

Agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee to be held at the Meremere Hall, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 4 September 2025** commencing at **7.00pm**.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

3. PUBLIC FORUM

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The register of interests is no longer included on agendas; however, members still have a duty to disclose any interests under this item.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Confirmation of minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 25 July 2025

5.2 Confirmation of minutes for the extraordinary meeting held on Friday 8 August 2025

6. BOARD REPORTS

6.1 Meremere Community Committee Plan June Update 12

7. REPORTS

7.1 Discretionary Fund Report 17

7.2 Meremere Works and Issues Report 19

7.3 Councillors Report *Verbal*

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

CL Hobbs

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Meremere

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE PLAN

Taiao

Supporting the enhancement of our environment.

Kotahitanga | Unity

Valuing our diverse community.

Engagement

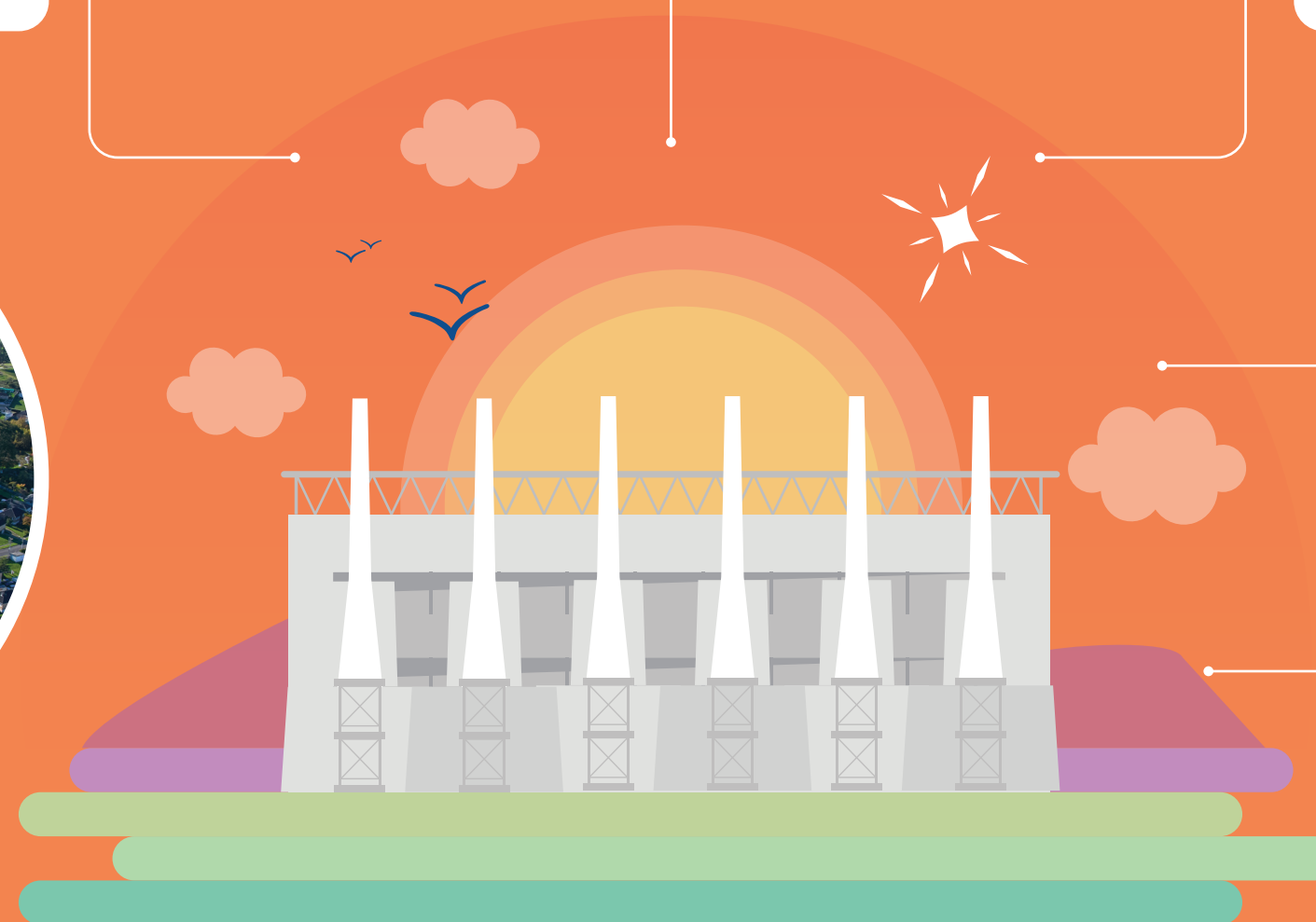
Connecting our community to what matters most.

