

## **Murchison community meeting - Monday 17 April 2023**

### **Summary:**

A positive and well-attended meeting. 20 residents. 2+hours.

Key themes were:

- Stage 2 development for the recreation centre
- Overall desire to see a plan for the future development of Murchison and a roadmap
- Desire to improve destination management to encourage visitors to stay longer in Murchison to support the local economy
- Desire to see increase in river management at local level
- Desire to see development of public space - shade, footpaths, parking, toilets, improved signage/wayfinding
- Clip on cycling infrastructure for SH bridge needed
- Development of more active recreation opportunities for visitors and locals - cycling, walking, playground
- Concerns over the Kindergarten shutting and the impact on the local community

### **Workshop discussions:**

Group 1:

- Several earthquake prone buildings in the town centre - uncertainty about their future, timing of remedial work. If managed poorly could have a detrimental impact on the town (conspicuous closed buildings/empty building sites). Are there grants available to help with strengthening/building work?
- The character of Murchison needs protecting and enhancing - more shade, green spaces, better signage, clarity required on where commercial growth is allowed
- Green Space - Murchison doesn't have an equivalent of 'Washbourne Gardens' shady, relaxing, central, attractive.
- Fairfax Street is the cultural heart of Murchison - needs developing, taking better care of, wayfinding signs to direct visitors.
- Road safety is an issue - would like a lower speed limit through the town (30kmh) and the bridge needs a clip on cycle path/footpath. The alternative transport connectivity around the town is poor (ref. bridge on state highway dangerous for cycling and lack of connected cycleways/footpaths)
- Growth - is there a plan for how infrastructure development will keep up with population growth?
- Need for a Master Plan process to ensure Murchison makes the most of its assets and retains its character
- The Recreation Centre is a great asset - need to ensure it continues to thrive
- Concern over the location of the new FourSquare and its effect on the flow of people around the town, road safety and if it's detrimental to Murchison as a whole (pulling people away from Fairfax Street)

## Group 2:

- Recreation Centre Stage 2:
  - Extend the building to provide more services
  - Create a new playground
- River Management
  - More proactive management from Council
  - Look at the river rating system
  - Shingle removal, erosion, sensible gravel extraction
  - Focus on all the rivers
  - Review consenting costs
- There is a lack of residential zoned land - think and plan ahead
- Need more rural residential zoned land - new subdivision criteria to enable subdivision of rural residential land
- Focus on subdivision and rezoning - help make Murchison futureproof
- More of a presence of resource consent and policy TDC staff in Murchison
- Infrastructure - water - a lot of bugs in the water
- Neds Creek - the river to Fairfax Street needs upgrading
- St Johns building - sleeping quarters for volunteers/staff - hard to get insurance?
- Rec Centre - can school parties sleep there for short periods (can we get insurance for that?)
- Recycling service - transfer station and the cost of waste/recycling. Need to promote the transfer station with better signage - it's hard to find.
- Clip on cycling lane for the bridge (SH)
- After a road accident remove cars before they get burned out
- River erosion - could affect the campground, golf course and cemetery, look after them before it's too late
- Identify cycling opportunities in the area and develop them - eg around the railway track
- Local school under pressure - 33% increase in roll

## Group 3:

- Supportive of Stage 2 for the Recreation Centre
- Rural Road Maintenance needs improving
- Transfer station opening hours are restrictive
- A need for more/improved retirement accommodation
- More signage needed for public toilets
- River Maintenance needs to be a focus - flooding and weeds
- Invest in renewable infrastructure - water, solar
- Encourage/facilitate seasonal worker accommodation
- Need better wayfinding signage around the town
- Need a 10yr town plan

#### Group 4:

- Forestry erosion - affects infrastructure and rivers. Need more/better rules and regulations. Consider returning some forestry blocks to native.
- River management - gravel extraction, make it easier. Do it on a trial basis if unsure and measure the results.
- Kindy is important to the community but they want to close it. Work with Association on a solution, could be affordable housing?
- Make full use of passing traffic for the economy - better signage, toilets, shade, parks, short walks.
- Protect the highly productive land - select the right land for development.
- Encourage industry to move to Murchison to help the community thrive
- Encourage to buy/sell local rather than transport everything out and back in again
- Need attractions to keep tourists here - like Old Ghost Road, more cycling/MTB tracks
- More assistance for joint recreation ventures - walking, tramping, cycling, family excursions, river. Needs promoting
- Need more DOC support - DOC doesn't focus on Murchison
- Develop a cycling and walking strategy - include traffic speed limits, safe footpaths etc
- Road Bridge needs a cycling clip on
- Council should tap into local expertise around forestry and river management. Can some authority be delegated to local groups to manage and not all come from Richmond?
- Local tip - management could be better if utilise local landowners
- Need centralised emergency management for Murchison
- Recycling bins
- More parking space for visitors
- Children's playground, and activities for locals and visitors
- Improved signage and marketing of Murchison
- Reduce carbon emissions and promote water quality
- Supportive of Stage 2 Recreation Centre development