

Ashhurst Village Vision Planning 2016



Ashhurst 2040, Report 1 of 3:

Community Vision Planning Workshops,
with history of community vision planning since 1999
and information on first steps for 2016 engagement

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Last but not least, we acknowledge Palmerston North City Council who supported the planning process. We are looking forward to feeding Ashhurst's Vision into the long-term plan and making things happen together.

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Summary of Report 1 – Village Vision Planning Workshops

In August 2016, Ashhurst residents participated in a Village Vision Planning process to share ideas for community development. This planning process included a community-wide survey, two independently facilitated evening workshops, and engagement with children and youth. The process was initiated and organised by RECAP, the Society for the Resilience and Engagement of the Community of Ashhurst and Pohangina Inc., which is one of many active Ashhurst-based community groups. RECAP took an inclusive approach, inviting various organisations to collaborate in both the village vision planning process and its outcomes, while inviting all residents to attend and take part in the workshops and surveys. The aim was to develop a vision for Ashhurst 2040.

The primary themes to emerge from the community meetings were the desire to retain the village character and to make Ashhurst a place youth enjoy.

In 2040, people in Ashhurst will feel:

- It is 'OURS' – it is unique – there is a sense of ownership and pride in what happens;
- It is a safe place, where kids can play safely, where neighbours keep an eye out for each other, and where old and young are connected;
- There is a sense of community and community spirit, a sense of belonging;
- It is welcoming, inclusive, friendly and peaceful;
- It is connected to other townships and places as well as its natural environment;
- It is prosperous supporting its local businesses and currency.

Six themes emerged during the workshops:

- Community engagement
- Environment and beautification
- Business and eco-tourism
- Facilities and services
- Transport
- Recreation

Actions associated with each theme were suggested by workshop participants. Feedback from youth and survey participants indicated that there there is a shared interest in many of these actions.

Various champions emerged and committed to make the following initial actions happen (refer to Table 2 for more detail):

- Tradescantia removal at the Domain
- Re-develop Ashhurst Action Group's old map mural at Cambridge & Hillary Crescent
- Literature review on pros and cons of street lighting
- Deer Park developments
- Strengthening of local business through local currency, business directory and business hub
- Keeping children safe – a community conversation
- Improve bus shelters
- Additional transport initiatives

In addition, one major outcome was that participants voiced a commitment to reviving the Ashhurst Action Group, an informal community organisation that met regularly from 1999 to 2012. Given the scope and range of interlinking community aspirations, a new chapter of the Ashhurst Action Group was seen as an appropriate way to move forward.

Agreed Next Steps:

- Publish workshop outputs online;
- Publish survey results online;
- Expand Ashhurst Action Group mailing list with email addresses collected on the night;
- Call first follow-up meeting of the Ashhurst Action Group at RSA and invite all other groups to come along;
- Progress chosen actions outlined in Table 2.

Opportunities to engage in the process are ongoing through an open invitation to come to future meetings of the Ashhurst Action Group, participate in a mailing list, or be part of various events.

Report 1: Community Vision Planning Workshops, including recent history of community vision planning since 1999 and information on first steps for 2016 engagement

1.0 The Ashhurst Action Group – Vision and action since 1999

In 1999, Palmerston North City Council hosted a series of public meetings that led to community engagement and, as a result, the development of the Ashhurst Action Group. This group was an informal band of about a dozen active volunteers who embarked on a journey to turn a vision into reality and create a more positive place in which to live. Although the group did not create a formal entity, it did conduct regular monthly meetings and develop a constitution with the following purposes:

2.0 Purpose of the Ashhurst Action Group

The purpose of the AAG is to foster pride in the Ashhurst community by promoting the development of the living environment and of a community spirit in the Ashhurst area. The AAG will:

- 2.1. Communicate the views of the community to representatives of local government.
- 2.2. Work to provide a stimulating environment for young people growing up in Ashhurst.
- 2.3. Develop facilities and the environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Immediately upon formation, the group started living up to its name. Its projects included:

- working with Palmerston North City Council and the Ashhurst Lions Club to clean up an area in the town centre and install a public noticeboard with bench seating and blossoming cherry trees;
- advocating persistently, and ultimately successfully, for a reduction in the State Highway speed limit from 100 kmh to 80 kmh within Ashhurst boundaries;
- creating a map mural at the entrance to the town, and painting a series of murals depicting the town history on the walls of the changing rooms at the Domain sports grounds;
- working with the RSA to upgrade the town war memorial and surrounding Village Green;
- running a cafe at the community craft fair to fund their activities;
- working with school children and other members of the community to plant native plants along roadways and to establish a community wetland in the local Ashhurst Domain;
- contributing to Zero Waste Day as a member of Environment Network Manawatu;
- providing social opportunities for members and others in the community.

