

A stylized landscape illustration. At the top, a gradient sky transitions from orange to pink. Below it, a jagged black silhouette of mountains spans the width. A bright cyan river winds from the top right towards the bottom left. Along the river, there are several grey silhouettes of houses and barns. In the lower left, a person is riding a bicycle on a path that follows the river's edge. A swan is also depicted near the river. The text 'LITTLE RIVER BIG IDEAS' is overlaid on the left side. A purple banner at the bottom contains the subtitle. The bottom right corner features silhouettes of tall grasses and dandelions.

LITTLE RIVER BIG IDEAS

A Community Plan For Little River & Cooptown

LITTLE RIVER BIG IDEAS

Little River: Big Ideas is:

Our plan.

Throughout this plan, the term 'WE' is used, reflecting that this is our plan for our community. 'WE' includes volunteers, local clubs and organisations, the Little River Wairewa Community Trust and everyone else who is prepared to give their time to make things happen. If we don't then our BIG IDEAS will remain just that.

For projects that involve agencies based outside the community, 'WE' includes our Community Board Members, Councillors and other community leaders who will need to use their influence to help pursue the BIG IDEAS to others on our behalf.

A 'living' document.

Our Plan has the flexibility to incorporate new issues and ideas as required. New ideas and other opportunities will emerge which we can, year on year, add to our plan.

Acknowledgments

This plan is founded upon the views of members of the wider Little River Community. Initially, during interviews for the 2014 Scoping Report and, more recently during 2016 as part of consultation activities and events around the preparation of this plan (see page 33 for the full story), local people have given their views, insights and hopes for the future.

The Little River Issues Working Party (established in 2015 by the Community Board to drive our local issues forward and create this plan) is grateful for the time given by the community and so the biggest acknowledgement is to you.

Thank you.

Little River Issues Working Party

Janet Reeves - *Community Representative and Chairperson (from Feb 2016)*

Pam Richardson, Maria Bartlett, Bryan Morgan - *Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board Members.*

Mick O'Donnell, Tori Peden, Suzanne Vallance – *Community Representatives.*

John Boyles – *Wairewa Rūnanga.*

Mac Burch – *Little River Wairewa Community Trust.*

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Foreword

LITTLE RIVER BIG IDEAS – is a planning process led by the community, facilitated and enabled by the Christchurch City Council. I'm proud to have been part of this process

This plan achieves a number of important things;

- it gives a very active community a focus for the things it wants to do for itself, and strengthens the networks that will enable them to happen
- it makes the aspirations of the Wairewa community clear to all the relevant agencies and
- it also provides a strong basis to approach organisations to fund certain projects

Over the years the community has seen a number of inspirational and innovative projects being raised and discussed with outside research teams and experts: An enviro-centre, a waste treatment plant, mountain biking tracks, and traffic calming are just some examples. All of these are included in this plan, along with many new ideas and wishes.

Some very forward thinking local Christchurch City Council staff 'looked outside the square'. They sourced some funding from the CCC and the Little River Wairewa Trust. With this funding a proposal was developed to prepare a scoping study, working with the community to identify and map our way forward. Dr Suzanne Vallance's report – 'Issues and Options for Little River: A Scoping Document' was released in 2014. This document informs, and forms the basis for the journey we are on today.

The Akaroa Wairewa Community Board took the next step and in their 2015/16 Annual Plan submission, requested funding for 'a mini suburban [area] plan'. Subsequently, the Little River Issues Working Party was established to progress a plan for Little River and environs. It was charged with promoting a coordinated and integrated approach to addressing the issues affecting the community.

The Working Party, comprising representatives from the Community Board, local volunteers and Council staff has completed the task of creating a definitive plan, with a lot of guidance from the community. Today a much clearer picture has been provided through this planning process - we have a community-designed plan, tailored to our requirements.

The plan of course is just the beginning. Now the community needs to get engaged and work together towards achieving the ideas and projects embodied in the plan. We are looking forward to showcasing just what can be achieved when everyone works with a common vision and purpose



Well done Little River / Wairewa - what a community you are!

Pam Richardson

Chairperson, Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board (to October 2016)

Deputy Chairperson, Banks Peninsula Community Board (from October 2016)

Introduction

The aim of this plan is to set out aspirations for the Little River and Cooptown area. It records in one place all of the local issues and ideas that have been raised by the community to date. It is intended to be the 'go to' document for understanding what it is that we, as a community, want for our place, and also identifies how those ambitions might be achieved. Aspirations and issues have been grouped into topics on a similar theme, for example 'State Highway 75'. Under each topic a number of potential projects are listed. To bring these to fruition they will need to be championed by both organisations and local individuals, over the coming months and years.

Reflecting this the Plan is intended for two different audiences:

Local Community – our primary audience is our community. The plan provides information about the projects, but is also intended to inspire people to become involved in whatever is their passion. We can harness the knowledge and know-how of our community towards achieving our aspirations. By using people's time, community networks and local resources, we can make Little River and Cooptown an even better place to live and visit.

Agencies and organisations – there are some projects that are larger in scale and involve agencies and organisations that have multiple competing priorities for funding and resources. For these types of projects and investment, the plan is a means for us to clearly signal to those organisations that we have defined our needs and are looking to work collaboratively with them to schedule action and investment through different funding cycles.

Key organisations that we need to influence include Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and the NZ Transport Agency, but community organisations, commercial infrastructure providers, and private companies may become engaged as partners to address specific matters.

Our Place: *Wairewa – then and now*

The main focus for our plan is the community of Little River and Cooptown which lies within the wider Wairewa Ward of the Banks Peninsula/Horomaka. The ward extends from Birdlings Flat/Poronui on the coast to Hilltop on the rim of the crater that is a remnant of the volcanic activity that first formed Banks Peninsula between six and 11 million years ago.

The Wairewa Ward is home to around 933 people (2013) with most living in one of the three settlements of Birdlings Flat, Little River and Cooptown. Some of the residents of our community have lived here all their lives, as did their family before them. Others have arrived more recently from other parts of New Zealand or from across the world and have chosen to settle here.



Little River and Cooptown are located on State Highway 75 which is the primary route linking the City of Christchurch to Akaroa - the largest town on the Banks Peninsula south of Lyttelton Harbour and a significant tourist destination. The state highway is an important link for our community.

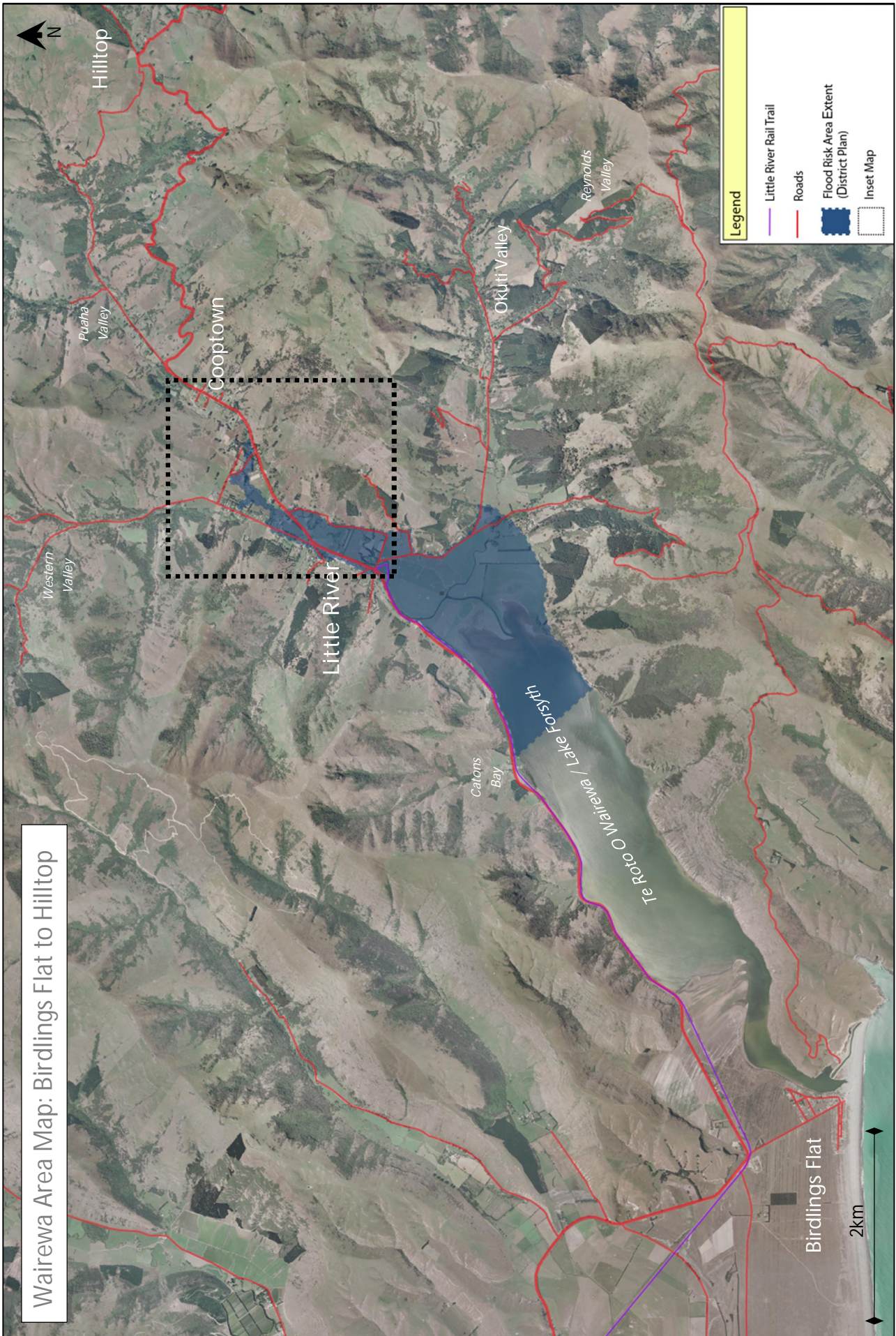


The topography and landscape is varied. Little River and Cooptown lie in one of the long valleys that radiate out from the upland plateau and basalt tors of the central Peninsula. For the most part the valleys are relatively flat but are flanked by steep hillsides with a tracery of narrow winding roads providing access to isolated homes and farmsteads. The other primary feature of our landscape is Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth which lies to the south of Little River

Tangata Whenua – ‘People of the Land’

Wairewa Marae is located between Little River and Cooptown, one of four marae within Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (Banks Peninsula) and one of eighteen Ngāi Tahu marae across Te Waipounamu (the South Island). Wairewa Rūnanga are the modern tribal council representing Kāti Irakehu and Kāti Makō hapū whose descendants hold manawhenua within the Wairewa takiwā (tribal area).

