

PUKETAPU-BELL BLOCK COMMUNITY BOARD PLAN 2023-2026



The Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board Plan sets out the visions and aspirations of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board. This Plan has been reviewed with input from the community via a survey and discussions. The Plan provides the New Plymouth District Council with an insight into the matters that are important to the Puketapu-Bell Block community board area, and where investment and action are needed.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Message from the Chair

It has been a long time coming, but thanks to the foresight of the previous term's Council and senior NPDC staff, the Puketapu-Bell Block community finally has a voice and advocacy inside our Council via its dedicated community board solely focused on serving its communities concerns and needs in the short, medium, and long term.

My fellow board members and I are humbled to be part of the inaugural Puketapu-Bell Block board, and we take the responsibility of shaping our very first community board plan very seriously as this plan provides deep insights and direction into where investment could/should happen in our Community via the NPDC Long Term Plan (LTP).

That is why the recent survey was so critical and helpful, as without the 530+ respondents who took the time and effort to complete the survey, we wouldn't have the depth and breadth of feedback to have confidence that we understood the critical areas the Community wanted the board to focus on in its Community Board Plan.

What the survey and various community engagement events have uncovered/highlighted is that there seems to be an unintentional underinvestment in our Community across some areas that are laid out further in this plan; along with this underinvestment is the fragmented infrastructure planning and it is not evident that there is a critical 'helicopter' view that takes a holistic approach of what the Community will need in the short, medium, and long term. The board believes that this missing holistic approach is the one that is causing the most angst within the Community and business operators and likely cause the most disruption and frustration if it is not addressed and supported by a clear plan on how required infrastructure needs will be aligned by NPDC to accommodate the fastest growing suburb in Taranaki.


We are mindful that some of the items raised in this plan require 3rd party collaboration, e.g., Waka Kotahi, Taranaki Regional Council and others; this makes it more challenging for the council officers to affect the change we are advocating for. Hopefully, this plan will help them with those negotiations.

Along with this critical Community Board Plan, we also have a discretionary fund of \$70k this financial year to spend on projects within our community, and the survey, along with the many face-to-face meetings, has helped tremendously in determining where we can invest that money; it has been an exciting and enjoyable time for us all serving the Community.

Adrian Sole
Chair
Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board

Meet the Puketapu/Bell Block Community Board Members 2022-2025

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Adrian Sole Chair | Phone: 021 866 338 Email: adrian.sole@npdc.govt.nz |
|  | Michael (Mike) Baker Deputy Chair | Phone: 027 458 9452 Email: mike.baker@npdc.govt.nz |
|  | Grant Knuckey | Phone: 021 496 024 Email: grant.knuckey@npdc.govt.nz |
|  | Tane Webster | Phone: 021 090 84492 Email: tane.webster@npdc.govt.nz |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | Murray Chong Kaitake-Ngāmotu General Ward Councillor | Phone: 021 936 837 Email: murray.chong@npdc.govt.nz |
|---|---|--|

Advisory Panel

This panel comprises a diverse range of local community-minded individuals to widen the makeup of the current board, help weigh the Community's needs, and lesson 'group think' while providing a different 'lens' to areas the board may not have.

Barbara Morris

Kim Sowman (Admin Bell Block Community Facebook page)

Mary Perrott

Bob Clarke

Senior Constable Graeme Jones

Peter Moeahu (Puketapu Hapū)

Ross Beavan - Chair of Bell Block Pool Society

Ngatai Walker - Principal of Puketapu-Bell Block School

Bruce Moller – CEO Howard Wright Ltd

Dean Eggers – Group General Manager Symons Transport

Acknowledgements

Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board would like to thank the members of the Community who volunteered their time and participated in this process, as time permitted, by attending a community board or public meetings or completing the online survey—also, the members of the Advisory Panel as listed later.

The Board would like to acknowledge the support of the late Barbara Morris in contributing to the development of this Board Plan, in particular her work on the data analysis of the survey. Barbara was a tireless advocate for the Bell Block community; her passion and energy will be sadly missed.

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Executive Summary

The Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board Plan sets out the visions and aspirations of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board. This Plan has been reviewed with input from the community via a survey and discussions. The Plan provides the New Plymouth District Council with an insight into the matters that are important to the Puketapu-Bell Block community board area, and where investment and action are needed

The best short-term outcome that we can achieve for the Community is that Council conducts the critical Spatial Planning and One Network Framework reports in the 2023/2024 periods as we believe, this will provide the evidence to support critical thinking and solutions that will be required for our area going forward for the next 30 years!



Bell Block Court/War Memorial

About Community Boards

Community boards play an important role in local governance, serving as the primary link between the local community and the Council.

New Plymouth District Council's Community Boards are not committees of Council. They are unincorporated bodies providing a voice for communities outside of the New Plymouth City area. The Community Boards are representatives, advocates and connectors of those communities, promoting stronger community wellbeing for our diverse communities. When compared to the role of councillors, Community Board members spend a greater proportion of their time on representation matters and proportionally less on governance.

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provides the statutory framework within which boards must operate, including rules and processes which govern how they work. The role of a community board is set out in section 52 of the LGA:

- ◆ To represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community.
- ◆ To consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- ◆ To maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community.
- ◆ To prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community.
- ◆ To undertake any other responsibility that the Council delegates to the Board.

The LGA also sets out things a community cannot do including acquiring, holding or disposing of property and appointing, removing or suspending staff.

Representation and advocacy

As part of their role representing and advocating for their communities, Community Boards are driven by the need to promote social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing across their community. Community Boards represent and advocate for their communities in many ways including providing recommendations to Council on policies, plans and bylaws, processes and procedures and the allocation and distribution of resources.

There are some constraints on advocacy. For example, boards must act within budgetary constraints set by the Council. They may need to rely on the Council staff for support helping to prepare documents, submissions or analysis of issues.

Decision-making and delegations

New Plymouth District Council has delegated the following authority to community boards:
Determine parking prohibitions and restrictions within the relevant community board area.