Their work was recognised in the inaugural Trustpower Community Awards for Palmerston North, where they won the grand prize in 2004. This award-winning group remained open to all Ashhurst residents without membership fees, maintaining a flat decision-making structure under the leadership of Chairperson Noel Olsson, Secretary Harvey Jones, and Treasurer Mike Shepherd. The group still exists via its email list connections, but its most recent meeting was on the day of Noel Olsson's funeral in 2012. The group is a signatory to the

2006-2016 Manawatu Gorge Biodiversity Project, and Mike Shepherd leads a Trustpower award-winning and committed volunteer stoat trapping team in the Gorge.

The legacy of the Ashhurst Action Group is also evident elsewhere in the community, with its members taking leadership roles in the formation of the Ashhurst Community Trust, Team Ashhurst Sports Cycling, and RECAP: The Society for the Resilience and Engagement of the Community of Ashhurst Pohangina Inc. RECAP's first project was originally raised as an AAG project, but project leaders took advice to create a formal society as a legal entity to create stability. RECAP was later registered as a charity. Openly advertised community meetings led to the development of RECAP purposes that had a particular focus on building community sustainability and resilience, with an emphasis on living well in the village and valley environment. In 2016, RECAP came runner-up in the regional Trustpower awards for Heritage and Environment.

Many of RECAP's current projects are a completion of plans that arose during AAG discussions and during a 2008 AAG-led vision workshop, including a community garden and a directory of community organisations active in Ashhurst and the Pohangina Valley. In recognition of the value of community-wide engagement, RECAP took steps in 2016 to renew the vision planning processes of 1999 and 2008.

2.0 Planning process 2016

2.1 Community notification and pre-engagement

RECAP took several measures to engage people in ways that allowed others to shape the process of village vision planning as well as the outcomes.

The first step was to contact Palmerston North City Council. Contact was made to Mayor Grant Smith, Deputy Mayor Duncan McCann, Councillor Ross Linklater (village portfolio), and Councillor Aleisha Rutherford (Ashhurst-based councillor), plus to Council Officers, all of whom were invited to give input. As directed, RECAP then worked in partnership with PNCC Village Planner Andrew Boyle, who provided helpful advice and material support on behalf of the council. Ross Meads, PNCC Community Librarian for the Ashhurst Community Library, also participated in an ongoing way.

Additional community organisations were also contacted in June with an open invitation to participate in any way, including shaping the process. Contacted groups included:

- Pohangina Valley Community Committee (PVCC),
- Ashhurst Lions Club Charitable Trust,
- Pohangina Ashhurst Community Trust (PACT),
- Te Apiti Project (including Horizons Regional Council staff),
- Ashhurst RSA,
- Ashhurst School,
- LEAP, the Society for the Local Economy of Ashhurst and Pohangina Inc.

The Pohangina Valley Community Committee (PVCC) gave their apologies. Out of respect for the PVCC's work to complete a similar planning process for the valley in 2014, RECAP made the decision to focus the process only on Ashhurst village, seeking input primarily from Ashhurst residents, while welcoming it from non-residents who felt a connection to the place. The RSA also gave their apologies due to other commitments. No response was received from the Lions Club or PACT.

The Ashhurst Community Library, LEAP, Te Apiti Project, and Ashhurst School all gave input into the process. Ashhurst School became particularly active, with the Senior Council working with a youth member of the RECAP planning team to provide input and to help engage the rest of the school.

Other groups that were contacted almost three weeks prior to the first workshop included:

- St. Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church,
- Ashhurst Rugby Club,
- Ashhurst Playcentre,
- Ashhurst Kindergarten,
- Several Ashhurst business owners,
- Ashhurst Community Trust,
- Ashhurst Police,
- Ashhurst Scouts,
- Ashhurst Keas,
- Ashhurst Community Fellowship.

Primary means of contact were via email, and RECAP relied on one or two contacts per organisation to spread the word. Unsuccessful attempts were made to reach someone from the Women's Institute and Lodge Otangaki. Some of the above groups had members represented at workshops, but not all.

Given that there are gaps in the above list and that it is possible that some invitations were not shared with full committees, there is reason to continue engaging the community in discussion. Report 3 in this series will focus on ongoing engagement with the town in the period following the surveys and workshops.

