

2021 Representation Review – Submission Hearings

9:00am to 4:00pm - Tuesday 19 October 2021

Time		Submitter	Response ID	Page No
IN PERSON				
1.	9.00 – 9.05	John Hayes	3682427	5
2.	9.05 – 9.15	Raumati Village Business Association Speaker: Bede Laracy	3665582	10
3.	9.15 – 9.20	Chris Turver	3654918	41
ZOOM				
4.	9.20 – 9.25	Quentin Poole	3683331	70
IN PERSON				
5.	9.25 – 9.30	John Gibson	3671373	77
6.	9.30 – 9.40	Ōtaki Community Board Speaker: Christine Papps	3681883	80
ZOOM				
7.	9.40 – 9.45	Tim Costley	3648388	100
IN PERSON				
8.	9.45 – 9.50	Marilyn Stevens	3646701	103
	9.50 – 9.55			
9.	9.55 – 10.00	Royd Sampson	3651934	106
	10.00 – 10.05			
	10.05 – 10.10			
10.	10.10 – 10.20	Grey Power Kapiti Coast Association Speaker: Trevor Daniell	3682872	109
	10.20 – 10.25			
ZOOM				
11.	10.25 – 10.35	(a) Kahui Tokotoko o Ōtaki Speaker: Andy Fraser	3685988	115
		(b) Ōtaki College Speaker: Andy Fraser	3686004	121
	10.35 – 10.50	MORNING TEA BREAK		
12.	10.50 – 10.55	Roger Booth	3685810	126
	10.55 – 11.00			
13.	11.00 – 11.05	Joanna Poole	3685878	139
14.	11.05 – 11.10	Ian Powell	3646744	149
15.	11.10 – 11.15	Asher Wilson-Goldman	3679092	152

	Time	Submitter	Response ID	Page No
16.	11.15 – 11.20	Peter Katz	3624804	156
17.	11.20 – 11.25	Name withheld	3680562	161
18.	11.25 - 11.30	Shelly Warwick	3683003	164
	11.30 – 11.35			
19.	11.35 – 11.40	Prue Hyman	3668703	170
20.	11.40 – 11.45	Neville Watkin	3684470	173
21.	11.45 – 11.55	Templeton Group Speaker: Chris Simpson	3683168	176
22.	11.55 – 12.00	Colin Davies	3683055	196
23.	12.00 – 12.05	Conrad Petersen	3656648	199
24.	12.05 – 12.10	Penelope Eames	3659413	202
25.	12.10 – 12.15	Chris Mitchell	3676627	205
26.	12.15 – 12.20	Brett Sangster	3678468	208
27.	12.20 – 12.25	Richard Mansell	3679008	213
28.	12.25 – 12.30	Jenny Rowan	3682457	218
	12.30 – 1.30	LUNCH BREAK		
29.	1.30 – 1.40	Waitohu School Speaker: Maine Curtis	3681901	227
30.	1.40 – 1.45	Ann Chapman	3673418	232
31.	1.45 – 1.50	Geoffrey Churchman	3685857	237
32.	1.50 – 2.00	Paekākāriki Community Board Speaker: Holly Ewens (Tina Pope may also attend via Zoom)	3683236	242
33.	2.00 – 2.05	Tony Bevin	3683517	257
34.	2.05 – 2.10	Allison Webber	3684914	260
35.	2.10 – 2.15	Adrian Gregory	3620689	265
	2.15 – 2.20			
36.	2.20 – 2.30	Trustees of the Otaki Museum Speaker: Judith Miller	3670767	268
37.	2.30 – 2.40	Paekākāriki Community Trust Speaker: Ian Clark	3678957	277
	2.40 – 2.45			
38.	2.45 – 2.50	Gavin Beattie	3655087	282
	2.50 – 2.55			
	3.00 – 3.20	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK		
39.	3.20 – 3.25	Ken Rand	3646761	292

	Time	Submitter	Response ID	Page No
40.	3.25 – 3.35	Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki Speaker: Paraniah Broughton	3683350	297
	3.35 – 3.40			
41.	3.40 – 3.50	Waikanae Beach Residents Society Incorporated Speaker: Gerald Rys	3682118	303
42.	3.50 – 4.00	Waikanae Community Board Speaker: James Westbury	3682180	310
	4.00pm	FINISH		