Successful and thriving

Helping the community prosper.

Inclusive

Advocate for community strength.



Vision

Listen to and work with our diverse community, mana whenua partners and other organisations to protect and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Meremere.

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Confirmation of Minutes
Date:	Thursday, 4 September 2025
Report Author:	Thomas Rowland, Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Elizabeth Saunders, Senior Democracy Advisor

1. Purpose of the report **Te Take moo te puurongo**

To confirm the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 4 September 2025.

2. Staff recommendations **Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi**

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 25 July 2025 and Thursday 8 August be confirmed as a true and correct record.

3. Attachments **Ngaa taapirihanga**

Attachment 1 – Meremere July Minutes

Attachment 2 – Meremere August Minutes

1. Apologies and Leave of Absence

Chair Person Jim Katu Apologies received.

Moved Cr. Marlene Raumati

Seconded Ben Peters

2. Confirmation of the status of the agenda

Moved Marlene

Seconded Cece

3. Public Forum

Hayden has come to visit the group from Sport Waikato. He discussed funding that is available for the local sports grounds to assist with the operation of specific activities, He clarified the funding was not available for Capital Investment or 1 off events so much, But that sport Waikato look to support activities with things such as nets, equipment, coaching, transport, holiday programs support, All with a focus on children and young people.

4. Disclosures of interest

No new disclosures

Moved Ben

Seconded Cece

5. Confirmation of the minutes

Correction: Correction of the spelling of the Mayors name to JACQUI CHURCH

Moved Lauren Wismans

Seconded Ben Peters

6. Board Reports

6.1 Meremere Community Committee Plan

5.1 Taiao

Jacob Calvert Presented that with the support of Dominique Thurlow he was making connections with Predator Free Pokeno, To look at how Meremere could expand tour neighbours anti pest program in to our own community. Jacob spoke of the importance of promoting an anti predator program in Meremere with our geographical location being so close to the river and being surrounded by the Wetlands and patches of native bush, these places which are home to a spectacular array of birdlife but also harbour unwanted pests. Jacob Suggested that an annual investment from the group of \$500 to reduce pest numbers would be of significant benefit to the community, And that he would be making a submission to this regard once all the information had been received and finalized.

Jacob Calvert also spoke about the Whangamarino Wetland group and that he would look to increase the connection and support between both groups.

5.2 Kotahitanga

Jacob Calvert recognized Haydn Solomon for his involvement with the meetings and for his support with the committees commitment to foster stronger partnerships with Ngati Naho for the benefit of our people.

Jacob Calvert spoke about the upcoming 10th Anniversary for the Community Centre. Jacob had spoken with the Hall committee who are hosting a community event to celebrate this momentous occasion. Jacob provided the group with an update as to the Hall Groups Progress, And proposed this committee offer additional support and guidance to the Hall Group. Jacob also proposed funding support be made available for the event if the Hall Committee made a submission, Jacob called for support for this incitive which was well received, on that basis he proposed additional Meremere Committee meetings to Discuss funding for the event and potentially receive a submission from the Hall Committees in time for the upcoming event. The group agreed to get together Monday 4th August 2025 to gather the necessary information, Then later meet in a formal setting under the pretense of a “Special meeting” to be held Friday 8th August 6pm.

In the mean time Jacob would meet again with the Hall committee and support their activities to ensure the deadline.