- ◆ Determine Temporary Road Closure applications under Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1974 where the area of the closure is within a community board area.
- ◆ Determine applications for non-commercial Licences to occupy and encroachment licences within the relevant community board area and not within the delegation of a Council Officer. In the case of a reserve, the application must be consistent with the relevant reserve management plan and the delegation is subject to the Reserves Act 1977. (Noting that any decisions made by Council as delegatee of the Minister for any decisions under the Reserves Act 1977 must be made by full elected Council and may not be delegated).
- ◆ Fund minor projects (with the exclusion of roading projects) from the Community Boards Discretionary Fund and in line with the Community Boards Discretionary Funding Framework.

Appointed members to the Community Board

At least every six years, the Council undertakes a representation review which establishes the districts community boards, including the area they cover and how many elected and appointed members there will be.

Council has appointed Councillor Murray Chong (Kaitake-Ngāmotu Ward Councillor) to the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board.

Only ward councillors can be appointed, and the Mayor and councillors who stood "at large" are ineligible for appointment to a community board.

Developing our plan

Our plan has been developed in collaboration with local residents. As a new community board starting from scratch our four elected board members and our appointed Councillor could not, and shouldn't, make decisions for thousands of stakeholders without consultation.

We undertook an online public survey (created by the NPDC team), which was promoted online, via posters and in-person meetings. We provided printed versions of the survey at the local Library and supermarket and any public gatherings. To encourage participation, we also offered an incentive. Multiple local businesses donated 39 spot prizes. This was a lovely win/win opportunity as the spot prizes helped increase survey participation (which in the end exceeded 530 surveys) and provided some marketing and support for the donating businesses.

- ◆ The Chamber of Commerce sent the survey to all the registered Bell Block businesses advocating that they fill it in and share their voices.
- ◆ The Community Board held two public workshops at the Fred Tucker Hall. These were well attended, provided great insights and reinforced the survey feedback and trends.
- ◆ Community Board members held two onsite meetings at Maida Vale and Summerset. These were targeted at those residents who found it difficult to travel.
- ◆ We engaged with Shane Grey from the local touch rugby summer event, to assist with distributing printed surveys.

As a result of the information we have gathered, and the demographic data for our area, we have identified the most pressing issues facing our community. This has allowed us to determine the six focus areas for our community:

- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Infrastructure/ Facilities
- ◆ Sustainable Growth
- ◆ Engagement
- ◆ Environment

From the focus areas we have determined the initiatives, projects and deliverables we would like Council to deliver on our behalf, and those areas where the Community Board can advocate on your behalf to external agencies – such as the Taranaki Regional Council and Waka Kotahi.

The board would like to thank all those that participated. Special shoutout to Kim Sowman, (the main admin for the Bell Block Community Facebook page), for heavily promoting participation. Without the valuable insights on why you love this Community, what is concerning you and how we can make our community better, we would have missed vital areas to advocate for or underestimated the needs of our community.



Bell Block Beach looking toward Mangati Rd / Tiromoana Crescent / NP Airport

Working with Mana Whenua

Develop a mutual dialogue with Māori of the Puketapu-Bell Block rohe to increase our understanding of the history of the area, be informed about the views of Māori and to enable better decision making.

Turning our Plan into Action

Turning plans into reality takes many people working together – the community, the community board and the wider Council family.

To deliver against the outcomes in this community board plan, we:

Have prioritised our requests for projects (and budget)

- ◆ Will advocate to Council for these projects to be included in the Long-Term Plan and/or Annual Plans
- ◆ Will make community views and preferences known to Council to assist them in their decision-making.
- ◆ Work with Council staff, community groups and partners to support delivery of projects.

Indicative Budget and Funding Sources

There are a number of ways that community board initiatives can be funded:

- ◆ Council is the decision-maker on investment in new facilities and major upgrades of facilities. This includes any major projects that have been submitted by community boards. Major projects require planning and design and are primarily funded through general rate funding.
- ◆ In 2021 Council established a Community Boards Discretionary Fund and delegated authority to the community boards to allocate funding for minor local projects for 2021-2024. The Community Boards are advocating for the continuation of this fund for the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.
- ◆ Some projects may require external funding assistance. Council officers will assist the Community Boards with applications to external funders.

Council's Strategic Framework is widely used across the organisation, and a critical tool for setting the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. Community Board projects and initiatives must therefore align with Council's Strategic Framework.

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework sets the Council's vision, mission and goals. The goals are Council's community outcomes.

The Strategic Framework is widely used across the organisation, and a critical tool for setting the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. Community Board projects and initiatives must therefore align with Council's Strategic Framework.

Vision: Sustainable Lifestyle Capital

Mission: Ensuring Taranaki is a place of opportunity where people want to live, learn, work, play and invest now and into the future with a focus on kaitiakitanga.

| Goals (Community Outcomes) | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Trusted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Te Tiriti partnerships with hapū and iwi to improve well-being. Building trust and credibility with community, business, fellow councils and government. Demonstrating leadership and striving for operational excellence. |
| Thriving Communities and Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected and engaged communities. Safe and active communities. An equitable and inclusive approach to delivering for all our people and communities. Communities that embrace Te Ao Māori. |
| Environmental Excellence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring our ecosystems. Mitigating further environmental impacts. Tackling the challenges of climate change. Delivering resilient infrastructure efficiently. |
| Prosperity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and supporting initiatives to achieve a diversified high-performing economy. An equitable economy where people have access to quality employment and opportunities to build wealth. Contributing to NZ Inc’s environmental sustainability and economic performance. |

Puketapu/Bell Block Community Board Vision

To advocate for fair investment and appropriate planning for the residents, industrial and commercial businesses and other interested stakeholders regarding growth, infrastructure, safety, environment, and community assets, driven by the broader needs of the Puketapu-Bell Block community.

Our Key Focus Areas

Focus Area 1 **Planning**

Our community needs an overarching holistic plan that enables the best outcome for lifestyle, recreational, commuting, and business growth that is harmonious with each other now and in the future.

Opportunities

Making an investment now using the proven Spatial Planning Framework (LGNZ, 2021) ¹ will allow this holistic plan to provide a clear, coordinated blueprint for planning that is needed now and in the future.