2021 Representation Review – Submission Hearings

9:00am to 11.35am – Wednesday 20 October 2021

Time		Submitter	Response ID	Page No
IN PERSON				
	9.00 – 9.05			
43.	9.05 – 9.10	Mike Woods	3678926	319
44.	9.10 – 9.20	Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board Speaker: Kathy Spiers	3682340	322
45.	9.20 – 9.25	Cameron Butler	3681698	346
46.	9.25 – 9.35	Otaki Promotions Group Speaker: Cameron Butler	3682073	349
47.	9.35 – 9.45	Otaki Canoe Club Speaker: Cameron Butler	3682089	355
	9.45 – 9.50			
48.	9.50 – 9.55	Mary Oldham	3638329	360
	9.55-10.05			
ZOOM				
49.	10.05 - 10.10	Lynn Sleath	3659568	363
50.	10.10 – 10.15	Nicolette Butler	3677958	366
51.	10.15 – 10.20	Jan Nisbett	3656978	369
52.	10.20 – 10.25	Cam Ronald	3670486	372
53.	10.25 – 10.30	Sam Buchanan	3682478	375
	10.30 – 10.45	MORNING TEA BREAK		
54.	10.45 – 10.50	Jill Griggs	3676877	384
55.	10.50 – 10.55	Steve La Hood	3677565	388
	10.55 – 11.00			
56.	11.00 – 11.05	Francis Neill	3678431	391
57.	11.05 – 11.10	Viola Palmer	3678876	395
58.	11.10 – 11.15	David Ogden	3682425	400
59.	11.15 – 11.20	Mark Wickens	3683153	403
60.	11.20 – 11.25	Guy Burns	3678792 and 3651858	406
61.	11.25 – 11.35	Michelle Lewis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal submission • Presentation of petition 	3682032	418
	11.35 am	FINISH		



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3682427

First name

John

Last name

Hayes

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?						

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.

Merriam-Webster describes representative democracy as "the body of persons representing a constituency". They define constituency as "a group of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body".

I subscribe to the view, that you represent your areas, rather than representing the views of the bureaucracy to your constituency - something that has been said of some of you.

Assuming that we agree with Merriam-Webster, it seems to me that this council has a problem with representation, or at least with the perception of representation. It could be that much of the substantive debate is held in secret, in council briefings, where the major decisions are made and positions adopted to be presented by a largely united front - running this place as a government, even a cabinet, rather than a parliament. The subtleties of the various views within our community seldom seem to be publicly represented in this chamber.

Whatever the reason, those of you that still have antennae must realise that this council often seems to be bad at reading the room - of representing the constituency. I won't go through the many controversies I have witnessed in the over 3 decades I have lived here, and attempted to be a contributing and informed citizen. In fact I have sought information and clarification from many of you in that time - not always successfully. I suspect that many of you have shaken your heads and asked yourself "Why don't they get it?"

With respect, I submit that you need every means of constituency communication, with more granularity than the broad brush approach proposed. I believe if you struggle now, you will struggle more.

With that in mind, I urge you to retain community boards.

According to LGNZ, the purpose of a community board is to:

- represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community;
- consider and report on any matter referred to it by their council, and any issues of interest to the community board;
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups in the community, and undertake any other responsibilities delegated by their council.

In other words, they should be a vital resource for you, for intelligence, for early warnings and a means of dissemination decisions and rationale. The discussion booklet you distributed says in part “*The research indicated community boards added a confusing layer of bureaucracy, particularly for our more in-need and currently disenfranchised and marginalised communities.*” I suggest that much of that confusion comes from people assuming community boards have more influence than they have’

However the booklet also says “*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.*”

If they are not useful, give them some teeth.

In the last election, a successful slogan was “*Empower Community Boards.*”

You don’t empower by demolishing.