To reach the whole Ashhurst community, notices were put in the *Village Voice* newsletter (front page article in August 2016), Pohangina Newsletter, and Ashhurst School newsletters. Notices were put up in the Ashhurst Community Library and at various local business noticeboards and windows, and an array of social media platforms were used to further spread the word. Social media also facilitated sharing a video of early Ashhurst Action Group activities to celebrate local history and set the scene.

A final step for pre-engagement was a movie night showing of *Transition 2.0*. This movie contains a range of case studies showing how communities can transform through collaboration. While the movie might have provided the audience with some ideas, it was not central to the actual vision planning process.

2.2 Community-wide survey process

A community-wide survey was developed and delivered as a coloured insert with the *Village Voice* to all households in Ashhurst and the Pohangina Valley. It was also available at two local businesses and at the Ashhurst Community Library. In order to reach a diverse audience, it was also developed as an online survey. This was promoted through various media (including Neighbourly, Facebook, and e-newsletters) and also enabled multiple individuals in a home to engage in the process. Additional copies were also distributed on the high school buses in order to gather the opinion of the younger generation.

This first report from the Vision Planning Process does not include survey results. Please see Report 2. The survey is mentioned here because surveys ran concurrently with other stages of the process, and preliminary results informed one of the workshops as noted in section 3.2 of this report. The coloured survey also provided another invite to participate in the vision planning process and included contact information.

2.3 Facilitated workshop process

Two 2-hour workshops were held, one on 15 August 2016 and the other on 24 August 2016.

Workshop 1 was run using a World Cafe format of small groups addressing 2 questions:

Imagine: It is the year 2040, and Ashhurst has just been voted the 'most liveable town in New Zealand':

- What does it feel like?
- What does it look like?

By naming what they wanted the village to look and feel like, participants identified actions grouped into six themes that set the scene for the second workshop. Material was published online and distributed widely.

Workshop 2 asked participants to start the planning process. (See Appendices 1 - 4 for the generic frameworks recommended for the planning process).

At Workshop 2, participants were invited to pick one of the six themes identified from Workshop 1 and to convene in small groups. It was not mandatory to cover all themes. Group sizes did not have an upper or lower limit of participants.

First, group members were asked to assess actions listed under their chosen theme against the two commonly agreed criteria (Appendix 1):

- Retaining the village character
- Making Ashhurst a place youth enjoy

Second, to map actions across four quadrants (Appendix 2):

- How easy/complex the action would be to complete and
- Whether it should happen in the short or long term

Third, participants were encouraged to think about stakeholder engagement (Appendix 3). Stakeholders are all parties who might have an interest in an action – regardless of whether they are supportive or not of what is proposed. Understanding at the outset how these parties can contribute to an action can be key to its successful implementation.

Outputs from the workshop were once again published online and distributed widely.

2.4 Youth engagement process

Youth engagement evolved in parallel to the workshops, mainly thanks to the initiative of Hannah Higgison who volunteered after the first workshop to contact schools. A meeting with the Ashhurst School Student Council resulted in an impromptu brainstorming session. Hannah also worked with the school's Senior Council to develop a version of the community survey better directed at school children's interests and activities.

Additional youth engagement included distributing the community-wide survey through high school buses leaving Ashhurst.

3.0 The community dialogue

3.1 Outputs from Workshop 1

The following notes summarise what happened at the first Village Vision Planning Workshop held on Monday, 15 August 2016. They will provide an idea of who came, the purpose of the workshop and the emerging vision and ideas. Ideas have been grouped into a series of themes, which in turn constituted the starting point for the next workshop at the Library on Wednesday, 24 August.

Who was there on the night?

An engaged group of people participated – the right people for the night. About 20 people from many different walks of life shared their vision. One had moved here with his young family only three months ago, another was born into the village more than 70 years ago. People came with a wide range of interests, from wanting to engage with their neighbours to looking after existing community facilities, taking care of special places or helping business to prosper.

How were the themes developed?

Participants worked in small groups exploring the following two questions:

It is 2040 and Ashhurst has just been voted most liveable place in NZ

- What does it feel like?
- What does it look like?

