



TE AO HOU TRUST

SUBMISSION TO ODC 2021-31 LONG TERM PLAN, MAY 2021

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Our collective response to the Ōpōtiki District Council Long Term Plan aims to highlight areas for opportunity in the four key issues out for consultation including our recommendations on the Significance and Engagement Policy review.

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Significance and Engagement Policy Review

MAY
2021

KEY ISSUE #1 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SIGNALLING A NEW CHAPTER

MAY
2021

ODC has indicated their preferred option; OPTION 2, and they have posed the following key question:

“How much should council do to facilitate and advocate for local solutions on social challenges for our communities?”

OUR RESPONSE

We support option 2 on the proviso –

- There is genuine intent to work in partnership with local Iwi, agencies and providers, upholding the mana of the Treaty Of Waitangi obligations, in particular supporting those agencies who have already been mandated to facilitate and advocate local solutions to social challenges.

“Economically food is an integral part of a balanced production and exchange system.”

OPPORTUNITY

Everyone Eats Ōpōtiki is a multi-year collective impact food system project currently underway. This project aims to uncover the contextual reasons why many of our eastern bay of plenty residents are not eating well. It is supported by local research and community insights that are highlighting some of the systemic influences impacting our local food system directly impeding on the health and wellbeing of Ōpōtiki residents. A recent local Food Systems Background and Mapping report highlights the current state of play in Ōpōtiki and areas of opportunity for improvement.

Ōpōtiki District Council has taken steps to develop and implement the Ōpōtiki town revitalisation project that speaks to horticultural and agricultural opportunities. Healthy Families East Cape is aware of critical issues that affect a vibrant food system and what local government can directly change, influence, and what is beyond its power.

Local government could take a lead in this area supporting Ōpōtiki to becoming a district that consciously treats food as a central part of its social life by building questions of the vitality of the local food environment as part of its policy-making, including the opportunity to integrate food systems thinking into the 2022 master planning exercise for the harbour and wharf areas, identifying how food can improve linkages to the CBD and enhance amenities offered along the river and harbour area.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

MAY 2021

Impacts of Covid-19 alert levels lockdown on Ōpōtiki Residents



"We would rather get into trouble than have no meat"
(Local Hunter)



" We have sent two tamariki to live with our parents because food is too expensive at New World."
(Ōpōtiki Mum)



" Food intake increased for beneficiaries having whānau members home all day."
(Whānau Ora Navigator)



" We didn't realise how much we relied on hunting and the outdoors to feed our whānau and also maintain our wellbeing."
(Local Mum and Hunter)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY
2021

The Ideal Solution

Sustainability built into the strategic design of the food system is critical and by embedding a local food systems approach across the Ōpōtiki town centre structure plan including the more comprehensive revitalisation project is an opportunity for ODC to lead the way in building a regenerative local food environment, one that is inclusive, sustainable and will enable the Ōpōtiki district to have improved access to affordable and nutritious food.

How can it be done?

1. Build capacity within Ōpōtiki District Council and amongst stakeholders by integrating food systems thinking across different system levels and within key council plans and strategies, including the up and coming master planning exercise for the harbour and wharf areas.
2. The Ōpōtiki District Council adopts and integrates policies that protect and prioritize local food producers, iwi producers and preserve local food provision to the local district.
3. Review current government policies that are regulatory barriers and place restrictions on the capacity of local farmers, growers, and consumers to buy and sell directly from the farm gate.
4. Implement evaluation processes and priorities from the outset of any future projects.
5. Advocate through to other government levels collaboration, deep research and case studies for planning policy changes for better control around density and proximity of fast food outlets within vulnerable communities.

KEY ISSUE #2

MOBILE SERVICES ON THE COAST

MAY
2021

ODC has indicated their preferred option; OPTION 2.

MODERN MOBILE SERVICES VAN

OUR RESPONSE

In the last 2018 Long Term Plan Ōpōtiki district council asked for feedback about providing more services on the coast in the form of a mobile library service.

We ask the following questions:

- Is the issue still relevant today?
- How have the coastal community contributed to the proposed ideas?

OPPORTUNITY

It is proposed that both options be funded 100% through general rates and will see rates increase accordingly. ODC have an opportunity to partner with existing services such as Healthy Families East Cape to strengthen their community consultation processes and through this explore all and or other sustainable, cost-effective ideas and strategies.

The announcement to centralise New Zealand's healthcare system and create a Māori Health Authority presents another exciting and significant opportunity for us to explore other ideas from a locality perspective and consider all the needs of our communities such as, an integrated health hub that is also mobile. As the landscape is changing the healthcare treatment people will receive will no longer be determined by where they live and we can work together to consult with Ōpōtiki residents ensuring they have every opportunity to determine their future and how healthcare is delivered to them.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

MAY 2021

Workshop with Te Ao Hou Trust Staff & Torere Residents, April 2021



" We have never been asked what we think would be the best way for the services to come to the coast. I have no idea where the library bus idea came from."

(Torere Resident)



"A library bus is an outdated idea, and we've never been consulted on what we think will be the best idea."

(Torere Resident)



" We would love to have the opportunity to work with council or a local provider on the best way for services to come to our community."

(Torere Resident)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY
2021

The Ideal Solution

ODC go back to the drawing board identify willing partners such as Healthy Families East Cape who can strengthen community consultation processes. This will support to ensure;

- Uphold the Mana of the Treaty of Waitangi
- ODC are meeting their legal obligations when consulting with all communities of the Ōpōtiki District
- Strengthen local partnerships

How can it be done?