Your proposal also lacks definition. The booklet spins “*councillors and Council staff working together to foster community-led development, and on new, creative, and contemporary ways to help our communities engage more directly with Council.*” I would be more relaxed if a satisfactory definition of those new, creative, and contemporary ways was provided. In the absence of that definition, my view of the future is informed by the past, which has not always gone well.

My impression is of overworked and underpaid councillors so swamped in paperwork that there is very little effective outreach to their communities. In those circumstances their tends to be a dependency on officers - some would say officer capture - and very little contestability of potential policies and possibilities. That is not healthy for a healthy and responsive democracy.

I respectfully submit you need Community Boards to provide some visable contestability rather than become even more dependent on advice with little accountability to the public. At least Community Boards face a reckoning every three years.

John Hayes



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



Prepared by:

Bede Laracy

On behalf of

Raumati Village Business Association

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

7. The statutory role of Community Boards is as follows:³

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 emphasis⁴); 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:⁵

- 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.⁶ It does not refer to the concept of “communities of interest”, although a constituted community must always encompass at least one community of interest.

¹ s2(a) LGA

² s2(b) LGA

³ s52 LGA

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

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

⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸ That assessment must consider the principle set out in s4(1)(a) LEA, which relates to fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.⁹ 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

⁷ See LGC Guidelines, Chapter 6 at paragraph 6.4 and paragraph 6.10

⁸ 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

⁹ Note again that communities = constituted communities

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

- a. *Will the proposal promote¹¹ good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned?*¹² (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”.¹³ 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

¹⁰ See LGC Guidelines at paragraph 6.11

¹¹ 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

¹² 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

¹³ 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 so¹⁴ – 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.

¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

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.

¹⁵ “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.¹⁶

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

¹⁶ 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.¹⁷
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

¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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 suspicion²⁰ 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

²⁰ 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”.²¹ That same position was repeated in an Executive Briefing to Community Boards on 05 August 2021.²² 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,

²¹ 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

²² 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.²³ 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

²³ 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.²⁴ 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

²⁴ 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**”.²⁵ 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.

²⁵ 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



Prepared by:

Bede Laracy

On behalf of

Raumati Village Business Association

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.¹ 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.

¹ 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.² 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.

² 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



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3654918

First name

Chris

Last name

Turver

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?						

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?

Please refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

13 October 2021

To: Mayor & Councillors

**REPRESENTATION REVIEW PUBLIC HEARING 19 OCTOBER 2021
CHRIS TURVER SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION**

Following the split 7-4 vote by Councillors in supporting the KCDC's draft review, you are now faced with hard decisions on whether to adopt clearly controversial proposals.

I am one of 531 people and organisations from across the District to make submissions, with most feeling the changes are unjustified and unwarranted.

In the three previous Representation Reviews between 2003-2015 there was little opposition to the current system despite significant variations in the plus-minus population formula. Long-established communities of interest were fully accepted.

In the case of the last 2015 review, there were only 10 submissions across the entire District, with eight in favour of the status quo.

The Local Government Commission agreed unanimously to all three reviews.

Councillors, on behalf of ratepayers, are now being asked to make final decisions on sweeping changes to the roles of Wards and Community Boards where:

- the proposals have no substantive supporting evidence
- there is no genuine independent research
- 'research' has been minimal and was an in-house joint effort between KCDC staff and Empathy Design which was paid \$85,000
- apart from a late 'have-your-say' campaign, there has been no genuine community consultation - and only a month's notice to make submissions
- no public briefings or community meetings were held to test public sentiment during the entire year-long lead up to production of what would clearly be confrontational proposals
- there is no cost-benefit or outcomes-based analysis to support any change
- no proven case has been made for change – just general statements like eliminating “confusing layers of representation and barriers to engagement”
- no explanation is given for why the KCDC has not itself addressed any such confusion and barriers over the last 32 years or raised any public concerns
- the proposals would lead to a loss of community and institutional knowledge, compounded by regular KCDC staff turnover

-2-

In 2020 an Independent Organisational Review was accepted by the KCDC as a basis for improving Council performance and relationships.

Its sensible findings included that: “Community Boards provide an opportunity for increasing the connection of the Council with the local community “.

