

## **Tapawera LTP Early Engagement Workshop - Wednesday 13 April 2023**

### **Summary:**

A positive and well attended meeting. 11 residents. 2+hrs.

Key themes were:

- Taking full advantage of the Great Taste Trail and making sure there are no 'missing links'
- A desire to see a plan for a community facility/hub.
- Swimming pool improvements were popular as was a facility that catered to youth and the elderly
- River management - local responses to ongoing management, gravel extraction, plantings
- Tapawera doesn't see a lot of benefit from forestry or hops - all money goes out of town/abroad. What is the role of Tapawera in the future, and how is its character retained and families encouraged to come and live here. Is some low cost housing for families and ageing a possibility?
- Can Borlase Forest be used to develop mountain bike tracks?

### **Workshop discussions:**

Group 1:

- A plan to invest in/improve a significant community facility - such as the swimming pool. Main desire is to see it covered and heated. As well as improving an already good local facility that is valued by the community, it would inject some energy/life back into Tapawera and give it some confidence. This would give youth something to do other than play rugby.
- There is a general feeling of slow decline after forestry stopped being locally managed. Hops is a growth area but very little flow on for the local community - workers are bussed in from Motueka, profits go overseas.
- The quality of some of the footpaths in Tapawera is substandard and challenging/dangerous for parents with prams and the elderly.
- The Great Taste Trail is an improving asset for Tapawera but there are still some missing links that are holding back its full potential - support for seeing continued investment to bring the trail up to a high standard
- Can a project be set up to explore the opportunity to build mountain bike trails/walking trails in the TDC owned Borlase forest?
- Public Transport does not exist - even a once or twice a week service to Richmond would be beneficial for those without cars and the elderly
- Is there a vision/plan for Tapawera? What is needed to enable it to survive and thrive?
- Pest management - old man's beard is rampant

- Is there an option to provide some pensioner or affordable flats/housing? Could TDC facilitate the conversation with possible developers or Kainga Ora?
- Insufficient ongoing road quality work - grading, culverts etc
- Could a walking track to the Lee River be created to improve safe access for all?
- Is there a plan to plant more trees on river banks to help with natural defence from flooding and general river health?

#### Group 2:

- There is a need for a community hub - especially beneficial for youth and the elderly. Could act as a 'home' for the services that come to the village, eg health
- Tapawera needs to retain its special character (e.g. wide streets) - how is this identified and managed?
- River Management:
  - Flood protection
  - Stop banks (recognised that building these higher would mean more damage and risk of death if/when they breach in a flood).
  - River planting
  - Gravel and sediment control. Desire for more ability for local people to remove gravel.
  - The location of the wastewater pond is a concern – risk from flooding
- How do we get visitor to spend time (and money) in Tapawera. Encourage people to start/finish their Great Taste Trail ride at Tapawera or the Kohatu Cafe? Can we create a 2hr loop around Tapawera that utilises the GTT? Ebike charging? More car parking at Kohatu Café? Promote this location as start/finish point.
- Can we create a walking/cycling loop around Shedwood Reserve?
- Transport for those without a car - car sharing or public transport is lacking. Potential for the community to own an electric car that could be booked.
- Water - the taste of the town water supply has degraded (especially when the reservoir is low), and well water taste. Tanalised posts for hops may be having an effect on the aquifer.
- Natural hazards are a concern - fire, earthquake - is there a plan that is well communicated? Risk of Tapawera being cut off. Can use of forest roads for access in emergencies be agreed so that this is sorted out before an event hits?