

Ashhurst Village Vision Planning 2016

Notes from First Workshop

Invitation to the Second Workshop

The following notes will give you a sense of what happened at the first of two Ashhurst Village Vision Planning Workshops:

- Who came?
- What was the first workshop's purpose?
- What are the vision and ideas that are emerging from those who came?

Ideas shared at the workshop have been grouped into a series of themes – they will constitute the starting point for the **next workshop at the Ashhurst Community Library (64 Bamfield St., corner of Cambridge Ave.) on Wednesday, 24 August., starting at 7:00 p.m.**

This second workshop is about turning vision and ideas into initial action plans.

Everyone is welcome to join us on 24 August, regardless of whether they came to the first workshop (held 15 August).

Are you passionate about one of the ideas or themes listed? Do you want to add your own vision and ideas? Do you want to champion an initiative?

It is not too late to engage and become part of the journey. A lot is already in place and there are sources of funding, expertise, and community support to help those who want to get involved.

If you can't join us on the 24th, make sure you contribute your views by filling in the RECAP survey, [available online](#) with a link from the RECAP web page, <http://recap.org.nz>.

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. The workshop was independently facilitated by Dr. Heike Schiele.

How did we develop the themes?

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 looklike?

Two important aspects to bear in mind as we go forward into the second workshop on 24 August:

There was a general sentiment to retain the unique **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
- Keeping the village a good place for walking and meeting neighbours

Another area of general focus was to create spaces and amenities for **Youths to enjoy**.

- E.g. an attachment to the library
- Youth-oriented facilities
- Youth Council
- Digital community centre

Key feelings expressed about our ideal Ashhurst 2040 were:

- 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 – 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, but most of all it is connected within itself, with neighbours knowing each other
- It is prosperous supporting its local businesses and currency

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

The following table 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, more can be added.

Theme	Feel	Look
Safety	Friendly - Neighbours know each other Safe for children	Neighbourhood patrols Street parties Neighbourhood hubs
Getting around	Safe – connected -Cycling opportunities for 9-13-year olds -Places to go – footpaths for mobility scooters -Cycle ways to Pohangina and Palmerston North	Transport -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

		<p>service'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public transport – rail? -Electric vehicle facilities -Complete cycleway to Palmerston North -Bridge clip on 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 -Edibles -Blueberry farm -Enviro activities -Clean -No smoking in the streets (Singapore example) 	<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 -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 	<p>Business and tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regular meetings in Ashhurst for retail and other business sectors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 for domain based honesty farm stay - Secular budget services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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)
Recreation	<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
Community engagement/belonging & welcome/sustaining village traditions	<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
Youth	To be developed by youth	To be developed by youth