

## 2021 Representation Review – Written Submissions

### Part 1 – Organisations and Groups

	Submitter	Response ID	Page No
1.	Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda	3682378	2
2.	Grey Power Kapiti Coast Assn	3682872	7
3.	Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki	3685988	13
4.	MenzShed Kapiti	3683202	19
5.	Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki	3683350	25
6.	Otaki Amicus Club	3678484	31
7.	Ōtaki Branch of NZ Society of Genealogists	3682920	35
8.	Otaki Canoe Club	3682089	39
9.	Ōtaki College	3686004	44
10.	Ōtaki Community Board	3681883	49
11.	Trustees of the Otaki Museum	3670767	69
12.	Otaki Promotions Group	3682073	78
13.	Ōtaki School	3681905	84
14.	Paekākāriki Community Board	3683236	89
15.	Paekākāriki Community Trust	3678957	104
16.	Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board	3682340	109
17.	Raumati Village Business Association	3665582	133
18.	Te Horo School	3685948	164
19.	Templeton Group	3683168	169
20.	Waikanae Beach Residents Society Incorporated	3682118	189
21.	Waikanae Community Board	3682180	196
22.	Waitohu School	3681901	205



## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682378

**First name**

Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda

**Last name**

Jock Phillips, Vice Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

No

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda Submission to the Kāpiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021

The Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda are pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission on the Kāpiti District Council Representation Review and to support our local Community Board. We are strongly opposed to the removal of community boards and especially the removal of the Ōtaki Community Board.

First it should be noted that in the past we have had excellent engagement with the Ōtaki Community Board, have received valuable support and information from the Community Board and from the establishment of the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda, we have had a Community Board member on our Trust.

Our submission is based on two viewpoints:

1. There is no evidence that community boards are deficient
2. The distinctiveness of the Ōtaki community and its emerging issues, and therefore the importance of effective Ōtaki representation to the Kāpiti District Council.

### 1. The alleged deficiency of the community boards

Surveying the information provided in association with the representation review we find few persuasive reasons for the abolition of the community boards.

The document *How can Council better represent you and your community?* States on page 10:

‘The research indicated community boards added a confusing layer of bureaucracy, particularly for our more in-need and currently disenfranchised and marginalised communities. The alternative view was that community boards can be a great tool for representation in bringing the voice of the community to Council, but they don’t have the teeth they need.’

That simply does not provide a basis for getting rid of the boards. If the boards are confusing or inadequately represent marginalised communities, then the solution surely is not to get rid of them but find ways of improving their representativeness. If the aim of the review is better representation and improved democracy, it seems absurd that getting rid of a grassroots layer of democracy is an effective solution.

If many people think that community Boards are ‘a great tool’, why not explore ways of giving them the ‘teeth they need’?

### 2. The Ōtaki community

The community board is an effective way for the Ōtaki community to express its unique set of interests to the Kāpiti District Council. Ōtaki is a distinctive part of the district for the following reasons:

- Ōtaki is demographically quite different from other parts of Kāpiti. In particular it is a much younger community and has a much higher proportion of Māori.
- Ōtaki has always had strong connections with Horowhenua and Levin and at times can feel disconnected to the Kapiti area which is so demonstrably different.

Community board representation is an important and effective way that communication is maintained.

- Ōtaki's existing connections with the rest of the Kāpiti district are hampered by transport issues: the commuter train stops at Waikanae and bus services to the south are not frequent. Community boards help shorten the sense of council's distance.
- Ōtaki has a distinctive set of cultural and social institutions such as the Otaki Kite Festival, Maoriland Film Festival, the Ōtaki museum, Raukawa marae, Rangiatea Church, the Rotunda. Such institutions require community board members who are close to the community, understand its needs and can communicate to the district council.
- There are emerging issues for Ōtaki which will require close interaction with the District Council. These include the impact of the Pekapeka to Ōtaki motorway and its impact on the main centre, the imminent restructuring of health provisions, the growth of housing and commuter accommodation as the new highways come into operation.

In sum, the Friends of the Ōtaki Rotunda can see no valid reasons why the Community Boards should be abolished; and anticipate that our community board will become progressively more valuable as the Ōtaki community deals with a major set of social and transport changes. We strongly recommend that the community boards be maintained and strengthened.



## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682872

**First name**

Grey Power Kapiti Coast Assn

**Last name**

Derek Townsend, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

0

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

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**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED



**Kapiti Coast Assn**

The Chief Executive

Kapiti Coast District Council

Po Box 60601

Paraparaumu

Dear sir

Submission on Council Representation

In briefings by staff to Council, reasons presented for the changes proposed were;

Removing confusing layers of representation and barriers to engagement

Strengthening councillors' ability to know and understand their communities

Empowering existing or new community groups to do more to foster community-led development without the barriers/layers that exist for community boards.

*Removing layers etc*

Grey Power does not find the layers confusing. There are no examples given which indicate that such a situation exists.

Community Boards do not strictly adhere to standing rules and are friendly places operating at friendly times (in the evening), and allow some interaction with those attending.

The fact that Community Board chairs attend Council meetings and add to the conversation at Council Committee meetings briefings and workshops, is an advantage that ratepayers will lose.

Grey Power has noted that the responses to public speaking at Council meetings have occasionally been totally erroneous and there is no opportunity to correct the misunderstanding unless the speaker is prepared to wait until the public forum at the end of the session.

*Barriers to community understanding of Council activities.*

While the Council uses the internet and the media to pass information to the community, the community often sees this as propaganda. It has lost faith in its Council and simply rejects any information as not being relevant to them as they believe they have little chance to amend any proposed outcome. The Council's own survey supports this.

KCGP's view is that removing Community Boards will only strengthen the view that the Council is distancing itself further from the community

Boards have been a route to Council and the problems faced by Margaret Road shopkeepers (during stormwater upgrade), Raumati South ratepayers {ants}, the Ocean Rd Hall {covid support} and the kiosk, are a few examples of approaches for assistance.

### *Improving Councillors understanding of the community.*

Councillors especially those with district wide representation would improve their understanding of community aspirations if they attended Community Boards meetings. Perhaps attendance at these meetings would improve if ratepayers new they could meet all the Councillors in a less formal setting

. At present Councillors also gain their local knowledge from Board Chairs attending Council meetings briefings and workshops. The ratepayers would also get to know the District Wide Councillors are especially those ratepayers living in other wards.

### *Grants*

How are the Community Board grants going to be managed? Will councillors hold evening meetings or will applicants who can only attend an evening session miss out? Will they be timely?

### *Empowering other groups*

The suggestion that community-led groups be given preference over individuals is counter to democracy. What are these groups, how will they be selected? How will the public know that they exist? Will they have input? Ratepayers who may be called upon to fund activities benefitting a few, will rightly be suspicious that those selected will be expected meet the desires of staff or of a group of Councillors.

### *Communities of interest*

The suggestion that Waikanae with 40% of the over 65 demographic has a community of interest with Paraparaumu does not seem credible. KCGP suggests that interviewing 150 people out 57,000 scattered over the length of the district is not a sufficient sample and 'some people' and a small minority' is certainly not a sufficient sample to 'trigger such a significant change to the democratic arrangements in Kapiti.

The question is, would the Council propose such changes if the act did not require a review?

As the old adage says "Don't fix what aint broke"

### *Effectiveness of Community Boards*

The effectiveness of the boards is limited by the delegations that the Council has given to the boards.

It seems obvious that this is an issue that has not been investigated. It is noted that the table of Councils and their Boards does not indicate the delegations that the Boards hold. Sports grounds, play grounds and open spaces come to mind.

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### *Cost of Boards*

Grey Power understands that the salaries come from the Council pool and that salaries saved will benefit the Councillors. There are still servicing costs of course.

### *Standard of Councillors*

The suggestion that the standard of representation will improve is questionable. It is (or should be) the community that decides who should represent them and the result depends upon the quality of the person who puts their name forward.

### *Conclusion*

Kapiti Coast Grey Power

- does not support the proposed the backward steps proposed and
- Community Boards be given additional delegations.

wish to be heard

Derek Townsend

Chair

4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

Contact Trevor Daniell [\[email redacted\]](#)

[phone number redacted]

A blue circular graphic with the text "Kōrero mai Have your say" in white and yellow. The word "Have" is in yellow, while "Kōrero", "mai", and "your say" are in white. The background of the graphic shows a blurred image of a modern building with large glass windows.

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
your say

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3685988

**First name**

Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki

**Last name**

Andy Fraser, Principal Ōtaki College

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

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**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## **Submission by Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki on the Kapiti Coast District Council proposal “*A fresh look at local democracy*”**

### **Summary**

The education community of Ōtaki submits that the proposed changes to representation on the Kapiti District Council are likely to further disenfranchise members of the Ōtaki community. We feel the status quo should be maintained for Ōtaki until there is a more comprehensive review of how to strengthen democratic participation and representation in Ōtaki. Our community is experiencing rapid change and it is important that we have a greater say in the issues that effect it.

### **Ōtaki is different**

Ōtaki is quite different from the rest of Kapiti. It sees itself as different and the rest of Kapiti sees it as different. As the Community Voice research says, “When we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say “Ōtaki”, and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say “Kāpiti”.

This sense of difference is unchanged since Ōtaki was first included in the Kāpiti District in 1989. Since then the approach of KCDC means that the Ōtaki community has seen little to value from being included in Kapiti and so continues to see itself as separate.

The Community Voice research identified Ōtaki as a distinct geographic community with a “distinct way of thinking and being, and political focus”.

We agree. The history of Ōtaki is different. The demographic make-up of Ōtaki is unlike the rest of Kapiti. Its population is significantly more Māori, younger, has a more diverse socio economic status and has different needs to the rest of the Kāpiti Coast.

The proposed changes give no recognition to this difference.

### **The role of the community board**

This is not to say the community board is functioning as well as it might. However, residents are able to take their concerns to the community board and know they will be heard.

But we submit that the work to make democracy function better in Ōtaki is yet to be done.

### **Ōtaki is changing**

Ōtaki is also the area in the district that is most likely to experience rapid change through population growth and land development.

There is nothing in this proposal that will strengthen Ōtaki’s ability to influence its own future. The proposal reinforces that a Kapiti-centric view of development will be the future. Ōtaki’s voice will be limited to one vote on a council of ten.

Our area’s unique identity is obliterated in this proposal through both the proposed name and the model of representation. If the long-term strategy is the assimilation of Ōtaki into the wider Kapiti interests then the proposal is a step in that direction. If the uniqueness of Ōtaki,



its history and its people are valued then further efforts are needed to strengthen our local democracy.

At a time when the uniqueness of Ōtaki is at risk, because of the changing and growing population of the region, it is critical we have an opportunity to protect what we value. We are already seeing the impact of Council decisions which permit high-density, unaffordable housing developments which were approved with no thought to their impact on the community. We are concerned about what will come next. Our current local representative tells of the struggle to be heard on behalf of Ōtaki. We do not want to lose the democratic voice of elected members on a community board and have only a single ward councillor to be the voice of Ōtaki. The proposed new support structure for councillors could equally be applied to our Community Board to improve its functioning.

## Conclusion

Moving into the future, Ōtaki should be regarded as a place that needs to be looked after and valued. Ōtaki is the next area of projected significant growth. We are acutely aware we can't stop this growth but we want a voice in how this will look! We are a key destination point from a historical perspective as one of the earliest settled towns in Aotearoa. The mana whenua are unique and we have many features on offer such as historical places, Māoriland, the kite festival. Our education ecosystem with its mix of educational choices offers more options than you can get in larger places.

How will our voice be reflected when we have not been given the courtesy of full and open consultation? This is hardly a fresh look at local democracy in action. As an education collective we strongly concur with the following conclusions based on reviews of the information we have scrutinised;

- In the publicly available information that has been reviewed, there is no substantive evidence that warrants the disestablishment of the Ōtaki Community Board; on the basis of either efficiency or effectiveness.
- There is strong evidence that Ōtaki is a discrete community of interest, the characteristics of which justify the provision of a dedicated Community Board.
- There is no evidence that supports the sole option of removing the Ōtaki Community Board, a structural change, ahead of, as an alternative first step, investing in the improvement of key processes associated with that Board.
- There is no clearly defined option to close the gap left by the Community Board going which is hardly a solid basis on which to make a robust decision.
- In view of a few vital 'strategic uncertainties' and their possible effects on Ōtaki, now is not the time to remove the Ōtaki Community Board.
- As Te Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki scrutinises its future challenges, having access to the Community Board will be invaluable.

E kii ana te korero, "Ko te kai o te rangatira he korero, he korero, he korero". Many a true word is spoken in this whakatauki – in our community this should be considered the way to do things.

Haunui a Nanaia, the great-grandson of Kupe and renowned explorer, placed his staff in the ground and stated, "This is Ōtaki". The time now comes again for us to place our staff in the ground. We need to hold fast to the one democratic voice of elected members that we have and retain the community board.

The Kapiti Coast District Council must develop the correct process so we can re-imagine what council representation could look like. We need a model that truly reflects ŌTAKI and NOT Kāpiti ki te Raki.

Submitted on behalf of Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki

Rauru Walker

Tumuaki

Ōtaki Primary School

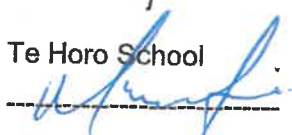
  
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Ōtaki College

Saint Peter Chanel School

  
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Te Horo School

  
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Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito

  
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Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano

  
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Waitohu School

  
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Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3683202

**First name**

MenzShed Kapiti

**Last name**

Tony Annandale, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

0

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

### Please tell us why?

We have no position on the overall number of councillors.

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

### Please tell us why?

We consider that the key issue here is to ensure that the respective communities of interest across the district are properly recognised and that wards and representation reflect those communities. That factor may be more relevant than the number of electors in each ward.

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?						

### Please tell us why?

As an organisation that draws members from across all of the communities in Kapiti, we recognise that there are differing cultural and economic interests in each community. Paraparaumu and Waikanae are distinct communities and the proposal to set up a new ward to cover both communities may not achieve the objective to “bring (electors) closer to your elected representations and decision-makers while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.”

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Please tell us why?**

We have concerns with the proposal to remove the community boards and see that proposal as directly contrary to the interests of their respective communities.

To the contrary, we see an opportunity to enhance the role of the boards and to empower them to work with their respective communities of interest to ensure that Council as a whole is better informed of the interests, needs and views of the communities across the district.

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Please tell us why?**

We have reservations that the proposed boundaries really do reflect the different communities of interest in the district.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.



## Submission to KCDC Representation Review

### ***About MenzShed Kapiti***

MenzShed Kapiti is a voluntary organisation drawing members from all over the Kapiti District. Its mission is to support the health and welfare of men of all ages, including those who have retired or are not currently working full time, through activities, projects and community work.

The contribution MenzShed makes to the district is well known and respected. It's a place where "men can do what men do". Members support one another to share and develop skills and through fellowship. Much of our work is directed to supporting other organisations and individuals across the Kapiti district.

We currently have more than 150 members and supporters and up to 60 men turn up for activities at our Waikanae Beach site on the two days each week we are open.

MenzShed works from a base in Waikanae Beach where we have a range of workshops and work areas for woodworking, engineering and other activities, a busy firewood team and a large garden producing food for the Foodbank and other groups. We recently completed our new MenzShed Kapiti Centre, a well-equipped meeting and amenities building that is fully accessible and designed for use by other community groups as well as our own needs.

We collaborate closely with many community groups, schools and other groups across Kapiti assisting them with practical support. In 2020-21 MenzShed Kapiti contributed some 14,000 hours of community service to the many projects our members undertook. Most of this was for other groups.

We are fully self-supporting for operating expenses but have received assistance for major expenses and capital developments from funding bodies including Council and the community boards.

MenzShed has enjoyed very good relationships with our ward councillors in Paraparaumu and Waikanae and with those two community boards and we understand our counterparts in MenzShed Otaki have similarly strong relationship with the ward councillors and Community Board in Otaki. In our experience, the ward councillors and community boards understand their communities and are effective in supporting the needs of the groups within their communities.

### ***General Comments on the Representation Review***

MenzShed Kapiti is not a political organisation. Our submission will focus on what we see are the issues arising from the proposals that may affect our organisation and other community groups.

From our experience, the community boards understand their communities and their needs. There are distinct communities of interest across the Kapiti District. It is important that any structural changes to the representation model made as a consequence of this review recognise and reflect the differing interests of those communities.

The summary brochure to support this round of consultation states: *“Our communities told us you want a democratic model that brings you closer to your elected representations and decision-makers while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest”*.

We have concerns that the proposals to amalgamate the current wards covering Paraparaumu and Waikanae into one “super” ward and to abolish the Community Boards are contrary to that objective.

The community boards play a critical role to share information on council direction and to receive feedback from their communities. There is a risk that the voice of the separate communities may be lost if the proposed changes are made.

Rather than abolishing the community Boards, we see an opportunity to better define their role and to make more effective use of the talents and skills that elected members bring to Council.

The community boards also have a critical role for the voluntary sector in administering the community grants. The amounts involved are not large, but they are important to the organisations and individuals who receive grants. The community boards understand their communities and ensure that Council spending in this area is well-directed and effective.

We have a specific concern about the future administration of the Waikanae Community Improvement Fund that is currently administered through the Waikanae Community Board. The history of that fund means it must be ring-fenced for the benefit of the Waikanae area. In our experience, the Waikanae Community Board has done an excellent job over the years it has been in existence to ensure the fund is sustained and grants are directed appropriately.

MenzShed Kapiti has been one of the many groups that have benefitted from the Improvement Fund and the support given has been hugely beneficial to our development over the last 10 years.

### ***Specific Feedback on the Review***

The following comments are directed to the questions on the consultation document:

**Q1:** We have no position on the overall number of councillors.

**Q2:** We consider that the key issue here is to ensure that the respective communities of interest across the district are properly recognised and that wards and representation reflect those communities. That factor may be more relevant than the number of electors in each ward.

**Q3:** As an organisation that draws members from across all of the communities in Kapiti, we recognise that there are differing cultural and economic interests in each community. Paraparaumu and Waikanae are distinct communities and the proposal to set up a new ward to cover both communities may not achieve the objective to *“bring (electors) closer to your elected representations and decision-makers while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.”*

**Q4:** We have concerns with the proposal to remove the community boards and see that proposal as directly contrary to the interests of their respective communities.

To the contrary, we see an opportunity to enhance the role of the boards and to empower them to work with their respective communities of interest to ensure that Council as a whole is better informed of the interests, needs and views of the communities across the district.

**Q5:** We have reservations that the proposed boundaries really do reflect the different communities of interest in the district..

**Additional Comments:** MenzShed Kapiti is concerned overall that the proposed changes do not achieve the objective of improving representation and effectively reflecting communities of interest across the district.

The proposal to centralise the community grants process is a particular concern. The community boards understand their communities and ensure that Council funding allocated for community grants is well targeted and properly accounted for. We have reservations that transferring that responsibility to Council officers will be as effective.

The future administration of the Waikanae Community Improvement Fund is important here too. The Waikanae Community Board has effectively managed the grant allocation process for that fund to ensure grants are well directed and the fund is sustained in the future interests of the Waikanae Community.

MenzShed Kapiti is happy to speak to this submission if this would assist Council.

The contact details of our representatives are:

- Tony Annandale, Chair – Email to [\[email redacted\]](#) or Ph [phone number redacted]
- Cliff Daly, Committee Member – Email to [\[email redacted\]](#) or ph [phone number redacted]

MenzShed Kapiti operates over the whole district.





Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3683350

**First name**

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki

**Last name****What ward are you in now**

Paekākāriki-Raumati

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

No

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

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Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

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**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki and Paekakariki Community Board have created long lasting relationships which underpin core values for our hapu, whanau & iwi.

- Pono Honesty
- Whanaungatanga Trust
- Kaitiakitanga Respectful relationships
- Tika Correct ways of engaging with us as tangata whenua

### **PONO HONESTY**

Paekakariki Community Board have been in many discussions with us regarding Greater Regional Wellington and one of our ancestral homes in Paekakariki. A significant home to our hapu as this is where our tupuna Miriona lived. Paekakariki Community Board have kept Greater Regional Wellington honest within their agreements and helped our hapu to preserve and protect the whakapapa, mana and tikanga of our ancestors. An honest relationship that has been built over time and created security and safety for our kaumatua to speak freely when it comes to our tapu whakapapa (Scared wisdom and knowledge).

### **WHANAUNGATANGA TRUST**

An important level of relationship is Paekakariki Community Boards excellent engagements with ahi kaa kaumatua to which Paekakariki Community Board sparked a korero for the development of our Marae in Paekakariki. This has been a long aspiration for us which Te Whakaminenga will be aware of as two of our Kuia Jean Andrews & Carol Reihana voiced many years ago. This supports our core value of trust in our kaumatua, and we believe our kaumatua would not disclose scared wisdom and knowledge if trust had not been established. Trust goes both ways, if Paekakariki Community Board need our oversight and supports we have and will always do our best to uphold this. Paekakariki Community Board supports our needs and aspirations with the highest level of trust and respect for our elders and we believe this is because they have understood and maintained these connections with our elders.

### **KAITIAKITANGA RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Paekakariki Community Board presented our hapu with an environmental Kaupapa that investigated the DNA of our awa. *Ko Wainui te awa*. This Kaupapa highlights the respectful relationships we have with the community board as we collectively worked alongside each other to take a group of 20 tauira (students) and 5 rangatahi from Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki to collect the DNA from our awa from 2 locations. For us as a hapu this highlights Kaitiakitanga & our active roles/ responsibilities as caretakers for our land. If we do not have respectful relationships, we wouldn't have these opportunities to speak, connect and teach the ways of our ancestors. Paekakariki Community Board enables as to maintain and sustain our caretaker's role.

## **TIKA CORRECT ENGAGEMENTS**

As tangata whenua it is imperative for the well-being of our whanau, hapu and iwi to work alongside Paekakariki Community Board. We currently have a Kaupapa underway called "The Weaving Whare" This mural is significant to us because we will be placing our kuia Miriona on the whare to signify the korero of Hutia Te Rito O Te Harakeke. The root of our hapu, whanau & iwi. *Ko Miriona tenei*. This Kaupapa is supported by Paekakariki Community Board and as a hapu which has limited resources Paekakariki Community Board have resourced us with time, skills, people, knowledge and so much more. We believe Paekakariki Community Board are Tika correct in engaging with us as tangata whenua.

---

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki are in full supports to keep the community board in place, and we believe it will be a great lose to our hapu, mokopuna and the community if this is taken away. This will disenable our hapu and mokopuna from conversations we as mana whenua are needed in. This will alienate our tikanga and kawa from the community. This will create boundaries for our hapu and mokopuna from projects which need our oversight and guidance. This will cause division in our community as Paekakariki Community Board has always been a safe and respected place for all.

Please take our submission into consideration, we need the community boards in place to ensure we as tangata whenua are heard, seen, and felt.

**Hutia Te Rito o te harakeke**

**Kei hea te komako, e ko?**

**Ki mai Ki Ahau**

**He aha te mea nui o tenei ao? Maku e ki atu kia koe.**

**He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.**

**If you pluck out the center shoot of the flax. Where will the bellbird sing?**

**What is the most important thing in the world?**

**I will reply, the people, the people, the people.**

Nga manaakitanga.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3678484

**First name**

Otaki Amicus Club

**Last name**

Mervyn Falconer (President)

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

No

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

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	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Please refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.



**Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC)**

**27 September 2021**

**Private Bag 60601**

**Paraparaumu 5254**

**Otaki Amicus Club:**

**Submission to Retain our Local Community Board.**

Dear Sir/ Madam, To Whom It May Concern,

Our Otaki Amicus Club (OAC) is an affiliated member of Friendship New Zealand Incorporated.

There are approximately eighty members in our club, most are residents of Otaki.

At our club committee meeting today, it was decided we would make a submission regarding the retaining of our local Community Board.

Our committee is strongly of the opinion that KCDC should retain the current status- quo.

Having elected members on our Otaki Community Board is an important part of our community function, direct contact with the current board gives our local residents a sense of involvement in community activities.

It is our considered opinion; that with any change to the current Otaki Community Board, we would lose this community involvement and the support the board now offers.

Otaki Amicus Clubs submission is opposed to any change to the current community board format.

It is our opinion, that the current format meets our community needs.

Yours sincerely,

Mervyn Falconer.

President OAC. CLPH #: XXXXXXXXXX

A blue circular graphic with the text "Kōrero mai Have your say" in white and yellow. The word "Have" is in yellow, and "your say" is in white. The background of the circle is a dark blue gradient.

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
your say

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682920

**First name**

Ōtaki Branch of NZ Society of Genealogists

**Last name**

Len Nicholls, Convenor

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

No

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

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Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## Submission to KCDC Representation Review 2021 - Ōtaki Branch, NZSG

The Ōtaki Branch of NZ Society of Genealogists wishes to make a submission regarding the Kāpiti District Council Representation Review, in support of retaining the Ōtaki Community Board. We submit not only as a group of local residents, but as an organisation with strong links to council: physical (based in the library), digital (connected to library servers) and community service providers (responding to family history queries made by the public). Maintaining communication with council through various channels is important to us.

We enjoy excellent relations with the Ōtaki Community Board, and have received valuable support and communication through them. We have not seen any alleged 'deficiency' of the board; but if it exists, the logical solution would be to strengthen the boards (give them the supposedly 'missing teeth') rather than disband them.

We enjoy good local, community representation from the board. They meet locally, and meetings are community-focussed and readily accessible – unlike distant council meetings. The spirit is in the name: 'Community' Board, as opposed to 'District' Council.

Ōtaki already feels a degree of disconnection with other areas in Kapiti – physical (infrequent public transport); demographic (both cultural, and by age); distance. Disestablishing the Community Board will increase this disconnect.

There is also concern that a layer of democracy will be lost with the abandonment of community boards, whose members are directly elected. They will be replaced by ward councillors – fairly evenly spread per head of population, but dominated by three councillors for the central ward; an unassailable majority in any discussion involving competing ward interests (example: relocation of the i-Site from Ōtaki to Paraparaumu). They are apparently to be assisted and advised by appointed (by whom?) local residents; communities are offered no democratic involvement in their selection.

The completion of the expressway to Wellington, the forecast growth in population and housing - and the consequential re-shaping of the community - will require close monitoring at community level, which a strong Community Board is well-placed to provide.



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682089

**First name**

Otaki Canoe Club

**Last name**

Cameron Butler

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

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Do you agree with the removal of community boards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						



**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

**File upload**

# Kāpiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021 – Submission from the Otaki Canoe Club

## Action

1. The Otaki Canoe Club asks for the proposal to be rejected in entirety and the status quo be retained.
2. We strongly disagree with the removal of the Ōtaki Community Board.

## Specific Survey questions

3. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor?
  - a. No comment
4. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five district wide councillors?
  - a. No comment
5. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae wards?
  - a. No comment
6. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?
  - a. Strongly disagree
7. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?
  - a. No comment
8. We would like to speak to our submission

## Discussion

9. The Otaki Canoe Club is based in Otaki and mainly caters for the sport of canoe polo in the area. We have players from Levin, Otaki, Te Horo, Paraparaumu, Raumati and Wellington attending our games. We sometimes see Palmerston North and Feilding players as well. Otaki players have represented NZ on the world stage as players and officials.
10. The Otaki Canoe Club is a long-time user of the Otaki pool at Haruatai Park. Use of this pool allows us to play canoe polo year-round and allows a safe environment for the teaching of kayak of people of all ages from 5 to retired. The Otaki Community Board has been an advocate for the maintenance of the pool and our club members (and other people in the community) benefit from this.
11. The major \$5 million re-roofing project has modernised the pool and it is a fantastic facility for Otaki and surrounds. As Otaki has only one ward councillor, it was very helpful having the Chair of the Otaki Community Board (at the time, James Cootes) as another voice supporting the pitch for the redevelopment from the Otaki Ward Councillor. This is a definite advantage of having community boards.
12. With the improvement of the facility, the New Zealand Canoe Polo Association and the regional body (Central Canoe Polo Assoc) have been utilising the Otaki Pool for development camps and competitions. This brings players (and \$\$\$) from all around the region and the country into Otaki.