Challenges

Because of the haphazard way Bell Block has grown, can the community get enough support and budget to make the tougher short to mid-term changes to make Puketapu-Bell Block the most sustainable, liveable and prosperous township it deserves?

Focus Area 2 **Transportation**

That residential, commercial, public and transiting traffic all can use the roads simultaneously in a safe, efficient, practical, and sustainable way.

Opportunities

Roading will form part of the Spatial Planning review so that in-conjunction with the already planned One Network Framework (Waka Kotahi, 2023) ² review the Council is undertaking from July 2023 will provide clear evidence/feedback on how to best manage this going forward.

¹ <https://localgovernmentmag.co.nz/spatial-planning-be-ready-by-starting-now/>

² <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning-and-investment/planning/one-network-framework/>

Challenges

NPDC isn't in control of all the roads, SH3 runs right through the middle of our area controlled by Waka Kotahi and then Taranaki Regional Council manage other aspects, they all have different budgets and priorities.

Focus Area 3 Infrastructure / Facilities

That our community has the same or applicable services and investment as other NPDC townships/areas proportional to our size, commercial density, and future growth forecasts.

Opportunities

In the Spatial Planning report, it is likely to uncover many opportunities to make additional investments in these key areas that cover this category which will ensure that our infrastructure is 'fit-for-purpose' going forward based on population and mixed-use.

Challenges

Unfortunately, these future investments that are likely to be required are either currently under-budgeted or not budgeted at all, this will put pressure on rates, but these future costs are offset to a high percentage through developer and homeowner contributions.

Focus Area 4 Sustainable Growth

Our community ranks lifestyle as the number one reason they live here; we need a plan to ensure that all developments follow or enhance this outcome.

Opportunities

To ensure that new developments not only support this lifestyle aspiration, but actually enhance it with appropriately sized sections, roads, footpaths, street lighting and access to green spaces, walkways and parks and playgrounds.

Challenges

Some developers will want to push 'high density' developments which currently are at odds with the above, so will there be the oversight and rules/guidelines in place to prevent this?

Focus Area 5 Engagement

We will work together for our community and future generations and acknowledge a partnership with Iwi and Hapū of the Puketapu-Bell Block area.

Opportunities

With the pending Area Q name changing to Puketapu, this will go a long way to recognising the significance of this area along with the walkway extension to Waitara which has many opportunities to educate about the history in partnership with Iwi.

Challenges

To find other suitable opportunities to collaborate with the Hapū and be mindful of other developments/projects that may be at odds with their ethos so these can be navigated together.

Focus Area 6 Environment

With the increasing threat/impact of climate change and our duty of care for the environment for future generations, we need to consider the implications of any investments or in-actions on the environment short and long term.

Opportunities

To act as change agents and be part of the solution and not the cause, help identify areas of current or future development that are potentially at risk and ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint as a Community.

Challenges

Doing the right thing for the environment could mean change e.g. some land may no longer be suited to housing or commercial use, extra investments in protecting what we have already developed and associated costs involved.

Our Priorities

The priorities the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board would like to see furthered as part of the Long-Term Plan commitments are detailed below. (Note, not in any weighted order)