Ratepayers paid \$240,00 for this review and two years later there is still no public report on what is being implemented or what has been achieved.

Resourcing to improve connectivity should not be an issue because over the five years to June, staff numbers grew from 358 to 457 including full time part time, fixed term and casuals, but ratepayer trust in the Council is not high

The deterioration in the KCDC’s latest Residents Opinion Survey suggests community connection should be strengthened – not weakened - by more effective use of Councillors and Community Boards.

To short change communities by watering down local democracy in favour of a KCDC silo approach will not help to build trust and co-operation.

The question is: What happened between the positive connectivity approach proposed in the Jenkins recommendations - and the production of a Representation Review based on reducing ratepayer representation?

A concluding thought for you:

By adopting a more positive ‘community partnership’ approach, Kapiti would be in a much stronger position to deal at local levels with our real issues which need ratepayer buy-in.

Issues like the community impacts of climate change, population growth, growing social and health issues, urban development, infrastructure improvements, environmental pollution, and economic development.

I ask you to trust your own communities by building the strengths of existing Wards and Community Boards and vote to make much better use of what we’ve got.

Chris Turver
[phone number redacted]

20 September 2021

To: Kapiti Coast District Council

SUBMISSION - KAPITI REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Introduction

I do not support the changes contained in the 2021 Representation Review on the basis that it fails to deliver the 'fair and effective representation of communities of interest' required under the Local Electoral Act.

The status quo is generally well accepted and nobody is marching in the streets or writing impassioned letters-to-the editor for change.

The proposed changes include amalgamating the Waikanae Ward and Paraparaumu-Raumati Wards into one, and scrapping all four Community Boards in Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati, and Paekakariki.

The initiative is solely coming from the KCDC as its required part of the six-yearly Representation Review process.

I support the current representation model which could be made more compliant with the + or – 10% variance requirements for Otaki and Waikanae through population redistribution, or seeking approval to maintain the current variances in recognition of the clearly-defined communities of interest and the wide geographical split across 40 kilometres of the Kapiti plain.

No Councillors, at least publicly, have made any complaint about the number of people they have to represent under the present boundaries system.

It may well be that the Local Government Commission, having approved the current representation six years ago, could approve the same system for the next term on the basis that it works and there is no public agitation for change.

The Local Government Commission makes provision for exceptions by stating that:

"There are grounds for not complying with the +/-10% rule if there are good reasons as summarised below:

- to provide effective representation of communities of interest within island communities and isolated communities
- where compliance would limit effective representation by either dividing a community of interest, or grouping together communities of interest with few commonalities.

Proposals

The core argument seems to be that combining two of the existing Wards and eliminating all four Community Boards, will “strengthen local representation” by:

- 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

No specific evidence was produced to support these highly-generalised notions and the recommendations would deprive the KCDC and ratepayers of localised practical and institutional knowledge.

‘Confusing layers of representation and barriers to engagement’:

If there are such issues, the primary accountability rests with KCDC which has had 32 years to take necessary corrective action, including making more effective use of existing Wards and Community Boards.

No clearcut examples are given and no solutions offered other than a restructure.

In terms of the KCDC’s responsibility to ratepayers for effective local government, it is not clear how simply removing one Ward and all Community Boards would cause confusion and barriers to disappear.

‘Strengthening Councillors ability to know and understand their communities’

Apart from being an insult to those existing Councillors who make a conscious effort to engage with their communities, this recommendation does not show how removing one Ward and all Community Boards would help them do a better job.

Rather, Wards and Community Boards should be valued as vital resources in an intelligence and information-gathering flow which keeps Councillors, Community Board members, and key staff informed and engaged with community thinking.

To expect a handful of Councillors, without these resources, to not only be as fully informed and take a leadership role in dealing with community opportunities and issues, would be significantly more difficult.

Proposals for providing Councillors with resources like dedicated staff and offices adds a layer of bureaucracy and cost which may well outstrip the costs of maintaining community boards

‘Empowering existing or new community groups to do more to foster community-led development’

-3-

This proposal is hugely ironic.

At the same time the Council is proposing to do away with grass roots Community Boards, it now wants to 'empower' existing or new community groups, with mixed understandings of how local government works, to foster community development.

