

Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board Plan 2026-2029

NPDC

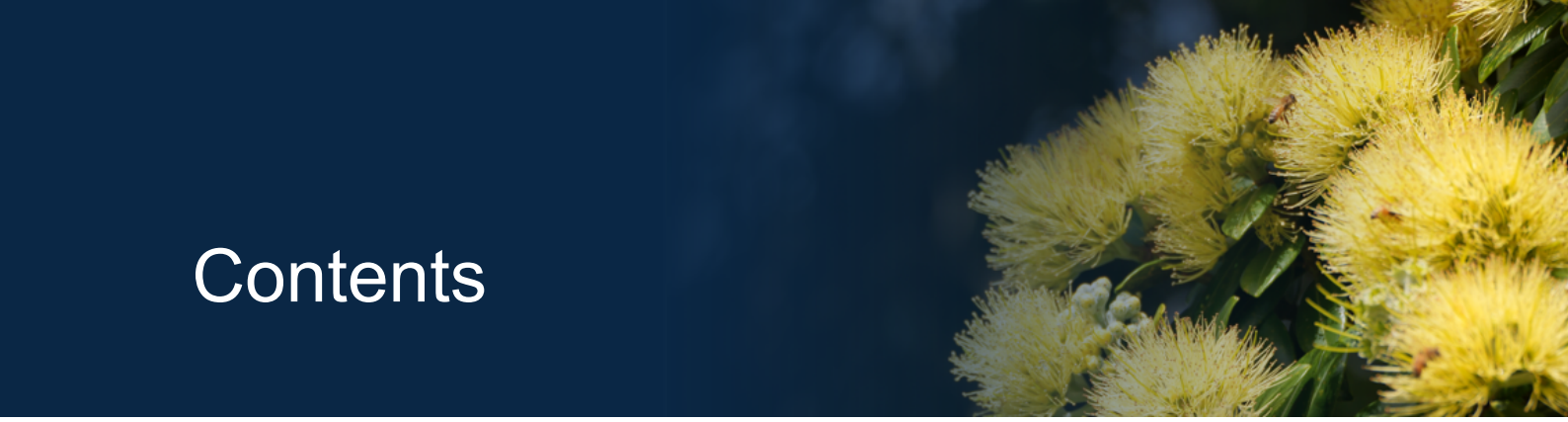
Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026



This Plan outlines the vision and aspirations for the Puketapu–Bell Block Community Board area, reflecting what matters most to the local community. It helps guide New Plymouth District Council's decisions about where effort, investment and action are needed.

The Community Board sincerely thanks community members, Council officers and elected members who contributed their time, feedback and ideas during the development of this Plan.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026



Contents

Message from the Chair **2**

Meet the Board Members 2025-2028 ..... **6**

About Community Boards **7**

What Community Boards do 7

How Community Boards fit within Council 7

Community Board funding 8

Upcoming representation review 8

Developing our Plan **9**

Delivering our Plan **9**

Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board area **11**

Key statistics **12**

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework **13**

Our Vision and what we're focusing on **14**

Focus Area 1: Planning for Growth 17

Priority 1: Implement the Bell Block Spatial Plan. 17

Priority 2: Strengthen Connected Local Centres. 17

Priority 3: Plan Infrastructure Before Growth. 17

Focus Area 2: Connecting our Community 19

Priority 1: Deliver Strategic Transport Connections. 20

Priority 2: Improve Safety and Accessibility. 20

Priority 3: Balance Growth, Industry and Movement. 20

Focus Area 3: Great Places and Spaces 22

Priority 1: Deliver Community Infrastructure for Growth 22

Priority 2: Enhance great places and spaces 22

Priority 3: Create places people are proud of 23

Focus Area 4: Thriving Communities 25

Priority 1: Strengthen Community Connections. 25

Priority 2: Celebrate Our Identity, Heritage and Partnership. 26

Priority 3: Strengthen a Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Community. 26

Last triennium's advocacy and discretionary projects **28**

Message from the Chair

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Building a community doesn't happen by chance.

It happens by design.

It has been a genuine privilege to serve as the inaugural Chair of the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board, working alongside a dedicated team of fellow board members, our ward councillor, Council officers and, most importantly, our community.

One of our first priorities was to listen. Through extensive engagement with residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders, we developed our first Community Board Plan. That plan became far more than a document—it became our roadmap for advocacy, investment and decision-making throughout the past three years.

Our area has a rich Māori history and a strong cultural identity. During this triennium, we also established a close working relationship with Puketapu Hapū, initially under the leadership of Peter Moeahu and now Kelsey Waitere (Puketapu Hapū Trustee). That relationship has been built on mutual trust, respect and a shared commitment to creating a thriving community through collaboration, good planning and thoughtful design.

The Community Board Plan enabled us to advocate strongly for the investment our growing community needs. It has helped shape Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP), informed discussions with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and provided a clear evidence base for the priorities our community has consistently identified.

