



Te Kauwhata Community Committee Plan 2024-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS



01

**A message from your
community committee**

Page 2

02

**About community
committees**

Page 3

03

**Our community
outcomes**

Page 4

04

Our vision

Page 5

05

Our priorities

Page 6

06

Map of community area

Page 11

07

**Key amenities and
facilities**

Page 12

08

**Community committee
investment**

Page 13

09

**Your community
committee**

Page 14

A message from your Community Committee

The Te Kauwhata Community Committee is elected every 3 years by the people of Te Kauwhata. The next election is November 2025.

Currently, there are 11 voluntary members who meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month in the Ambulance rooms in Baird Road.

Our aims are to:

- listen to the community.
- Promote and advocate for projects that will enhance Te Kauwhata.
- Work with our Councillors and community to give feedback to Council.

We work with Ngā Muka Development Trust, the Te Kauwhata Events Committee, the Te Kauwhata Community House, sports clubs, the A&P Show Committee, and other organisations to help build a cohesive development of Te Kauwhata. This ties back to the four wellbeings that we follow - economic, social, environmental, cultural.

Te Kauwhata is a fast growing area in the Waikato, and over the next decade will see changes that will enhance the village economically, socially, environmentally, and culturally.

We are close to Whangamarino Wetlands and Lake Waikare. The development at Lakeside and the new Sleepyhead factory are all part of our growth along the Expressway corridor.

This plan is a living document and will evolve with time. We look forward to working in partnership with mana whenua, Ngā Muka, Waikato District Council, and our local community.



About Community Committees

Community Committees play an important role in local governance and citizen-led democracy, serving as the primary link between the local community and the Council. We are your representatives at council, and respected connectors into the community.

Our roles are governed by the Local Government Act 2002. Some of the roles specified are:

- The key connector between the community and council.
- Advocate for and represent the interests of our community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to us by the council, or any other matter of interest to us as a committee.
- Keep track of the services provided by the council in our community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the council for expenditure within our community.
- Engage with organisations and special interest groups within the local community.

Community Committee Plans

Community Committee Plans are developed every three years and outline our key priorities for our elected term. They also indicate how we will work in partnership with locals and mana whenua to achieve the Council's community outcomes.

A key part of the development of our plan is engagement with locals to ensure that our priorities reflect the needs and desires of our community.



Our Community Outcomes



Everything we do is aimed at improving the wellbeing of the people that live, work, and explore the Waikato District. Our Community outcomes are developed under the four wellbeing pillars and describe what we want to achieve for the Waikato District into the future.



Cultural

We celebrate who we are.

We celebrate all cultures. We treasure our diverse communities, and acknowledge our cultural rights and obligations. We honour, understand and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledge the relationship with mana whenua of our district.



Economic

We support local prosperity.

We champion sustainable growth in our local economy. We support local enterprise and encourage innovation and socio-economic prosperity for all, while managing regulatory processes to protect and promote our unique district. We acknowledge our rural and Maaori economies as key contributors to our district's prosperity and sustainability.



Environmental

Our environmental health underpins the health of our people.

We want waterways which are healthy and create connections. We protect and enhance our soils, water and native biodiversity and take care of our taiao (natural environment) for the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities and for future generations.



Social

We have well connected communities.

Our communities are connected, safe, accessible and resilient. We put community wellbeing at the heart of our decisions, and we embrace partnerships to get things done to improve people's lives.



Our Vision

“Listen to and work with the community, mana whenua, partners and other organisations to protect, grow and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic prosperity of the Te Kauwhata area to enable a connected, diverse and thriving community.”

Our vision statements:

- Our focus is to enhance environmental, cultural, social and economic prosperity.
- We are committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthening our partnerships with hapuu and iwi to improve our well-being.
- The views, interests, needs and aspirations of residents are effectively represented.
- We have an open and transparent decision-making process that residents can understand and engage in.
- To have a strong relationship with our community as a respected arm of Waikato District Council.
- To have a strong relationship with Council so that the voice of our community is kept well-informed of things happening in our area.

Our priorities

Cultural Wellbeing

Grow and strengthen our partnerships with mana whenua, Ngā Muka Development Trust, Waikato District Council and the local community to build enduring relationships.

This matters because...