13. Grants from the Otaki Community Board have allowed us to train our beginners at a very reasonable cost to them, supported the Otaki College team to get to the NZ School National Champs plus the Otaki National League team. We have found the Otaki Community Board to be approachable and helpful as they are locals who know our area and were familiar with our activities. A number of our members/players may struggle to meet the financial costs of representing their area and the support from the board has been invaluable to help them.
14. We do not wish a democratically elected board to be removed and replaced by a panel that the community has no say in who is on it. We are also unsure that our ward councillor would be able to handle the workload, local meetings and local representation that the board members currently undertake.
15. We do not wish future funding requests to be handled by a centralised body that does not have local knowledge of what our club is and does.
16. We hope that the Council can recognise that getting rid of the Community Board is unlikely to be an effective strategy to improve representation and local democracy in a community of interest such as Otaki. Local is the way to go.

## Conclusions

17. The principal conclusions drawn from the preceding paragraphs are:
  - a. The Otaki Community Board is an effective way for interaction between the Otaki Canoe Club and KCDC.
  - b. The Otaki Canoe Club committee has not seen any evidence that supports the sole option of removing the Otaki Community Board.
  - c. There is no clearly defined option to close the gap left by the Community Board going. There is hardly a solid basis on which to make a robust decision with the vague notions presented about what would replace the community board.
  - d. As the Otaki Canoe Club looks to its future growth, we wish the Otaki Community board to be along for the journey.

**Signed**

**Cameron Butler  
Communications  
Otaki Canoe Club**



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3686004

**First name**

Ōtaki College

**Last name**

Andy Fraser, Principal

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

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Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## Submission by Ōtaki College on the Kāpiti Coast District Council proposal “A fresh look at local democracy”

### Summary

The education community of Ōtaki submits that the proposed changes to representation on the Kāpiti District Council are likely to further disenfranchise members of the Ōtaki community. We feel the status quo should be maintained for Ōtaki until there is a more comprehensive review of how to strengthen democratic participation and representation in Ōtaki. Our community is experiencing rapid change and it is important that we have a greater say in the issues that effect it.

### Ōtaki is different

Ōtaki is quite different from the rest of Kāpiti. It sees itself as different and the rest of Kāpiti sees it as different. As the Community Voice research says, “When we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say “Ōtaki”, and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say “Kāpiti”.

This sense of difference is unchanged since Ōtaki was first included in the Kāpiti District in 1989. Since then the approach of KCDC means that the Ōtaki community has seen little to value from being included in Kāpiti and so continues to see itself as separate.

The Community Voice research identified Ōtaki as a distinct geographic community with a “distinct way of thinking and being, and political focus”.

We agree. The history of Ōtaki is different. The demographic make-up of Ōtaki is unlike the rest of Kāpiti. Its population is significantly more Māori, younger, has a more diverse socio economic status and has different needs to the rest of the Kāpiti Coast.

The proposed changes give no recognition to this difference.

### The role of the community board

This is not to say the community board is functioning as well as it might. However, residents are able to take their concerns to the community board and know they will be heard.

But we submit that the work to make democracy function better in Ōtaki is yet to be done.

### Ōtaki is changing

Ōtaki is also the area in the district that is most likely to experience rapid change through population growth and land development.

There is nothing in this proposal that will strengthen Ōtaki’s ability to influence its own future. The proposal reinforces that a Kāpiti-centric view of development will be the future. Ōtaki’s voice will be limited to one vote on a council of ten.

Our area’s unique identity is obliterated in this proposal through both the proposed name and the model of representation. If the long-term strategy is the assimilation of Ōtaki into the wider Kāpiti interests then the proposal is a step in that direction. If the uniqueness of Ōtaki

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FAX 06-364 5483  
MILL ROAD,  
P.O. BOX 36,  
ŌTAKI 5542,  
NEW ZEALAND  
email - office@otakicollege.school.nz  
www.otakicollege.school.nz

its history and its people are valued then further efforts are needed to strengthen our local democracy.

At a time when the uniqueness of Ōtaki is at risk, because of the changing and growing population of the region, it is critical we have an opportunity to protect what we value. We are already seeing the impact of Council decisions which permit high-density, unaffordable housing developments which were approved with no thought to their impact on the community. We are concerned about what will come next. Our current local representative tells of the struggle to be heard on behalf of Ōtaki. We do not want to lose the democratic voice of elected members on a community board and have only a single ward councillor to be the voice of Ōtaki. The proposed new support structure for councillors could equally be applied to our Community Board to improve its functioning.

## Conclusion

Moving into the future, Ōtaki should be regarded as a place that needs to be looked after and valued. Ōtaki is the next area of projected significant growth. We are acutely aware we can't stop this growth but we want a voice in how this will look! We are a key destination point from a historical perspective as one of the earliest settled towns in Aotearoa. The mana whenua are unique and we have many features on offer such as historical places, Māoriland, the kite festival. Our education ecosystem with its mix of educational choices offers more options than you can get in larger places.

How will our voice be reflected when we have not been given the courtesy of full and open consultation? This is hardly a fresh look at local democracy in action.

E kii ana te korero, "Ko te kai o te rangatira he korero, he korero, he korero". Many a true word is spoken in this whakatauki – in our community this should be considered the way to do things.

Haunui a Nanaia, the great-grandson of Kupe and renowned explorer, placed his staff in the ground and stated, "This is Ōtaki". The time now comes again for us to place our staff in the ground. We need to hold fast to the one democratic voice of elected members that we have and retain the community board.

The Kāpiti Coast District Council must develop the correct process so we can re-imagine what council representation could look like. We need a model that truly reflects ŌTAKI and NOT Kāpiti ki te Raki.

**Andy Fraser**  
**Principal, Ōtaki College**







Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3681883

**First name**

Ōtaki Community Board

**Last name**

Christine Papps, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?				✓		

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	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?	✓					

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?				✓		

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Please refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Submission by the Otaki Community Board regarding the 2021 Kapiti Coast Representation Review**

**Members**

Christine Papps Chair

Marilyn Stevens Deputy Chair

Shelly Warwick

Cameron Butler

**CONTENTS**

**Action Requested**

**Specific Survey Questions**

**Why do we have Community Boards?**

**The Otaki Community Board**

**Empathy Design Report**

**The Proposal**

**Background Information**

## Action Requested

The Otaki Community Board requests that the 2021 Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) representation review proposal be rejected in entirety and the status quo be maintained.

For the proposal to be accepted, the onus is on Council to demonstrate clearly that the proposal to disestablish Community Boards will PROMOTE good government of the district and its communities, and that it will ensure fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.

The proposal does not do this – disestablishing community boards will not provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities as required by the Local Electoral Act 2002.

Otaki is a recognised community of interest. Without a community board our local residents are left with a lower level of democratic representation, less local avenues for raising issues with the council, a funding body based away in Paraparaumu etc.

This reasoning for this is detailed in the following submission.

NOTE: The Otaki Community Board does not support the 3 ward structure as proposed as we believe Waikanae to be a separate community to Paraparaumu and should not be incorporated into one ward with Paraparaumu.

## Specific Survey questions

- Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor?
  - a. Agree
- Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five district wide councillors?
  - a. Disagree
- Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae wards?
  - a. Strongly disagree
- Do you agree with the removal of community boards?
  - a. Strongly disagree
- Do you agree with the new boundary lines?
  - a. Agree
- We would like to speak to our submission

## Why do we have Community Boards?

Community boards provide grassroots democracy with members being elected by the community and working as the conduit between the community and the council. Board members are locals, are approachable, available and are often heavily involved in the community. In fact, you might say that community boards are the friendly face of the council as we don't put up rates!

Community boards are assets, not liabilities or barriers to local democracy.

A list of achievements by the Otaki Community Board is provided in the Otaki Community Board section of this submission.

### ***'The Good Governance Guide for Community Boards'***

*'The strength of community boards is their connection to neighbourhoods and ability to bring decision-making down to a level where citizens can have real influence.*

*This is difficult for many local authorities as they may be too large or simply have too few elected members to provide the effective representation to achieve meaningful connection with their citizens.'*

*Mick Lester, chair of the Community Board Executive Committee of Local Government New Zealand.*

Council's own research from Empathy Design says that:

- Community boards are a great tool for representation.
- They help reach out and bring the voice of the community to Council
- They are a good vehicle for some people to raise their concerns
- They amplify the voices of some people within the community
- They have a long and well established tradition in Kapiti.
- They have a role to play in advocating for their communities in the face of significant challenges and opportunities.
- They have been a training ground for people to go on to become Councillors.

Community boards provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities as required by the Local Electoral Act 2002.

## The Otaki Community Board

Otaki is geographically separate from Levin to the north and Waikanae to the south. It is noted as a community of interest due to geographic and social differences from other communities in the Kapiti Coast region. The Empathy Design report noted that when asked where they lived that Otaki residents said they came from Otaki as compared to other Kapiti residents who tended to say that they came from Kapiti.

Over the years, the Otaki Community Board has achieved:

- Applied grants to a multitude of community groups to help people with social, sporting and betterment of the community.
- Board members sit on a multitude of local community group committees
- Through long term plan and annual plan process interaction, the community board has helped Otaki college get funding for their gym.
- Otaki swimming funding refurbishment.
- Waeranga Rd intersection safety improvements.
- The board PP20 representation is the interface between the contractors and the community. Recent work on the Otaki Gorge Rd intersection safety improvements.
- BBQ installed and play area improvements at Haruatai park
- Currently working on free wifi for the Otaki Main St
- Ongoing work including the Otaki railway station refurbishment
- Ongoing work with district health boards on behalf of the community to deal with boundary issues, run the network group of health groups
- Otaki estuary toilet block for Friends of the river, the Otaki Community Board was instrumental in working with KCDC, Wellington Regional Council and others to get it in place
- Haruatai tennis courts – council tennis courts used by the Otaki sports club, the Otaki Community Board negotiated for public access to the courts and for an all weather surface to be applied
- Carparks behind Riverstone café, they were put in incorrectly, the Otaki Community Board interceded to correct this issue
- Installation of the Tasman Rd speedbumps
- Lobbied for the dog park in Otaki
- Riverbank Rd footpath
- Disabled parking on Main St instituted
- Extra toilet installed in the library
- And so much more.

While Otaki sits in the Kapiti Coast District council area it also sits within Central Districts Health board area. A left over from when Otaki was part of Horowhenua and while local government boundaries have changed, the district health board boundary has not. This disconnect between boundaries has caused issues for Otaki residents and is one of many items where board members been able to secure resolutions for the community.

These achievements are often done hand in hand with community groups, the local councillor and KCDC. And given the authority the community boards could do more in their community!  
Community boards are an asset, not a liability.

The Otaki Community Boards provides fair and effective representation for (Otaki) individuals and the Otaki community as required by the Local Electoral Act 2002.



## Empathy Design Report

### Memorandum 'Community Insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements' dated 9 July 2021<sup>1</sup>

To quote from the Empathy Design report "What's the point of being efficient if that means you're driving hard towards an outcome that isn't right for lots of people?"

Are we driving hard towards an outcome that isn't right for lots of people?

Empathy Design presented a report to council that was a qualitative research project to inform the representation review. It had 168 engagements noted, however the 16 people in the long, semi structured interviews were picked from other engagements bring the number down to 152 or 0.37% of the approximately 41000 eligible voters in Kapiti. It is not known whether there were any further double ups in the 152 engagements. Please also note that no breakdown is given of ethnicity, age, suburb of residence and requests for the raw data were refused by KCDC/Empathy Design.

It was billed as a "community insight to inform and relied only on:

- . five workshops attracting between 2 and 11 people each, total 25
- . an online survey with only 19 responses
- . 28 street interviews
- . 80 "meaningful engagements" at Waikanae and Paraparaumu markets NOTE: no Otaki or Paekakariki markets were attended
- . 16 people on "long, semi-structured interviews".

The 80 engagements at the markets were handled by KCDC officers and not by trained Empathy staff, hopefully this didn't unduly influence the results.

The report showed both positive and negative feedback about community boards, however there is no mention in the report of the numbers involved so the significance of the feedback cannot be determined or perhaps trusted at all.

While this is qualitative research, it is very difficult to consider this to be a well-founded and fully representative community engagement that will inform a critical decision such as getting rid of community boards. The use of "some", "likely", "most" is prevalent in the report which is wishy-washy and not backed up by numbers.

In looking at the questions and activities in the survey, interviews (where questions were released) and activities, there is very little which is pertinent or directly requesting information or feedback on community boards.

<sup>1</sup> It is somewhat disconcerting to see in the document the various Kāpiti 'communities' referred to as 'suburbs'. (pp11 and 15)

However, some relevant comments about community boards did emerge from the report which are:

- *Of those who know about community boards, two viewpoints emerged – they are a great tool for representation but don't have the teeth they need; they represent a narrow subset of the community and issues and can be removed. (p3)*
- *Community boards might be a good vehicle for people who already have the confidence and ability to engage with council, but not for those who don't. (p2)*
- *...many of the barriers that prevent some people engaging with council likely also prevent those people engaging with community boards. (p20)*

Please note that community boards are only noted in 1.5 pages out of a 26 page report, this does not appear to be an in-depth amount of feedback on the effectiveness of community boards and hardly a basis to oust the boards.

### **Positives about Community Boards identified in the Research**

The Report states several positives that emerged from the research process. They are as follows:

- They are a great tool for representation.
  - If Community Boards are achieving this, then they are fulfilling one of their key legislative purposes, and therefore also the general requirement for effective representation. Their reach could be extended further out into the community rather than being deleted.
- They help reach out and bring the voice of the community to Council
- They are a good vehicle for some people to raise their concerns
- They amplify the voices of some people within the community
- They have a long and well established tradition in Kapiti.
  - So there is an increased burden on Council to prove their removal will promote good government and fair and effective representation
- They have a role to play in advocating for their communities in the face of significant challenges and opportunities.
- They have been a training ground for people to go on to become Councillors.
  - The report showed that people want quality candidates as Councillors. Community Boards are a proven vehicle for providing much of the necessary experience for someone to become effective as a Councillor quickly. As such, disestablishing Community Boards runs a high risk of decreasing the quality of Councillors and the move will therefore not promote good government, nor lead to more effective representation

### **4. The report references concerns that came out of the research.**

Do these concerns ultimately provide the basis for the proposal to disestablish Community Boards? They are as follows:

- They do not have the teeth they need.
  - Community Board Members would likely agree with this comment. Community Boards have been expecting an increase in powers and resources in keeping with the current Mayor's election promises.
- "I don't see community boards as adding any value. They can't make any meaningful decisions and certainly don't represent the views of an entire community".

- Again, the board members would agree that more could be done to give boards the power to make meaningful decisions.
- Unawareness of Community Boards – what they are and what they do.
  - There is a lesson here that Council needs to promote Community Boards better. The lack of awareness is no more logical a reason for disestablishing Community Boards as it would be for disestablishing the position of the Governor General.

NOTE s39(a) LGA and the active duty on a territorial authority to ensure that the role of democratic government is “...clear and understood by the community.”

- They become a vehicle for special interests.
  - Well yes, democratic structures are supposed to be a place for community interests to speak. The way to overcome their tendency to dominate is through empowering Community Boards on the one hand and supporting broader participation on the other.
- They are fuelled by a narrow subset of the community.
  - Agreed, more people should have their voice heard through Community Boards – not fewer.
- Barriers exist to engaging with Community Boards.
  - These would be the same barriers that exist to engaging with Council and with any entity that is put in place to replace community boards.
- A suspicion that the same demographic of people who engage with Council also engage with Community Boards.
  - A “suspicion” is not a valid basis for government advice, and the comment is suggestive of data that is either unclear or insufficient. Currently the public can engage with the community board, the ward councillor, the district wide councillors, the ward councillor on the community board, direct to council staff and even directly to the mayor. Just because people engage with the council in more than one way is not a reason to remove community boards.
- They are more suited to citizens who have the confidence and ability to engage with them.
  - This is true and will still be true for any new entity and for even all the current ways to contact the council. Disestablishing Community Boards will not automatically help those people that struggle to reach out for whatever reason, and it may negatively affect those who are currently engaging. But there is no reason why options cannot be explored by community boards to help less confident people to engage.
- They might amplify those voices that are already being heard.
  - According to the report, for some they might while for others they might not. Wishy-washy.
- They add an extra layer of representation that creates unhelpful complexity. For some they may, for others they do not.
  - This is not a reason for disestablishment, but it may highlight a need for education.
- They are ineffective.
  - The report shows that people think Council engagement is ineffective, not specifically Community Boards. This issue is with council communication, not the community board.
- They act as a barrier to engagement.
  - According to the report, for some they may while for others they do not. Better to focus on how to include those who feel excluded than to remove Community Boards all together. The exact barriers were not expressed in the report.
- They are likely creating an unhelpful layer of representation that is not representative of the diversity within their communities, which hinders their ability to deliver on their legislative functions

- The use of “likely” suggests a degree of uncertainty about a conclusion that ought to be clear if it is to be adopted. Such a view does not have sufficient weight to bear out what is included in the KCDC proposal.

So, in summary we have a great deal of conjecture which is not backed up by data, a small number of pros and cons noted, a tiny sample size and a great deal of issues with council itself rather than community boards. And from this the council officers concluded that community boards should be disestablished. The burden is on the Council to show that the community boards need to be disestablished. It has not done so. There are not sufficient or adequate grounds from the Empathy Design report to support the recommendation to disestablish Community Boards.

It is also useful to note that the evidence the report provides cannot be said to provide an assurance that the Council’s options to replace Community Boards with an *enhanced grants program, increased funding and staff support for existing community groups to lead initiatives, support establishment of new types of community groups where needed and enhanced local outcomes focus* – will be more effective than the Community Boards. It would be a better option to invest these initiatives into the Community Board structures and processes.

The Empathy Design report does not provide any recommendations that promote fair and effective representation for individuals and communities as required by the Local Electoral Act 2002.

## The Proposal

The KCDC representation review proposal was passed for consultation August 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 by a 7-4 majority.

There is no legislative authority for Council to start from a “clean slate” when deciding whether to disestablish Community Boards. The “clean slate” approach does help as a form of thought experiment in the process of imagining the best overall future for representational arrangements. However Community Boards must nonetheless be assessed according to the legislative requirements and only then can the decision be made as to their disestablishment. Put in another way, Council cannot imagine Community Boards out of existence, it must actively and explicitly disestablish them in accordance with the law.

The proposal states that it will bring a more direct connection between Councillors and the communities they serve. But as already noted, the public and community groups are already able to directly connect with many facets of the council and nothing prevents them from engaging with multiple facets of the council individually or the same time. By removing community boards one of these facets is removed without providing anything tangible in its place. In that regard access plus community voice, and thereby democracy, would be reduced.

Some councillors are noticeably absent from the Otaki community even when they are considered district wide councillors. Only one has ever turned up to Otaki Community Board meetings more than once.

Of concern is the potential workload that the proposal would place on ward councillors in taking on the duties and contact with the community that the board members currently do. Again without a tangible proposal for the secretariat this cannot be accurately gauged.

The removal of the Community Boards may not be perceived as a major issue from ‘the centre’ in Paraparaumu, that is not the case in affected communities particularly those communities of interest. Furthermore, any reservations there may be are not assuaged by vague and ill-defined reference to the potential replacements – *‘The proposed model focuses on strengthening local representation by: empowering existing or new community groups to do more to foster community-led development without the barriers/layers that exist for community boards.’*<sup>2</sup> In the lexicon of strategy, this statement would be described by many who read it as ‘fluff’. It is difficult to understand why the Council would expect the community to be satisfied by the removal of something, valued by many, and its replacement by something that has no shape or definition.

It is very unclear from the proposal as to what the new bodies would be, how they would be made up, how they would be staffed or how they would be funded. Community Boards are a known quantity, have prescribed resources and schedules, and the relevant community decides who sits on them. Their workings are public, open and transparent. Claimed savings of \$250000 with the disestablishment of community boards would be quickly eaten up in staff costs for the secretariat, however a more accurate assessment is not possible due to the very vague nature of what is suggested in the proposal. It seems quite possible that there will be no savings at all from this proposed change.

The suggested scheme allows for interest groups to petition Council for assistance and funding. The Council will ultimately decide which groups they wish to deal with, how they will deal with them, and whether those groups will get resources. It is therefore evident that the proposal would establish a shift in power away from democratic power

<sup>2</sup> Council Briefing 10 August 2021

These suggested replacements leave local government less open, less transparent, and less democratically accountable, which cuts across the fundamental requirements of local government set out in the principles of the LGA (s14(1)(a)(i)). Community Boards are currently elected in fair and open elections. Any citizen over 18 is free to stand and there is a level of scrutiny in how they fulfil their role as well as sanctions where they act outside their powers. Community Boards in this regard are a democratic body that is subject to the rule of law. If those elected positions are replaced by appointed positions, all that transparency and openness disappears. In that case, there is no basis to claim that good government is promoted and in fact government becomes opaque and much less democratic.

The representation review proposal with 3 wards and disestablishing community boards will not provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities as required by the Local Electoral Act 2002.

## The thoughts of the Community

### Where are the requests for removal?

The Otaki Community Board has members that have been elected to the board for multiple terms and none can think of any historic or current requests from the residents and ratepayers for the community board to be disestablished. No protests, no letters to councillors, no public petitions etc.

In 2003, when Kapiti residents were surveyed extensively on changes to representation, there was 75% support for community boards and wards being retained.

This support is evident today, as shown by:

### Facebook Feedback

In sponsored KCDC Facebook advertisements plus community Facebook groups, comments on these posts have been universally negative about the removal of community boards and the changed ward structure. The most commented post by KCDC has 33 comments on it and still growing.

Examples from Facebook posts:

[name redacted]

The council's proposal is to scrap all community boards and the Waikanae ward.

Community Boards are an essential voice for representing communities and holding council to account. They should be retained, strengthened, promoted and better resourced. Kapiti has a low number of councillors per capita compared to other areas, and removing community boards will only weaken public representation.

I would suggest improving representation by creating a new community board specific to Raumati, and another to represent rural residents across the district.

[name redacted]

Well what a surprise! Community Boards speak for their community.

[name redacted]

I find the community boards bring more issues that matter to the community to be heard and listen more to the community than the councillors elected to do so. Therefore I feel community boards are essential and help keep elected members more honest on the topics "we" feel are important.

[name redacted]

Thanks James. I have interacted with both the Otaki and Waikanae Community Boards, on behalf of the Otaki and District RSA. I have seen them operate as an excellent sounding board for the community with the needs of community actions in the forefront of their minds. Both Boards are proactive and reach all levels - from students seeking grants for sport, to local community projects, to interaction with the Expressway projects.

I note that the attachment Representation Review discusses their role from paras 59-68 and recommends that they do not exist. This is proposed as a means of allowing the councillors to have a better avenue for community interaction. In your own case, it seems to me that you have this communication in place and very effective, and then joined to the Community Board at Otaki. Your interaction with the Otaki Board, and the fact that you were a Board member prior to becoming a councillor, shows the strength of the current model.

It will be a big ask to have one local councillor meet all of the demands of a diverse area such as Otaki.

I am not sure that a quasi Community Board as disguised and proposed at paras 64-66, "Council would look to establish neighbourhood fora or community panels" is actually a new solution or a rebranding of the current model "to support a more direct relationship between councillors and their communities." There is strong evidence that councillors and their communities currently have this level of interaction, in my view and experience.

Para 68 discusses the continuation of the Boards and perhaps with greater engagement with greater and more effective delegations. A sound idea, but one that seems to have been discarded.

I support the continuation of the community boards.

And a whole lot of no, no, no and more no. The post is a sponsored post and can't be found by searches.

### **Petition**

A petition to save the four community boards has been organised by [name redacted] on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) has gathered 268 signatures and an updated number will be provided at the hearing. This outweighs the very small number of people that commented negatively about community boards. While there will be some double ups with submissions, this an extra number to add to the number of submissions received.



## KCDC Documents or reviews

### 2015 Representation Review

Local Government Commission determination 2015/2016 [Kapiti-District-Determination-2016.pdf \(lgc.govt.nz\)](#)

*The Otaki Community Board is the community board for the Otaki ward as set out in the 2015 representation review which was accepted by the LGC (reference 2). **KCDC put forward the status quo including the retention of the four community boards** and while the Otaki and Waikanae wards fell outside of the +/-10% requirement for population versus councillor it was proposed to keep the Waikanae and Otaki wards as they stood.*

*Points of note:*

- *Otaki and Waikanae were distinct communities with well-established identities.*
- *There was no requirement from LGC that the deviations from the +/-10% needed to be rectified in the next representation review (though it should be looked at during each representation review).*
- *It noted in particular that between state highway 1 and the coast, two roads presently in Ōtaki community (Derham Road and Paul Faith Lane) only had access south through Waikanae community, while one further road (Pukenamu Road) crossed this community boundary.*
- *Accordingly the Commission recommends to Kapiti Coast District Council that at its next representation review, it gives particular consideration to the ongoing appropriateness of certain sections of the Waikanae/Ōtaki ward/community boundary. **This was the only recommendation to the 2021 Representation Review.***
- ***There is no 2015/2016 requirement or recommendation for community boards to be removed in the 2021 review.***

### **Kāpiti Coast District Council 'Independent Organisational Review' dated 29 June 2020**

*This review was completed just over a year ago. The only relevant information in the review on this particular issue was found in the recommendations. There are two elements in these recommendations which are contrary to the Council's proposal to do away with Community Boards:*

- a. *A comprehensive 'system wide' review undertaken just over a year ago, does not highlight any structural issues with Community Boards.*
- b. *Rather, the review does suggest a number of opportunities for process improvements to 'leverage the opportunities' that sit with the Community Boards.<sup>3</sup>*

*More exact findings relating to Community Boards the commentary were:*

*'E: Leverage the opportunities that the Community Boards present through ...*

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

15. *Reviewing the levels of technological and other support that community boards might need to enable them to receive and share information more readily and in a timely manner.*
16. *Extending the current approach to briefing community boards on Council activity to more proactive engagement with community boards on the rationale for Council strategic and operational decisions.*
17. *While they are an advocacy group from the community to the Council, there is opportunity to see how the Community Boards can also be utilized more to communicate on Council plans and activity back to the community.’<sup>4</sup>*

### ***Kāpiti Coast District Council ‘Long Term Plan 2021-2041(LTP)’***

*There was nothing in the KCDC LTP that gave feedback that the community boards should be removed. In fact, given statements such as:*

- a. *With reference to the challenges faced by Council, the ‘Lack of community engagement in local democracy.’<sup>5</sup>,*
- b. *‘The engagement and decision-making process is central to the role and purpose of local government’*

*It seems that under the LTP strengthened community boards would be an asset to council.*

<sup>4</sup> The Kāpiti Coast District Council ‘Independent Organisational Review’ dated 29 June 2020, p 91

<sup>5</sup> LTP pp 224/225

## Background Information

The Kapiti Coast community boards were enacted in 1989 in a local government restructure and have been a vital part of the Kapiti local government landscape since then.

KCDC community board responsibilities are as following, taken from Governance structure and delegations Page 18 [GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND DELEGATIONS - 2016-2019 TRIENNIUM \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/governance-structure-and-delegations-2016-2019-triennium) :

*The powers of a community board are prescribed in the Local Government Act. In addition the Council has made the following specific delegations:*

- *Authority to listen, articulate, advise, advocate and make recommendations to Council on any matter of interest or concern to the local community*
- *Assisting with local civil defence and emergency management activities*
- *Working with Council and the community to establish Local Outcome Statements*
- *Providing a local perspective on the levels of service as detailed in the LTP and on local expenditure, rate impacts and priorities*
- *Providing advice to Council and its Committees on any issue relating to the sale of liquor in the local area*
- *Contributing local input to any Council Strategy, Plan or Policy as required*
- *Approving criteria for, and disbursement of, community-based grant funds as approved through the LTP or Annual Plan*
- *Approving or rejecting applications by community groups to establish community gardens, in accordance with the licensing requirements under the Reserves Act 1977 and the Council's Mara Kai/Community Gardens policy 19*
- *Authority to approve or reject officer recommendations relating to traffic control and signage matters for existing local roads, except those matters that involve significant safety issues.*
- *Making recommendations to Council after reviewing existing, or considering new draft Reserve Management Plans for local public parks and reserves within its area, excluding Otaraua Park (as a park of Districtwide significance).*
- *Assisting the Chief Executive (through the Community Board Chairperson) to consider and determine temporary road closure applications where there are objections to the proposed road closure*
- *Accepting or rejecting officer recommendations in respect of names for local roads (excluding the former State Highway) and any reserves, structures and commemorative places, in accordance with existing council policy;*
- *Speaking but not voting at Council and Committee meetings (the Chair may appoint a Board member to represent them). (Note: Consideration will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis by either Council and/or a Committee as to whether they resolve that a Community Board Chair or their representative stays in attendance for any public-excluded session of Council and/or a Committee.)*
- *Developing any Community Board submission on issues within its area;*

- *Setting priorities for and expending an annual training and development budget allocated by Council;*
- *Any other responsibilities as delegated by Council under Section 52, Local Government Act 2002.*



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3670767

**First name**

Trustees of the Otaki Museum

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

No

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?				✓		

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?				✓		

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?			✓			

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?	✓					

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?			✓			

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

# Kāpiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021 – Otaki Museum Feedback on the proposal to disestablish the Ōtaki Community Board

## Background

1. This feedback is provided on behalf of the Trustees of the Otaki Museum. While the line taken in the KCDC proposal which was provided for consultation, is generally supported in terms of the two main elements<sup>1</sup>, we do not support the ‘implicit’ suggestion to get rid of Community Boards.<sup>2</sup>
2. In particular, we strongly disagree with the removal of the Ōtaki Community Board and it is that matter which is the focus of this feedback.