One of the strengths of Community Board is their knowledge and ability to receive, or advise on, or filter, sometimes conflicting approaches from local community groups and support proposals acceptable to the Council.

As just one example of the lack of thought that has gone into this proposal it's not too hard to imagine the Council itself having to directly face large numbers of sometimes contrary community proposals at each meeting.

Instead, the Council might again consider what practical responsibilities it could delegate to Community Boards to relieve pressures on the Council and its staff.

What would be Lost

The most under-rated value of Wards and Community boards is their high level of operational and institutional knowledge about their own communities.

This is particularly important for hard-pressed Councils like the KCDC which have significant staff turnovers and consequent loss of, or interruptions to, levels of operational performance and institutional knowledge.

Ward and Community board members live in, and are elected by, their local communities and often have far more local knowledge of operational matters and the local politics that best determine solutions.

Wards

The development of four Wards came with recognition that for historical, geographical and social reasons, Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati, and Paekakariki evolved as very distinct entities across 40 kilometres of the Kapiti Plain..

Before the 1989 reorganisation of local government, Otaki used to be a Borough Council, Waikanae was a Town Council, and Paraparaumu (then including Raumati and Paekakariki) was the centre of Kapiti Borough Council.

All three were defined as 'distinct communities of interest' in successive reviews of local government, with the growing Paekakariki-Raumati townships added as a fourth Ward.

All four are accepted within Kapiti as having 'distinct and recognisable boundaries'.

Waikanae and Paraparaumu are geographically split by the Waikanae river and Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai's marae is based in Waikanae.

-4-

Since the 1989 reorganisation, all four wards have remained separate communities of interest with strong local affiliations and no discernible pressures from those communities to change their unique places in Kapiti.

The 2015 Representation Review (see attachment) reinforced this.

The emphasis now appears to be on limiting “fair and effective” representation rather than on supporting the populations of four very distinct and long-established communities of interest.

Community Boards

‘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.

It may well be that in a proposal for just 10 Councillors and a Mayor, and no Community Boards, Kapiti would be too large to provide the effective representation referred to by Mr Lester.

The KCDC in its Representation Review booklet, “How can Council better represent you and your community?”, does not include community boards, wants fewer Wards, and instead focuses only on councillors and council staff”.

Without specific research-based evidence being produced for the community in this Representation Review, how can the KCDC come up plans for such radical change and what has changed since 2015 when the Local Government Commission endorsed the status quo (LGC decision attached)?

The KCDC booklet says the Empathy Design support it commissioned indicated community boards added a “confusing layer of bureaucracy, particularly for our more-in-need and currently disenfranchised and marginalised communities”.

If this is correct, a legitimate question arises of what the KCDC has done since its establishment in 1969 to identify and rectify the issues raised and what support has the KCDC given to Wards and community boards to deal with them?

The same research says 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”.

Not having “the teeth they need” gets to the heart of the matter.

-5-

The KCDC has ignored frequent appeals over many years for the KCDC to delegate more local decision-making to community boards to allow the Council to get on with substantive issues.

An independent Organisational Review in June 2020 talked positively of scope for an improved role for community boards in strengthening local government but painted a picture of community board under-utilisation, potential for increased co-operation, and improved communication (see attached clauses 145-154)

There are 40 territorial authorities around the country with, collectively, 110 community boards and the delegation approach is used in various form by many.

Residents Opinion Survey

It is clearly understood that the Council is caught up in a Representation Review process that cannot be stopped.

However, no evidence has been produced which shows that simply shifting the deckchairs around is going to improve the Council's ability to do a better job in providing effective representation.

The core outcomes of the KCDC's own 2020/21 Residents Opinion Survey shows:

- overall satisfaction and value for money in the Council's overall performance category has fallen
- there is lower public confidence that the district is going in the right direction
- residents are significantly less inclined to think the district is developing in a way that takes into account its unique character and natural environment
- trust in the Council to do the right thing for the district and its communities is falling
- significantly fewer residents felt they were being provided with clear information on issues where decisions are coming up and it was less easy for them to have their say and participate in decision-making
- Customer satisfaction from interactions with the Council fell again after recovering the previous year

These falling 'customer satisfaction' ratings suggest no matter how the number of wards and elected members are stacked up, any re-alignment would not equate to more effective representation without improvements to delivering consistently effective Council services.