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Public Toilets – Town Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Construction of toilet facilities to support shoppers, young families, the elderly, medical conditions etc and visitors, to be located in the Bell Block Court. <p>Currently, there are no public toilets in the main town centre of Bell Block Court.</p> <p>The closest toilets are located at Hickford Park, which is too far away.</p> | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Safer Streets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Address road crossing safety issues on Nugent St and the safety of pedestrians coming from Pohutakawa Place to Bell Block Centre through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Additional car and accessible parking in the town centre need to be investigated. – Adopt a 30km Speed Zone for the town centre. – Footpaths and kerbing are needed for both Pohutakawa Place and at the bottom of Wills Road. – Larger 'No Parking' entrance/exit zones at Summerset Rest Home to enable better visibility for drivers. | Transportation | Thriving Communities and Culture Environmental Excellence |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Installation of CCTV | <p>◆ Installation of CCTV cameras</p> <p>Our community is deeply concerned about an increase in thefts, anti-social behaviour, and boy racer activity in our area. One of the most effective ways to reduce this behaviour is by installing CCTV.</p> <p>The main barrier to rolling out such a system is cost and complexity across such a large catchment.</p> <p>The Board will table a NZ Police endorsed solution to NPDC to overcome this barrier. The proposal will utilise the many existing community-based cameras and investment in new cameras to cover 'hotspots'.</p> | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Dog Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Investigate and develop a Dog Park adjacent to the walkway, around Hickford Park. <p>There are many dog owners in our area, but there are no designated areas where dogs can run around off-leash legally, freely and safely.</p> <p>The proposed dog park would require additional features, such as water stations for both dogs and humans and dog bins.</p> <p>A potentially suitable space has been identified, near Hickford Park. This site also has easy access to the existing public toilets.</p> | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| New Public BBQ Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Construct two new communal BBQ areas, with coin-operated gas-powered BBQ grills, located under a fixed canopy to provide shading and rain protection with seating for 8 – 12 people. <p>Potential sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The area north of the BMX pump track, adjacent to the walkway and proposed dog park, and close to the existing public toilets; and – Bell Block Beach. <p>Note: Most towns have two or more communal BBQ areas, Bell Block is seriously under serviced.</p> | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| <p>Playgrounds – Additional & Improvements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council to review the current provision of playground space and equipment within the Bell Block Board rohe. Currently, Bell Block has only two playgrounds. For a population expected to exceed 13,000 by 2043 additional playgrounds are required to support the projected growth. <p>This aspiration includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A review of the current playground space and equipment – Installation of appropriate shading and seating – Planning for at least one additional new playground location (e.g. Area Q) | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Renaming Area Q | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council to rename Area Q with a name appropriate to the location. <p>Noted that Area Q is referred to as the Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area in the new District Plan.</p> <p>The Board would like clarity on whether this will be the eventual name, and strongly suggest that the chosen name should have cultural significance and provide a connection to our Board name of Puketapu-Bell Block.</p> <p>The Board suggest that everything north of Wills Road is called Puketapu or Puketapu-Bell Block or a suitable alternative name, upon consultation with Māori.</p> | Engagement | <p>Trusted</p> <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Bell Block Beach Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improve public access to Bell Block beach. Developments are urgently required and should be undertaken within outcomes from a Council driven Spatial Plan. The survey has provided clear evidence that proximity and access to our beaches, particularly the Bell Block Beach at the end of Mangati Road, is necessary. There is community frustration with the quality and safety of access via the boat ramp and unofficial pathways. The Board request Council to find a sustainable way to improve the boat ramp with access for the public, kayakers and potentially jet skis. We acknowledge that this would take collaboration with TRC, but it needs addressing pragmatically. The current access paths and clearing of rocks across the boat ramp are not fit for purpose. | Infrastructure Facilities + Environment | Thriving Communities and Culture Environmental Excellence |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Bicycle/Mobility Service Station | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The installation of an entirely turn-key servicing station with tools, compressed-air and recharging stations for both e-bikes and mobility scooters located around the BMX facility. There is increasing use of the walkway by cyclists (including e-bikes) and mobility scooters - many coming from New Plymouth and soon from Waitara. Services are required to satisfy this demand. | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| Community Garden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community Garden collaboration with the existing established community garden located at Northpoint Church. Collaboration would provide the best outcome for both quality and quantity of produce, learning programs and waste reduction. The Board will work with the existing organisation and create a communication programme to enable wider community use of this existing facility. | Engagement | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| Years 1 – 3 | | | |
| Ceasing of Grazing of Council Land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council to review the land use around the Hickford Park Ponds, Waipu Lagoons and Mangati Stream and in proximity to residential housing. <p>The Community Board question whether the grazing of cattle should be permitted to continue.</p> <p>Issues of concern are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manure runoff which might contaminate these water sources via surface and groundwater. – Smell and increased fly breeding. <p>The Community Board will advocate for Council to investigate whether this land could be managed for haymaking, or alternative use.</p> | Environment | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| Walkway Signage Improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A signage review to be undertaken The placement of appropriate signage to be erected in the Township (Bell Block Court) and Parklands showing the direction back to the walkway for visitors and at the scout hall, which direction is New Plymouth or Waitara. <p>Cultural content a priority within planned signage.</p> | Infrastructure Facilities | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/Issue</i> | <i>Key Initiative</i> | <i>Key Focus Area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Years 4-10 | | | |
| <p>Bell Block Community Hub</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council to undertake a Feasibility study in line with implementing construction of a multi-purpose Community Hub, to include a Library, information centre, meeting rooms, education & training workshops, co-working space, and public toilets, with potential for Māori, manuhiri, community groups and NGOs to utilise shared meeting, work, training and office space. ◆ Council to proceed with the outcomes identified in the Puke Ariki and Communities Libraries strategy (and endorsed by NPDC Executive Leadership team in November 2019), ie the Bell Block library has been identified as being too small for the current population, let alone to cater for any projected growth and developments in the area. <p>The current library is in a leased building in the Parklands shopping complex, with no room for expansion as it is neighboured by a supermarket and passageway.</p> <p>The Board propose that the library is relocated to a new purpose-built 'Community Hub' (potentially adjacent to the Bell Block School and Hall) and be a multi-purpose centre.</p> <p>The opportunity to partner with businesses to help cover building and ongoing costs should be explored.</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> <p>Prosperity</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Maximise opportunities for people to come together</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of access to facilities that allow the opportunity for people to come together. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> |
| <p>Fred Tucker Community Hall Development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of access to community Centre facilities that are appropriate for the size of the community. <p>The Fred Tucker Community Centre is the community’s only medium-sized public meeting place, in contrast to the Bell Block Hall which is an actual full-sized hall and unsuitable for use as a smaller meeting venue. Both local centres are heavily booked by community, sporting and other organisations, with the Community Board having to juggle meeting days and times due to unavailability of a meeting venue within the Bell Block area.</p> <p>The Fred Tucker Centre is dated and has poor acoustics, little insulation and limited parking. Investigation into better utilisation of the surrounding grounds is requested to be undertaken.</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Spatial Review of community facilities, including Hickford Park</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A Spatial Review to be undertaken to determine activities that are taking place, and the funding required to service the long term needs of a growing Puketapu-Bell Block community. <p>The development of facilities at Hickford Park was investigated in the report, Visitor Solutions “2017 Hickford Park & Bell Block Recreation and Community Facility Study: (May 2017)³. This report also discussed the library, halls and other vital public assets.</p> <p>Hickford Park has some excellent sports fields and a few facilities to support the park. However, there are no public basketball, tennis, hockey and or availability to other sporting code facilities.</p> <p>A population the size of Bell Block should have facilities and services to meet the needs of its growing population. A review is timely given community growth (actual and forecast). The 2017 report forecast a population of 7,990 by 2043. The actual 2023 population currently sits at over 9,300 and the population forecast (by Infometrics) for 2043 is close to 13,000 residents.</p> <p>The Puketapu-Bell Block area is attractive to families with children as the area provides for more affordable housing than within New Plymouth city.</p> <p>The review to include other stakeholders such as Sport Taranaki.</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|

³ 2017 Hickford Park & Bell Block Recreation and Community Facility Study: (May 2017)

