

KAPITI COAST : CHOOSING FUTURES

**COMMUNITY
OUTCOMES**

**PARAPARAUMU TOWN CENTRE
LOCAL OUTCOMES**



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Foreword – Alan Milne, Mayor, Kapiti Coast District

In 2003 – 2004, when the major initial consultation was undertaken to prepare our first Long Term Council Community Plan *Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures*, we found we had a full set of broadly districtwide Community Outcomes as well as a number of chosen outcomes focused on specific localities and communities within the District.

Turning the seven principal districtwide outcomes into reality requires the Council to take the vision and develop timescales, funding and action plans. Among the action plans was the promise to work with local communities to give shape and form to their local outcomes.

This series of local outcome documents takes the districtwide outcomes and gives them a local focus. From there the specific local outcomes are presented along with programmes developed in consultation with the community to redefine the outcomes into practical visions and programmes for the future.

The vision for the Kapiti Coast's future is an exciting one but each community has its own view of the flavour and colour of that future. For some it is one of growth and expansion while for others growth must be limited but conditions provided for the community to continue to thrive.

To achieve the greatest long term benefit for the District, the way we proceed into the future needs to be focused and managed in a way that meets the needs of the people while retaining the essential character of the town and country.

The local outcome documents were developed through a series of meetings and design workshops involving many of the people and most of the significant groups in each community.

Their aim is to provide a framework or touchstone for options and actions for the future as local communities and the wider district evolve over time.

The challenge for each of us in our own community, for the District and the Council is to take these documents and their vision and ensure we shape a Kapiti Coast which is responsive to the needs of people and flexible enough to meet the forces that will form the District and this country in the years to come.



Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Paraparaumu Town Centre Local Outcomes

Introduction

This document builds on *Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes*. Under the umbrella of those broader community outcomes, this document sets out a further layer of information about the community’s vision for the Paraparaumu Town Centre and its surrounding area.

Residents and business people from the Paraparaumu Town Centre community have participated in a number of design workshops since the initial *Choosing Futures* in 2004. The material from these, along with the detailed material from the original *Choosing Futures* workshops, builds up a clear picture of desired future direction.

The *Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* document covers areas such as the natural environment, growth management, protection of character, access, efficient use of resources (e.g. water, reduction of waste, energy), building local employment choices, creating a place that works for young people, and general enjoyment of what the Kapiti Coast offers. These are not repeated here in any detail.

This umbrella *Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* also acknowledges the particular character of communities and places along the Kapiti Coast. It does this in broad terms and much of the focus of the *Paraparaumu Town Centre Local Outcomes* document is to provide more guidance on what this means for Paraparaumu Town Centre.

Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes and any *Local Outcomes* documents, have status under the Local Government Act 2002. Provided that the desired community

outcomes are consistent with a sustainable development approach and support the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of people and communities (both local and districtwide), the District Council and central government agencies must show how their actions progress this community vision.

The broader *Community Outcomes* and *Local Outcomes* cannot bind an agency to a future direction or a particular level of investment, especially as these issues need to be balanced against needs and requirements in other areas and across the District as a whole, these documents together become the basis against which the performance of agencies in supporting the community’s wellbeing can be assessed. They also form a more concrete basis for engagement between communities, agencies and institutions and discussion of particular issues.

The *Community Outcomes* and the *Local Outcomes* are not just documents intended to shape the response of the Council and other agencies. They signal a collectively desired direction for the Paraparaumu Town Centre as a place and as a community. In many cases the challenge is for the residents to become involved, to do things in their community to make things work. Paraparaumu Town Centre already has a community where people are involved in issues and decision making. Some people work very hard for the community. In other cases, such as the way individual shopping choices affect the local economy, things are less obvious. These Outcomes present a challenge for everyone into the future.

Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 1

There are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy

This Outcome area contains a number of very specific detailed outcomes:

- key natural areas shaping the fundamental form and quality of the District's settlements, including:
 - Kapiti Island is recognised as the symbolic heart of the District for iwi and the wider community;
 - the coast in its entirety is recognised as being central to the local culture and lifestyle;
 - the District's streams become major natural features in all the settled area;
 - the District's urban parks become major features of the District as places of beauty and enjoyment;
- the Kapiti Coast becomes nationally recognised for an extensive cycleways, walkways and bridleways network:
 - a coastal walkway and cycleway from Paekakariki to Otaki and north;
 - extensive linkages through built up areas to key natural features such as rivers, streams and areas of bush;
 - good local linkages to schools and centres.
- that vulnerable areas of native vegetation and wildlife are protected including:
 - remaining dunes;
 - that people know about their natural areas and how to care for them.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 1.1 That significant open space is provided adjacent to the Wharemauku Stream and the flood storage areas.**
- 1.2 That the ‘green network’ of Wharemauku Stream, the key roads, the open space area of the town centre land, the town square and the dune faces, are significant basic features that will shape the wider design.**
- 1.3 That the east / west view shafts to Kapiti Island and along Wharemauku Stream are retained and will shape design solutions including building location and design.**
- 1.4 That the Wharemauku Stream is restored with riparian planting to improve water quality and stream character and improve walking, cycling and disabled access.**
- 1.5 That there is an increase in the number and quality of public trees and gardens.**



Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 2

Local character is retained within a cohesive district

This Outcome is concerned with recognition of the uniqueness and character of the string of communities along the coast while also concentrating on those things that link people together to create a sense of the whole. The former brings a focus on such things as local landscape, the style and scale of buildings, the design of local roads and the feel of place. The latter includes a focus on access, on community networks and on participation in decision making. In summary:

“that the role, nature and character of each of the Kapiti Coast’s towns and special areas is recognised and retained, and shapes the future form and quality of the District”

The umbrella document *Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures – Community Outcomes* acknowledges all of the communities along the coast. It has this to say about Paraparaumu Central.

That Paraparaumu Central is recognised as:

- having the Paraparaumu Town Centre as its local focus and that this is supported by :
 - improving safe pedestrian and vehicle access;
 - increasing the amount of trees on the roads and parks;
 - making Kapiti Road a boulevard;
 - restoring the estuary and bird habitats.

Since August 2003, the Paraparaumu Town Centre community has participated in a number of community design workshops which have defined the community vision, particularly in terms of the nature and character of the Town Centre.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 2.1 That Rimu Road is recognised and developed as the Town Centre main street with commercial buildings built to the edge of Rimu Road.**
- 2.2 That retail uses predominate at the ground floor level on the main street with mixed use, offices and apartments being developed above the retail.**
- 2.3 That Rimu Road is designed to reduce vehicular speed. This recognises the importance of the principle of traffic movement (slowness and congestion) and retail viability.**
- 2.4 That the primary focus of the Council town centre land to the north west should be the accommodation of civic facilities.**
- 2.5 That all buildings will be designed to a high level of amenity and resource efficiency.**
- 2.6 That the retail area is supported by street upgrades in Ihakara Street (completed) and Rimu Road. These upgrades will include more street trees, textured paving at intersections, changes to pedestrian crossing points, and smooth footpaths.**
- 2.7 That pedestrians are recognised as having priority within the commercial area and traffic is calmed to ensure that pedestrians can safely explore.**
- 2.8 That traffic speed is reduced within the town centre to improve access to shops and links with civic facilities such as the aquatic centre and library.**
- 2.9 That adequate land is made available within the Paraparaumu Town Centre to accommodate projected retail needs (and associated commercial land needs) to at least 2026. This includes 'large format retail' with specialist shops fronting Rimu Road.**
- 2.10 That well used, safe pedestrian and cycle routes connect Paraparaumu Town Centre with Paraparaumu Beach and Waikanae.**
- 2.11 That there is a greater diversity of facilities and commercial activities in the town centre such as restaurants and cafés which operate in the evening to increase the level of enjoyment and vitality of the town centre for both residents and visitors.**
- 2.12 That public transport and other infrastructure is enhanced to support increased use of the commercial centre by visitors and enable residents to travel more sustainably to other locations in the region.**



Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 3

The nature and rate of population growth is appropriate to community goals

This Outcome records the community's vision about how the District should develop and respond to population growth pressures over time. It is an important area, given the population pressures on the District. In summary:

- that there is a focus on accommodation of local natural population growth in the short and medium term and that the Kapiti Coast does not simply react to external population pressure.
- that intensification is explored in specific areas and where it clearly contributes to wider community goals of:
 - improved public transport;
 - supporting the vitality/ character of specified town centres;
 - increased safety of specified town centres;
 - providing housing choice.
- that the specified areas for exploring medium density housing are;
 - Paraparaumu Town Centre;
 - Waikanae Town Centre;
 - Paraparaumu Beach, provided it is away from the beach itself;
 - around rail stations.
- that there is efficient use of existing infrastructure first, with an increased focus on the potential of Otaki to absorb population growth in the short and medium term.
- that where possible the location of new population supports the development of a local 'district' economy.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 1.1 That the Paraparaumu Town Centre is recognised as the main commercial / retail centre for the District.**
- 1.2 That quality mixed use and medium density housing are encouraged within the Paraparaumu Town Centre to increase the amenity and vitality of the town centre.**
- 1.3 That there is an increase in the number and availability of car parks in the town centre and that parking buildings are explored to achieve greater parking efficiency and better use of the site.**
- 1.4 That work on flood storage and realignment options for Wharemauku Stream takes place to increase the land development potential within Council town centre lands and adjacent land blocks.**
- 1.5 That innovative solutions to flood mitigation works are explored, for example 'island' type development, development of flood storage areas with wetlands and associated indigenous vegetation on Transit NZ land.**





Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 4

The District's resources are used wisely

This Outcome records the community's vision about how the District's resources should be used. This is summarised as follows:

Quality of Public Spaces/Landscapes:

- the quality of the streams and rivers is improved;
- the coast is managed as a linked ecosystem.