5.3 Engagement

Ben Peters reflected that the aim is to increase community involvement. Notably additional public are present tonight. A post was made on the Meremere Grapevine Facebook page for feedback about the Skatepark, Tennis pavilions and the Sports Field. We received a fantastic response with the community stepping up and sharing their thoughts. Submissions have now been launched for upgrades to these facilities based on the feedback. Submission for Sports field Improve access, Add Seating, Shade, Toilets, Lighting , Bins, Open the space to flexible activity use, Prevent Livestock Damage, maintain the area. A representative from *Waikato* sport spoke to the importance of a plan to use the facilities and spoke to the resources they can provide to assist in the use as defined in Public Forum. Funding for coaching could be made available to assist people to coach and organize and run the events.

Ben Peters shared that Submissions were now made regarding the Skate park, Shading, Seating, Toilets, Water Fountains, Improvement to the Bike track, More Accessible playground equipment for smaller children, Improved lighting, Bins, Signage, Maintain overgrown areas, Additional Planting, Educational Plaques. All locals want the area to feel safer and more inviting,

Ben Peters gave an update on the Tennis Court and Pavilion. It Has been a hub for youth, families and informal sports. A re-seal is planned at District Council Level, We received a great deal of feedback questioning this, Nets, More lighting, At BBQ Picnic

Area, Support the return of community events, Explore future user of the tennis pavilion to enquire whether it can be made safe. With the nets done, And a re-seal on the cards, This is an excellent time to prepare the courts for regular use. The group is reminded that some of these areas may be subject to ongoing settlement negotiations.

Ben Peters and Chair Person Jim Katu are working on putting posters up around Meremere promoting these events etc.

Mr Katu suggested reaching out to the community about what activities are of interest to the community and who would like to lead these sports and activities. Ben Peters to action a pole on what activities people would like to get involved with.

Cr. Marlene Raumati suggested connecting with WRC for native plantings at the skatepark. Te Kauwhata Community Committee paid for the Shade cloth their, this funding did not come from the discretionary, But the Development committee may be able to assist in moving that forward. Marlene reminds the committee that the pavilion is subject to a Treaty Claim.

5.4 Successful and Thriving

Bethany Sheppard from the Economic Development team at Waikato District council has is visiting the committee to provide a brief around Takitini and Open Waikato. Open Waikato brand was launched in the last year and is gaining excellent traction. Takitini is designed to improve economic and business development in the area and better promote the Waikato region. A refreshed website has been launched to support the program. The website provides information on the advantages of and promotes doing business in the Waikato region, it has sections showing the districts heritage and culture, there are sections to support local talent, and it also helps businesses to navigate council services.

The 4 pillars of the Waikato District Council Economic Development Team are 1. Investment 2. Business Sustainability and growth 3. Workforce development 4. Support Youth Transition to Work

Cr. Marlene Raumati is actively promoting and advocating for local employment opportunities.

Haydn Solomon shared that an announcement is planned in 2 months regarding a plan for the use of the Meremere Power Station

5.5 Inclusive

Cecilia Heta spoke to the awesome work that her, Dominique Thurlow and Ben Peters have been achieving. On the 18th June they visited the Te kauwhata Community House to see what Te Kauwhata offers to their community. They shared pamphlet which shows what services are on offer through Te Kauwhata. The main

purpose of the visit was to information gather and to see how we can meet and support the needs of our community within this Pillar. Angela the Chair person, Lauren the General Manager, Cr. Marlene Raumati, Cecilia Heta, Dominique Thurlow and Ben Peters then caught up to go over the details of the visit, and further discuss how to meet community needs with a particular interest in social services. Cecilia asked how we can take action, in response Ben Peters put together a pamphlet, which was read to the group (Submitted with the minutes). With regards to the Community Garden, Cecilia put together some notes with an update (Submitted with the minutes). Cecilia encouraged a working Bee for the Gardens. – Action Cecilia to promote a “Call to Action” on Facebook to see who would be interested in helping with the Garden.

Cecilia Heta confirmed that a “Welcome Pack” has been designed and is on the way, To be delivered moving forwards to incumbent members of the community.

Cr. Marlene Raumati Championed the community’s Mana and spoke to a need for businesses who engage with this community, To do more to give back for this community. Haydn Solomon ‘looked to echo’ Cr. Marlene’s comments and the points she had made around what has been happening to Meremere.

