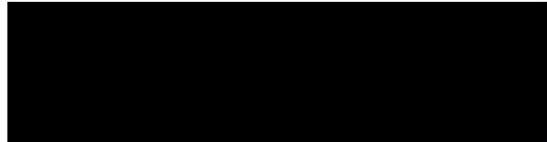


Reference Number: 2025/1305

4 November 2025



Thank you for your email dated 23 October 2025 requesting minutes from meetings of the Foxton Futures Group under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please see below a response to your request.

I am requesting the minutes from meetings of Foxton Futures Groups since the programme's establishment (including a list of the Members serving at the time)

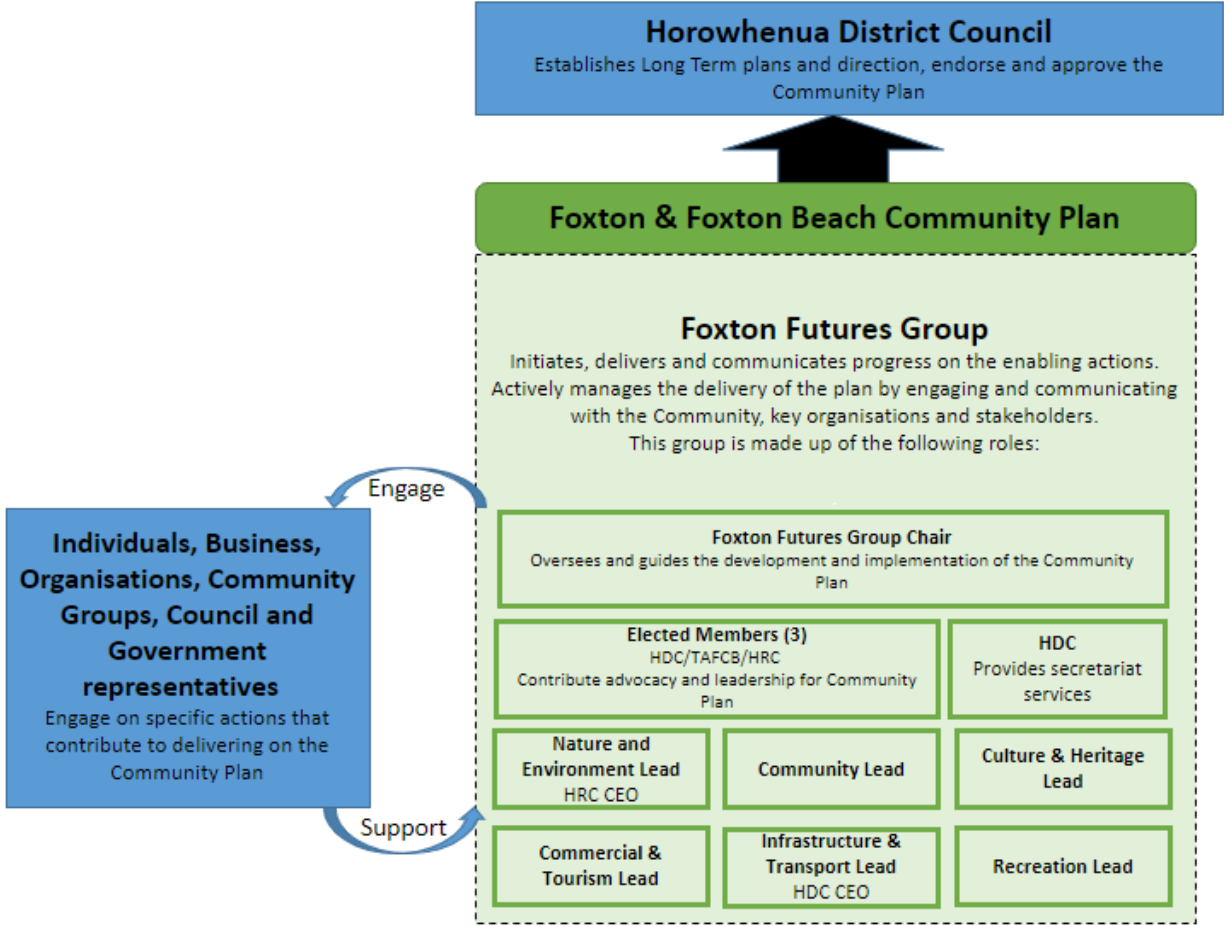
Please find attached minutes of meetings for the Foxton Futures Group held to advance the current programme during the period 30 March 2023 to 28 August 2025 inclusive. This period covers the recent priorities to review group membership to include broader community representation and the development of a Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan to determine priorities for the future of the communities.

In addition, between the meetings held on 18 May 2023 to 3 October 2024, Council Officers facilitated a series of community workshops with the Foxton and Foxton Beach community to work towards creating and refining a Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan on a Page. Six themes are identified in the plan on a page, i.e. Commercial and Tourism, Community, Commercial and Tourism, Infrastructure and Transport, Nature and Environment and Recreation.

After the community plan on a page was endorsed by Te Awahou Foxton Community Board and Horowhenua District Council in November and December 2024, an expression of interest process was held during February and March 2025 seeking interest from members of the community to form representation on the Foxton Futures Group on a voluntary basis. Since that time, theme leads were nominated by members within each theme group and have now been appointed.

Members who have been attending the Foxton Futures Group meetings throughout the period stated above are identified within the attendance section of the attached meeting minutes. It is noted that due to the local elections having only taken place, there will be changes to the future governance representation from Te Awahou Foxton Community Board, Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council with appointments yet to be determined.

The structure of the Foxton Futures Group as it stands now is outlined below.



I understand that Foxton Futures has groups dedicated to certain themes on Foxton's 'Plan on a Page' such as 'Infrastructure and Transport' and 'Culture and Heritage'. Can the minutes of these specific groups also be released?

At present, each theme group arranges their own individual meetings to discuss their priorities for the lead to represent their theme at the Foxton Futures Group Meetings. As this is a relatively new process, the records processing of individual meetings is still being developed. Although groups seemed to have a good level of interest from the community at the start, some groups only have one or two committed members so will not have any minutes to share. However, as identified in the meeting minutes, each theme lead is expected to provide an update at the Foxton Futures meetings, and these have been recorded in the attached meeting minutes for reference.

Is Council also able to provide any policies around what happens to the recommendations of a Foxton Futures group once they have been made? For example, do they go to the Community Board? Council? Or a member of the Senior Leadership Team?

Recommendations from the Foxton Futures group would be presented to Te Awahou Foxton Community Board for endorsement and Horowhenua District Council for endorsement and approval.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact David McCorkindale (Group Manager Community Vision and Development) on davidbm@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Daniel Haigh
Acting Chief Executive

Foxton Futures Governance Board Meeting

Meeting Agenda & Notes – Thursday 30 March 2023		
Time	10.30am – 12.00pm	
Venue	Ngārongo Iwikātea Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Cr Justin Tamihana Carolyn Dick Robyn Ryder Cr Emma Clarke John Girling Catriona McKay	Horowhenua District Council (Chair) Save our River Trust (SoRT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board The Horowhenua Company
Apologies	Janine Smart Hayden Turoa	Save Our River Trust (SoRT) Ngāti Raukawa

Agenda Items & Meeting Notes		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	Robin Hapi
2.	<p>Introductions were held to identify representation noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Tamihana advised that he will be representing Council with Cr David Allan sometimes attending. Catriona McKay noted that her attendance was from an economic improvement aspect on behalf of The Horowhenua Company, and carry out any tasks/actions that arise. Debbie Te Puni was removed from the distribution list as the representative for Rangitāne. 	
3.	<p><i>Review the 'Foxton Futures Implementation Plan – March 2020' as developed by Henley Hutchings by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Status of development to date in Foxton</i> <i>Future development</i> <i>What next?</i> <i>Determining priorities</i> <i>Meeting representation and frequency</i> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last meeting was held on 28 April 2022 and chaired by Robin Hapi. David McCorkindale outlined his role and perspective in leading the process and the need to look back at what has been achieved to date before progressing forward. The Terms of Reference was adopted on 1 October 2020 so may require to be reviewed going forward. As the Foxton Futures Implementation Report is dated March 2020, there are aspects of the report that are now out of date. Monique advised that the Progressive Growth Fund (PGF) had provided Foxton with great development. There is no budget associated to Foxton Futures but is an action within the Horowhenua Blueprint. <p><u>Status of development to date in Foxton</u></p>	All present

- The Manawatu River Loop has been developed.
- The Foxton Pools are currently being upgraded.
- Infill at Foxton Beach is occurring.
- There has been a lot of progress in the last 10 years showing advantages over cohesiveness and advancement of the area, e.g. TANS, Manawatu River Loop, Cultural Centre, exhibitions/events and population, housing and visitor increases.
- Council continues to action growth opportunities that Foxton and Foxton Beach are experiencing.
- Horowhenua has recently undergone a rebrand – ‘Come find yourself’ that features Foxton and the community in the Horowhenua Rebrand.

Future development

- The Ō2NL expressway is currently going through the consenting phase with more certainty to come around the timeframe delivery.
- Emma Clarke advised that there is a major focus on infrastructure now from Horizons Regional Council to be ready for Ō2NL.
- Foxton will be the first and last town reached going on/off the Ō2NL expressway.
- With Ō2NL progressing, Foxton needs to have a clear picture from existing businesses before external companies and contractors come to Foxton with their business aspects.
- Various groups have expressed their interest in investment opportunities, e.g. MavTECH, Foxton Memorial Hall, Foxton Courthouse, SoRT, Foxton Rugby Club and the Windmill Trust.
- What opportunities do we need to get in front of to make Foxton attractive to stop when Ō2NL is fully operational?

What next?

- There is opportunity for Foxton Futures to reset and ensure entities are involved to advance, collaborate and prioritise interests.
- Robin Hapi would like to see expansion and more representation around the table to be heard and learn what the focus should be. Priorities need to be reset. He advised that he has been approached by a range of different groups in Foxton re development opportunities. Queried if this is the correct approach, or should a more collective group be formed to address multiple ideas.
- John Girling recommended that all businesses should be involved in future development for a stronger voice and approach.
- Catriona McKay advised that currently there is no one person representing the businesses in Foxton so would like to see that change.
- Currently there is a siloed approach with various Foxton groups making individual requests to Council. This process needs a different approach on a more collaborative basis to ensure there is progress for everyone by having the one voice.
- It is time to take advantage of opportunities to start collaborating with the business community to advance the interests of Foxton. BA5 to be taking place in Foxton in the near future, so is a great opportunity to start this process.
- Carolyn Dick suggested a business breakfast be organised to bring different people into the Foxton Futures group.
- Cr Tamihana supported the business breakfast and it was agreed that the Horowhenua Company host a business breakfast in Foxton to attract local businesses to start the networking process. He would like

	<p>to see all groups given the chance to be considered and heard. There were assumptions of other businesses coming into Foxton e.g. MacDonald's and Robert Harris, so sees the need to create a pathway to protect and advance existing businesses, while not losing the ability to see the bigger picture of what external businesses could provide for Foxton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that Catriona and John organise the business breakfast as it is not a Council focus. • David McCorkindale said that the next step is the need to tell a clear story about what we intend to do and what not to do. Happy for Foxton Futures to still be the name of the group but require clarity and focus from the community. Specific roles and responsibilities will need to be identified, along with the shape and structure of the group in order to deliver. There is a lot of work to be done before LTP regarding funding opportunities. Well thought out planning will give more options from external input. Funding will require private investment and not only central government funding. There needs to be a cohesive approach to succeed. <p><u>Determining Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Council was established in October 2022, and has adopted a 'Plan on a Page' for Horowhenua that focuses on the implementation of priorities and links to the Horowhenua Blueprint. Discussed for Foxton to adopt a similar 'plan on a page' but could comprise different groups, businesses and maps etc, with ideas for implementation. It needs to be simple, as if it's too broad, it would lose focus. Proper planning and attracting the right businesses will protect the future. • Council's next Long Term Plan (LTP) is in 2024, so it would be beneficial to identify what Foxton would like implemented for these to be incorporated. Foxton Futures is a concept and as we go into LTP, this will be the opportunity to reset and review the investment required re the Foxton Strategy. • Community planning should involve all parties - HDC, FCB and Iwi to take the lead with support from other organisations. • Query re Page 9 of the Foxton Futures Implementation Report that economic development should be included in the pyramid. • Timeframes need to be identified so as not to lose the momentum of other organisations and expressions of interest after the business breakfast and BA5. Should include a focus on a community plan to keep things moving and get a lens on what the future holds for Foxton and how they want to be involved. <p><u>Meeting representation and frequency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The view from all meeting attendees was to have appropriate representation around the table with the focus to be commitment. Don't foresee this entirely stopping individual ideas and approaches, but portrays Foxton Futures as being a collective group. • A need for Marae involvement to have the capability around economic development with Iwi, hapu and community leaders playing key roles. • Discussed and agreed for the meetings to occur every six weeks to build momentum, and then bi-monthly at a time to be considered. • Next meeting is scheduled for 18 May 2023, 10.30am to 12pm. 	
3.	Closing Karakia	Robin Hapi