We are proud of what has been achieved during this triennium, but there is still much work ahead. Bell Block is the fastest-growing community in the New Plymouth District, and while that growth brings exciting opportunities, it also places increasing pressure on roads, infrastructure, community facilities and public spaces. Addressing decades of underinvestment will require sustained investment through future Long-Term Plans, central government agencies and strong partnerships across our community.

This plan builds on that momentum.

Delivering for Our Community

Throughout this triennium, the Board has delivered projects through its discretionary funding while also advocating for larger investments that will shape our community for decades to come.

Community Projects Highlights

- New Bell Block Beach BBQ facility featuring two accessible BBQs, covered seating, improved lighting, upgraded toilet lighting and an additional streetlight to improve safety and encourage greater use of this popular community space.
- New fitness activity station at Hickford Park, providing additional recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Advocacy Highlights

The Board has also successfully advocated for several significant initiatives, including:

- Continued advocacy for the critical Parklands Road to Airport Drive connection, including the Waitaha Stream bridge, recognising that this essential transport link needs to be delivered by Council rather than relying on future private development. This connection is vital if our growing community is to benefit from the new De Havilland Drive/Airport Drive State Highway intersection planned for 2027.
- The installation of two high-powered CCTV cameras in Bell Block Court, monitored by the New Zealand Police Crimewatch Team, which are already making a positive contribution to community safety.

Bell Block Spatial Plan – Our North Star

Perhaps the most significant achievement of this triennium has been securing Council's commitment to prepare a Spatial Plan for Bell Block.

Like many growing communities, Bell Block has developed over many decades under planning frameworks that did not always provide the strategic direction needed to create a well-connected, balanced community. While the new District Plan provides stronger guidance for future development, we still face the legacy of fragmented growth, limited commercial centres, traffic congestion and the physical division created by State Highway 3—a challenge planners refer to as *severance*.

With more than 3,000 additional residents expected over the next decade, future growth must be planned rather than simply accommodated.

So, what is a Spatial Plan?

The simplest way to describe it is as a long-term blueprint for our community. It is a visual, evidence-based plan that looks 30 years into the future and considers how Bell Block should evolve as it grows. It brings together transport, housing, commercial development, community facilities, parks and open spaces, environmental outcomes, climate resilience, infrastructure, cultural identity and the aspirations of our community into one integrated vision.

Although a Spatial Plan is non-statutory, its value is significant. It provides the evidence, strategic direction and community mandate needed to influence future Long-Term Plans, transport investment, infrastructure planning and funding decisions. It gives everyone—Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, developers, iwi and the wider community—a shared vision of where Bell Block is heading.

For me, the Spatial Plan represents our North Star.

It will help ensure that future decisions are made with a long-term view, rather than responding to growth one project at a time. Most importantly, it gives our Community Board a powerful platform from which to continue advocating for the investment our community deserves.

The Spatial Plan is expected to be completed during the third quarter of this year and will play an important role in shaping Council's future Long-Term Plan and investment priorities.

As you read this Community Board Plan, I encourage you to think not only about the next three years, but about the community we want future generations to inherit. Together, we have made a strong start. Together, we can continue building a connected, vibrant and resilient Puketapu-Bell Block.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Adrian Sole
Chair
Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Meet the Board Members 2025-2028



Adrian Sole
Chair

Phone: 021 866 338
Email: adrian.sole@npdc.govt.nz



Mike Baker
Deputy Chair

Phone: 027 458 9452
Email: mike.baker@npdc.govt.nz



Lance Mepham

Phone: 027 380 1355
Email: lance.mepham@npdc.govt.nz



Kim Sowman

Phone: 021 202 7255
Email: kim.sowman@npdc.govt.nz



Cr EJ Barrett
Appointed Puketapu-Bell Block Ward Councillor
Email: ej.barrett@npdc.govt.nz

The Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board meets monthly at 4.30pm in the Fred Tucker Memorial Community Centre.

These meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes for each meeting can be found on the Council's website at npdc.govt.nz/meetings

If you would like speaking rights at a Board meeting please contact NPDC's Governance Team by emailing governanceteam@npdc.govt or phoning 06 759 6060.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

About Community Boards

Community boards play an important role in local decision-making. They are the main link between local communities and the New Plymouth District Council, helping ensure that local voices, issues, and ideas are heard.

There are five community boards in the New Plymouth District.

Community Board members and Councillors are elected every three years during local body elections. A ward councillor is appointed to each community board.

What Community Boards do

Community Boards focus on what matters to their local area. Their key responsibilities include:

- Representing and advocating for the interests of their community.
- Raising issues or reporting on matters referred to them by the Council, or anything of local interest.
- Keeping an overview of Council services in their area.
- Providing input into Council budgets by preparing an annual submission on local priorities.
- Connecting with community groups, organisations, and residents.

Community Boards spend much of their time working directly with people in the community - listening, supporting, and helping raise matters with the Council.

How Community Boards fit within Council

Community Boards are not committees of Council. They are independent, unincorporated bodies that provide a strong voice for communities outside the New Plymouth city area.

Compared with Councillors, Community Board members typically spend more time on direct representation and local issues, and less on formal governance work.