This area has been renowned over many generations as a rich source of mahinga kai (natural harvest). Wairewa whānau have enduring kaitiaki responsibilities to look after land and waters within Wairewa catchment. Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth is one of only two customary lakes in New Zealand, first acknowledged in 1896 as a place of exclusive harvest for Ngāi Tahu. Natural resources in the area were once so abundant that many pā sites and settlements were supported within the Wairewa Takiwā. This has resulted in an equally rich archaeological record of pre-European settlement. Following the Akaroa purchase in 1856, two Māori reserves were established for Kāti Irakehu and Kāti Makō hapū, one of which is the 440 acre Wairewa Māori Reserve (MR887). Wairewa Marae is situated on the Wairewa Māori Reserve. This included land on the south side of the highway through the centre of town, along Western Valley Road to Church Road, which has only recently been unconstrained, through Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga zoning, from longstanding barriers to development.



When Ngāi Tahu settled with the Crown for breach of duties under the Treaty of Waitangi in 1998, the resulting Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act recorded intent that the relationship enter a 'new age of co-operation'. In practice, this means Council representatives and Rūnanga representatives working together in a spirit of Treaty partnership. The Settlement Act also records Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth as a Statutory Acknowledgement Area, which is an acknowledgement of the significance of the lake to Ngāi Tahu. Both Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury are working with Wairewa Rūnanga, and the wider community, to improve the condition of water bodies in the area, particularly Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth. Such efforts represent Treaty partnership in action.



European Settlement

European settlers came to the Wairewa area in the mid-19th century to take advantage of abundant fisheries, and forests of the area, harvesting these to service the growing demands of the settlement of Christchurch.



By the late 1880's the population of the Little River area had grown considerably, and in 1886 the township had become the terminus of a branch railway, built as part of a public works scheme to expand the New Zealand rail network. The coming of the rail link made Little River a hub for Banks Peninsula and it greatly assisted in population and economic growth.

By the early 1900's the resident population had grown to several thousand, with most employed in the threshing and harvesting of cocksfoot, together with some farming and timber milling. From 1886 until 1951 passengers could travel by train from Little River to Christchurch. Having transported goods only for the last nine years of its existence, the line eventually closed in 1962.

Nowadays the route is frequented by walkers and bikers enjoying the Little River Rail Trail. The station remains as a heritage building at the centre of the village and is a fitting home to the Little River Craft Station and the Rail Trail Trust.

A smaller settlement, Cooptown, formed further along the road towards the southern and eastern bays. Cooptown was named after the Coop family who owned the Springvale sawmill. The avenue of 120 Lime (*Tilia*) trees through Cooptown was planted in 1940 to commemorate the centenary of the Treaty of Waitangi. They are a significant landmark on the Christchurch-Akaroa route.



Today's settlement

Many families in the area today still maintain ties to early settlers, or whakapapa to Wairewa and other local rūnanga. By the mid-20th century the population of the Wairewa area had decreased significantly as a result of reduced local employment opportunities, but with the drive to Christchurch taking as little as 45 minutes a number of today's residents now commute to the city to work.

Little River today is predominantly a small village and farming community. It is a popular destination for visitors from both Christchurch and further afield, many stopping on their way to and from Akaroa to enjoy our hospitality and attractions. With the recent boom in the availability of high quality local accommodation, more visitors are staying overnight and as the word spreads, Little River is increasingly becoming a destination in its own right.

Environmental Decline

The catchment of Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth has suffered from significant environmental degradation. Deforestation up until 1886 was so intense that Little River was known as the 'Valley of a Thousand Fires'. Multiple saw mills operated in the area during this time. After vegetation had been cleared dairy, beef and sheep farming spread throughout the area. These events have an ongoing impact on the local environment. Alongside changing the very character of the natural environment and its biodiversity, the cleared hillsides have less capacity to absorb rainfall and result in faster stormwater runoff which has contributed to flood events in the valley.

A less well understood consequence of the hillside clearances is the impact on Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth. Wairewa valley soils contain naturally high concentrations of phosphates and so the loss of tree cover resulted in a large amount of erosion of sediment from the hillsides which was deposited in the lake. With the natural closing off of the lake to the sea at Birdlings Flat in the era since European settlement, the reduced through flow has established a reservoir of phosphate rich sludge which now sits at the bottom of the lake fuelling seasonal blooms of toxic algae (cyanobacteria) that render the lakes water unsafe to swim in or for some animals to drink from.



Future Growth

Attitudes to Growth

The 'Issues and Options for Little River: A Scoping Document' (prepared by Dr Suzanne Vallance in 2014) records that in recent years Little River/Cooptown has experienced fairly rapid population growth. The school roll has increased from 82 to over 100 students within the five years to 2014, prompting the need for additional learning space. As this plan goes to print in late 2016, the school has more than 120 students. Our population has not only increased; it has become more diverse, with rural landowners and farmers now neighbours with lifestyle block owners and those wanting a smaller, more manageable section in areas with reasonable density, close enough to facilities like the school, community hall, service centre, shops and garage.

In response to this Dr Vallance's interviews captured attitudes to growth, canvassing views on if, where, and how, future development might occur. Her findings suggested that there was no vehement opposition to moderate levels of residential growth, providing future development was 'sympathetic' to the surrounds in terms of amenity (especially around provision of different lot/section sizes), within the carrying capacity of water supply, wastewater systems and that accessibility/connectivity between Cooptown and Little River was improved. Interviewees were keen to explore options for those who live in the settlement to work in the settlement. They were keen to see current community assets retained and improved with flood protection, rental space in the town centre, cycle/pedestrian paths, and development of the domain.

Growth Opportunities

This community plan identifies a range of projects that seek to exploit opportunities to improve the quality of life for local people. Some of these elements also contribute to supporting the growth of our community. However, beyond these ideas it is not the purpose of this plan to make any proposals about the levels and locations of future growth. That is the role of the Christchurch District Plan – a statutory plan required under the 1991 Resource Management Act which governs the subdivision and use of land.

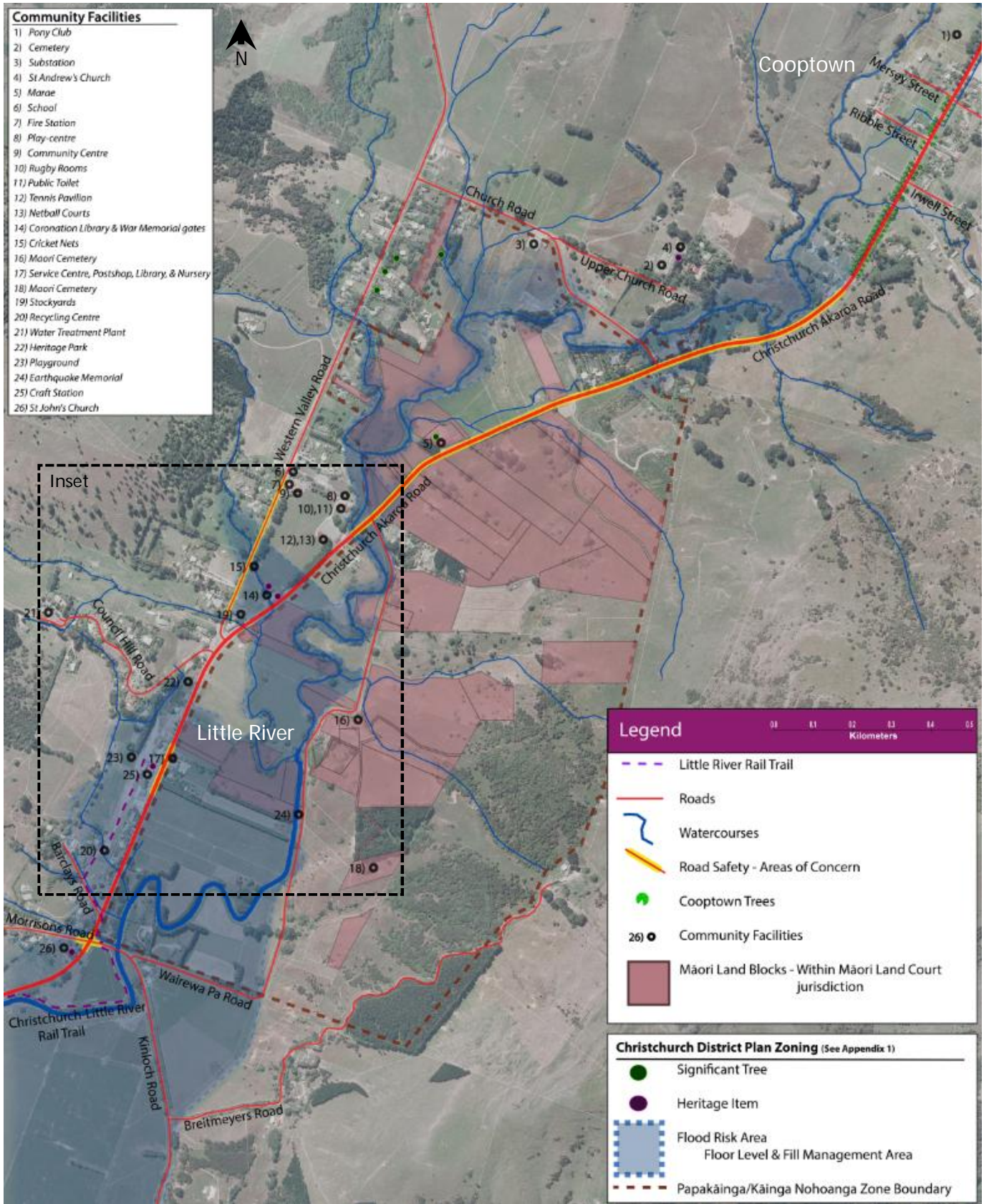
Since 2014, Christchurch City Council has been directed, through earthquake recovery legislation, to review its District Plan. This process has consolidated the old Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula District Plans. Final decisions on the revised Christchurch District Plan will be made by the end of 2016. A summary of the planning framework for Little River and Cooptown is set out in an Appendix to this plan. It continues to make provision for small subdivisions of land to accommodate growth within defined areas and allows for new rural enterprise blocks across much of the wider rural area. The biggest change introduced by the District Plan is the creation of a Papakāinga /Kāinga Nohoanga zone.

Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga zone

The purpose of the newly created Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga Zone is to enable the use and development of Māori Reserve land for activities to support the cultural, social and economic aspirations of mana whenua. The whole of the Wairewa Māori Reserve MR887 area is zoned Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga. In this area, land that is in Māori ownership and comes under the jurisdiction of the Māori Land Court can be used for housing, community uses, farming and small scale commercial activities, with some restrictions such as height, setback from the boundary and building density. Land that is not in Māori ownership is treated as if zoned rural. If land changes ownership then either the Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga Zone rules or the Banks Peninsula Rural Zone rules will apply, depending on the new owner.

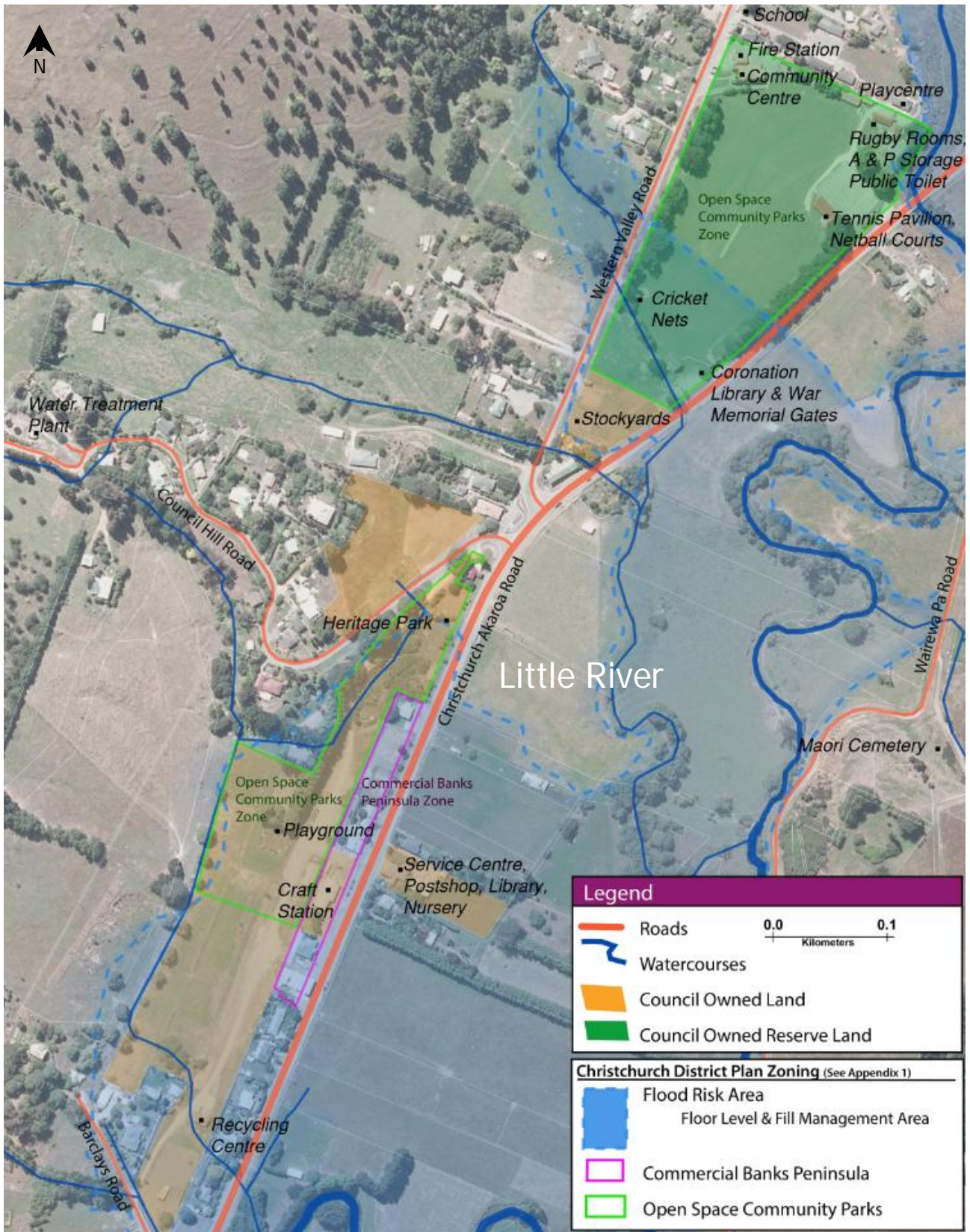
The land currently in Māori ownership is situated around the Marae and dispersed throughout the wider zone. Development may be diverse, in accordance with the purpose of the zone, and will be dependent upon a range of factors, including the suitability of the land for different activities.

Inset Map: Little River and Cooptown



NB. Extent of Papakāinga Kāinga Nohoanga Zone is still to be confirmed. (See Appendix 1)

Inset Map: Little River Centre and Domain



Our Issues

ROADS AND VEHICLE RELATED ISSUES

There are road safety issues in the town centre, primarily related to traffic speeds along State Highway 75 and pedestrian movement between the Service Centre/Library and the shops. On the approach to the town, the intersection of SH75 with Morrises/Kinloch Roads can be dangerous to negotiate. There is a lack of provision for safe walking and cycling between Little River, Cooptown and the school, as well as along Western Valley Road and Okuti Valley. Other localised spots are poorly maintained or are considered unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

FACILITIES AND EVENTS

There is a desire for more and improved community facilities, including a medical centre, more shops and recreation facilities. More local events were seen as a way to bring parts of the community together. But, if we want to keep and extend the range of our community facilities, it is important for local people to use and actively support them.

WALKWAYS, CYCLEWAYS AND HORSE TRAILS

There is strong support in the community for Little River to become a walking/cycling-based recreation hub that can attract visitors. Within the community there is demand for increased and enhanced rural recreational routes for walking, cycling, and horse riding.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The quality of our natural environment is a continuing concern, with the water quality in Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth poor, and set to remain so for some time. Management of our waterways is important to the health of the lake as well as to help manage flood risks which affect our community. The creation of wetlands and restoration of native bush would be beneficial for a number of reasons.

FLOODING

Parts of Little River and Cooptown, and particularly the town centre, are badly affected by flooding. The causes are complex but affordable steps have already been taken (or are planned) that can significantly reduce the frequency and severity of flooding in future.

Continuing collaboration between public and private landowners, and the various agencies that have a contribution to make, is required to help deliver on the work of the recently established Wairewa Rating District Committee.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Largely, the community is not opposed to growth, but it must be consistent with the overall rural character of the area and be serviced by appropriate infrastructure including water and wastewater systems. The unlocking of ancestral Māori reserve land through Papakāinga/Kāinga Nohoanga zoning represents a major opportunity for the Wairewa Ngāi Tahu whānau and a potential source of growth for the community as a whole.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Care and attention to our built heritage and landmarks is important to maintaining our sense of place as a community. The repair of damaged facilities, including the Coronation Library, was highlighted as a priority for local people. New public artworks, facilities, planting and other beautification activities are projects the community can get behind to improve our quality of life and encourage more people to stop and visit.

INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a need to carefully investigate the capability and capacity of local infrastructure including water supply, waste water, telecoms/post and council services.

Our Plan

This plan is about stimulating action to address the preceding list of issues. For this reason our Plan has been framed under nine Topics which contain things we need to do and individual projects/activities we can deliver within the community or with the support and investment of external agencies.



TOPIC A Community Activities, Projects and Events

TOPIC B Community Facilities and Services

TOPIC C Little River Town Centre

TOPIC D State Highway 75

TOPIC E Other Local Road Improvements

TOPIC F Recreation Tracks and Trails

TOPIC G Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth

TOPIC H Waterways and Flood Management

TOPIC I Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Over the following pages, each topic is explored by,

1. A summary of the relevant issues, expanding those detailed on the previous page.
2. A brief account of the views expressed by the community on the subjects in the topic.
3. A list of recent project successes delivered by local people (unrelated to this plan) underlining the capability and resourcefulness of those in our community that the projects in this plan will need.
4. Proposed activities that are needed to help drive action.
5. Lists of specific projects identified by local people when we asked about the things that matter to the community.

The projects identified are wide ranging, which simply reflects that we don't all want the same thing. As we work together to implement the plan we will need to work to prioritise what we want to achieve first, and be nimble enough to take advantage of opportunities as they arise – like some of the recent achievements listed under each topic. Some project ideas, including events, are not site-specific and there may be a number of options for delivering them. These too will become clearer as we work together and talk things through.

PROGRESSING THE PROJECTS

Each project will need a lead person or group to drive it forward and coordinate who does what and when. Projects fall into one of three broad categories depending on who takes the lead:

1. projects that can be adopted and driven by community members – for us, by us
2. projects that already have champions in existing interest groups, who can take on board what we have learned from our community
3. projects that are largely the responsibility of public bodies in consultation with the community; our aim is to get projects assigned budgets and included in their work programmes.

For the most part, specific projects have identified leaders and partners as listed in the tables at the end of each topic. Where a leader has not already been identified (whether individual, interest group or organisation) one will need to be established. In most cases these leaders will be drawn from the community. The best way to start is for individuals to sign up to an areas they are passionate about and agree to help drive a project.

