



# Shannon / Otāuru Community Plan 2025

COMMUNITY AT HEART

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL





Our Journey | Tā Mātou Hīkoinga

The Shannon Community had voiced their support for a Shannon Community Plan, and during the Long Term Plan 2024-2044 process, several Shannon community members called for the next Community Plan to be in Shannon. With such a strong case made, Council agreed and it became one of Council's Top 12 Priorities.

In September 2024, Horowhenua District Council, Ngāti Whakitere, and the Shannon/Otāuru Community united/came together to envision a brighter future through the development of a Shannon Community Plan. A series of public meetings followed, starting at Whakawehi Marae, then moving to Memorial Hall and the Shannon Library.

In December 2024, a dedicated Working Group was formed to drive the development of the Shannon Community Plan including local iwi and community members, local business and organisation representatives, and Council representatives. Their unwavering commitment to this incredible

community shone through in their extensive outreach, including an evening drop-in session and seven evening interactive workshops. This community plan embodies the hopes and dreams of our Shannon/Otāuru community.

These high-level goals serve as a framework for decision-making and

strategy, which paves the way for transforming our aspirations into reality. By collaborating, we can ensure Shannon/Otāuru thrives as a place that values Partnerships with Iwi/hapū and community, and prioritises Nature and Built Environment, Community Assets and Services, Economic Growth

and Community Spirit, Connections and Lifestyle. This plan is a living document and will evolve as we navigate changes in our environment, leadership, and political landscape.

Our Vision | Tā Mātou Whakakitenga

A vibrant town filled with community spirit and resilience, aspiring for a thriving economy while enhancing recreational spaces, protecting the environment, and valuing our cultural connections.

He tāone e kī pai ana ki te wairua ā-hapori me te aumangea, e hōkaka ana kia tōnui ai te ōhanga tōnui i te whakarāwaitanga o te wāhi tākaro, te tiakanga o te taiao, me te whakaū i ngā hononga ā-ahurea.

Partnerships with Manawhenua | He Hononga Mana Whenua

Our Iwi/hapū values our Community, every individual and group. As mana whenua, we want to preserve, respect, share and celebrate our history, culture and traditions. Together we can build a thriving, sustainable, and culturally vibrant community.

Our Key priorities | Ngā Haepapa Matua



**Nature & Built Environment**  
Te Taiao me te Ao Hangahanga

Our Community is dedicated to fostering and improving our environment for the benefit of both present and future generations.

- ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
Ngā Whakakitenga mō te Hapori
- Partner with Mana Whenua and the community to honour kaitiakitanga (stewardship) when making decisions for Te Taiao (Environment).

Enhance/Develop our recreational areas

Shared pathways to the marae and Mangaore (moved from Tourism)

Explore or encourage and support projects to cultivate food resilience and to harness the power of natural medicines.

Enhance access to the river through the development of walkways and tracks.

Have clear and bilingual signage

Weed control in our key/main public open spaces eg. Entrance to parks

Establish dog walking tracks



**Community Assets & Services**  
Ngā Whiwhinga Hapori me ngā Ratonga

Our Community appreciates its unique strengths and recognises its need to uplift and enhance our shared experiences.

- ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
Ngā Whakakitenga mō te Hapori
- Development of a Community hub where people of all ages can connect. This will boost our community's spirit, inspire community motivation, foster meaningful relationships and resilience. (moved from Community Connections) – noting the importance of Shannon Memorial hall to the community,

Work with Shannon School to improve accessibility to the pool and explore upgrade opportunities.

A range of affordable and available housing in Shannon

To support and build on our existing Health & Wellbeing Centre.

Library/Community space enhancements

Renovations and upgrades to the Shannon grandstand.

Development of a range of both indoor and outdoor exercise and fitness opportunities and facilities



**Tourism/ Economic Development**  
Te Whanake i te Ao Tāpoi me te Ōhanga

Our Community strongly values our local businesses and is committed to promoting their growth. A stronger, more robust economy will contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of life within our community.

- ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
Ngā Whakakitenga mō te Hapori
- To enhance the beauty of our town and improve its overall appearance.

Attract more businesses to boost local economy, stimulate innovation, increase employment and keep the community vibrant.

To enhance the retail experience of all ages.

A local Tourism plan that enhances the Tourism experience



**Community Spirit, Connections and Lifestyle**  
Te Wairua o te Hapori, te Tūhonotanga me te Āhua Noho

Our Community thrives on being socially connected. Strong family and social ties lead to greater happiness and health for all individuals and communities. Our priorities also include ensuring safety and advocating for enhanced access to public transport to keep us more connected.

- ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
Ngā Whakakitenga mō te Hapori
- Partner with Mana Whenua and the community in a way that honours kaitiakitanga (stewardship) when making related decisions for the town.

Establish a dedicated space for our youth/rangatahi. This fosters a positive environment that supports and empowers our young people.

Enhance and build on existing community events that foster connections within the wider community such as Matariki, Waitangi Day, Kiingitanga annual visit to Poutū Pā (Whakawehi Marae) for the Poukai, Car shows, Hauora Day, Christmas parades, and ANZAC commemorations.

Organise new community events, sports events, regular markets and movie nights.

Safer town with enhanced safety measures

Enhanced travel solutions

## Our working group



**From Left:** Cr Paul Olsen, Sarajane Swinton, Sharon Williams, Priscilla Wade, Greg Dearsly, Maria Viseur, Rose Siva, Lani Ketu, Maria Anthoni, John Viseur, James Disney

**Absent:** Robyn Mouzouri, Xan Remnant, Council officers Blair Spencer and Anne Saolele-Lealiifano

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## Next Steps - Implementation | Ngā Whanaketanga - Te Whakatinanatanga

The Working Group will continue to work with the community, businesses, organisations, and Horowhenua District Council about potential avenues of assistance and how to bring these actions to life. The success and delivery of this plan is not expected from one organisation or group but requires all parts to be working together. The implementation of the plan will be monitored yearly to track progress and to keep our vision aligned.