Two important aspects to bear in mind going forward:

There was a general sentiment to retain the **Village Character** and not become just another suburb of Palmerston North. An increase in population to attract more services could be desirable but should not take away from the Village Character. However, it was noted that there are noticeable shifts towards a 'dormitory' situation with many parents working in full time jobs outside of Ashhurst and just returning to town after work. Some ideas around fostering the Village Character were:

- Village traditions and celebrations, including:
 - o Hangi, barn dance, quiz nights (go RSA!)
 - o Dawn parade on ANZAC day
 - o Christmas parade

Another area of general focus was to create spaces and amenities for **youth to enjoy**, for example:

- An attachment to the library
- Youth-oriented facilities
- Youth Council
- Digital community centre

Key feelings expressed were:

- Ashhurst is 'OURS' – it is unique – there is a sense of ownership and pride in what happens
- It is a safe place – where kids can play safely – where neighbours keep an eye out for each other – where old and young are connected -
- There is a sense of community and community spirit, a sense of belonging
- It is welcoming, inclusive, friendly and peaceful
- It is connected – to other townships and places as well as its natural environment
- It is prosperous supporting its local businesses and currency

Themes or actions to be advanced at the workshop on 24 August

Table 1 contains the key themes developed during the workshop. The first column names the general theme, the second column describes how it will feel and the third column what it will look like. The table is a starting point – ideas might change over time, and more can be added. Some of these items are new ideas, and others celebrate aspects of Ashhurst that people valued in the past, or see now and want to continue.

Table 1 – Common Themes

Theme	Feel	Look
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friendly - Neighbours know each other - Safe for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood patrols - Street parties - Neighbourhood hubs
Getting around	<p>Safe – connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling opportunities for 9-13-year olds - Places to go – footpaths for mobility scooters - Cycle ways to Pohangina and Palmerston North 	<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling lanes on roads (better safety for cars and bikes) - Mini bus shelters include time table - Buses leaving Ashhurst 'out of service' – put them 'into service' - Public transport – rail? - Electric vehicle facilities - Complete cycleway to Palmerston North - Bridge clip-on at Napier Road to connect with gorge - Cycleway towards Pohangina Valley
Environment	<p>Connected to the wider environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abundance - Sunrises/sunsets - Living landscape - Mountains/hills - Wetlands - Little pockets of walkways - Owls/birds 	<p>Beautification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power lines underground - Trees that can accommodate power lines - Develop community gardens and orchard - CBD landscaping – bedding plants, water systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edibles - Blueberry farm - Enviro activities - Clean - No smoking in the streets (Singapore example) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public sculpture/art - Planter boxes for trees - Green belt around deer park - Plunket Park playground – paint fence - Women’s restroom (day time) garden maintenance - Village Green – oak tree seat, picnic table - Pit Park
Facilities/ Services	<p>Sense of community/ community spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value of Ashhurst School - Community library - Neighbourhood hubs - By 2040 have a medical centre to help seniors 	<p>Facilities and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary Health Care Provider - Chemist - Grow library in size, facilities to study, IT, etc. - EFTPOS machine in village - Banking service - Rubbish recycling bins in key areas - WiFi throughout the town - Directory of emergency services - Civil defence awareness
Business and tourism	<p>Prosperity – self-sufficiency – eco-tourism – welcoming – peaceful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To new people: provide vouchers (perhaps LOAVES) to introduce local businesses - To visitors: provide signage and information – physically and online - Share attractions, e.g. signage for windmill park - Appropriate noise control - Lower density housing - Local currency - Know your local business owners - Loyalty/connection to local businesses - Niche businesses - Properly designed eco-tourism - Village as a destination, not a thoroughfare - Accommodation: Domain campground, farm-stays, etc. - Secular budget services 	<p>Business and tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular meetings in Ashhurst for retail and other business sectors - Develop LOAVES as a community currency - Employment – robotics? - Develop retail – signage for retailers - Tourist friendly – employment opportunities? - Centre and hub of tourism - small buses for tours - electric cycles - More tourist and visitor accommodation - Better tourist facilities for wind farms, seating, signage, information - Tourism notice board – map of local attractions (Herb Farm, Saddle Road, others)

<p>Recreation</p>	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kids can play safely - Promote community pool as a public space – regular hours, dependable activities 	<p>Recreational development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swimming Pool development (make it user-friendly) - Splashhurst community pool will be ALIVE - Eastern area retained as recreational area - Picnic tables for domain and other green areas - Petanque area in Domain - Mountain biking - Water/river sports - River safe for swimming - Maintain walking areas along river banks
<p>Community engagement/belonging & welcome/sustaining village traditions</p>	<p>Sense of Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Routine, low commitment ways to meet people; e.g. morning tea, book clubs - Drama groups and other activities - Street parties - Hangi, barn dance, quiz nights - Dawn parade on ANZAC day - Christmas parade 	<p>Community rejuvenation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups, clubs, school pools – rejuvenate membership - Welcome packs to new arrivals
<p>Youth</p>	<p>Enjoyable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe spaces that provide a degree of independence <p>To be developed by youth</p>	<p>Youth-oriented facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An attachment to the library - Youth-oriented facilities - Youth Council - Digital community centre <p>To be developed by youth</p>

3.2 Outputs from Workshop 2

Who was there on the night?