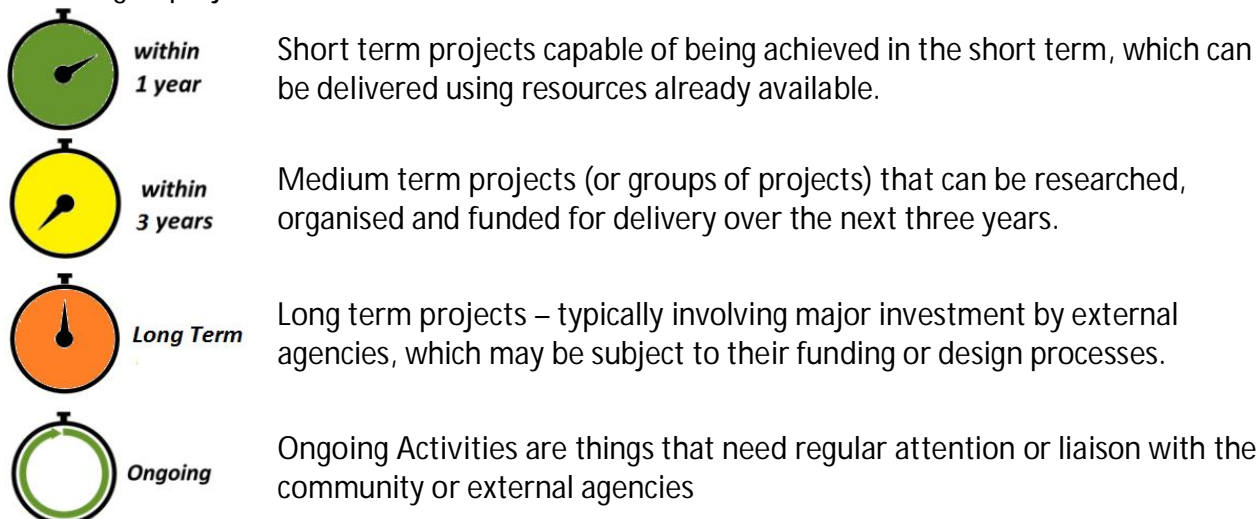
CO-ORDINATION

The Little River Wairewa Community Trust has agreed* to act as an umbrella organisation to support projects that are consistent with prescribed Trust purposes. Support may include,

- resources and direct funding,
- help in developing facilities,
- facilitating people and community groups in delivering projects by, for example,
 - o guiding funding applications to charitable or public agency sources,
 - o promoting awareness and collaboration using an improved website portal, and
 - o connecting people with drive and ideas to those with relevant knowledge and expertise.

TIMING

The timing of projects can be broken down into:



FUNDING

The funding sources for projects can be broken down into:

1. Community-based funding sources, which can be in the form of private investment, loans, fundraising, sponsorship, donations, and collective investment schemes/equity crowd funding. These are expected to be smaller in size and used to achieve more local and community focused projects.
2. Grants and donations from non-government bodies. These can vary in both size and conditions attached, but could be used as seed funding for more substantial upgrades to community facilities.
3. Financial support from Government agencies. This will be required to achieve a number of sub-projects. The community will need to communicate with and lobby the likes of the Canterbury District Health Board, NZ Transport Agency, the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury to secure funding.
4. Christchurch City Council. Budget for projects would be allocated through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. Operational budget covers services and maintenance, and capital budget relates to new physical works, such as street upgrades, open space enhancements, or development of Council-owned infrastructure and assets. Council activities and priorities change over time and therefore projects become part of the contestable Long Term Plan. It is important for the community, through the development of the Little River: Big Ideas plan, to express its long term priorities for receiving funding from the Christchurch City Council.

Sources of community based funding

At the back of this document are a number of funding and financial support services that the community could approach in order to achieve a project.

[*This commitment is subject to final ratification by the Trust Board in January 2017]

TOPIC A Community Activities, Projects and Events



The social wellbeing of our community relies on our connections with each other and our ability to participate in ways we all feel comfortable, or which help us feel we have made a contribution. Fostering this sense of belonging means that when people in our community are in need, others are willing to help.

Participation in the production of this Plan demonstrates that we care about the future of our community, and events like the annual Pumpkin Festival and A & P Show are important local opportunities to connect with other people, as well as marketing Little River as a great place to live or visit.



The community told us that activities and events help us to build and extend local connections, develop networks of people with shared interests and stimulate practical opportunities to pool resources. Alongside these were activities without a home which people just wanted to some space set aside for. Popular examples included new and extended play areas, a bike/BMX park, an artisan market, and sports/outdoor activity events.

Recent Community Achievements



- An emerging Community Garden has been established at the Old Coronation Library which could easily be expanded.
- An earthquake memorial at Wairewa Pa Road
- Fruit trees have been planted on the council land behind the railway station. These could be added to and maintained by the community, and a lease given over this space for community garden purposes.



Action required to take the ideas forward...


- Continue to support the Community Trust's Community Games Trailer, which maintains supplies for community events.
- Continue to trial activities and events at the Craft Station such as the farmers' market stalls, and 'Off the Rails' entertainment events.
- Support the community nursery as a source of native planting species.
- Community members to champion or support a project

Projects

Specific activity and facility based projects identified by the community are listed in the following table.

Community Facility /Amenity Projects	Community Event / Network Projects
Skate / BMX Park	Large annual Social Event
Playground	Flower Power Annual Event
Dog Park	Bird Watching Trips
Historic Places Walking Trail	Running Events for Elderly Residents
Art / Sculpture trail	Walking Trips
Community Garden / edible forest	
Farmers Market (<i>Community Trust</i>)	Afterschool Programme (<i>Community Trust</i>)
Creative Arts Centre	Carpooling Network (<i>Community Trust</i>)
Craft Workshops and Lessons (<i>Craft Station</i>)	Home-kill network
Community Gym (<i>Jujitsu Club</i>)	
Artwork and sculptures	Environmental restoration team (wetlands/drainage/biodiversity focus)
Native planting	

(italic) – groups already pursuing action in this area.

Who	When	How
<p>Individuals, Community groups, Little River Wairewa Community Trust, Wairewa Rūnanga, businesses.</p> <p>Banks Peninsula Community Board, Christchurch City Council, ECan, Dept. of Conservation, Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.</p>	 <p>Ongoing</p> <p>within 1 year</p> <p>within 3 years</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>Primarily community based and grant for events.</p> <p>Bids for funding for capital projects from public, charitable and commercial funding sources.</p>

TOPIC B Community Facilities and Services

Because of its relatively large size, central location and connections to surrounding clusters of rural homes and farmsteads, Little River has more facilities, activities and maintenance programmes than might be expected in similar settlements. The facilities are clustered around the township centre and the domain, with the local marae just to the north of the domain at the heart of the Wairewa takiwā, providing a meeting place for the Māori community, the local rūnanga and for community events (e.g. Christmas Carols at the Marae).



The following topic will explore the town centre in more detail. The domain, lying between State Highway 75 and Western Valley Road is home to most of the local facilities, including the growing school with a roll



of more than 120, and the community hall. The domain hosts sports, recreation and events, and includes the rugby club rooms and a tennis pavilion, although the associated tennis courts are still awaiting repairs from flooding damage – as are the Council-owned Coronation Library Building and Memorial Gates from earthquake damage.



The biggest challenge relating to our community facilities is investing in their maintenance and development, thereby ensuring that their use remains viable. Consideration of expanding or upgrading facilities should cover whether technology, shared facilities or other ideas can be used to sustain and improve the use of facilities by local people.



The community told us that they value their access to the services and facilities currently provided in the community. The provision of healthcare services was an important gap that needed to be pursued further, as was the completion of earthquake and flooding repairs to local facilities. Some responses called for a larger community hall. A range of suggestions for improvements to services offered at the Council Service Centre and facilities available at the Domain were highlighted, although the depth of support needs to be explored in more detail.

Recent Community Achievements



- The building adjacent to the Service Centre is leased for use by the Toy Library.
- The recycling shed building has been sold to the Jujitsu Club for development as a training room and small community gym.
- Fibre optic cable provision to Little River School has enabled a wireless internet service provider to offer an antenna based broadband service to a large section of the Little River / Cooptown community.
- Orion has installed an electric vehicle charging station close to the Little River Café as part of a Christchurch area-wide network
- 2 Degrees have installed a cellphone tower near Hilltop which has improved coverage in the town centre






Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Encourage discussion about the potential for investment in shared community facilities.
- Continue to engage health providers about medical services in Little River/Birdlings Flat.
- Make submissions to
 - o Christchurch City Council for the upgrade/repair of local facilities.
 - o Telecommunication companies to provide wider coverage/faster internet speeds
- Improve communication among residents about the availability of facilities in our community.






Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Identification of new / improved facilities and amenities to provide at the domain including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playgrounds, • meeting spaces • a bigger community hall 	Community CCC Little River Wairewa Community Trust Community Board Awa-iti Reserve Management Committee School Governors Wairewa Rūnanga	 <i>within 3 years</i>  <i>within 1 year</i>  <i>Long Term</i>	Local dialogue Subsequent bids to council, match funding from other sources.
Share future intentions about community facility investment to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify potential for partnership opportunities (e.g. Town Centre, Service Centre, etc.) • collaborate on design, operation and funding for shared facilities 	Management Committee School Governors Wairewa Rūnanga	 <i>Long Term</i>	
Improved Mobile phone coverage	Community, National and local Telecoms Operators	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Subject to lobbying and provider investment priorities

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Exploration of service improvement ideas with Little River Service Centre staff including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability of meeting rooms, • more regular rotation of books, • an improved local computer hub, • additional NZ Post private boxes 	CCC	 <i>Ongoing</i>  <i>Long Term</i>	Customer feedback to simulate small scale changes, Long Term Plan bids for Level of Service improvements.
Repairs/Future use Coronation Library	CCC	 <i>Long Term</i>	No Programme yet confirmed. Council Long Term Plan bid.
Repair / Multi-use upgrade of Tennis Courts	CCC	 <i>Long Term</i>	Council funding bid to be made to supplement insurance.
Medical services at Little River / Birdlings Flat.	Private Medical Provider District Health Board. Viable client base.	 <i>Long Term</i>	No Programme yet confirmed. Dependent on successful private medical provider Business Case.