Advocacy

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | | | |
| <p>Dedicated off-ramp exiting from SH3 to Pohutakawa Place</p> | <p>◆ Implementation of a dedicated off-ramp exiting from SH3 to Pohutakawa Place, together with a review of vehicle activity</p> <p>Currently, the only way to 'officially' get to Pohutakawa Place, Links Drive and other roads that come off those two main roads is via the overpass. This is inefficient, and with continued growth in the area, will put more pressure on the overpass and township roundabout.</p> <p>In reality, many hundreds of cars per day choose to use the NP Golf Course off-ramp, which means they are going into the Golf Club's private car parking area and then turning around so they can exit onto Pohutakawa Place.</p> <p>All vehicle activity along Golf Course Lane (dedicated off road), Pohutakawa Place and Bell Block Court roundabout should be reviewed and assessed within the scope of the planned One Network Framework study.</p> <p>The Board request the support of Council officers in working with Waka Kotahi on this matter.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | | | |
| <p>Extend Parklands Ave Road to intersect/join Pohutakawa Place.</p> | <p>◆ Implementing a One Network Framework (ONF) transport study (this is expected to commence in July 2023). The results from this study will influence planning decisions.</p> <p>The plan scope will include the whole perimeter around the Bell Block school.</p> <p>A roundabout and off-ramp have been budgeted for in the 2024-2027 Long Term Plan. The proposed road extension will help reduce the load on the roundabout in the township/ Bell Block Court, even without the Pohutukawa Place off-ramp.</p> <p>It is essential to establish this road and infrastructure now, thus enabling an alternative and preferred route to access Parklands Shopping Centre, Hickford Park and Puketapu School as well as other nearby locations. The benefits would further be enhanced by establishing the proposed off-ramp as above.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> <p>Prosperity</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | | | |
| <p>Improve the Nugent / Pohutakawa Place / Henwood / Bell Block Roundabout</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review and implement improvements to the Nugent/ Pohutakawa Place/ Henwood Roundabout within the planned One Network Framework Study. <p>Though this intersection has had improvements over the years, however, it is still impacted by traffic flows at peak times coming from all four roads that intersect it, and this then has a knock-on effect on pedestrians, bicyclists etc.</p> <p>All vehicle activity in this area should be reviewed and assessed.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Join Parklands Avenue to Airport Drive</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board support the planned improvements to the De Havilland Drive Roundabout (which everyone agrees is long overdue), scheduled for completion by 2025. This will finally make exiting and entering those connected roads far safer. <p>The Board is concerned that no consideration has been given to the roading link to Parklands Avenue, and that this will not be ready to be used by Bell Block residents by the time the Roundabout is functional. With Wills Road having no left turn we will see significant stress on the overpass with associated safety concerns for a growing population.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | | | |
| <p>Additional Roundabout at Wills / SH3 / Corbett Road (Or other suitable location)</p> | <p>◆ Consider the impact of increased vehicle movements and the expected population growth within the Bell Block area, population is currently at 11,050, and plan for the development of an additional Roundabout.</p> <p>With the region’s largest growing industry park, we need to plan for additional traffic (including heavy traffic) movements. This planning needs to be undertaken in addition to the current overpass and planned De Havilland Drive Roundabout and the proposed SH3/Pohutukawa Place off-ramp.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Trusted</p> <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Bell Block Pool – Strategic Review</p> | <p>◆ Pursue a strategic assessment of the Bell Block Pool, in conjunction with the Pool Society, PBBCB and NPDC.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Chair of the Bell Block Pool Society, the Board support the Society’s desire for a collaborative strategic review to be undertaken.</p> <p>What follows is some background from the Society’s Chair.</p> <p><i>"Since 1990, the Bell Block Pool has operated as a 'Not for Profit' incorporated society. NPDC (and other minor sponsors) has subsidised the operating costs each year, enabling the pool to continue functioning on a cost-neutral basis. In the past two years, the pool has found the necessary capital funding to upgrade many of its chattels (new gas heaters,</i></p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | <p><i>new LED lights, CCTV system, Pool signage and rebrand upgrades) and repaint the pools and interior of the complex. The facility is in excellent condition and continues to provide a well-attended facility for Bell Block residents and the more comprehensive swimming and sports communities around New Plymouth.</i></p> <p><i>The society is currently working with Sport Taranaki to understand the future community demand for swimming facilities around Taranaki and where the Bell Block pool fits in the future strategy. Undoubtedly the community growth and population age profile in Bell Block will continue to drive more demand for services, and the BBPS is well-positioned with available land to expand and meet that demand.</i></p> <p><i>Concurrent with all the work behind the scenes by the committee, the economic environment has changed in the last two years. Covid and rising costs (particularly gas, electricity and staff costs) have impacted the commercial sustainability of the pool, and despite all efforts to save costs where possible, keeping up financially is difficult."</i></p> <p><i>Joint Recommendations:</i> It is recommended that in conjunction with the Bell Block Pool Society, PBBCB and NPDC pursue a strategic assessment of the pool function within the district. Collaboration with Sport Taranaki will be required.:</p> | | |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Advocacy Years 1-3 | | | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional funding to avert an insolvency position. 2. Ownership options. 3. Regional strategic options? | | |
| Egmont Road Changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review and investigate the ramifications of the proposed changes to the Egmont Road intersection. <p>In the long-term, when Egmont Road changes, traffic will be unable to turn north and thus heavy transport travelling north will be likely redirected via Henwood Road. This will mean more traffic movements by heavy vehicles for the current Bell Block Overpass, and/or the De Havilland Roundabout.</p> <p>The Board request an investigation on proposed traffic movements as part of due diligence. The Board suggest it likely that heavy vehicles will choose to use the proposed De Havilland Roundabout, thus increasing demand on this facility. Further consultation on the expected outcomes of this likely increased demand is required.</p> | Transportation | <p>Trusted</p> <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Work in partnership with mana whenua with interests in our area, and advocate for representation for all.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will develop a mutual dialogue with Māori of the Puketapu-Bell Block rohe to increase understanding of the history of the area, be informed about the views of Māori and to enable better decision making. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Trusted Thriving Communities and Culture Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Improve Public Transport</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Engage with Taranaki Regional Council to establish better public transport links and options for the Puketapu-Bell Block Community. | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Support Community Events</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support community groups to continue to provide events such as Anzac remembrance, Americarna, Christmas Parade, 'Swimathon' and other community events such as 'Try a Tri'. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Public Toilets – Parklands</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will advocate for the implementation of rest-room facilities in or near the Parklands Shopping Centre. <p>Currently, there are no public toilets in the Parklands Shopping Centre; as this shopping centre is privately owned, we will talk to the owners about investing in the toilets for use by patrons and public</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Bell Block Identify & Tag-line</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will explore how to give the Bell Block area more of its own identity; currently, when you go to or leave, say Waitara or Inglewood, you know where you are, to outsiders that clarity is not the same for Bell Block. As part of that review, we see an opportunity to include a suitable tag-line. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Trusted Thriving Communities and Culture</p> |
| <p>Maximise opportunities for people to come together</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of access to facilities that allow the opportunity for people to come together. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Caltex Truck Stop Location/Relocation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will advocate for the relocation of the Caltex Truck Stop. <p>Historically we understand why the existing Caltex Truck Stop is located where it is as previously SH3 ran right beside it.</p> <p>Following realignment of SH3 almost all the heavy transport using the facility must detour to access it. The Board will advocate to Caltex that the facility be relocated to a more appropriate location – such as the industrial park or on SH3?</p> <p>More consultation is needed to ensure an equitable outcome for community. This aspect to be included in the ONF.</p> | <p>Transportation</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Appropriate Development Guidelines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will advocate for appropriate consent guidelines for the benefit of residents in our Board area. <p>Though we have no remit to control consents on how residential developments get approved, we do believe for the community’s interests that we advocate for suitable green spaces, playgrounds, walkways, footpaths, lighting, appropriately sized sections (no need for intensive land use) and roads that enable ease of traffic and access by emergency services.</p> <p>Propose that the Board be invited to work with the District Planning Team on the rules in the future District Plan.</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>School Capacity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Council to work with the Ministry of Education to undertake a needs assessment. <p>With the increasing population and a likely high portion of new families, we would like to a needs assessment to be undertaken to understand if there needs to be a High School for Bell Block at some stage, and if so, when, and where.</p> <p>The Board question whether Bell Block School’s land footprint big enough to support its role and facilities going forward. It is currently locked on all sides by roads and commercial developments.</p> <p>The Board support consideration for moving the school to a larger fit-for-purpose site with modern facilities that can better accommodate the student growth and learning outcomes.</p> | <p>Infrastructure Facilities</p> | <p>Trusted Thriving Communities and Culture Environmental Excellence</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Sinking Lid on Vaping Shops</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board propose that a sinking lid policy on vaping shops be introduced. Bell Block currently has 8 vape shops. The Board would like to work with Council’s Policy / Environmental Teams to progress this proposal with central government to determine an appropriate limit. <p>We note that Council recently confirmed that smokefree is also considered to be vapefree in the Smokefree Parks and Outdoor Areas Policy.</p> <p>The Board request the support of Council officers in working with Central Government on this matter.</p> | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Trusted</p> <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Excellence</p> |
| <p>Acknowledge and celebrate the History of our place and our people</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will support community projects and opportunities that promote our local history and heritage, through cultural story boards and engagement with Māori. ◆ The Board will advocate for the recognition of Māori place names within the ward rohe, where appropriate. | <p>Engagement</p> | <p>Trusted</p> <p>Thriving Communities and Culture</p> |