Even more people attended the second workshop than had come to the first workshop – there was a good mix of people who had been at the first workshop and newcomers. Most people had seen the material published on the RECAP website and publicised through the Ashhurst Community Library and other media.

How the workshop evolved

The workshop started with brief introductions followed by a summary of what had happened at the first workshop. First insights from the surveys were shared. The surveys indicated that the themes from the first workshop were in the main reflected in the online feedback. So, while data from the hardcopy questionnaires had not yet been entered and analysed, and the questionnaires for young people were still to come in, participants could embark on this workshop with a sense of ‘being on a similar wavelength’ with those not in the room but engaging through the surveys.

The objective for the evening was to introduce participants to some action planning tools (Appendices 1 – 4) and apply them in smaller break out groups.

The main focus for the night was to go through the actions captured in Workshop 1 under six themes and develop an initial roadmap made up of four quadrants with easy/complex to implement on one axis and a timeline from short term to long term on the other axis (Note: a detailed workshop template for this activity, with instructions, is provided in Appendix 2). Participants were invited to choose the topic they felt most passionate about. There was no upper or lower limit to working group numbers. Participant could choose from the following six themes which had been captured in the notes from workshop 1:

- Getting around - Transport
- Facilities/services
- Business and tourism
- Environment and beautifications
- Safety, Community Engagement, and being attractive to youth
- Recreation (Note: this topic was not chosen for further discussion on the night)

Given the strong support for **maintaining Ashhurst’s village character**, while also **becoming a more attractive place for youth**, participants were encouraged to test desired actions in their ability to meet both goals (refer also to Appendix 1).

Roadmap

The following roadmap (Figure 1, next page) provides an indication of how easy or difficult it will be to progress initiatives and actions over time. Most actions recorded were identified in the first workshop, although a few more were added in the second workshop. The roadmap should be understood as a living document – it is by no means complete or ‘accurate’. The idea is to add further actions from the surveys and suggestions made by residents over time as they engage in the conversation, for example at the market, in the library or further meetings, or online.

A process to integrate outputs from the Ashhurst Village Vision planning process with Palmerston North City’s long term planning process is under discussion. It is recognised that there are a mix of actions: some can be done by the community straight away, other require input from other parties such as PNCC or NZTA.

A legend at the top of the figure explains shading and colour co-ordination for the roadmap.

Legend:

- Yellow shading:** Initiatives selected on the night – and included in Table 1 above
- Red font:** Transport working group
- Black font:** Business and tourism
- Green font:** Environment
- Purple font:** Facilities and Services
- Blue font:** Safety/Community engagement/youth

Complex

<p style="text-align: right;">Protect biodiversity and river</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clip on Bridge spraying tradescantia at Domain (spray + permission)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Primary Health Centre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seating Charging Station</p> <p>Mainroad – signage to Pohangina/Ashhurst</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Village Entry sign Beautification Layby village entry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wifi – fibre-optics</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Gorge Project</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cycle lane painting</p> <p>Nominate community improved cycleway at humpback railway bridge boundary plan for street lights members to do traffic management for market and street parties (requires PNCC support)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ashhurst village entry sign/map</p>	<p>quality</p> <p style="color: red;">Domain overpass</p> <p>Another community space – multi-purpose – community owned</p> <p>Approach MDC and PNCC regarding cycle lanes</p> <p>Further development of a local currency; development of a business hub</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Signage around native trees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wild planting as an education campaign Dirt piles – e.g. @ Deer Park/wild play/BMX maintaining green spaces</p> <p>Consultation with community regarding safe hoses/zones for kids – e.g. 1st Aid</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rubbish – extend recycling at Transfer Station</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Maker Space/Arts/Crafts/Tool Library</p> <p>Redevelopment of map mural CBD planter boxes around cross walks, church (hardy & useful perennials; maintaining visibility & cycleways) Bike lane Ashhurst – PNC – Gorge – Pohangina - Feilding</p> <p style="color: yellow;">Local Currency</p> <p>Secular budgeting Service Signage</p> <p style="color: red;">Proper bus stop Napier/Wellington Eco/Agri-tourism working group</p> <p>Improve bus service (last bus 'in service')</p> <p>All bus stops with current signs and timetables</p> <p style="color: red;">Feilding bus Advertise health shuttle</p> <p>Community movie night – village green projects</p> <p style="color: yellow;">Bus shelters for school buses & village centre Bus Hub Grow library – IT facilities</p> <p style="color: red;">Super market delivery Civil Defence – Neighbourly & Police community meetings</p> <p style="color: yellow;">Trade directory Directory of emergency services</p> <p>Supporting local business</p>	<p style="color: red;">Community Cars to call on for use by locals</p>	
<p>Short-term</p>	<p>< 10 years</p>	<p>> 10years Long-term</p>

