



Social



Education
Health
Recreation & Leisure
Residential
Social Wellbeing



Education

Before the Education Act of 1877 there were a number of private schools in Thames, one of the earliest run in a tent.

The enthusiasm for education may well have sprung from the poverty of many of the early settlers and their wish to fit their children with increased opportunities. The schools included St George's Church School and three Catholic schools, the latter reflecting the large number of Irish Catholic settlers. Such was the enthusiasm of the settlers in the Kauaeranga Valley that when refused a school by the authorities they built their own hall and offered this to the Education Board at a peppercorn rental and it was established in 1903. Although there was a meeting of settlers in 1874 to establish a Secondary School this did not eventuate until 1879 and 6 years later the School of Mines was opened with Scholarships available to University.

Presently Thames is well served with Primary, Secondary and Tertiary facilities, and those for pre School children. Growing opportunities are provided for Maori, children in particular, to learn their own language. There are adequate opportunities for local research at the School of Mines building and the Library. The establishment of an archive centre is well advanced.

What We Have

- A High School roll numbering 662 with 47 Teachers including part time staff. The watershed is Tapu, Kopu, Hikuai, Tairua and Kauaeranga, these are served by 6 buses.
 - 9 Primary schools including one Catholic School. They are spread through the town giving easy access to homes.
 - Only one of these Schools has a zoning restriction , which has been imposed by the Ministry.
 - One School has a total immersion unit in Maori language catering for 47 of its 208 pupils. A bus serves the Church School children and those of the Kauaeranga Valley.
 - Pre School Education - playcentre, kindergarten, childcare centre, 2 Kohanga Reo.
 - Private Tutor - catering for Primary, Secondary and Adult Education. He also has the services of an Education Psychologist and works in with the local Schools. He presently caters for 45 students
 - Town Library, Museum
 - Tararu Arts Centre
- Tertiary Education - Te Haeata, Thames Centre for the Waikato Institute of Technology. This presently caters for Certificate classes and is involved in Community Education; Commuter skills and Maori language. In the next two years will move into Diploma and Bachelor's courses.
- 2 Language Schools - Both are having problems in attracting pupils. *(The perception of most Asians being that Rural areas are those of poverty.)*
- Special Education Services (S.E.S)
- V.E.T.E.L (Valley Education & Training)

Education

What We Want

- Alternative disciplinary methods of controlling and counselling children with unacceptable behaviour and attitudes to learning
- Support agencies and organizations - such as counsellors, psychologists and welfare personnel
- More Central Government finance to fund support agencies.
- More apprenticeships available within local industry.
- Increased perception of the value of teachers and parents. The latter two in their role as educators.
- Parents and teachers supporting each other.
- Wider curricula in Secondary Education for non academic children with greater expectation given to those academically talented

What We Don't Want

- A system that fails children and young persons.
- Growing illiteracy and innumeracy
- Higher teacher turnover

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline			
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015	
Teacher stability	Teacher housing	BOT's	Central Government		*			
Parent education	Civics courses	BOT's	Central Government	*				

Thames provides a broad range of health services across a spectrum of providers. Thames contains the base hospital for Coromandel and the Hauraki Plains, and Thames itself is well staffed by general practitioners, mainstream and Iwi Health providers and complementary practitioners.

Thames Hospital provides inpatient surgical, medical and birthing services as well as emergency and outpatient services. The area serviced by the hospital, contains diverse and remote communities with clusters of elderly, high deprivation and Maori. Travel times from the corners of the area can be high due to the terrain and winding roads.

The Waikato District Health Board (WDHB) has made a commitment to retaining and emergency services in Thames and the Thames Hospital campus is due for reconfiguration and upgrade.

Thames Hospital is consistently graded highly in WDHB patient surveys with comment made of the dedicated and competent staff.

Community services (nursing and support), mental health and health promotion services are provided by both the WDHB and Te Koro-wai Hauora O Hauraki.

There is a reasonably full complement of health professionals, although these are primarily in the 50+ age group.

Thames has a strong volunteer base and sense of community spirit and this complements and strengthens the publicly funded health services. There is a range of support groups.

Thames community has an elderly and ageing population. This group will increase and the needs of this group need to be specifically planned for.

What We Have

- Continuing improved broad range of health services covering community to hospital services
- Iwi health provider
- Mental health providers
- General Practitioners
- Range of counselling and child protection services
- Reasonably full complement of health professionals, although primarily in the 50+ age group
- Elderly and aging population which needs to be planned for
- Nursing quality
- Increasing numbers of elderly and of Youth that have individual needs that need to be planned for.
- A helo pad and service by helicopters for patients to be transferred to Waikato Hospital or to be brought to Thames in emergencies.

What We Have

- Continuing improved broad range of health services covering community to hospital services
- Iwi health provider
- Mental health providers
- General Practitioners
- Range of counselling and child protection services
- Reasonably full complement of health professionals, although primarily in the 50+ age group
- Elderly and aging population which needs to be planned for
- Nursing quality
- Increasing numbers of elderly and of Youth that have individual needs that need to be planned for.
- A helo pad and service by helicopters for patients to be transferred to Waikato Hospital or to be brought to Thames in emergencies.

What We Want

- Maintenance of services at Thames Hospital with full medical, surgical and emergency cover to meet the needs of the residents throughout the area. The population has high health needs with high numbers of elderly. Travel distances are also high due to terrain. Hospital health services need to be retained in Thames, not lost to Hamilton.
- We want the health sector to continue to provide the good services that we have. To be able to attract health professionals and younger people to continue to provide those health services. We need a vibrant growing town where younger people want to live.
- We want a partnership between the health sector and Council because the Council also has a vital role in our health. To make the best uses of resources and develop a town where people are able to be healthy we need our health agencies and local government to work closely together.
- We want Council to recognise the importance of town planning in keeping our population healthy, eg walking tracks in subdivisions, gardens,
- We want health to be a priority in planning, eg consideration of the health impact of other activities (poke machines, fast food outlets next to schools, industry etc)
- We want a community which recognises the value of an active lifestyle for general health and wellbeing and enables people to achieve that

What We Don't Want

- Loss of services at Thames Hospital. Services need to be retained to meet the needs of the remote and diverse communities in our area.
- Fragmentation, duplication or gaps in health services.
- To be unable to attract new staff to the town.
- We don't want a town where development is reactive and unplanned and doesn't enable people to be healthy, eg a town where people can't walk or be active because it isn't safe; a town where there is proliferation of poke machines or fast food outlets compromising health and wellbeing for the people of our community.
- A town where people's need to be physically active is overwhelmed by the needs of motor vehicles.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
Upgrading of Thames Hospital to meet the present and future needs of the population		WDHB	Ministry of Health		*		
Partnership/Council's crucial role in health	Memorandum of Understanding between TCDC and WDHB	TCDC	WDHB		*		
Health input into town planning	Consultation between TCDC and WDHB	TCDC	WDHB		*		
Attracting young people to the town to maintain the health sector	Future Thames Vision	TCDC	Community		*		
Education/awareness of value of active lifestyle	Talks, displays and demonstrations to support and publicise physical activity and initiatives	Sport Waikato	Schools, ZoomZone* WDHB		*		
Provision of sport/leisure facilities	Assessment of community need; Establishment of accessible and appropriate facilities	TCDC	Sport Waikato ZoomZone WDHB		*	*	

Recreation & Leisure

A diverse range of sports clubs and leisure groups operate within and beyond the town, often without adequate facilities or any coordinated effort to plan fixtures and share resources.

There is also an opportunity for Thames, being the gateway to the Coromandel Peninsula, to attract more visitors by providing and promoting outdoor pursuits and providing facilities from which such activities can be run.