The Te Kauwhata Community Committee, alongside mana whenua is kaitiaki (guardian) of an area with a unique natural environment and significant heritage. It actively promotes, arts, culture, and heritage by valuing diversity and fostering inclusion and connectivity across Te Kauwhata. It is also committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



Our commitment

- Promote and celebrate arts, culture and heritage to encourage strength, togetherness and belonging.
- Continue to strengthen our relationship with mana whenua to ensure their input and perspective is heard.
- Work in partnership with mana whenua around education and promotion of our unique environment and significant heritage.
- Be the conduit to the community through regular hui with the Council to ensure that our cultural wellbeing is enhanced for Te Kauwhata.
- Promote and educate, in partnership with mana whenua, Waitangi Day and Matariki.

- Promote and advocate for Te Reo to be used in signage.
- Advocate for signage to outline our local history.
- The Committee will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing cultural wellbeing.
- The Committee will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations that our community wants to undertake.

Success looks like...

- Increased signage that provides education on our significant heritage.
- Regular hui is being held with mana whenua.
- Arts are celebrated and actively promoted in Te Kauwhata.

Economic Wellbeing

Growth, investment, and tourism are encouraged, and the dollar is spent in Te Kauwhata.

This matters because...

A thriving economy is dependent on growth, investment, and tourism and all have a considerable positive impact on Te Kauwhata through business creation, increased workforce, youth employment and visitor attraction.

Our commitment

- Advocate and lobby for land to be designated appropriately to enable growth and investment to occur.

- Advocate and promote the connection with Rangiriri, Te Kauwhata and the Te Araroa Trail to attract visitors.
- Promote our significant natural environment, such as the Whangamarino Wetland, as an environmental tourism opportunity.
- Coordinate a meeting between Council and the Community Committee to discuss planning options for future residential and commercial growth.
- Partner with organisations and local business to offer the right support to support our young people into employment.
- Work with our youth and other organisations to ensure that our young people are well positioned for sustainable career pathways.
- Advocate for the beautification of the Main Street in Te Kauwhata.
- Promote and advocate for tourism opportunities to attract visitors to our community.
- We as a Committee will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing economic wellbeing.
- As a committee we will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations that our community wants to undertake

Success looks like...

- A meeting has been coordinated with the Strategic Planning Team to identify future growth and commercial land opportunities.
- The Committee has actively promoted and advocated for growth, investment and tourism for Te Kauwhata.

- Youth to employment sessions have been held in partnership with others.
- Discussions with the schools, mana whenua, and other organisations on sustainable career pathways are underway.
- Relationships have been built and a networking hui held with local business to showcase the Committee's priorities regarding economic wellbeing and youth to local employment.

Environmental Wellbeing

Protect, enhance and educate on biodiversity of our taonga.

This matters because...

We have a unique environment with the Whangamarino Wetland, which covers 7,000 hectares 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.

As kaitiaki (guardian) alongside mana whenua of the natural environment we are here to protect, enhance and educate our communities on the tangible and intangible quality of our waterways (including Lake Waikare and the Waikato awa) to promote environmental tourism and the integrity of our waterways and natural environment for future generations.



Our commitment

- Partner with Council, the Waikato Regional Council, Waikato Tainui, mana whenua, Lower Waikato Catchment Committee and Waka Kotahi to identify the many opportunities for native planting and ecological restoration.
- Hold community days, in partnership with other organisations, to educate and encourage the preservation and enhancement of our natural environment and biodiversity. This includes education on the Whangamarino wetland.
- Establish a group of local volunteers passionate about protecting and enhancing our natural environment to assist in the education of our community.
- Encourage and support community-led resilience planning.
- Encourage the use of ecological initiatives to mitigate natural hazards where appropriate.
- The Committee will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing environmental wellbeing.
- The Committee will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations that our community wants to undertake.



Success looks like...

- A meeting with Council, Waikato Regional Council, Waikato Tainui, mana whenua, Waikato District Council, Lower Waikato Catchment Committee and Waka Kotahi to discuss opportunities for native planting and ecological restoration is held.
- An education day is held with the community to promote the importance of our protecting and preserving our natural environment and biodiversity in partnership with others.
- Signage has increased around the biodiversity values.
- Committee members have established a group of passionate individuals within the community to support and assist with environmental initiatives within the community.
- Resilience planning for Te Kauwhata has been promoted through various channels.