Access

- the linkages between Paraparaumu and Waikanae are improved to reduce travel time and energy use.

Design

- there are opportunities for innovative design of subdivisions, housing and infrastructure to reduce energy and resource use.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 4.1 That Rimu Road's physical design is developed as an integrated package which includes emphasis on quality of design, street trees and resulting amenity with a central median to assist with pedestrians crossing the road.**
- 4.2 That Paraparaumu Town Centre is known for quality mixed use design of housing that is energy and water efficient.**
- 4.3 That Wharemauku Stream is known for its environmental quality and is an example of good practice for urban streams.**





Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 5

There is increased choice to work locally

This Outcome is not just concerned with making sure as many people as possible in the District are in employment, it is also concerned with building a local economy, including increased business activity in and around our District, local and neighbourhood centres. Achieving this includes improved support for business development and set-up, more effective and reliable infrastructure and good internal district transport for people working locally. In summary:

District Form

- there is more usable commercial land available in the District where possible the location of new population supports the development of a local District economy.

Quality of Public Spaces/Landscapes

- key focal points are managed in a way that protects their essential qualities, but always welcomes visitors.

Access

- there is improved internal public transport access for the workforce.

Design

- there is greater acknowledgement of the economic benefits of good design and good quality urban environments;
- existing commercial, industrial and retail areas and local neighbourhood shops are more attractive and show more design innovation.

Community and the Individual

- that there is a strong business development and mentoring focus.
- the local labour force is employed in skilled work as much as possible in the District.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 5.1 That the town centre amenity is enhanced to encourage an increase in the diversity of jobs such as business services within the Paraparaumu Town Centre over time. This includes exploring the feasibility of building a new town square adjacent to Wharemauku Stream on the eastern side of Rimu Road.
- 5.2 That economic benefits of good design are recognised and design controls placed on developments to promote a quality environment in which to live, work and play.





Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 6

The District is a place that works for young people

A major theme expressed by parents, young people and many older people was a concern that the Kapiti Coast be more responsive to the needs and aspirations of young people.

- the beach destinations at Otaki and Paraparaumu have better facilities for young people in keeping with the character of those areas;
- the town centres are youth friendly, safe and interesting for young people to use;
- the public spaces are safe and welcoming for young people;
- that there is a better range of shops catering for young people;
- affordable flats and housing for young people;
- there are playgrounds within walking distance for all residential areas;
- improved range of entertainment facilities and events for young people;
- greater range of quality recreation facilities;
- young people are involved in decisions about themselves;
- people feel enabled to take action and act responsibly.



Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 6.1 That the aquatic centre, recreation centre, Mahara Gallery, youth centre, arts/ performance centre are located within Paraparaumu Town Centre and on Council owned land.
- 6.2 That a wider range of employment opportunities are available for young people.





Kapiti Coast: Choosing Futures - Outcome 7

The District has a strong, healthy and involved community

This Outcome is concerned with the direct health and wellbeing of each person in the District, the sense of community and the general enjoyment of what the District has to offer, a sense of fun and happiness. Other Outcomes will contribute to this but there are specific concerns here that people have identified as important.

- the main public places, including beaches, are safe and attractive;
- there is good easy access to the beaches for everyone at the main beach settlements, including older and disabled people;
- the District's centres (especially Paraparaumu and Otaki) are more 'alive' at night;
- the District has high quality civic and local centres;
- there are extensive safe linkages within the District;
- good easy access to beaches;
- there is a greater range of housing available;
- there is a comprehensive planned approach to recreational facilities – including outdoor events and aquatic centres;
- there is a high level of community control over community decision making;
- people have access to information about their local community, district and wider world.

Further Local Outcomes for Paraparaumu Town Centre

- 7.1 That access to the school is located away from the Kapiti Road / Rimu Road intersection.**
- 7.2 That local people are heavily involved in the range of sports groups and facilities within the Paraparaumu Town Centre.**
- 7.3 That local retailers and residents are involved in the design of the town centre upgrade.**