1. Extend the consultation period for mobile services on the coast.
2. Implement an environmental scan of existing services already connected with the coast and look at partnership opportunities.
3. Review the coast community consultation processes, ensuring coastal residents are getting the best opportunities to participate in the decision making processes that effectively impact them.
4. Leverage the changes within the healthcare system to look at other potentially more cost-effective ideas and strategies that can benefit whānau living in our coastal communities.

KEY ISSUE #3 HUKUTAIA GROWTH

MAY
2021

ODC has indicated their preferred option; OPTION 1.

PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE TO NEW DEVELOPMENT AND EXISTING PROPERTIES TOGETHER
WASTE WATER, STORM WATER, WATER SUPPLY

OUR RESPONSE

We support housing growth infrastructure on the proviso -

- That any new significant housing development should also make considerations for providing green and play spaces that will adequately match the residential growth in the area.
- Development plans reflect future proofing for healthier environments.
- ODC are working closely with Whakatōhea Iwi

OPPORTUNITY

A Play in Ōpōtiki research project 2020, uncovered 4 overarching themes, including:

Theme 2. A lack of play spaces and poor play facilities are considered obstacles for letting tamariki play outside more.

Levels of physical activity in tamariki and young people are influenced in part by access to safe, clean and attractive parks and open spaces the problem we face is 1 in 3 Aotearoa children are obese or overweight and a third are inactive. We commend ODC for their commitment to recent upgrades of our local Rose Garden and Skatepark. ODC can continue to build on this momentum by extending the community consultation and planning developments of Hukutaia to include questions regarding land developments for parks and green spaces.

We know that tamariki have the time, place, and permission to play in their communities when:

- Play is widely understood to be a crucial part of physical, cognitive, social/emotional and spiritual development for young people
- Adults understand their role in enabling play, and everyone shares responsibility for supporting play
- Young people have access to varied playful experiences within their local environments, including risk-taking, challenge, and the opportunity to be active.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

MAY 2021

Play in Ōpōtiki research project, August 2020



"Not enough parks and decent playgrounds."

(Local Ōpōtiki Resident)



"Ōpōtiki needs playgrounds and nice areas where people want to gather."

(Local Ōpōtiki Resident)



"We need more vibrant parks with toilets, vibrancy, eating and bbq areas."

(Local Ōpōtiki Resident)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY
2021

The Ideal Solution

ODC build on the momentum they have already generated with recent upgrades of existing parks, by building questions of future proofing for healthier environments into their development plans.

How can it be done?

1. Extend the community consultation and planning developments of Hukutaia to include questions regarding land developments for parks and green spaces.

KEY ISSUE #4 BINS AT PUBLIC TOILETS

MAY
2021

ODC has indicated their preferred option; OPTION 1.

INSTALL RUBBISH BINS NEXT TO EVERY TOILET ACROSS THE DISTRICT, AT RESERVES AND CAMPING AREAS.

OUR RESPONSE

We support option 1 on the proviso –

- These also include all current and future play/green spaces

OPPORTUNITY

ODC adopted a zero waste policy in November 1999 and have acknowledged that option 1 is inconsistent with its zero waste policy and waste reduction policies in general. This could be an opportunity to review the zero waste policy and consider incentivising Ōpōtiki residents to reduce waste.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY
2021

The Ideal Solution

ODC review its zero waste policy and work with willing partners such as Healthy Families East Cape to explore other cost-effective ideas and strategies that can encourage people to reduce waste.

How can it be done?

1. Review the Zero Waste Policy
2. Explore incentive opportunities for Ōpōtiki residents to reduce waste

SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

ODC are currently reviewing their Significance and Engagement Policy. We welcome this review and would like to provide the following response;

There is significant room for improvement to be made to the consultation process of ODC. There are numerous residents that live in our coastal region who believe their voice is not only crucial, but more importantly, overlooked in decision making processes. We refer to ODC current significance and engagement policy that outlines their legal obligation under the local government act to determine how important or significant a decision is to the community. The principles of this policy are:

- Council will be consistent, genuine and transparent in how it engages with the public
- Council will consider the language, accessibility and cultural needs in any engagement
- Council will ensure that it involves the community in its decisions, and recognises the importance of the community in any engagement it holds.

Our Roadmap OPPORTUNITY to Prevention

Creating healthier environments in the places we live, learn, work and play

MAY
2021

Healthy Families East Cape are a health prevention initiative set up by the Ministry of Health with a focal aim of taking a systems approach to health prevention. Healthy Families East Cape are change-makers, advocates for innovation and champions for prevention working with people and organisations across systems, sectors and settings. The organisation combines knowledge and expertise in innovation processes and practices with genuine understanding of and commitment to the health and wellbeing of whānau. It is Healthy Families East Cape's mechanism of helping partners to explore and adopt sustainable and cost-effective strategies to positively impact the health and wellbeing of the community. The team does this by:

- Generating deep, challenging insights and build a compelling case for change
- Co-design new, practical solutions with high potential for impact and cost-savings
- Tell stories of your impact with confidence
- Build capability with immersive learning experiences in innovation like co-design and design thinking
- Engaging people in a powerful shared vision, and create the energy for collective action
- Adopt and adapt solutions from elsewhere or scale solutions
- Create meaningful connections through empathetic and values-driven engagement
- Dare to take known risks that result in solutions that drive change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY
2021

The Ideal Solution

We collectively propose a partnership and collaboration between Te Ao Hou Trust, Healthy Families East Cape and ODC for future community engagement opportunities that will see deep level insight gathering obtained in order to inform crucial decisions, such as the new proposal of a mobile health service in the coastal community.

How can it be done?

1. A review of ODC community consultation processes
2. ODC, Te Ao Hou Trust and Healthy Families East Cape Team – Meet and Greet
3. Develop an M.O.U to support an ongoing partnership



THANK YOU!

TE AO HOU TRUST