Actions List:

Date	Action	Responsible	Status
30/03/2023	John and Catriona to organise a business breakfast to be hosted in Foxton – scheduled for 4 May 2023.	John Girling/ Catriona McKay	Completed

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda – Thursday 18 May 2023		
Time	10.30am – 12.00pm	
Venue	Ngārongo Iwikātea Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi Cr Justin Tamihana David McCorkindale Robyn Ryder Emma Mander Cr Emma Clarke John Girling Catriona McKay Janine Smart Lindsay Sanson	Horowhenua District Council (Chair) Save our River Trust (SoRT) (Deputy Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board The Horowhenua Company Save Our River Trust (SoRT) Foxton Business Representative
Apologies	Cr Ross Brannigan Carolyn Dick Judy Sanson	Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Foxton Business Representative

Agenda Items	
No.	Topic
1.	Karakia
2.	Introductions (<i>if needed</i>)
3.	<p><i>Review the expansion of 'Foxton Futures':</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview from Foxton Business Breakfast (4 May 2023)</i> • <i>What does Foxton Futures exist to achieve or do?</i> • <i>Foxton Futures Expansion of Focus and Membership</i> • <i>Foxton Futures membership and roles - Who should be involved in Foxton Futures moving forward?</i> • <i>Next Moves – Community Planning Session. Format Design, Invitees, and Deliverables discussion.</i> <p><u>Overview from Foxton Business Breakfast (4 May 2023)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Foxton Business Breakfast was held on 4th May 2023. The aim was to use this to bring Foxton and Foxton Beach businesses together to network and share their ideas on what is important for Foxton for the next 5-10 years. A discussion summary from The Horowhenua Company Ltd (THCL) was circulated and discussed. • Agreed that the Business Breakfast was a great way for ideas and conversations to begin. • Catriona McKay advised that more businesses came along to engage at the breakfast. John Girling and Catriona shared the aspiration to make it more regular and discuss how this would look going forward. The question was raised about 'would this continue to be a networking function or more of a working on something together - questions and idea session.' • John Girling noted that personal invitations were important. John personally told businesses of the event and its value and asked them to attend which resulted in them coming along. • The Business Breakfast had set up the next phase for Foxton Futures by helping create the bigger picture for where this can lead to.

- It was noted that businesses out at Foxton Beach were unaware. A different strategy/approach to connect with businesses throughout Foxton.
- Justin Tamihana suggested that a pamphlet drop to businesses would make more people and businesses aware of the events.
- Need to establish how everyone wants the events to be moving forward. Making sure that Foxton continues to have a voice through it all.

What does Foxton Futures exist to achieve or do?

- Foxton Futures is an entity that has a single purpose that begins with the River. Get all parties to represent the growth and advocate for the community. A way to create good composition into the town and to establish what Foxton represents.
- As an overarching entity it provides the best opportunity to create the umbrella that takes the best interest of the community and gives the opportunity to connect.
- It was agreed that Foxton Futures currently has a good group of people. All current members are a part of other community groups – therefore the group has a wide reach within Foxton and Foxton Beach.
- It should be a communication and coordination vehicle. The group can be the single source of the truth and has the power to disperse information in a healthy manner, and has the ability to create connections. This will allow everyone in the community to be on the same page.
- Gives opportunity for everyone to be heard. Allows businesses to adapt and change. It was noticed that a lot of the community want to be involved and that establishing Foxton Futures brings a better chance to bring the community together under a single umbrella. This will also be a way to keep informed of what the council is doing.
- Foxton and Foxton Beach can feel like separate communities. It was agreed that 'Foxton' represents both as one community and everyone agreed to have this outlook going forward and that the intention of Foxton Futures is to promote this.
- This would involve bringing businesses together between Foxton and Foxton Beach. To encourage the Foxton community to become more connected. To have Foxton Futures build the foundation, to get the community/town working together.
- It was suggested a good cycle way between the Foxton and Foxton Beach would help in resolving this.
- John Girling suggested that Foxton Futures would need to have a focus on employment and housing within Foxton – major problems that are connected. No affordable housing and businesses cannot afford wages to support this.
- It was discussed about not making Foxton Futures the thing that tried to resolve district wide problems such as housing that were better addressed at a district level.
- Robin Hapi agreed with John and added that Foxton Futures can utilise resources to solve these problems. Robin also included that the future work with the River will create opportunities and the desire to be with a town that is moving forward.
- Lindsay Sanson raised the point that housing is a nationwide problem. It was suggested to have an approach of making resources available for the wider Horowhenua community to have the chance to commute and work in Foxton. Everyone discussed the idea of having a Bus, Train or Tram that is regular. This discussion included creating better public transport for Foxton.
- Monique noted that public transport is a Horowhenua wide issue. She encouraged that we trust the process with the work that Horizons are currently doing, but to make sure Foxton has a voice within that.
- Justin Tamihana raised that local businesses are facing challenges. They are not aware of what is coming into Foxton. Foxton Futures needs to find where the gap is and how we are currently supporting local businesses.
- Perhaps best for Foxton Futures to have a Wellbeings Focus that is inclusive.

- Foxton Futures builds 'a house' that makes the community feel safe and secure. To allow the community to feel as though they belong. To show the community that Foxton Futures has the right intentions and is bringing forth what is needed for Foxton.
- Acknowledge O2NL is creating challenges and opportunities. Foxton Futures is the space for this additional thinking to occur.

Foxton Futures Expansion of Focus and Membership

- To take into consideration that there is unfinished business, there are still things that are being worked on and need to be addressed, the Loop, Drainage, Environmental Challenges). We need the foundation to be in place to be able to consider the future.
- In terms of what made it unique it was acknowledged that Foxton is the only place that connects to the Manawatu River itself.
- Robin Hapi identified that if Foxton Futures gets too big, it will be difficult to drive and deliver. It was easier when it was focused on the River, but also acknowledge a broader focus is needed now.
- Concern about the disconnect between Foxton and Foxton Beach – needed to be mindful of this and be careful not to support or foster a division.
- Important to know who we are – what is the profile of Foxton
- Need to investigate further how to make Foxton Beach appealing to all ages.
- A lot of people who live in Foxton don't work in Foxton. Encourage the Foxton Community to work here again. Foxton Futures has the ability to create opportunities.
- Robin Hapi suggested that the Foxton Futures needs to be more expansive and participative as this would be of benefit for the future of Foxton. Sport and Recreation, Economic and a Cultural footprint that needs to manifest within the community.
- Ecological side needs to be front and centre. Businesses want to be included and want to be involved at a different level. The businesses can adapt and act quickly. This has been what has helped the community be successful.
- Recognising that we are taking steps and there is an impact. To take in to consideration what the investment has been in the past that achieved results. Being able to show where we have come from and the impact of investment. Taking this approach will give people confidence to invest in the future.