*Moved Marlene
Seconder Lauren*

7. Reports

7.1 Discretionary Fund Report

All Correct. Strong Position.

Cr. Marlene Raumati raised that the maximum commitment for the TK community response group is \$1500. The chairperson called for a Voted which passed unanimously.

*Moved Cr. Marlene Raumati
Seconded Cecilia Heta*

7.2 Meremere Works and Issues Report

Update on the CCTV work. They are working thro9ught the installation of the cameras tender at the moment. And working with the utilities company for the enabling works.

7.3 Councilors Report

Submitted as read

8. General Business

Cr. Marlene Raumati raised that the Waikato District Council had put out a call for minutes which were not presently held on file. The Secretary Jacob Calvert clarified that

he had been absent from the meetings in question so another person would have taken the minutes in his absence, for transparency Jacob Calvert shared the proof of texts of his apologies given for these meetings.

A Community member raised that at present people in Pokeno travel to Cox's Bay Auckland to play touch rugby and that this could be an opportunity for the community sports fields.

Cr. Marlene Raumati suggested that we provide written reports on the Community Committee Plans and updates in place of verbal reports. This was well received by the group and Chairperson Mr Katu made this part of standing orders.

Ben Peters – Email from Sherryl Regarding Rubbish. Not heaps missed in Meremere, Most people are following the new System. Committee agreed Ben to Correspond with Sherryl regarding community success with this campaign and further matter that arise.

'Casual' non-public meeting to be held August 4th 7pm to discuss funding and pathway for Hall 10th Anniversary. More detail in Kotahitanga.

Special Meeting of the Meremere Community Committee to be held Friday August 8th 6pm 2025 to support Hall Anniversary Celebrations. More details in Kotahitanga.

1. **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Received from; Chairperson Mr. Jim Katu, Lauren Wismans, Cr Marlene Raumati, Dominique Thurlow & Kirsty Wellington.

Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)

Seconded - Ben Peters

2. **Confirmation of the Status of the Agenda**

Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)

Seconded - Ben Peters

3. **Disclosures of Interest**

No new disclosures raised.

Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)

Seconded - Ben Peters

4. **Reports**

7.1 Discretionary Fund Application

Deeza Climo Chairperson of the Meremere Hall Committee joined the meeting to submit a proposal that requests funding support for the upcoming 10th Anniversary of the Meremere Community Events Centre.

The celebration is to be a free community event, promoting community spirit and wellbeing, with an aim to highlight the positive work being done within Meremere by committees, groups and council.

The Hall Committee submission requested a total \$1812 in support.

Ben Brown Deputy chair Raised a vote to support and approve this submission for funding from the Hall Committee in its entirety.

The vote passed unanimously.

The submission from hall committee is included with the minutes, As well as a funding Submission from the Meremere Community Committee to District Council to approve the use of the Meremere Community Committee's Discretionary funds to support the community event.

Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)

Seconded - Ben Peters

5. General Business

- Ben Brown (Deputy Chairperson)- Raised the Issue of the Sale of the Meremere Playground and Church at 66 Te Puea Avenue, currently owned by District Council. Mr Brown included in this matter the removal of a second playground being the Karr Memorial Playground.

All committee members present agreed they are unanimously and without reservation opposed to the District Council sale of the property at 66 Te Puea and the removal of the Karr Playground. The committee members are opposed on the basis that we cannot see how selling the property and removing the playgrounds is in the best interest of the Meremere Community, Although it may be in the interest of the wider district.

Ben Brown felt that the communication from district council had been limited at best regarding the sale of 66, and the removal of Karr playground

Jacob Calvert - Agreed with Ben Brown. Jacob noted that district council through a representative had early in 2024 asked the committee for feedback regarding the Sale of 66, At that time all except 1 committee member declared their opposition to the sale. The committee discussed that when this feedback reached council, It must have been lost in translation. At the time the Meremere Community Committee understood further information was being sort and returned to the committee to discuss further, This did not transpire.

Jacob also noted the matter had gone to public submission in November 2024, Submissions were likely limited due to low public engagement, But that does not mean there is a mandate or a hunger to sell the property.

Ben Peters - Clarified that the matter had been raised by District Council as a point of discussion, but that they had not asked officially asked the committee for a directive or the communities position, Only brief general discussions had been had.

Cecilia Heta - Stated that both playgrounds are extensively used by local children. There is hardly a time that you drive past and don't

see children using the facilities. The church is also in regular use.

Jacob - Called for the committee to vote to take immediate action to prevent the Sale of the Church and Playground at 66 Te Puea, and prevent the removal of Karr Playground across the road.

Ben Brown - As Deputy Chairperson formally raised Mr Calverts Vote. The committee members then voted unanimously to take immediate action to prevent the Sale of the Church and Playground at 66 Te Puea, and prevent the removal of Karr Playground across the road.

Meeting Closed.

Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)
Seconded - Ben Peters

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Meremere Community Committee Plan update – September 2025
Date:	4 September 2025
Report Author:	Thomas Rowland, Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Gaylene Kanawa, Democracy Manager

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

Providing an opportunity for the Meremere Community Committee to report back on the delivery of their action plan.

To provide organisational updates that tie in with the actions/outcomes within the Meremere Community Committee plan.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

The Meremere Community Committee adopted their Community Board Plan in 2024, which outlined their vision for the following two (2) years.

Following the adoption of the plan the Community Led Development Advisor continued to work with the board on the action plan which would determine the outputs for which the Board could report on and measure achievements.

The Democracy Team have worked with the Community Led Development Advisor to create a report template which would provide each of the actions and for future reports will request updates from members prior to the agenda closing to enable these to be placed against the action plan.

This report also provides an opportunity for the organisation to provide updates on activities/initiatives they are involved with that tie into the plan.

This will enable the community to see prior to the meeting whether there is something they would like to provide the board with feedback on and provide another mechanism for the community to engage with the Board at their six-weekly meetings.

3. Staff recommendations **Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi**

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Meremere Community Committee Action Plan update for September 2025.

4. Background **Koorero whaimaarama**

In June 2023, Her Worship the Mayor invited Community Board and Committee members to meet with her and Councillors to workshop how the partnership with Council could be improved and strengthened, to drive better outcomes for communities.

Follow up meetings between Board and Committee members with Council Managers from Democracy and Economic and Community Led Development agreed that Boards and Committees would focus on leadership on the 4 Wellbeing's, Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental.

In November 2023, a dedicated Council staff resource to this work programme was identified and has been working closely with members of Boards and Committees to develop their framework and future work programme of focus.

It could also enable more regular updates from the organisation that tie in with board priorities. As a result, a number of hui have been held with the Community Committee to identify to establish its direction and priorities for the next two (2) years. To this end, it has developed a plan for a two year period that outlines its goals and aspirations that it is wanting to achieve under each of the 4 well-beings, including goals around engagement.

5. Community Committee Priorities **Ngaa Whakaarotau o te Komiti Hapori**

The Meremere Community Committee five (5) priorities are as follow:

1. Te Taiao – Supporting the enhancement of our environment.
 2. Kotahitanga (Unity) – Valuing our diverse community.
 3. Engagement – Connecting our community to what matters most.
 4. Successful and thriving – Helping the community prosper.
 5. Inclusive – Advocate for community strength.
-

5.1 Te Taiao (Environment)

- 5.1.1 *We will work with others to develop an awareness of the existing organisations, community groups and individuals working on environmental projects and initiatives.*
- 5.1.2 *We have a unique environment with the Whangamarino Wetland, which covers 7,000ha in the Waikato. It has major recreational, historical and economic values and has been designated an international Ramsar site in recognition of its status as an area of outstanding biodiversity. We will partner with others to understand the recovery and implications on the Whangamarino Wetland.*

September Update

Members from the Meremere Community Committee have begun building connections with Predator Free Pookeno to investigate how Meremere could expand their anti pest program in the community. The committee are also looking at building connections with the Whangamarino Wetland Group.