TOPIC C Little River Town Centre

The area on the west side of Christchurch Akaroa Road, between Barclays Road and Council Hill Road is Little River's commercial heart. Originally the location of the Little River Railway Station – with a number of buildings, track and rolling stock still on site – the centre's primary function has been to offer the sale of petrol and refreshments for travellers and locals. But, over time it has sought to capture more and more passing trade through the art gallery, café, crafts and, most recently, visitor accommodation.

Little River's centre is now, at weekends and during the summer season, a thriving stop-off point for visitors. With other parts of this Plan seeking to develop Little River as a gateway to the tracks and trails of southern Banks Peninsula, there is the potential for growth and some reorganisation of activities in the centre including parking, the Council's service centre and visitor facilities.

Looking to the future is an important part of this topic, but there are current issues with access and parking which can be addressed in the short to medium term without additional land being needed. During peak times, roadside parking can extend hundreds of metres each way from the centre of the village whilst available land to the rear of the station is left empty. Some simple interventions that do not need to compromise long term plans can make an immediate difference to improving visitor safety and amenity.



The community told us that they had many ideas for the centre of the Township, making better use of the Council owned land to consolidate existing activities, enhance the overall environment and stimulate the development of more facilities. Adding to the appeal of Little River to visitors was seen as important, as well as providing space for businesses to establish or grow. In relation to parking, views were balanced between improving safe access at peak times and maintaining the convenience of parking close to existing amenities.

Recent Community Achievements



- Parking time limits have been introduced around the Craft Station as a means to maintain their use for short stay
- A visitor information board is located between Vet Life and the Craft Station
- The extension of the Rail Trail to a terminus at the old station has been completed. This means cyclists can avoid the busy road and fast moving road traffic on the approach to the new end of the Rail Trail at the former railway station




Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Form a Town Centre Working Group to
 - o Engage with local landowners, Council and businesses
 - o Identify and address short/medium term problems and solutions
 - o Develop a high level Town Centre Plan that,
 - § establishes a vision for a staged development of the centre
 - § is appropriate to the rural setting and commercially viable
 - § Advocate and promote development in Little River's town centre




Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.


Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Enhancement of the Heritage Park	Community Little River Wairewa Community Trust Local Businesses Wairewa Rūnanga	 within 1 year	Local funding and bids for public, charitable and commercial funding sources.
Reinstatement of the Te Reo / English "Welcome to Little River" sign		 within 3 years	
Picnic Benches		 Long Term	
Drinking Fountain			
Public Toilets			

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Assess and off-road parking Improvements - Rearrangement / layout of parking - Improved access/egress and circulation - Signage and clear kerb lines	CCC Centre Working Group NZ Transport Agency	 within 1 year  within 3 years	Small scale changes from operational budgets. Bid for Long Term Plan funding for improvements.
Works associated with SH75 Speed Limit, including traffic calming (See Topic D)	NZTA CCC Community	 within 3 years (12-18 months)	Statutory process NZTA Funding

Suggested Town Centre Masterplan components (for evaluation)

What	Who	When	How
Integration of the Rail Trail terminus Housing for the Elderly Small / Affordable Houses Supermarket Bakery Pop-up Shops Restaurant Additional zoned land to enable business development Public gathering space / town square Tree Planting/ Environmental Enhancement/Wetland Continued/alternative uses of service centre site Night Café	CCC Landowners Local Businesses Wairewa Rūnanga Centre Working Group Community	 Long Term	All elements to be considered within master plan process. Long Term Plan funding Land Sales/Leases Commercial deals Etc.

TOPIC D State Highway 75

State Highway 75 is our primary transport connection to Christchurch and other Banks Peninsula communities. As a through route it brings the benefits and complications that come with visitors to and through our Township.



From a positive perspective, Little River is an important stopping place along the highway for travellers, being at a midway point between Christchurch and other destinations on the Peninsula. Travellers, including increasing numbers of people staying overnight are an important source of income, sustaining and stimulating the range of businesses that now exist in our township.

The Highway passing through the Township poses a safety risk for residents and visitors. The commercial heart of our township configured along a straight section of road which currently has a speed limit of 70kph. This straight section is also one of the first/last sections of road where traffic can overtake before/after tackling the twisty ascent through Hilltop to and from destinations to the north and eastern bays of the Peninsula. These factors contribute to a clear consensus that local people and visitors can be put at risk as they stop in or pass through Little River. State Highway 75 is the only connection between Cooptown and properties in the Puaha Valley and the services available at Little River. With a lot of growth potential remaining on subdivided land at Cooptown, issues around road safe access and walking/cycling connections emerge under this topic.



The community told us that they have concerns about road safety through the Little River Township and seek a reduced speed limit and safer crossing points. Roadside parking was frequently raised as a safety issue and where improvement could be made. Other views also emphasised that any consideration of changes to roadside parking needed to reflect the convenience for travellers who might otherwise not stop. Providing opportunities for cars to pass between Little River and Hilltop was also suggested.

Recent Community Achievements



- Existing work has stimulated a commitment by the NZ Transport Agency to explore physical interventions on the highway through the township as part of a wider speed limit change process.
- Works to conclude the Little River Rail Trail at the Old Station will add a road crossing with warning signs, sightline clearance on the western and a new pathway between Morrisons / Barclays Roads.

Action required to take the ideas forward...





- Establish community transport working party.
- Work constructively with Council and NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) to agree designs for a slower speed environment through Little River Township.
- Make and support bids for funding including to Council Long Term Plan and NZTA Regional Land Transport Funding

Projects





Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Note that there are important links with proposals included under the Little River Town Centre Topic.

Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Speed detection and display installation south of Morrisons Road	Transport working Party, Community (as advised by NZTA) Landowners	 Ongoing	Community and external funding Volunteer time
Welcome / speed limit signage on approaches to Little River and Cooptown		 within 3 years	Student design feasibility work for a Cooptown/ Church Road riverside link
Plantings along roadsides			
Investigate route for a walking/cycle trail using SH75 Road Reserve and riverside private land to link Puaha Valley and Church Road			
Safeguarding of Cooptown Limes and ongoing management	Community NZTA CCC	 Ongoing  within 1 year	Designation as Significant Trees in the Christchurch District Plan, Agreements with NZTA to safeguard and manage the trees.

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Reduced speed limit through Town Centre	NZTA	 within 3 years (12-18 months)	Statutory process
Slower speed environment design for Town Centre including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central median and associated restrictions on stopping/parking, - 'Gateway' features, - potential crossing points and associated pavement, central island build outs - Formed footpaths - Investigate patterns of parking use and demand to inform potential on and off road interventions. 	Statutory process NZTA Funding		
Improved/safer access from parking area at / rear of Old Station	CCC	 Long Term	Bid For Funding in CCC Long Term Plan
Review the NZTA contract for wider roadside maintenance through Little River/Cooptown	NZTA Community	 Ongoing	Raise issues as they arise with NZTA local office
Reduced Speed Limit from Cooptown through to the Town Centre	CCC NZTA	 Long Term	Speed limits to be more efficiently considered as part of a wider Banks Peninsula review.

TOPIC E Other Local Road Improvements

Away from State Highway 75, the wider Little River community, including Cooptown, Puaha, Okuti, and more isolated properties are connected by a network of rural roads. In general these carry local and visitor traffic and broadly speaking, each reflects the frequency and type of use.



Roads are wider and better quality around the heart of Little River to accommodate the concentration of commercial and community services, particularly around the domain and the school. While roads here have speed limits, footpaths to separate pedestrians (including school children) from traffic are rare.

Away from the main clusters of homes, especially as the terrain steepens, roads are more responsive to the landscape they pass through and the engineering challenges that landscape presents. Speeds on these routes are determined by the roads themselves, not by any speed limits. A number of routes serve localised traffic and remain unsealed including Western Valley and Reynolds Valley Roads. Alternative, safer sealed routes to their respective destinations (Pigeon Bay and Wainui/Southern Bays) exist for most road users and signage/satellite navigation gives preference to them.



The community told us about a range of localised roading issues, ranging from the setting of more speed limits, wider or new tar sealing of roads, footpaths, passing places, and intersection improvements, to better maintenance and street-lighting.



Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Establish community transport working party.
- Work with Christchurch City Council to review, prioritise and then develop concept designs.
- Advocate for projects in future funding bids.





Projects

Specific projects are listed in the tables on the following page.

Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Identification of localised road improvement opportunities and maintenance issues to discuss with local operational team.	Community (transport working party) CCC	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Periodic meetings with CCC staff.
Identification of pedestrian safety hotspots of high frequency routes for investigation and prioritisation.	Community (transport working party) CCC	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Periodic meetings with CCC staff.

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Walkway along Western Valley Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Hill Road to School - School to Church Road 	CCC	 <i>within 1 year</i>  <i>Long Term</i>	Current year budget Bid For Funding in CCC Long Term Plan
Reduced speed limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Okuti Valley Road - Unsealed roads 	CCC	 <i>Long Term</i>	Speed limits to be more efficiently considered as part of a wider Banks Peninsula review.
Tar-sealing of specific sections of unsealed roads to provide for higher frequency use by clusters of residential properties. (Subject to maintenance case priorities).	CCC Community Residents	 <i>Long Term</i>	Bids for funding in CCC Long Term Plan process.

TOPIC F Recreation Tracks and Trails

Little River is surrounded by a network of tracks and trails which benefit those living in the community. They also draw people to Little River which supports our businesses and the viability of our services. Tracks and trails being considered as part of this topic include those local to Little River and Cooptown, others that open up the wider landscape of Banks Peninsula, as well as links to Birdlings Flat, Christchurch and Akaroa.



The community told us that more opportunities for safe walking, cycling and horse riding for our community and visitors should be encouraged. Short local walks as well as longer walking and cycling loops starting and finishing in Little River were ideas proposed along with facilities and information to promote enjoyment and greater use of tracks and trails.