## Community Boards

3. Many Council structures in New Zealand include Community Boards. Kāpiti Coast has four; Ōtaki, Paraparaumu/Raumati, Waikanae and Paekākāriki. Each has four members, making a total of 16 community board members. Their purposes are to:
  - a. represent the interests of their community to the Council, and make delegated decisions about some issues in their boundaries;
  - b. make submissions to Council and other statutory agencies; and
  - c. make grants to local individuals and groups for community purposes.
4. Board representatives can sit at Council meetings and contribute to the debate, but do not have voting rights. Their contribution helps ensure Council takes account of what each local community wants as they make decisions.<sup>3</sup>

## Discussion

5. In formulating this feedback, a number of documents were reviewed to see if there was substantive and/or compelling evidence that supported the Council’s proposal to do away with Community Boards. The findings of the review are discussed in the paragraphs below.

### The Kāpiti Coast District Council ‘Independent Organisational Review’ dated 29 June 2020

6. Noting the date this review was finalised, and given the Council’s current proposal, it was assumed there would be strong negative commentary on the effectiveness of Community Boards. The most relevant information in the review on this particular issue was found in the recommendations. Relating to Community Boards the commentary is:

<sup>1</sup> ‘Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy’ p4

<sup>2</sup> ‘Implicit’ is used because the wording used in the consultation document on p10 is, ‘*This proposal does not include community boards and instead focuses on councillors and Council staff working together...*’

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/the-role-of-council/representation-review-2021/#community-boards>



*'E: Leverage the opportunities that the Community Boards present through ...*

15. *Reviewing the levels of technological and other support that community boards might need to enable them to receive and share information more readily and in a timely manner.*

16. *Extending the current approach to briefing community boards on Council activity to more proactive engagement with community boards on the rationale for Council strategic and operational decisions.*

17. *While they are an advocacy group from the community to the Council, there is opportunity to see how the Community Boards can also be utilized more to communicate on Council plans and activity back to the community.'*<sup>4</sup>

7. There are two noteworthy elements in these recommendations which impact on the Council's proposal to do away with Community Boards:
  - a. A comprehensive 'system wide' review undertaken just over a year ago, does not highlight any structural issues with Community Boards.
  - b. Rather, the review does suggest a number of opportunities for process improvements to 'leverage the opportunities' that sit with the Community Boards.<sup>5</sup>
8. Given these factors, it is surprising that the proposal totally ignores the elegant option of process improvements to improve the effective performance of Community Boards, and leaps immediately into the blunt option of getting rid of them.

#### **The Kāpiti Coast District Council 'Long Term Plan 2021-2041(LTP)'**

9. The Council's LTP provided not the slightest hint that the continued existence of Community Boards was under a clear and present threat. On the contrary, given statements such as, *'The engagement and decision making process is central to the role and purpose of local government'* and, with reference to the challenges faced by Council, the *'Lack of community engagement in local democracy.'*<sup>6</sup>, and the absence of evidence that Community Boards were 'the problem', it seemed a justified expectation that they would continue to operate; albeit with some capability/capacity improvements.
10. And, the LTP context is an important one; setting out a long term as it does. In the section on 'Governance'<sup>7</sup>, there is no mention of abolishing Community Boards. Quite the opposite, in fact. For example, on p233 can be found the following statements of intent:

*'We will act on recommendations from the independent organisational review.*

*We will continue to explore opportunities to enhance participation of Māori in the governance framework.*

*In a new initiative in this long-term plan, our community boards will have funds of \$20,000 each per year to put towards local activities, and engagement and communication with their communities.'*

<sup>4</sup> The Kāpiti Coast District Council 'Independent Organisational Review' dated 29 June 2020, p 91

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> LTP pp 224/225

<sup>7</sup>LTP pp221-231

11. Given the change between the LTP position on Community Boards, and the Council's Representation Review proposal, it appears that the removal of the Community Boards may not be perceived as a major issue from 'the centre' in Paraparaumu. That, however, is not the case for affected communities. Furthermore, any reservations there may be are not assuaged by vague and ill-defined reference in the Review proposal to the potential replacements:

*'The proposed model focuses on strengthening local representation by: empowering existing or new community groups to do more to foster community-led development without the barriers/layers that exist for community boards.'*<sup>8</sup>

12. In the lexicon of strategy, this statement would be described by many who read it as 'fluff'. It is difficult to understand why the Council would expect the community to be satisfied by the removal of something, valued by many, and its replacement by something that has no shape or definition.

**Various briefings to Councillors, and others, at:** <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/the-role-of-council/representation-review-2021/#electedmemberbriefingstodate>

13. The briefings and other material at the website above have been read to see where the future of the Community Boards was positioned in the advice Council staff provided to Councillors. Surprisingly, from a community perspective, it appears to have been given very little weight. One example, should serve to support this point.
14. In the Council briefing prepared for a 29 June 2021 meeting, the options with no Community Boards were covered. However, in the briefing there were no potential community issues identified in respect of this particular structural aspect. This supports an emerging view that the Community Board issue has been considered by Councillors, and Council staff, as a relatively minor issue. Certainly, the briefings do not identify major problems with the Community Boards, nor evidence of either the problem their removal is expected to resolve or that the removal will be the solution to some undefined problem.

**Memorandum 'Community Insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements' dated 9 July 2021**<sup>9</sup>

15. There seems to be a pervasive Council view that Community Boards are not effective in representing their associated 'communities of interest' – and there is a community led desire for their removal. Finding no substantive evidence to support these positions in the documents/information so far referenced, it was felt that perhaps the 9 July Memorandum would contribute something useful.
16. That, however, proved not to be the case – with comments in support of retaining the status quo and others supporting change. Some relevant comments are:

<sup>8</sup> Council Briefing 10 August 2021

<sup>9</sup> It is somewhat disconcerting to see in the document the various Kāpiti 'communities' referred to as 'suburbs'. (pp11 and 15)

- *Community boards might be a good vehicle for people who already have the confidence and ability to engage with council, but not for those who don't.* (p2)
  - *Of those who know about community boards, two viewpoints emerged – they are a great tool for representation but don't have the teeth they need; they represent a narrow subset of the community and issues and can be removed.* (p3)
  - *...many of the barriers that prevent some people engaging with council likely also prevent those people engaging with community boards.* (p20)
17. Additionally, the 'Design principle/Prevailing perception' table on p26 can hardly be described as an overwhelming endorsement of any decision to abandon Community Boards. However, perhaps the most interesting aspect of the document is that the evidence it provides cannot be said to provide an assurance that the Council's options to replace Community Boards - *enhanced grants program, increased funding and staff support for existing community groups to lead initiatives, support establishment of new types of community groups where needed and enhanced local outcomes focus* – will be more effective than the Community Boards.<sup>10</sup> In fact, it would perhaps be a better option to invest these initiatives into leveraging off any opportunities for improvements in the Community Board structures and processes.

#### **A variety of 'Proposals' from the representation reviews being undertaken across the country**

18. Representation reviews are being conducted across the country and so a number of Council proposals were scanned to see whether they would be useful in providing feedback on the Kāpiti District Council proposal. It turned out that there were some particularly helpful conclusions that could be drawn; although they do not appear to support the approach being taken by the Council:
- a. The substantial majority of Councils which have Community Boards, are proposing to retain them.
  - b. In its background information for the Representation Review, the Council provides a 'comparative table' because, *'It can be helpful to compare our Council makeup to similarly sized councils, but remember each council's arrangements are influenced by their own history, geography and politics.'*<sup>11</sup> And, reflecting on the other Council reviews, it turns out that with respect to Community Boards, rather than population size, the critical factor in deciding whether or not to have Community Boards is the nature of the district, and the impact that has on defining and shaping communities of interest.
  - c. The current Kāpiti Community Board approach, where each Ward has a Community Board, is not the only one in play in New Zealand. In at least one district, there are a number of Wards, but only one Community Board - recognising the uniqueness of a particular community.

#### **The 'Ōtaki Community of Interest'**

*'...we noticed that, when we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say "Ōtaki", and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say "Kāpiti".'*<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Council Briefing 10 August 2021

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/the-role-of-council/representation-review-2021/>

<sup>12</sup> Memorandum 'Community Insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements' dated 9 July 2021 p12

19. Ōtaki is a unique community within the Kāpiti District. The reasons for this include:
- a. When it was incorporated into the Kāpiti District as a consequence of the 1989 local government reforms, the local government boundaries may have changed, but boundaries associated with government agencies delivering social support services did not and remain centred in Horowhenua-Manawatū.
  - b. Because of this, a number of key ‘decision-making’ social statistics for Kāpiti, exclude Ōtaki.
  - c. Key demographics in the township differ from those elsewhere in Kāpiti; *‘which has a higher than average population aged over 65 years who tend to be more engaged in local affairs’*.<sup>13</sup> By way of contrast, 41% of Ōtaki’s population is Maori – and their median age is 26.3 years.
  - d. Ōtaki has relatively poor connectivity with the rest of the Kāpiti District; the ‘commuter train’ stops at Waikanae, and bus services to the south are infrequent. The Community Board meeting in Ōtaki, therefore, makes ‘representation’ more accessible than would otherwise be the case.
20. Coupled to these factors are a number of strategic uncertainties which will need to be resolved in the next decade, and are likely to have a significant impact on the township. They include:
- a. The extension of the ‘commuter train’ to Ōtaki, and then to Levin. This will inevitably require expenditure to increase the car parking capacity adjacent to the railway station.
  - b. The restructuring of the public health organisation. This is likely to have an impact, but also create an opportunity to improve medical capacity within Kāpiti.
  - c. The implications of population growth within Levin, specifically, and Horowhenua-Manawatū generally. This, together with greater land use opportunities in Horowhenua-Manawatū, especially for housing, and increased transport connectivity for the region to the south, may serve to draw Ōtaki once again to the north.
21. Were the Council to do an environmental scan of the strategic risks in front of them, it would be very surprising if the marginalisation of Ōtaki from the rest of the Kāpiti District was not to be one of them. And, getting rid of the Community Board is unlikely to be an effective strategy to mitigate this particular risk to an acceptable level. Rather, the Community Board should be seen as a key factor in enabling effective ‘inclusive’ community strategies to be implemented. The idea of removing the Community Board and replacing it with various configurations of community groups raises the same shortcomings being attributed in some quarters to the Community Board model. The best approach is to adopt not an ‘either/or’ option, but to follow the example of outstanding organisations and adopt a ‘this and that’ one.
22. At this critical juncture, where strategic risks and opportunities are close to becoming more clearly defined, and the full community impacts of COVID-19 are yet to emerge, is not the best time at which to remove the Ōtaki Community Board. Rather, the Community Board and community groups, of various types and sizes, collaborating for the benefit of the

community has the best chance of positioning the community and the Council for a successful future.

### **The Otaki Museum experience**

23. The Otaki Museum has a good relationship with the KCDC staff with whom it engages. Nevertheless, given its strong community focus, it values the relationship it has with the Ōtaki Community Board. That a representative of that Board attends the monthly Trust Board meetings provides an invaluable Council perspective.
24. The Community Board relationship is likely to become increasingly valuable as the Museum Trustees work with KCDC staff to ensure that the joint relationship can be carried forward over the next 6-7 years, in particular, as the project is developed to strengthen the current Museum building to meet the KCDC earthquake standards. Having an opportunity to engage with the Community Board, and to have access to their support, would be reassuring in managing the inevitable project pressure points that will be generated.

### **Conclusions**

25. The principal conclusions drawn from the preceding paragraphs are:
  - a. In the publicly available information that has been reviewed, there is no substantive evidence that warrants the disestablishment of the Ōtaki Community Board; on the basis of either efficiency or effectiveness.
  - b. There is strong evidence that, for a variety of reasons, Ōtaki is a discrete community of interest, the characteristics of which justify the provision of a dedicated Community Board.
  - c. There is no evidence that supports the sole option of removing the Ōtaki Community Board, a structural change, ahead of, as an alternative first step, investing in the improvement of key processes associated with that Board.
  - d. There is no clearly defined option to close the gap left by the Community Board going. A kind description of 'the promise' is 'perhaps it could be this, or perhaps that'; hardly a solid basis on which to make a robust decision.
  - e. Evidence of the approaches used by other Councils, indicates that the model of each Ward having an associated Community Board, is not the only model used in New Zealand.
  - f. In view of a few vital 'strategic uncertainties' and their possible effects on Ōtaki, now is not the time to remove the Ōtaki Community Board.
  - g. As the Otaki Museum scrutinises its future challenges, having access to the Community Board will be invaluable.

### **One sentence feedback**

26. The Kāpiti Coast District Council Representation Review Proposal should be amended to include the retention of the Ōtaki Community Board.



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682073

**First name**

Otaki Promotions Group

**Last name**

Cameron Butler, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?	✓					

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?	✓					

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.



## Kāpiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021 – Submission from the Otaki Promotions Group

### Action

1. The Otaki Promotions Group asks for the proposal to be rejected in entirety and the status quo be retained.
2. In particular, we strongly disagree with the removal of the Ōtaki Community Board and it is that matter which is the focus of this feedback.

### Specific Survey questions

3. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor?
  - a. No comment
4. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five district wide councillors?
  - a. No comment
5. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae wards?
  - a. Strongly disagree
6. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?
  - a. Strongly disagree
7. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?
  - a. No comment
8. We would like to speak to our submission

### The 'Ōtaki Community of Interest'

*'...we noticed that, when we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say "Ōtaki", and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say "Kāpiti".*

9. Ōtaki is a unique community within the Kāpiti District. The reasons for this include:
  - a. Key demographics in the township differ from those elsewhere in Kāpiti; *'which has a higher than average population aged over 65 years who tend to be more engaged in local affairs'*.<sup>1</sup> By way of contrast, 41% of Ōtaki's population is Maori – and their median age is 26.3 years. When it was incorporated into the Kāpiti District as a consequence of the 1989 local government reforms, the local government boundaries may have changed, but boundaries associated with government agencies delivering social support services did not and remain centred in Manawatū.
  - b. Because of this, a number of key 'decision-making' social statistics for Kāpiti, exclude Ōtaki.
  - c. Ōtaki has relatively poor connectivity with the rest of the Kāpiti District; the 'commuter train' stops at Waikanae, and bus services to the south are infrequent. The Community Board meeting in Ōtaki, therefore, makes 'representation' more accessible than would otherwise be the case.

## Discussion

10. The Otaki Promotions Group is an association of volunteers and one paid organiser that runs the massively successful Otaki Kite Festival, the Otaki Community Festival, Light Up Otaki plus we are continually looking at other events to promote the great place that is Otaki. We do this for Otaki out of our love of the town and area plus the want to keep Otaki vibrant and attractive to the wider community.
11. As a group we deal both directly with council officers and the Otaki Community Board for major and minor funding of events. We have, unfortunately, struggled somewhat in dealing directly with council officers due to the constantly changing personnel we have interacted with. Whereas our dealings with the community board have been fantastic and we are very happy for those to continue. We would be happy for all our dealings with KCDC to be with the community board as the community board could be empowered to handle funding and major events coordination in their respective area.
12. The board has been very effective at intervening on our behalf when issues such as the state of the Otaki Beach toilet block have threatened to cast a pall on the Otaki Kite festival. They are locals and love the Otaki area just as much as we do.
13. From a higher level we do not wish a democratically elected board to be removed and replaced by a panel that the community has no say in who is on it. We are also unsure that our ward councillor would be able to handle the workload, meetings and representation that the board members currently undertake.
14. The research should have been quantitative rather than qualitative to ensure that the findings truly represented what the Otaki and Kapiti public actually wanted.
15. Getting rid of the Community Board is unlikely to be an effective strategy to improve representation and local democracy. Rather, the Community Board should be seen as a key factor in enabling effective 'inclusive' strategies to be implemented.
16. The Community Board and community groups, of various types and sizes, collaborating for the benefit of the community has the best chance of overcoming any shortcomings the 'Community Board' model is perceived, by some and, it must be said, not by many at all, to have, in its ability to discharge its community responsibilities for today and tomorrow.
17. Nothing in the 'research' nor the proposal gives any measure of certainty or confidence that what is proposed will increase representation or local democracy. Therefore we do not wish the current system to change.
18. Waikanae ward – we believe that the Waikanae township is a separate community like Otaki and should not be smothered by being incorporated into the Paraparaumu ward.

## Further info

### Community Boards

19. Many Council structures in New Zealand include Community Boards. Kāpiti Coast has four; Ōtaki, Paraparaumu/Raumati, Waikanae and Paekākāriki. Their purposes are to:
- a. represent the interests of their community to the Council, and make delegated decisions about some issues in their boundaries;
  - b. make submissions to Council and other statutory agencies; and
  - c. make grants to local individuals and groups for community purposes.

Board representatives can sit at Council meetings and contribute to the debate, but do not have voting rights. Their contribution helps ensure Council takes account of what each local community wants as they make decisions.

## Conclusions

20. The principal conclusions drawn from the preceding paragraphs are:
- a. The Otaki Community Board is an effective way for interaction between KCDC and the public.
  - b. There is strong evidence that, for a variety of reasons, Ōtaki is a discrete community of interest, the characteristics of which justify the provision of a dedicated Community Board.
  - c. There is no evidence that supports the sole option of removing the Ōtaki Community Board, a structural change, ahead of, as an alternative first step, investing in the improvement of key processes associated with that Board.
  - d. There is no clearly defined option to close the gap left by the Community Board going. There is hardly a solid basis on which to make a robust decision with the vague notions presented about what would replace the community board.
  - e. Evidence of the approaches used by other Councils, indicates that the model of each Ward having an associated Community Board, is not the only model used in New Zealand.
  - f. In view of the possible effects on Ōtaki, now is not the time to remove the Ōtaki Community Board.
  - g. As the Otaki Promotions Group looks to its future challenges, having access to the Community Board will be invaluable.

**Signed**

**Cameron Butler**

**Chair**

**Otaki Promotions Group**



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3681905

**First name**

Ōtaki School

**Last name**

Rauru Walker, Principal

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

No

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.



# Otagi School

Ko ā tātou tamariki ngā rangatira ō āpōpō

Learners today, Leaders tomorrow

## Submission by Otagi School on the Kapiti Coast District Council proposal *“A fresh look at local democracy”*

### Summary

The education community of Otagi submits that the proposed changes to representation on the Kapiti District Council are likely to further disenfranchise members of the Otagi community. We feel the status quo should be maintained for Otagi until there is a more comprehensive review of how to strengthen democratic participation and representation in Otagi. Our community is experiencing rapid change and it is important that we have a greater say in the issues that effect it.

### Otagi is different

Otagi is quite different from the rest of Kapiti. It sees itself as different and the rest of Kapiti sees it as different. As the Community Voice research says, “When we asked people where they live, people from Otagi tended to say “Otagi”, and people from south of Otagi tended to say “Kāpiti”.

This sense of difference is unchanged since Otagi was first included in the Kāpiti District in 1989. Since then the approach of KCDC means that the Otagi community has seen little to value from being included in Kapiti and so continues to see itself as separate.

The Community Voice research identified Otagi as a distinct geographic community with a “distinct way of thinking and being, and political focus”.

We agree. The history of Otagi is different. The demographic make-up of Otagi is unlike the rest of Kapiti. Its population is significantly more Māori, younger, has a more diverse socio economic status and has different needs to the rest of the Kāpiti Coast.

The proposed changes give no recognition to this difference.

### The role of the community board

This is not to say the community board is functioning as well as it might. However, residents are able to take their concerns to the community board and know they will be heard.

But we submit that the work to make democracy function better in Otagi is yet to be done.

### Otagi is changing

Otagi is also the area in the district that is most likely to experience rapid change through population growth and land development.

There is nothing in this proposal that will strengthen Otagi’s ability to influence its own future. The proposal reinforces that a Kapiti-centric view of development will be the future. Otagi’s voice will be limited to one vote on a council of ten.

Our area's unique identity is obliterated in this proposal through both the proposed name and the model of representation. If the long-term strategy is the assimilation of Ōtaki into the wider Kapiti interests then the proposal is a step in that direction. If the uniqueness of Ōtaki, its history and its people are valued then further efforts are needed to strengthen our local democracy.

At a time when the uniqueness of Ōtaki is at risk, because of the changing and growing population of the region, it is critical we have an opportunity to protect what we value. We are already seeing the impact of Council decisions which permit high-density, unaffordable housing developments which were approved with no thought to their impact on the community. We are concerned about what will come next. Our current local representative tells of the struggle to be heard on behalf of Ōtaki. We do not want to lose the democratic voice of elected members on a community board and have only a single ward councillor to be the voice of Ōtaki. The proposed new support structure for councillors could equally be applied to our Community Board to improve its functioning.

### Conclusion

Moving into the future, Ōtaki should be regarded as a place that needs to be looked after and valued. Ōtaki is the next area of projected significant growth. We are acutely aware we can't stop this growth but we want a voice in how this will look! We are a key destination point from a historical perspective as one of the earliest settled towns in Aotearoa. The mana whenua are unique and we have many features on offer such as historical places, Māoriland, the kite festival. Our education ecosystem with its mix of educational choices offers more options than you can get in larger places.

How will our voice be reflected when we have not been given the courtesy of full and open consultation? This is hardly a fresh look at local democracy in action.

E kii ana te korero, "Ko te kai o te rangatira he korero, he korero, he korero". Many a true word is spoken in this whakatauki – in our community this should be considered the way to do things.

Haunui a Nanaia, the great-grandson of Kupe and renowned explorer, placed his staff in the ground and stated, "This is Ōtaki". The time now comes again for us to place our staff in the ground. We need to hold fast to the one democratic voice of elected members that we have and retain the community board.

The Kapiti Coast District Council must develop the correct process so we can re-imagine what council representation could look like. We need a model that truly reflects ŌTAKI and NOT Kāpiti ki te Raki.

Mauri ora,

Rauru Walker

Tumuaki / Principal

Ōtaki Primary School





Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3683236

**First name**

Paekākāriki Community Board

**Last name**

Tina Pope

**What ward are you in now**

Paekākāriki-Raumati

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

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**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

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**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

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**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## Submission of the Paekākāriki Community Board on the representation review

Thank you for reading and considering our submission. We wish to speak to our submission in person.

**There is little doubt community boards are one of the key ways councillors and staff keep in touch with the flax roots of the diverse communities they represent. The findings of Empathy’s research spoke of residents wanting an effective council that’s closer to its community. The proposal to disestablish community boards threatens to uproot an established pā harakeke and replace it with a single tree on untenable roots. Pā harakeke takes time to establish, it takes many plants to foster flourishing diversity. It s not easy work. It takes tending, it takes management, it takes feeding — it takes kaitiakitanga, but if treated with care and value can be a resource for all.**

It is obvious from the strength of support from councillors to get this proposal out for consultation there is an appetite for change in how our communities are best represented along the Kāpiti Coast. As passionate advocates for increased diversity and as a bunch of typically ‘out of the box’ thinkers, the Paekākāriki Community Board applaud councillors for wanting to enhance diversity and engage more widely and deeply with the communities they represent. But we don t think this proposal is the answer. This preferred option threatens to negate the very objectives the review set out to address and leave local government less open, less transparent, and less democratically accountable.

We urge councillors to be mindful that a there should be strong and well-supported reasons for changing the status quo—and the Empathy report does not put forward adequate (let alone strong) grounds for change. The assumptions in the report are challengeable and not backed up by the (limited) data. Proposed solutions are vague and not collaboratively explored. There is no evidence to suggest that the proposed additional support for ward councillors will lead to more effective representation and it is unclear from the proposal what the new community bodies would be, how they would be made up, how they would be staffed, how they would be funded and how transparent and accountable they would be.

The Paekākāriki Community Board recommends more, not fewer Community Boards. We recommend that:

1. The Paekākāriki, Otāki and Waikanae Community Boards be retained
2. A Raumati Community Board be established
3. A Paraparaumu Community Board be established
4. Option for a rural Community Board be explored, including thorough consultation with iwi and Kāpiti rural communities.

We support the retention of the Waikanae ward and boundary changes that keep that ward be explored to deal with the percentage rule. Waikanae is a distinct community and should retain its ward councillor representation.

We support the current mix of ward and district-wide councillors.

We ask Councillors to consider the following questions.

### **Was the process to this point fair and effective?**

A representation review is important. It's a great opportunity to ask difficult questions, to innovate, to ensure that logic and kindness remain at the core of democratic decision making. Sadly, the process of this review did not uphold these core principles. In denying a truly collaborative process—both in the exclusion of community boards in the latter part of the process and robust community consultation period thereafter—KCDC has not fully realised the opportunity to explore fair and effective representation.

### **Was the research that guided councillors robust and are the assumptions drawn from the research sound? Was Paekākāriki adequately engaged with?**

The Paekākāriki Community Board has real concerns about the the quality of the engagement on which the review assumptions—and so the recommended options—were based on. One hundred and fifty two people across the district were consulted – with a focus on capturing input from those who don't usually engage in council business. Of the 152 who participated in the research it is noted that, "A small minority of those involved in the research could speak to direct experience of community boards." We question how a recommendation to abolish community boards can be based on the experience of so few people.

Empathy does not know how many people from our community were engaged. Three people (one resident, one person from Raumati and one community board member) turned up for the consultation workshop, no pop-up was arranged for our market to seek further input and there were difficulties securing phone interviews due to how engaged our village is.

We have already shared the concerns of our local researchers about the process of the research and the assumptions drawn by the researchers. Our earlier statements about this are attached.

### **Where has this idea to drop community boards come from?**

The evidence in the Empathy research doesn't support it (the statements of "some" of "a small minority" who even know what community boards are does not meet any adequate threshold for the conclusion that they add a confusing layer of bureaucracy). The Local

Government Commission's only recommendation for the 2021 representation review was "that at its next representation review, it gives particular consideration to the ongoing appropriateness of certain sections of the Waikanae/Ōtaki ward/community boundary". The 2020 independent organisational review doesn't raise the issue, in fact recommends supporting community boards more and leveraging them more (see p 91). So, is there some other reason for dropping community boards? And if so, is such extreme restructuring the right way to address any concerns?

### **Is the premise that a larger area means a better pool of quality candidates an accurate assumption?**

If it were true, then Aotearoa New Zealand should never bother competing at the Olympic Games. This was also not the only viewpoint expressed by councillors and the public. Empathy and KCDC staff introduced the report acknowledging that that were strongly diametrically opposing viewpoints. There is no clear reason why the above assertion led to the option being consulted on.

### **Are community boards a gateway to quality councillors?**

Many councillors learned their democratic ropes in community boards, which are a pathway to quality councillors. Looking around the council table now, we can see senior councillors who have travelled this path. These councillors should ask themselves whether they would have stood for council if not for standing for the community board roles first? Many wouldn't, effectively decreasing the pool of good candidates. These councillors should ask themselves what they learned in their community board role to ready them for their current role? The connections they made, the understanding of the different parts and diversity of their communities and their understanding of the statutory requirements of a public role.

### **Where is democracy in all of this?**

Community Boards are proposed to be replaced with hand-picked advisers for any community feedback required. Who would handpick these people (as opposed to democratically-elected local representatives) and by using what criteria? Will people with a history of asking difficult questions be picked or avoided? And how will this increase diversity? What protocols will be in place to make sure meetings and decisions are open to all the community and that no one person can dominate discussions. A chaired Community Board meeting serves this purpose.

### **Will new or existing community groups want to step up to support councillors and KCDC staff on what appears to be a voluntary basis? What if the issue at hand doesn't neatly fall into their area of interest or spans many areas of interest?**

Why would community groups want to spend long hours engaging with authorities with which they share no common function? Most community groups are specialist interest groups, already struggling with volunteer numbers for their own causes. Community boards support the functions of these groups through funding and advocacy. They also

make connections between these groups and wider agencies and share information that supports the groups' objectives. They provide the 'glue' between interest groups and take on the 'unsexy' issues.

Community boards are often privy to direct information from agencies ahead of community groups and residents. This helps the board to strategise approaches and to seek out advice and current information from multiple groups and agencies – for example, iwi, Waka Kōtahi/NZTA, KCDC, NZ Police, District Health Boards, Age Concern, Greater Wellington Regional Council and local initiatives and individuals. Our statutory status as elected representatives helps us to engage with these parties under an expectation of return engagement. There is a real danger that without this function large agencies will have a choice on whether they engage with the community or not.

### **How can a ward councillor advise and support local interests when they've previously voted against those interests around the council table? How can councillors be truly independent from council staff?**

Independent voices, connected to the communities they serve, are vital to local democracy. Community boards provide an important layer of local government in that they bring a role independent of council management that councillors do not have. If councillors don't have the community boards inputting into their decisions, then the main voice they'll hear is that of staff, influenced by council management. By not having a vote at the table, community boards can continue to have strong relationships with those who feel disenfranchised and unheard on contentious issues, in a way councillors may not.

### **How will this option meet the brief of expanding and deepening representation?**

Most local community groups are already engaged with the Paekākāriki Community Board and can often include the same people in the community. This runs a risk of amplifying voices already in the room and may not capture the voice of the disengaged residents the proposed changes set out to capture. It is the task of community boards to go out and seek the voices not heard, and this is a task the Paekākāriki Community Board takes seriously. A lot of our work happens at the local café, sports clubrooms, school, bowling club, market, community group meetings, and just gardening on our berms or walking around the village. One person cannot hope to do this effectively.

### **Who would facilitate consultation and community hui?**

Track records show that when council and other large agencies organise consultation, the nature and timings of hui and consultations don't suit a majority of our residents, so engagement can be poor. Sophie and Jess's work with students have shown that young people have a lot to contribute to decision making but the council has failed to collect their voices. As well as the Long-Term Plan submissions that councillors heard, Paekākāriki Community Board has heard from the younger members of our community several times. This is the kind of grassroots connection a small group of elected representatives can achieve.

Many people in the community, including those who this representation review seeks to better represent, are cynical about the Council. For them, Community Boards can be a bridge. They are made up of locals who people can see out and about in the community, can approach informally and know they'll be heard. They can also choose which community board member to talk to. With a panel, more voices are heard.

### **What about the grants community boards administer?**

There is recognition but no plans for how funding will be accessed that is presently managed by community boards. Will this also be the role of these 'selected' community groups? If so, a conflict of interest may disempower these groups from accessing funding. Elected members swear an oath on appointment, yet community groups — who according to this proposal may influence decisions and appoint funding — do not.

For many residents, applying to the Paekākāriki Community Board for funding often serves as an introduction to the role of the board and its public meetings. We witness residents regularly returning to meetings after this initiation (when they realise it's quite informative and really not that scary!) just to listen and contribute to public speaking, to be informed by presentations, and sometimes knit, drink cups of tea and connect with fellow residents. It is difficult to imagine any accessible, democratic replacement. The choices in the option you're considering are informal (and as such, un-minuted and unaccountable) or very formal (council meetings, which are even more of a barrier to having your voice heard). Couldn't those community boards not already doing it be better supported to run more informal engagement, along the lines of what's being proposed to support ward councillors?

### **How can the relationships of one person be more extensive than the relationships of five?**

Community board members —by the very nature of election— bring extensive networks and diverse interests to the table. Between our current board members, we share active representation on more than 10 community groups and have ongoing relationships with many groups and individuals. There is concern that one ward councillor (likely from outside of the village) will have to take on substantially more work with no extra remuneration and less chance of success in forming and maintaining trusted relationships with diverse pockets of society.

Additionally, drawing from the local area means the relationships that community board members bring are not only more extensive but are the result of longer-term relationships built over time and over varying experiences. For example, our trusted relationship with Ngāti Haumia ki Paekākāriki are strengthened by the long relationships formed over years. That trust cannot be the result of a three-year election cycle. It takes a long time and can't be hurried.



## **How can the workload of five be managed by one person?**

Ask yourself, regardless of any proposed additional support from staff, can I really manage my existing workload and that of four other people?

## **Do community boards provide an important buffer for council staff?**

Boards are the first receiver of community concerns and can be pro-active team players, filtering communication to appropriate councillors or staff. Often community boards put residents in contact with the appropriate authority or follow up concerns or problems themselves with other agencies. This happens many times in a week when residents contact community boards with issues outside KCDC jurisdiction. If this accessible filter is removed, staff will be dealing with disgruntled people directly. Or, on top of an unreasonable workload, the ward councillor will also be dealing with these people and organisations.

## **Where is the support for community boards?**

It is proposed to support ward councillors in a multitude of ways — all of which could be applied to community boards to enable them to engage more actively with their communities. Why has this level of support never been offered to community boards and if it was, would it result in better representation?

The Paekākāriki Community Board recommends strengthening the support and powers of Community Boards in the following ways:

- A review of how community boards are supported and what more could be done to support them. It has been acknowledged by councillors, community members and staff alike, that the Paekākāriki Community Board exercises its legislative and delegated functions effectively. As part of the review, it would be beneficial to examine what factors may contribute to this success and how.
- Tailored and ongoing induction/training for community board members. This should be based on an analysis of the needs of the individual members and the individual boards, not a one size fits all, not all run during work hours, once.
- Training should include meeting Te Whakameninga and developing and nurturing iwi/hapū relationships. This has to be done slowly, carefully and respectfully, and should include a guided tour of the rohe to understand history and context, and introductions to local hapū leaders by the right people. Koha should be offered to iwi and hapū for their time and expertise.

- Council should facilitate mentoring for Community Boards using effective previous board members.
- Hapū representation on community boards should be explored and adequately compensated.
- Dedicated comms support for community boards should be provided. Paekākāriki Community Board is lucky to have comms expertise; other community boards may not. This is an important part of linking into the community and needs to be supported.
- It appears from the Empathy Design research that the Council has failed to adequately promote the work of community boards to the public. This should be remedied. We refer to Sam Buchanan's research into KCDC comms (noted in his submission) which barely mentions community boards.
- Council should run a civics education programme. Council acknowledged that there has been no public education about which part of government is responsible for what, for example, when and how to approach a Community Board, KCDC, GWRC or NZTA. Disenfranchisement that comes through in the review is often because people have never submitted or spoken to Council on issues and are terrified of the task. Paekākāriki School submitted on the Long-Term Plan, and students regularly come to Board meetings because a board member is a teacher and incorporates civics into her classroom. Council should be supporting and initiating this.

Paekakariki Community Board

Holly Ewens, Jess Hortop, Dan O'Connell and Tina Pope

The PCB have a fair bit to say on this but have only a few minutes so wish to focus our statement on how we've got to this point. I guess it's a little late to change your minds now, given the time and money already poured into this and the timeframe you're subject to with this review. I'll leave others to express their concerns about the exclusion of community boards from the decision making process.

However, the PCB questions the robustness of the research methodology, the assumptions made by the report writers and councillors based on the research report, and whether in fact the option you have chosen actually addresses the concerns identified in the report.

First, I want to acknowledge this is an emotive issue and things are likely to get heated and personal. We accept you have a desire to genuinely understand the community's perspective, and to find representation arrangements that are fair and effective given the community's context, behaviours, beliefs and needs, and this will have been a difficult decision to make." However there are serious flaws in the methodology of the research and the assumptions made by the report writers on which you have based your decision.

We're not expert researchers so we asked experienced researchers from within our community to take a look and tell us what they thought about the report. We did not share our own concerns; rather we left them to give us their opinion on the report without further brief. I have only a short time so can only raise a few of the issues and statement they made. There was great concern about the robustness of the report. I note that a couple of quotes here talk about the publicly-stated views of one councillor by name – I have replaced that with "one councillor.

## The first set of comments relate to the methodology of the research on which you based your decision

Here are some of the statements made by our experienced researchers.

- The lack of demographic data or clear criteria for who the "targeted groups" were is a pretty major flaw – it means you can't test their assumptions and underlying logic
- I'm concerned that a lot of weight is being placed by councillors on the findings of a report by a market research company, which does not seem to me to be either robust or fit for purpose
- Was the research peer reviewed or scrutinised in any way? It doesn't look like quality research to me
- If you aren't going to do qualitative data, the quantitative data should be both deep and broad. Which it is not.
- There is no information on how the questioners avoided conscious or unconscious bias in selecting participants nor any information on where and when street intercepts took place.
- Statements about random selections do not fit the specific meaning in statistics and survey design of that word, where it means that any element of the population has an equal probability of being sampled. People do not randomly select a stall at a market, they self select.

Our reviewers provided many other examples of shortcomings in the methodology but I don't have time to go over these . One statement sums up the general response:

- It is concerning that [one councillor] has described the consultation as “carefully targeted and the findings presented to council were detailed”, and “robust and well-rounded”. It would be very concerning if the consultation was presented to the Local Government Commission as “carefully targeted” or “robust and well-rounded” unless methodology can be provided to show that this is so

I'll add from a purely local point of view, to our knowledge, only two Paekākāriki residents attended the village consultation. We were also told that there were few, if any, research respondents from within the village (due to the research criteria of hearing from those who are not already engaged with council/community boards).

## We also heard from our reviewers that the assumptions made in the report and by councillors as a result of the report are not supported by the evidence

Again, a few examples to illustrate the shortcomings of the report on which you based your decision.

- The report states “Community panels, community boards, and council officers were all seen as possible channels for bringing the voice of the community to councillors”. Later the report says that the views on community boards came from a “small minority” of the respondents, who were spilt in their views (so only a part of a small minority had negative views on community boards). The report also says “some people felt the two layers of elected representatives added unhelpful complexity”. There is no information on how many “some” is, although it's probably less than “many” or “most”. Unfortunately [one councillor] has interpreted this as saying “It [the report] included a strong view amongst those interviewed that community boards added a layer of confusion and complexity which was seen as a barrier rather than assisting engagement”. This is a misrepresentation and I wonder how many other councillors hold that view based on the briefings and report. The view was not “strong”. It was held by “some” people or by a part of a small minority. It is concerning that the council might describe finding a “strong” view to the LGC.
- Here's another point raised by a reviewer: The premise that a larger area means a better pool of 'quality' candidates is not backed up by any evidence.
- At the briefing given to you on 29 June you were told “Community voice showed that people liked the theory of CBs, but little evidence they actually worked” Our reviewers wonder what evidence was sought?

We add the following points ourselves:

The design principles table near the end of the report is the statement about diversity - “Majority perception this is not achieved through another layer of elected representatives. Minority perception this could be achieved by strengthening the role of community boards.” How could the majority perception be anything at all about community boards when the majority didn't know they

existed? Is this a reflection of the “small minority” of participants who knew what a community board was? And weren’t there two views on that?

We note also that the report says:

“many of the barriers that prevent some people from engaging with council likely also prevent those people from engaging with community boards.” And “But overall, we suspect that the same demographic of people who engage with council also have opportunity to engage with community boards, and the same demographic of people who do not engage with council also do not engage with community boards.”

We note in the design brief, and the prevailing perception on how that is achieved, is summarised in a table. Of the 9 design principles, community boards are mentioned twice, as if they don’t or can’t:

- Reflect distinct geographic communities of interest
- Help ensure high-calibre representatives
- Ensure they can get across the people and issues.
- Ensure minority voices are heard, not overshadowed
- Give more focus to in-need suburbs. Tackle inequity, foster equity.

They are just absent apart from a muted possibility that they can

- support councillors’ responsibility to reach out and hear from the community
- Ensure councillors hear from a diverse range of community voices, not just one type.

It also says Paekākāriki is one of three communities with particular distinct contexts, ways of thinking and being, and political focuses and “We noticed that **many** from Paekākāriki were very engaged with, or at least aware of, council matters. Many residents are passionate about a few key issues, such as the sea wall. Residents in this community seem more confident to pass their voice to council, and many are actively doing so” can be supported given only two people were spoken to!

We asked our reviewers whether the research supported the decision to put this option out for consultation. Here’s a few of their responses:

- I am quite perplexed on how councillors reached the decision on their preferred option. It has been claimed by [a particular councillor] that the evidence was strongly against the boards, but that is not how I read the report’s findings.
- I’m struggling to join the dots of how the councillors arrived at their recommendation based on the report’s rather inconclusive findings. The report says that barriers to engagement and effective representation exist at all levels of local government, from the local boards to the council. How will getting rid of community boards solve this wider problem of lack of engagement in local government?
- For instance, the authors suggest there are barriers to engagement with local government at all levels (council and community boards). So how is removing community boards going to address those barriers to representation? Also, what are the barriers and are they different for different groups?
- The agenda paper states that community boards should not be included as “they are likely creating an unhelpful layer of representation that is not representative of a diverse range of

voices within their communities". No evidence in support of this likelihood has been shown and is not supported by the research.

So, to summarise, we believe the option you have chosen is based on poor information, that was not robustly questioned, and, worse still, won't address the concerns expressed by those few, mostly self-selected respondents.

I'll finish our statement on the proposal by asking:

- Is this in fact about under-performing (yet under-supported) CBs rather than the CB model itself? Is it a failure support CBs better? Is it a restructure rather than a genuine attempt to improve the performance of community boards, by, for example, applying the more targeted support suggested for ward councillors in the report?
- Is this in fact a failure of communication and civic education by council?
- How will the need for diversity in elected representatives, one of the most common and strongly-felt themes from the research, be met by replacing multi-person, democratically elected boards with one ward councillor?

Additionally and no time to cover in the verbal statements but I attach here for your consideration:

## Process

Now, I'd like to finish with our thoughts about the exclusion of community boards through this decision-making process.

We think one of the problems with excluding community boards from this decision-making process has meant there hasn't been a robust questioning of the information on which you have based your decision. We'd like to understand why community boards were excluded. Perceived self-interest? Do you not have the same degree of self interest? Community boards should be heard and have their questions answered and not after the decision is made.

I think you need to understand the great sense of grievance community boards are feeling about being excluded from the decision-making process. It's particularly egregious to be excluded from one of the most significant questions a publicly-elected body can consider - that of democratic representation, a substantive matter with long-term consequences.

We think there are serious, considered questions that we haven't had the chance to ask, it has damaged the trust between councillors and community board members and there is a risk of setting off a train of reactions because of the strong sense of grievance I've seen and heard from other CB members over this.

Now we've been told that our requests for information are being treated as requests under the OIA which means 20 working days – except of course, as you know happens, it might be more than 20 days which risks us not getting the information before the end of the consultation period. I think is unacceptable in the circumstances and request councillors to direct staff to provide the information

immediately. Any personal information can be redacted and the rest should be able to be provided by the researchers.

Thank you for your time. The PCB will be submitting on the substance of the proposal through the consultation process.



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3678957

**First name**

Paekākāriki CommunityTrust

**Last name**

Ian Clark, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Paekākāriki-Raumati

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes



## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?						

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## Paekākāriki Community Trust submission on the proposed Kāpiti Coast District Council representation review

1. The Paekākāriki Community Trust works to support the economic, cultural and social sustainability of Paekākāriki, and to set up and administer systems and buildings to support the community, including restoration of St Peter's Hall and its administration as a multi-purpose community facility. We are governed by a [Trust Deed](#).
2. Thank you for this opportunity to submit on the proposed Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) representation review.
3. Paekākāriki Community Board represents a unique part of the Kāpiti Coast with its own unique issues. We are proud of our identity as a Village and proud of the work done by our Community Board on our behalf.
4. We submit **AGAINST** the proposed Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) review recommendation that Community Boards be disestablished. Our submission focuses only on this point of the proposed review.
5. In our view Community Boards are
  - 5.1. **A voice for the community:** Community Boards are visible, public entities where community voice is heard. Rather than enhancing the diverse communities in our 'string of pearls', this proposed review potentially disenfranchises them.
  - 5.2. **True, local representation:** Community Boards are made up of people living in their communities. These people are elected by their peers because of who they are in these communities and because they are known and trusted as people who we can talk to and who will listen to us.
  - 5.3. **Based on personal relationships:** Knowing your Community Board members facilitates discussions about local issues facing local communities. Disestablishing Community Boards risks marginalising and silencing community members. Locals may feel comfortable about approaching a person they know and see in their community but they may not feel confident to talk to a councillor with whom they have no tangible connection.
  - 5.4. **Vital to a healthy, participatory democracy:** A healthy democracy is based on people's active engagement with one another over issues that affect them as a community. Community Boards act as a bridge between council initiatives and policies and community opinions. When

working well, these processes are transparent and the relationship between Community Board and Council is strengthened because decisions are informed by local knowledge.

6. The arguments put forward for disestablishing Community Boards were that they are not functioning well, their role is not understood, and they add an extra layer of bureaucracy. We argue that these reasons are not compelling enough to disestablish Community Boards and could be easily overcome. Neither are the proposed solutions convincing.
7. We submit that rather than proposing Community Boards be disestablished, the KCDC has an obligation to:
  - 7.1. **Inform people about the role of Community Boards:**
  - 7.2. **Understand what makes Community Boards effective**
  - 7.3. **Improve how Community Boards function**
8. We would like to make an oral submission.

Contact Details:

Ian Clark, Chair, Paekākāriki Community Trust: [\[email redacted\]](#)



## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682340

**First name**

Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board

**Last name**

Kathy Spiers, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Paraparaumu

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

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Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## PARAPARAUMU RAUMATI COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION REGARDING 2021 REPRESENTATION REVIEW.

### Summary

The Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board rejects the recommendations made by the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) meeting 26 August 2021 (Appendix One). Specifically the Board rejects:

1. the abolition of Community Boards from Kapiti, and;
2. merging the four wards of Kapiti into three wards.

### Halt the abolition of Community Boards

Community Boards are robust democratic institutions that represent the community and advocate to Council on locals behalf. The rationale for disbanding Community Boards used in the report to councillors states Community Boards:

*are likely creating an unhelpful layer of representation that is not representative of a diverse range of voices within their communities*<sup>1</sup>

This rationale is based on research undertaken for Kapiti Coast District Council by Saunders and Peck<sup>2</sup> who state:

*... some people felt the two layers of elected representatives added unhelpful complexity.*<sup>3</sup>

The research finding is extremely vague and casts doubt on the basis for abolishing Community Boards. The report states the research involved around 150 people and uses the phrases 'some people'<sup>4</sup> and a 'small minority'<sup>5</sup> as a basis for evidence for change. The proposal to abolish Community Boards is a massive change to a Kapiti democratic institution and must be based on a substantive call by locals wanting such change, rather than the voice of 'some people' and a 'small minority'.

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<sup>1</sup> KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#), p.19

<sup>2</sup> Empathy. [Community Insight to Inform and Inspire Kāpiti Coast District's Representation Arrangements](#), 2021

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p.22

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p.21

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p.25



The report to the Council meeting of 26/08/2021 <sup>6</sup> states that as a substitute for axing the Community Boards KCDC would:

*look to establish neighbourhood fora or community panels...work with individual communities to...support existing or new community groups to foster community-led development and give voice to their communities needs and aspirations <sup>7</sup>*

Such a proposal will weaken local democracy and put more power into the hands of staff who would control the process. The existing Community Board structure is based on elected representation. The proposed new system relies on bureaucratic inspired systems of representation based on the subjective views of staff, and is contrary to the Local Government Commission's guidelines <sup>8</sup> which asks:

*will the proposal promote good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned? <sup>9</sup>*

The answer to this question is a resounding no, abolishing Community Boards will weaken good local government in Kapiti.

The report to the Council meeting of 26/08/2021 also says:

*They [Community Boards] are a great tool for representation. They help bring the voice of the community to council. But they don't have the teeth they need <sup>10</sup>*

and

*At least half of those involved in the research were not aware of Kapiti Coast's existing community boards <sup>11</sup>*

The Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board argue that Community Boards must be retained, taken more notice of by Councillors and staff, and most importantly: actively promoted, and amply supported and resourced for the locals of Kapiti Coast to utilise for their advocacy and lobbying at Council.

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<sup>6</sup> KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#). 26/08/2021. pp.6-30

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. p. 19

<sup>8</sup> Local Government Commission. [Representation Review Guidelines](#). 2021

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. point 6.11, p.29

<sup>10</sup> KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#). 26/08/2021. p.14

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

## Do not merge the Waikanae and Paraparaumu wards

Kapiti Coast District Council's proposal is to reduce the wards in Kapiti from four to three wards by merging the wards of Waikanae and Paraparaumu into one super-ward. The main rationale for merging, according to the Council report to the meeting of 26/08/2021, is the Electoral Act 2001 requirement for fair representation when determining wards<sup>12</sup>. But the Council's report fails to take into account that merging will limit effective representation of two communities of interest by uniting two communities of interest into one super-ward<sup>13</sup>.

The staff report for Councillors has failed to adequately identify communities of interest in the Kapiti context as this subject has been poorly addressed. This report notes recognisable geographical boundaries and gives special mention to Otaki, Waianae and rural, based on these geographical boundaries<sup>14</sup>. But the report fails to recognise Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati—historical and well established communities of interest. The Local Government Commission's Representation Review Guidelines 2021 suggest communities of interest must involve more than just a geographical dimension<sup>15</sup> and Kapiti Coast District Council, in their research and proposal, has failed to establish these.

For many years Kapiti Coast District Council has identified Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati and Paekakariki as communities of interest. These were last mandated by Council in 2015<sup>16</sup> and the Working Party report to councillors at that time recommended as such (Appendix Two). The Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board does not believe the Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati communities have suddenly ceased to exist as communities of interest and questions the rationale and justification for removing them.

The Electoral Act allows for non-compliance of the plus/minus 10 percent rule outlined in Section 19V. The Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board rejects the Kapiti Coast District Council's proposal to merge the two wards of Waikanae and Paraparaumu into one super-ward. At a minimum, our Board seeks the retention of the existing Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati/Paekakariki wards.

<sup>12</sup> NZ Government. [Local Electoral Act](#). Section 19V. 2001

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Section 19V, 3(iii)

<sup>14</sup> KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#). 26/08/2021. p.13

<sup>15</sup> Local Government Commission. [Representation Review Guidelines](#). 2021. pp. 21-22

<sup>16</sup> Kapiti Coast District Council meeting 18 June 2015

## **Recommendations of the Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board to Kapiti Coast District Council**

1. Keep all existing Community Boards: Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati/Paekakariki;
2. create a separate Raumati Community Board;
3. do not merge the Waikanae and Paraparaumu wards into one super-ward;
4. keep ward councillors, and;
5. consider fewer district wide councillors.

### **Final words**

We ask Kapiti Coast District Council Councillors to objectively consider the points raised by Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board with fairness and impartiality.

This submission is based on community feedback and local knowledge.

### **Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board**

The Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Members wish to speak on our submission

Kathy Spiers on behalf of Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Members:

Guy Burns (Deputy Chair)

Jonny Best

Grace Lindsay

## APPENDIX ONE

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING 26/08/2021

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- 1 Agree, in accordance with sections 19H and 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001, to adopt its initial proposal for the review of its representation arrangements for at least the 2022 triennial elections as follows:
  - 1.1 Kāpiti Coast District Council to comprise of the mayor elected at large and ten councillors, specifically five councillors elected to wards and five councillors elected district-wide.
  - 1.2 Kāpiti Coast District Council be divided into three wards, these being:
    - 1.2.1 **Kāpiti ki te Raki / Northern Ward** (one ward councillor), the proposed boundaries and of which are shown at Appendix 1.
    - 1.2.2 **Kāpiti ki Waenga / Central Ward** (three ward councillors), the proposed boundaries and of which are shown at Appendix 1.
    - 1.2.3 **Kāpiti ki te Tonga / Southern Ward** (one ward councillor), the proposed boundaries and of which are shown at Appendix 1.
- 2 That current Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati and Paekākāriki Community Boards be dis-established.
- 3 Notes the following in relation to the initial proposal:
  - 3.1 the total number of councillors will remain at 10 with a mixed representation model, comprising five ward councillors and five district-wide councillors, plus the mayor, to provide effective representation for Kāpiti Coast District.
  - 3.2 the reasons for the change in the number of wards and ward boundary changes are to better reflect the district's communities of interest and to provide fairer representation (specifically in relation to the Kāpiti ki te Raki / Northern Ward and Kāpiti ki Waenga / Central Ward).
  - 3.3 the reasons that the initial proposal does not include community boards is because Kāpiti Coast District Council is satisfied that the existing communities of interest are represented by the proposed ward structure, and that there are alternative ways to maintain and strengthen local community representation within Kāpiti Coast District Council structures.
  - 3.4 as the Kāpiti ki te Raki / Northern Ward is non-complaint with the fair representation (+/-10% rule), if the initial proposal is confirmed by Council as its final proposal, the proposal must be automatically referred to the Local Government Commission for a binding determination under section 19V(5) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
  - 3.5 that in accordance with section 19Y(1) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 if no submissions are received on the initial proposal, then this proposal must become the final proposal.
- 4 Agree that the above initial proposal be submitted for formal public consultation, including inviting submissions from 1 September 2021 to 4 October 2021.
- 5 Resolve to establish a representation review editorial committee constituting the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Strategy and Operations Committee with the delegated authority to approve the consultation material ahead of the public notice on 1 September 2021.