Members may have additional updates to add

5.2 Kotahitanga (Unity)

- 5.2.1 *We will actively promote and celebrate local events that focus on significant cultural events in Meremere.*
- 5.2.2 *We will continue to build and strengthen our relationship with Mana Whenua.*

September Update

The Community Committee noted the upcoming 10th anniversary of the community centre. The hall committee plans to hold a special community event which the community committee had supported with funding - Members may have additional updates to add

5.3 Engagement (Tuuhononga)

- 5.3.1 *As representatives of our community, if Council want to engage on specific matters, we will engage our community using various channels, in partnership with the Council, to increase engagement on these on matters of interest to ensure the voice of our community, including the voice of mana whenua, is well represented on matters relating to Meremere.*
-

September Update

The committee are continuing with their goal of building better engagement with the community and have recently sort feedback on several issues in the community. Members may have additional updates to add

5.4 Successful and Thriving (Te Houkura me te Toonuitanga)

5.4.1 *Promote and advocate for local employment opportunities.*

5.4.2 *Understand future planning for Meremere and advocate for economic opportunities that benefit the community.*

September Update

Members from the Meremere Community Committee continue to engage with businesses who are looking at moving into the community whilst also encouraging the employment of locals – members may have verbal updates to add.

5.5 Inclusive (Kauawhi)

5.5.1 *Social cohesion is key to ensuring our community feel connected, safe and welcome. To do this we will advocate and work with others to enhance our public spaces.*

5.5.2 *We will undertake a stocktake of what social services and social activities are available for our community,*

September Update

The Meremere Community Committee continue to work on addressing community inclusivity whilst suggestions by members have also been recorded to research what the community needs on the ground to support them.

The community are also planning to encourage the community through a “Call to Action” to support the community gardens.

Fifty welcome packs were printed to provide for new members of the Meremere Community- members may have verbal updates to add.

6. Next steps

Ahu whakamua

The committee will report back at the next meeting in six weeks with its updated reports on the delivery of its action plan.

7. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

There are no attachments for this report.

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Discretionary Fund Report to 30 June 2025
Date:	4 September 2025
Report Author:	J Schimanski, Support Accountant
Authorised by:	Alison Diaz, Chief Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to update the Meremere Community Committee on the Discretionary fund spend to date, commitments and balance as at 30 June 2025.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee;

- a) receives the report and note, no minutes have been received for the following meetings held: 2 May 2024, 13 June 2024, 25 July 2024, 5 September 2024, 17 October 2024 and 28 November 2024.**
 - b) notes the financial information for carry forwards 25/26 have not been updated into the financial system as at 4 September 2025, once received the DF reports will be updated.**
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3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Discretionary Fund report to 30 June 2025

MEREMERE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT 2024/25 (July 2024- June 2025)
As at Date: 30-Jun-2025

	GL	10-2090-0000-00-25904
2024/25 Annual Plan		1,550.00
Carry forward from 2023/24		13,448.61
Total Funding		14,998.61
Income		
Total Income		-
Expenditure		<i>excl GST</i>
18-Oct-24 Commitment of \$500.00 to the Community Response MMCC2308/01 Group per year		500.00
Total Expenditure		500.00
Net Funding Remaining (Excluding commitments)		14,498.61
Commitments		<i>excl GST</i>
Commitment of \$500.00 to the Community Response MMCC2308/01 Group per year		500.00
Total Commitments		500.00
Net Funding Remaining (Including commitments)		13,998.61

Open – Information only

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Meremere Works & Issues Report – September 2025
Date:	4 September 2025
Report Author:	Karen Bredesen, Executive Assistant to the General Manager Service Delivery
Authorised by:	Kirsty Wellington, Enterprise Project Management Office Manager

1. Purpose of the report Te Take moo te puurongo

To update the Committee and provide information on works and issues raised at previous meetings.

2. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Works & Issues Report be received.

3. Attachments Ngaa taapirihanga

Attachment 1 – Works and Issues Report – September 2025

Works and Issues Report – September 2025

	Issue	Area	Action
1.	CCTV Update	Mel Tarawhiti, Facilities Services Manager	Enabling works across the district have started, contractor currently working with service companies. Working with NZ Police to discuss detail of software system compatibility. The tender for installation is still active and will be reviewed once confirmation of software compatibility is finalised.