| <i>Aspiration/issue</i> | <i>Key initiative</i> | <i>Key focus area</i> | <i>Community outcome</i> |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| <p>Advocacy - Ongoing as required The Community Board will continue to advocate on behalf of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community on the following issues as and when required.</p> | | | |
| <p>Protection of our Streams, Ponds and Wetlands</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Board will ensure authorities are aware of problem areas and implement appropriate strategies to protect and maintain our waterways. | <p>Environment</p> | <p>Thriving Communities and Culture Environmental Excellence</p> |

Background Information

As this is our very first Community Board Plan, we can't cover the performance of the previous plan, e.g. what items were adopted by the Long-Term Planning (LTP) team, how we spent discretionary funds, and what other advocacy-related changes/impact happened as a result of our stewardship.

To recap, Puketapu-Bell Block had a recorded 2018 Census population of 7,041 (Stats NZ, 2023), ⁴ and currently, Infometrics data determines the 2023 population to be 9738. A TRC March 2022 report (TRC, 2023) ⁵ showed that over the last five years, 20% of all new dwellings were in our area and with developments in Area Q (Puketapu Structure Plan Development Area) and other areas, then these dwellings percentages will be surpassed in the short and medium term.



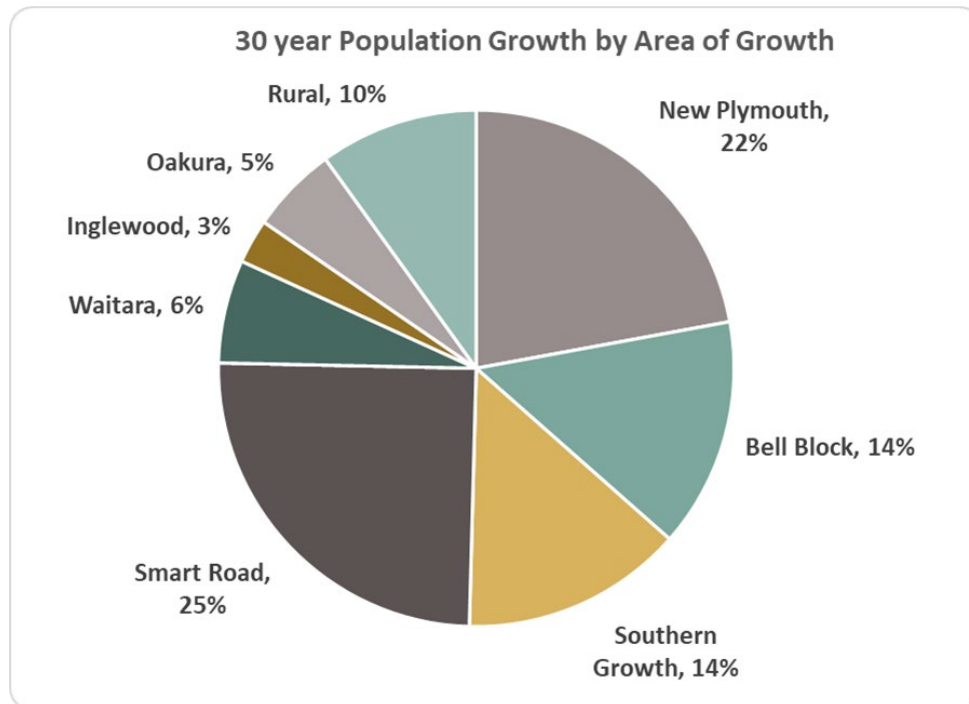
Parklands Road to Wills Road extension development

⁴ <https://stats.govt.nz/search?Search=bell%20block>

⁵ https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/Public-notices/Airport-Farm-Trustee/NPDC-supplementary-evidence-04-March-2022/New_Plymouth_Housing_Devp_Capacity_Assessment_2021_04_March_2022.PDF

Further supporting this accelerated growth projection is that currently, Bell Block holds over 94% of all vacant land capacity-the most significant proportion in the district (NPDC, 2023) ⁶; it is forecasted that our population growth for Bell Block for residential in the next ten years will likely make it larger than Hawera. Infometrics data confirms that Bell Block has a population that is expected to exceed 13,000 by 2043, therefore likely making the area the second largest residential area behind New Plymouth. (Hawera’s current population is 11,050).