**APPENDIX TWO**

2015 REPRESENTATION REVIEW RECOMMENDATION APPROVED BY KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL 18 JUNE 2015

**The Working Party recommends that the following communities of interest be retained:**

Community	Descriptor/Reasons
Ōtaki	Separate township/s with associated rural areas, a major river and its own water supply
Waikanae	Separate geographic community of interest, with major river
Paraparaumu	Paraparaumu is the largest central community and therefore warrants separate recognition
Raumati	Although closely linked geographically with Paraparaumu it identifies itself as a distinct community
Paekākāriki	Separate village with a strong community of interest with a natural boundary at Queen Elizabeth Park in the north, and its own water supply

## Community Board Members ongoing Business matters 28 September 2021

(Updates highlighted in Blue)

- \$10,000 LTP engaging with local Business community – **Raumati Beach Business Association & Council working together**
- \$20,000 LTP Community Board Funding - **Awaiting Criteria from council**
- Listen to community needs - **ongoing**
- Ruapehu Street Road Safety Issues - **meeting held Wednesday 7 July 2021**
- SH1 Revocation Paraparaumu/Raumati Railway Station/Coastlands/Underpass Ramp – **Presentation to Community Board Tuesday 17 August 2021 (Cancelled Level 4 Lockdown) waiting for Presentation to Councillors before Community Board can be updated**
- Maclean Park, Paraparaumu Beach and lights Basketball court Kaitawa Reserve, – **emails requesting meeting with Plans & Open Spaces to catch up and discuss 29 June, 3 August, 8 August – [name redacted] replied – ongoing – [name redacted] email follow-up 11 August. With[name redacted]'s assistance [name redacted] sent through information on Artpiece and newspaper articles which Open Spaces have received.**
- Public Seat - South side Walkway Waikanae River – **under action**
- Raumati South - signs for Toilets - Service request lodged - **completed**
- Follow up Nikau Valley responses for Community Hub- **Meeting with Residents Sunday 15 August pm – 3pm – ongoing - Residents will form their Nikau Valley Group. [name redacted] from Nikau Valley got in touch around bunouts, rubbish etc [name redacted] phoned [name redacted] to discuss issues.**
- Transport Bylaw - **Ready for Consultation after 29 July Council Meeting – August/September. Community Board Submission lodged with council Hearings 21 October 2021**
- [name redacted]'s invite to Community Board members Tour of Kapiti Coast Airport – **Kathy had tour 8<sup>th</sup> August. Once back in Level 1 Community Boards invited to meet up with [name redacted]**
- Local Alcohol Policy - **Consultation with Communities 2021/22**
- Representation Review - **Public Consultation August/September – Council 26 August – Submission to be lodged with hearings 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Press Statement from Community Board went out 20 September 2021 to all local print media and Radio Stations.**
- Maungatukutuku Valley issues - **resolved**
- Older Persons Housing Policy Review - **to be discussed**
- Te Newhanga Community Centre - **ongoing**
- Indoor Sports Stadium - **\$50,000 in LTP year 2**
- Te Urihi Kapiti Gateway - **work on Titoki Stream underway. Chair attended Blessing of site Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021**
- Open Spaces Strategy - **Community Consultation October 2021**
- Urban Development Strategy – **Community Consultation October 2021 which will sit alongside the Open Spaces Strategy**
- Kena Kena Stormwater/Flooding - **Funding in LTP 2021/41**
- Footpath upgrades - **[name redacted] to update Board members once there is clarity on Waka Kotahi Funding.**
- Ensure walking tracks are included in new developments - **Parks & Open Space aware**
- Beach ByLaw Manly Street Entrance - **email Parks & Open Spaces re consultation with Manly Street Residents, awaiting reply. - Understand Manly Street North Residents will be consulted - Consultation to take place in 2022**

Kathy Spiers

(17 August Community Board meeting cancelled due to COVID-19)

### **A few of the Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Achievements October 2021**

- Capital & Coast DHB Presentation to Communitiy Board on the Health Status of the people on the Kapiti Coast
- Increased Government Funding for Wellington Free Ambulance (through Mayor Guru to Mayoral Forum)
- Beach Bylaw – access remains open Manly Street North & Te Horo Beach
- Policy for Cameras on Council Open Spaces
- Increasing Road Safey around Gray Avenue Primary School
- Localities Funding \$10,000
- \$20,000 Grant for Community Boards
- Develop and enhance Park, Raumati South
- Maclean Park, New Toilets bought forward in LTP 2021/41
- Consultation with Nikau Valley Residents who have set up their own Residents Group
- Successful outcome with Maungatukutuku Valley Residents, Staff, Police on roading maintenance issues, Dangerous Driving etc.
- Successful outcome with Ruapehu Street Residents, Staff, Police on speeding issues in the Kaitawa Community, Paraparaumu
- Funding in year two LTP 2021/41 for Feasibility Study on Indoor Sports & Recreation Centre
- Supporting Kapiti Bears for new Roof on clubrooms, upgrading clubrooms to ensure young people have a safe and healthy environment.
- Eight (8) Pop Ups throughout the Paraparaumu/Raumati Area during LTP 2021/41 process
- Kapiti Health Advisory Group set up in 2017 to advocate for improving access to health services for people on the Kapiti Coast
- Highly involved with Our Lady of Kapiti School becoming a 'Gold Star' Water Only School.
- Supporting many local Voluntary Organisations during COVID-19 2020 receiving funding to ensure Older People and the Vulnerable People in our Communities have access to Communication, Support Services and engaging with residents.
- Engaging with community on the Maclean Park Management Plan
- Bus Shelters
- Public Seating

**Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Meeting Tuesday 8 June 2021**

**Community Board Members Activities**

- Long Term Plan 2021/41 consultation with Paraparaumu/Raumati community
- Council Pop-Up Waka Kotahi - Speed Limits Old SH1
- Earthquake Drill Raumati South Primary School
- Met with [name redacted] – Raumati Beach Business Association
- Vaccinations COVID-19 update - council chambers
- Beach FM - promoting Community Board activities
- Kapiti Health Advisory Group meetings
- ANZAC Day Laid Wreath at RSA Memorial Gate, Tutanekei Street
- Destination Management Plan update
- Older Persons Council meetings
- Met with Nikau Valley Restoration Society
- Council meetings
- Met with [name redacted], Principal, Paraparaumu Beach Primary School – Gray Ave Road Safety issues
- LTP Consultation Update
- Whakarongotai Marae Hui's
- Long Term Plan submissions hearing
- Premiere “Poppy” Movie, Southwards Car Museum
- Waste Minimisation update
- Animals, Bees, Poultry bylaw review
- Met with [name redacted], [name redacted] and others re new roof Matthews Park League Clubrooms, Menin Road
- Growth Strategy workshop
- MartinJenkins review of consultation Te Urihi, Gateway
  
- Older Persons Council Events meeting
- Paraparaumu Memorial Hall upgrade Opening
- Access Radio interview
- Te Newhanga Kapiti Community Centre, Public Pop In session
- Service request on behalf owners Four Square Seaview Road, clean up gutters
- Representation Reviews
- Long Term Plan post hearings workshop
- Catch up with Mr [name redacted]
- Catch up with Mr [name redacted]
- Attended discussion around Older Persons groups sharing facilities
- Opening new building Menzshed, Waikanae
- Meet with Mayor Gurunathan re Matthews Park League Clubrooms roof replacement



Kathy Spiers  
7 June 2021

**Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board meeting**  
**Kapiti Coast District Council Chambers, Rimu Road, Paraparaumu**  
**Tuesday 6 July 2021**

**Community Board Members Activities**

- Older Persons Council – Community Expo
- Community Board Chair's meeting with Mayor Gurnathan
- Phone conversation with Mr [name redacted] – Nikau Valley
- Traffic Bylaw Briefing
- Stormwater Management Strategy Briefing
- Met with Mayor Gurnathan - Civic Awards discussion
- Citizenship Ceremony
- L'Arche Annual General Meeting
- Kapiti Health Advisory Group meeting
- Met with Roding Staff, Cr Bernie Randall, Principal, Deputy Principal around Road Safety issues for students at Paraparaumu Beach Primary School
- Medium Density Housing Briefing
- Matariki Maclean Park, Paraparaumu Beach

**Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Meeting Tuesday 18 August 2020**

**Community Board Members Activities**

- Older Persons Council Meeting
- Council meetings
- Met with [name redacted] regarding Economic Development Strategy
- BeachFM interviews
- Community Boards met with [name redacted], Metlink, [name redacted], UZABUS
- Replied in writing to Mr [name redacted], Mr [name redacted], Mrs [name redacted], Mr [name redacted] on Kapiti Gateway
- Met with [name redacted] WREMO
- Accompanied Mayor Gurunathan Blessing of Team Medical
- Matai Road Playground upgrade consultation
- Kotuku Park Playground upgrade consultation
- COVID-19 Recovery update council chambers
- Briefing Waste Levy Policy
- Met with [name redacted] Raumati Beach catchup
- Beach B-Law consultation
- Council LTP Briefing
- Review Electoral System
- Blessing Te Newhanga Kapiti Community Centre
- Community Board catchups
- Kapiti Gateway Briefing
- Business Entrants Function, Council Chambers
- NZTA Mackays Weigh Station
- Council's Financial Performance & Position
- Cr Martin Halliday, engaging with communities at Paraparaumu Beach Saturday Markets with Pop-up Flag

## **Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board meeting 17 August & 28 September 2021**

### **Community Board members 6-weekly Activities**

- Met with Ruapehu Street Residents, Staff, Police around Road Safety issues
- Met with Mr [name redacted], Templeton Group, Kapiti Coast Airport
- Meeting with Mr [name redacted], Nikau Valley proposal for a Community Hub
- Coffee with Mr [name redacted], Canada Geese
- Conversation with Cr Penny Gaylor, Canada Geese
- Conversation with [name redacted] re Artwork, Skatepark, Maclean Park
- Kapiti Health Advisory Group meeting
- Conversation with Mr [name redacted] around Beach Bylaw, Manly Street North
- Older Persons Council Meeting
- Capital & Coast DHB, Health Systems Committee Meeting
- Council meeting
- Professor Michael Baker Public meeting, Southwards Car Museum, COVID-19
- Kapiti Mayoral Entrants, Electra Business Innovation Awards
- Council Briefing – Built Environments Act
- Wellington Airport Awards, KCDC Civic Awards
- Representation Review Briefing
- Kapiti Primary School, Health Expo
- Kapiti Youth Support update on Health Services provided
- Nikau Valley Residents meeting, setting up of Nikau Valley Residents Group
- Omnibus District Plan Changes 1

### **Level 4 Lockdown Tuesday 17 August**

- Council meeting - zoom
- 3 Waters Briefing – zoom x 2
- Representation Review briefing – zoom
- Spoke with [name redacted] around replacement of Artwork Skatepark, Paraparaumu Beach
- Draft District Growth Strategy – zoom
- Chair's catch up with Mayor Gurunathan – zoom
- Update on Housing Assessment
- Contacted Wellington Free Ambulance around access for Ambulances in Warrimoo Street, highly congested with parking on both sides of road near Kapiti Road intersection – awaiting data
- Blessing Te Urihi site
- Met with [name redacted] re Raumati Beach Road Safety Improvements
- Met with residents Raumati South to discuss issues around Representation Review

Kathy Spiers

Chair, Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board

September 2021

## Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Meeting Tuesday 16 February 2021

### Community Board Members Activities

- Older Persons Council Meeting
- Chairs meeting with Mayor Gurunathan
- Beach ByLaw Submissions – hearings
- Development Strategy & Implementation Plan Launch
- Review District Growth Strategy
- Launch of CCDHB Community Health Network, Southwards Car Museum
- Update on Coastal Project
- Met with Kamatua Marae Trustees at Whakarongotai Marae
- Kapiti Health Advisory Group meeting
- Road Safety Advisory Group Meeting
- On-site Meeting with [name redacted], [name redacted] & [name redacted] at Nikau Valley re Open Space becoming Community hub and playground – included in LTP submission
- Met with [name redacted] around Memorial for Maclean Park
- Council meeting
- Put together Community Board submission to LTP – 15 proposals
- Presented LTP Proposals to Councillors
- Briefings on Long Term Plan
- Long Term Plan workshops
- Attended Group Activity Presentations – LTP
- Towards Operational District Plan - update
- Met with [name redacted] (WREMO) re Drill at Raumati South
- Business Model for Kapiti Gateway
- Kapiti Destination Plan
- Met with Principal and Deputy Principal, Paraparaumu Beach Primary School
- Representation Review Briefing

## **Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board LTP Consultation Dates April/May 2021**

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

- Nikau Valley Maui Pomare Road on Council Land 10am – 12noon Kathy
- Maclean Park 2pm - 4pm Kathy

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

- Kena Kena Shops 10am - 12noon Kathy

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

- Paraparaumu Beach Market 8.00am – 12.30pm Grace, Council Staff
- Kaitawa Park, Kaitawa Crescent 1pm – 3pm Kathy

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- Paraparaumu Beach Shops outside SNIPZ 12noon – 2pm Kathy

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- Raumati South Shopping Centre outside Four Square 12noon – 2pm Kathy,
- Otaihanga Park 12noon – 2pm Kathy

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

- Raumati South Shopping Centre outside Four Square 10am– 2noon Guy

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

- Raumati Beach Shopping Centre outside Four Square 10am- 2pm Jonny
- Pohutukawa Park, Makarini Street, 12noon - 2pm Kathy

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

- Raumati Beach Shopping Centre outside Four Square 10am–12noon Jonny

### **Consultation period 7<sup>th</sup> April - 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<b>Paraparaumu-Raumati</b>							
<b>Increasing road safety around Paraparaumu Beach school (Gray Avenue, Beachwater Grove, Martin road)</b> Widening Gray Avenue is paramount in this project	Increased safety for all road users, but most importantly for children - Less anxious parents and students - Less driver frustration/less road rage - Safer roads for our student road patrollers - Better traffic flow - Better access for buses (public transport is vital in all communities). Happier bus drivers - Staff happier to be on road patrol. Less anxious about issues.	Top		\$ 1,400,000	capex	Y	
<b>Localities Funding for Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board</b>	The benefits are huge, engaging with our communities provides an opportunity for getting to know our communities and their concerns.	Top		\$ 2,000	opex	Y	
<b>Kena Kena Flooding Mitigation</b> The Kena Kena catchment upgrades and renewals were the first priority in the 2018 LTP for properties that are affected by flooding.	The benefits to the community are enormous. If the work is not continued then houses, garages and roads around the Kena Kena catchment will flood in heavy rain.	Top				y	Already in last LTP, nothing changed.
<b>Develop Park, Raumati South</b> Move flower bed to above rock wall which will enable the enlargement of the flat grass area at bottom of Park	Moving the flower bed will increase the flat area at the bottom of the Park and provide greater opportunity and scope for community use.	Top	\$ 2,500		capex	N	

Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<p><b>RSA Memorial, Maclean Park, Paraparaumu Beach</b></p> <p>The Paraparaumu Memorial Returned and Services Association marks 100 years of service to veterans in October 2021 and wants to mark the milestone event by returning to its roots with a historical acknowledgement of where it started at Paraparaumu Beach in 1921 through to 1972 and subsequent return in 2015.</p> <p>A centenary goal is to create a discrete symbolic memorial in the circular walled garden opposite Club Vista, the new home of the RSA, on Marine Parade.</p> <p>The proposed memorial will not restrict use of the area to the community and will be in-keeping with the Maclean Park Te Urihi Reserve Management Plan 2017.</p> <p>The specific memorial structure has not been decided although a few ideas are being considered. The proposal provides an opportunity for the Council to make the current non-compliant walling safer (which it is obliged to do) and at the same time create an enduring memorial. It is intended for local students and youth to be asked to submit designs for the memorial centre piece.</p>		Top				N	More work needed.
<p><b>Maclean Park, New Toilets, Scooter Park Age Friendly &amp; Disability Playground equipment, 2nd Hoop</b></p> <p>New Toilets “Visitors to the Park would like to see some integration between the facilities in the Park and the use of the beach. While public conveniences are currently available on-site, the facility is old and outdated and is inadequate to cater for current and future demands.</p> <p>The development plan has addressed the demand, the extent of the amenities required and the preferred location” Maclean Park Te Uruhi Reserve Management Plan 2017</p>	<p>Huge economical gains for our communities and businesses alike, as with lovely 'iconic' toilets at Maclean Park will bring people to the district just to have a look at them. The tourists and visitors will also return knowing that there are excellent amenities, especially for us all now with COVID-19 It is especially important for health and wellbeing, confidence will be instilled, children will be much happier to keep washing their hands at a nice bright amenity block.</p> <p>More younger children will have more fun in the outdoors, which will bring more parents down to the playground and beach.</p> <p>Age Friendly and people with disabilities will have improved health outcomes as exercise parks extend healthy life expectancy and quality of life for older people as they age.</p>	Top		\$ 1,382,000	capex	Y	



Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<p><b>Nikau Valley, Community Hub Open Space Development</b></p> <p>To create a 'Community Hub' within Nikau Valley (through the development of an Open Space area) that better connects, supports and strengthens our growing community, and aligns with Councils LTP Goal of creating 'A Resilient Community that has support for basic needs and feels safe and connected'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased community resilience</li> <li>• Increased community connectedness</li> <li>• Strengthening our community</li> </ul>	Top	\$ 104,000		capex	N	
<p><b>Indoor Sports &amp; Recreation Centre</b></p> <p>The establishment of an indoor sports and community recreation centre within the Kapiti Coast.</p>	<p>Centralised all year round venue for current indoor sports clubs and community groups.</p> <p>Children and youth particularly need a venue they can go to and enjoy during school holidays.</p> <p>School programmes can be operated from this centre.</p> <p>After school and holiday recreation hub for friendship, exercise and fun can be created for everyone.</p> <p>Giving a venue for youth to 'hang out at' which they can do things at – shoot hoop, play indoor sports, learn about other sports and groups around the Kapiti area they are not aware that exist.</p> <p>Retirees having a venue they can use during all times of the day throughout the year.</p> <p>Hosting of any events that are currently not done due to lack of a facility– sport/social/community, etc.</p> <p>Accommodation – retail – entertainment – other tourist attractions – family gatherings – etc, all benefits from such a centre.</p>					N	More work needed.

Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<p><b>Replacement of lights at Weka Park</b></p> <p>We need to replace the current concrete poles and lights. This will involve installing new poles, LED floodlights and a controller. We will also require resource consent from KCDC. The new LED lights are less intrusive for the neighbouring properties.</p>	<p>The benefits to the community will allow both colleges to have the girls football played on home grounds, instead of travelling to Wellington. There is also talk that the boy's college football are going to play on weeknights also. It will also allow Kapiti Coast United Football Club the ability to train on grounds that are well lit. KCU is one of the biggest football clubs in the Wellington region with over 700 playing members and many more parents, coaches and supporters. Our region has seen high population growth over the past 3 years and, with a new roading system opening 2020, we expect that growth to continue.</p>		\$ 50,000		capex	N	
<p><b>Creating a safe crossing of Poplar Avenue at the North end of the QEP shared path</b></p> <p>The "gold standard" would be a completely separated crossing by using an underpass or a bridge. However, the next best option is a crossing with lights. The lights would only operate when triggered by walkers or cyclists so much of the time would not delay vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Help users not in cars – pedestrians, scooter riders and cyclists.</p> <p>We will have a safer community, and safer roads. Accidents cost individuals, communities and our country money (\$68m for cycling injuries in 2019).</p> <p>In a declared climate emergency, KCDC should be encouraging walking and cycling. As electric bikes become more common, overseas research indicate they may be a key to decarbonising transport in low density urban areas such as Kapiti eg <a href="https://www.creds.ac.uk/publications/e-bike-carbon-savings-how-much-and-where/">https://www.creds.ac.uk/publications/e-bike-carbon-savings-how-much-and-where/</a> Cycling is also becoming a key part of tourism. But cyclists and walkers need to feel safe. Having a safe crossing on Poplar Avenue will encourage more use of the shared path.</p>		\$ 45,000		capex	N	

Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<p><b>Pohutukawa Park, Kotuku Park Toilets</b></p> <p>Over the past 12 months or so I have had requests from people for a toilet at Pohutukawa Park, Makarini Street. When families take their children to the park quite often they need to go to the toilet, parents then need to pack up and go home, usually not to return to the Park. This Park is also at the entrance, exit for pedestrians, cyclists from the Overbridge across the Expressway.</p> <p>During Consultation on the upgrade of playground equipment over the past few months, there was also a request for a toilet at Kotuku Park. A comment was made that there are toilets at most other parks so why not Kotuku Park?</p>	Health and wellbeing		\$ 240,000		capex	N	
<p><b>Policy for Security Cameras, Council Owned Parks, Reserves &amp; Assets</b></p> <p>Request for council to include in the Policy Work Programme Policy as stated above. To modify behaviour on council owned Parks and Open Spaces and to help with identifying any individual damaging council property</p>	<p>Once our residents are aware that security cameras will be operating. The Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board contends it will modify peoples behaviour towards one another</p>					N	Advocacy.
<p><b>Raumati Village Enhancement</b></p> <p>Noted that the Raumati Beach town upgrade is proposed for 2026 - 2028. Work was due to start on the Raumati Town Centre upgrade in 2012 and but was deferred due to budget blowouts in other areas of the district. It is proposed that council starts collaborating with the newly created business association to create a vision for the Raumati Village area and start planning for the upgrade in the immediate future so that physical works can start in 2026</p>	<p>Investment by council to ensure community connectedness and to promote economic benefit to the area. Vibrant areas create good community wellbeing</p>			\$ 3,100,000	capex	Y	

Description of initiative	CB Expected benefits	CB Priority	Estimated Costs not included in LTP (\$)	Budget included in LTP (\$)	Type (Opex/C apex)	Already in 2021-41 LTP (Y/N)	Comments
<p><b>Te Newhanga Kapiti Community Centre</b></p> <p>Note that this proposal is supporting and endorsing the current direction of the Community Centre as well as bringing it into the PRCB action plan moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Place holder - Ensuring the continuation of Te Newhanga kapiti Community Centre.</li> <li>- Development of space with community centric vision.</li> <li>- Community involvement in ongoing direction and management of Centre.</li> <li>- Planning with regards to continuation of community Centre in respect to condition and future of the Building.</li> </ul>	Substantial			\$ 10,000	capex	Y	
<p><b>Development of Raumati Pools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allocated funding/resources for initial steps with regards to requirement of KCDC in relation to assessing a future use for this building.</li> <li>- What is KCDC required to do for this building to be considered for potential development or partnership development.</li> </ul> <p>Note: - Currently there is community conversation around the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potentially Substantial</li> <li>- Development of an existing asset rather than the creation of a new one.</li> <li>- Draw card to the Raumati beach area.</li> <li>- potential economic development for both the immediate area as well as Kapiti in general.</li> </ul>					N	

Total Estimated cost (not over 1 year): \$ 441,500



133

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3665582

**First name**

Bede

**Last name**

Laracy

**What ward are you in now**

Paekākāriki-Raumati

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?				✓		

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?				✓		

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?			✓			

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?	✓					

### Please tell us why?

The proposal to disestablish community boards is unlawful, and an outrageous attack on local government

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Submission filed in pdf form

KCDC  
REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021

Submission on behalf of  
Raumati Village Business Association



Coollest little village by the sea

**Prepared by:**

Bede Laracy

On behalf of

Raumati Village Business Association

[bede@paperdoll.net.nz](mailto:bede@paperdoll.net.nz)

0274473779



“...if democracy is to do with self-government, the control of one’s own life and environment, then the most important area of control is the most immediate environment, the locality in which one lives. Home and neighbourhood should take precedence over the wider and more remote units of region, state or nation”

Richard Mulgan, Political Scientist

### **Submission – On the Disestablishment of Community Boards**

1. KCDC have implemented a Representation Review as part of its statutory duty. The proposal emerging from that review includes a proposal to disestablish Community Boards.
2. I submit that the proposal to disestablish Community Boards is dishonest, unlawful, and a direct attack on local democracy, and I urge Elected Members to reject the proposal.

### **Preliminary note**

3. It is important to make a distinction between Elected Members of Council and the Executive (often referred to as Operations) Branch of Council. For clarity, I shall refer to the Executive Branch as “the Executive” and to Elected Members of Council as “Elected Members” or “Councillors”. Where it is not clear whether the Executive or Elected Members are or should be acting, or where it is a matter where both Branches share responsibility, I will use “Council”.
4. The basis for the Executive recommendations is the Empathy Design Research. Where I refer to the Executive Recommendations from the Council Meeting Agenda for 26 August 2021, I will use the term “the Recommendations”. Where I refer to the Empathy Design research I will refer to “the Research”.

### **Community Boards**

5. Community Boards are enabled under s49 Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). They are currently a key part of the constitutional makeup of Kapiti’s local body government, and they serve core democratic functions.
6. s49(1) LGA states that Community Boards are to be representative of a “community constituted in accordance with Schedule 6” of that Act, and they may be established at any time by Order in Council. Importantly, Council must fix the boundaries of that

community,<sup>1</sup> and assign a name to that community.<sup>2</sup> For convenience I refer to these communities as “constituted communities”.

7. The statutory role of Community Boards is as follows:<sup>3</sup>

#### 52 Role of community boards

The role of a community board is to—

- a) *represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community* (my emphasis<sup>4</sup>); and
- b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and
- c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and
- d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and
- e) *communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community* (my emphasis); and
- f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

8. According to LGC Guidelines, in both the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) and the LGA the word 'community' is used in two different senses:<sup>5</sup>

- a community constituted under Schedule 6 LGA and relating to a Community Board; or
- a community of interest within the district/region.

“Community” in both Acts refers to “constituted communities” unless otherwise specified.<sup>6</sup> It does not refer to the concept of “communities of interest”, although a constituted community must always encompass at least one community of interest.

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<sup>1</sup> s2(a) LGA

<sup>2</sup> s2(b) LGA

<sup>3</sup> s52 LGA

<sup>4</sup> Note that I have placed emphasis on the parts that will be key to this submission

<sup>5</sup> Local Government Commission, Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representation reviews (March 2021, 8<sup>th</sup> edition) – issued in accordance with s19ZI LEA- (LGC Guidelines) paragraph 2.30

<sup>6</sup> See s5 LGA and s5 LEA

9. Once Community Boards are established, they must run according to set rules and guidelines in keeping with requirements around the rule of law and open and transparent democratic government. Community Boards can only be disestablished as part of a Representation Review or by way of a Reorganisation Plan.<sup>7</sup> The current proposal comes within the Representation Review process and the alternative process shall be set aside from consideration.

### **Review of Community Boards and relevant criteria**

10. s19H LEA deals with the review of representation arrangements, and it states that a Council must issue a resolution when carrying out a Representation Review. s19J(1)(a) LEA then states that on every occasion where such a resolution is passed, Council must determine whether there should be Community Boards.<sup>8</sup> That assessment must consider the principle set out in s4(1)(a) LEA, which relates to fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.<sup>9</sup> As the heading of s19J LEA clearly outlines, that process is a Review of Community Boards. To be clear, within a Representation Review, Community Boards may only be disestablished as part of a Review of Community Boards pursuant to s19J LEA. In that regard, the determination of whether to disestablish Community Boards is a process within a process and it must then look at two key tests, being:
- i. whether the proposal promotes good local government, and
  - ii. whether the proposal ensures fair and effective representation.

### ***Promotion of Good Local Government***

11. s19W LEA outlines the factors to be considered in relation to Community Boards, with a reference to criteria for reorganisation pursuant to the LGA. Key criteria are set out in

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<sup>7</sup> See LGC Guidelines, Chapter 6 at paragraph 6.4 and paragraph 6.10

<sup>8</sup> Note that determining “whether there should be...” would include both deciding whether something should come into existence, and whether something in existence should cease to be. Disestablishing Community Boards would therefore be a decision that fits within this subsection. That view is supported by the LGC

<sup>9</sup> Note again that communities = constituted communities

clauses 11, 12 and 19, of Schedule 3 LGA.<sup>10</sup> Applying these criteria for reviews relating to Community Boards requires resolving the following issues:

- a. *Will the proposal promote<sup>11</sup> good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned?*<sup>12</sup> (my emphasis)
- b. Will the district and the community have the resources necessary to enable them to carry out their respective responsibilities, duties and powers?
- c. Will the district and the community have areas that are appropriate for the efficient and effective performance of their role?
- d. Will the district and the community contain a sufficiently distinct community of interest or sufficiently distinct communities of interest?

12. The first criterion demands that a proposal be made. It then concerns itself with whether that proposal will “promote good local government for the district and the community area concerned”.<sup>13</sup> Note again that community here is the “constituted community”. This criterion is highly relevant in relation to the current proposal.

13. Regarding the second and third criteria, these factors are more relevant where the boundaries of a Community Board are being checked, and these points are not relevant for this discussion.

14. The fourth criterion requires that the constituted community contain sufficiently distinct communities of interest. This requirement again relates to the setting or testing of boundaries for a Community Board. The criterion does not specifically concern itself with how these communities of interest are governed, rather it concerns itself with whether those communities of interest will continue to exist when assessing boundaries. But these communities of interest will generally continue to exist whether Community Boards exist

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<sup>10</sup> See LGC Guidelines at paragraph 6.11

<sup>11</sup> The relevant definition of “promote” according to the Cambridge Dictionary is: a) to encourage or support something, or to help something become successful; b) to advance something to a more important rank

<sup>12</sup> Note that good government is not defined. As the New Zealand constitution is broadly defined as democratic, good government would inherently mean good democratic government

<sup>13</sup> The requirement to promote good local government fits perfectly with the general purpose of reorganisation of local government provision as stated in s24AA LEA, and again in s41(2)(c) LGA

or not – unless the Executive has undisclosed information that contradicts that point. The focus of the good government requirement in relation to Community Boards is on the constituted community generally rather than the communities of interest specifically.

### *Fair and Effective Representation*

15. Aside from the specific direction to make an assessment on good local government, there is a broader requirement that any proposal must be assessed in light of the principle of fair and effective representation for individuals and [constituted] communities pursuant to s4(1)(a) LEA.
16. Fairness of representation is largely a numerical assessment of the ratio of Elected Members per citizen, and it is not generally at issue here.
17. Effective representation is a general term for which there are guides. Where Community Boards have specific statutory requirements, their effectiveness must first be assessed against those requirements. There is no clear evidence that they are not fulfilling their legislative purposes, and in fact later in this submission we argue that they are doing so<sup>14</sup> – sometimes in difficult circumstances.