Community Boards operate under the Local Government Act 2002, which sets out how they work and also places limits on what they can do, e.g. Community Boards cannot own or sell property, or appoint or manage staff.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Community Board funding

There are several ways Community Board initiatives can be funded. Council makes decisions on major investments, such as new facilities or major upgrades, including any large projects proposed by Community Boards.

Some projects may also require external funding. Council officers can assist Community Boards with preparing applications to external funders.

Each Community Board is allocated $150,000 per year of discretionary funding, in line with the Community Boards Discretionary Funding Framework, to support minor local projects and initiatives.

Upcoming representation review

Every council must review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. New Plymouth District Council last completed its review in 2021, and the next review will take place before the 2028 local elections.

The review looks at how Councillors and Community Board members are elected, including decisions on:

- Whether Community Boards should exist
- The boundaries of each Community Board area
- The number of members on each board
- Whether Community Board areas should be subdivided, similar to electoral wards

The review helps ensure fair and effective representation for all communities in the district.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Developing our Plan

This draft Community Board Plan has been shaped by the voices of our community.

Between March and June 2026, we undertook one of the most comprehensive community engagement programmes the Board has undertaken. This included online and paper surveys, an online Pinpoint mapping exercise, and valuable insights gathered through the concurrent Bell Block Spatial Plan engagement programme, including the Citizens' Panel.

We also engaged directly with residents, businesses, community groups, organisations and Puketapu Hapū across the Puketapu–Bell Block area. Together, these conversations helped identify the issues, opportunities and aspirations that matter most to our community and have directly informed the vision, focus areas, priorities and advocacy contained within this plan.

The Community Board Plan and Bell Block Spatial Plan have been developed alongside one another, ensuring both documents reflect the same community aspirations while serving different purposes. Together, they provide a strong evidence base to guide future advocacy, investment and long-term planning.

We sincerely thank everyone who took the time to contribute their ideas, experiences and local knowledge. Your input has been invaluable in helping shape a draft plan that reflects the aspirations of our community.



Delivering our Plan

Delivering this plan will require many people working together—our community, the Community Board, New Plymouth District Council, Puketapu Hapū, government agencies and

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

community organisations. While the Community Board has an important leadership and advocacy role, achieving our vision will rely on strong partnerships and a shared commitment to our community's future.

To bring this plan to life, we will:

- Prioritise our discretionary funding towards initiatives that align with this plan.
- Advocate strongly for the infrastructure and investment our growing community needs.
- Work collaboratively with Council officers to help shape planning, projects and services.
- Partner with community groups, Puketapu Hapū, businesses and other organisations to support local initiatives.
- Continue listening to our community, so this plan remains relevant as our area continues to grow.

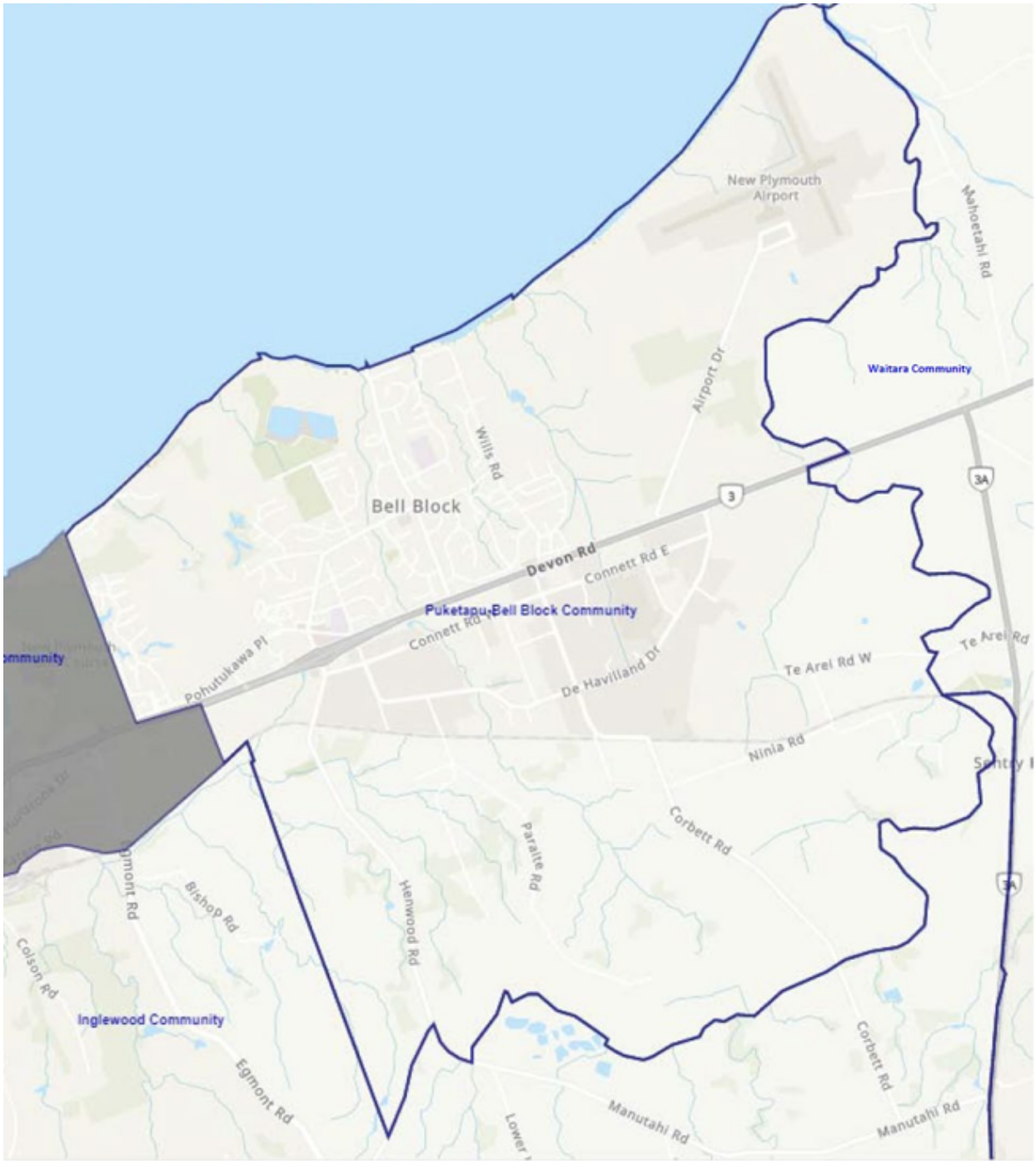
Many of the priorities identified in this plan sit outside the Community Board's direct funding or decision-making powers. Where this is the case, we will continue to advocate strongly to New Plymouth District Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, central government and other organisations to ensure the needs and aspirations of the Puketapu–Bell Block community are recognised and acted upon.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board area

The Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board is part of the Kaitake-Ngāmotu Ward. Its geographic area extends along State Highway 3 from New Plymouth Golf Club, encompassing the Bell Block residential area through to north of the New Plymouth Airport to Mahoetahi Road, and including the district's heavy and medium industry developments.

The iwi within this rohe are Te Atiawa.



Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Key statistics

This section provides an overview of key statistics for the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board area. Data is sourced from Census 2023, Regional Economic Profile 2025 and Real Estate NZ 2025 Data.

(Figures in grey are for the New Plymouth District as a comparison)

Population:

8,865

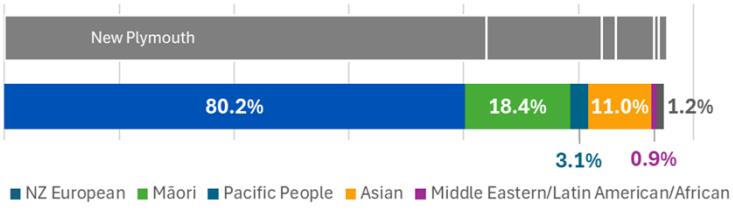
10% of District

927 More people Since 2018

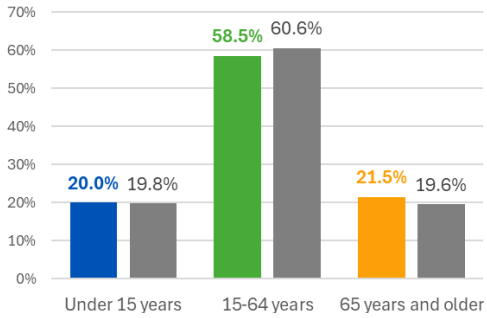
Median Age:

40.6 40.7

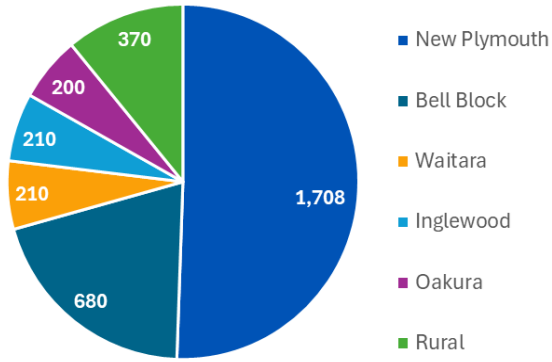
Ethnicity:



Age Profile:



Dwelling Growth next 10 Years:



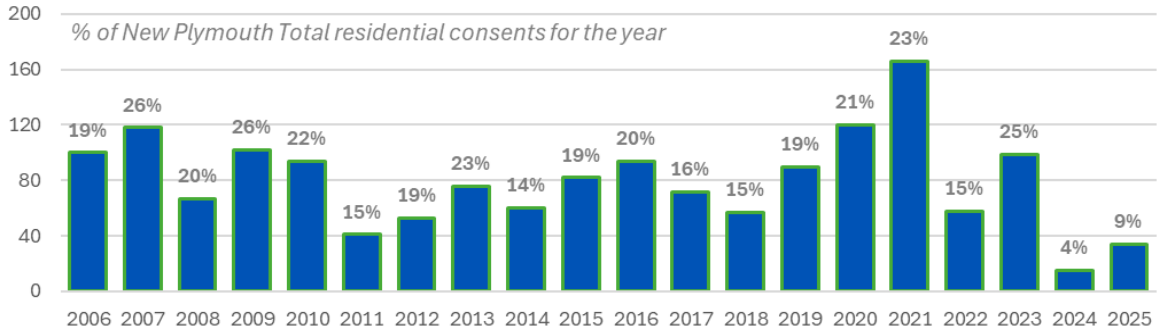
Median House Price:

$703,500 $680,083

Median Rent Price:

$630pw $557pw

Residential Building Consents last 20 years:



Median Household Income:

$93,700

$86,400

Top 3 Business Units by Industry:

17% Rental, hiring and real estate services

14% Construction

10% Manufacturing

19% Rental, hiring and real estate services
13% agriculture, forestry and fishing
12% Construction

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

New Plymouth District Council's Strategic Framework

NPDC's Strategic Framework outlines the Council's vision, mission and goals, which together represent the community outcomes. It is widely used across the organisation and is a key foundation for developing the Long-Term Plan 2027-2037. Community Board projects and initiatives are therefore expected to align with the Strategic Framework.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Thriving Today, Resilient Tomorrow
Matomato i te ao, Manawaroa i te pō

Goals (Community Outcomes)
Ngā whāinga (Ngā putanga mō te hapori)



People live well, now and into the future

Needs are met and people feel physically, socially and economically secure

Ka ora pai te iwi ināianei ā, haere ake nei

E whakatutuki ana ngā hiahia kia ora ai te taha tinana, te taha hapori me te ōhangatanga hoki



Core infrastructure is reliable and fit for purpose

Essential services are efficient, resilient and future-ready

He kaha, ā e hāngai ana ngā hanganga matua ki te pūtake

He rawe, he aumangea ngā ratonga matua haere nei te wā, haere nei te wā



A strong, diverse economy that is agile in a changing world

Employment, innovation, private sector partnerships and enterprise support people and businesses to thrive

He ōhanga kanorau e moruki ana i te ao hurihuri

Nā te mahi, te auahatanga, ngā hinonga me te rāngai tūmataiti, e ora ai te tāngata me ngā pakihi



Communities are connected, heard, and proud to live here

Our decisions reflect community voices, strong partnerships, and care for people, place and the natural environment

E honohono ana, e rangona ana, e whakahīhī hoki ana ngā hapori o te rohe

Ka whakaata ngā whakataunga i te reo o te hapori, ngā ara tūhonohono me te manaakitanga o te tangata, te whenua me te taiao

Our Vision and what we're focusing on

This section outlines the Puketapu–Bell Block Community Board's vision for the future and the key focus areas that will guide our work over the next three years.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Our vision has been shaped by extensive community engagement and reflects what our community values most—protecting the unique character of Puketapu–Bell Block while planning for sustainable growth. The focus areas that follow identify where the Board will concentrate its efforts through leadership, advocacy, partnerships and targeted investment to achieve positive outcomes for our community.

Each focus area includes a summary of the opportunities and challenges, the Board's priorities, areas where we will advocate to Council and other organisations, and projects that may be supported through our discretionary funding.

Our Vision:

"A connected, thriving coastal community where growth is carefully planned, infrastructure keeps pace, and the unique character of Puketapu–Bell Block is protected for future generations."

With one of the fastest-growing populations in the New Plymouth District, our challenge is not simply accommodating growth—it is ensuring growth strengthens the community we value today while creating an even better place for future generations.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

OUR VISION

A connected, thriving coastal community where growth is carefully planned, infrastructure keeps pace, and the unique character of Puketapu–Bell Block is protected for future generations.



PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Shaping the future of our community.

We plan ahead to ensure our growth is well managed, infrastructure-ready and aligned with our community's needs and aspirations.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Connecting people, places and opportunity.

We advocate for safe, efficient and sustainable transport options that connect our neighbourhoods, support local businesses and strengthen access to regional opportunities.

GREAT PLACES & SPACES

Creating places people love.

We support the development and enhancement of community facilities, parks, public spaces and key amenities that make Puketapu–Bell Block a great place to live, work and play.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Strengthening the people and partnerships that make our community unique.

We celebrate our identity and heritage, strengthen partnerships and support initiatives that build a safe, inclusive, resilient and connected community where people belong.

HOW WE DELIVER

LEADERSHIP
Strong local governance and decision-making that puts our community first.

ADVOCACY
Advocating for the investment, services and infrastructure our community needs.

PARTNERSHIPS
Working together with hapū, Council, agencies, businesses and community groups.

DISCRETIONARY INVESTMENT
Investing in local projects and initiatives that make a real difference.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Listening, engaging and working with our community every step of the way.

POSITIVE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Well planned and sustainable growth
- Connected people and places
- Great places to live, work and play
- A safe, inclusive and thriving community
- A strong sense of identity and belonging

Working together today for a better tomorrow

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 1: Planning for Growth

Thoughtful planning today will shape the community future generations inherit. As one of the fastest-growing areas in the New Plymouth District, it is essential that residential, commercial, recreational and industrial growth is carefully coordinated so infrastructure, services and community facilities keep pace while protecting the unique character of our community.