Thus, all planning decisions made now will heavily impact how well those living and working in the Puketapu-Bell Block area can quickly and safely commute, work, live, and play.



POPULATION - 30 Years Total

| | <u>People</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| New Plymouth | | |
| New Plymouth (Excludes Growth Areas) | 4,747 | 22% |
| Bell Block | 3,089 | 14% |
| Southern Growth Areas (+Ferndale, Hurdon, Upper Vogeltown, Welbourn SA2) | 2,991 | 14% |
| Smart Road (+Fitzroy/Glen Avon SA2) | 5,347 | 25% |
| Waitara | 1,390 | 6% |
| Inglewood | 596 | 3% |
| Oakura (+Kaitake SA2) | 1,173 | 5% |
| Rural and Smaller townships | 2,137 | 10% |
| | 21,471 | |

⁶ <https://www.npdc.govt.nz/media/020l043o/nps-ud-quarterly-monitoring-report-march-2022.pdf>

When starting any plan from scratch, it is helpful to remind ourselves who the audience for the plan is, why they need it and whom the plan represents, and the various stakeholders, though the first part is straightforward as it is for the NPDC Long-Term Planning Team, Executive Team and the Council, we believe it is beneficial to outline the key stakeholders we broadly represent (this is not an exhaustive or weighted list)

- ◆ Individuals and families that live, work, and play in this Community.
- ◆ Individuals who need to travel for work, education, or personal needs.
- ◆ Corporate, businesses & retailers that reside in this catchment.
- ◆ Schools.
- ◆ Various sports clubs.
- ◆ Māori.
- ◆ Developers & entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Religious & civic groups.



The De Havilland Drive Roundabout will be the most significant Waka Kotahi Investment within our Board area this triennium.

State Highway 3 is an important connection between New Plymouth, Waitara and beyond. It connects the Taranaki and Waikato regions, providing an important link for Port Taranaki, the New Plymouth Airport and major industries to the rest of the upper North Island.

Busy intersections, speed and roadside hazards like power poles and ditches cause safety issues on the road. There were 101 crashes on this route between 2009 and 2018. Seven people died and 14 people were seriously injured.

Many of these crashes happened at intersections or involved drivers running off the road and hitting trees, power poles and deep ditches. There have also been head-on and side-on crashes.

Traffic is increasing on this part of SH3 which is causing delays, particularly for commuters. Anticipated residential and business growth in the area is expected to increase traffic which will create more congestion and make it difficult for drivers to get on the highway.

Roundabout concepts for the high-risk intersections at Princess Street, Waitara Road, SH3A (Mountain Road) and De Havilland Drive/Airport Drive were refined in 2020 to speed up construction.



Coastal Walkway – Bell Block Beach

Puketapu/Bell Block Community Board Area

The establishment of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board was approved by Council in 2021 and came into effect in October 2022 when Community Board members were elected in the 2022 Local Government elections. New boundaries were drawn for the Community Boards with the Puketapu-Bell Block Ward located in the geographic area extending along State Highway 3 from New Plymouth Golf Club, encompassing the Bell Block residential area through to north of the airport (Papa Rererangi i Puketapu Ltd) to Mahoetahi Road, and including the district's large heavy and medium industry developments.

Bell Block is a distinct area and has distinct issues in relation to Council service delivery as a result of a growing population.