Social Wellbeing

Improve social cohesion to ensure communities are connected and feel a sense of belonging.

This matters because...

- With continued population growth and changing demographics in Te Kauwhata it is vital that our youth and our seniors feel valued and respected, that we continue to have strong transport links, and appropriate infrastructure to ensure safe passage within our community.

It is also important that our youth have a voice within our community and are appropriately represented on decisions that will impact them into the future.

Our commitment

- Advocate for buses, rail, cycleways, green spaces.
- Identify and promote social activities such as ANZAC day, Splash'n'Dash, Christmas Parade, Matariki celebrations, Waitangi Day, and Duwali.
- Strengthen our partnership with the Te Kauwhata Community House and other key partners to ensure our communities are connected through social activity.
- In partnership with others, scope a welcome pack for new residents to Te Kauwhata.
- Undertake a stocktake of what activities are available in Te Kauwhata and promote these activities through various communication channels.
- Advocate for walkways to enable connectivity and safe passage through our community.
- Engage passionate individuals in its community to develop welcome packs for new people into the community.
- The Committee will support discretionary funding on projects aligned to enhancing social wellbeing.
- The Committee we will support community-led development with letters of support for our community's priorities identified through the Blueprints and other community aspirations that our community wants to undertake.



Success looks like...

- The Committee has actively promoted social activity across its community using multiple communication channels.
- The Committee has conducted a stocktake of all social activity within its community.
- Our community will be aware of the different social activities available to them within the Te Kauwhata community.
- Communities will have access to local community facilities.

Engagement

We are committed to citizen-led decision-making.

This matters because...

Engagement is vital for fostering a strong sense of community and leads to better wellbeing outcomes for our communities. We are representative of the community that elected us to office, therefore it is important that we bring the voice of our people to the decision-making table.

Our commitment

- Build capability in our community around Council processes for example, Long Term Plans, Annual Plans, Policy Reviews and other matters that Council is seeking consultation on.
- Through its partnership with Council the Community Committee will be the main conduit out to its community to increase participation in citizen led decision-making.

- Engage with our community on plans in the Te Kauwhata area using a variety of communication channels.
- Facilitate community hui on matters of interest to ensure the voice of the community, including the voice of mana whenua, is well represented within our decision-making.
- Identify key stakeholders within our community and strengthen our relationships with them.
- Continue to strengthen our relationship with local Marae and hapu groups.
- Co-opt passionate individuals to support the Community Committee when required.

Success looks like...

- Relationships with key stakeholders are being fostered and nurtured.
- The community is using Council systems for their requests.
- Increased numbers of submissions are evidenced on areas that the community feel strongly about.
- Regular communication to the community following Community Committee meetings and on matters directly relating to the Te Kauwhata community is made.
- Increased levels of community involvement on matters and issues that relate to them.







Key amenities and services

Council Facilities



1 Library and
Council Services Centre



4 Council parks

Community and Education



1 Community house



1 Retirement village



1 Primary school, 1 secondary school, 1 playcentre,
4 daycare centres

Emergency Services



1 Volunteer
fire brigade



1 Ambulance
service



1 Police
station

Recreation and shopping



Te Kauwhata offers
a range of recreational
activities for all ages.



2 Shopping
Areas

TE KAUWHATA

Community Committee Investment

The Te Kauwhata Community Committee has limited funding available for allocation each year.

The Discretionary Fund is open for applications all year, from 1 July to 30 June. The purpose of this fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other council funding criteria and/or closing dates.

If you would like to apply for funding, or for more information, please visit [waikatodistrict.govt.nz/community-funding-grants](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/community-funding-grants) or scan the below QR code.





Your Community Committee



John Cunningham
Chairperson



Tim Hinton
Deputy Chair



**Angela Van de
Munckhof**



Courtney Howells



Whitney Totorewa



Estelle Jonathan



Ian Wrigley



Jo Gurnell



Liz Tupuhi



Lauren Hughes



**Councillor Marlene
Raumati**

CREATING
LIVEABLE, THRIVING
+ CONNECTED
COMMUNITIES

Waikato



District Council
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato