

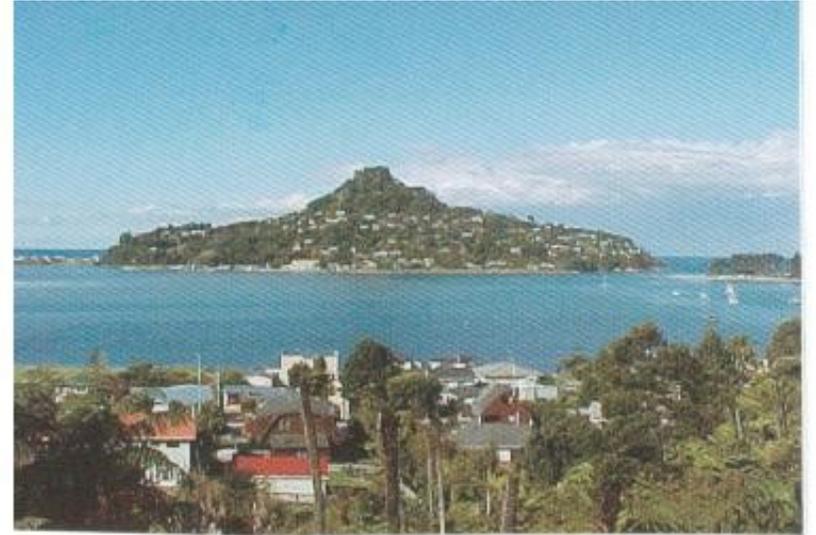
# Tairua

## Your Future Your Choice Your Community

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A seaside village set amongst scenic coastal surroundings

Tairua Community Plan – 2006





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## A note from the Working Group

*We know the future we want for Tairua. This Plan is a blueprint for the future, the direction we intend to follow to get there.*

Tairua has a special, unique character, surrounded by the harbour and Paku Hill, the sea, and the rugged forested ranges. Tourism is important to us but we are not just a resort town and there is a strong resident community here that plays a significant role in the town.

We have a lot to lose if we do not specifically express the future we want to see for our town and the work we need to do to achieve it.

A Working Group was formed in March 2005 to drive the Plan process. We have distributed a Questionnaire which was sent to all ratepayers and available for non-ratepayers, (which attracted 465 responses), held a community forum and workshop, a meeting for business people, and conducted 6 focus groups. 147 people were invited to be part of the focus groups and the results of this have been grouped under five key headings. They are:

- Development, Growth, Environment and Infrastructure
- Economic Development and Services
- Town Promotion
- Youth
- Sport and Recreation

We know you will find this Community Plan both informative and valuable in setting the path for Tairua in the future.

The Working Group Members are: Graham Empson, Tina Larsen, Reremoana Jones, Rowena Brown, Gloria Giles, Pat Gilberd, Roger Harwood and Chris Cooper.

## About this Plan

Tairua is situated on the East coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. For travellers coming through the Coromandel Ranges, it is the gateway to the Pacific Coast. It welcomes visitors with startling vistas of the harbour, Paku Hill and the surrounding forested ranges. The town blends in well with the attractive natural setting and the character of development does not dominate the surroundings.

Tairua is not only a special place to passing tourists and visitors. Tairua has its own resident community and for some parts of the year is home to numerous people who have holiday homes here.

People enjoy living and holidaying in Tairua because of its special character and unique setting. However, it is these very attractions that bring with them development pressures as more and more people try to build homes throughout the town.

The community is aware of this and has prepared this Community Plan to help deal with growth pressures but also to improve and enhance current opportunities for work and recreation in the town whilst ensuring that the special character is retained.

The Plan provides a forward-looking direction expressed as a vision, objectives and a series of co-ordinated actions needed to achieve success.

## History

Throughout its long history Tairua's river, harbour and surrounding waters has been central to its development by and through people.

As early as the 1300's the area provided a rich bounty of food and other resources (even the Moa) to a growing number of Maori. Ngati Hei who were in possession at the beginning of the 18th century were put under extreme pressure by other tribes notably Ngapuhi and Ngati Tamatea, losing much of their tribal area and by the 1820's few people remained.

Tairua was not significantly resettled until the Kauri timber industry brought Europeans in the 1830's and by 1864 a large mill employing 100 men marked the real beginning of Tairua as a European settlement.

Kauri forestry gum and later gold continued to sustain Tairua but by the late 1800's farming on a semi commercial basis had begun and by the mid 1920's had taken over as the main economic activity.

Despite its many ups and downs ( pop.1916 -94 people) Tairua survived because of its natural scenic beauty and today, easy accessibility has made it a popular place for both permanent residents and holidaymakers.

*(Acknowledgement- "Tairua" by F. Bennett )*

## Our Vision

Tairua has many attributes however this plan aims to set out changes and improvements that would make it a more "complete" place. What do we mean by this? We mean Tairua as a preferred lifestyle choice with the best of both worlds, the best of both town and country. We see a place in a stunning coastal setting with:

- a quality natural environment; especially our estuary, beaches and foreshore;
- opportunities for people to work either in home based businesses or in the business sectors of Tairua;
- a range of businesses and services that meet the reasonable expectations of our community;
- a community with a wide range of ages and interests;
- a range of facilities that allow us to gather and enjoy our sport, activities, art and culture, while recognising that we are not a large town or city; and
- a range of events that ensure interest and activity throughout the year and add to the sense of enjoyment.

All of the above are vulnerable, even threatened, by inappropriate development. If we can enjoy some of the better aspects of large communities and retain our picturesque setting, we are close to the perfect living environment. Through the questionnaire, many

people voiced the idea that it is Tairua's natural beauty that will ultimately lead the town to economic success.

# Development, Growth, Environment and Infrastructure

*Outcomes: Tairua - a seaside village in an attractive natural setting, with growth managed in a way that does not compromise its special qualities. A community with quality infrastructure that will sustain an increased temporary and permanent population.*

## *Situation*

Tairua is growing. Council projections suggest that there will be 1,900 dwellings in Tairua by 2016, an increase of over 500 dwellings on the 2001 total of 1,370 dwellings.

By 2026 there could be over 2,400 dwellings in the town. This growth will take place in one of the most attractive parts of the Coromandel Peninsula.

## *What is the community saying?*

In the community Questionnaire:

- almost 300 people said that they value the relatively undeveloped environment and natural beauty of Tairua;
- 380 people said they see Tairua as a seaside village and many said they enjoy the quiet village atmosphere.

These are key values and the community has the option of making a stand against further growth. In fact over 120 people said they do not like development, particularly poorly designed housing that could spoil Tairua's beautiful character. However, there is an acknowledgement that some degree of growth is inevitable and that it is better to manage growth than to try and prevent it. Some people are more accepting of growth and said that they do not like the negativity and resistance of some in the community toward change.

551 people responded when asked what they saw as Tairua's future. Almost 140 said they want gradual but controlled development that does not harm the environment and the village feel. Almost 120 people said they would like to see some development of a town centre with a variety of shops and eateries. Another 80 people said they want better infrastructure, notably roading and traffic infrastructure improvements, better water supply and wastewater services, in order to be able to cope with growth.

Some raised the concern that younger families and permanent families are finding it difficult to settle in Tairua because they cannot afford to buy here or the town does not offer basic services such as a post office, health and other services.

In the Questionnaire, many people responded to a question on the matter of housing and development types.

- The majority (373 respondents) favoured more medium density housing types in Tairua, at similar densities to those already making up much of the town;
- 252 people accepted one or more higher density forms of development such as infill housing (110), high rise development (43) and higher density development (99);
- 179 people favour low-density forms of development.

Most people who made comments on the location of higher density forms – if this is to be allowed – preferred to see this located away from the sea and perhaps against the surrounding hills. There was some support for higher density forms near the town centre, and some people said that higher density forms should be confined to selected locations, where they do not destroy other peoples' views.

When asked what other forms of development might be acceptable for Tairua, a number of people supported more visitor accommodation facilities, duplex developments and retirement units.

These findings indicate some acceptance of a range of housing types of differing densities, catering for a range of people from tourists to permanent residents and persons of varying age groups.

When asked what areas they want to see protected from larger scale and high density developments, 395 people responded. The majority want to see Te Karo Bay/Sailors Grave, Pumpkin Hill and all foreshore areas protected from larger scale development.. Many want to see the Paku Hill, Rewa Rewa and Puketui Valley areas and any natural heritage areas kept free of large scale and higher density developments. Some people oppose higher density development in any part of Tairua.

435 (98%) of 442 people answering a question on maintaining environmental integrity during the period of upcoming growth believe that this is important or extremely important. Most people believe that environmental protection overrides the economic advantages of development.

Red Bridge Road is the industrial zoned area for Tairua. A need for further industrial zoned land has been identified.

### *Harbour facilities*

Tairua is a seaside town and boating is one of the major recreational activities. 118 people commented on boat ramps in the community survey and the majority felt that improvements were needed, particularly to ensure that ramps can be used at all tides. Some said that there were not enough boat ramps available particularly at peak times. People also said that more trailer parking is needed with some stating that it could be metered to avoid lengthy parking stays.

With the proposed development at the Esplanade, existing boat trailer parking will disappear and it is difficult to see where replacement parking may be located.

Time saved from launching at the Esplanade may be lost if boat trailer parking is located far away, and more boats may opt to use the “town” side. The Tairua wharf and boat ramp was signalled for upgrading in the 1996 Tairua Harbour Development Plan, and the project was considered in the 2006-2016 LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan) for funding.

### *Comments*

The Environment, Growth & Development focus group grappled with the definition of ‘seaside village’. One significant conclusion was the visual relationship of many parts of the town to the Estuary. These views to the water are paramount – they add to the relaxed feel and create the atmosphere of a seaside village. If the foreshore had three storey, wall to wall dwellings, this effect would be lost, to the detriment of the whole community.

### *What we need*

It will be crucial for growth to be carefully managed if Tairua’s unique environmental qualities and its seaside village character are not to be compromised. There is some acceptance that Tairua will grow and in fact that a good supply of different forms of development, other than traditional low and medium density types, may offer a wider housing choice and encourage a more permanent resident population. However, the type and location of future development appropriate to Tairua is not yet clear. Further work is needed to ensure that development outcomes relating to type and location of future development are clarified and that these do not compromise identified environment and character qualities. Only then can District Plan changes be considered to support and guide Tairua to the desired outcomes.

We also need good infrastructure and services to accompany development. The viability of the town is also dependent on good reliable levels of service for residents.

### In the Action lists priorities are expressed as:

1 = Urgent – Now

2 = Important – within 2 years

3 = Within 5 years

4 = Within 10 years

M = Maintenance

O = Ongoing tasks

Task, action or need	Priority	Responsibility	Funding sources
<b>Environment</b>			
Retain natural, undeveloped character of beach areas.	O	Community Board/Council Environment Waikato	
Work with Environment Waikato for the protection and enhancement of our beaches and foreshore areas.	O	Community Board/Council Environment Waikato	
Work with Environment Waikato to improve care of streams and estuaries over which it exercises authority.	O	Community Board / Council Environment	

		Waikato	
Maintain the environmental integrity of Tairua in the face of future growth, ensuring that our estuary, beaches, foreshore and landscape remain as far as possible in a picturesque state.	O	Community Board /Council Environment Waikato	
<b>Development</b>			
Encourage controlled and appropriate development for Tairua, without compromising the character of the town with high-density and infill development. Carry out a community consultation exercise and investigation to gain input on development directions for the District Plan process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a comprehensive review of the District Plan rules in relation to Tairua is required to ensure that the aspirations of the community to retain the seaside village character are recognised and included in the Plan. This review needs to begin immediately and include representatives from Developers, Planners and community representatives.</li> <li>further definition of the term “seaside village” and ways in which these values can be preserved;</li> <li>establishment of a Foreshore Zone that encourages the retention of single story dwellings;</li> <li>identification of high priority protection areas, such as Sailors Grave, and areas where no development should ever occur;</li> <li>identification of future development initiatives and if or how they adhere to the Community Plan blueprint;</li> <li>identification of new development areas where higher density development could be allowed to occur;</li> <li>determination of the form of higher density</li> </ul>	1	Council / Community Board	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developments that the community would accept;</li> <li>identify changes to the District Plan that will prevent undesirable high-density design outcomes in the Extra Density Policy Areas. The intention is to allow extra density development in areas already zoned for this purpose but to review design rules to achieve an improved building form. The new rules would refer to the form of construction and layout;</li> <li>determination of the type of industry and commercial activity suitable to available industrial land;</li> <li>determine if the minimum site area – at present 400m<sup>2</sup> – is appropriate to control infill housing, or whether a change, for example to 500m<sup>2</sup> would be more effective.</li> <li>an assessment of current industrial, commercial and residential land areas compared to future needs.;</li> <li>a review of all existing Structure Plans;</li> <li>initiate District Plan changes to ensure growth is properly managed and appropriate.</li> </ul>			
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Continue to Investigate and eliminate stormwater intrusion into the sewerage system from Tairua properties as a matter of urgency, as per the Stormwater Catchment Management Plan.	1	Council / Community Board	
Completion of a Water Supply Strategy and water supply upgrade for Tairua in conjunction with the community.	1	Council / Community Board	
Carry out improvements to roading infrastructure, particularly better road signs, a parking plan and improvement where District roads meet the State	2	Council / Community Board / Transit	Roading budget/Tra nsit

Highway.		NZ	budget
Improvements to the street furniture and footpaths in the Main Street.	1	Community Board/ Council	
In consultation with Transit NZ, determine what improvements to the Main street are desirable and acceptable. (The Main street is the responsibility of Transit – the road and the footpaths and street furniture the responsibility of TCDC).	2	Council	
Maintain pressure on Transit NZ to replace the Pepe Bridge including cycle/walkways	1	Council / Community Board / Transit NZ	
Construct additional footpaths throughout Tairua including walkways, pedestrian bridges, etc. to create loops and strategic routes and enhance recreational walking and keep foot traffic away from the main road, eg a path/boardwalk from the school to the cemetery.	0	Council / Community Board/ Parks & Reserves Committee	Parks & Reserves budget/ Roothing budget/ Developm ent Contributions
<b>Harbour Facilities</b>			
Plan for future provision of trailer boat parking.	1	Council / Community Board	TCDC Harbour funding Via LTCCP
Upgrade the Tairua Wharf area and Mary Beach Reserve with reference to the Tairua Harbour Development	3	Council / Community Board	TCDC Harbour funding Via LTCCP

# Economic Development and Services

*Outcome: Tairua - a town that offers economic viability for a variety of businesses with a range of employment opportunities and essential services capable of retaining and supporting a larger resident population.*

## *Situation*

The population of Tairua grows to around 6 times its normal amount in the summer season. This brings a great deal of activity and helps with the viability of businesses such as shops, supermarkets, cafés, and restaurants.

At the end of summer the population drops again to a permanent base of around 1,500 or 1,600 people. While people may visit Tairua to stay at the weekends and national and international travellers pass through the town, the usual resident population has limitations. The challenge to businesses and essential services is to be flexible and adaptable to maintain hours of opening that support clientele and maximise turnover.

## *What is the community saying?*

### *Business opportunities*

In the community Questionnaire many people were concerned with the limited facilities in Tairua.

236 (72%) of 327 persons responding to a question on employment said that there are insufficient opportunities to earn a wage in Tairua. 125 people out of 321 responses said that there are insufficient business opportunities.

When asked what could be done to create economic development in Tairua, 331 people responded. Over 100 people think that commercial and industrial areas should be better developed. Around 80 people said that the tourism industry and accompanying facilities should be promoted. Some said that by promoting Tairua's natural environment, economic benefits would follow.

A number of people commented that we need to ensure that good communication services, such as phone, cellphone, Internet and 'Broadband', are readily available to support business. A secure power supply is also a priority.

Significantly, 95 people out of 364 who answered the question, said that they are planning a home-based or other business in the future that could operate in Tairua.

### *Services*

With its low resident population, Tairua is not able to offer the range of services that communities might normally expect. Although 227 people said that health services were adequate in Tairua, another 162 people felt services were lacking. Most felt the need for a chemist / medical centre to be open 7 days a week. Some wanted to see a 24-hour emergency facility. Many felt that Tairua needed a more comprehensive ambulance service.

While these services may be highly desirable, they simply may not be viable in a town like Tairua with a small resident population.

Clearly a larger resident population base will make businesses and certain services more viable. However, other measures can be taken to encourage business development

### Comment

We are struggling – together with Queenstown and many other holiday towns – to provide an adequate service industry, partly because the cost of housing means such workers cannot afford to live here. The Economic Development focus group suggested that land – maybe at Hikuai – be zoned rural/residential to encourage development which would not be so expensive to buy or rent. This could be private enterprise, or a partnership including Housing NZ, Council etc.

There is a trend of working age people – some just starting families – to make a lifestyle choice and move to the Eastern Seaboard. They either work certain days in the cities, or run a home or web based business. This is good news for Tairua as this creates economic activity, and sufficient economic activity leads to more employment. A bonus is that these people can add to and appreciate our environment without exploiting it. Eco tourism was another area which the focus group identified as having growth potential. Should Tairua become a centre, not only a location to enjoy eco tourism, but also a place to train people in the eco/adventure tourism sector?

### What we need

We need a range of initiatives to encourage economic activity in Tairua at all times of the year. Appropriate economic development is an essential part of the future of Tairua.

Task, action or need	Priority	Responsibility	Funding
<b>General</b>			
Activate a business association to act as a voice for business and to promote business activity of all kinds including commercial, industrial and home based business; for example, promote annual awards for Business of the Year.	1	Business Association	Local Business People
Promote eco-tourism as a business opportunity. Possible suggestions include bird watching in Tairua Harbour. Shoe Island to be promoted as a potential bird sanctuary. Promote camping with help from Tourism Coromandel.	0	Business Association / Tourism Coromandel	External grants
Encourage holistic business practices and eco-tourism to ensure a clean, unpolluted environment.	0	Business Association	
Encourage those carrying out retail and commercial building development to reflect the seaside village atmosphere of Tairua.	0	Business Association/ Community Board/ Council planners	
Gauge response to the slogan “Tairua: The Lifestyle Choice – Naturally”, through submissions to this Plan	Done	Community Board	
Market Tairua tourism nationally and internationally, for example through Tourism Coromandel Website and Information Centre.	0	Business Association/ Tourism Coromandel	
Encourage the establishment of a range of good quality accommodation facilities to service the growth of tourism and events in Tairua.	0	Business Association	
Promote technology/tele-working and other home-based businesses.	0	Business Association/ Telcos	
Promote good communication services in liaison with service telecommunication service providers.	0	Business Association/ Telcos	

Promote a secure power supply.	0	Business Association/ Power provider	
<b>Commercial activities</b>			
Ensure future commercial/retail development adjacent to the new Library is connected to the Main Street shops to create a pedestrian friendly shopping experience.	1	Business Association / Council	
While acknowledging other possible uses for it, including business use, open the Manaia Road Camping Ground when possible.	1	Council / Community Board	
<b>Industrial activity</b>			
Carry out planning and a programme for upgrading of the Red Bridge Road business area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improvements to water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure;</li> <li>• the creation of additional sections for lease to businesses;</li> <li>• roading improvements to Red Bridge Road;</li> <li>• landscaping and planting improvements to the state highway frontage as this is part of the 'Gateway' to Tairua; and</li> <li>• a general tidy up of the area.</li> </ul>	1	Council/Community Board	Apply to TCDC District Property Account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate District Plan changes to ensure business and industrial land is available in line with need.</li> </ul>	2	Initiate with Community Board/Planning Budget	
<b>Service activities</b>			
Encourage the establishment of health services in Tairua over time, particularly 24/7 emergency care, longer pharmacy hours and dentistry facilities by workshops with the Waikato District Health Board.	0	Business Association/ Community Board/WDHB	

# Town Promotion

*Outcome: Tairua - a vibrant town with varied activities throughout the year.*

## Situation

The permanent resident population of Tairua is far less than the holiday visitor population. In 2001 Tairua had a resident population of 1,464. In the summer of 2003/04 the population is estimated to have peaked at around 9,500.

Tairua has a range of cafés, restaurants and shops, but the highly variable population base can affect business viability, particularly during the long quiet periods throughout the year. Attracting tourists is important but a majority of people believe that the future viability of Tairua depends on holiday homeowners coming to Tairua more often during the year. One way of doing this will be to make Tairua a more interesting and exciting place no matter what month of the year.

Tairua is already the venue for a number of events but it does not provide for a wide enough range of interests. Particularly during the off-peak season (April to October), sufficient recreational events are not available.

## What is the community saying?

- 319 (86%) of 370 people responding to the community survey on town promotions support the idea of forming a town promotions group.
- 307 (81%) of 363 people responding to a question on the future viability of Tairua, agreed with the statement that viability will depend on non-resident homeowners returning to Tairua more often;
- 234 (61%) of 385 respondents believe that Tairua needs better facilities for local and overseas tourists, firstly to attract them and then to make them stay longer. People think that better camping and campervan facilities, all-weather and water sport facilities, more and better accommodation and a good range of shops and eating establishments

are key attractions. Improvements to signage, toilets and walking tracks are also important.

## What we need

The promotion of Tairua is essential to achieving an increase in visitors and more frequent visits by holiday homeowners throughout the year.

Task, action or need	Priority	Responsibility	Funding sources
Establish a town promotions group dedicated to planning and promotion of tourism and events.	1	Arts, tourism, event organisers and sport and community groups	Tairua-Pauanui Community Board Grant for start up
Promote and strengthen <i>existing</i> events such as the Dive Festival, Pohutukawa Festival, Wine and Food Festival, Beach Hop, Santa on the Sea and the Christmas/New Year holiday programme.	2	Town promotions group / Community Board	
Plan and promote <i>new</i> events such as an Arts and Crafts Festival, Escape to Tairua/Family Winter Festival, Great Paku Walk, a Visual and Performing Arts Festival and a Summer Concert/Jazz festival.	3	Town promotions group / Community Board	
Promote a 'What's on in Tairua' flyer and use rate notices and the Internet to advise both the resident community and non-resident owners of upcoming events and the annual events calendar.	2	Town promotions group / Community Board	
Improve facilities such as signs, toilets, footpaths for residents and tourists on an on-going basis.	0	Council / Community Board / Town promotions group	TCDC Maintenance /Renewal budgets

# Youth

*Outcome: In Tairua, young people are recognised as an important part of the community and it is vital that the community is given opportunities to hear their voices and address their issues and needs.*

## *Situation*

In 2001, only 305 (21% or 1 in 5 people) of the 1,461 people resident in Tairua were under 19 years of age. This compares with 33% or 1 in 3 people for all New Zealand. A lot has happened since then and the 2006 Census will show if and how our demographic range has changed. However, the younger Tairua community grows significantly over holiday periods.

In spite of their relatively small numbers, young people are important in Tairua and the town has an enthusiastic youth community. In fact, of the 474 persons responding to the question of age in the community survey, 69 (15%) were under 19 years of age. We need to be aware of and respond to the needs of the younger community.

## *Comment*

The 2006 census will give a much clearer demographic picture but we cannot expect this data until later in 2006. Suffice to say that market pressures have changed our population over the last few years. The Census will help us with numbers in Tairua, however many Hikuai and Pauanui children use the town's facilities and participate in junior sports and recreational activities. St John's is planning a larger facility partly because they have so many young cadets they can not fit them in the present rooms. The Surf Club also runs a programme involving large numbers of youngsters.

## *What is the community saying?*

- Tairua needs a focus for youth activities - a youth centre was mentioned as one possible option;
- Youth can provide a valuable source of volunteers but they need to feel they belong here and they need to be encouraged to enter voluntary work;
- Recreational facilities for children and teenagers in Tairua, such as play areas and skate parks, are lacking;
- A skate park is urgently needed in Tairua. 295 (64%) of the 446 people responding to the community survey question on the skate park, agreed that a skate park is needed. Most respondents favoured the location of a skate park on Cory Wright Domain.

## *What we need*

Facilities for young people of all ages need to be developed throughout the community to cater for youth sport and recreation. Youth involvement needs to be promoted by allowing the voice of youth to be heard on the Community Board. As well as this, there needs to be improved access by youth to relevant information in Tairua.

<b>Task, action or need</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Funding sources</b>
Progress work on a skate park in Cory Wright Domain.	1	Community Board/Tairua Youth Forum	External grants/ TCDC reserve contributions
Develop youth input into the Community Board in order to hear the concerns, issues and needs of youth.	1	Council / Community Board	
Carry out an assessment of the range and quality of facilities for youth in our parks and recreation areas, consider options for co-ordinated use and gaps to be filled with a focus on buildings, halls and swimming pools.	2	Council / Community Board/Parks & Reserves Committee	Reserve Management Planning Budget/ TP Community Planning budget in LTCCP
Based on the outcomes of the assessment, design and provide playgrounds and other facilities for youth of all ages in an ongoing improvement programme.	3	Council / Community Board	TCDC reserves New Playground Budget in LTCCP
Investigate an appropriate place for a future youth centre possibly as part of a multi-use facility.	4	Council / Community Board	TP Community Board Planning Budget
Develop a youth policy/strategy to address youth issues and consultation methods.	2	Council / Community Board	
Improve youth access to information e.g. youth website or notice board.	2	Council / Community Board	TP Community Board Planning Budget
Improve existing walkways used by children, in particular Pepe Bridge to the school along the estuary, State Highway crossings to schools and town centre to Paku Hill.	2	Council / Community Board	TCDC Reserves - maintenance/ renewals
Encourage youth to enter into voluntary activities.	0	Volunteer Organisations / Community Board	