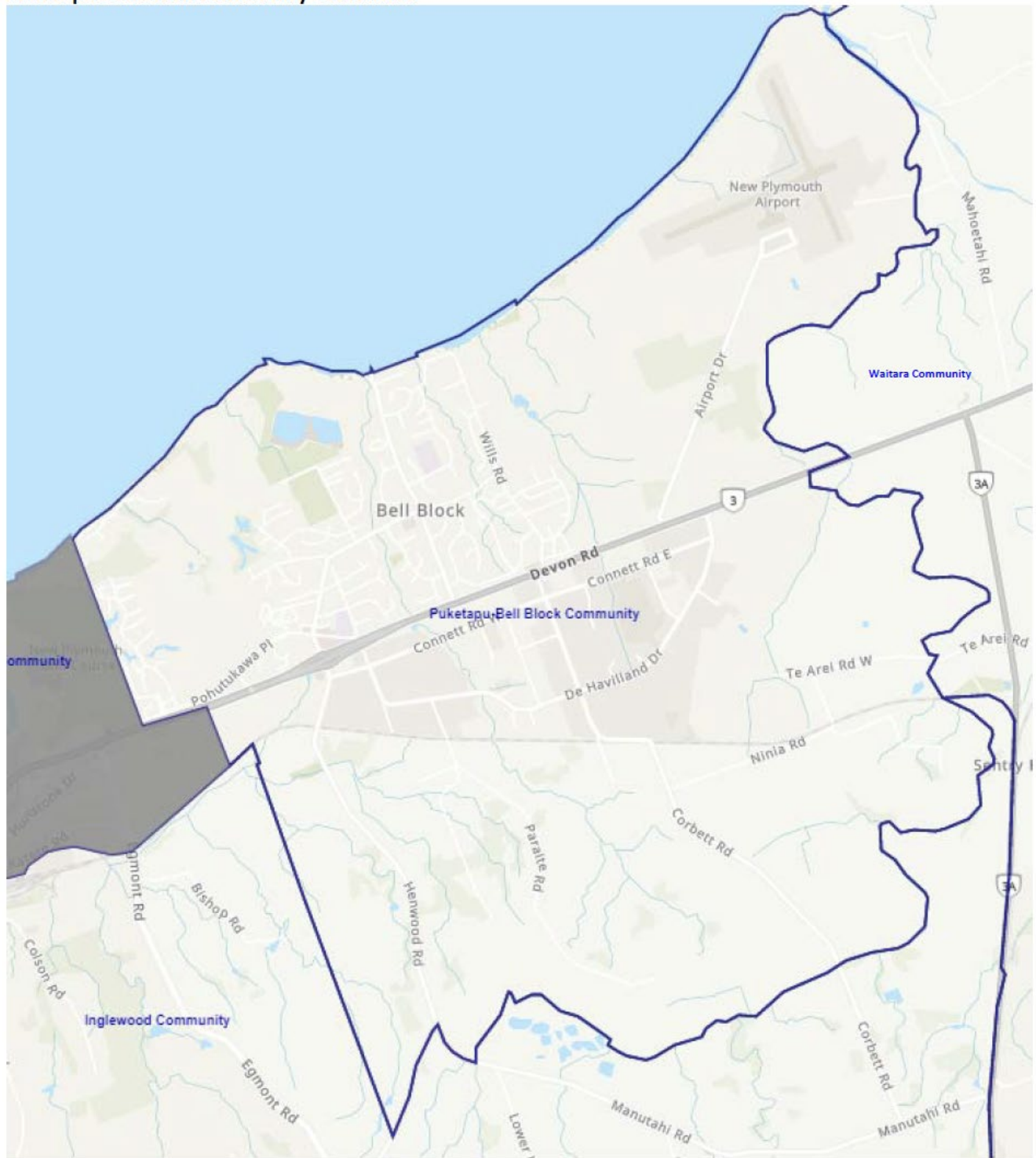
Bell Block was originally its own township and New Plymouth City has grown into it, making it almost a satellite suburb of New Plymouth. Puketapu is the historic name of the eastern part of the area (with Te Hua and Mangati also being historic names for other parts of the area) and is the name of the hapū with mana whenua status. It is the name of a significant hill within the area (albeit demolished for the airport runway).

The Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board Plan sits alongside the Inglewood, Waitara, Clifton and Kaitake Community Board Plans setting out the vision, issues and aspirations of each community. The Boards help make our community a better place to live by advocating on key issues on behalf of the community.

The Plan is a plan for the whole community (see Appendix 2 for Census Quick stats) – young and old, Māori and Pākehā, men and women, businesses and employees, families and more. The vision for our community can only come to life because it is innovative, forward looking, focused and cohesive.

The hope of the Community Board is that the issues and aspirations of the community, as set out in this document, will be translated into action and investment by the New Plymouth District Council. This is a 30-year plan (reviewable every three years). The Community Board recognizes that the community cannot expect to get everything that is wanted in the short term. However, it is important that the Council consider the views of the community and invest in the areas that have been identified as important.

Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board Area



Concluding Remarks

The community board have prioritised the aspirational projects outlined and recommend these projects for funding in the Long- term Plan, taking into account what the community has told us. These priorities are identified in this document.

In addition to the issues that have been highlighted in this plan, the community board are aware that their role extends far beyond advocating for infrastructure and service improvements. There is a strong community advocacy role for the board to undertake. There are some matters where the Council may not have direct control, but because the community board have been elected to represent their community, there is an expectation that we will provide a voice for the community. We are therefore committed to advocating for the wider issues to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our community.

In working towards the vision, aspirations and issues that have emerged from this process, the community board are looking forward to the next stage of the journey; a journey that will afford us opportunities to work in close partnership with our fellow community board members in Kaitake, Waitara, Clifton and Inglewood, with Māori, with business and community organisations and groups across the board area and with the dedicated and committed individuals that call the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board area their home.



Coastal Walkway – towards New Plymouth

Appendix 1 Connecting to Plans and Strategies

Long-Term Plan (LTP)

Long-Term Plans are key planning tools used by Councils. A Long-Term Plan:

- Describes the Council's significant activities and the community outcomes it hopes to achieve.
- Provides integrated decision-making and coordination of the resources.
- Provides a long-term planning focus.
- Shows accountability to the community.

Members of the public have an opportunity to participate in the development of Long-Term Plans through informal pre-consultation, and submission and hearing processes.

The Council's Long-Term Plan is currently under review in preparation for adoption by 30 June 2024 for the period 2024-2034. The Community Board Plans are key inputs into developing the draft Long-Term Plan. Community Boards will have the opportunity to formally submit on the Draft Long-Term Plan.

Infrastructure Strategy

Infrastructure is one of the most significant elements of council planning and expenditure. Most council services rely on having fit for purpose infrastructure to support that service and infrastructure is a significant driver of council costs. All Councils are required to prepare an Infrastructure Strategy as part of their three yearly long-term planning process. The Infrastructure Strategy covers a period of 30 years and identifies:

- The key infrastructure issues facing the Council;
- The principal options for managing those issues; and
- The implications of the various options.

The 2021-2051 Infrastructure Strategy is available on the Council's website. The strategy will be reviewed and updated to inform the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.

District Plan

Council released its District Plan on 13 May 2023.

The New Plymouth District Plan (the District Plan) assists Council to meet its obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act). The Act provides the regulatory framework which manages the use, development and protection of land and other natural and physical resources in New Zealand.

The purpose, function and contents of the District Plan are directed towards achieving the purpose of the Act which is 'to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources'.

The District Plan contains objectives, policies, rules and standards about how the people of the New Plymouth District can use, develop and subdivide their land. The key function of the district council is the integrated management of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district. The District Plan therefore seeks to manage and protect the natural and physical resources that are important to the community, and to ensure that environmental qualities and values are safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.

The rules of the District Plan set out the activities that you are allowed to do as of right (permitted activities) and the types of activities that require a resource consent.

The District Plan is available electronically on the Council's website.



Bell Blocks Wetlands

Appendix 2: Community Survey Outcomes
(separate document ECM 8979449)

Appendix 3: Census 2018
(separate document ECM 9011123)