### **Disestablishment of Community Boards**

18. Council has discretion as to whether Community Boards exist. However, once they do exist, a disestablishment may only occur pursuant to a proper process. Within a broader Representation Review a Review of Community Boards must be authorised by a proposal issued pursuant to s19J(1) LEA. That proposal must then be measured against the criteria made out above. In short, s19J(1) LEA outlines the mechanism for disestablishing Community Boards, and key to that mechanism is the requirement for a proposal to ask whether to have Community Boards. Such a proposal requires specificity and explanation.

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<sup>14</sup> See below at para 35

19. There is no legislative authority for Council to start from a “clean slate” when deciding whether to disestablish Community Boards. The “clean slate” approach does help as a form of thought experiment in the process of imagining the best overall future for representational arrangements. But Community Boards must nonetheless be assessed according to the legislative requirements and only then can the decision be made as to their disestablishment. Put in another way, Council cannot imagine Community Boards out of existence, it must actively and explicitly disestablish them in accordance with the law.
20. Without a Review of Community Boards and a proposal to disestablish, there can be no measuring against the criteria, and any attempt at disestablishment may be *ultra vires*.
21. I submit that the legislative requirement for the disestablishment of Community Boards is that there must be a proposal following a Review of Community Boards and that proposal must, with regard to requirements for fair and effective representation of individuals and constituted communities, promote good local government of the district and the constituted communities.
22. I further submit that the legislative requirement has not been met, and the proposal is therefore unlawful.<sup>15</sup>

## The Proposal

23. The relevant proposal is found in the Recommendations and there are two stages of the proposal to be assessed. The First Proposal sought the active disestablishment of Community Boards. At the Council Meeting on 26 August, there was an agreement to amend that proposal. The Amended Proposal merely noted that Community Boards were not included in the broader proposal. Although it may seem counterintuitive, it is logical to start with the Amended Proposal first.

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<sup>15</sup> “Unlawful” here is used in the sense of an act by government that is not authorised by law

### *The Amended Proposal*

24. The Amended Proposal reads as follows:

2. Notes that current Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati and Paekakariki Community Boards are not included in the representation arrangements set out in the initial proposal

As shown above, s19J(1) LEA requires a proposal made in a resolution that asks whether to have Community Boards. The Amended Proposal does not fulfil that requirement. Any attempt to disestablish Community Boards based on the Recommendations as they now stand would be *ultra vires*.

### *The First Proposal*

25. The First Proposal states as follows:

2. That current Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati, and Paekakariki Community Boards be dis-established.<sup>16</sup>

As the Amended Proposal is unlawful, the question of the disestablishment of Community Boards ought to be at an end. However, debate at Council is likely to continue. The First Proposal is currently the only proposal that has been tabled to disestablish Community Boards, and it is the underlying intent in the Recommendations as they are now worded. It is this proposal we need to assess according to the legislative criteria to determine whether Community Boards can be, or ought to be, disestablished.

*26. In order to be accepted, the onus is on Council to demonstrate clearly that the proposal to disestablish Community Boards will PROMOTE good government of the district and its constituted communities, and that it will ensure fair and effective representation for individuals and constituted communities.*

### **The Research**

27. Research for the Representation Review was carried out by the Executive. Empathy Design was contracted to design the research and work with staff to carry out the research

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<sup>16</sup> Kapiti Coast District Council Meeting Agenda for 26 August 2021, p24



project. Executive Recommendations are ostensibly based, and must be based, on conclusions drawn from the analysis of the Research.

28. The Research carried out several different activities and involved “more than 150 people”. The Research was a qualitative study, not a quantitative one, meaning the number of participants is less important than the quality of data that emerges from them. It does need to be questioned how representative approximately 0.26% of the district population is. However, that is not where this critique is to be aimed. It is more important that we acknowledge the simple fact that this was a qualitative research project, and the research data and conclusions – as well as the critique – should therefore be in line with that approach.
29. As a general critique of the Research, I find it disconcerting to see a qualitative research project provide such vagueness rather than more tangible results. There is also evidence within the Research suggesting that while Empathy Design may be experts in research, they may not be experts in democracy which has potentially coloured the Research.<sup>17</sup>
30. It should be noted that the raw data has not been provided, so it cannot be challenged or assessed. The focus is therefore on how the conclusions have been drawn from the evidence and analysis of the Research, and whether those conclusions are valid.
31. A cursory look over the Research and the Recommendations suggests that conclusions drawn from the Research are frequently arbitrary. Closer examination reveals that while there are some conclusions that are sound, leading to cogent arguments, there are key findings regarding Community Boards that are not self-evident, and which have not been cogently argued.
32. We should also note that the Research goes to great lengths to establish the “starting with a clean slate” approach to forming a proposal. However, the clean slate approach is a guide, not a legislative requirement. What is required is a Review of Community Boards, which means the starting point is looking at what is already in existence. Where Community Boards are reviewed, there are statutory requirements that override the clean

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<sup>17</sup> For example, there is concern about the role of interest groups. While this is always something to watch carefully, there is a long tradition of adversarial democracy that provides a place for the competing interests within a community/society. The existence of interest groups may not be detrimental to democracy *per se*, and therefore not a fault in the Community Board structure. In fact, it is within the legislative function of Community Boards to deal with these interest groups, not to ignore or silence them see s52(e) LGA

slate approach. Unfortunately, the Research and the Recommendations have been structured such that the distinction between the two processes is not as clear as it should be.

33. Here we focus on the action of a Review of Community Boards, but it is necessary to comment on the concept of “communities of interest”. In short, much is made of “communities of interest” throughout the process. But “communities of interest” are not generally relevant when reviewing Community Boards. They are, however, strongly relevant for other aspects of the Representation Review. Where communities of interest are relevant, they must be identified, which they have not been in the Research or the Recommendations.<sup>18</sup> Any decisions based on communities of interest are therefore invalid and potentially unlawful.

#### ***Concerns about Community Boards identified in the Research***

34. The Recommendations reference several concerns that came out of the Research. These concerns ultimately provide the basis for the proposal to disestablish Community Boards. They are as follows, with my comment on each point:

- i. *They do not have the teeth they need*

Community Board Members would likely agree with this comment. Community Boards have been expecting an increase in powers and resources in keeping with the current Mayor’s election promises.

- ii. *Unawareness of Community Boards – what they are and what they do*

There is a lesson here that Council needs to promote Community Boards better.<sup>19</sup> But it should also be pointed out that the Research actively sought the voices of those with no experience of Community Boards. The lack of awareness is no more logical a reason for disestablishing Community Boards as it would be for disestablishing the position of, say, Ombudsman.

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<sup>18</sup> According to the Cambridge Dictionary “identify” means: to recognise someone or something and say or prove who or what that person or thing is. Key here is that Council needs to: (a) recognise communities of interest; and (b) state/prove what they are.

<sup>19</sup> See s39(a) LGA and the active duty on a territorial authority to ensure that the role of democratic government is “...clear and understood by the community.”

iii. *They become a vehicle for special interests*

Democratic structures are supposed to be a place for community interests to speak – and even sometimes to compete. The way to overcome their tendency to dominate is through empowering Community Boards on the one hand and supporting broader participation on the other.

iv. *They are fuelled by a narrow subset of the community*

As above with special interests. Absolutely agree that more people should have their voice heard through Community Boards – not fewer.

v. *Barriers exist to engaging with Community Boards – although they are the same barriers that exist to engaging with Council*

It has not been made clear what barriers are present, though one could surmise *ad nauseum*. Barriers should be removed where they can be identified. But based on the research, if Community Boards are to be disestablished due to the barriers, then so should Council.

vi. *A suspicion<sup>20</sup> that the same demographic of people who engage with Council also engage with Community Boards*

A “suspicion” is not a valid basis for government advice, and the comment is suggestive of a poor level of research analysis, or data that is either unclear or insufficient. Personal experience of Community Boards suggests that over time there are people who engage at Community Board level who rarely if ever engage with Council. The fact that some people do is a healthy sign, and we should have more of it.

vii. *They are more suited to citizens who have the confidence and ability to engage with them*

So are many things in life. But there is no reason why options cannot be explored to help less confident people to engage. Disestablishing Community Boards will not automatically help those people and it may harm those who are currently engaging. And I should add that it is an assumption to say that those who

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<sup>20</sup> It is not clear here whether “suspicion” is used in the criminal sense – ie: “we arrest you on the suspicion of...”; or in the more general sense of a belief that something maybe true without supporting evidence. Given the context of the statement, the latter seems more likely and logical.

participate have confidence, when they may just as readily be riddled with uncertainty and anxiety.

viii. *They might amplify those voices that are already being heard*

According to the Research, for some they might while for others they might not. Again, this is a poor level of research analysis and leads an argument not based on evidence.

ix. *They add an extra layer of representation that creates unhelpful complexity*

For some they may, for others they do not. This is not a reason for disestablishment, but it may highlight a need for education.

x. *They are ineffective*

The Research shows that people think Council engagement is ineffective, not specifically Community Boards. Disestablishing Community Boards does not fix the problem, and in fact such an action may make things worse as the actual problems continue.

xi. *They act as a barrier to engagement*

According to the Research, for some they may while for others they do not. Better to focus on how to include those who feel excluded than to remove Community Boards all together.

xii. ***They are likely creating an unhelpful layer of representation that is not representative of the diversity within their communities, which hinders their ability to deliver on their legislative functions***

This is the Recommendation's QED. But the conclusion is not borne out from the evidence. There is no indication as to how "likely" has come about given the sparse volume and questionable quality of data to support the view. The use of "likely" also suggests a degree of uncertainty about a conclusion that ought to be clear if it is to be adopted. Even for a qualitative study such a view does not have sufficient weight to bear out the conclusion. The conclusion is conjecture, biased, and ultimately arbitrary.

***Positives about Community Boards identified in the Research***

35. The Recommendations reference several positives that emerged from the research process. These positives were not seen as strong enough against the concerns to warrant keeping Community Boards. They are as follows:

*A. They are a great tool for representation*

Although this opinion may not be universal, there is no basis to say it is less valid than the opposite view. If Community Boards are achieving this, then they are fulfilling one of their key legislative purposes, and therefore also the general requirement for effective representation, which is a strong factor in their favour. The job is then to extend their reach further out into the community.

*B. They help reach out and bring the voice of the community to Council*

As per point A

*C. They are a good vehicle for some people to raise their concerns*

As per point A

*D. They amplify the voices of some people within the community*

As per point A

*E. They have a long and well established tradition in Kapiti*

So there is an increased burden on Council to prove their removal will promote good government and fair and effective representation

*F. They have had a role to play in advocating for their communities in the face of significant challenges and opportunities*

As per point A. However, in the context of difficult challenges, their benefit has been magnified.

*G. They have been a training ground for people to go on to become Councillors*

The Research showed that people want quality candidates as Councillors. Community Boards are a proven vehicle for providing much of the necessary experience for someone to become effective as a Councillor quickly. As such, disestablishing Community Boards runs a high risk of decreasing the quality of Councillors and the move will therefore not promote good government, nor lead to more effective representation.

### *Weighting the balance*

36. The Research and the Recommendations both acknowledge that there are positives and negatives with Community Boards. However, there has been no rational assessment of pros and cons. Negatives have been preferred for no clear or apparent reason. Factors have merely been cherry picked and it appears that the process has been an exercise in confirmation bias. In this regard the proposal to disestablish Community Boards is arbitrary and therefore invalid.
37. To illustrate that point, I refer to a clear example. The Research shows that of the minority of participants who had knowledge of Community Boards, there were two strong views recorded:
1. They are a great tool for representation. They help bring the voice of the community to council. But they don't have the teeth they need; and
  2. They become a vehicle for single topics and special interests. They are fuelled by, and deliver to, a narrow subset of the community.

Broadly speaking there is a positive view (they assist with community voice) and a negative view (they inhibit community voice). In drawing their conclusions, the Executive have chosen to give weight to View 2. But where differing views are roughly equal in quality there can be no legitimate conclusion drawn from the views. So the action of preferring View 2 is biased and in that case referring to the factors as being cherry picked is being charitable.

38. It also appears that during briefings to Council on 01 June 2021, Empathy Design have claimed that View 2 was the “majority view”.<sup>21</sup> That same position was repeated in an Executive Briefing to Community Boards on 05 August 2021.<sup>22</sup> On that basis it was the view the Executive chose to support. Both Empathy Design and the Executive have gone to great lengths to explain that the Research was qualitative not quantitative, and that therefore it is the quality of the data not the size of the study that is relevant. Yet here, when it comes to choosing a side, they suddenly focus on numbers. Given the fact that the entire pool of research candidates numbered lower than a statistical margin of error,

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<sup>21</sup> Page 52 of 01 June 2021 Briefing paper downloaded from <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/the-role-of-council/representation-review-2021/> - website accessed 06 September 2021

<sup>22</sup> Page 17 of 05 August 2021 Briefing paper downloaded from <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/your-council/the-role-of-council/representation-review-2021/> - website accessed 06 September 2021

the Executive cannot claim to know anything of the majority view from the Research. Any point referring to a majority view ought to be discarded.

39. Further to that, there were two submissions made as part of the Representation Review that called for the creation of a Raumati Community Board.<sup>23</sup> One of those submissions was by an individual, and one was on behalf of a group. The inherent and underlying assumption of making such a submission is a view that leans towards View 1. After all, why recommend that a Community Board be established if you don't think they offer value? However, those views appear to have been discarded.
40. The most that could be said based on the Research is that the evidence is inconclusive in regard to whether Community Boards give voice to the Community. In the face of a reasonably balanced set of positives and negatives, the Executive does not have discretion to pick a side. As above, the clean slate approach is not the appropriate mechanism for choosing. Rather, the test is whether disestablishing the Community Boards will promote good government and ensure fair and effective representation. The burden of proof is on the Executive to prove that the proposal will do so. It has not done so. Therefore, there are not sufficient or adequate grounds to support the recommendation to disestablish Community Boards.

### **Suggestive Replacement**

41. At point 61, the Recommendations refer to alternatives to Community Boards where it states,

the initial proposal focuses on encouraging a more direct connection between decision makers (councillors) and the communities they serve. Sitting alongside this would be funding and support to empower existing or new community groups to foster community led development and give voice to their communities' needs and aspirations; and resourcing to strengthen councillors' ability to know and understand their communities

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<sup>23</sup> See Appendices – submission filed on behalf of the Raumati Village Business Association, and submission filed by Mr Asher Wilson-Goldman

First, the proposal purports to bring a more direct connection between Councillors and the communities they serve. But communities can already access Councillors, and Councillors already tend to engage freely and openly when approached. There appears to be an implication that Community Boards act as some kind of gate keeper that prevent people from accessing Council. However, under the current model, as a citizen of any age and/or demographic I have choices in how to approach Council. I can:

- i. Approach a local group with an interest in the point I wish to promote and see whether they would assist; and/or
- ii. Attend a Community Board meeting, either on my own or with the assistance from a group, at a pre-advertised time and venue and make a plea for assistance; and/or
- iii. Approach an Elected Member – Ward or Districtwide, or perhaps one may hold a portfolio that covers my interest – in the hope that they have the time and inclination to assist, which they frequently do; and/or
- iv. Attend a Council Meeting and use the public speaking time to give attention to an issue; and/or
- v. Appeal directly to the Mayor.

The proposal merely removes one of these options without providing anything tangible in its place. In that regard community voice, and thereby democracy, would be reduced.

42. Second, it is not clear from the Recommendations what the new bodies would be, how they would be made up, or how they would be funded. The benefit of Community Boards is that in being formalised they have prescribed resources and schedules, and the relevant constituted community decides who sits on them. Affairs are open and transparent with a view towards enhancing democracy and the rule of law. However, the suggested scheme allows for random interest groups to form who will then petition Council for assistance and funding. The Executive will ultimately decide which groups they wish to deal with, how they will deal with them, and whether those groups will get resources. In suggesting such a change, it is therefore evident that the proposal would establish a shift in power away from democratic power to Executive power. In that case, democratic government is reduced.



43. Third, all the arguments against Community Boards exist regarding these groups. For example, the groups themselves might be taken over by the more confident and dominant personalities leading to no change. If Council chooses not to engage with a particular group – and we know that will happen as it already does – those citizens will lose their voice. All the interest groups currently wreaking havoc in Community Boards will exist within the new structure and it will merely shift them to Council – they will not simply vanish. Barriers that exist now may very well continue to exist, or while some may be removed others may be formed making the changes a zero-sum game. The change would therefore not promote good government and it would be difficult to argue that they will ensure effective representation.
44. Beyond that there is a broader objection to these vague and undefined groups as a replacement to Community Boards. Many of these groups already exist in the community where they are relevant and people are interested and available – Chamber of Commerce, KEDA, Low Carbon Kapiti, Raumati South Residents Association, Raumati Village Business Association, Grey Power, etc. They already try to engage with Council, and often engage with Community Boards. If Council want to engage with community groups more directly, they can already do so. Resources to help this would be welcomed. Community Boards can remain as a vehicle to help give groups voice, but also to those who aren't part of a group. After all, where in the suggestive scheme is support for individual citizens? Yet fair and effective representation for individuals is a requirement.
45. The biggest objection to these suggested replacements is that it leaves local government less open, less transparent, and less democratically accountable, which cuts across the fundamental requirements of local body set out in s14(1)(a)(i) LGA. Community Boards are currently elected in fair and open elections. Any citizen over 18 is free to stand and there is a level of scrutiny in how they fulfil their role as well as sanctions where they act outside their powers. Community Boards in this regard are a democratic body that is subject to the rule of law. If those elected positions are replaced by appointed positions, all that transparency and openness disappears, as does accountability to the rule of law. In that case, there is no basis to claim that good government is promoted and in fact government becomes opaque and much less democratic.

46. Finally, these suggestive replacements have not been formally proposed. They have merely been referenced and added as a note to the Recommendations. The proposal at issue disestablishes Community Boards, it does not establish a replacement and we should not be fooled into thinking that we must decide between Community Boards or their alternative. Any vote in favour of the proposal must only look at the removal of Community Boards and it cannot consider any alternative as a given. The proposal to disestablish Community Boards must stand on its own feet if it is to be accepted. The problem is – the proposal does not stand up to scrutiny at all.

### **Alternative Arrangement**

47. Although the onus is on Council to make a case for disestablishing Community Boards and establish a vision going forward, there are likely to be calls for alternatives to be proposed. As such, I propose that all Community Boards remain in place, and that a proposal be issued to amend the Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board and establish a Raumati Community Board.<sup>24</sup> Council can then explore options to strengthen and support Community Boards in line with current ideas around localism, and at the same time engage in dialogue with the community openly and honestly about whether alternative arrangements may be more suitable in the future.

### **Conclusion**

48. Council has the lawful duty to carry out a Representation Review, and as part of that review it has the power to disestablish Community Boards. Democracy and the rule of law demand that any such decision to do so must only be made lawfully and on a clear rationale supported with evidence and following sound community consultation. The legal question here is whether Council *can* lawfully disestablish Community Boards. The moral question is whether it *should* do so even if it can.

49. Community Boards already exist and there is no obvious or *prima facie* case for their disestablishment. Therefore, there needs to be a good reason for disestablishing them. The onus is not on the opposers to show why they should be kept. Rather, the onus is on

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<sup>24</sup> See Appendix 1

Council to prove they should be disestablished. The current recommendation proposed by the Executive is merely opinion and it does not withstand scrutiny as good government advice. There is no cogent or cohesive argument, and the proposal falls very short in actual reasoning.

50. The guiding issue in assessing the proposal is, or should be:

*Whether the disestablishment of Community Boards will:*

- i. promote good government within the district and the respective constituted communities; and*
- ii. ensure fair and effective representation for individuals and constituted communities*

There has been no case made that the proposal, assuming a proposal has been made, will do so.

51. It may be that the disestablishment of Community Boards will remove some ill-defined barriers for some people to access government and remove a “layer of unnecessary bureaucracy”. However, there has been no assessment of whether some people may be less likely to access government without the Community Boards. As to bureaucracy, if we are to remove bureaucracy, then we should be starting by reviewing the streams of unnecessary bureaucracy that emanate from the Executive. By comparison, the Community Boards are cheap and efficient, and they do not have the power to create their own bureaucratic requirements. However, it is not the Executive being reviewed in this process.

52. The discussion around disestablishing Community Boards frequently connects itself to communities of interest. But where communities of interest are relevant to any process, statute requires that those communities of interest be identified. They have not been. Irrespective of that, “communities of interest” are largely irrelevant to Community Board reviews. Further, the proposal is unlawful as it has not followed the legislated process that a Council must follow to disestablish Community Boards. Where the proposal does not meet with legal requirements, adopting it would be *ultra vires* and therefore open to judicial review. On that basis, Elected Members cannot lawfully or with good conscience vote to disestablish Community Boards.

53. If we are to assess the effectiveness of our Community Boards, the key test should be whether they are, *inter alia*, “**representing and advocating for the interests of its community**”.<sup>25</sup> Community Boards are differently skilled and active in this function. Some have faced challenges. Others have shown themselves to be highly effective over time having raised any number of issues and obtained considerable resources for their communities. The Research suggests that Community Boards have been achieving this key purpose for much of the community. A proposal to disestablish Community Boards is an utter insult to all those who have toiled through them over the years.
54. The Recommendations’ suggestion that Community Boards be replaced by an informal arrangement lacks specificity. It requires Kapiti citizens to trust that Council knows best without offering any reason for people to do so. Where the proposal is based on such a poor level of research and analysis, it is difficult to offer trust in return. We are therefore locked into only looking at what the proposal is clear about, which is the disestablishment of Community Boards and not their replacement.
55. There have been opinions at Council that there is a need for change, and an implication that those who oppose the proposal may lack imagination and/or vision. However, there is no imagination or vision in the Recommendations themselves. There is merely what amounts to the shuffling of chairs. I, and no doubt many others, would be more than happy to discuss alternatives to Community Boards if there is a general opinion amongst the community that they have had their day. An honest and democratic process would be one where those possibilities were discussed before a formal proposal to disestablish Community Boards was made. As it stands, the proposal reeks of a hidden agenda and it does nothing to promote creative thinking or visionary engagement. Instead, it destroys trust.
56. The proposal to disestablish Community Boards would lead to the loss of elected positions in favour of appointed ones with little transparency. That action would remove an important voting right, and community engagement would then occur in an obscure process far too open to personal discretion and arbitrariness. That would be contrary to the rule of law, and it would ultimately make Kapiti much less democratic.

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<sup>25</sup> s52 LGA

57. For these reasons, it is difficult to avoid the view that the proposal to disestablish Community Boards is dishonest, unlawful, and a direct attack on local democracy. Dishonest because it seeks to disestablish Community Boards on vague and unsubstantiated premises, and there has been no upfront and open dialogue about the issue within the community prior to it being formally proposed. Unlawful because the proposal does not follow the legislatively prescribed process to disestablish Community Boards. And an attack on democracy because it takes a circumstance of procedural empowerment to actively reduce the democratic opportunities available to citizens of Kapiti both to access government and to have their voice heard.
58. Elected Members of Council have the option to either reject this proposal or be willing to stand before their communities and acknowledge that they are supportive of a proposal that defies the rule of law and makes the Council structure much less democratic.
59. I submit that the only legal and moral option open to any Elected Member of Council is to reject the proposal to disestablish Community Boards.
60. Finally, submissions were made as part of the Representation Review process that upheld the value of Community Boards and proposed that a Community Board be established for Raumati. I submit that the proposal for a Raumati Community Board be re-examined in light of the current situation and that it be given serious consideration as an option.
61. I thank KCDC for providing an opportunity to make this submission, and I look forward to the opportunity to make oral submissions in support.

#### **APPENDICES:**

1. Copy of submission filed on behalf of Raumati Village Business Association

**Bede Laracy**  
**On behalf of the Raumati Village business Association**  
**September 2021**

**APPENDIX 1**

**KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021**

**Submission on behalf of  
Raumati Village Business Association**



Cooler little village by the sea

**Prepared by:**

Bede Laracy

On behalf of

Raumati Village Business Association

[bede@paperdoll.net.nz](mailto:bede@paperdoll.net.nz)

0274473779

## On the formation of a Raumati Community Board

### *Introduction*

1. Raumati is made up of Raumati South and Raumati Beach (the Raumatis). The Raumatis are significant parts of the Kapiti District and they are Communities of Interest. However, the current representative structure leaves them improperly represented.
2. Raumati Village Business Association submits that for the Raumatis to be properly represented, they need to be combined into a single standalone Raumati Community Board.

### *Current Representative make up*

3. Under the current representative structure, the Raumatis come under the Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board (PRCB), and they fall within the Paekakariki Raumati Ward (PRW).
4. According to KCDC figures, in 2020 the PRCB area had a total population of 33,541, of which 9,297 live in the Raumatis.<sup>1</sup> The Raumatis are similar in population size to the area covered by the Otaki Community Board.

### *The Issues*

5. The PRCB has made a valiant effort of representing the Raumatis over the years. However, factors that work against the Raumatis obtaining proper representation at local body level include the following:
  - i. Size – both in regard to population and geography – works against the Raumatis at Community Board level. The PRCB area incorporates all of Paraparaumu up to Otaihanga, across to the Nikau and Maungakotukutuku Valleys, then down as far as Raumati South. The bulk of PRCB time and energy are taken up by issues relating to the wider Paraparaumu area, with the Raumatis then playing poor cousin to the larger more populous area.
  - ii. Unlike any other Community Board, two Ward Councillors sit on the PRCB. However, both of these Ward Councillors are elected to represent Paraparaumu.

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<sup>1</sup> All population figures are from <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/our-district/the-kapiti-coast/population-and-demographics/population-and-demographics/> accessed 15 March 2021

While they no doubt have concern for and interest in the Raumatis, like the PRCB their energy and attention is taken up by the larger more populous area. And it ought to be stressed that they are not specifically elected to represent the Raumatis, which means that they are forced to represent an area that they were not elected to represent. The inherent conflict of interest in such an arrangement ought to be addressed.

- iii. In regard to Ward representation, the Raumatis fall under the PRW. While population imbalance at Board level leaves the Raumatis second best, that same impact is not felt at Ward level. Due to the fragmentation of the Raumatis, there has been no strong and unifying force over the years. By comparison, Paekakariki has developed a very strong and active community by being geographically well defined, and by having its own dedicated Community Board. Because of that strength, Paekakariki tends to dominate issues at Ward Council level. Evidence of this is seen by the fact that, since its inception in 1989, all holders of the PRW Councillor seat have come from Paekakariki except for Cr Alan Tristram.
  - iv. Confusion. Raumati residents are under the Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board, and the Paekakariki Raumati Ward.<sup>2</sup> This is confusing for people, which often causes a disconnection when engaging on local issues with local people.
  - v. Systemic paralysis of Community Boards means that no matter how strongly or earnestly the Community Boards plead their case to Council, their petitions can be – and regularly are – ignored. Establishing a new Community Board alone will not resolve the issue.
6. Due to the various factors above, some of which are no doubt unintended consequences of other decisions, the Raumatis are not as well represented as they should be at local body level. Raumati residents are therefore not being properly addressed.

### ***The Solution***

7. The key solution to the issue is to create a Raumati Community Board (RCB). The RCB would be established solely to focus on the issues involving Raumati South and Raumati Beach, and those issues would have their proper attention.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that Raumati is mentioned second in both of these groups.



8. The RCB would also establish a simple identifying body for Raumati residents, which would help to develop a more unified identity amongst the Raumatis.
9. The RCB would still fall within the PRW. However, the hope would be that by having its own Community Board, residents of the Raumatis would start to become more actively engaged in their Community Board and begin to compete for the position of Ward Councillor more equally.
10. There would then be a Paraparaumu Community Board, which would be free to focus more effectively on Paraparaumu based issues.

### ***The Issue with the Solution***

11. The main issue with the solution is one of resources.
12. Funding of Community Boards comes from a single pool that is then allocated out to elected members. By increasing the number of elected members, it is foreseeable that the funding for each elected member would be decreased. In effect it would be a pay cut for a role that is already not well remunerated.
13. There may not be a simple solution to that issue. While it is hoped that the overall resources would be increased over time to allow all roles to be properly funded, the history of democratic representation suggests that it will always remain under funded. In that regard adding more members now may not, in real terms, ultimately create a worse situation.

### ***Maungakotukutuku***

14. Maungakotukutuku Valley, with a population of 1,384 people, currently falls within the PRCB area. Geographically the area would logically be incorporated into the RCB. However, those residents may prefer to remain in the PRCB, and if so that wish ought to be respected.