Empathy Design

No independent research has been undertaken to test ratepayer opinion on something as important as a six-yearly Representation Review.

-6-

Empathy Design was hired by the KCDC to undertake 'community engagement and design research to inform and inspire Kapiti Coast's representation'.

The reality was that its 26-page report of 9 July was based on consultation with just 150 people out of Kapiti's population of 57,000.

This cannot be considered, by any stretch of imagination, to be a well-founded and fully representative community engagement..

It was billed as a "community insight to inform and inspire Kapiti Coast District's representation arrangements" but in fact that 'community insight' relied only on:

- . five workshops attracting between 2 and 11 people each
- . an online survey with only 19 responses
- . 28 street interviews
- . 80 "meaningful engagements" at Waikanae and Paraparaumu markets
- . 16 people on "long, semi-structured interviews".

Low levels of public involvement suggests most people are happy with the current representation approach but the Council's household brochure questionnaire results may be more helpful.

Given Covid-19, some difficulties could be accepted but a wider range of public response mechanisms was presented on p2 of the 2015 Representation Review.

KCDC were heavily involved in production of the report with Empathy Design disclosing that "Empathy and council officers worked as one engagement and research team" so there was no independent assessment.

Conclusions

The Kapiti community has been asked to make submissions on the KCDC's six-yearly Representation Review with less than a month's notice since the production of the booklet and web site entries.

The Review started in August 2020 but no public plan emerged until early September 2021 after the Council approved it in a split 7-4 vote on 26 August.

The following issues stand out which challenge the intent of "fair and and effective representation of communities of interest" required under the Local Electoral Act:

- it took a year for the KCDC to prepare the groundwork and get Councillor approval which left ratepayers with a short timeframe of one month to receive the Representation proposal, consider it, and respond

-7-

- no substantive justification for reducing the number of 'distinct and recognisable' Wards by combining the long-standing townships of Waikanae and Paraparaumu-Raumati
- no substantive justification for scrapping four community boards
- no evidence produced to justify the statement that "the research indicated
- no evidence presented of any widespread ratepayer concern about present levels and types of representation
- no independent assessment of the KCDC's proposals to assist ratepayers in forming an opinion
- no attempt to establish public meetings during Level 1 in each community to consider the proposals

Summary

The legislation requires the KCDC to put forward just one proposal for public consultation.

It is interesting that the KCDC chose to select probably the most disruptive options for establishing 'fair and effective communities of interest' by 'breaking up distinct and recognisable' Wards and scrapping community boards.

Given the tight timeframe it now has, and the shortcomings of the proposed options, the most practical and publicly-acceptable approach is for the KCDC to seek approval from the Local Government Commission for continuation of the current levels of representation.

One of the Local Government Commission's exceptions for not complying with the +/-10% rule is:

- where compliance would limit effective representation by either dividing a community of interest, or grouping together communities of interest with few commonalities

This is very much the case for Kapiti.

Chris Turver
[address redacted]
Waikanae Beach
[phone number redacted]

NOTE: Please compare the KCDC'S current proposal with that submitted for the 2015 Representation Review (attached) and the Local Government Commission's 2015 decision (attached).

Mayor and Councillors
COUNCIL

11 DECEMBER 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

2015 REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE KAPITI COAST DISTRICT - PROCESS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 Council is invited to consider options and approve a process for conducting the mandatory 2015 Review of Representation Arrangements for the Kāpiti Coast District.

