



RUATORIA

township plan

Update and Implementation Plan 2011

Introduction

The Ruatoria Township Plan Update (2011) builds on the work we did in 2008 to identify our community's long-term vision for Ruatoria township. The Plan is intended to evolve with the support of our community, so this year we have again worked with Council to review the plan.

A few things have changed since the plan was first developed. Many of the actions in the 2008 plan have been completed and new priorities have emerged. While our Vision Statements and Goals remain the same, the actions have changed. Council has also requested we do some further work to prioritise the actions so that Council can better assist us in delivering on those things that are most important to our community.

This update focuses on prioritising the projects over the next 10 years for implementation. Background information is in the original Township Plan.

Content of the Plan

Our community identified three Vision Statements that form the basis of our Plan:

- Our culture and identity expressed
- A thriving and active community
- An empowered community.

The Vision Statements have several Key Goals and Priority Projects under them.

In this review we focused on reporting what we have achieved and identifying and ranking our priority projects. The top ten priority projects are what we suggest we would like to work with Council and other agencies to achieve over the next 20 years. All other ideas that we still think are important are included in the backlist at the end of the document. The backlist will be considered alongside the priority projects during the next Township Plan review in three to five years.

Implementation and Reporting

The section "How will we make it happen?" (pages 8 – 13) includes draft implementation tables for each priority action. The tables identify the key tasks, estimated costs, timeframes for completion, progress indicators and funding options. The funding options column is separated into two columns – one to identify who the funder is likely to be and the other to identify when the funding would become available – where "to be confirmed – tbc" is written, no funding has been confirmed for the task. All projects requiring some Council assistance have been put forward to Council to consider for funding in the Ten Year Plan 2012-22, however their decisions confirming funding will not be known until June 2012.

Council has established a system to enhance communication with our community on the priorities in our Township Plan. A nominated contact person, Vance Walker, will keep us up-to-date on a quarterly basis, at least, through Te Puawaitanga O Ruatorea Trust, with how Council and other agencies are progressing priority projects and will provide a written annual report to the community on Township Plan implementation as part of Council's Annual Report process.

Community successes

Since 2008, we have been working hard as a community and have completed and started some great work together. Our local Te Puawaitanga o Ruatorea Trust has been re-established with the stalwarts of the group being boosted by a youthful injection. Our Trust continues to drive the implementation of our Township Plan.



Stage One of the Waiapu River flood control project involves building groynes made of dollasses in the Waiapu River north of the Rotokautuku Bridge to divert fast water back towards the main river channel. The dollasses are doing their job by trapping sediment and creating beaches that can be planted. Stage two of the work to raise the height of the dollasses has funding and is due to start in 2012. Local contractors were used for stage 1 works and this will continue for stage 2.

Our community continues to stage successful community events with the support of local agencies such as Ngati Porou Hauora.

Our annual Christmas in the Park provides us with an opportunity to celebrate our town and community together.



Our community identified, during the development of the last township plan, the need to divert stock from going through the main street of town as they mess the street and are a traffic safety issue. The long awaited stock route around the main street is now mostly complete with the remaining fences due to be installed by June 2012.

Likewise, hitching posts for horses have been installed in town.

Our main street has had some work completed as well. A speed hump has been installed on the main street to slow vehicles and improve safe pedestrian access across the road. A sticker board column has been installed in the main street for the community to put up key notices. Several trees have been removed from the road edge as their roots were ruining the road surface and footpaths and they were taking up parking spaces. We will build on this work over the next few years.



Our community has worked together to establish the Ruatoria Community Fruit Orchard using vacant Council land and working with whanau and community to provide fresh fruit and healthy living for all the community. It has been an awesome project to use vacant land and promote healthy living and, more importantly, to bring our community together. A second larger parcel of Council land is being considered for Stage Two of the Community Orchard. Participation is open to any community member or whanau interested.

One of the priority projects we identified during the development of the original Ruatoria Township Plan in 2008 was the construction of a community recreation centre. We have made some good progress in our planning for the project and, once a location can be decided, we can start to prepare funding applications for design and construction. This is a long-term project.

