
Media Release

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Positive response to Mangawhai Town Plan survey

A Kaipara District Council survey of Mangawhai residents has provided valuable feedback for the Council, which is considering what will be needed for the town's long-term development.

The survey is part of preliminary work for a Mangawhai Town Plan, which would guide development and change as the town grows.

Respondents selected as the main challenges facing Mangawhai, infrastructure demand and lack of funding to pay for it, traffic and parking congestion, and preservation of open space.

Commission Chair John Robertson says the survey is one of the starting points to finding out what residents want and don't want as Mangawhai grows.

"It is important we get it right, not just regarding infrastructure such as roads and other services, but other things that make our towns places that are easy to live in. It includes considering what residents value such as views, the harbour and beaches, and how they use the town's amenities," Mr Robertson says.

Council staff will also talk with key members of the community for more in-depth viewpoints and technical reports will be developed on questions such as water and stormwater, design and landscape.

"We hope to be able to consult the community about the town plan during the 2016/2017 Annual Plan process." Mr Robertson says.

ENDS

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(NB results summary attached)

Mangawhai Town Plan community survey

181 responses to the survey:

- 66% live in Mangawhai permanently;
- 48% live in Mangawhai Heads;
- 31% on a lifestyle block;
- 88% drive around Mangawhai as their main mode of transport; and
- Primary travel routes are between place of residence and Wood Street/Village.

Respondents were positive in their approach to the likes about Mangawhai question:

- 86% strongly liked the harbour and beaches;
- 72% strongly liked landscape and views;
- 16% strongly liked available land and housing; and
- 24% strongly liked shops and restaurants.

Respondents put harbour views and beach views in front regarding which landscapes and views they value the most.

Respondents chose the Mangawhai Village market and Wood Street as the obvious meeting places/social spaces.

The vast majority of respondents agreed that traffic congestion, crowding in the summer months, weeds and unkempt roadsides, lack of footpaths and lack of parking were problems.

Mangawhai Village evoked the strongest response when respondents were asked to choose suggested improvements for the village, Mangawhai Heads Beach, Wood Street shops and Alamar Crescent.

Mangawhai Village:

- More parking;
- Improve traffic/parking controls around market;
- Improve/extend footpaths;
- More public amenities;
- Improve traffic flow; and
- Provide cycling facilities.

Wood Street:

- Better management of parking;
- Improve/extend footpaths;
- More public amenities; and
- Improve traffic flow.

Alamar Crescent:

- Extend public reserve;
- Better management of parking;
- More public amenities; and
- Design controls for new buildings and subdivision on the harbour fringe.

Mangawhai Heads Beach:

- Better management of parking;
- More trees and dune planting;
- Provide cycling facilities; and
- Allow more stalls on Council reserve.

The following figures combine the 'agree' and 'strongly agree' responses to the growth statements:

- 95% agree Mangawhai is in a period of growth;
- 56% concerned about the appearance of Mangawhai;
- 68% support growth of housing and services;
- 43% agree existing housing is good quality and plentiful;
- 66% agree that better Council services are needed to support growth;
- 23% are happy with Mangawhai as it is and do not want change;
- 79% agree that parking is a problem;
- 64% agree there are good parks and reserves in Mangawhai;
- 37% find it difficult to walk/cycle;
- 31% believe Mangawhai needs more housing;
- 77% agree Mangawhai an attractive town;
- 52% think Mangawhai is still affordable in terms of housing/land;
- 62% agree Mangawhai needs more young people and families;
- 60% agree to more shops and services;
- 66% for more permanent residents;
- 42% agree rubbish and litter are a problem; and
- 20% agree we need a town water supply.

The main challenges facing Mangawhai that were selected were infrastructure demand and lack of funding to pay for it, traffic and parking congestion and preservation of open space.