Foxton Futures membership and roles - Who should be involved in Foxton Futures moving forward?

- Janine Smart suggested the idea of holding individual workshops on specific topics could be beneficial (housing accommodation, health) and put in place to educate the community and businesses. Robin Hapi added that this would require people that can speak coherently and clearly on specific topics.
- To discuss and recognise if the Foxton businesses would become one entity.
- Catriona McKay mentioned the need to get information to businesses. She believed this will allow them to grow their capital and that this will create more opportunities. Catriona encouraged an investment focus – how we can attract the investment to the right place. For people to understand where they might fit. (Where to invest or why)?
- Justin Tamihana suggested that a contact list for Foxton Futures could be made and add to this. Lindsay added that he would be able to help with this as he has an existing database of businesses. Agreed that it would be a great to reach schools and other groups to help bring the community together.
- Robin Hapi raised the point that the group will need to take in to consideration that Foxton will ask questions. He believes that the community and businesses will want to know what is in it for them and where can they contribute.

	<p><u>Next Moves – Community Planning Session. Format Design, Invitees, and Deliverables discussion.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David circulated a draft outline of a Foxton Future Planning Session for discussion. • To implement an initial workshop to seek ideas. Then to have follow up events – this will allow the group to test the draft direction and recognise any gaps. • Emma Clarke raised the importance to weave the awa in to all aspects of the pillars and apply an enrichment model. If we do this with the river and sea in mind it will ensure that we put the realities in front of the community (eg climate change impacts). She believed that this will bring a good lens for 15 years’ time. Important to ensure that science data and ecological data are used to ensure the group can bring a strong plan. Having an awareness of the Climate Change challenges for this area will make for some difficult conversations but it is an important lens to put across these discussions. • Robin Hapi suggested that a read only website could be created and utilise this to display material. This could include data that gives insight into Foxton Futures. • To identify in the pillars who the entities are and who are guiding the entities. Ensure that there is confidence in those individuals representing each entity and that they can speak on their behalf. • Catriona McKay suggested to change the word ‘funding’ because the focus is about investment. • Monique expressed the need to make sure Hapu partners are across this before anything is implemented. Everyone to hear the information at the same time. • Robin suggested to make the community event could coincide with Matariki as this represents a time of renewal. • Action: Each member in attendance to review the draft outline and provide feedback by the end of next week (25 May) for David to proceed.
3.	Closing Karakia

Actions List:

Date	Action	Responsible	Status
18/05/2023	Circulate HRC report	Emma Mander/David	
18/05/2023	Feedback on Draft Community Planning Session Outline by 25 May	All	
18/05/2023	Next meeting – End of June	Emma Mander	

Agenda and Meeting Notes

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda – Thursday 3 October 2024		
Time	1.30pm – 3.00pm	
Venue	Ngārongo Iwikātea Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Susan Philp Robyn Ryder Lisa Campbell Sean Hester Cr Emma Clarke David Roache John Girling Catriona Finau McKay Lindsay Sanson	Save our River Trust (SORT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Te Awahou Foxton Community Board The Horowhenua Company Business Representative
Apologies	Monique Davidson Cr David Allan Cr Ross Brannigan Cr Justin Tamihana Hayden Turoa Judy Sanson	Horowhenua District Council (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Ngāti Raukawa Business Representative

Agenda Items		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	
2.	Introductions	
3.	Draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan	David McCorkindale/Susan Philp
4.	Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)	Robin Hapi
5.	Save Our River Trust (SORT)	Robin Hapi
6.	Closing Karakia	

Meeting Notes
<p><u>Draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan</u></p> <p>Susan Philp provided an update on the draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan and the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at today, 40 submissions had been received from members of the community via email and online/Let's Kōrero to provide feedback. Discussion was held to identify the purpose of what the feedback will provide to the group once received. Susan advised that it will be used to further shape and form the depth of the community plan. It was suggested to advertise the feedback process via the Foxton Residents Facebook page and group members were encouraged to promote verbally to other community groups to provide feedback. Susan talked through the themes and enabling actions in the draft plan. Emma queried the budget and community expectations, and the responsibility of the actions when refined. It was supported by all that the community plan will be community led. Robin advised of some new initiatives that are occurring in Foxton and Foxton Beach, e.g. waka ama, the revitalisation of the river, Foxton Rugby Club is going from strength to strength with a

growing membership. There is also strong commercial collaboration happening. He spoke of the potential requirement of a hub to bring all groups together.

- David noted the implementation of the plan once it has been created, and the importance as to the responsibility for enabling the plan. Potentially exploring an internal key resource within Council that would not be responsible for doing everything, but could provide a monitoring and reporting type function with actions being a regular agenda item for future Foxton Futures Group meetings to maintain the momentum. The Foxton Futures Group requires broader membership, with leadership and applicable membership being key factors for close collaboration and communication with the wider community.
- David expanded further on the future representation of the Foxton Futures Group, noting the following:
 - Future representation to be an agenda item for meeting on 4 November
 - Being the lead or funder of each function is vital so that not all functions sit with Council
 - Where applicable, other teams within Council will be required to work towards the plan
 - HDC can enable the community plan but the community will be required to lead and support it
 - Long-term aspirations are important to the community and the community plan will be the key to delivery.
 - Ō2NL will get the community excited when construction starts mid-2025
- Next steps were identified as follows:
 - Feedback for the draft community plan closes on 25 October 2024
 - The draft community to be finalised by November 2024
 - Cross overs in the community plan to be identified
 - Current activities to be mapped in the plan, e.g. RAMSAR site where community driven approach has been successful, the international accreditation of the cultural park, and the Foxton Park being another community driven initiative.
 - Flesh out the plan and identify all the groups, clubs, societies so they can work together
 - Careful consideration will be needed for future representation of the Foxton Futures Group as to who will bring value to represent their community involvement with the Foxton Futures Group. Champions will be required for each of the identified themes.
 - The newly formed Foxton Futures Group will take ownership of the community plan by keeping the momentum going and being responsible for delivering it now and in the future
- Discussion was held around how to recruit/select future representatives to form the Foxton Futures Group, i.e. shoulder tapping or expressions of interest process. Members were asked to think about this process and bring any ideas of who may be of value to the next meeting on the 4th November. This next meeting will have a main focus as to the makeup and setup of the new identity for the Foxton Futures Group.

Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

Robin Hapi and Catriona Finau McKay provided an update on the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) proposal with the following noted:

- The RIF is primarily a capital fund announced by Central Government in July 2024 that focuses on stronger infrastructure and enabling resilience. It is administered by Kānoa.
- It is provided on a loans or equity basis that requires 50% co-contribution.
- It has the potential to bring forward already planned works.
- Suggested to tag it to identify to phase 2 of the River Plans to progress the work that has already taken place for phase 1.

Save Our River Trust (SORT)

Robin provided an update on the progress with River Verge Phase 2 plans with the following noted:

- SORT is currently working with HDC to get Brad Dobson to work with SORT on the next stages of the River Loop. Would ask Brad to provide what the next plan could look like to include planting, lawn, amphitheatre, wetland etc, to be visually attractive and inviting. Brad Dobson has background knowledge of the Foxton region having done work in the area in the past 10 years.
- The next stage to be a reimagined space to encourage participation of the community, rowing competitions, waka ama, water activities and sports.
- There is a lot of participation and enthusiasm from the group and they are potentially looking at other alternative funding pools.
- Continues to be a work in progress for the river loop to join up with the main river.

General Business

- John informed the meeting of the Manawatu River Festival that is currently being organised for Wellington Anniversary Weekend 2025. A separate Trust has been formed for this event and noted that it is not led by the TAFCB. The event is a waka ama festival that will run over the three days with music, pop-up food and other activities included in the event.
- Next Foxton Futures Group meeting is scheduled for Monday 4 November, 2.30pm to 4pm, to be held at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

Actions List			
Date	Action	Responsible	Status
3.10.24	Members to bring ideas and suggestions for the representation of the Foxton Futures Group to the next meeting on 4 th November, and a process for selection/recruitment.	All Members	

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda and Notes – Monday 4 November 2024		
Time	2.30pm – 4.20pm	
Venue	Ngārongo Iwikātea Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Deputy Mayor David Allan Susan Philp Robyn Ryder Lisa Campbell Sean Hester John Girling Catriona McKay Jason Davy	Horowhenua District Council (Co-Chair) Save our River Trust (SORT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council (from 3:15pm) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board The Horowhenua Company Ltd Business Representative
Apologies	Cr Ross Brannigan Cr Justin Tamihana Cr Emma Clarke Ashleigh Le Gal Julia Atkins Lindsay Sanson Judy Sanson	Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horizon Regional Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Business Representative Business Representative

Agenda Items		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	
2.	Introductions (<i>if required</i>)	
3.	Summary of Feedback - Draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan (pre-reading)	Susan Philp
4.	Final 'Draft' Plan on a Page (pre-reading)	Susan Philp
5.	Next Steps for the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan	Susan Philp
6.	Appointment of Foxton Futures Group Members	All
7.	Update on Save Our River Trust (SORT) Phase 2 Project	Sean Hester
8.	Closing Karakia	

Meeting Notes
<p>The meeting notes of the Foxton Futures Group meeting held on 3 October 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record.</p>
<p><u>Summary of Feedback – Draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan</u></p> <p>The summary of all feedback received from the community engagement on the Draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan was circulated as pre-reading to all members in advance of the meeting. The following was noted at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 90 submissions had been received by the community, comprising an equal gender mix with most respondents aged between 55-74 years.

- Youth responses were low, so it was suggested to target Manawatu College again, and engage with Council's 'Youth Voice' panel to meet with for further engagement. Robin offered to seek engagement directly from the youth and families of the Foxton Rugby Club by encouraging them to participate in the engagement process. Jason offered to do the same with the business network.
- An approach is required to further engage with Iwi partners. Robin indicated he could speak to some of the local iwi to get them involved. Officers have provided the draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan with HDC Cultural Advisors.

Final 'Draft' Plan on a Page

The draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community 'Plan on a Page' was circulated as pre-reading to all members in advance of the meeting.

Members were positive of the draft Plan on a Page overall, in particular; the enabling themes and actions being well phrased. A few minor adjustments were noted, i.e. additional information required under Culture and Heritage to celebrate all cultures, and some minor rephrasing and cosmetic design changes to help with the readability.

Next Steps for the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan

A discussion to identify the next steps for the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan was held with the following noted:

- The timeline recommended was to present the final draft Plan on a Page for endorsement at the next Te Awahou Foxton Community Board meeting scheduled for Monday 11 November 2024, before being taken to Council meeting on 11 December 2024.
- Officers will continue to finalise the draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community 'Plan on a Page' to enable the more detailed community plan, including the implementation plan to be progressed.
- It was discussed to keep the feedback open while moving to development of the Community Plan and the implementation of the plan on a page, endeavouring to widen the validation with specific focus on the youth community.

Appointment of Foxton Futures Group Members

The future structure of the Foxton Futures Group to support the implementation of the Community Plan was discussed at length, noting the following comments during the discussion:

- Recommended a champion to be identified for each of the six enabling themes and actions.
- The champions would be people who are recognised by the community to lead that theme/action and would develop the respective action plan for the theme.
- Recommended that the theme champions are skills based, and 'Foxton Focused' with a connection to the community.
- Each theme and champion would be supported by a small team/group of people to do the related work.
- The Foxton Futures Group will become a leadership coordinating group that will be responsible for timeframes, funding requirements, coordination, advocacy and leadership of the Community Plan.
- The Group would be chaired by an independent community member – not an elected member from HDC, HRC, TAFCB or Council Officer. It was important that the plan was community led.
- The newly formed Foxton Futures Group would become the mechanism to drive the projects and from a project management perspective, would provide leaders of each theme and delivery support functions, i.e. comms, admin, coordination of financial requirements and resourcing.

- TAFCB to have an important enabling presence, but not lead the group. TAFCB will contribute to the leadership and advocacy of the Community Plan. TAFCB play an important role in the community, but the richness of this process is around community action so a balance is required.
- It was recommended for Council to be round the table, but a strong focus was to manage expectations that Council would not be responsible for all actions or funding.
- After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed that for a good balance and partnership to be provided, the future structure of the leadership model for the Foxton Futures Group would comprise nine members, outlined as follows:
 - Chairperson
 - HDC Elected Member representative
 - TAFCB representative
 - 6 x champions (one for each theme) with the HDC CE leading the Infrastructure and Transport Theme, and HRC to lead Nature and Environment
- It was also noted that further discussions would be required on the proposed structure with the following partners, i.e. HRC (Michael McCartney, Emma Clarke and Sam Ferguson), HDC Elected Members (Cr Brannigan and Cr Tamihana, noting that Deputy Mayor Allan was present), and members of the TAFCB. Specific members responsible for these conversations are identified in the Actions List below.
- David McCorkindale advised there should be an initial period to get the structure up and running and recommended a timeframe (suggestion of 12 months?) be put in place to review the new structure and ensure it is proving successful, or whether adjustments to the structure may need to be made.

Update on Save Our River Trust (SORT) Phase 2 Project

Due to the meeting running overtime, Sean Hester provided a brief update on the progress of the phase 2 project with the following noted:

- Addressed the purpose of the design and the requirement to make it functional, attractive and affordable.
- It was noted that the resilience and sustainability within communities will fit into the RIF criteria well.
- The (Draft) Piriharakeke–Foxton River Loop Landscape Vision is attached to these meeting notes for reference. Please note that this is still a draft document as it requires some minor adjustments before becoming the final version.

General Business

- There was no General Business.

Actions List

Date	Action	Responsible	Status
4.11.24	Conversations re proposed new leadership structure of the future Foxton Futures Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HRC – Emma Clarke & Sam Ferguson - HRC – Michael McCartney - HDC Elected Members – Cr Brannigan & Cr Tamihana - TAFCB 	Robin Hapi Monique Davidson Deputy Mayor Allan John Girling	

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda and Notes – Thursday 5 December 2024		
Time	10.30am – 12.00pm	
Venue	Teal Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Deputy Mayor David Allan Cr Justin Tamihana Susan Philp Robyn Ryder Laura Fisher John Girling Lindsay Sanson Judy Sanson Irene Wakefield	Horowhenua District Council (Co-Chair) Save our River Trust (SORT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council (from 3:15pm) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Business Representative Business Representative Business Representative
Apologies	Cr Ross Brannigan Emma Clarke Lisa Campbell Ashleigh Le Gal Sean Hester Catriona Finau-McKay Jason Davy Hayden Turoa Toha Eparaima	Horowhenua District Council Horizon Regional Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council The Horowhenua Company Ltd Business Representative Ngāti Raukawa Ngāti Raukawa

Agenda Items		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	Robin Hapi
2.	Introductions (<i>if required</i>)	
3.	Confirmation of previous minutes	Robin Hapi
4.	Foxton Futures Governance Group structure	Robin Hapi/HDC
5.	Recruitment of members to key themes - Community Plan on a Page	Susan Philp
6.	Closing Karakia	Robin Hapi

Meeting Notes
<p>David McCorkindale moved to confirm the meeting notes of the Foxton Futures Group meeting held on 4 November 2024 as a true and correct record and was seconded by Deputy Mayor David Allan.</p> <p>The actions list from the last meeting was reviewed with the following noted in regard to the status of conversations held on the proposed new leadership structure of the newly proposed Foxton Futures Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRC - Robin had spoken with Emma Clarke who has confirmed her future involvement within the Foxton Futures Governance Group. • HRC – Monique had spoken with Michael McCartney. Michael is supportive of HRC as the lead role of nature and environment but requires clarity on what will be involved and further direction on the community plan on a page, therefore the status is still a work in progress. Both nature and environment and infrastructure themes align with HRC operational actions/areas. • HDC Elected Members and TAFCB are all supportive of the structure.

Foxton Futures Governance Group structure

An approach to adapt the newly proposed Foxton Futures Governance structure was discussed with the following noted:

- The Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan on a Page was unanimously endorsed by TAFCB at the TAFCB meeting held on 11 November 2024.
- Having been endorsed by the TAFCB, the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan on a Page will be seeking endorsement at the HDC Council meeting on 11 December 2024.
- It was queried as to the status of Iwi/hapū involvement, and the meeting was advised that the information has been shared but not yet reviewed. While there are currently other projects in the area that Iwi/hapū are engaged in, it was acknowledged that this is an important part that is yet to be provided.

Recruitment of members to key themes - Community Plan on a Page

An approach to establish a process to recruit members of the community to the key themes identified in the Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan on a Page was discussed as follows:

- Agreed that an expression of interest process be established with the following information to include:
 - An outline/description of what is involved in a leadership/champion role
 - Outline to include time commitment, that it's a voluntary role, what relevant skills can be brought to the position and to be community focused
 - Invite expressions of interest
 - Successful applicants to be short-listed and informed if/when successful
 - An opportunity to still be involved in the group if unsuccessful for a champion/theme leader position
 - Timeframe for expressions of interest to be released – suggested late January/February 2025
 - It was identified that a schedule of groups that could feed into, business, commercial and tourism would assist to spread the word for people to apply. Laura will commence the process by distributing a list of what the community development team have to all members to feed into to ensure wider coverage.
- It was discussed if Foxton Futures Group to have mandate for funding in the future, and if the group should be a legal entity. Agreed that these areas need further discussion and thought as some groups within Foxton Futures are already legal entities. Foxton Futures Group will be the collective voice and mechanism to bring all the community groups together. Future conversations will be needed once the governance structure has been established.
- Council has committed budget through the Long-Term Plan with year 3 having an increased budget. The future Foxton Futures Group can consider how that money be spent in the future.
- Recommended for the Foxton Futures Governance Group to consist of theme leaders with an independent chair to lead. Once the selection process is completed, a transition process would take place to workshop and guide coordination and direction.

General Business

- Meeting closed at 11.45am.

Date	Action	Responsible	Status
4.11.24	Conversations re proposed new leadership structure of the future Foxton Futures Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HRC – Emma Clarke & Sam Ferguson - HRC – Michael McCartney - HDC Elected Members – Cr Brannigan & Cr Tamihana - TAFCB 	Robin Hapi Monique Davidson Deputy Mayor Allan John Girling	Completed In progress Completed Completed
5.12.24	Creation of Role Descriptions for Foxton Futures Leads that are not currently filled – Community/Commercial and Tourism and Recreation and circulate to the FFG members for feedback.	Susan/Robyn	In progress
5.12.24	EOI process for theme champions – to be released end of January/February	Robyn/Susan/Laura	Scheduled for January
5.12.24	Identify a list of Foxton and Foxton Beach community groups to distribute to the Foxton Futures Group to ensure all groups are captured	Laura/Robyn	

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda and Notes – Thursday 20 March 2025		
Time	1:00pm – 2.30pm	
Venue	Stewart Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Deputy Mayor David Allan Emma Clarke Susan Philp Robyn Ryder Laura Fisher Lindsay Sanson Judy Sanson Irene Wakefield	Horowhenua District Council (Co-Chair) Save our River Trust (SORT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Business Representative Business Representative Ngāti Raukawa (on behalf of Hayden Turoa)
Apologies	Cr Ross Brannigan Cr Justin Tamihana Jason Davy Hayden Turoa	Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Business Representative Ngāti Raukawa

Agenda Items		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	Robin Hapi
2.	Introductions (<i>if required</i>)	All
3.	Confirmation of previous minutes	Robin Hapi
4.	Next steps following the Expressions of Interest process to represent themes identified in the Community Plan on Page	All
5.	Closing Karakia	Robin Hapi

Meeting Notes

Previous Minutes

The meeting notes of the previous meeting of the Foxton Futures Group held on 5 December 2024 were circulated. Deputy Mayor David Allan moved to confirm the meeting notes of the Foxton Futures Group held on 5 December 2024 as a true and correct record and was seconded by Lindsay Sanson.