A thriving and active community
Our culture and identity expressed
An empowered community

What are our key goals?

- Protection of and from the environment, particularly the Waiapu River
- Safe and appropriate recreation facilities for children of all ages
- Improvements of facilities to support community development
- A healthy community
- Place names to reflect our local history and culture
- A unique townscape that we are proud of

What are our priority projects?

- River protection works (Priority 1)
- Community recreation centre (Priority 2)
- Puawaitanga Park (Priority 3)
- Traditional Maori place names (Priority 4)
- Healthy homes (Priority 5)
- Weed, pest and animal control (Priority 6)
- Poupou in township (Priority 7)
- Walking and cycling track (Priority 8)
- Community orchard (Priority 9)
- Riverbank natives (Priority 10)

How will we make it happen?

Priority 1 - River Protection Works

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Divert Waiapu River to ensure flooding does not affect Ruatoria township					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. GDC and community to identify preferred option and start construction from bridge to island	\$400k	GDC	2012	2011-2015	
2. GDC to increase height of existing structures and minor supporting works from bridge to island	\$200k \$400k	GDC	2013 2014		
3. GDC to clarify ongoing operation and maintenance costs to community	NA	GDC		Mar 2012	

Priority 2 - Community Recreation Centre

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Build a community recreation centre to cater for all ages and activities					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Community to identify location and design options for recreation centre	-	NA		2011	
2. Community to investigate funding options and make applications for finances	-	NA		2012	
3. Community to plan the project including resource consents	\$100k	ECT ECCT Lotteries	(tbc) (tbc)	2013	
4. Community to construct the facility	\$500k	ECT ECCT Lotteries	(tbc)	2016	

Priority 3 - Puawaitanga Park

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Upgrade Puawaitanga Park					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. GDC to erect sign for Puawaitanga Park	\$2k	GDC	2011	Oct 2011 (community to advise location)	
2. GDC and community to prepare CPTED report to present to the community	-	-	-	Mar 2012	
3. Community to apply for grant funding for park upgrades	(tbc)	Lotteries Ministry of Justice	(tbc)	Dec 2012	
4. GDC to complete park upgrade	(tbc)	GDC Lotteries Ministry of Justice	(tbc)	Dec 2015	

Priority 4 - Traditional Māori place names

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Reinstate traditional Maori names					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Community to survey 2. if reinstatement of traditional name of Rua-a-Torea is wanted	-	-	-	Dec 2011	
3. Community to research and liaise with NZ Geography Board	-	-	-	Feb 2014	
4. Community to apply to NZ Geography Board for name changes	-	-	-	Feb 2016	
5. Community to investigate feasibility of installing sign posts for all local marae	(tbc)	Marae Community	(tbc)		

Priority 5 - Healthy Homes

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Ensure adequate healthy, safe and affordable housing for all residents					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. GDC to secure commitment from ECT to continue top-up funding for insulation and clean heat	-	ECT	(tbc)	Jun 2012	
2. GDC to collate summary of renewable energy options including economic feasibility	-	EECA GDC	(tbc)	Dec 2012	

Priority 6 – Weed, pest and animal control

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Improve animal control and remove noxious weeds and animal pests					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
Animal Control					
1. GDC to provide information to community on animal control protocols and regulations	-	-	-	Sep 2011	
2. GDC to improve animal control staff training and guidance including timetables for targeting problem areas	-	-	-	Sept 2011	
3. Community to educate public on animal control, especially horses	-	-		Sep 2011	
4. GDC to advocate bringing the SPCA clinic to Ruatoria	-	-	-	Nov 2011	
5. GDC to develop education programme in schools about good dog ownership	-	-		Jun 2012	

Weed and pest control					
1. Community to provide a map of key sites and species for clearing on Council land	-	-	-	Dec 2011	
2. Council to develop and implement works plan for Council land	(tbc)	GDC	(tbc)	Jun 2013	
3. GDC to provide info to community about effective weed and pest control	-	-	-	Jun 2012	☹️
4. GDC to implement education programme for privet removal on private property	\$500	GDC	(tbc)	Jun 2012	
5. Community to work together to clear privet on private land	-	-	-	Jun 2013	
6. Community to educate public on pest control, eg feeding stray cats	-	-	-	Dec 2011	
7. GDC to increase the number of traps for feral cats around town	\$500	GDC		Dec 2011	