Together, this Community Board Plan and the Bell Block Spatial Plan provide the short and long-term blueprint to guide growth, ensuring the decisions we make today contribute to a connected, vibrant and resilient community for future generations.

Opportunities	• The Bell Block Spatial Plan provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape how our community grows over the next 30 years. • Strong population growth creates opportunities to improve community facilities, local services, employment opportunities and neighbourhood centres. • New development can enhance, rather than diminish, the character and lifestyle that attracts people to Puketapu–Bell Block.
Challenges	• Population growth continues to place increasing pressure on infrastructure, transport, community facilities and public services. • Future investment must keep pace with growth to avoid repeating the fragmented development patterns of the past. • Coordinating planning across multiple agencies, developers and funding programmes remains complex and requires ongoing advocacy.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Implement the Bell Block Spatial Plan.** • Advocate for the recommendations of the Bell Block Spatial Plan to be reflected in the Long-Term Plan, District Plan, infrastructure planning and future investment decisions. **Priority 2: Strengthen Connected Local Centres.** • Support planning that builds on Bell Block's unique network of neighbourhood centres by encouraging complementary retail, community facilities, public spaces and services that meet the needs of our growing community while retaining the distinctive character of each centre. **Priority 3: Plan Infrastructure Before Growth.** • Promote coordinated land use planning that ensures roads, parks, schools, community facilities and essential infrastructure are planned alongside future residential and commercial development.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 1: Planning for Growth

Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Implementation of the Bell Block Spatial Plan. • Alignment of future Long-Term Plans and District Plan changes with the Spatial Plan. • Integrated planning between NPDC, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Ministry of Education, Puketapu Hapū and developers. • Planning that supports high-quality urban design and protects the unique character of Puketapu–Bell Block.
Discretionary funding projects	• Community engagement initiatives supporting implementation of the Spatial Plan. • Community placemaking initiatives. • Community identity projects. • Wayfinding, interpretation and local identity projects. • Small projects that strengthen neighbourhood centres and public spaces.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 2: Connecting our Community

Puketapu–Bell Block is unique within the New Plymouth District, balancing the needs of one of the district's fastest-growing residential communities alongside one of its largest industrial and employment areas. It is also home to New Plymouth Airport and serves as a key gateway for residents, freight, businesses and visitors.

The area's transport network must support not only a growing residential population, but also the efficient movement of freight, emergency services, airport traffic and the thousands of employees who help drive the district's economy. Achieving that balance is essential to supporting both community wellbeing and economic prosperity.

Providing safe, efficient and well-connected transport networks is therefore essential to maintaining our quality of life and supporting continued economic growth. Whether travelling by car, public transport, bicycle, mobility scooter or on foot, our community wants transport choices that are safe, accessible and well planned.

State Highway 3 is both one of our greatest strengths and one of our greatest challenges. While it provides an important regional transport corridor, it also creates *severance* across our community, making it more difficult for people to move safely between neighbourhoods, schools, businesses, parks, employment areas and community facilities.

Together, this Community Board Plan, the Bell Block Spatial Plan and the planned Network Operating Framework (NOF) provide a coordinated approach to improving connectivity, supporting safer travel and planning transport infrastructure that keeps pace with future growth.

Opportunities	• The Bell Block Spatial Plan and the planned Network Operating Framework (NOF) provide a strong evidence base to improve transport connections for residents, businesses, freight and visitors while supporting future investment decisions. • Continued residential and commercial growth creates opportunities to better connect neighbourhoods, local centres, employment areas, New Plymouth Airport and regional transport networks. • Investment in walking, cycling and public transport can provide more travel choices, improve community wellbeing and reduce reliance on private vehicles where practical. • Better integration of residential, commercial and industrial transport needs can strengthen both community connectivity and economic prosperity.
Challenges	• Balancing the transport needs of a rapidly growing residential population alongside one of the district's largest industrial and employment areas. • State Highway 3 creates severance across the community, affecting safety, accessibility and connectivity for residents, workers and visitors. • Increasing freight movements, airport traffic and residential growth place growing pressure on an already constrained transport network.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 2: Connecting our Community

	• Delivering major transport improvements requires coordination and investment from multiple organisations, including New Plymouth District Council, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth Airport and private developers.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Deliver Strategic Transport Connections.** • Advocate for the timely completion of the planned Network Operating Framework (NOF) and the delivery of key transport projects identified through both the NOF and Bell Block Spatial Plan, ensuring road, walking and cycling connections support residential growth, industrial activity and future economic development. **Priority 2: Improve Safety and Accessibility.** • Support transport improvements that make it safer and easier for people of all ages and abilities to move throughout Puketapu–Bell Block, with particular emphasis on pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and those with mobility needs. **Priority 3: Balance Growth, Industry and Movement.** • Promote integrated transport planning that recognises the unique relationship between residential growth, industrial development, freight movements, New Plymouth Airport and regional transport, ensuring investment keeps pace with the evolving needs of our community.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Completion of the planned Network Operating Framework (NOF). • Delivery of transport projects identified through the Bell Block Spatial Plan and NOF. • Parklands Road to Airport Drive connection, including the Waitaha Stream bridge completion. • Improvements to State Highway 3 safety, accessibility and community connectivity. • Walking and cycling connections between neighbourhoods, schools, parks, local centres and the Coastal Walkway. • Improved public transport services and accessibility. • Transport planning that supports New Plymouth Airport, the industrial area and future employment growth. • Collaboration with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 2: Connecting our Community