BACKGROUND

- 2 A representation review is a statutory process which must be undertaken by every council at least every six years. It is mandated through the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 and the Local Electoral Act (LEA) 2001 (primarily section 19). Representation reviews are important because:
 - They help ensure fair electoral arrangements and equality of access
 - They enable the community to discuss the nature of effective representation
 - They contribute to the experience of democracy
- 3 The timeframes and key milestones of this process are mandated by legislation (see Appendix 1). What this report seeks is the Council's preferred option for developing the initial proposal. The initial proposal has to be released by August 2015, and there are a number of ways Council could arrive at this point.
- 4 However Council decides to handle the development of the initial proposal Council has a critical role to play in receiving and considering public submissions, and deciding on a final proposal which is also released for public reaction, by way of appeals or objections. If any appeals and/or objections are received at this point the matter is referred to the LGC who will make the final decision (determination). This may involve further hearings.
- 5 Consideration of the electoral system and the establishment of Māori Wards are also a preliminary part of the review process and both of these have already been dealt with by this Council. In August 2014 Council decided to retain STV as its preferred electoral system for the 2016 local body elections. Council was willing to consider the establishment of a Māori Ward if iwi supported this however, through Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti ART members indicated that iwi did not support the concept and so Council did not pursue it.
- 6 What remains for Council to do now is carry out the rest of the representation review process which involves consulting with its community on:
 - What kind of structure is effective in ensuring fair representation of the Kāpiti Coast community (all wards? All districtwide? A mixed system?)

- How many councillors are required (within a legally prescribed range of 6 to 14) to ensure both effective governance and effective representation?
 - Is there a continuing role for community boards (to capture the distinctiveness of their communities and provide for more devolved decision-making/advocacy)?
- 7 In carrying out this consultation in accordance with prescribed timeframes Council needs to have regard primarily to the principle of ensuring fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.
- 8 The previous representation review was carried out by Council in 2009 and resulted in the current representation structure applying to the last two triennial elections including some minor boundary adjustments.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 9 Before describing the ways Council could approach the review, it is necessary to allude to the LGC's release on 4 December of the draft reorganisation model for the Wellington region. The LGC proposal will be subject to a submission process and it is highly likely that the final proposal will trigger a poll. If this scenario eventuates the whole process could take up to a year before the fate of the Wellington Region's governance arrangements is clear. If the poll is against change the status quo will remain. It is critical then that the Council proceeds with the representation review within the statutory timeframes until such time as the outcome of the LGC process is definitive.

Options for carrying out the review

- 10 There are a number of ways Council could go about gathering information to shape the initial proposal for public consultation. (The initial proposal must be presented for Council's consideration in August 2015.) Information at Appendix 2 shows a variety of mechanisms adopted by other councils. Based on this information two options are offered below:
- Option 1 – Council to convene an independent review panel made up of one or more Councillors and a number of community representatives
 - Option 2 – Council to convene a working party comprising one or more Councillors and Council officers from subject-relevant areas.

- 11 More information and discussion of each option follows:

Option 1 – Convening an independent panel

- 12 The appointment (by Council) of an independent Panel has been the preferred option for a number of councils (see Appendix 2). Draft Panel Terms of Reference are at Appendix 3. The size of the panel would ideally be 5-7 members and have a broad representation in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, and geography as well as people with relevant skills and a good knowledge of the District. A decision on remuneration would also have to be made.

- 13 Appointing panel members could involve appointing a Councillor or Councillors today to the Panel and calling for expressions of interest from the community, with Council approving final membership at its meeting in January 2015 (including appointment of a Chairperson).

Pros

- An independent panel could be perceived by the community as being more representative and objective in its deliberations.
- Council has employed this structure satisfactorily for a number of key projects in recent times (the independent review of the PDP, and the LTP Reference Group, most notably), so it is not unfamiliar.

Cons

- A high profile process would be confusing as the LGC debate unfolds.
- The Panel would be supported by staff coinciding with one of the busiest times in the Council work programme i.e. the first half of the year which is committed to the LTP process.
- There would be a cost implication if Council decided to remunerate the members of the Panel.

Option 2 – Convening a Representation Review Working Party

- 14 An internal working party could be convened comprising one or more Councillors (one Ward Councillor, one Districtwide Councillor?) and relevant staff i.e. the Democracy Services Team, the Electoral Officer, members from the Strategy and Partnerships Group, and a GIS technician. This option is the recommended one.