What We Have

- Natural areas for walking, cycling and running
- Fishing and water sport areas on our doorstep
- Tramping and camping huts in the Coromandel Forest Park (DOC)
- A number of grassed reserves
- Playground at Porritt Park
- Partial coastal walkway
- Thames-Totara walkway
- Various established sporting club facilities throughout the town including:
 - Rhodes Park
 - rugby and soccer fields
 - netball courts
 - model boat pond
 - motorbike circuit
 - small bore rifle club
 - clay target
 - Tennis Courts (5 astroturf, all floodlit)
 - Squash Courts (3)
 - Lawn Bowls
 - Croquet lawns
 - Golf course
 - Equestrian/show jumping
 - Centennial swimming pool
 - Gymnasium (private)
 - Gymnasium (High School)
 - High School playing fields incl. Danby Field
 - New skateboard park

Small gauge railway

- Sport & Education Community Trust (Zoom Zone)

What We Want

- A fit and healthy community.
- Resources and facilities that encourage active participation.
- A sporting complex that could be utilised by many different sporting codes pooling resources.
- Extension/completion of coastal (and other) walkways and establishment of cycle lanes and mountain-bike tracks.
- Bush walks (up behind Tararu, Karaka etc.)
- To continue to attract international and national tourists to our walks and natural areas in increasing numbers.
- To make the most of our parks and recreational areas by landscaping and enhancing these areas - toilets, seating and picnic tables, BBQ areas where there can be a joint partnership to maintain these.
- Establish the sea front reclaimed land as a park/lake area with well appointed walks from the beach front to the bush, including areas for such activities as mini-golf, petanque and extend the Small Gauge Railway.
- More land for walkways and environmental appreciation.

Recreation & Leisure

What We Don't Want

- Our parks and recreational areas to stay the same.
- Substandard facilities, eg no toilets, seats or tables.
- Limited attractions which don't encourage tourists to stay longer in the area.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline				
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015	2010 2015	2015
More walkways	Continue coastal walkway and upgrade bush walks	DOC	Community Board		*				
Sporting complex/ Rationalisation of resources	Assessment of Community need and feasibility study. source funding	TCDC	Sport Waikato Sports & Education Community Trust (Zoom Zone)		*				
Family space	Develop Burke Street and Wharf	Community Board			*				
Promotion of recreation and leisure	Displays, demonstrations, seminars 'Have a Go' days	Zoom Zone	Sport Waikato Sports groups		*				
Recreation and leisure areas	Enhance reserve areas with barbecues, picnic tables and toilets	Community Board	Community and Service Groups		*				
Physical Activity Plan (PAP)	Funded by Sport & Recreation Council (SPARC)	TCDC/ HPC	SPARC		*				

Community Safety

Community safety is closely linked to community attitudes and behaviours. In the Thames area there is a high level of community spirit and the district is seen as a safe place to live with residents having a high level of social trust.

Safety is also a key aspect of community wellbeing. A safe community takes active steps to prevent crime and provide an environment where residents feel they can participate fully.

Community safety is concerned with personal protection, fire prevention and detection, emergency services, public place liquor control and search and rescue.

What We Have

- A local police station that also accommodates the Community Safety Officer.
- Excellent volunteer support in Thames and the outer communities for fire fighting and road traffic accident support.
- Ambulance and medical support.
- Urgent back-up services by Waikato based rescue helicopter, ambulance and doctors.
- Community flood protection groups.
- Volunteer night safety patrol.
- Active Victim Support organisation.
- Civil Defence sub-regional headquarters.
- Welfare organisations – agencies and volunteers.
- Search and Rescue organisation
- Coastguard
- A total liquor ban in the central business area 365 days a year.
- Community Safety Trust which manages the volunteer night safety patrol, neighbourhood watch network and a paid Community Safety Officer.

What We Want

- Declaration of an 80km speed area on SH25 from Kopu to Te Kouma (south of Coromandel).
- Improved presence of police officers during nights and weekends.
- Responsible industry which will comply with environmental standards.
- Zero tolerance of graffiti.
- Continuation of community flood protection groups.
- 24/7 medical emergency service at Thames Hospital
- Raising public awareness of the effects that drug-taking has on the community.

Community Safety

What We Don't Want

- The physical appearance of our area spoiled by vandalism and graffiti.
- A continuation of the variable speed restrictions from Kopu, through Thames and north along Thames Coast Road.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline					
					2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2015
Absence of Police at night and weekends	Increase Police coverage 24/7	NZ Police	TCDC Community Safety Trust	NZ Police	*					
Variable speed restrictions through Thames and up the coast	Declaration of 80km speed area from Kopu to Te Kouma	Transit NZ	TCDC	Transit NZ	*					
To ensure safety of residents in flood prone areas	Ensure support for continuation of Flood Protection Groups	TCDC EW			*					

Social Wellbeing

Social Wellbeing... defined as concerned with ensuring people have 'a voice in their future, choice in their lives, and a sense of belonging that affirms their dignity and identity.'

Thames is a well established town and for a large number of the people living here it provides a safe, supportive, cohesive environment. However, for those that are more vulnerable, they are experiencing the effects of poverty, unemployment, limited education, poor housing, social injustice and social isolation.

Research has found that an individual's sense of connectedness through their involvement with each other has an important influence on promoting both their personal health and wellbeing and consequently that of their community.

Communities and community social service providers have said many times that they want a greater role in identifying social services needs in their communities and in setting the vision, goals and priorities to meet these needs. Local services mapping recognises this desire to plan service provision collaboratively with the community. The goal of local services mapping is to ensure that a continuum of services is available in every community to meet the needs of children, young people, elderly and families.

What We Have

- A higher proportion of residents aged 15 years or over that receives a personal income of less than \$20,000 than for New Zealand as a whole (56% compared to 47%).
 - A higher proportion of its people aged 45 years or over than New Zealand as a whole (49% compared to 34%).
 - People that live in Thames tend to receive less personal income than people living in other parts of New Zealand (median personal income of \$14,700 compared to \$18,500 for New Zealand)
- These statistics provide information of how some people live their lives in our area.*

Children & Families.

- A relatively small population base that has a range of services offering support and counselling for children and their families.
- A range of community agencies such as:
 - CAPS Hauraki
 - Baptist Community Ministries
 - Iwi Social Services
 - Woman's Centre
 - Woman's Refuge through to W/DHB Community Mental Health

Youth

Youth is covered separately.

- Services and other statutory agencies such as:
 - Child Youth and Family Services
 - Police
 - Work & Income
 - Housing New Zealand
- Education Resource Teacher Learning & Behaviour (RTL) Service.
- A wide range of sporting activities, church groups, library, and outdoor activities made possible by the environment that we live in.
- A 92% increase of referrals in the last year for the Hauraki area (which includes Thames) to Child Youth and Family for suspected child abuse. And notifications requiring further investigation skyrocketing by 107% in 12 months.

Social Wellbeing

Elderly

- For the active elderly, a variety of options and activities are available.
- As the older person's health declines the availability of appropriate services also reduces.
- For the frail elderly some of the gaps and co-ordination of services are being identified. Age Wise Initiative of the WDH of which the Older Persons Assessment team is an integral part.
- National organisations such as the Stroke Foundation also have a role to play.
- Some elderly are struggling to get their needs met.

What We Want

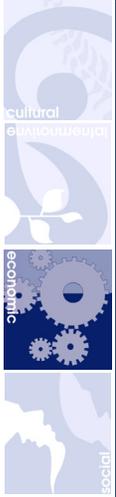
- A cohesive, caring, supportive community that cares for its more vulnerable members.
- Thames Coromandel District Council, in consultation with the community, to create a Social Policy that will give direction and commitment
- A stock-take of what we have, identification of gaps, and a clear plan of how to meet the gaps. (Local Services mapping)

What We Don't Want

- Alienation of members of our community, who, generally are the more vulnerable.
- The TCDC not to accept the responsibility of the role they play in social wellbeing for our community.
- Fragmentation of services and lack of a clear direction.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund-ing	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
No Social Policy	Create a Policy	TCDC	Community		*		
Fragmentation of Services	Local services mapping	TCDC	Community		*		



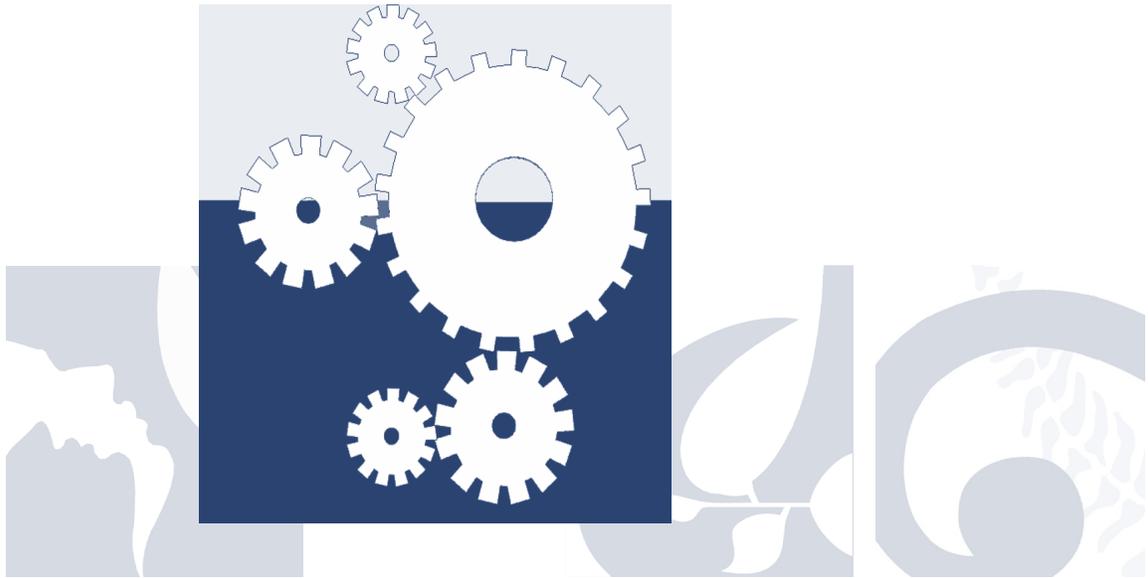
Economic

Industry

Retail

Service Industry

Tourism



Industry

The primary resources of the wider region combined with an innovative 'can-do' attitude has seen Thames' history of over 100 years intertwined with industry.

Manufacturing and wood processing play an important role in the economic make up of modern day Thames industry, with 6 of Thames' largest businesses employing over 700 people and contributing \$175 m to the local economy. Together with farming and tourism these industries are pivotal as the lifeblood of the town, supporting the wider downstream business community.

The community boasts some genuine NZ success stories, with a highly skilled resident workforce contributing to award winning export products, defence contracts and America's Cup winner's keels.

Market forces have seen two large employers reinvent their businesses in recent times, and due to offshore ownership the operations and location of the towns largest employers often fall under the microscope from head office.

Infrastructure, geography, availability of skilled workers and complementary industry are all important factors in ensuring their operations remain within the region.

It is widely recognized that sustainable growth opportunities still exist in these and other complementary industries.

What We Have

- Several large, reputable and responsible employers in the forestry and manufacturing industry whose success is rooted in the innovation, standards and systems developed locally
- A large number of smaller industrial businesses which compliment the growth and development of these sectors
- A resident community of skilled, well trained, motivated employees. However human resources are limited when businesses look for additional skilled labour.
- A desirable location and community to attract new labour to the area i.e. lifestyle and education
- An attractive geographic location to exporters, conveniently located between two major ports
- A course (National Certificate of Employment) running at Thames High School set up in conjunction with the Thames Industrial Group, designed for students pursuing a career in industrial field.
- A strong working relationship developed by Thames Industrial Group with local council, which includes regular meetings

What We Want

- To retain existing industry and in doing so ensure that the Thames economy continues to thrive and develop.
- For industry to continue to develop environmentally sustainable and socially responsible business practices
- A mutually beneficial relationship between industry and the community
- Ensuring roading, telecommunications and energy infrastructure is developed to service current and future needs
- Growth initiatives including land use zoning allowing for growth in all industrial sectors. However, careful consideration needs to be given to ensure an appropriate buffer zone between industrial and residential zoning and development, to ensure that noise, visual and traffic effects do not impact on residents.
- Investigating methods used outside the area to ensure adequately priced rental and permanent housing is available to cater for a growing labour market
- An attractive town, with the facilities and vibrancy to draw skilled and family oriented people to Thames
- To celebrate existing industry and industry heritage.

Industry

- To develop an interpretation centre for existing industry where local people and visitors to the area can learn about the success stories of the region
- For the wider community to be aware of the importance of industry as part of the local economy
- To encourage growth of new and complementary industries
- Cooperation between TCDC, EW, Maori and other parties to better facilitate the passage of resource consents
- To continue to invest in Industry and utilize links to central Government funding e.g. through Hauraki Coromandel Development Group

What We Don't Want

- To lose a large local employer, or downsizing of any operations
- To stifle growth of industry, through an in availability of labour, housing or appropriately zoned industrial land
- Any friction between industry and residents, the two must coexist in harmony, united in their desire for a better place to live.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	200 7	2010 2015
Zoning for industry and commerce	Incorporating long term industry requirements for industrial zoning into District Plan	TCDC	TIG		1-2 years		
Zoning for residential development	Incorporating residential growth requirements into District Plan Investigating other ways to ensure adequately priced housing is available to labour force	TCDC	TIG		1-2 years		
Continue to invest in Economic Development	Continued investment in Hauraki Coromandel Development Group Long term strategy for economic growth in the region.	TCDC	HCDC				
		HCDC	TCDC		ongoing		
Community Education	Continue to highlight the importance of industry to the local economy. Investigate opportunities to celebrate industries role in the community eg Interpretation centre, PR, sponsorship etc	TIG/Other business groups	Tertiary				
Skills and Training	TIG continues to develop relationships with TCDC, EW and Maori	TIG			ongoing		
Easing the passage or resource consents	Business groups continue to develop relationships with TCDC, EW and Maori.	TIG/Other business groups					

Retail

Thames has historically been the retail shopping hub of the Coromandel Peninsula for 150 years.

As the main shopping centre servicing the surrounding rural communities, Thames is a popular shopping destination and has a reputation for attracting both local and visitor customers. The recent beautification project and the Civic Centre upgrade have contributed greatly to the town's visual attraction.

The mix of businesses is split between local boutique stores, national chain stores, department stores and large format retailers such as Farmers, Furniture Court, Repco and The Warehouse, proving it also an economically appealing location. Service businesses range from banking, financial and personal services, through to cafes and recreation focused businesses, such as movie theatres and cyber-cafes.

This gold mining town has retained much of the quaint old-world charm from its past. This is reflected in the buildings and the retailers' united commitment to the historical theme.

For the town to really move forward there needs to be consistency in future planning, with the whole community united in the desire to make this the best place to be. We need to be supporting our local businesses with our business, shopping locally, taking pride and showing loyalty.

- Paid marketing coordinator funded through the Community Board/Council.
- Thames to be marketed outside the area. Establish a 'branding' for Thames.
- Targeted as a small niche market at national and international level.
- To capture people coming to the Peninsula; encourage Thames as a destination as opposed to a transient town. Businesses working with the Thames Information Centre to effectively promote Thames.
- To encourage businesses to contribute to the ambience and character of our town. Incentives to retain our Heritage theme, e.g. implement 'Heritage Policy'. – ensure Heritage policy is followed in planning, construction, restoration and maintenance.
- Create more people-friendly areas; eg Community Board to positively promote and support alfresco dining.

- Flexibility for modern trends of retail business eg display goods outside the premises. This creates a feeling that the town is 'open for business'.
- A town that promotes loyalty and pride ie 'Shop locally and prosper'.

What We Have

- The geographical shopping hub to the whole Coromandel Peninsula.
- An economically appealing location for many major franchise stores.
- A good range of retail outlets from sole traders to large-scale companies providing selection and competitive pricing. These businesses attract people from outlying areas, both domestic and international.
- Four areas of retail outlets: Central Business District (CBD), Goldfields Shopping Centre, Grahamstown.
- Lack of support by the business community for promotion and marketing of the town

What We Want

- A town and community that is growing, progressive and proactive in both retail and industry
- A plan that caters to the retail and service industries and able to grow geographically south.
- Sustainable and profitable businesses created through a buoyant retail demand.
- A town with excellent infrastructure, and a supportive community that attracts people to settle here.
- Community Board/Council to support promotion of the town.