	Airport, developers and neighbouring landowners to deliver integrated transport solutions.
Discretionary Funding Projects	• Walking and cycling wayfinding signage. • Community-led road safety initiatives. • Small active transport improvements. • Bike parking and supporting infrastructure at community facilities. • Projects that encourage safe, accessible and connected travel throughout the community.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 3: Great Places and Spaces

Thriving communities are supported by great places. As Puketapu–Bell Block continues to grow, our parks, beaches, community facilities, recreational spaces and public amenities must evolve to meet the needs of a larger and more diverse population.

Our community has consistently told us they value accessible, welcoming and well-maintained places where people can gather, be active, connect with others and enjoy the unique coastal lifestyle that makes Puketapu–Bell Block special. These spaces contribute not only to our quality of life but also to our sense of identity, belonging and pride in our community.

Together, this Community Board Plan and the Bell Block Spatial Plan provide the short and long-term blueprint to guide future investment in community infrastructure, ensuring today's facilities continue to meet tomorrow's needs.

Opportunities	• Population growth creates opportunities to expand and improve parks, recreation facilities and community spaces. • The Bell Block Spatial Plan provides a framework to ensure future community infrastructure is well located and meets the needs of our growing population. • Strong partnerships with Council, community organisations, Puketapu Hapū and local businesses can help deliver improved community facilities and public spaces. • Investment in high-quality public places strengthens community wellbeing, encourages active lifestyles and enhances local identity.
Challenges	• Community facilities and public amenities must keep pace with one of the fastest-growing populations in the district. • Delivering new community infrastructure often requires significant capital investment beyond the Community Board's direct funding. • Maintaining and upgrading ageing public assets while meeting the needs of future growth requires careful prioritisation and ongoing advocacy. • Balancing increased use of public spaces with protecting the natural and coastal environment.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Deliver Community Infrastructure for Growth** • Advocate for community facilities and public infrastructure that meet the needs of our growing population, ensuring investment keeps pace with residential and commercial growth. **Priority 2: Enhance great places and spaces** • Support ongoing improvements to parks, beaches, reserves, playgrounds and public spaces that

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 3: Great Places and Spaces

	encourage recreation, healthy lifestyles and opportunities for people to connect. **Priority 3: Create places people are proud of** • Promote high-quality public spaces that reflect the unique identity of Puketapu–Bell Block, are accessible to everyone and foster a strong sense of community pride and belonging.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Development of the Bell Block Community Hub, including library, public toilets and flexible community spaces. • Future investment in Bell Block Library services as part of an integrated Community Hub. • Continued advocacy for a dedicated Bell Block Fire Station to improve emergency response capability for our rapidly growing community. • Future investment in the Bell Block Aquatic Centre to meet growing community demand. • Progression of a permanent, all-year-round beach access solution at Bell Block Beach. • Continued investment in Hickford Park, Bell Block Beach and other key community reserves. • Additional public amenities including toilets, seating, shade, drinking fountains and accessible facilities where community need is identified. • Community infrastructure that supports growth across new and existing neighbourhoods.
Discretionary funding projects	• Beautification projects, including public art, murals, landscaping and initiatives that strengthen community identity. • Bell Block Beach enhancement projects that improve accessibility, safety, recreation and the overall visitor experience. • Upgrading ageing public infrastructure with durable, sustainable and lower-maintenance alternatives where appropriate. • Additional pathway lighting to improve safety and accessibility in identified walkway “black spots”. • Playground, fitness and recreation enhancements that encourage healthy, active lifestyles. • Seating, shade structures, BBQ facilities, drinking fountains and other amenities that improve parks and public spaces.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 3: Great Places and Spaces

	• Accessibility improvements that make community facilities and public spaces more welcoming and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 4: Thriving Communities

Thriving communities are built by people. While planning, transport and community infrastructure provide the foundations, it is the relationships, volunteers, local businesses, community organisations and shared experiences that create a strong sense of belonging and make Puketapu–Bell Block a great place to live.

As our community continues to grow, welcoming new residents while maintaining the strong community spirit that already exists will become increasingly important. Supporting opportunities for people to connect, celebrate, participate and contribute helps build a resilient, inclusive and vibrant community where people feel safe, valued and proud of where they live.

Together, this Community Board Plan and the Bell Block Spatial Plan recognise that successful communities are built not only through investment in infrastructure, but through strong partnerships, active participation and a shared commitment to our community's future.