Foxton Futures Group – Expressions of Interest

At the Foxton Futures Group meeting held on 5 December 2024, direction was provided for the next steps be to engage in an expressions of interest (EOI) process to seek interest from members of the community and community groups to join the Foxton Futures Group; specifically, to support each of the six themes identified on the Community Plan on a Page, i.e. Nature and Environment, Infrastructure and Transport, Community, Recreation, Culture and Heritage, and Commercial and Tourism.

The expressions of interest process opened on 12 February 2025 and closed on 5 March 2025. At closing, 18 expressions of interest had been received. There were three late submissions received after the closing date, and these were discussed and accepted during the meeting. (Since the meeting, a further enquiry has been received from Mewington’s Book Shoppe who have yet to confirm their involvement).

The following table is a list of all those who submitted an expression of interest, noting that some submitters had selected to be included across multiple themes.

	Nature and Environment	Community	Culture and Heritage
1	Marie Fearon	Frank McRoy	Frank McRoy
2	Pou Sefesi (SoRT)	Joanne Packer	Joanne Packer
3	Emma Forbes	Peta Larsen	Marie Fearon
4	Austin Mew	Steve Cowan	Irene Wakefield
5	Carla Halidone	Katie Clark	Carla Halidone
6	Amy Cooper	Marie Fearon	Amy Cooper
7		Phillip Kettle	
8		Carla Halidone	
9		Amy Cooper	
10		Louise Praat	
	Commercial and Tourism	Infrastructure and Transport	Recreation
1	Joanne Packer	Austin Mew	Frank McRoy
2	Daniella Petersen		Trudy Francis
3	Steve Cowan		Joanne Packer
4	Katie Clark		Daniella Peterson
5	Uwe Kroll		Peta Larsen
6	Austin Mew		Steve Cowan
7	Phillip Kettle		Katie Clark
8	Carla Halidone		Marie Fearon
9	Judy Sanson (DTAF)		Emma Forbes
10	Daniel Jack		Austin Mew
11	Kate Street (Foxton Tourist & Development Association)		Carla Halidone
12	Mewington's Book Shoppe (TBC)		Daniel Jack
13			Amy Cooper
14			Nick McVeigh (Foxton Rugby)

The meeting focused on determining the best process for appointing leads to four of the six themes within the Foxton Futures Group as it had been decided in previous meetings that Infrastructure and Transport would be led by Horowhenua District Council, and Nature and Environment led by Horizons Regional Council.

Discussions included whether leadership should be assigned to individuals or groups, the role of key stakeholders, and ensuring local representation. It was decided that the next steps would involve hosting a workshop to engage with EOI applicants, outlining role expectations, meeting frequency, theme preferences and to facilitate leader selection.

The following was noted during the meeting:

Foxton Futures Structure:

- The newly formed Foxton Futures Governance Group will require the appointment of a Chairperson to bring all groups together, i.e. Elected Members, HDC, TAFCB, HRC and theme leads.

- The group is structured around six themes, with a need for six people to lead each theme. Monique Davidson acknowledged the involvement of HDC and Horizons Regional Council (Michael McCartney) to lead the themes of Infrastructure and Transport, and Nature and Environment respectively.
- Discussion was held on appointing a lead across different areas of interest, and the need to provide an indication of who should lead each theme.

Leadership Appointments:

- Monique suggested approaching Mike Fletcher to be involved in Infrastructure and Transport.
- Emma Clarke confirmed that she and Sam Ferguson will not be running for re-election as Councilors for Horizons Regional Council in the upcoming local elections.
- Judy Sanson clarified that her expression of interest was on behalf of the Destination Te Awahou Foxton (DTAF) group, and not an individual submission.
- The group discussed whether leadership should be assigned to a group, or a single person and the risks involved in team leadership.

Priorities and Next Steps:

- Appointment of a Chairperson. When appointing a Chairperson, it would be preferential that they are from Foxton or Foxton Beach.
- Four of the six themes require leadership appointments.
- Establish how the group will operate moving forward.
- A workshop will be scheduled as a meet-and-greet, outline expectations, help determine suitable leaders and a process for meetings going forward.
- Officers will contact all community members who submitted an expression of interest, outlining the role expectations and provide details of the upcoming workshop.

General Business

- Meeting closed at 2:30pm
- Next meeting – to be advised

Actions List			
Date	Action	Responsible	Status
5.12.24	EOI process for theme champions – to be released end of January/February	Robyn/Susan/Laura	Scheduled for January
5.12.24	Identify a list of Foxton and Foxton Beach community groups to distribute to the Foxton Futures Group to ensure all groups are captured	Laura/Robyn	Ongoing
20.03.25	Identify potential leaders for each theme	All	
20.03.25	Organise a workshop to identify theme preferences, facilitate leadership selection and set out meeting expectations and frequency	Susan/Robyn/Laura	
20.03.25	Draft/send a letter to expression of interest submitters, detailing roles, expectations and upcoming workshop	Susan/Robyn	

Foxton Futures Group Meeting

Meeting Agenda and Notes – Thursday 28 August 2025		
Time	1:00pm – 2.30pm	
Venue	Teal Room - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton	
Attendees	Monique Davidson Robin Hapi David McCorkindale Robyn Ryder Laura Fisher Judy Sanson Andrew Reid Anne Saolele-Lealiifano Dan Jack Cr Justin Tamihana Jason Davy Jon Roygard Michael McCartney Cr Ross Brannigan Te Kenehi Teira John Girling Pou Sefesi	Co-Chair/HDC/Infrastructure and Transport Co-Chair/Save our River Trust (SORT) (Co-Chair) Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Horowhenua District Council Commercial and Tourism The Horowhenua Company Limited Horowhenua District Council Recreation Horowhenua District Council Commercial and Tourism Horizons Regional Council Horizons Regional Council Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Save Our River Trust (SORT)/Community
Apologies	Deputy Mayor David Allan Emma Clarke Lindsay Sanson Hayden Turoa Irene Wakefield	Horowhenua District Council Horizons Regional Council Commercial and Tourism Ngāti Raukawa Ngāti Raukawa/Culture and Heritage)