What We Don't Want

- Negative growth in the business sector through lack of support, forward planning and town promotion.
- Loss of our heritage, i.e. buildings that don't reflect the town's heritage and in turn losing the small town feel and atmosphere
- The population decreasing through the lack of the town's resources.
- A town lacking business loyalty and community spirit.
- A town that closes at 5pm.
- More retail businesses at Kopu.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline			
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015	
Requirement for promotion & coordination of events and Thames as a visitor destination.	Council supported promotion coordinator	TCDC	Community Board/ Business Community		*			
Heritage	Ensure Heritage guidelines are implemented	TCDC			ongoing			

Service Industry

The Thames servicing industries originally began from the establishment of the gold mining industry in the 1800's. From this the farming industry followed with the establishment of the servicing industries as we know them today. Over later years our servicing industries have grown on the back of out of town development and the size of the catchments we service.

Our servicing industry consists of 7 major areas:

Road Transport – including goods & services and people.

Agricultural & Marine – including equipment, aeroplane, hardware, contractors, veterinary & MAF.

Motor Trade – including mechanics, panel & paint, automotive wholesalers, auto electrical, tyres, boats etc.

Building related Trades – covering builders, earthworks, timber hardware, electrical, plumbers, plasterers & painters, landscaping & concrete, joinery, aluminium & glass, engineers, roofer, quarrymen, white & brown ware & installation.

Professional & Financial Industry – including accounting, bankers, lawyer, investment & insurance, real estate, public trust, survey & valuation.

Other - including postal, housing corp, funeral, Work & Income, medical & physio, childcare, ACC, optometrist.

For Thames to capture the growth and success of earlier years, it is crucial that there is cohesion between the Service Industry sector and Thames Coromandel District Council. Without support and forward

planning we will be left with a town that is stagnant, with no growth and no future.

Thames is too great for that to happen.

What We Have

- A huge variety of servicing industries that sustain a wide area, from South Auckland, Hauraki Plains, the Coromandel Peninsula and Bay of Plenty (*the key to survival is to pull in \$ from outlying areas*).
- A Service Industry that is comparable to the cities.
- Haphazard growth within the sector (*our current building boom follows the last one in the early 1970's*)
- An ageing groove of business owners with very few emerging services.

What We Want

- Consultation and support from TCDC, Resource Management Act, and Iwi so people are not deterred from *'doing business'*: Currently the costs of objections make most initiatives prohibitive.
- Industries & communities supporting each other; contributing to growth & wealth.
- Thames to be seen as an "in place" to attract and hold staff (*preferably young people*), that can in turn grow servicing industries, creating more potential customers.
- Industries & services to develop and expand, to increase employment (*preferably young*). Marine Farming and Tourism are seen as huge potential.

Service Industry

- Industries and services that concentrate on the quality end of the market where more profit lies (*higher staff wages = higher spending*).
- Good quality residential and industrial subdivisions that are fully serviced. Meeting the needs of our largest service industries; those relating to building.
- A strong coordinated group (*eg. Business Association*) that motivates managers to expand their businesses. That drives and supports issues on behalf of their members, fostering new ideas and developing existing ones.
- Consistency in economic growth of the region

What We Don't Want

- The mixing of service industries in residential areas, as this creates conflict.
- Service Industries to be hidden; they need good profile.
- Having to put off or delay any potential business because of infrastructural or authoritative confusion or inaction.
- Widespread subdivision of good farmland to the south of Matatoki; thereby destroying potential farming businesses.
- Stagnation of the community as an area, or the boom/bust cycle.
- Continuing losses of 15-40 year olds which distorts and restricts our growth.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	200 7	2010 2015
Identified and planned new industries (eg mussel farms, processing factory that in turn expand servicing industries)	Planning & identifying precise locations for targeted industries.	TCDC	EW Power Company TIG		*		
Identified and planned areas for new subdivision (that in turn can expand servicing industries)	Planning & identifying precise locations for targeted sub dividable areas	TCDC	EW		*		
Resurrect a motivated Business Association that works with other interest groups to help facilitate new businesses and sort prob- lems of existing businesses	Create a permanent Business Association supported by TCDC	Business Association	TCDC Business Sector		*		

Tourism

Nationally, tourism is New Zealand largest export earner. How are we going to get our share of these tourists?

Thames has the amazing opportunity to promote itself on many fronts. We have numerous attractions in our midst that tourists and locals enjoy.

- Beaches
- Arts & crafts
- Historic
- Bush
- Gold mining
- Adventure
- Holistic retreats
- Bird life

These interests and activities are hugely diverse, so we need to promote Thames as a destination.

Promotion and effective marketing that truly reflects our natural assets are pivotal to the future of Thames.

What We Have

- A growing number of cafés and restaurants catering to a wide range of tastes, and creating our own unique 'café scene'.
- Tourism attractions relating to gold mining and history. Currently run by small volunteer groups.
- A variety of accommodation options including quality motels, B&B's, budget and backpackers.
- Many activities and attractions of a unique nature (ie Butterfly House, Cheese Factory, Gemstone Factory, Soap Factory and the Coromandel Forest Park).
- Many attractions that are 'all weather'; this is a huge advantage for drawing tourists.
- A large number of diverse activities and attractions that cater to a huge range of visitors and local residents.
- The Coromandel Peninsula's main Information Centre, currently servicing 120,000 plus visitors and locals each year.

What We Want

- To have an attractive, vibrant information centre that showcases all that Thames has to offer. It is imperative that as a community service it has the resources to effectively 'do the job'.
- Public facilities that cater to the 120,000 plus locals and visitors that use the Thames Information Centre. Such facilities are fundamental to sustaining and appealing.
- To enjoy more attractions and activities relating to our natural environment (i.e. coordinated trips, mountain bike trails and running trails similar to the Redwood forest in Rotorua). Created in a controlled and innovative way retaining and protecting the environment. This is one of our greatest assets, and is currently underutilized.
- The opportunity for Iwi to create a Maori cultural attraction.
- A large (2-3 storey – 100 bed) up market hotel complex with conference facilities; top floor restaurant with views over the Firth. Complimentary to the look and style of the town.
- Assistance, recognition and preservation of our Historical buildings and resources as being a major tourist attraction. Currently, many of these places are run by volunteers. The buildings are not open at regular times, proving it to be difficult to promote the facilities to tourists.

Tourism

What We Don't Want

- To lose our exceptional heritage character with it's many distinguishing features. This is especially significant with the Historical tourist attractions in the CBD and surrounding residences.
- To have tourism develop, encroach on or threaten our natural environment, consequently destroying our greatest asset.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	200 7 200 9	2010 2015
Promotion of Thames as a destination	Promote 'Weekend Escape' concepts	Tourism Coromandel	Information Centre/ Community Board		*		
Lack of affordable accommodation	Source developer to build facility	Tourism Coromandel	Developer TCDC				*
Protect heritage	TCDC to provide specialist staff to assist with council processes with respect to developing historically significant sites & buildings. Waive fees that hinder development of activities.	TCDC	Heritage Collective		*		
Need indoor activities for youth and visitor market	Source developer for indoor adventure activity	TCDC Tourism Coromandel	Investor TCDC		*		
Opportunity for Maori cultural activities	Develop Maori/ natural environment activity	Iwi	DOC		*		
Under utilisation of natural assets.	Create mountain tracks for trampers & cyclists.	TCDC	DOC EW		*		
Inadequate public toilets at the Thames Information Centre	Improve public toilets at the Information Centre	Community Board TCDC	Landlord & tenants		*		
Current quality and site of the Thames Information Centre	Plan for and investigate a new site and purpose built building.	Community Board TCDC					

Environmental



Bush

Coastline

Firth & Streams

Infrastructure

Growth Strategy

Settlements

Transport

Waste Management

Bush

We are hallowed by the unique variety of surrounding native bush and its sheer beauty that we have on our back doorstep. We are enriched by our heritage of major forest giants including Kauri, Rimu, Totara, Kahikatea, Tanekaha and Rewarewa. Even the history books recall Captain Cook's fondness for our Kauri, they made 'great masts'!

Kauri logging was the first industry on the Peninsula, followed by clear felling and burning to create open land for mining and farming. As a consequence, we only have a few isolated pockets of original bush that remain today. The majority is second growth, which is being degraded by possums, goats and rats.

This finite nature resource was not recognised in the past. Therefore decisions and policies on the protection and propagation of our bush today are crucial.