### ***Submission***

15. Raumati has been left without proper representation for too long. As the community has grown and developed, the time has come to redress the balance by providing a Community Board that can focus primarily on Raumati based issues.

16. We believe that doing so will strengthen the identity of the area and encourage a better level of democratic participation.
17. The funding issue will remain an issue, but that is not sufficient to stop the creation of the new Board.

### **On the Power of Community Boards**

18. One of the difficulties faced by residents is the frequent discarding or dismissal of issues raised through Community Boards.
19. Community Boards are of significant value to local communities, but without proper powers they can do a lot of work for little effect.
20. Ways ought to be sought to ensure that Community Boards have their issues taken seriously at Council in order to preserve grass roots democracy.

### **On the Make-Up of Council**

21. Council is currently made up of 5 Ward Councillors and 5 Districtwide Councillors plus a Mayor. We believe this to be the best structure.
22. Ward Councillors are elected to represent a specific area within the District, and they ensure that each area has a direct voice at Council.
23. Districtwide Councillors are then able to focus more on the bigger picture of the District, and act in support of Ward Councillors on a case-by-case basis.
24. Maintaining both types of Councillor ensures the best spread of representation across the District.
25. The only change that could be of benefit is by establishing a Raumati Ward. However, that may create logistic difficulties and an imbalance in the types of Councillors. It would also create an oddity whereby Paekakariki, with a population of only 1,802, had a Community Board and a Ward Councillor of its own. We therefore have no strong view on such a possibility other than to recommend that the idea be explored.

26. The Raumati Village Business Association thanks KCDC for the opportunity to submit on these vital issues, and we would welcome the chance to make oral submissions in support of the above.

Bede Laracy  
On behalf of the Raumati Village Business Association  
24 March 2021

A blue circular graphic with the text "Kōrero mai Have your say" in white and yellow. The word "Have" is in yellow, and "your say" is in white. The background of the graphic is a dark blue circle.

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
your say

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3685948

**First name**

Te Horo School

**Last name**

Principal

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

No

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

No

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?						

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## **Submission by [name redacted] on the Kapiti Coast District Council proposal “A fresh look at local democracy”**

### **Summary**

The education community of Ōtaki submits that the proposed changes to representation on the Kapiti District Council are likely to further disenfranchise members of the Ōtaki community. We feel the status quo should be maintained for Ōtaki until there is a more comprehensive review of how to strengthen democratic participation and representation in Ōtaki. Our community is experiencing rapid change and it is important that we have a greater say in the issues that effect it.

### **Ōtaki is different**

Ōtaki is quite different from the rest of Kapiti. It sees itself as different and the rest of Kapiti sees it as different. As the Community Voice research says, “When we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say “Ōtaki”, and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say “Kāpiti”.

This sense of difference is unchanged since Ōtaki was first included in the Kāpiti District in 1989. Since then the approach of KCDC means that the Ōtaki community has seen little to value from being included in Kapiti and so continues to see itself as separate.

The Community Voice research identified Ōtaki as a distinct geographic community with a “distinct way of thinking and being, and political focus”.

We agree. The history of Ōtaki is different. The demographic make-up of Ōtaki is unlike the rest of Kapiti. Its population is significantly more Māori, younger, has a more diverse socio economic status and has different needs to the rest of the Kāpiti Coast.

The proposed changes give no recognition to this difference.

### **The role of the community board**

This is not to say the community board is functioning as well as it might. However, residents are able to take their concerns to the community board and know they will be heard.

But we submit that the work to make democracy function better in Ōtaki is yet to be done.

### **Ōtaki is changing**

Ōtaki is also the area in the district that is most likely to experience rapid change through population growth and land development.

There is nothing in this proposal that will strengthen Ōtaki’s ability to influence its own future. The proposal reinforces that a Kapiti-centric view of development will be the future. Ōtaki’s voice will be limited to one vote on a council of ten.

Our area’s unique identity is obliterated in this proposal through both the proposed name and the model of representation. If the long-term strategy is the assimilation of Ōtaki into the wider Kapiti interests then the proposal is a step in that direction. If the uniqueness of Ōtaki, its history and its people are valued then further efforts are needed to strengthen our local democracy.

At a time when the uniqueness of Ōtaki is at risk, because of the changing and growing population of the region, it is critical we have an opportunity to protect what we value. We are already seeing the impact of Council decisions which permit high-density, unaffordable housing developments which were approved with no thought to their impact on the community. We are concerned about what will come next. Our current local representative tells of the struggle to be heard on behalf of Ōtaki. We do not want to lose the democratic voice of elected members on a community board and have only a single ward councillor to be the voice of Ōtaki. The proposed new support structure for councillors could equally be applied to our Community Board to improve its functioning.

## Conclusion

Moving into the future, Ōtaki should be regarded as a place that needs to be looked after and valued. Ōtaki is the next area of projected significant growth. We are acutely aware we can't stop this growth but we want a voice in how this will look! We are a key destination point from a historical perspective as one of the earliest settled towns in Aotearoa. The mana whenua are unique and we have many features on offer such as historical places, Māoriland, the kite festival. Our education ecosystem with its mix of educational choices offers more options than you can get in larger places.

How will our voice be reflected when we have not been given the courtesy of full and open consultation? This is hardly a fresh look at local democracy in action.

E kii ana te korero, "Ko te kai o te rangatira he korero, he korero, he korero". Many a true word is spoken in this whakatauki – in our community this should be considered the way to do things.

Haunui a Nanaia, the great-grandson of Kupe and renowned explorer, placed his staff in the ground and stated, "This is Ōtaki". The time now comes again for us to place our staff in the ground. We need to hold fast to the one democratic voice of elected members that we have and retain the community board.

The Kapiti Coast District Council must develop the correct process so we can re-imagine what council representation could look like. We need a model that truly reflects ŌTAKI and NOT Kāpiti ki te Raki.

[name redacted]

Te Horo School





## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3683168

**First name**

Templeton Group

**Last name**

Chris Simpson

**What ward are you in now**

Paraparaumu

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
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Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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# SUBMISSION

**A FRESH LOOK AT LOCAL DEMOCRACY:**

**HOW CAN COUNCIL BETTER REPRESENT YOU  
AND YOUR COMMUNITY?**



TEMPLETON

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## INTRODUCTION

Enclosed is Templeton Group's submission on "How can Council better represent you and your community".

Templeton Group is a major developer in NZ.

In summary we support the status quo and keeping community boards. We recognise that the diversity of a region or town needs to have representation of those areas by the people who live and work in those areas.

Any movement away from that by moving to a system where the community is ostracised by the removal of ward-specific councillors and/or community boards flies in the face of what Local Government is meant to do.

Localism NZ says it best re this statement:

*Compared to most countries, New Zealand has a small population. However, size is no barrier to experiencing the benefits of localism and some of the most decentralised counties are also small. Consider for example three highly decentralised countries;*

- *Denmark – approximate population 5 million*
- *Switzerland – approximate population 8 million*
- *Iceland – approximate population 340,000*

*New Zealand's landmass spans 268,021km<sup>2</sup>, and we have 78 sub-central units of government, including territorial authorities, and regional and unitary councils. Switzerland, our go-to country for looking at how well localism works, has a population slightly above New Zealand's at 8.4 million, yet the area of Switzerland is much smaller at 41,285km<sup>2</sup>. However, New Zealand's 78 local governing bodies appear minute in comparison to Switzerland, who have 26 cantons (regions) and 2,294 communes (municipalities).*

*Iceland is less than half the size of New Zealand and has less than 340,000 inhabitants compared to our nearly 5 million, however it has 75 councils (compared to New Zealand's 78) which are responsible for undertaking similar services to those provided by councils in New Zealand as well as extensive health, housing and education roles.*

*Being small gives New Zealand a unique position to actively involve citizens and communities in the process of governing their communities. It is precisely our size that presents us with the opportunity to create a democracy characterised by more active involvement of citizens in the processes of governing their towns, cities, and regions.*

And Local Government NZ and the NZ Initiative are supporting more local engagement, as articulated through this quote:

*Both organisations are advocating for localism because the issues facing New Zealand are simply too complex, varied and “multi-faceted” to be successfully addressed by a single government based in our capital. Top-down, one-size-fits-all approaches to policy and decision-making will simply not work given the challenges that New Zealand is facing.*

*Strengthening the role of citizens in our decision-making means recognising the importance of our districts, towns, cities – that is places, as new and important sites of public governance. Today “place”, as Richard Florida argues, has become the social and economic organising unit of modern capitalism. New Zealand’s top-down siloed approach to most of our public decision-making is poorly designed to meet the future challenges facing our communities and nation. We need a “bottom-up” place-based approach.*

*Current governing arrangements are failing. Disillusionment with traditional forms of political participation has increased; electoral turnout is almost at record lows, and economic disparities between regions are high. Added to this the cost of housing has accentuated poverty and homelessness and created a new class of working poor. While these issues are not unique to New Zealand the solutions are not found in “more of the same”. Simon Parker, the former CEO of the New Local Government Network, argues that the answer to such problems is to:*

*... bring power closer to ordinary people, partly by vesting more of it in local institutions that voters can really influence, but also by engaging citizens themselves more in everything from healthcare to house building. A call for decentralisation is a demand for a different way of doing government: one that argues that politics must do more to set the context in which good lives can be led, but less to enforce its own particular vision of what the good life should be” (Parker 2015 p. 13).*

*To further succeed as a country, we need to build on the knowledge, the experience and the talent that lives in our districts, towns, and*

*cities. This requires a new form of governing, one that brings us closer to the way most other developed countries operate where the distribution of responsibilities between central and local governments is more balanced and governing is more of a collaborative endeavour.*

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS AS PER THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

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### **1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case).**

Yes. Also, as the regions grows in population, there will be a need for more representation and participation. This paper explores in detail some of these issues and outlines how others are undertaking better democracy.

It is also important to understand that democracy at a local government level is also influenced by outside factors, such as the four well-beings of the Local Government Act. Furthermore, the environment which we work and live in also has an important part to play in better representation. Because we live in towns, suburbs etc, the urban design of a modern community has a lot to offer how better democracy should operate.

An example of that is through the Ministry for the Environment's New Zealand Urban Design Protocol that states:

1. Community recognises the stewardship roles and responsibilities with urban environments;
2. Demand quality urban design;
3. Develop community action projects

4. Participate in community engagement forums
5. Lead proactive neighbourhood projects Iwi and iwi authorities
6. Recognise the kaitiaki roles and responsibilities with urban environments
7. Advocate for quality urban design
8. Develop community action projects
9. Participate in community engagement forums

As is plainly explained, this is all about community and community engagement, and this approach reflects and flows through the rest of our observations and thoughts with regards to the questions posed about better democracy.

## **2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?**

No. Having half the elected members as districtwide councillors seems incongruent with a local focus.

However, it is important to retain a number of districtwide councillors, as you do need a balance of representation which has a wider overview of the issues. And, it provides an ability for ratepayers, if they have an issue with their ward representative, that they can approach a districtwide councillor to discuss.

Because of these points, there should be a reduction to 4 districtwide councillors and the creation of another councillor position for Waikanae, as it has the second largest population and is growing. Plus it also has two very distinct centres as in its town centre and the beach.



Also, Local Government NZ has this to say regarding participation and ownership of local issues – as in having people who represent their community are empowered to do so. The point about salience and public participation – where voters feel an affinity to their local issues and see Council as a strong part of that:

*Shifting more decision-making to communities and their councils provides more reasons for people to stand for local office and vote. Having more ability to influence whether or not and how a community grows and develops will increase interest in local government and attract people with more knowledge and experience to stand for and work in councils.*

*The experience of democracy is acquired through practice at not just the national level but also, and more directly, at the local and regional levels and research tells us that in countries where people have a greater say about the policies and programmes that affect their lives the more likely they are to vote. The reason is to do with the salience of a local government system.*

*Salience refers to the degree to which a council is relevant to the communities it represents. Only when local authorities are responsible for services that people recognise and value will they invest in the time and effort required to make an informed vote.*

The point of this quote is that it shows that having too many districtwide council representatives means people may not resonate with the representation as much as they would with a local councillor that represents a specific ward.

Also this approach is incongruent with the way that modern involvement and engagement with communities is being undertaken. Even central government is recognising this through legislation.

For example, The Urban Development Act provides much foresight into the way communities need to be involved with their surroundings. In fact, this from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development says that:

*To achieve this, the Act provides a bespoke approach to complex and transformational urban development. The Act establishes a new streamlined process that brings together a toolkit of development powers and puts Māori, councils, developers and diverse communities at the heart of developments.*

The point is that it's important to understand and embrace the diversity, by better understanding what the community wants and, more importantly, needs.

Hence having 5 districtwide councillors is the opposite to what is being promoted as best practice.

Also, having 5 districtwide councillors may push for less "ownership" of contentious local issues, and the marginalisation of a community. This is because the districtwide councillors may not be fully aware of the issue due to not living in or being from that community.

Also, it's important to take into account the view of Local Government NZ when it comes to what is relevant regarding community involvement.

Their website has numerous best practice guidelines and, in fact, this clip from their website clearly explains what good practice should be. When you read the research, and the contents of their website you find the push for less centralisation, and more engagement at a local level.

## Local democracy (Localism)



Localist framework, LG legislative update, Community engagement, and Electoral system reform.

Our Work > Our policy priorities > Local democracy (Localism)

LGNZ has for a number of years advocated for reforms that enable greater community say in policies that affect their lives, and greater variation in policy to better reflect the diverse nature of New Zealand's communities, districts and regions. This work has been done under the localism banner. National Council has sought to widen this focus to include policy matters that support and complement the localism work, and that aligns with LGNZ's strategic vision. As such, the focus of this project has been broadened to Local democracy, acknowledging that a healthy and sustainable local democratic system, and the checks and balances this entails, are inextricably linked to localism and the disaggregation of decision-making.

### Localist framework

New Zealand is one of the most centralised countries in the developed world, with decision-making power highly concentrated at a central government level. In seeking to change this, one of the major hurdles is to present a credible alternative framework, and not merely a high-level strawman argument. LGNZ has sought to correct this by developing a localism framework. This work, which was started in 2018, progressed with the launch of a public discussion document in 2019, continues in the current period.

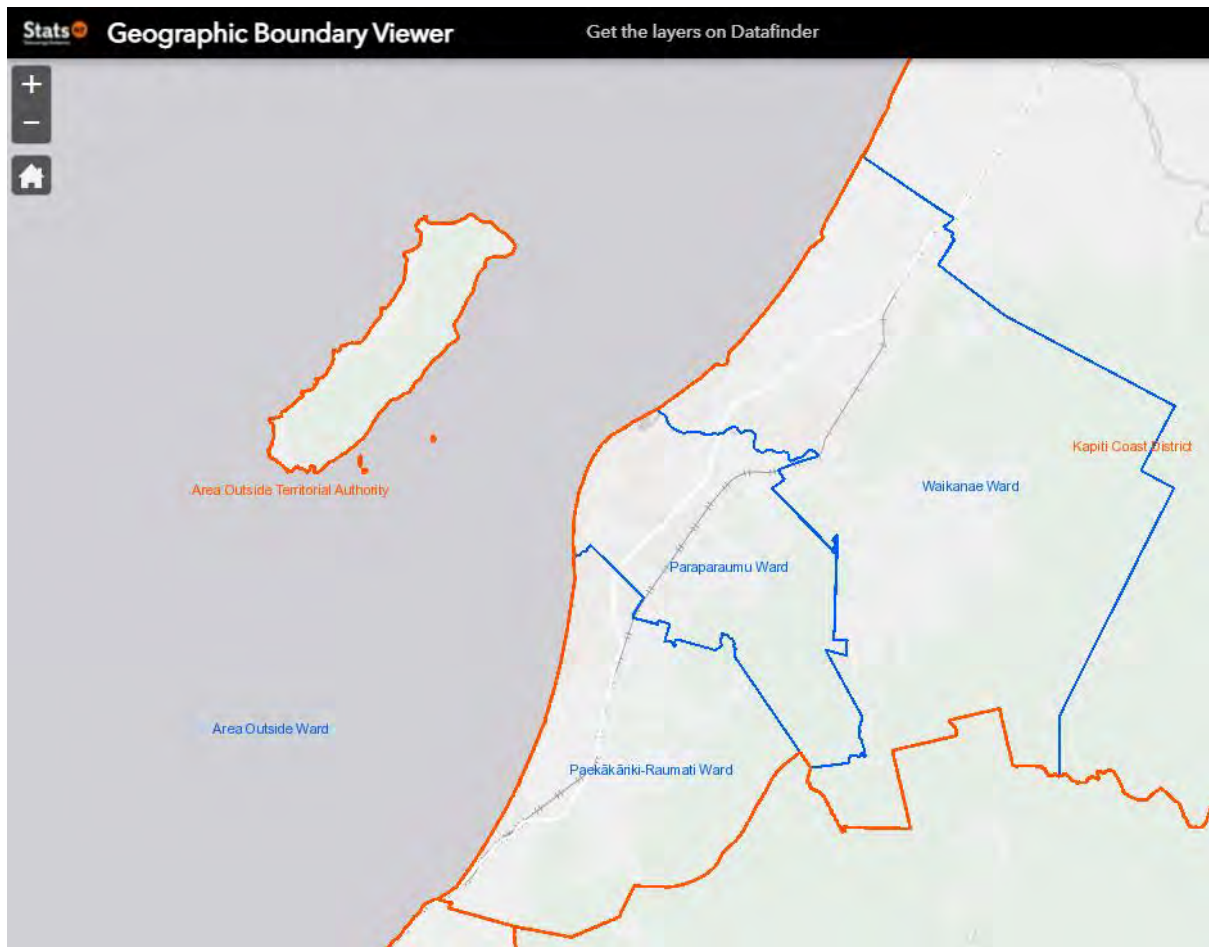
### 3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?

No, due to distinctive characteristics of the two very different wards. The characteristics and the communities themselves are very different.

How do we know this?

Well, Statistics New Zealand has the area defined as a separate entity due to its size and distinct character compared to that of Paraparaumu – see map and detail.

Also, Statistics NZ breaks down Waikanae into Waikanae Beach, West East etc. The point being that the NZ Government through it's Statistics Department recognises Waikanae as a distinct place, rather than grouping it as a suburb of Paraparaumu.



Also, it is important to recognise that the reinstated Local Government Act Well-being's (see LGNZ's media release) focus on a stronger community not less.

## Reinstated well-beings endorse councils' community focus

8 MAY 2019

News & Media > 2019 Media Releases > Reinstated well-beings endorse councils' community focus

Local Government New Zealand is delighted to see the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill pass its third and final reading in Parliament last night, effectively reinstating the four aspects of community well-being – social, economic, environmental and cultural – into the Local Government Act.

Furthermore, Waikanae is identified as different to other centres in the region through Council's own Retail report of 2016:

## KAPITI COAST DISTRICT PLAN RETAIL OVERVIEW

Project No: 50976  
Date: July 2016  
Client: KAPITI COAST DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Where it states:

*The centres of Raumati Beach, Otaki Town Centre, Paraparaumu Beach and Paekakariki generally perform a convenience retailing function only, and in contrast, the Waikanae Town Centre performs a convenience plus supermarket retailing role and function within the wider market.*

Furthermore, in the same report it identifies the two centres as distinct from one another:

*The larger retail centres such as Paraparaumu Town Centre and Waikanae Town Centre.... These centres consist of shopping, small scale commercial and industrial service activities.*

Another aspect to consider is the population size of Waikanae, as is shown, is the second largest and quite distinct area for the council's geographical footprint. This in itself is a very strong indicator that it should remain a separate Ward.

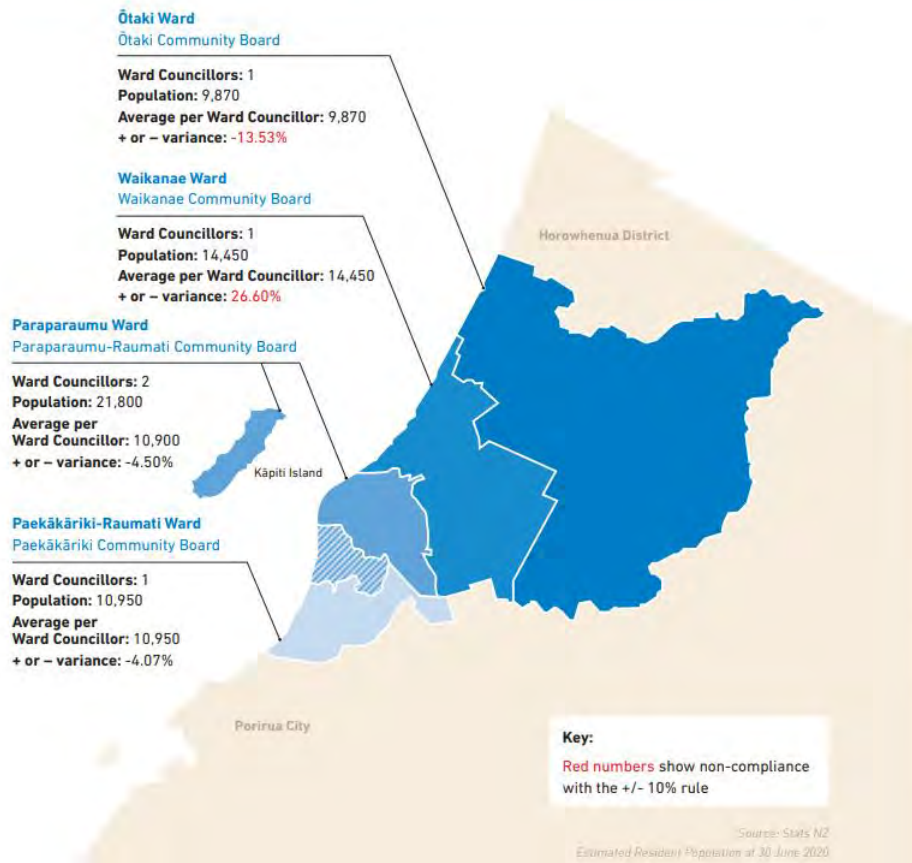
## Councillors

We currently have 10 councillors, plus the mayor. Five councillors are elected by ward (a geographical area), and five are elected 'at large' (representing the whole district). As part of the review, we're asking residents if they'd like councillors to be elected from wards or 'at large' across the whole district, or by a mix of both wards and 'at large'.

Ward	Population	Councillors
Ōtaki	9870	1
Paraparaumu	21800	2
Waikanae	14450	1
Paekākāriki-Raumati	10950	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>57,070</b>	<b>5</b>
At large	57,050	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,070</b>	<b>10</b>

Also, Council's own map and subsequent own analysis that it does not have enough representation (non-compliance) for Waikanae paints the picture that it isn't a part of the Paraparaumu Ward.

Figure 1. Current wards and boundaries



Finally, Waikanae residents are more involved in their local democracy than their neighbouring Wards. This further implies that the two are very separate, as people at a democracy level are engaging with their local representative at 49.6% for Waikanae, compared to 42.4% for Paraparaumu:

## How many people voted

The results are in! See below for how many votes were cast across the District and for each Ward, including special votes.

	Number of votes placed	% of voters
Across the whole District	18343	45.36%
Ōtaki Ward	3005	44.02%
Waikanae Ward	5384	49.59%
Paraparaumu Ward	6422	42.38%
Paekākāriki - Raumati Ward	3532	46.44%

Based on these observations, combining these two Wards is incongruent with several aspects when it comes to encouraging better democratic participation and more informed local input into Council decision making.

#### 4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

We do not agree with the removal of community boards. As per the bulk of this submission where the relevant legislation and Acts are calling for more involvement of communities, any step away

from this will result in KCDC moving away from the community and more to an authority run by bureaucrats, with less democratic controls on them.

A useful guide regarding how better community engagement works is through a recent travel study to Switzerland<sup>1</sup> undertaken by the NZ Initiative which showed more local government involvement at a very localised level led to better engagement, and better business as well as economic growth.

*With a population of 4.8 million and a landmass spanning 268,021 km<sup>2</sup>, New Zealand has 78 sub-central units of government. These include territorial authorities, regional and unitary councils. Switzerland, meanwhile, has more inhabitants: 8.4 million. But its area is much smaller at only 41,285 km<sup>2</sup> (roughly the size of Canterbury) and within this small country, there are 26 cantons (regions) and 2,294 communes. In other words, where New Zealand has an average of 61,500 people per sub-central unit of government, the corresponding value for Switzerland is only 3,620 people. And where the average New Zealand sub-central unit covers 3,400 km<sup>2</sup>, in Switzerland that area is just 18.*

The report is well worth the read and explores in depth what opportunities and lessons learned are available to be emulated here. Hence the retention and further support of community boards are vital to a growing area like the Kapiti Coast.

Furthermore, Local Government NZ's localism approach found this to be the case – from their website:

*Strengthening citizens and community capacity*

*Ultimately resilience will depend upon the capacity of citizens and community organisations to manage for themselves in times of crisis. This*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzinitiative.org.nz/reports-and-media/reports/go-swiss-learnings-from-the-new-zealand-initiatives-visit-to-switzerland/document/506>

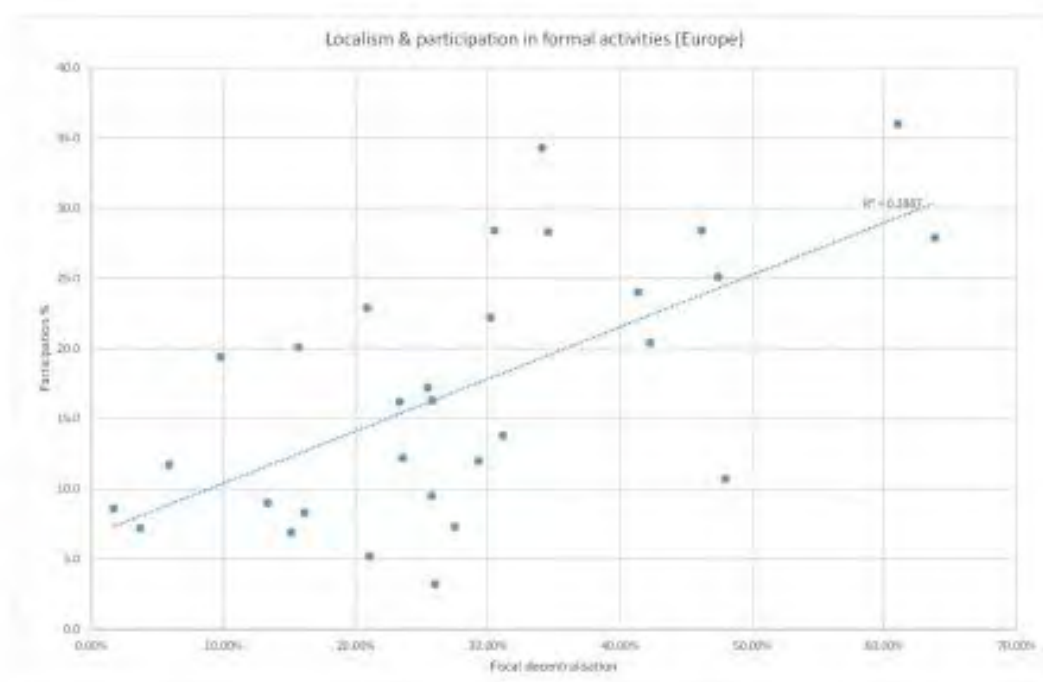


requires governing models that enable citizens to develop the skills and capability of self-government. The issue was addressed by recent work undertaken by the Rockefeller Foundation and the 100 resilient cities' network which found:

Through city case studies, public administration literature identifies a series of conditions under which urban resilience would likely improve: **decentralization and local autonomy**, accountability and transparency, responsiveness and flexibility, participation and inclusion, and experience and support (Urban Institute 2018 p.76).

Transferring power to localities and strengthening their decision-making powers enables citizens to participate more in the way their towns, cities and neighbourhoods are governed. This is associated with a willingness to be involved in formal and informal community activities. The European Union has surveyed such participation in its member states and, when set beside to their relative levels of fiscal decentralisation, a strong relationship is found, see figure 2.

**Figure 2: Fiscal decentralisation and participation**



The point is that Community Boards allow for easier participation of local people, who may see running for Council and being a councillor as a full-time job, so aren't interested – yet can find the time to put into their local community issues as the role isn't as onerous. Whilst also wanting to participate at a local level to them on issues they feel strongly about is important to recognise. The withdrawal of Community Boards would see less transparency and less engagement with localised community issues.

Furthermore, the removal of Community Boards would fly in the face of best practice, which is being promoted throughout the world, and also through NZ's central government agencies as well as Local Government NZ.

And, Council already actively engages with Community Boards, so there is value in retaining them:

Agenda Item 8.3 DISTRICT GROWTH STRATEGY - DRAFT PROPOSED APPROACH FOR GROWTH on September 30, where Council explicitly states Community Boards have been engaged with:

**Developing a proposed approach for growth**

- 13 The proposed approach for growth has been developed alongside a series of six briefings with councillors and iwi partners from December 2020.
- 14 The proposed approach has also been informed by feedback from prior engagement with the community, most recently through the "What matters most" and 2021-2041 Long-term plan consultation exercises. Discussions with Community Boards, the local development community, Youth Council, Older Persons Council, and the Kāpiti Accessibility Advisory Group has also helped shape thinking to date.

Also, Productivity NZ in their 2019 report regarding Local Government identified this aspect re community expectations:

**F4.10**

Community expectations for levels of service from local (and central) government are rising over time in response to factors such as:

- changing perceptions of risk from climate change;
- drinking water quality and impacts of discharges into waterways;
- changes in the age mix of local populations; and
- rising incomes (which make it easier for people to meet the cost of better quality and additional services).

These expectations as having been identified means that more community involvement and consultation is important to better quality outcomes. The removal of Community Boards, and the subsequent ability for locals to stand as a representative of their local area potentially will mean less public participation, ergo less interest in local government elections etc.

So, again the opportunity to bolster Community Boards and community participation should be the goal, not the other way around.

## Summary

Overall, our summary of the proposed changes errs on the side of supporting localism and ensuring democracy is well served by having more involvement and input from people and the community.

And to quote from Council's own **DISTRICT GROWTH STRATEGY - DRAFT PROPOSED APPROACH FOR GROWTH:**

*We have sought to work closely with our iwi partners and to reflect their aspirations and values for urban development and growth in the review of the District Growth Strategy. While capacity has limited earlier engagement, we are now working closely with all three of our iwi.*

Council's own District Growth Strategy clearly shows the need for more community involvement and consultation rather than less.

Reduced access to decision making will see less public involvement and more centralisation at a bureaucratic level. Which inevitably will lead to poorer outcomes regarding community involvement and community aspirations.

In our view, the focus of this review regarding a “Fresh look at local democracy” is a welcomed opportunity to engage on how to create better outcomes for our communities.

We would also like to commend officials and staffers for the well put together document and summation of proposals and ideas – the supporting documents and questions were very helpful.

**We would like to present our submission in person to Council.**

Author

Templeton Group

October 2021



189

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682118

**First name**

Waikanae Beach Residents Society Incorporated

**Last name**

Gerald Rys, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Waikanae

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?			✓			

### Please tell us why?

Eleven an odd number allows for a clear majority in passing resolutions, although a total of 10 with the Mayor holding the casting vote also allows for such a majority. We also firmly believe that in the case of the casting vote being used, that it should be mandatory that the status quo be maintained as normal standard meeting practice. We do not consider it appropriate for the mayor to drive change with a casting vote when there is clearly no consensus.

Currently Waikanae has been underrepresented by 50 %. Under the councils proposed suggestions they also still do not meet the 10 percent rule in the northern ward.

Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?	✓					

### Please tell us why?

We strongly disagree with having five district wide councillors. We consider that all councillors should have direct accountability to wards and hence constituents. All councillors should have council wide accountabilities representing the district. The current process can disenfranchise wards.

Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?	✓					

### Please tell us why?

We disagree with combining Waikanae and Paraparaumu as the character, population mix, service requirements, estimated rate and direction of future expansion are distinctly different, as is the physical character and clear separation by the Waikanae River. Waikanae has a high population of seniors, retirement and rest home facilities with their specific health and transport needs.

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?		✓				

**Please tell us why?**

We agree with keeping the community boards but consider their processes, modus operandi and accountabilities need to be markedly updated and upgraded to get more community interaction and act as a testbed for novel and future looking district policies and community approaches. Community boards should be given adequate financial resources to carry out their function.

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?	✓					

**Please tell us why?**

We strongly disagree with the suggested boundaries and support the provisions of a Waikanae Ward as noted above.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

# KCDC Fresh look at local democracy

## Submission of the Waikanae Beach Residents Society Incorporated

### Background - What should democracy look like?

Democracy is a subject that should not be taken lightly and changes in democratic structures even more so. A quick reminder of what democracy means is presented.

### Definition of Democracy

Government by the people especially a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections. Cornerstones of democracy include: freedom of assembly and speech, inclusiveness and equality, membership, consent, voting, right to life and minority rights.

We should also all study Socrates and his salient warnings about democracy and how we apply them to this situation.

### Features of an ideal democracy

At a minimum, an ideal democracy should have the following features:

*Effective participation.* Before a policy is adopted or rejected, members of the *dēmos* have the opportunity to make their views about the policy known to other members.

*Equality in voting.* Members of the *dēmos* have the opportunity to vote for or against the policy, and all votes are counted as equal.

*Informed electorate.* Members of the *dēmos* have the opportunity, within a reasonable amount of time, to learn about the policy and about possible alternative policies and their likely consequences.

*Citizen control of the agenda.* The *dēmos*, and only the *dēmos*, decides what matters are placed on the decision-making agenda and how they are placed there. Thus, the democratic process is “open” in the sense that the *dēmos* can change the policies of the association at any time.

*Inclusion.* Each and every member of the *dēmos* is entitled to participate in the association in the ways just described.

*Fundamental rights.* Each of the necessary features of ideal democracy prescribes a right that is itself a necessary feature of ideal democracy: thus every member of the *dēmos* has a right to communicate with others, a right to have his vote counted equally with the votes of others, a right to gather information, a right to participate on an equal footing with other members, and a right, with other members, to exercise



control of the agenda. Democracy, therefore, consists of more than just political processes; it is also necessarily a system of fundamental rights.

### **Principles adopted**

We have considered the following principles in coming to our decisions:

- 1 There should be adequate numbers of Councillors and Community Board members to represent the significantly different communities of interest and expanding population on the Kapiti Coast at the various levels of local Government. We do not support a decrease from the present numbers.
- 2 That each councillor should have direct line accountability to a community of interest.
- 3 Any change in democracy structure should be voted on by the Kapiti Coast population and not driven by inadequate surveys and current council structure.
- 4 Cost should not be a criteria for modifying the democracy provisions of the Kapiti Coast.
- 5 Future population growth should be a key factor considered in democracy provisions.
- 6 That minority groups and communities are not penalised in any structure established.

### **We do not support the removal of the Community Boards. The LGA 2002 states that:**

The role of a community board is to—

- (a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and
- (b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and
- (c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and
- (d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and
- (e) communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and
- (f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

## Answers to KCDC Questions

Please tell us what you think of the proposed model. You could answer all or some of the questions below or provide comments for councillors to consider. You can attach an additional page if you need more space.

1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case) **Neutral**

Please tell us why: Eleven an odd number allows for a clear majority in passing resolutions, although a total of 10 with the Mayor holding the casting vote also allows for such a majority. We also firmly believe that in the case of the casting vote being used, that it should be mandatory that the status quo be maintained as normal standard meeting practice. We do not consider it appropriate for the mayor to drive change with a casting vote when there is clearly no consensus.

Currently Waikanae has been underrepresented by 50 %. Under the councils proposed suggestions they also still do not meet the 10 percent rule in the northern ward.

2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case) **Strongly disagree**

Please tell us why: We strongly disagree with having five district wide councillors. We consider that all councillors should have direct accountability to wards and hence constituents. All councillors should have council wide accountabilities representing the district. The current process can disenfranchise wards.

3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? **Strongly disagree**

Please tell us why: We disagree with combining Waikanae and Paraparaumu as the character, population mix, service requirements, estimated rate and direction of future expansion are distinctly different, as is the physical character and clear separation by the Waikanae River. Waikanae has a high population of seniors, retirement and rest home facilities with their specific health and transport needs.

4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards? **Disagree**

Please tell us why: We agree with keeping the community boards but consider their processes, modus operandi and accountabilities need to be markedly updated and upgraded to get more community interaction and act as a testbed for novel and future looking district policies and community approaches. Community boards should be given adequate financial resources to carry out their function.

5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines? **Strongly disagree**

Please tell us why: We strongly disagree with the suggested boundaries and support the provisions of a Waikanae Ward as noted above.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?

- We consider that more secretariate support should be given to the Community Boards, recognising that councillors have direct access to executive council facilities, with community board resources taken directly from the rates take in each ward. Five percent of the rates from each ward should be allocated to each community board for the support of ward projects.
- Waikanae stands to lose its \$1 million Capital Improvement Fund if its electoral Ward is amalgamated with Paraparaumu-Raumati under the KCDC's review of representation. This funding should remain dedicated to Waikanae.

**Distribution of councillors**

Otaki 2

Waikanae 3

Paraparaumu 4

Paekakariki 2

Total 11

No district wide councillors. Councillors to live/have property in their own wards. Change boundaries to make populations meet the 10 percent rule.

Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021? **Yes**

Please remember to fill out your details below. We need these to check you are eligible to have a say on this issue and to be able to contact you if you would like to give an oral submission.

Your details First name: Gerald

Surname: Rys

Chair, Waikanae Beach Residents Society Incorporated

Preferred contact method: email

Please provide either an email address

Email: [email redacted]

Phone: [phone redacted]

What ward are you in now? Waikanae

A blue circular graphic with the text "Kōrero mai Have your say" in white and yellow. The word "Have" is in yellow, and "your say" is in white. The background of the circle is a dark blue gradient.

Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
your say

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3682180

**First name**

Waikanae Community Board

**Last name**

James Westbury, Chair

**What ward are you in now**

Waikanae

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

### Please tell us why?

The Waikanae Community Board support retaining 10 Councillors and a Mayor.

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

### Please tell us why?

The Waikanae Community Board fundamentally do not support the configuration of five ward councillors and five district wide councillors.

Our preference is ward-based representation aligned with our community where councillors represent and have interest in their local community.

District wide based representation creates a potential and unintended consequences of some communities to be over-represented such as is currently with Otaki having not only the Major, ward member but also with two district wide members residing in this locality therefore distorting fair representation for our district. Any attempt to change this system needs to ensure that this unintended consequence is prevented as it disadvantages other communities such as Waikanae.

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?						

### Please tell us why?

The Waikanae Community Board do not support the combining of the current Paraparaumu wards.

The Waikanae Community Board does not support the premise that Waikanae is not a community of interest. Communities of interest Under the current proposal Waikanae is considered as part of Paraparaumu. These communities are very distinct and do not readily identify as being one community. Not only are we separated by a river, Waikanae has separate schools, a distinct local village centre,

library, post office, our local demographic profile is dis-similar, our clubs and entertainment are also very different.

Waikanae has historically been under represented as a Community of interest, with only 1 ward councillor despite the Council not meeting the +/- 10 rule, in fact exceeding the rule by almost 20%. The proposal solution does not address the issue of fair representation, it has removed any right to direct representation.

This proposal only exacerbates poor representation of our community and risks alienating our community. We do not believe that the current proposal affords fair and effective representation of Waikanae residents as a Community of Interest.

The removal of a local Ward Councillor and Community Board would create unnecessary barriers to enabling our community to access elected members. Given the age demographic of our community and the geographical spread of the proposed ward we feel that our community would be disadvantaged. In addition, we do not feel it is either practical or possible for the proposed ward councillors to effectively engage with our community as the Board would no longer be available to assist as it does currently. We are concerned that the current proposal is inconsistent with Local Government New Zealand, encouraging greater representation at a local level. We believed the concerns that the districts four Community Boards made during the early consultation were heard, however they clearly not. The direction of travel and recommendations we made during the workshops have clearly been ignored.

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

### **Please tell us why?**

The consultation also makes assumptions of the effectiveness of boards. Waikanae Community Board has requested greater delegations and autonomy for several triennium and along with other boards highlighted that the funding and support Boards receive is insufficient to enable us to discharge our duties.

It is inconsistent with the legislation to ensure community are fairly represented and able to participate in local democracy. In addition, the centralisation of decision making is also not consistent with the current Governments approach to Local Government.

The Board are very disappointed that our feedback has not been included in the proposal. The Waikanae Community Board and the other Community Boards said that they were very concerned about the disestablishment of Community Boards and that such a proposal was inconsistent with local democracy.

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

### **Please tell us why?**

The Waikanae Community Board does not support the proposed new boundaries. The Waikanae Community Board have worked with Council previously to realign our ward boundaries to reflect the

community of interest within our Ward.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

## **Kapiti Representation Review**

### **Submission Of the Waikanae Community Board 2.10.21**

The purpose of the submission is to outline the concerns of the Waikanae Community Board to the proposal set out in the Representation 2021 consultation document by Kapiti Coast District Council.

The Waikanae Community Board do not support the proposals put forward in the representation review 2021.

In summary, the Waikanae Community Board does not support the following:

- The Waikanae Community Board does not support or agree with the premise of Waikanae and Paraparaumu being one community of interest. This results in poor representation.
- The Waikanae community Board do not support the proposed community of interest for Waikanae and Paraparaumu, this is not consistent with the Local Government Act and the Local Electoral Act, Waikanae is a constituted community. We believe that the Council has misrepresented the interpretation of a community of interest.
- The Waikanae Community Board does not support the abolition of Community Boards, including the Waikanae Community Board.
- The Waikanae Community Board does not agree with the proposal to consolidate the Waikanae Ward Councillor ward into a pan Paraparaumu and Waikanae electorate.
- The Waikanae Community Board does not support the district wide councillor roles
- The Waikanae Community Board seeks to establish ward based councillor roles with fair representation based on population to ensure that our population is fairly represented and not disadvantaged.
- The Waikanae Community Board believes the proposal to establish hand picked local groups chosen via council to represent our community is undemocratic. There is a statutory mechanism in Law to enable communities to be represented and have a voice via Community Board, Section 49 Local Government Act 2002.

### **Response to Consultation questions.**

#### **1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

The Waikanae Community Board support retaining 10 Councillors and a Mayor.

#### **2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?**

The Waikanae Community Board fundamentally do not support the configuration of five ward councillors and five district wide councillors.

Our preference is ward-based representation aligned with our community where councillors represent and have interest in their local community.

District wide based representation creates a potential and unintended consequences of some communities to be over-represented such as is currently with Otaki having not only the Major, ward member but also with two district wide members residing in this locality therefore distorting fair representation for our district. Any attempt to change this system



needs to ensure that this unintended consequence is prevented as it disadvantages other communities such as Waikanae.

### **3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?**

The Waikanae Community Board do not support the combining of the current Paraparaumu wards.

The Waikanae Community Board does not support the premise that Waikanae is not a community of interest. Communities of interest Under the current proposal Waikanae is considered as part of Paraparaumu. These communities are very distinct and do not readily identify as being one community. Not only are we separated by a river, Waikanae has separate schools, a distinct local village centre, library, post office, our local demographic profile is dis-similar, our clubs and entertainment are also very different.

Waikanae has historically been under represented as a Community of interest, with only 1 ward councillor despite the Council not meeting the +/- 10 rule, in fact exceeding the rule by almost 20%. The proposal solution does not address the issue of fair representation, it has removed any right to direct representation.

This proposal only exacerbates poor representation of our community and risks alienating our community.

We do not believe that the current proposal affords fair and effective representation of Waikanae residents as a Community of Interest.

The removal of a local Ward Councillor and Community Board would create unnecessary barriers to enabling our community to access elected members. Given the age demographic of our community and the geographical spread of the proposed ward we feel that our community would be disadvantaged. In addition, we do not feel it is either practical or possible for the proposed ward councillors to effectively engage with our community as the Board would no longer be available to assist as it does currently.

We are concerned that the current proposal is inconsistent with Local Government New Zealand, encouraging greater representation at a local level. We believed the concerns that the districts four Community Boards made during the early consultation were heard, however they clearly not. The direction of travel and recommendations we made during the workshops have clearly been ignored.

### **4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?**

The consultation also makes assumptions of the effectiveness of boards. Waikanae Community Board has requested greater delegations and autonomy for several triennium and along with other boards highlighted that the funding and support Boards receive is insufficient to enable us to discharge our duties.

It is inconsistent with the legislation to ensure community are fairly represented and able to participate in local democracy. In addition, the centralisation of decision making is also not consistent with the current Governments approach to Local Government.

The Board are very disappointed that our feedback has not been included in the proposal. The Waikanae Community Board and the other Community Boards said that they were very

concerned about the disestablishment of Community Boards and that such a proposal was inconsistent with local democracy.

**5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?**

The Waikanae Community Board does not support the proposed new boundaries. The Waikanae Community Board have worked with Council previously to realign our ward boundaries to reflect the community of interest within our Ward. The

**6. Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

The Waikanae Community Board is concerned that the consultation document is biased and misrepresents the wishes of Councillors, Community Boards and their communities and fails to demonstrate any understanding of our local community especially the Waikanae Ward.

The consultation document makes the assumption that Councillors supported this proposal. What it fails to highlight is that due to timelines that this consultation framework and proposal was the only option that could be presented to council for consultation with no viable alternative. This is not representation but an outcome by default.

The Waikanae Community Board is concerned that the Council proposed savings made from a reduction in local representation will be invested in enhancing other ways of engaging our community. Engagement is not representation and does not result in fair representation of our community. The Community Board have significant concerns that consultation and engagement with selected individuals as is proposed results in fair representation and accountability back to the community. Waikanae has not been fairly represent under the current arrangement and this will continue to disadvantage our community.

The Waikanae Community Board do not believe that the proposal will ensure our communities have effective representation, with expected workload for Councillors increasing but under the current remuneration model they will be expected to be full time councillor's. This is not reasonable. This will result in poorer representation as Councillors already have in many cases are employees for other organisation.

Community Boards are assumed to not be effective however, Council have frustrated this by not providing support and resources to enable effective discharge of our duties

The Waikanae Community Board propose the following representation model:

- 10 Ward based Councillors based on population
- The Retention of 4 community Boards
- The retention of the current ward boundaries

**7. Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

The Waikanae Community Board and its members would like to speak to the submission on 19 October 2021.

## Community Board Activity

We believe it was worth noting how the Waikanae Community Board have contributed to KCDC and our community. This level of involvement seems to have been overlooked.

The legislative functions of a community board are to:

1. Represent and advocate for the interests of its community

The WCB have a very active role in listening, evaluating and advocating to multiple agencies in the interest of its communities. We have participated consultations. Eg: NZTA/Waka with the Waikanae revocation, the town centre redevelopment, the Library expert advisory group and KCDC re road safety improvements.

2. Consider and report on matters referred to it by its parent council

Eg: The Waikanae Library, Waikanae Park, The improvements to the Waikanae Beach Hall, Annual and LTP, road safety improvements.

3. Maintain an overview of council services provided in its community

Eg foot path safety, toilet and park maintenance, road safety improvements and storm water.

4. Prepare an annual submission to the council for expenditure within its community

The WCB have always consulted heavily with their community, inspired engagement and provided thoughtful, intelligent submissions to both the Annual and Long Term Plans as evident recently.

5. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within its community

Our Board are actively involved (ie attending regular meetings and/or direct involvement) with the following community organisations: Nga Manu, Older Peoples Council, Kapiti Health Network, Pharazen Reserve Focus Group, Waikanae Beach Residents Association, Reikorangi Residents Association, Friends of the Waikanae River, PROBUS, Rotary, Lions, Waikanae Fishing Club to name a few.

6. Undertake any other responsibilities delegated to it by its parent council.

See below

In addition KCDC has made the following specific delegations:

- i. Authority to listen, articulate, advise, advocate and make recommendations to Council on any matter of interest or concern to the local community
- ii. Assisting with local civil defence and emergency management activities  
Eg: WCB were heavily engaged with the first lockdown. We assisted local charities to support our aged residents to get groceries, mental health health support and working with WREMO.
- iii. Working with Council and the community to establish Local Outcome Statements.  
The WCB were essential in undertaking and coordinating the Waikanae Beach Outcomes framework following concerns about the expanding development of

Waikanae Beach. This work feed into the District Plan and has been essential to present the nature and values of the Waikanae Beach Community.

- iv. Providing a local perspective on the levels of service as detailed in the LTP and on local expenditure, rate impacts and priorities  
As noted above in item 4.
- v. Contributing local input to any Council Strategy, Plan or Policy as required  
Contributing as we are — today is evidence of this.
- vi. Approving criteria for, and disbursement of, community-based grant funds as approved through the LTP or Annual Plan  
We requested \$20k to support Community Boards in the last AP,

### **Summary**

We hope that your review will recognise the value of the WCB and other Boards and understand the value of grass roots democracy and engagement they have with our community.

We also hope that your review will recognise that Waikanae has a clear community of interest and as a result has a right to fair representation.

Waikanae Community Board



Kōrero  
mai **Have**  
**your say**

## Representation Review

### Your details

**Response ID**

3681901

**First name**

Waitohu School

**Last name**

Maine Curtis, Principal

**What ward are you in now**

Ōtaki

**Would you like to speak to your submission in person on 19 October 2021?**

Yes

**If you are providing feedback as an individual. Do you want your name published with your feedback?**

Yes

## Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy

**Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?						

**Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors? (as is currently the case)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?						

**Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?						

**Do you agree with the removal of community boards? (see p10 of the consultation document for the reason this is proposed)**

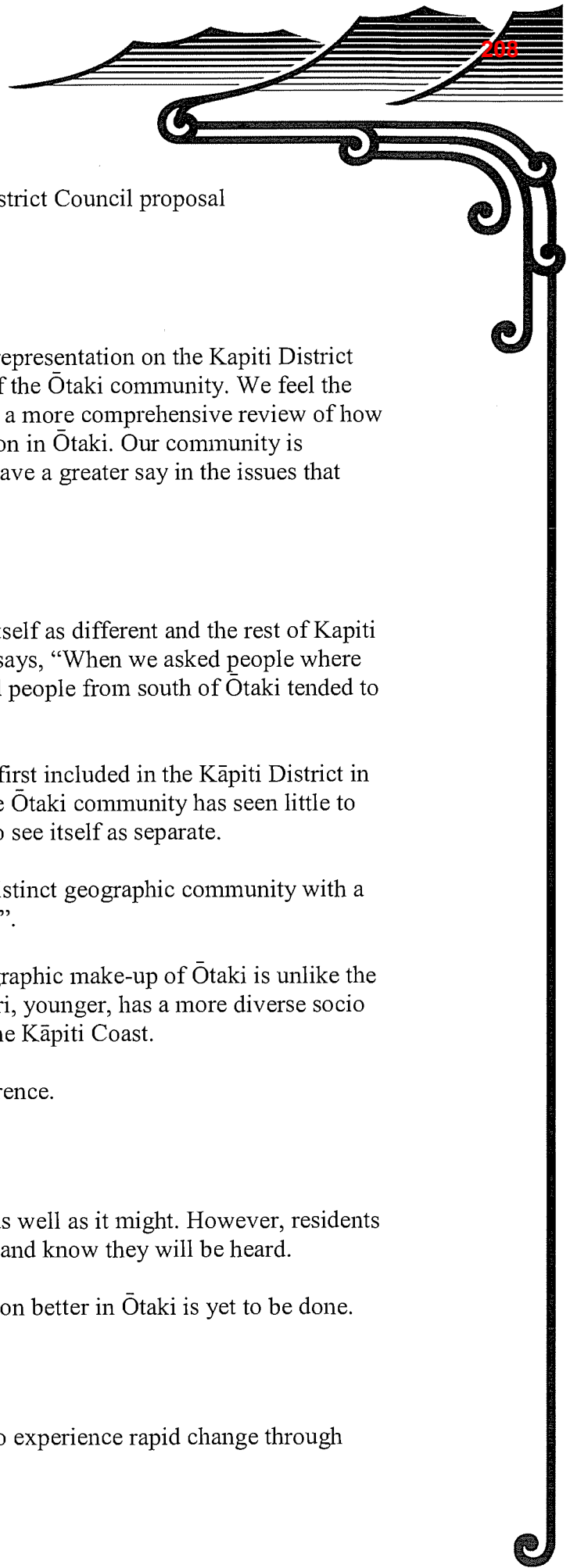
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

**Do you agree with the new boundary lines? (see the maps on p6 of the consultation document for the changes)**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the new boundary lines?						

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to guide councillors' thinking on the representation review?**

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.



28 – 09 – 2021

Submission by Waitohu School on the Kapiti Coast District Council proposal  
*“A fresh look at local democracy”*

## Summary

Waitohu School submits that the proposed changes to representation on the Kapiti District Council are likely to further disenfranchise members of the Ōtaki community. We feel the status quo should be maintained for Ōtaki until there is a more comprehensive review of how to strengthen democratic participation and representation in Ōtaki. Our community is experiencing rapid change and it is important that we have a greater say in the issues that effect it.

## Ōtaki is different

Ōtaki is quite different from the rest of Kapiti. It sees itself as different and the rest of Kapiti sees it as different. As the Community Voice research says, “When we asked people where they live, people from Ōtaki tended to say “Ōtaki”, and people from south of Ōtaki tended to say “Kāpiti”.

This sense of difference is unchanged since Ōtaki was first included in the Kāpiti District in 1989. Since then the approach of KCDC means that the Ōtaki community has seen little to value from being included in Kapiti and so continues to see itself as separate.

The Community Voice research identified Ōtaki as a distinct geographic community with a “distinct way of thinking and being, and political focus”.

We agree. The history of Ōtaki is different. The demographic make-up of Ōtaki is unlike the rest of Kapiti. Its population is significantly more Māori, younger, has a more diverse socio economic status and has different needs to the rest of the Kāpiti Coast.

The proposed changes give no recognition to this difference.

## The role of the community board

This is not to say the community board is functioning as well as it might. However, residents are able to take their concerns to the community board and know they will be heard.

But we submit that the work to make democracy function better in Ōtaki is yet to be done.

## Ōtaki is changing

Ōtaki is also the area in the district that is most likely to experience rapid change through population growth and land development.



There is nothing in this proposal that will strengthen Otaki's ability to influence its own future. The proposal reinforces that a Kapiti-centric view of development will be the future. Otaki's voice will be limited to one vote on a council of ten.

Our area's unique identity is obliterated in this proposal through both the proposed name and the model of representation. If the long-term strategy is the assimilation of Ōtaki into the wider Kapiti interests then the proposal is a step in that direction. If the uniqueness of Ōtaki, its history and its people are valued then further efforts are needed to strengthen our local democracy.

At a time when the uniqueness of Ōtaki is at risk, because of the changing and growing population of the region, it is critical we have an opportunity to protect what we value. We are already seeing the impact of Council decisions which permit high-density, unaffordable housing developments which were approved with no thought to their impact on the community. We are concerned about what will come next. Our current local representative tells of the struggle to be heard on behalf of Ōtaki. We do not want to lose the democratic voice of elected members on a community board and have only a single ward councillor to be the voice of Ōtaki. The proposed new support structure for councillors could equally be applied to our Community Board to improve its functioning.

## Conclusion

Moving into the future, Ōtaki should be regarded as a place that needs to be looked after and valued. Ōtaki is the next area of projected significant growth. We are acutely aware we can't stop this growth but we want a voice in how this will look! We are a key destination point from a historical perspective as one of the earliest settled towns in Aotearoa. The mana whenua are unique and we have many features on offer such as historical places, Māoriland, the kite festival. Our education ecosystem with its mix of educational choices offers more options than you can get in larger places.

How will our voice be reflected when we have not been given the courtesy of full and open consultation? This is hardly a fresh look at local democracy in action.

E kii ana te korero, "Ko te kai o te rangatira he korero, he korero, he korero". Many a true word is spoken in this whakatauki – in our community this should be considered the way to do things.

Haunui a Nanaia, the great-grandson of Kupe and renowned explorer, placed his staff in the ground and stated, "This is Ōtaki". The time now comes again for us to place our staff in the ground. We need to hold fast to the one democratic voice of elected members that we have and retain the community board.

The Kapiti Coast District Council must develop the correct process so we can re-imagine what council representation could look like. We need a model that truly reflects ŌTAKI and NOT Kāpiti ki te Raki.

Ngā mihi



Maine Curtis  
Principal  
Waitohu School  
Ōtaki