Easy

Fig. 1 Indicative Roadmap as developed during Workshop 2.
(The legend above the figure)

Notes on the figure:

- Note 1: The recreation theme was not progressed on the night
- Note 2: Feedback from surveys and from the engagement with Ashhurst School was not available for discussion on the night

At the end of the roadmap exercise, a number of participants volunteered to progress the following actions captured in Table 2:

Table 2: First set of initiatives to be progressed (highlighted in yellow on roadmap)

Initiative	Champion
Revival of Ashhurst Action Group (AAG) – and make sure other community groups are invited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular drinks at RSA to discuss progress and new ideas - Organise and request a market stall to advertise projects, collect feedback and enlist volunteers/supporters - Communicate regularly using for example the library, the Village Voice and social media - Communicate by setting up an AAG mailing list through RECAP hosting 	Harvey Jones & Aaron Roberts? Possibly Bill Phillips in a hosting capacity AAG AAG Harvey Jones
Tradescantia removal at the Domain	Kerry Griffiths if material support (e.g. spray) and permission secured
Re-develop AAG's old map mural at Cambridge and Hillary Crescent	Heather Thomson to inquire into Deb Wolfsbauer's availability for artistic leadership Work with old AAG members, for example artist Enid Roberts. Phil Stevens as additional ideas contact.
Street lights - Literature review about pros and cons from a biodiversity, human psychology, and safety perspective	Sharon Stevens
Deer park developments	Harvey Jones
Continue the development of local currency Develop a business directory Create a business hub, e.g. making space, taking small steps	LEAP & Bill Phillips
Include safety discussions and related needs in consultation process with children/teenagers and parents	Hannah Higgison with support from Ian Stark
Improve bus shelters for high school children in particular	Ross Linklater
Additional transport group projects	Nigel Scrimshaw

Workshop 2 ended with a brief introduction on how to engage with other interested parties around projects, and what to consider in an action plan.

Making it happen – Detailed action planning

There are many different ways to do action planning. The complexity of an initiative will often drive the level of planning. Appendix: Worksheet 4 provides an action planning template to help with the conversation.

3.3 Ashhurst School – Discussion with the Senior School Council

Also in August, Hannah Higgison facilitated a brainstorming session with Ashhurst School Student Council members. The session involved around twenty (20) students. The following are Hannah's notes, with direct quotes noted. Notes that students wrote and shared with Hannah following the discussion are also included.

Questions for group discussion

- What would you want to see in Ashhurst?
- It's 2040 and Ashhurst has just been voted the most liveable village in NZ. What does it look and feel like?

General appearance of village

- Maintenance of trees around Ashhurst.
- Cleaner 'triangle'.
- Better drainage for streets that flood when it rains.
- Turn blue hotel into something ('bad reflection on Ashhurst').
- A community statue like the one in Taihape (gumboot).
 - o Suggestions – a windmill
 - o Locations – Middle of roundabout, by entrance to Ashhurst or in the Plunket playground.
- More signage on local attractions/icons and things for visitors to do.
- Better recycling bins.
- More rubbish bins around Ashhurst.
- Public drinking fountains around Ashhurst.
- Better playground.
- Clean up roundabout and beautify it.

Facilities

- A wider variety of cafes and restaurants (curry, McDonalds, KFC, Streetwise Coffee cart, Pizza).
- Buses to Fielding (high school buses).
- Buses that go directly to other high schools in Palmerston North (other than the four main schools).
- Bus shelters for high school buses.
- A bus that goes into Palmy after school finished (around 3:30/4:00) for after school activities in town.
- Ice-skating – plus more activities like that
- Basketball court (like the one at school) by the skate park (old skate park) so people don't trash the school one
- Lodge for tourists by the Gorge entrance.
- Mini Plaza like the one in Palmerston North.
- Gymnastics club to return with better equipment (foam pit).
- Better/bigger shops – clothing shops.
- Turn the pit into a BMX track –
- Slip 'n slide
- Free wifi all over Ashhurst or free wifi zones without passwords in public spaces
- A Youth Space, similar to in Palmerton North. Somewhere to hang out, somewhere with food to buy ('snack bar' manned by teenagers as a paying job), a space to get away from parents. Wifi, video games, books. Lots go to Ashhurst Library at the moment, but want a space dedicated to 12-18 year olds.