What We Have

- Bush backdrop to our community, much of it exotic.
- Potential for economic benefit from controlled tourism. People pursuing outdoor adventure activities.
- Large DOC nurtured forest park.
- One of the best day-track and DOC huts in New Zealand (Pinnacles Hut) plus a variety of other tracks.
- One of New Zealand's oldest arboretum of native trees (William Hall Reserve)
- Bush areas currently free from mining damage.
- Mostly secondary growth (from destruction in mining and logging era with pockets of regenerating natives including Kauri, Pohutukawa, Rewarewa
- Obtrusive pockets of exotic Pines/Eucalyptus/Wattle/Privet in inappropriate areas, eg coastal areas, preventing native regrowth.
- Considerable bush stands in private ownership under risk of development.
- Major possum and goat control costs (EW & Peninsula Project solution).

What We Want

- Maintenance of existing DOC network of tracks for residents and tourists
- Maintenance of existing forest cover for flood control
- Protection from goats, pigs, rats and possums to maintain forest cover
- Control of wildling Pines, Eucalyptus, Privet and Wattle
- Continued monitoring of subdivision of bush blocks eg resource consents.
- Support for voluntary groups enhancing the bush with native plantings.

What We Don't Want

- Intrusive plants and animals destroying our bush.
- Loss of mature native forest canopy, eg through mining, milling, pests, fire or clear felling.
- Loss of forest floor cover.
- Subdivision that results in unnecessary loss of bush.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005	2007	2010
Animal pests	Govt. control, community control	EW PP			2005	2007	2010
Plant pests	Education, public awareness	EW	TCDC DOC				Ongoing (once funding is in place)
Protection of watercourses & reserves	Fencing and planting (riparian)	EW TCDC DOC	Public Forest & Bird				Ongoing
Subdivision	Limit the loss of bush	TCDC	Developer				Application approval
Restoration & preservation of William Hall Reserve	*Survey of borders *fencing of perimeter *Pest control	Community Board	DOC Forestry & Bird Waikato Institute of Technology (WIT)				Ongoing

Coastline

The coastline of the Firth has much to offer for both recreational activities and for our wildlife. It has many geographical features, and each area provides a unique niche for wildlife and specialised coastal plants. It is a dynamic, ever changing environment with much to see, do and treasure.

In Captain Cook's time New Zealand's sole species of mangrove plant held a small niche in the ecosystem. Watercourses were cleaned by unsullied forests, and beaches were mostly sandy. Today, much of the forest has been cleared. Land disturbance, and degradation of animal pests, is now increasing the movement of silt and debris into the coastal zone. This fertile mudflat which man has rapidly increased now causes an explosion of mangrove growth.

The disadvantages to this excessive mangrove growth are: obstruction to recreational use of the coastal zone, removal of sandy beaches, removal of feeding areas for migratory birds and less efficient watercourse exits.

What We Have

- One of the longest coastlines of any District Council in New Zealand.
- A stunningly beautiful natural resource and a culture of local usage for recreation
- World heritage mudflat sites that feed migratory birds in the Firth.
- Increasing use of coastal marine areas, especially in summer
- A state highway following the coastline – a picturesque road, narrow and winding in parts, used by a variety of traffic and recreational users (cyclists/walkers)
- Conflict between the need to preserve the natural beauty of the coast and to upgrade the road to state highway standard
- Ribbon development of many beach fronts.
- Erosion and natural hazards causing set back problems for highly priced properties.
- A pocket of sea (Firth) bordering the west coast of the peninsula
- A destination for recreational fishermen, and harvesting by a dozen commercial fishermen under a quota system.
- An increasingly shallow delta to all river mouths.
- Sand continually travelling south on the Thames Coast.

What We Want

- Maintenance of the natural beauty of the coast.
- Protection of public access to the coastal area.
- Improvement of amenities for beach activities eg boat ramps etc.
- Control of mangrove expansion. Eg protecting the food sources of wading birds.
- Enforced protection of fragile coastal ecosystems eg. fish stocks, recreational fishing.
- MAF to have a higher profile in managing fishing and shellfish stocks.
- Strengthen sustainable fishing practices through control of commercial fishing and promotion of fishing as a potential tourist attraction.
- Consideration of alternative means of transport to protect the Thames Coast Road.

What We Don't Want

- Loss of public access to coastal areas
- Continual fish harvesting beyond a sustainable level.
- Loss of shellfish and fish stocks
- Pollution of water by heavy metal contamination from mine tailings
- Mussel farming in boating areas
- Beaches littered with manufactured debris eg, plastic etc.
- Needs of vehicles valued more highly than the preservation of the existing scenic coastline.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
Coastal Hazard	Implementation of rules to protect CMA	EW	TCDC		*		
Education of public	Pamphlets available	EW	TCDC			Ongoing	
Pollution	Beach clean-ups	Govt Public	TCDC EW			Annually	
Pollution	Monitoring of tailing sites	EW	Mo Energy			Ongoing	
Mangroves	Monitoring of expansion	EW	Mo Environment			Ongoing	
Fish stocks	Retiring some quota Reserving the Firth	MAF	Commercial Fisheries		*		
Fish stocks	Public education/ monitoring	MAF	EW			Ongoing	

Firth & Streams

In the early days of gold mining and forestry, the Firth was the 'main highway' to Thames. Now all these years later with the development of roads, the Firth is still remains a significant link to the outside world.

Thames has been launched onto the map as a desirable destination for the tourist, combining recreational water sports (including the annual national Big Boats Race), leisure boating & sailing, fishing, scenic walks and many other outdoor pursuits. The Firth also sustains the local community and supports many commercial marine industries.

The Firth of Thames and the streams that feed into it are vulnerable to the effects of pollution and run off from the land. We must support and encourage the local initiatives that are focused on the protection and enhancement of one of our greatest assets.

What We Have

- More than 10 fast flowing streams and rivers within this ward.
- Steep-sided and forest-degraded water sheds (as a result of the 'weather bomb') to be looked after by Environment Waikato projects.
- Community housing on alluvial flats at risk of flooding in extreme weather.
- A large amount of debris coming down into the firth as a result of the degraded forests.
- A very limited supply of water for houses that rely upon the streams as their main supply.
- Well used recreational areas including swimming spots in many creeks.

What We Want

- A Continual maintenance, erosion protection and restoration of waterway beds to lessen damage from periodic flooding.
- Riparian overhangs to encourage natural aquatic life which in turn supports the cleaning of the streams.
- Control of forest pests allowing regeneration of ground cover for the gradual release of heavy rainfall – covered by EW/PP.
- Esplanade reserves at edge of streams to allow for the natural meanderings of the watercourse. Consequently discouraging the building of houses to close to watercourses.
- To retain public access to esplanade reserves.

What We Don't Want

- Continual encroachment of buildings and structures close to watercourses.
- Uncontrolled culvert discharges that degrade water quality. eg; stock access to watercourses as they contaminate the water and destroy the banks.
- Degraded forests as a result of the lack of attention to controlling forest pests.
- Lowered water quality.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
Flooding	Planning/mitigation	EW	TCDC		*		
Forest protection	Increased pest control	DOC	EW		*		
Implement existing building controls on flood ways	Resource consents	TCDC	Community Board		*		

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the generic name for services to properties – including roading, energy supply, telecom communications, water and the transmission of storm water and wastewater from properties.

Provision and maintenance of infrastructure is essential for the life of a community, it has environmental and social consequences.

What We Have

- Energy:
 - A single electricity supply to Thames and the coast from the Matatoki sub-station.
 - Multiple line companies and electricity retailers.
- Telecom Communications:
 - A network of lines to most properties.
 - An inadequate telephone exchange in Thames, unable to fully meet the communication needs of a contemporary community.
 - Broadband availability to some properties.
 - Lack of complete coverage for cell phones.

Water:

- Potable, reticulated supply to Thames and adjacent properties.
- Private local and individual supply such as stream, bore or roof-top collection elsewhere.
- Storm water:
 - An under capacity disposal system for Thames.
 - Various inadequate local systems on the coast.

- Coastal rivers that flood on a regular basis, inundating properties, causing damage and restricting insurance cover for land and buildings.