Opportunities	• A strong sense of community supported by volunteers, community organisations, sports clubs, schools, local businesses and residents. • An enduring partnership with Puketapu Hapū that strengthens cultural understanding, shared stewardship and better community outcomes. • A growing population brings new skills, ideas and diversity, creating opportunities to strengthen neighbourhood connections and community participation. • Community events, arts, culture, heritage and local initiatives can celebrate the unique identity of Puketapu–Bell Block while fostering a strong sense of belonging.
Challenges	• Rapid population growth can make it more difficult to maintain the strong sense of identity and connectedness that residents value. • Community organisations and volunteers face increasing demands while often relying on limited resources and volunteer capacity. • Ensuring both new and existing residents have opportunities to connect, participate and contribute to community life. • Supporting community wellbeing, resilience and safety as our population continues to grow and diversify.
Priorities for the next three years	**Priority 1: Strengthen Community Connections.** • Support initiatives that bring people together, encourage participation and create opportunities for residents of all ages, backgrounds and cultures to connect and contribute to community life.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Focus Area 4: Thriving Communities

	Priority 2: Celebrate Our Identity, Heritage and Partnership. • Promote and celebrate the unique history, culture, heritage and character of Puketapu–Bell Block while continuing to strengthen our valued partnership with Puketapu Hapū and recognising the many people and organisations who contribute to our community. **Priority 3: Strengthen a Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Community.** • Support initiatives that strengthen community safety, wellbeing and resilience while encouraging inclusive participation, supporting volunteers and fostering strong neighbourhood connections.
Advocacy areas (Council/Government/Partners)	• Strengthening partnerships with Puketapu Hapū, community organisations, schools, sports clubs, local businesses and residents. • Supporting community events and initiatives that celebrate local identity and bring people together. • Advocacy for programmes and facilities that support youth, older adults and families. • Supporting initiatives that strengthen community safety, emergency preparedness and resilience. • Promoting inclusive and accessible community programmes and spaces that encourage participation by people of all ages and abilities. • Celebrating and protecting the history, culture and identity of Puketapu–Bell Block.
Discretionary funding projects	• Community events that encourage participation and strengthen neighbourhood connections. • Public art, heritage interpretation and projects that celebrate local identity. • Community planting days and environmental enhancement initiatives. • Youth leadership, recreation and community participation projects. • Community safety initiatives that improve neighbourhood wellbeing. • Projects that recognise and celebrate local history, culture and significant milestones. • Small projects that strengthen neighbourhood identity and encourage community pride.

NOTE: Community engagement, partnership with Puketapu Hapū, and environmental stewardship are woven throughout every focus area, ensuring our decisions reflect the

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

aspirations of our community while protecting the unique character of Puketapu–Bell Block for future generations.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Last triennium's advocacy and discretionary projects

This section outlines the Puketapu-Bell Block Community Board's previous investment in the community over the last 3 years through its discretionary fund per year and areas of advocacy that have had a positive impact on the community. These projects demonstrate how relatively modest Community Board funding can deliver meaningful improvements while leveraging much larger advocacy outcomes for our community.

Advocacy

- Spatial Plan for Bell Block. For too long, Bell Block has experienced huge growth without a master plan. This 30-year plan will be our guiding light on managing growth and enhancing what our community loves about Puketapu Bell Block!
- Highlighting that the critical Parklands Road to Airport Drive Road extension needs to be NPDC-built, as the community can't wait for developers to invest in the road/bridge infrastructure over the Waitaha Stream in time for the community to access the critical DeHavilland/Airport Drive State Highway Roundabout in late 2027.
- Changed the Bell Block Court parking times to be more suitable for the increased mixed usage.
- Nugent Street Pedestrian Crossing on Nugent Street, this safety improvement now means the most vulnerable can cross that busy street safely.
- Improved the vehicle safety access at the Summerset Village entrance/exit.
- Advocated for a disabled toilet installation in the current beach toilet block.
- Renaming Area-Q to Puketapu (New residential land developments from Wills Road to Airport Drive).
- Start up a volunteer group to enhance our walkways with clean-ups and improvements.
- Successfully changed the Coastal Reserves Management Act to enable temporary food merchants to operate at the Bell Block Beach, starting from this summer period

Discretionary projects

- The installation of two high-powered CCTV cameras in Bell Block Court, monitored by the NZ Police Crimewatch team.
- Installed two new Water Stations at Bell Block Court and the beach. Upgraded the existing station at Hickford Park.
- Installed a new BBQ facility at Bell Block Beach, with two accessible BBQs, covered seating and lights.
- Installed toilet lights and a streetlight at the beach to improve security and use.
- Installation of the Community Citrus Orchard at Gardina Avenue.
- Improved access, seating, shading and playground facilities at Gardenia Avenue
- Installed a new fitness activity station at Hickford Park.
- Approved a new BBQ facility at Hickford Park (Installation 4th Quarter 2026), with two accessible BBQs, covered seating and lights.

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth District Council

Document Set ID: 9915638
Version: 4, Version Date: 12/11/2026