- VVC to be open to the public at certain times so indoor courts and sports space can be used. Possible 'youth' space. Open at weekends to kids/youth.
- Gym in Ashhurst

Safety and feel of Ashhurst

- Speed limit on Salisbury Street when the Gorge is closed.
- Better dog control – dogs on leashes in most public areas?
- Lincoln park – is a bit 'dodgy' could be tidied up, better security?
- Police station – looks 'a bit dodgy', should have a police officer (or even a trainee police officer) there all the time.
- Public toilets – cleaner, better, safer
- More jobs for teenagers/younger people in Ashhurst (esp. those who are 14 and 15)
 - o (paper round is a common job but doesn't work for everyone) –more variety (like a 'normal' job) is wanted locally.
 - o Suggestion – a club/group where people can meet and network about jobs/get advice and help getting them, and encourage adults to hire more young people in Ashhurst (directory of jobs for young people).
- Stickers on letterboxes/safe houses was bought up. Some liked the idea, some felt like they wouldn't trust the adults/wouldn't feel safe going into a house if they hadn't met them previously. Stickers are perhaps too small/hard to check, maybe a small sign?

Notes written by students during meeting

For these notes, each number represents a separate student. Explanatory notes have been added by the facilitator (Hannah) in italics. The students' notes are copied word for word as closely as possible.

1. Sign welcoming to Ashhurst should be more 'Ashhursty'. Salisbury Reserve – clean and spice up. More things like the Barn Dance and Community Hangi. More people attending Library Garden. Bakery. Meat Store. Fruit shop that is open 7 days a week. Feels like: Places that younger children can go (Ages 5-10) with things for them to do.
2. Clean up the river – so families can spend time there and swim. A Gym where everybody can go to work out. Solving a problem with all the dodgy/drug guys. More jobs other than paper run for children aged 8-20. More flats for people in high school or just out. So they don't have to move out. A bakery.
3. Do up the Police station
4. Waterslide. Water fountain. Another swimming pool. Food places/restaurant.
5. Theme park or roller coaster. Statue of Liberty. Go Cart track.
6. On Napier Road, maybe make the buildings more attracting. Trampoline park.
7. KEY NOTES – we need another takeaway/not fish n chips. Better shop – supermarket/clothes. Bus shelters. Less rubbish. Water fountains around Ashhurst. Another public playground.
8. Water fountains around Ashhurst. Trampoline park (indoors) #FlipCity but NOT Flip City. More rubbish bins about.
9. New and improved playground. More gift shops/supermarket. Water fountains around Ashhurst.
10. We could all go on a working bee around Ashhurst. We could pick up the rubbish, repaint chipped paint, and clean things i.e. gutters, windows.

11. Community playground. Bigger shops better shops. Water fountains around Ashhurst. Food place.
12. Zipline across river. Drinking fountain.

4.0 Agreed next steps

Participants and organisers recognised that the face-to-face discussions in the two community-wide workshops and the senior council workshop are not the last word on the town vision. This report is meant to stimulate further engagement and serve as a basis for discussions.

At the 24 August workshop, the following more specific steps were agreed:

- Publish workshop outputs online;
- Publish survey results online;
- Expand Ashhurst Action Group mailing list with email addresses collected on the night;
- Call first follow-up meeting at RSA and invite all other groups to come along;
- Progress chosen actions.

At the Ashhurst School Senior Council workshop, the following step was agreed:

- Develop a version of the community-wide survey to ask schoolchildren to complete.

5.0 What Reports 2 & 3 will address

Report 2 on the Vision Planning Process will provide results of the community-wide survey plus the survey of Ashhurst Schoolchildren. This will be prepared by members of RECAP.

Report 3 will discuss actions following from the vision process, with an emphasis on steps taken to continue to engage the community. It is anticipated that this will be updated on a regular basis over a six-twelve month period, and will lead to a succinct statement of a community-wide vision. The preparation of this report will be facilitated by RECAP, but the work may be shared depending on the interest of various other community organisations and members of the community.

Appendices – Worksheets for Second Workshop (24 August)

Worksheet 1 – Two ‘Givens’

The impact of your actions on these ‘givens’ should be considered for every single recommended project.

Two ‘Givens’:

Discussions in the first workshop, held on 15 August, highlighted two ‘givens’ or fundamentals that should be supported by all actions going forward:

Preserving the Village Character:

- Does the action help to retain the village character – or will it put it into jeopardy?
- If it presents a risk to the village character – how can the risk be managed, reduced or eliminated?