Wastewater:

- The Thames urban area and Tararu and Kopu are serviced by reticulated pipe-work, terminating at the plant south of the airfield.
- The remainder of the coast is unreticulated on septic tanks which may contaminate adjacent watercourses and the Firth.

What We Want

- Energy:
 - Back-up to the single transmission line to Thames area and Thames Coast.
- Telecom Communications:
 - The upgrading of the Thames telephone exchange to accommodate direct dial, fax-ability and broadband into all properties.
 - Coverage for cell phones – repeater stations.

- **Water:**
 - Improvements to local schemes.
- **Storm water:**
 - Urgent construction of the proposed Thames stormwater scheme to alleviate the deficiencies of the present outdated system that floods and surcharges during heavy rainfall.
 - Improvements to the catchment capacity and maintenance of rivers on the Thames Coast to minimise damage to property during rainfall.
 - The coordination of maintenance on private and council river sites.
- **Wastewater:**
 - Consideration of centralised reticulation of wastewater in and between Te Puru and Waioimu to reduce pollution and contamination of the watercourses and streams.
 - Expansion of present system to cope with development.

What We Don't Want

- **Energy:**
 - The continued risk of a major power outage due to a single supply line.
 - Maintenance to the supply lines.
- **Telecom communications:**
 - An outdated telephone exchange which does not meet the need of contemporary voice and data communications.
- **Water:**
 - Community supplies on the Thames Coast that is unsafe or contaminated.
 - Slow of response from Thames-Coromandel District Council on issues of contamination.
- **Storm water:**
 - An arguably inadequate storm water system in Thames, generating flooding to properties which may not be insurable.
 - Continuance of the regular coastal property flooding during heavy rain.
 - Improved maintenance of streams on council land and other properties.
- **Wastewater:**
 - Risk of contamination to watercourses and properties by inadequate discharge of septic tank systems.

Infrastructure

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
Narrow corners and carriageways, SH 25 north of Thames taking into account scenic and environmental values. Partner agency is the community.	Creation and implementation of long term and continuous upgrading regime to widen and make safe.	Transfund	Transit NZ TCDC		*	*	*
Energy							
Single transmission line to Thames and Thames Coast	Duplication of transmission line to Thames and Thames Coast	Powerco	TCDC		*		
Telecom Communications							
Inadequate and dated telephone exchange	Replacement of existing facility componentry	Telecom or other Telecoms			*		
Water							
Unreliable and unhealthy local schemes	Upgraded potable water supplies	TCDC	EW		*		
Stormwater							
Under capacity Thames urban storm water system	Urgent upgrading and construction of Thames urban storm water system	Thames Community Board	TCDC		*		
Flooding of Thames Coast rivers and streams eg Tararu, Te Puru, Waitomū, Tapu) and inundation of adjacent properties during heavy rain	Urgent attention to flood channels, catchments stability, bridge portal capacity to reduce flooding risk. Regular maintenance of flood channels.	EW	TCDC Central Govt.		*	*	*

Growth Strategy

The Thames area has a history of ad-hoc growth and development with little perceivable planning.

The area is constrained by the hills to the east and the Firth of Thames to the west. Much of the flat land and margins of the streams are prone to overland flow and ponding during significant storm events. Schemes and plans are being implemented to manage these risks, and by doing so, provide opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

Significant areas of land are available for development, notably the hills behind Totara & Kopu, and the flats between Thames & Kopu. These areas can sustain development that takes the landscape, ecology and storm water management into account.

Development for all socio-economic groups for their living, working, educational, cultural and recreational needs should be undertaken. This can be achieved by:

- Planning development around ecological, stormwater and landscape catchments, and taking existing development into account.
- Appropriate planning, development and construction of infrastructure.

What We Have

- Provision of appropriately scaled development areas for residential, commercial, industrial and recreational activities. These areas can include clearly separated zones, and zones for some mixing of activities, with the need to cater for all socio-economic groups.
- Council incentives for use of on-site solutions that generate reduced demand on infrastructure, particularly storm water, wastewater and water supply eg roof water storage tanks which relieve demand on public water supplies & simultaneously reduces demand on storm water reticulation.
- Incentives to encourage both private and public parties to provide for the above outcomes. Financial contribution policies under Resource Management Act 1991 District Plans and/or the Local Government Act 2002 must avoid acting as a disincentive to investment.

- Existing zoned areas for high, medium and low density housing.
- Existing Town Centre Zone for commercial and retail uses, with “superstores” concentrating in the mall, standard shops in the central Pollen Street area. “character” shops in northern Pollen Street, and “drive-in” type shops in southern Pollen Street
- Existing service and general industrial areas in Thames and at Kopu. Much of the Kopu land is not ready for development i.e. little infrastructure in place, and earthworks and roading are required for development to take place.

Growth Strategy

What We Want

- Further industrial and light commercial, facility zones at Kopu and north of Warahoe Road
- Industrial and commercial zones to be serviced for infrastructure so that development can move in.
- Mixed density residential and recreational areas on hills east of State Highway 25, as far south as Kopu/Hikuaui Roads (State Highway 25A).
- It is essential that appropriate educational and community facilities are provided to service additional housing areas.
- Economic and statutory climates and incentive schemes that reduce the cost of sustainable development.

What We Don't Want

- Mixed industrial and residential areas due to the incompatibility of amenity, noise etc.
- Growth limited by the inability to provide additional housing and commercial and industrial sites.
- Continued uncertainty of District Plan status.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005	2007	2010
Suitable zoning	Studies for Section 32 Resource Management Act 1991 analysis. This involves site suitability studies, structure plan drawing, consultation	TCDC	EW Future Thames Thames Industrial Group Community Groups				
District Plan Changes	Notify for public submission	TCDC	EW		*		
Hearings	Probably by Commissioner	TCDC	EW			*	
Appeals	Environment Court	TCDC				*	
Infrastructure and Site Preparation	Construction of roads, earthworks, placing infrastructure	TCDC	Private Developers EW				*

Settlements

Thames' famous heritage reputation coupled with an attractive town centre makes this a popular visitor destination. The East/West style relationship combines the modern shopping centre with a heritage town. Heritage is reflected throughout the whole town including industry, retail and housing. It is vital that this is retained.

Here, we can also provide any prospective resident a range of housing options; modern subdivision, town, coastal bach, rural subdivision, pensioner accommodation. Thames has a tight zoning policy that allows housing development close to the town centre creating opportunities for any type of lifestyle, age or mobility.

Although strategically located within striking distance of Tauranga, Auckland and Hamilton, Thames is not directly affected by these cities; it still retains its own very special identity.

Thames is a gateway *plus* a destination.

What We Have

- Compact and tightly defined residential, commercial, administrative and industrial areas.
- Thames has a popular grid layout, allowing easy street access and an uninterrupted flow between areas.
- Friendliness, community spirit, and many events that cater to a wide and varied range of interests all with a small town feel.
- A weekly Saturday market situated in Grahamstown that supports and contributes to Thames' *community spirit* reputation.
- An exceptional heritage character with many distinguishing features including the pohutakawa, flora & fauna and diverse topography.
- Public open spaces and parks.
- Thames Coast Road that is renowned for its display of pohutukawas, and bush in Kauaeranga Valley
- Good public library servicing a wide and varied population.
- Nearby residential communities, both north and south of Thames

What We Want

- Continued well supported services including a high-quality hospital.
- More trees and parks, including more and improved children's and youth facilities.
- More shops – a thriving shopping centre combining and complementing the old and new retail shopping areas.
- More public amenities to encourage and support population growth.
- To provide more entertainment opportunities for singles and young couples.
- To attract more long term highly skilled businesses building onto the already skilled workforce, this in turn will add value to existing business.
- To continue attracting visitors by capitalising our uniqueness.
- Retention of character and heritage with improved pedestrian linkage.
- Low density traffic / fewer stop signs.
- New buildings in keeping with old.
- Completion of southern approach to town.
- Retention of the character of Thames Coast Road especially the pohutakawa.
- Attractive rural and coastal hinterland.
- To retain Thames as a regional centre. Supporting the area as being the main service provider

Settlements

What We Don't Want

- The trappings of city life that degrades the character and lifestyle of our settlements. Including:
 - Traffic lights
 - Parking meters
 - Congestion
 - Lack of parking
 - Pollution
 - Graffiti

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
Southern approach to Thames	Continue walkway, tree planting & beautification	TCDC	Transit		*		
Retaining our Heritage	Extend the heritage policy area south down Pollen Street.	TCDC	TCDC		*		
Recreation & amenities	Completion of the walkway	TCDC			*		
Retaining heritage character	Design of buildings assessed against guidelines which ensure they retain the character of Thames.	TCDC			*		

A community where all people are able to travel safely and economically, using a variety of methods – cars, scooters, bikes, feet and mobility scooters.

What We Have

- Roading:
 - State highway running from the south of Thames, along the Thames Coast to the north.
 - Local roads serving industrial, commercial, residential and coastal communities.
 - Limitations on the state highway from the one lane Kopu Bridge through to a narrow carriageway along the coast north of Thames.
 - Footpaths in varying conditions. Good service lanes. Poor lighting on stairways.
 - An increasing elderly population with specific needs which will require planning for (e.g. crossings, inability to drive motor vehicles, possible conflict between mobility scooters and pedestrians and vehicles.
 - A town centre that is busy and congested at times.
 - Parking that reaches capacity at busy times and in holiday periods.
 - Private taxi service.
 - A transport system primarily designed around motor vehicles.
- The major travel centre (Thames Information Centre) for the region. Receiving approx.10-12 Intercity buses per day in the winter months, and 14 or more through the summer season. During summer the Auckland to Thames run is fully booked.

What We Want

- **Roading:**
 - State highway 25 between Thames & Coromandel carriageway to a standard that meets present and future traffic capacity, local, visitor and heavy vehicle usage.
 - Continuing maintenance of footpath and stairways with upgraded lighting. eg Jacobs Ladder.
 - The replacement of the Kopu Bridge (the entrance to the Coromandel) with a crossing to cater for present and future needs.
 - Continued maintenance and improvements to local roading, particularly from a safety aspect. eg the commercial centre of Thames
 - A programme of maintenance for the regular cleaning of roading kerb channels together with the regular clearing out of the catchments.
- A well devised Transport Plan that recognises the needs of all road users which will:
 - Give economic benefits - pedestrians and cyclists can benefit local economies. People who walk and cycle often are more likely to “shop local”.

purpose walkway/ cycle track from Moanatairi /Kuranui Bay to Tararu point.

- Facilities eg bike racks, that cater for securing bikes at strategic locations around town to encourage use and prevent footpaths becoming bike park areas
- More services for non driving people.

What We Don't Want

- **Roading:**
 - Continued reliance of the single lane Kopu Bridge, which severely confounds access to Thames and Thames Coast.
 - Badly maintained footpaths and stairs and steps which are inadequately lit.
- A transport strategy that only considers the motorist.
- People disadvantaged because they don't drive or have access to a vehicle, ie can't shop adequately.
- Reactive development
- Uncoordinated development that conflicts with the wider vision of Future Thames.
- An environment that promotes obesity because people are restricted in their ability to be physically active.

- Benefit tourism - cycle tourists tend to stay longer and support local economies in local areas. *Quoted from the Ministry of Transport 2003.*
- Improve health - people can be healthier in environments that encourage physical activity.
- Create a safer total road environment.
- Meet the needs of the different community sectors, eg school children, visually impaired & elderly.
- An environment where people can commute safely and actively with resultant health and economic benefit.
- A safe environment that encourages people to shop locally.
- A safe environment that is inviting for tourists and visitors.
- Completion of cycle track along State Highway 25 from Matatoki to Thames
- Cycling/ walk track – Maramarahi Road over K' River and link up to Parawai Road
- To make Kuranui Point safe for pedestrians and cyclists. The present footpath is very dangerous. Consider creating a dual

Transport

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline		
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015
The Thames Community needs a safe transport network that meets the needs of all users.	Develop a Transport Strategy with Community Consultation, and planned reviews. The Plan needs to include: Cycling Strategy for Thames. Pedestrian Strategy for Thames. Safe routes to major facilities (eg library, post office, shopping centres, schools) Input from the community and Council. Co-ordination with the wider vision of "Future Thames".	TCDC	Transit NZ Community Board EW WDHB Police ACC AA Sport Waikato Tourism Coromandel Community Groups eg Age Wise Grey Power Cycling Group WINZ Citizens Advice Bureau Zoom Zone				
Footpath maintenance and development	Continuing maintenance and development of footpaths and lighting on steps	Thames Community Board	TCDC		*		
Roading							
Kopu Bridge replacement	Bring forward alternative crossing of Waihou at Kopu	Transfund	Transit NZ TCDC			*	

Waste Management

In 2003, Onyx was awarded the District, including the Thames Ward waste collection and management of the Thames Refuse Transfer Station.

To encourage public recycling, Onyx distributed 18,000 'green' bins for household sorting of glass, tins, paper, card and plastic. Pre-paid plastic rubbish bags were introduced and continue to be used. This means that the people who produce the waste pay for it. This lowered the rates component by \$70 per annum.

The remaining charges, funds the rehabilitation of past land-fills, collection from reserve litter bins and removal of 'fly-tipped' waste and abandoned cars.

What We Have

- Refuse transfer station – Burke Street site. Collection and compaction site for recyclables with refuse trucked to Tirohia by paid right.
- Peninsula-wide business based in Thames (Onyx).
- Weekly curbside rubbish / recyclables collection.
- Council income from recyclables and Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) gate fees.
- Regular collection from community litter bins.
- Removal of fly-tipped waste on public complaint – includes cars..
- Mulching of green waste at deliverer's cost – free for removal.
- Therefore increasing rubbish volumes – increasing number of properties.
- A growing community awareness of the need to recycle and downstream benefits.
- Community led 'Beach cleanups'.

What We Want

- An informed Council committed to 'Zero Waste'.
- A reduction in the waste stream.
- Continued pride in an unsullied environment.
- The establishment and support of a facility that recycles pre-loved' goods at low prices at the Thames refuse Transfer Station. (Seagull Centre)
- A facility for disposing of vehicle tyres.

Waste Management

What We Don't Want

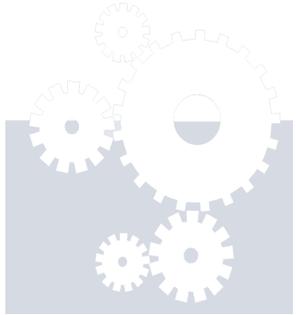
- A society with a 'throw-away' ethos.
- More / bigger landfills.
- An increase in the 'per-person' waste stream.
- New industry without transparent, measurable waste reduction policies.
- The illegal dumping of rubbish.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Funding	Priority/Timeline				
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015	2015	2015
General waste reduction.	Continued recycling emphasis via education/ recycling incentives. Continued / increased contractor waste reduction clauses.	TCDC	EW			Ongoing			
Industry waste reduction policies.	Resource consent clauses	EW	TCDC			1-2 Ongoing			
Employment	Support for waste reduction enterprises.	TCDC	Community agencies.			Ongoing			



Cultural



Heritage

Youth

Arts & Culture

Heritage

Thames has a proud history. At a time when more and more people are wishing to learn about those who came before them, the town has the ability to bring to life the ancestry of our country and its peoples, of all races.

Through its people, buildings, museums, archives, flora and fauna, Thames has a unique opportunity to help people appreciate and learn about their past, to understand the present, and to prepare for the future.

Many of Thames' buildings and sites are living monuments to days gone by; many of its people are repositories of knowledge; its museums house artefacts that are a physical link with the past; its archives bring alive the day to day life of our ancestors; and much of its flora and fauna are reminders of what the land was like before and after man arrived on the scene.

What We Have

- A Maori heritage which dates back to the first migration.
- A number of heritage buildings representing various eras including – the miners union, churches, hotels and a manse.
- In excess of 60 heritage trees and plantings are currently registered. Some of these are growing in reserves and parks like the William Hall Memorial Reserve and Victoria Park. The William Hall Memorial Reserve is a nationally recognised and potentially international arboretum.
- Tourism heritage including the museum, school of mines, pump house, stamper battery & the Coromandel Heritage Trust. All which have a vision to develop an archive & family history centre forming a basis of what we have to offer our visitor market.
- Thames also has a rich heritage in forestry & timber dating back to over 100 years.
- Adapted and reused heritage buildings, e.g. as commercial offices.