Priority 7 - Poupou in the township

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Erect a poupou and welcome sign					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Artist to finish poupou	-	-	-	Sept 2011	☹️
2. Community to decide the location of poupou	-	-	-	Oct 2011	☹️
3. GDC to investigate consent requirements	-	GDC	-	Oct 2011	☹️
4. Erect poupou	\$4k	GDC	2011	Mar 2012	☹️
5. Opening ceremony	(tbc)	GDC	(tbc)	Mar 2012	

Priority 8 - Walking and Cycling Track

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Make 'the cone' track safe and enjoyable for walking and cycling					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Community to prepare submission for the Ten Year Plan requesting tar sealing of 'the cone'	-	-	-	Mar 2012	
2. GDC and community to investigate sealing options and present costs and timeframes to the community	-	GDC	(tbc)	Jun 2012	
3. GDC and community to complete sealing the triangle of Tuparoa Road and Cross Road	\$450k	GDC \$250k in non-subsidised roading funds. Bowling Green Road is Māori land so will not be sealed with public funds)	(tbc)	(tbc)	

Priority 9 – Community Orchard

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Expand community orchard					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Community to prepare a concept plan for stage two	-	-	-	Sep 2011	
2. Community to investigate potential locations	-	-	-	Nov 2011	
3. Complete fencing and prepare ground	(tbc)	Grant funding Community	(tbc)	Mar 2012	
4. Plant trees	(tbc)	Grant funding Community	(tbc)	Aug 2012	

Priority 10 – Riverbank natives

 Complete
  On target
  Behind schedule

Plant native trees on the river side of the main road					
Task	Cost (est)	Funding options		Timeframe	Progress
1. Community to prepare a design and planting plan including low growing, weed suppressing and bank stabilising natives	-	-	-	Dec 2011	
2. Clearing of fallen trees and unwanted non-natives along fenceline and bank	\$21k	GDC Council land only	2011	Feb 2012	
3. Plant trees				Aug 2012	

Other Ideas

The top ten priority projects are what we suggest we would like to work with Council and other agencies to achieve over the next 20 years. All other ideas that we still think are important are included in the list below. This backlist will be considered alongside the priority projects during the next Township Plan review in three to five years.

- Install a BMX track for the youth
- Strengthen Te Puawaitanga o Ruatorea Trust to be a voice for our community and drive the initiatives from this plan.
- Plant (native) trees alongside riverbank and on Manutahi Hill to help slow erosion
- Construct a picnic table in the main street in the shape of a waka with shade sails overhead
- Install a drinking fountain in garden area of the town centre
- Install a vandal-proof notice board in town (a pin board, not just for sticker posters)
- Improve presentation of buildings in the town centre
- Investigate ways to improve the quality of Ruatorea water supply, including feasibility of establishing underground water supply for the township and the feasibility of subsidizing costs of safe water tanks.
- Develop a series of activities/events and corresponding calendar of events
- Employ a community events and sports co-ordinator (CESC)
- Employ a local warden to work with rangitahi
- Encourage increased youth involvement in community meetings and decision making and encourage local youth to create and drive their own community initiatives
- Encourage appropriate business development that is economically, environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable. Suggested business types include banks, a post office, Laundromat, internet café, commercial cleaner, native nursery, hairdresser, beautician, transport and taxi services and tourism and accommodation service
- Encourage tax and business incentives for people starting / buying a business (and / or facilities)
- Organise a regular 'Farmers Market' of local wares to bring the wider community together
- Address concerns that rates do not equate with property resale values
- Encourage community members to work towards a rubbish-free town
- Improve road fence, left hand side from Mangakino stream bridge to the toilets – re-fence, clean, spray
- Complete paving of footpaths around the township