# Sport and Recreation

*Outcome: An active, healthy community made possible through a range of recreational facilities.*

## *Situation*

People who live in and visit Tairua, enjoy a laid back lifestyle in a town that is recognised as a place where people can simply relax or enjoy their active recreational pursuits. The community say that they enjoy a range of activities, mainly centred around running, walking, cycling, boating, fishing and water sports. People in Tairua enjoy their rugby, golf and bowls. The town has a network of parks and walkways, sports and other recreation facilities. Tairua will soon have a new library in Manaia Road.

However some facilities, such as the community hall do not fully meet the changing needs of an active and growing community. Some facilities such as the walkways network are perhaps not well known about and could be better used.

There is an increasing need to use resources wisely by developing facilities that can be used by a wider range of user groups. The ongoing development and improvement of sporting and recreation facilities for all age groups and interests will make the town an increasingly attractive place for those wishing to live permanently in Tairua and benefit the overall economic development of the town.

## *What is the community saying?*

In the community survey many people commented positively on the recreation facilities that Tairua offers. However some want to see more and better recreation facilities and the ability to play or enjoy a greater number of active sports or recreation.

287 people responding to the community survey said that they have to travel out of Tairua to enjoy recreational activities such as the arts, including theatre, shows, movies and dancing. Others have to travel out of Tairua to use gym facilities and pools. Others mentioned the need to travel to tennis and squash courts.

Recognising that any facilities will cost money, the Sport and Recreation focus group recommended the establishment of the Tairua Community Trust, whose sole aim would be to raise funds for facilities identified and approved through the Community Plan. There are many funders who want to support communities like Tairua, and we all want to keep any cost to the community through rates to a minimum.

## *Indoor sports facilities*

275 (64%) of 428 people responding to a question on an indoor sports and recreation facility said that Tairua needs a facility of this kind as a top priority. The community envisages an indoor multi-sports facility providing for active sports such as indoor netball, badminton, squash and basketball. The venue could possibly be used also for events, conferences, concerts and cinema although this would be far from ideal from a technical and acoustic point of view. The location of the facility is not yet clear but Council land available would point to either next to the Bowling Club in Hornsea Road, or Red Bridge Road. Activities at this facility are planned and supervised so it does not have to have the accessibility of a playground.

### *Swimming Pool*

A desire has been expressed for an indoor swimming facility to be established in Tairua. In the Sub-Regional District Physical Activity Plan, swimming was the third most favoured form of exercise from a detailed survey. A heated pool would also correspond with a Questionnaire response that the long term economic viability of the town relies on attracting visitors and holiday owners back to Tairua out of season, which had a 70% response in agreement. While a new heated, indoor community pool is not cheap, there are avenues of funding available for this type of project and the opportunity to involve local resources and labour, particularly as a heated pool would cater for all ages.

The Board of Trustees at Tairua School has indicated a wish to enlarge the existing school pool. There is the possibility of working with the Board to explore the possibility of a community pool on the school grounds, which would attract some Ministry of Education funding. At this stage, an initial feasibility study to examine the viability and options is proposed.

### *Community Hall*

The Tairua Community Hall was built in approximately 1932. The Hall no longer fully meets the demands of a growing Tairua community. However, it does form an important focus in the community. There seems to be some recognition that the needs of hall users will not be met by including facilities for them in the proposed new multi-sports facility. Stage performances, public meetings and group activities normally carried out in the hall require the correct acoustics and heating that will not be possible to provide in a large sports venue.

Although most people who were asked favour the existing hall site there is also some recognition that the site may be too small for the construction of a larger facility. Most feel the Hall as a heritage building should remain and serve the community of Tairua as it has done for nearly 100 years, and continue in whatever reincarnation the future may dictate. It was also felt that the land should be retained by the Council.