Recent Community Achievements



- A newly created walkway from Reserve Road to Hilltop is open (2016)
- Alongside Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth, Council reserve land provides opportunities for people to explore and see rare wading birdlife, lizards and unique vegetation.

Action required to take the ideas forward...





- Establish a community working party.
- Improve awareness/encourage support of organisations championing cycling and walking tracks.
- Map existing provision and opportunities for future track links (local and wider connections).
- Develop route options in dialogue with landowners.
- Liaise with agencies that could contribute expertise, practical help and funding.



Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Connection between the Rail Trail and Harmans Track and other mountain bike / cycleways.	Community Working Group	 <i>within 1 year</i>  <i>within 3 years</i>  <i>Long Term</i>  <i>Ongoing</i>	Volunteer time
Explore agreements with local landowners for rights of way across private land to provide additional walking opportunities access valued local viewpoints.	Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust		Capital project investment from a range of public, private and charitable sources.
Map routes that might link reserve or public land and local amenities	Wairewa Rūnanga Christchurch City Council		Collaborations with visitor promotion agencies
Historic places walking / driving trail including Historic Sites off Pa Road	Dept of Conservation Little River Wairewa		
Walking trails alongside Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth	Community Trust Banks Peninsula Community Trust		
A day loop from Little River to High Bare summit.	Env. Canterbury Bike Christchurch		
Developing bird watching tracks/hides/information such as Council reserve land which provides access to rare wading birdlife, lizards and unique vegetation.	Bike Wise Bike New Zealand Access New Zealand		
Utilise bridge across the lake channel linking Birdlings Flat/Southern Bays for extended cycle tracks.	Private land owners Community Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism		
Local Information resources – web and published brochures.	Social Media Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail Trust		
Annual Walking Festival including local walkways and private landowners opening conservation areas e.g. Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Covenants	Pony Club Walking Access NZ		
Facilities, shelters and attractions/interpretation boards along the Rail Trail.			

TOPIC G Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth

Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth is one of two Customary Lakes in New Zealand which means harvesting rights are limited to Ngāi Tahu. A Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act also records the special relationship of Ngāi Tahu with the lake. Wairewa Rūnanga, representing manawhenua, have management responsibilities in relation to the lake and catchment, based on kaitiakitanga.



As explored in the community history summary earlier in this plan, Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth is in a poor condition. Nineteenth century deforestation led to erosion of phosphate rich soils which are believed to be one of the driving factors behind the regular blooms of toxic cyanobacteria. A further factor is the sediment bar across the opening of the lake to the sea at Birdlings Flat. The relatively recent closure of this lake to the sea prevents flushing of nutrients and has been identified as one means to manage water levels.

In November 2014, the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee published the [Wairewa Zone Implementation Programme](#) (ZIP) addendum which contains a programme of action towards improving the health of Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth and water management in the wider Wairewa catchment as well as reducing flood hazard risk in the catchment.

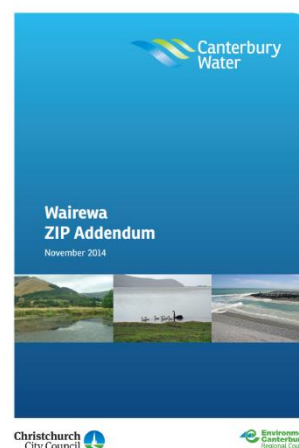


The community told us that cleaning up the lake was important for the health of both the human community and the wider environment. Beyond the provision of mahinga kai, the lake adds further value to the community as an attraction for both locals and visitors alike. A healthy lake, combined with better facilities (e.g. toilets, parking, signage) could also support safe water-based activities.

Recent Achievements



- The publication of the ZIP Addendum in 2014 is a step forward, setting out a long term plan to improve the lake's health. The plight of the lake has galvanised effort by the local community, Ngāi Tahu, the Council and Environment Canterbury.
- Monitoring of the lake is vastly improved. Real time data across multiple parameters can give a better idea of how conditions change throughout the year and help with the design of any future actions so as to not cause any other impacts on the lake.
- The Environment Canterbury Land and Water Plan changes will place stricter controls on stock access to river banks on the valley floor where most of the sediment comes from.
- The Rūnanga have been working with the Council to trial a new controlled opening of the lake to the sea to manage water levels.







Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Work constructively with the Wairewa Rūnanga and other agencies to deliver ZIP initiatives.
- Recognise that securing the health of the lake will take long term and ongoing commitment.
- Explore the need for additional facilities and resources to serve the needs of local people and to attract visitors to the lake (noting crossover projects under Topic F).



Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Community Level Projects

What	Who	When	How
Improve water quality (community level projects)	Community Wairewa Rūnanga Banks Peninsula Zone Committee Env. Canterbury Christchurch City Council Dept. of Conservation Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Little River Wairewa Community Trust	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Volunteer time. Landowner activities. Public funding Other Bids charitable and commercial funding sources.
More/better facilities and attractions for visitors/locals		 <i>within 1 year</i>	
Improved facilities at Catons Bay.		 <i>within 3 years</i>	
Explore opportunities for creation of marsh and wetland areas		 <i>Long Term</i>	

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Improve water quality through implementation of Wairewa ZIP initiatives.	Banks Peninsula Zone Committee Wairewa Rūnanga Env. Canterbury	 <i>Long Term</i>  <i>Ongoing</i>	Zone Implementation Programme Government Funding Long Term Plan Funding Landowner Investment Community projects

TOPIC H Waterways and Flood Management

The Wairewa Zone Implementation Plan confirms that the Wairewa catchment will probably always be prone to flooding to various degrees. The steep, short creeks and streams, along with soil, and vegetation cover conditions, have limited capacity to hold and slowly release water from intense rainfall events. Flooding has been common in the Ōkana and Ōkuti Valleys since the catchment was first occupied.



Prior to 2012 the catchment experienced a decade without severe rainfall events, but in August 2012, and both March and April 2014, the Ōkana catchment experienced intense rainfall events that resulted in the flooding of several homes, businesses and roads, including State Highway 75.

The flooding is largely due to flowing water exceeding the carrying capacity of water channels, rather than ponding. Large quantities of water flow down the steep catchment to the flatter lower valley where the Little River town centre is situated. Here, a range of

circumstances affect the ability of the water to flow away into Te Roto O Wairewa which were explored in the 2014 Mayoral Flood Taskforce Report. Since 2014 a number of interventions have been made through the Little River Flood Rating District Programme. The community has collectively invested in the clearance of the old willows and debris which have accumulated in the Ōkana and Ōkuti Rivers. Other projects will be explored and implemented.

Another important issue is sedimentation. The loss of vegetation on the steep hillsides can result in rapid gullyng, while lost vegetation and stock grazing adjacent to rivers and streams results in high levels of sediment carriage.



The community told us that some good progress has been made on flood mitigation but this needs to be maintained and further progress made. Overall, local rivers and lakes are seen as polluted. The community would like to have rivers and the lake swimmable for locals and tourists, and to enhance the environment.

Recent Achievements



- Alongside improving water quality in Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth, the ZIP Addendum published in 2014 is focused on reduction of flood hazard risk in the catchment.
- Through the Little River Flood Rating District Programme introduced since 2014, projects have progressively improved channel flows.





Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Continue, as a community and as landowners, to improve management of the overland flow, streams and main rivers to reduce nutrient and sediment discharges.
- Use native species (available from the Little River nursery) to re-establish natural catchment management.
- Deliver Zone Implementation Plan Initiatives



Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Community Level Projects

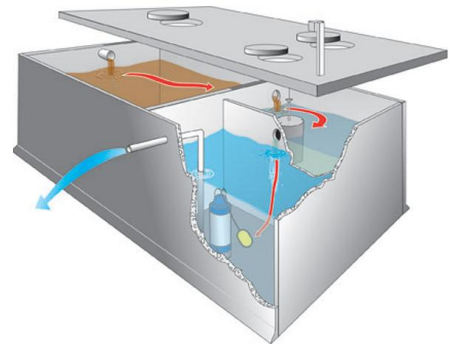
What	Who	When	How
Maintenance, enhancement, flood prevention, wetlands, and fencing streams in the lower catchment	Landowners, Community, Wairewa Rūnanga Little River Wairewa Community Trust, Christchurch CC Dept of Conservation Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Little River Nursery	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Landowner investment guided by Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) Addendum initiatives
Plant along rivers to stabilise and beautify banks, and reduce the amount of sediment reaching waterways			
Keep heavy stock away from waterways		 <i>within 3 years</i>	National legislation requirements to fence waterways

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Control erosion with silt fences or filter socks	Env. Canterbury Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Regional Council Land and Water Plan regulatory requirements
Future development should avoid flood prone areas and ensure floor levels are above flood levels.	Developers Christchurch CC	 <i>Ongoing</i>	District Plan zoning and rules that set building floor levels above projected flood heights

TOPIC I Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater treatment across Little River and Cooptown is currently provided through a large number of individual on-site septic tanks. With a small population, investment in a reticulated network has so far remained unaffordable. Observations in the 2014 Issues and Options scoping report reference that “aging and dysfunctional” private sewerage systems are resulting in leakage of sewage into local rivers and streams, contributing to the nutrient imbalances in Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth. ECan staff are examining this as part of compliance monitoring. The Wairewa Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP) suggests that landowners with septic tanks should ensure they are maintained regularly to limit the risk of contamination of waterways.



Investment in new water supply treatment at Council Hill was completed in 2016. The investment was primarily aimed at improving quality rather than dramatically increasing the quantity. The high level of growth in population since the Canterbury earthquakes has raised concern that the recent investment will limit the amount of growth the community can accommodate with the new plant being consented to take 260m³ per day.



The community told us that they recognise that the current method for the disposal of wastewater in Little River is inadequate and urge that the issue be addressed as prescribed in the Wairewa ZIP. A number of residents advocated that an innovative wastewater disposal system such as the biocentre / wetland concept is pursued. Respondents also criticised the water supply as being inadequate for future growth needs, including tourism.

