



3 July 2012

Dear Submitter

Submission to the Rangitikei District Council Long Term Plan

I would like to thank you very much for taking the time to make a submission to the Rangitikei District Council's draft 2012-22 Long Term Plan. We hope that you continue to enjoy living in the Rangitikei and will remember your experience of childhood and adolescence with fondness as you grow into adulthood. We hope you will want to stay here or to come back here at a later stage in your life.

You have told us what would help you to stay in the District – jobs, housing and plenty of things to do. Overleaf is a summary of your submissions and how Council responded. Council will not be able to influence all of the factors that make life here so enjoyable but we will do what we can. The things that were most important to you that Council can help with were based around improvements to swimming pools and parks, events for young people, town pride and leadership. You have presented us with your Youth Action Plan (Strategy) which outlines your priorities for the District in the coming months and years. Council has committed some funding in 2012/13 to start addressing the immediate priorities in this.

Council would like to thank Bronwyn Meads from Bulls and District Community Trust, who undertook to facilitate the process with funding from the Ministry of Youth Development.

Most importantly, though, we want to thank you. Your views are very important to us in our planning. We need your help to get it right – now and in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chalky Leary'.

Chalky Leary
Mayor
Enc.

Analysis of submissions and Council's response

1 Introduction

Council has identified young people under 25 as key to the District's future. The demographic studies show that this group is predicted to decline in number in the coming years. Council has undertaken to do what it can to ensure that our young people have an experience of childhood and adolescence that they will want for their own children in turn. In other words, to form a lifelong attachment to our District.

Council received some funding from the Ministry of Youth Development, for a Youth Engagement Project (YEP). The project was intended to engage young people from across the District in the key choices surrounding the Council's draft Long Term Plan. Council was hoping to get at least 30 submissions from young people as part of its consultation process.

36 written submissions were received by the closing deadline of 24 April 2012. Two oral submissions were made at hearings. The characteristics of submissions are detailed below.

Age	12 to 15	16+	Total
Number	30	6	36
Gender	Female	Male	Total
Number	23	13	36

Address	Bulls	Marton	Taihape	Boarders	Total
Number	5	8	8	15	36

The project was also aimed at developing a Youth Strategy for the District. This was presented to Council on 28 June 2012.

2 Likes and dislikes

Generally, the things that young people liked about their towns were places to hang out (the ICT Hub, the Centennial Dairy and the river), their friends and family and particular public events (free concerts, Christmas parade). Some listed particular clubs they belonged to.

The things that they don't like are people hanging around town, causing trouble and worse and the lack of things to do.

3 Key Choice 1: How do we plan for a changing population?

There was a lot of support for Council to encourage young people to stay in the District; the necessary factors were listed as jobs, housing and things to do. Some of the ideas discussed by the YEP participants are summarised in later sections around improvements to community and leisure facilities, town pride and leadership and events/activities for young people.

4 Key Choice 2: Do we move to District-wide rates?

Overall, the young people did not think that District-wide rating was a good idea because they felt that it was fair for each town to pay for its own facilities and events.

5 Key Choice 3: What are the priorities in maintaining our critical infrastructure (roads and water services)?

The group of young people were equally split on the importance of these infrastructure services.

6 Key Choice 4: How do we fund our future?

Loan funding was seen as a last resort. Most young people (30/36) felt that community fundraising should be the main source of funding for these and/or applying for grants.

7 Key Choice 5: How do we best provide for community and leisure assets?

The submitters showed a good grasp of Council's dilemma of having too many, dilapidated buildings and facilities. They suggested that the number of assets should be reduced and those remaining improved/updated. They suggested selling assets to pay for upgrades and creating a central pool of funding to enable these upgrades to take place. They recognised that this may take planning into the future.

7.1 Swimming Pools

The submitters had aspirations for some major upgrades in the swimming pool facilities (hydro slide and lazy river/wave pool). However, they also wanted to see low cost/no cost solutions such as more activities and inflatables and also welcomed a longer swimming season.

7.2 Parks

A good range of suggested improvements was made by submitters. An excellent submission including detailed plans and sketches for an extension to the Centennial Park skate park demonstrates how useful input from those who know best is likely to be.

7.3 Other Facilities

Again a good range of suggested improvements was made by submitters. These included turning disused buildings into places to go, better shops/a mall and a “decent” cinema.

Some of these are outside the scope of Council activities. However, there was an oral submission made by a group from Marton, indicating that this group would be willing to lead a project to develop an arcade facility. Overall, the young people indicated that they would be willing to work together and to raise funds, but felt that some funding from Council would help.

When it came to prioritising which facilities should be focussed upon there was no clear consensus; submitters tended to identify assets in their own area to be prioritised. This reflects the outcome of consultation through the main submission form.

8 Key Choice 6: Do we change our approach to depreciation to fund leisure and community facilities?

The number of empty /disused buildings was noted as was the need for multi-use facilities. The creation of the swimming pool reserve was the most supported element of the questions around depreciation.

9 Key Choice 7: How do we best support the District’s development?

The most common suggestion in answer to this question was to create jobs and employment to enable people to live in the District and raise their families.

10 Key Choice 8: How far do we go in working to reduce waste?

Most of the comment on rubbish and recycling stated that Council should introduce more recycling services.

The comments included in the survey related particularly to more accessible recycling facilities around town. There was also support for more general rubbish bins around town and a desire for less litter and for “having more people around picking up rubbish in the community”.

11 Key Choice 9: How can we best support community initiatives?

Lots of suggestions were put forward for how Council could support community initiatives and all the submitters felt this was important. This key choice was associated with the use of the Community Initiatives funding for the contestable grants scheme.

Most of the respondents felt that 3-4 community events a year in each town was about right – a preference for more in Taihape. New Year celebrations and outdoor concerts were the most popular choice of event with youth activity days/evenings and Christmas parades also well supported.

12 Key Choice 10: How do we prepare for possible changes in New Zealand's local government?

There was a general sense of wanting to maintain a distinct District identity but overall, this key choice received least comment.

13 Council's response

Council has confirmed its intention to develop fewer but better assets and facilities in the coming years. It has also confirmed that it wants to work alongside local communities and other organisations (such as Sport Wanganui, local clubs and organisations and the schools) to make sure that we make the most of what we have.

The information that has been provided through the submissions provide first-class guidance as Council property and policy staff work through the asset management planning process. Council will ensure that it seeks the views of young people as one of the main stakeholder groups when it programmes future upgrades to its community and leisure assets.

Council has also agreed that it would welcome the opportunity to build on the momentum and enthusiasm of the Youth Engagement Project and has set aside up to \$19,000 to support youth initiatives that come forward as part of the Youth Strategy. It will also provide support through its Policy Team to seek funding specifically for the implementation of the Youth Strategy.

Finally, Council will advocate for services that meet the needs of young people with other agencies that operate in the District and we will seek out partnerships and collaborations to support this to work through our Path to Well-being initiative.