What We Want

- Recognition of the role of heritage in tourism.
- Finance and support to complete the Archive Centre.
- Real protection for heritage flora. For example, substantial fines for senseless damage and destruction.
- TCDC to take more interest in the protection of heritage areas, like the William Hall Memorial Reserve and historic places not under the care of the Historic Places Trust.
- To make it harder to obtain resource consents for wanton destruction of heritage areas.
- Regular tourist bus calls to support and encourage our unique tourism heritage.
- An old historic house, eg Brunton/Rowe House and Royal Hotel open to the public fully restored with furniture etc.
- A coordinated heritage collective – capitalising on all our experience and resources.

Heritage

- To see more "old" advertising like the Grahamstown area. To have signs across the ends of Pollen/Cochrane Streets – reading "Historic Grahamstown"
- Footsteps in time, significance of historic lwi sites.
- Interpretation signage acknowledging heritage & Maori.
- Coordination between heritage groups and the TCDC.
- Support for coordination of heritage matters in the Hauraki area.
- Preservation of historic buildings and sites.

What We Don't Want

- To see more of the unnecessary demolition of old buildings like the Adams building and the Warwick Arms Hotel.
- Heritage trees being cut down to make way for housing (build around the tree)
- All mining and new quarries.
- Destruction of historic buildings & sites.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline			
					2005 2006	2007 2009	2010 2015	
Protection	Care of historic sites, buildings & trees.	TCDC	Contractor DOC NZHPT		*			
Archive Centre (The Treasury)	Resource consents and financial assistance	Coromandel Community Trust	Community TCDC		*			
Preserving the historic character of Thames	Reviewing and upholding resource consents.	TCDC	Historic Places Trust		*			
Educational interpretation	A display of our history and a presentation of information about it.	NZ Historic Places Trust Thames Historic Museum	DOC TCDC					

The people of Thames are committed to developing; supporting and promoting an environment that positively contribute to the safety and well being of young people, their families and communities.

The hilly, bush-clad surroundings and sea provide youth with a venue for a range of outdoors pursuits including tramping, hunting, boating, fishing and swimming. Thames is a medium sized rural town with one secondary school, four main sporting grounds, 9 primary schools and sports facilities. It has a variety of sports organisations that are also utilised by youth (especially those still at school) both during the week and during the weekends.

Outside of these, the town boasts a more limited range of youth-desired social venues – youth tends to make its own fun or travel some distance to find it.

What We Have

- An attractive environment.
- A range of schooling options.
- Venues and clubs providing for a range of discretionary time pursuits.
- A community swimming pool and a range of school pools.
- A well stocked library.
- Bush tracks, large hut and camping grounds
- Several church clubs and a youth club catering for youth.
- A range of part-time (after school and weekend) employment options.
- Open access to a range of sea / stream aquatic areas.
- A number of larger industries including the Timber Mills, Price's Foundry and Wallace's abattoir providing for end of school employment.
- Many youth leaving town on leaving school to pursue tertiary education opportunities.

What We Want

- A stocktake to determine Thames youth needs and the gaps.
- Closer formal and informal links between Thames, TCDC and youth, e.g., establishment of a Thames Youth Forum.
- A clearly specified 'youth' plan instigated by the community and supported by Council.
- A commitment to valuing youth and their contribution to our community.
- A range of dedicated youth appropriate venues that enable them to use their discretionary time appropriately.
- Incentives and back up for groups or individuals providing support, guidance and assistance for youth.
- Youth that enriches the town.
- Youth activities requiring more parental involvement.
- Young people to feel cherished, with their diversity recognised, acknowledged and celebrated.
- Opportunities for Maori youth explored.
- A sporting complex that could be utilised by many different sporting codes pooling resources (Zoom Zone project).

What We Don't Want

- Unsympathetic systems that hinder youth input into processes that might affect them.
- Youth disempowerment by adults or adult dominated power groups.
- Graffiti and damage to individual, business or public property by youth.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline			
					200 5 200 6	200 7 200 9	2010 2015	
Youth input.	Creation of a 'Thames Youth for Youth' forum.	TCDC				0 -1	Ongoing	
Do we know what we don't know?	Stock-take of Thames Youth : Needs /Amenities / services The gaps—Where to from here?	TCDC	Community groups / schools, Churches, youth centre etc.			0 -1		

Arts & Culture

Thames has a diverse arts and cultural community. It supports a wide range of art groups and provides opportunities for participation in many activities, including music, drama, painting, crafts, pottery, wood-turning and Maori arts and crafts. These activities, together with the natural magnetism of our environment, entice many artists and artisans to our region.

There is a need to build a stronger arts culture in the town and provide opportunities for visitors and tourists to view and experience the arts and culture. The Thames Arts Cultural Centre at Tararu provides a focus for the arts where an active Arts Society and Musical Theatre are based.

The Centre is a heritage building that has been developed thanks to volunteer support, fundraising, and grants from Waikato Trust and the NZ Lottery Grants Board.

There are an increasing number of commercial and semi-commercial craft outlets, art supplies shops and galleries that have developed, adding significance to the arts and the town.

The recently refurbished Thames War Memorial Civic Centre provides an ideal venue for visiting shows and local events.

Thames Community Arts Council currently allocates the Creative New Zealand Creative Communities funding scheme to arts groups in the Thames area on behalf of Thames-Coromandel District Council

What We Have

- An Arts Cultural Centre which provides a focus for the arts and cultural activities in Thames. The Centre has a public gallery, workshops, sponsors exhibitions and provides a home for the Thames Musical Theatre and Thames Arts Society.
- Women's Institute annual competitions.
- Band rooms and three Thames based bands.
- Youth Centre with art activities focus.
- Annual Pohutukawa Festival which includes a wearable arts competition, and various art displays.
- Several dance classes, including ballet, tap, kappa haka and Irish.
- Music teachers.
- A range of crafts including quilting, embroidery, scrap-booking, wood-turning, photography, jewellery, spinning and weaving.
- A number of choirs and choral groups and a regular monthly music programme at St George's Church by the Thames Music Group.
- Saturday market which provides stall place for crafts.
- Ngati Pu Whanau Trust Maori arts and crafts.
- Mahara sculptural gardens at Tapu.
- Soap making at Eco People commercial outlet and craft gallery.
- Private galleries.
- Framing and art supplies shops.
- A well used library which provides opportunity for workshops, children's activities, visiting musicians.
- Poetry, story-telling at local cafes.
- Jewellery and ceramics workshop attached to local café.
- Thames High School community education/craft classes.
- Occasional musical drama and theatre performance by several local church congregations.
- Thames Little Theatre, housed at Carnegie Hall.

What We Want

- TCDC to develop an "arts policy" in conjunction with the Thames Arts Council.
- Recognition, advocacy and funding by the local authority of "arts and culture".
- Identification of local residents/councillors who are champions of the arts.
- Better coordination of arts, culture and associated activities.
- Promotion of the arts through local media, newsletter, notice boards and TCDC website.
- A paid Arts Coordinator to promote and coordinate art activities.
- To build an image and strong sense of the community that encourages the development of art/cultural groups and individual artists.
- To encourage opportunities for Thames people to be involved with, experience and participate in the arts.
- To encourage greater community use of the Civic Centre at affordable costs.
- Promotion of public art projects, eg murals and sculptures.
- TCDC to support opportunities for arts and activities for youth.
- To develop a designated community arts facility.

What We Don't Want

- Continuation of the present passive support of arts/cultural activities.
- The existing fragmentation and lack of coordination amongst existing arts/cultural groups.
- The under-use of the Civic Centre by community groups.

Outcomes

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Partner Agency	Fund- ing	Priority/Timeline	
					200 5 2009	2010 2015
Improved recognition, ownership and coordination of the "arts" in Thames.	Skilled Arts Facilitator to facilitate a process which leads to improved coordination and recognition of the "arts" in Thames.	TCDC Arts Council	Arts Waikato Creative NZ Art/Alliance	Trust Waikato TCDC Creative NZ	*	
Improved community use of Civic Centre	Thames Community Board to review use and charging	Community Board	TCDC		*	