Making Ashhurst an attractive place for youth:

- Does the action help to engage with youth or create opportunities for youth?
- If not, how could it be changed to do so?

Worksheet 2 – A method for charting or mapping activities

Mapping Activities:

It is important to be able to see and celebrate progress as things are being achieved between now and 2040. Actions can roughly be categorised into:

- **Short-term versus long-term**
- **Easy** to do (community can take control of this and just do it) **versus complex** to do (it requires support from agencies/stakeholder outside the community (e.g. putting power lines underground or building a clip-on to the bridge)
- **High impact** (it will make a real difference to many or it has a high emotional component – e.g. swimming pool) **or low impact** – it is part of a bigger picture but might not get noticed much on its own (e.g. putting in a planter box) - **show low, medium, high impact** when you fill in the table

The following table will help you to 'chart' your potential actions and make a considered choice of what you want to address first, second, third. You might only want to do a detailed plan for one or two actions at a time.

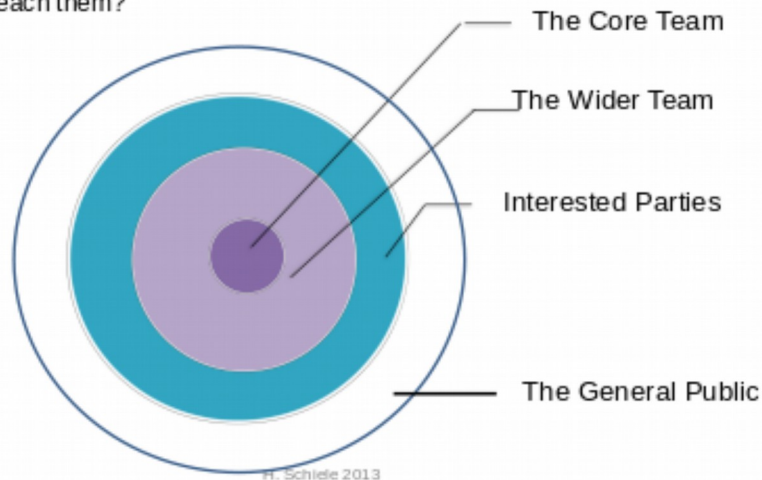
Complex		
Easy		
	Short term	Long term

Worksheet 3 – Engaging with other interested parties – who will want to be involved in your project and at what level?

Not everybody needs to be involved all the time. Communication along the lines of ‘no surprises’ is key. Different interest groups will have different ‘needs to know’. Communication needs to be customised/personalised to meet the needs. Know the preferences of your community members.

Engaging with other interested parties

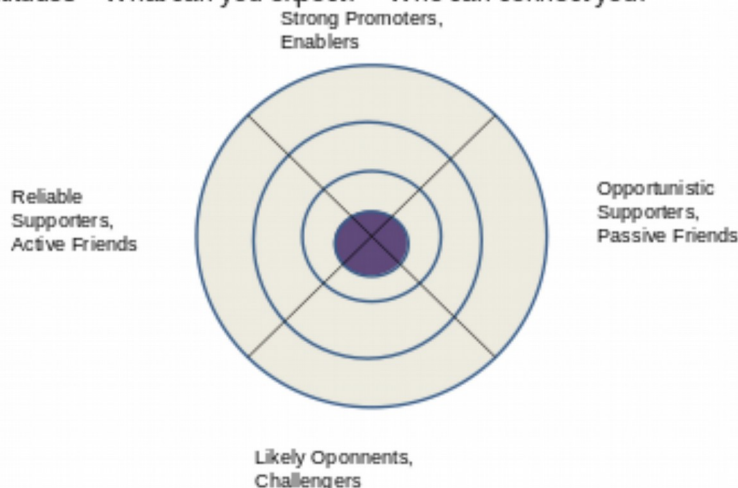
Who needs to know what and when? What is the best way to reach them?



Know how supportive your community members are. Opponents/challengers are not to be avoided; they present opportunities to think about things differently from the start. Winning them over will make things easier. Who are the connectors? Who can open doors? Who can influence?

Engagement with interested parties

Likely Attitudes – What can you expect? – Who can connect you?



Worksheet 4 – Action Plan Template

There are many ways to approach planning; this template contains some key aspects to think about.

Action (Project) Title Champion: Timeframe: Likely Impact:	High - Medium - Low		
Change:	From - To		
What is part of the project		What is not part of the project	
Interested Parties Core Project Team Wider Team Who else should know about it?			
Key Milestones Actions	Output	Who	By when
Likely Cost:	High	Medium	Low