Agenda Items		
No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	Karakia	Robin Hapi
2.	Introductions and welcome from the Co-Chairs	All
3.	Confirmation of previous minutes	Robin Hapi
4.	The six theme leads (or their representatives) to present their action plans outlining their priorities, tasks and actions to the group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial and Tourism – Lead: Jason Davy and Lindsay Sanson • Culture and Heritage – Lead: Irene Wakefield • Community – Lead: Pou Sefesi 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and Transport – Horowhenua District Council • Nature and Environment – Horizons Regional Council • Recreation – Dan Jack 	
5.	Outline next steps	All
6.	Closing Karakia	Robin Hapi

Summary

- The Foxton Futures Group meeting included introductions from the co-chairs and reports from six theme leads covering commercial and tourism, culture and heritage, community, infrastructure and transport, nature and environment, and recreation.
- Key discussions focused on updating online business listings, community engagement processes, and leadership appointments for theme groups. Several action items were scheduled.
- The meeting focused on ongoing and future maintenance and infrastructure projects, recreation planning, community engagement, and communication improvements in Foxton and Foxton Beach and surrounding areas.
- Key themes included flood protection, advocacy, resource allocation, recreational assets, and the need for better reporting and coordination among community groups.
- A recurring suggestion was to clarify top priorities for each group and enhance communication both internally and to the wider community.
- The next meeting is planned for October, after the local elections, with the goal of presenting a draft community plan for Foxton and Foxton Beach that will require input from theme groups to provide their top priorities.

Theme Lead Reports

Commercial and Tourism – Update from Judy Sanson and Jason Davy

- Meeting held on 14 July 2025, to determine group leadership. Lindsay Sanson confirmed as lead.
- Action plan includes creating a local business map (online and physical) and verifying/updating the Horowhenua NZ website.
- Lindsay coordinating with Horowhenua NZ for information updates. Discussion with HDC (Horowhenua District Council) about updating website and i-SITE.
- Tourism-related initiatives discussed. Roundabout at Union Street for main street access, improved signage, and toilet signs on main streets (also outlined with infrastructure and transport).
- Jason Davy has offered the New World space for theme groups to hold their meetings in the space.

Culture and Heritage – Led by Irene Wakefield – Email update

- All original members except the current lead have opted out of the Culture & Heritage group.

- New members engaged: Kiri from Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Jim Harper, and the Foxton Historical Society.
- Work has commenced on creating a list of historical sites and buildings in Te Awahou.

Community - Led by Pou Sefesi

- The group identified core work streams as:
 - Community connectivity
 - Community space
 - Youth and next generation engagement
 - Food resilience
- Foxton Memorial Hall was highlighted as a strong focus of community interest.
- The group agreed to hold fortnightly meetings to maintain momentum.
- Brainstorming sessions are being conducted specifically around the future use and development of the Foxton Memorial Hall.
- It was noted that Foxton Beach requires a more neutral community space.
- Plans are underway to develop a community newsletter and website to improve communication.
- The group discussed the need to decide on collaboration tools and working methods, with Trello proposed as the primary platform for coordination.
- There is a need to clearly define the purpose and scope of Foxton Futures, including identifying the target groups and community needs.
- Discussion included organising distribution lists for the various theme groups to enhance communication and engagement.

Infrastructure and Transport - Led by Monique Davidson (HDC)

- The initial meeting emphasised the importance of focusing efforts on a single clear objective, with a strong commitment to protecting the river, supporting the community, and promoting environmental sustainability.
- The group decided to concentrate on transport-related initiatives to avoid overlap with other regional projects.
- There is ongoing longer-term engagement regarding opportunities from the Otaki to North Levin (O2NL) program.
- HDC's Land Transport Manager has been actively involved in the discussions.
- Noted a \$12 million funding reduction by NZ Transport Agency (NZTA).
- The next project phase targets encouraging school children and families to walk to and from school, prioritising high-impact, low-cost solutions.
- NZTA representatives are scheduled to visit Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom on 12 September to discuss planned works on the State Highway.
- NZTA aims to communicate with the community, address concerns, and use this engagement as a platform for input into the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) and Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).
- The group has been invited to participate in this upcoming engagement.

Nature and Environment - Horizons Regional Council

- Plan to engage new councilors regarding their roles and collaborate with SORT, freshwater grants, and the biodiversity fund.
- The meeting focused on available funding opportunities for environmental projects, including several grant programs and contestable funds.
- Updates were provided on application statuses, council decision-making processes, and recent infrastructure investments, particularly around flood resilience.
- The conversation highlighted the significant impact of recent infrastructure spending compared to available grant funding.
- \$3.5-\$3.9 million spent on Moutoa Floodgates and related works, now protecting 280 sq km during major floods.
- Recognition that while investments in Foxton may not be highly visible in the Long-Term Plan (LTP), significant improvements have been made in resilience.

Recreation - Led by Dan Jack

- Recreation theme has met once
- The group discussed the difficulty in narrowing down recreation needs due to varied interests and busy family lives.
- There are strong community resourcefulness and existing clubs (rugby, netball, swimming) despite limited funding.
- It was noted that interest in large projects (like a sports stadium) is uncertain due to possible lack of participation; more likely success exists in refining and supporting smaller-scale initiatives.
- Emphasis was placed on leveraging existing assets, notably the river and walkways, and exploring enhancements such as extending walkways to the beach.
- Engaging with other towns' successful projects (like Ashurst's walkway) was suggested for ideas.
- Suggestions included hosting an open community event (like a gym open day) to increase visibility.
- Lighting for Eastern Park and upgrades to the grandstand roof were discussed as current infrastructure projects, with night rugby seen as a future possibility.
- \$500,000 Capex funding allocated to Foxton Futures for the next financial year, with plans to use input from the group to identify suitable projects

Next Steps

- Each group to identify their top three priorities to enable focused planning and collaboration and to be included in the draft Foxton and Foxton Beach Community Plan.
- Each theme/group: Settle on a method for record keeping and reporting (consider Trello or similar, explore a lead/support person for setup).

- Chairperson appointment planned for early 2026, ideally from Foxton or Foxton Beach.
- Target for the next meeting: More developed overall plan for Foxton Futures, with clear group priorities.

General Business

- Meeting closed at 2:40pm
- Next meeting – to be advised

Actions List			
Date	Action	Responsible	Status
28.8.2025	Identify no cost venues in Foxton/Foxton Beach that are available to book for the theme groups	Laura	
28.8.2025	Circulate the meeting invite for the NZTA meeting scheduled for 12 September 2025	Laura	
28.8.2025	Pull together draft community plan and templates based on existing work for the next meeting.	Anne	