### *Recreation Park*

The centre of sporting activity in Tairua is Cory Wright Domain. It is home to the Tairua Rugby Club and Tairua Bowling Club. The clubrooms and the St Johns Ambulance building provide function rooms for events and activities. The Country Club continues to offer good facilities as a private organisation.

If at some time in the future, Cory Wright Domain cannot contain the expansion of sports activities then an additional satellite sports ground will need to be investigated. For the foreseeable future the use of the Domain needs to be optimised.

### *Walkways and cycleways*

The Tairua community places great value on walking, cycling and fitness activities. There is already a good network of walkway and cycleway routes however it would benefit from extensions and improvements. Some key links are missing. 100 people answering the community survey said that they think a walkway and cycleway strategy is a good idea and Thames-Coromandel District Council began development of such a strategy in 2005 and it is expected to be completed in the near future.

### What we need

There is further work needed to resolve issues on the location, form and funding of an indoor multi-sports facility and a civic facility for Tairua. This should be completed as a matter of priority.

Cory Wright Domain is a primary sporting venue and its use should be optimised with better utilisation of its facilities and the encouragement of new activities there. It is the only full sized playing surface now that the School pitch has been reduced in width. With the future in mind, we may still need to acquire strategically placed land now to meet sporting demands in the long-term.

We have a great environment in Tairua and our walkway and cycleway network is a key part of being able to enjoy this. More people need to know about the network and it must be extended, improved and well maintained as time goes by.

Task, action or need	Priority	Responsibility	Funding
<b>Indoor sports facilities</b>			
Form an indoor multi-sports facility working group or community trust to progress work on this facility.	1	Interested community members/Council/Community Board/Tairua Community Trust	
Carry out preparatory work on establishing an indoor multi-sports facility, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preliminary design and costing;</li> <li>funding procurement;</li> <li>agreement on siting and land acquisition.</li> </ul>	2	Community Board/ Tairua Community Trust	TCDC Reserves Funding / LTCCP Submission
Develop an indoor multi-sports facility.	3	Community Trust	TCDC contribution, development contributions, fundraising, external grants
Commission a feasibility study on the establishment of a heated indoor swimming pool.	2	Tairua School BoT/ Min of Ed/ Tairua Community Trust Sport Waikato	External grant
<b>Civic Facility</b>			
Carry out a process to reach agreement on the location, design and size of a new community civic facility for Tairua.	1	Community Board/ Business Association	

Carry out preparatory work on establishing a new community civic facility including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>preliminary design and costing;</li> <li>funding procurement;</li> <li>agreement on siting and land acquisition.</li> </ul>	4	Community Board/ Business Association	TCDC to provide Civic facility Budget in LTCCP
Develop new community civic facility.	4	Community Board	TCDC to provide Civic facility Budget in LTCCP
<b>Recreation Park</b>			
Continue and optimise the use of Cory Wright Domain for a range of sports and retain it as the focus of the Tairua's recreation activities.	0	Community Board / Council / Sports Clubs / Sport Waikato	
Consider strategic land acquisitions for the long-term growth of sport in the context of District recreation strategies.	0	Council / Community Board	
<b>Walkways and Cycleways</b>			
Develop a walking and cycling strategy addressing in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paku Hill safety;</li> <li>Pepe Bridge safety;</li> <li>A route from the town centre to Paku Hill;</li> <li>A seafront walkway;</li> <li>Creating loop tracks from existing walks</li> <li>Cycleways on roads; and</li> <li>State Highway crossings particularly near schools;</li> <li>Standards for surfaces, lighting, sealing, signage and crossings.</li> </ul>	0	Council / Community	

Produce and regularly update walking and cycling trail maps and links to other Coromandel walkway routes.	0	Council / Community Board/Coromandel Peninsula Coastal Walkways Society	Grants/ fundraising
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Implement the walkways strategy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishing new walkway and cycleway routes and completing missing links;</li> <li>improving signage and awareness of routes to encourage their use;</li> <li>resolving safety concerns, using lighting and ensuring good care and maintenance of routes.</li> </ul>	0	Council / Community Board/Coromandel Peninsula Coastal Walkways Society	Transit NZ application/TCDC Roading Budgets
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