Recent Achievements



- Upgrades to the water supply system were completed in 2016, this included renewal of the reticulation (water pipes) within the Little River Residential Small Settlement Zone, installation of a new water main to the Cooptown Residential Small Settlement Zone, completion of a new bore and booster pump station in Little River and upgrading of the The Little River water treatment plant.



Action required to take the ideas forward...

- Promote awareness and action among property owners to ensure private sewage treatment systems are adequately maintained, regularly emptied and that drainage fields remain effective.
- Promote local water conservation including the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks for non-potable water uses.
- Continue to press Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council to investigate the significance of sewage pollution and/or deliver options for reticulated water treatment.





Projects

Specific projects are listed in the following table.

Community Level Projects

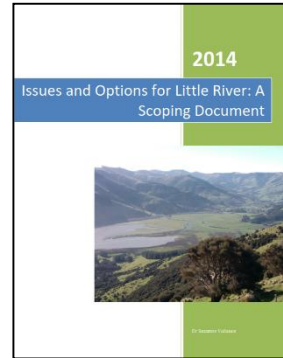
What	Who	When	How
Develop a local water conservation campaign	Community Property owners, CCC Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Awareness raising and private action
Provide information and promote awareness about upkeep, maintenance and repair/replacement options for private sewage treatment systems	Community, Property owners, CCC Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Ongoing</i>	Awareness raising and private action

External Organisations and Agency Projects

What	Who	When	How
Encourage the installation of rainwater collection tanks to provide sources of water for garden uses	CCC Community Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Ongoing</i>  <i>Long Term</i>	Obligations or incentives could be introduced through the review of the City Councils water strategy to be consulted on in 2017/18
Investigation of the state of private sewage treatment and the significance of any leakage on public health or water quality.	ECan Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Long Term</i>	Bid For Funding in ECAN Long Term Plan
Investigation of options to provide for reticulated waste water treatment / additional water supply treatment capacity.	CCC Banks Peninsula Zone Committee	 <i>Long Term</i>	Bid For Funding in CCC Long Term Plan

How we prepared our plan.

In 2014, Dr Suzanne Vallance, an urban studies lecturer at Lincoln University and resident of Little River was funded to draw together a paper summarising issues facing the community as the basis future planning and action. A copy of this important founding study is available online at www.littleriver.org.nz



In July 2015, a request by the Akaroa /Wairewa Community Board to Christchurch City Council resulted in the Little River Issues Working Party (the 'Working Party') being allocated \$15,000 to develop this Community Led Plan. The funding was accompanied by technical and administrative support from Christchurch City Council's Urban Regeneration Team which became available in early 2016.

In February 2016, production commenced with the Working Party hosting a scoping meeting involving our Council support team. This meeting explored the purpose and nature of the plan, concluding that it should be a Community Plan to stimulate local action and to influence strategic organisations. The session also scoped out a process to prepare the plan. With the Working Party only mandated by the current Community Board, completing the plan in advance of the 2016 local body elections was viewed as a natural timetable.



In March and April, the Working Party developed consultation activities to gather the views of the community. During this time the 'Little River, Big Ideas' brand was developed and it is hoped that this can be used again for future community planning activities. The primary events were face to face drop in activities, the first as part of the Pumpkin Festival event held on Sunday 24th April, and the second at the Little River Service Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 30th April. In advance, an information flyer was delivered to every household explaining the purpose of the plan, advertising the consultation events and also doubling as a form for people to set out their views if they could not attend the events.

Following the consultation activity, the Working Party analysed the responses drawing out major issues, suggestions for projects and other matters that would become the building blocks of this plan. In order to check back with the community, a folded A3 summary of the consultation findings was distributed to every household in June with a request for further ideas, comments and any other feedback.

During June and July members of the Working Party engaged with key local groups and organisations to inform them about our Little River Big Ideas plan. The intention of this work was to establish whether stakeholders supported the community's ideas and projects and find areas where groups could co-operate for mutual benefit and to advance projects. On 22nd June 2016 (by invitation of the Wairewa Rūnanga and The Little River Wairewa Community Trust) members of the Little River Issues Working Party attended a Hui at the Wairewa Marae together with other groups with similar objectives. This proved to be a very successful and worthwhile meeting where we all identified areas for collaboration.

Between June and August, the Working Party prepared this plan, developing the project groupings which represent the things that this Plan will do. On 10th August, the draft plan was presented to the Akaroa / Wairewa Community Board. The Community Board invited work to continue including detailed engagement with external organisations, including the City Council, NZ Transport Agency and Environment Canterbury. In response to feedback, projects and proposals were modified and commitments were made. At a community level, further recruitment of local people to projects was encouraged at a well-attended Community Breakfast held on 30th October.

On 12th December 2016, this final plan was endorsed by the newly formed Banks Peninsula Community Board and subsequently presented to Christchurch City councillors for their attention.



Appendix 1: Summary of Statutory Plans relevant to our community

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN

The Christchurch District Plan sets out the Objectives, Policies and Rules that guide development in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. The District Plan was reviewed between 2014 and 2016 consolidating the former Christchurch City Plan and Banks Peninsula District Plan. The following pages only provide an overview of the plan’s proposals. The full and up to date plan can be found at,

www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/plans-strategies-policies-and-bylaws/plans/districtplans/christchurch-district-plan/

Overview of what the Christchurch District Plan includes for Little River and Cooptown

MAPS				
Planning Map R4	Covers the whole of Wairewa			
Planning Map 69	A more detailed inset for Little River and Cooptown (extract below)			
Enlargements H33 and H34	Shows Heritage settings and Items			
TYPES OF ZONING				
Rural Banks Peninsula (RuBP)	Covers the majority of Wairewa. Allows for farming, forestry and other rural activities. The minimum lot size for a house is 40ha where it is below the 160m contour;100ha where it is above the 160m contour			
Residential Small Settlement (RSS)	Allows for houses in Little River and Cooptown. Minimum lot size of 1000m ²			
Commercial Banks Peninsula (CBP)	A small strip zone in the centre of Little River for shops and services.			
Papakāinga/kāinga nohoanga	Allows for the use and development of Māori Reserve land for activities to support the cultural, social and economic aspirations of mana whenua.			
Open Space Community Parks (OCP)	Includes Morice Settlement Reserve Cooptown, Little River Domain, Heritage Park and land behind Silo Stay, Art Gallery and Store and Craft Station. Enables formal and informal recreation activities, public amenities, artworks, minor sports facilities, community gardens. Restrictions on commercial and residential activities.			
Open Space Water and Margins (OWM)	Includes Lake Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth and three small stretches alongside Hukahukatūroa and Opuahou Streams. Manages the use of the surface of water and margins of rivers, lakes, and wetlands to ensure protection and enhancement of the natural qualities and habitats of surface water bodies and their margins.			
Special Purpose Zone (SP)	Anglican Church SPC Little River Primary School SPS			
NATURAL HAZARDS				
Floor Level and Fill Management Area / Liquefaction Assessment Area / Slope Instability Management Area	Identifies areas at risk from flood, liquefaction and slope instability. In these areas, manages new subdivision, use and development in a manner which mitigates the risk to people, property and infrastructure. Controls floor levels, filling and excavation.			
DESIGNATIONS	A: Chorus New Zealand	L: Ministry of Education	Q: Orion New Zealand	P: New Zealand Transport Agency

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OVERLAYS	
Outstanding Natural Feature	Lake Te Roto O Wairewa/Lake Forsyth
Rural Amenity Landscape	Covers all RuBP Zone. Includes measures to ensure the qualities of the landscape are recognised and maintained.
Sites of Ecological Significance	Afforded a level of protection.
Important Ridgelines	Buildings to be located below these ridgelines.
Historic Heritage	There are four historic items within the Wairewa area: The Library (Heritage Item 772), Memorial Gates (1160), Church (692), and the Railway Station (1183).
Significant Trees	There are several significant trees throughout Wairewa, most notably is the stretch of trees along the highway in Cooptown.

CANTERBURY REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

<http://ecan.govt.nz/our-responsibilities/regional-plans/rps/Pages/Default.aspx>

The Canterbury Regional Policy Statement sets the framework for resource management in Canterbury. It provides an overview of the significant resource management issues facing the region, and sets out objectives, policies and methods to address the region's resource management issues. Its goal is the integrated management of the region's natural and physical resources.

CANTERBURY LAND & WATER REGIONAL PLAN

<http://ecan.govt.nz/our-responsibilities/regional-plans/lwrp/Pages/Default.aspx>

The Land & Water Regional Plan is a new planning framework for Canterbury. It aims to provide clear direction on how land and water are to be managed and help deliver community aspirations for water quality in both urban and rural areas.

Plan Change 6 Banks Peninsula – Lake Forsyth / Wairewa

Plan Change 6 to the Canterbury Land & Water Regional Plan covers the Lake Forsyth / Wairewa catchment. This is the area from mean high water springs at Birdlings Flat to Mount Fitzgerald and Mount Sinclair to the north, High Bare Peak to the west and Saddle Hill / Wainui Pass to the east. The waterbodies in this catchment are Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth and the Ōkana, Ōkuti and Takiritawai Rivers. The catchment includes the townships of Little River, Birdlings Flat and Cooptown.

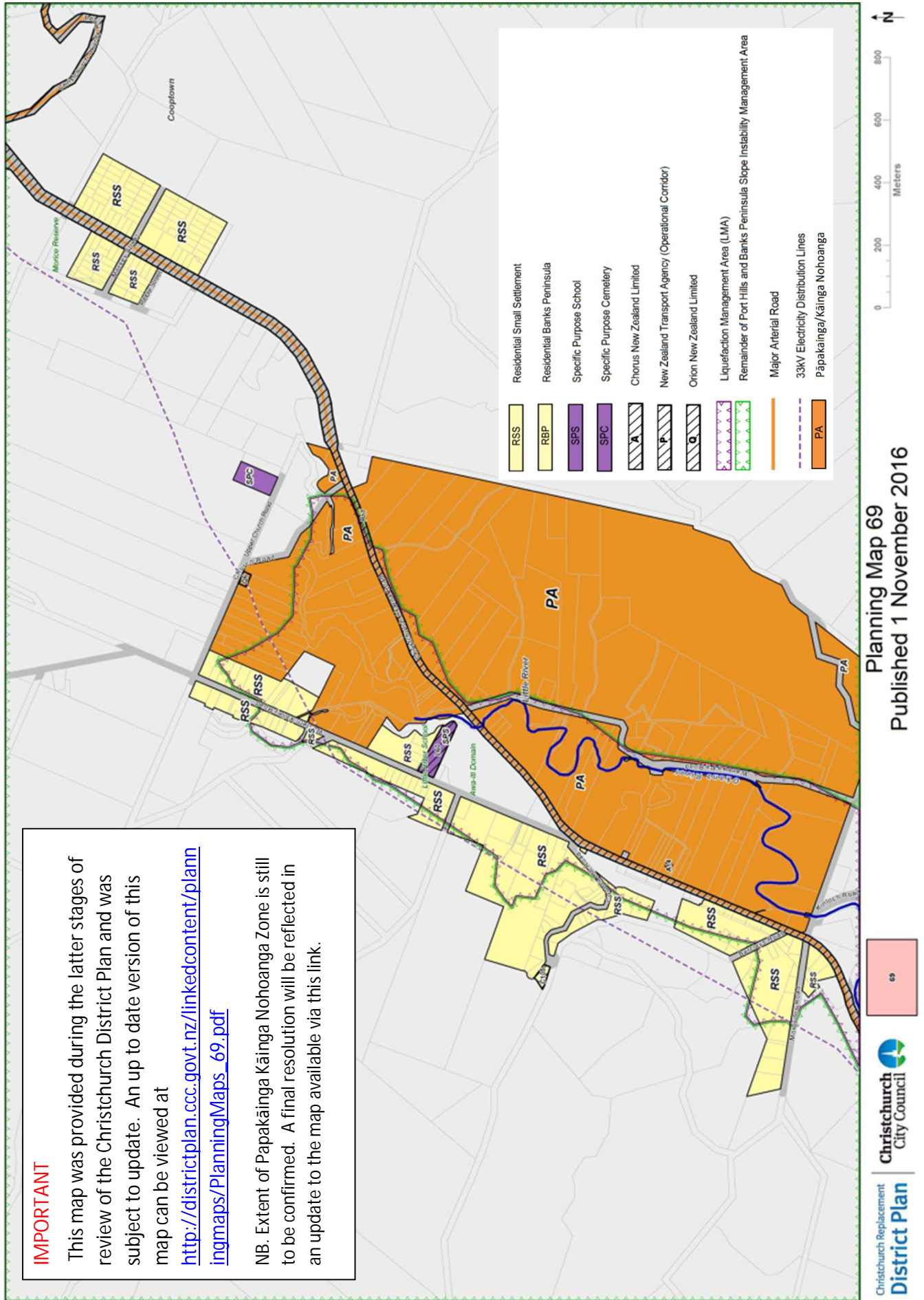
Also refer to Environment Canterbury's [Wairewa Zone Implementation Programme](#) (ZIP)

IWI MANAGEMENT PLAN

<http://www.mkt.co.nz/iwi-management-plan/>

The Mahaanui Iwi Management plan provides a values-based, plain language policy framework for the protection and enhancement of Ngāi Tahu values, and for achieving outcomes that provide for the relationship of Ngāi Tahu with natural resources across Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka o Waitaha and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū – broadly defined as north and mid Canterbury including the Banks Peninsula.

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN MAP



Appendix 2: Summary of Consultation responses

Ideas from the community had six main themes:



Speed Limit, Parking and Traffic Calming

Lots of people made comment on the speed limit through the village, all seeking a reduced or variable speed limit.

Some responders also suggested:

- a safer crossing between the library and the shop.
- Removal of some on-street car parking, though not all people supported this.
- More/better off-street car parking in the village centre.

Mention was also made of road improvements elsewhere including reduced speed limits, junction improvements, traffic calming, tar sealing and passing lanes.

"Lower the speed limit in the village to make walking and cycling safe"

"A safer and better located parking area for the village shops"



Development

Most people who commented on development didn't want to see Little River grow much larger or lose its rural character, however there was interest in housing for elderly people and some more commercial development.

Many people had ideas for using the area owned by the City Council in the centre of Little River, seeing the area as an opportunity for improvements.

Popular ideas for commercial development included: a supermarket, a restaurant open in the evenings, a bakery, more attractions for tourists, and more space for local business to setup.

"Building local business confidence in Little River is important for the area's success"

"Keep the rural zone as rural; Little River should maintain a nice little village feel"



Community Facilities and Events

A huge variety of facilities and events were suggested by residents and visitors.

Very popular suggestions for facilities included a medical service, new or improved children's playgrounds, community gardens, and a bike/BMX /skate/scooter park. Repairing and improving the tennis courts was seen as a high priority for many.

Popular event suggestions included, a farmers/artisan market, sports events, and more community gatherings.

The centre of the village and the domain were mentioned as possible places for some new facilities.

Upgrading or expanding of the Library/Service Centre and the community centre were also requested.

"A HEALTH HUB!"

"A place for Little River teenagers to hangout with friends, games, music, movies and food"

LITTLE RIVER BIG IDEAS



Footpaths, Horse Trails, Walkways and Cycleways

Many responses were received on this theme under two categories:

Footpaths

The two most frequently mentioned were a footpath between Little River School and Cooptown, and another along Western Valley Road.

Recreation

Others wanted more opportunity for bushwalks, off-road walking tracks or horse trails.

Several people made suggestions about improvements and extensions to the Rail Trail, as well as other long distance recreational cycle routes.

"I would love a path from Cooptown to the domain, so kids can cycle and walk to school without having to use a high speed road"

" More walkways, and recreation areas. These could be used by pedestrians, those on horseback, dog walkers and people biking. They should also be combined with more native bush planting"



Enhancement of our Urban Environment

Among the ideas for improving the look of our environment were artworks/murals/sculptures, road and riverside planting and beautification of the central car park.

"A lovely walk with artwork displayed along it, to create an art trail from the village"

"Improvements to road side planting and berms throughout the area"

Enhancement of our Natural Environment

Restoring native bush, creating wetlands and improvements to the quality of our rivers and Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth were among the ideas for our natural environment.

"We need to clean up Te Roto o Wairewa, and the waterways. They would then become amenities that could be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike"



Public Utilities and Services

An extended or alternative sewage disposal scheme and improvements to the water quality and supply were most frequently mentioned. Improved cellphone coverage, new and upgraded toilet facilities, bus service, and car pooling were also suggested.

"we need to explore options for a future sewage scheme. Without this development cannot occur"

Maintenance

A number of maintenance issues were raised, including pruning of trees, road mending, lighting and maintenance of buildings and sites.

"The Cooptown trees need to be better maintained and trimmed regularly"

"Repairs and maintenance needs to occur for all the heritage buildings in the area. It is important that they are looked after and able to be used"

Appendix 3: List of potential project funding sources

Set out below are a list of sources of information and charitable funding that groups in the community could approach to help them deliver projects. The list is not exhaustive.

Generosity New Zealand – givUS, givME - www.generosity.org.nz

Guides and links for funding ideas and information

- Cultural Funding Guide www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/search-funding
- DonateNZ www.donatenz.com
- Fundraise Online www.fundraiseonline.co.nz
- Givealittle www.givealittle.co.nz
- Sport New Zealand www.sportnz.org.nz/get-into-sport/search-for-funding/search
- Dept of Internal Affairs www.communitymatters.govt.nz/Funding-and-grants
(Incl. Links to Crown Grants, Lottery Grants, Trust Grants, Gambling Machine Societies, Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), Community Led Development Programme, etc.)

Available Grants and Funds

Christchurch City Council www.ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/community-funding/

- Multiple including Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF), Discretionary Response Fund (DRF), Small Grants Fund (SGF), Community Organisation Loans Scheme, Transitional City Projects Fund

Lottery Grants www.communitymatters.govt.nz/Funding-and-grants---Lottery-grants

Child, Youth and Family funding www.cyf.govt.nz/working-with-others/index.html

Rātā Foundation - (Programmes) Small Grants, Large Grants, Building Projects www.ratafoundation.org.nz

Ngāi Tahu Fund www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz/culture/ngai-tahu-fund/

Creative New Zealand www.creativenz.govt.nz/find-funding

Rotary Foundation District Grants www.rotarysouthpacific.org

Wayne Francis Charitable Trust www.wfct.org.nz

Sargood Bequest www.sargoodbequest.org.nz/get_grant.html

The JR McKenzie Trust www.jrmckenzie.org.nz

The Lion Foundation www.lionfoundation.org.nz/applying-for-funding

The Tindall Foundation www.tindall.org.nz

The Todd Foundation www.toddfoundation.org.nz

The Working Together More Fund www.workingtogether.org.nz

Rotary Neighbourhood Project www.rotaryneighbourhood.org.nz

Red Cross www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/helping-in-canterbury

William Toomey Charitable Trust www.trustees.co.nz

Techsoup www.techsoup.net.nz

The New Zealand Community Trust

SuperValue Community Cash Fund

Fonterra Grass Roots Fund

Contributors and Consultees

Plan Development

Little River Issues Working Party – see inside front cover

Christchurch City Council Support Team

- Community Governance - Fiona Nicol
- Urban Regeneration - Josh Neville, John Meeker

Stakeholders consulted during the preparation of this plan.

Local Organisations

A&P Showground Committee	Heartlands
Akaroa Mail	Little River Play Centre
Awa-iti Reserve Management Committee	Little River Rugby Club
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust	Little River Rail Trail Trust
Birdlings Flat Hall Committee	Little River School Governors
Churches	Love Little River
Craft Station	Ōkuti Valley
Fire Brigade	Rod Donald Trust

Akaroa / Wairewa Community Board
Banks Peninsula Zone Committee
Little River Wairewa Community Trust

External Agencies

Christchurch City Council
– Libraries, Property Services, Property Leasing, Community Assets,
Water/Waste Water, Transport, Land Drainage.

Canterbury District Health Board
Environment Canterbury
NZ Transport Agency
Department of Conservation
NZ Police

