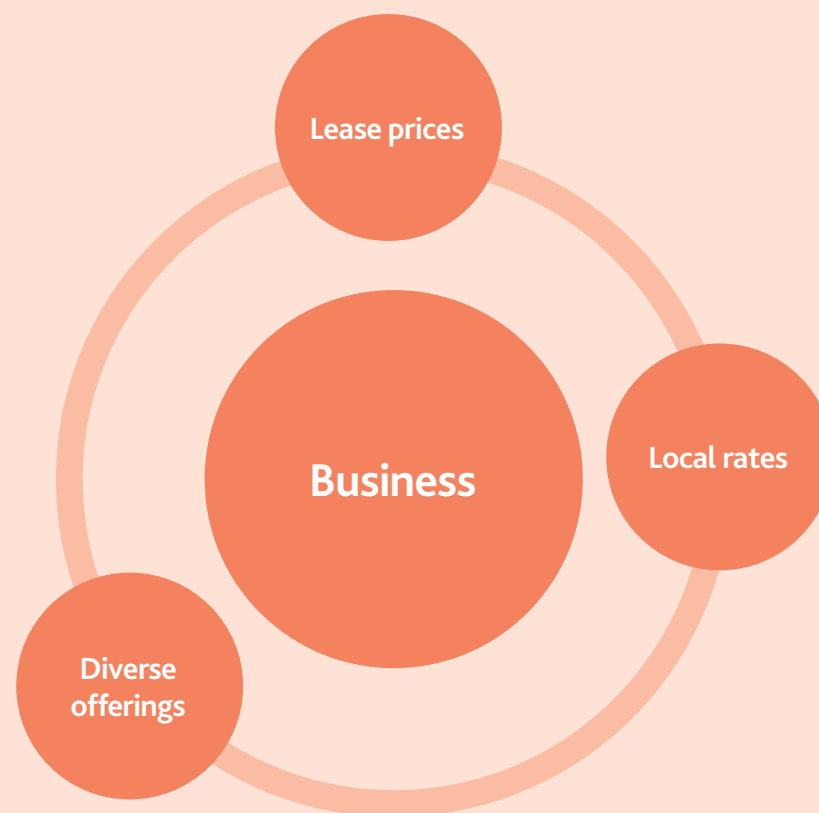
- 5G cell service introduced to the area and a better service connection all together along highway 77 connecting Methven to Ashburton. To still have complete dead zones isn't helpful in the slightest.
- Sewer, waste and fresh water pipes should be in easily accessible locations for quick repairs. Currently there are a number that pass under schools and the GOH extension and there must be others.
- Public toilets along by walkways



- For adults we need a bit of nightlife, perhaps a night club
- Mini golf close to the village centre
- A bowling alley or pool hall perhaps?
- Hold more events e.g. balloon festivals, triathlons (especially for children as well), arts, crafts and plants.
- Methven needs a big summer festival



- Methven contributes positively to Aotearoa New Zealand's food security and climate change targets
- One aspect that concerns me greatly is urban sprawl with new subdivisions covering some of the best cropping soils in NZ.
- Sprawling housing is chewing up some of the most precious farming land in the country, need to keep it limited.



- There needs to be more shopping choices
- Not big box retail – locally owned
- Commercial area opportunity seems hamstrung, central town has some pretty tired old buildings - is the space being well utilised?
- More locals rate/discounts





# Methven Community Strategic Plan 2025