Pros

- This was the path followed for the 2009 review where a number of models were developed internally and offered for consideration by Elected Members in a series of briefings and public workshops as input to an initial proposal.
- This option would be more logistically flexible. For this reason this option is the recommended one.
- This option would not involve remuneration costs.

Cons

- This option would impact on the work programme of staff at a busy time in the work calendar.

Next steps

- 15 If Council decided to convene a Panel an advertisement would be placed in local newspapers and on Council's website and Facebook pages calling for expressions of interest which Council would then consider in a public excluded meeting in January.
- 16 Whichever mechanism Council chooses, an initial proposal must be approved by Council for public submission no later than August 2015.

Financial Considerations

- 17 There are sufficient funds to carry out this activity. If Council chooses Option 1 it would have to decide whether some or all panel members should be remunerated and at what cost. It is suggested the rate be \$150 per person per day, comparable with what Elected Member hearing commissioners for the PDP hearings would be paid. It is difficult to say how many hours the Panel would need to convene, but one other council's experience was 30 hours (5-6 days) of Panel time. If this Council adopted the \$150 fee this would result in a cost of \$4,500.

Legal Considerations

- 18 The representation review process is mandated under the LGA 2002 and LEA 2001.

Delegation

- 19 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

Policy Implications

- 20 There are no policy implications.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 21 If Council decides on Option 1 it may consider whether an iwi member should be sought through Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 22 The decision presented here is not significant under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The representation review process is mandated by legislation which allows ample opportunity for the community to have input and appeal the Council's decision. In the event of appeals and objections to the final proposal the Local Government Commission (LGC) will make the final decision.

Consultation

- 23 Once Council has decided on the option for this process a communications strategy will be developed, including consultation with the community as required by the legislation.

Publicity Considerations

- 24 There is likely to be community interest in this decision and a media release will be prepared.

RECOMMENDATIONS

25 That the Council approves:

- a) the convening of a Representation Review Working Party to manage the Council's 2015 representation review, comprising Cr and Cr..... and relevant Council officers;

OR

- b) the convening of an Independent Representation Review Panel, comprising Cr....., three community representatives and an iwi representative.
- c) That the Council approves remuneration for the members of the Review Panel at the rate of \$150 per person per day;
- d) That the Council approves the Independent Representation Review Panel Draft Terms of Reference with any amendments as at Appendix 3 of report Corp-14-1419.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Vyvien Starbuck-Maffey
Democracy Services Manager

Mark de Haast
**Acting Group Manager
Corporate Services**

Approved for submission by:

Stephen McArthur

**Group Manager
Strategy & Partnerships**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 Statutory timeframes for the process
- Appendix 2 Approaches by other councils
- Appendix 3 Draft Terms of Reference for an Independent Review Panel

Appendix 2 – Approaches by other councils to carrying out their reviews

(a) These councils have appointed an independent review panel:

Council	Review date	No of members	Council members	Composition of Panel	Remunerated
Gore	2006	5	1	Mayor, 4 members of the public	Not paid for time.
Invercargill	2009	7	1	Councillor, 6 members of the public appointed by Council	\$1,200 flat fee per member
Queenstown Lakes	2012	4	0	4 community members	Expenses only
Timaru	2012	7	2	Mayor, Ward Councillor and 5 members of the public appointed by Council	Not paid

(b) These district councils used a variety of mechanisms (as described in the resulting LGC determinations):

Reviews carried out for the 2013 local body elections	
Council	Method
Horowhenua	Public workshop to canvass options
Gisborne	Appointed a committee of the whole (council) to workshop options
Hastings	Appointed a review subcommittee comprising councillors, the Chair of the Rural Community Board and the Chair of the Council-Māori Joint Committee
Hauraki	Held a workshop and then appointed a working party comprising the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, three Ward Chairs who produced a discussion paper. Council then also resolved to engage focus groups from each ward.
Kaipara	Two workshops held
Matamata-Piako	Preliminary consultation with the community on defining 'communities of interest'
Waikato	Held a series of workshops to identify 'communities of interest' and a range of options emerged from these
Western Bay of Plenty	Held a series of workshops resulting in a number of options

Appendix 3 – Draft Terms of Reference for an Independent Representation Review Panel for the Kapiti Coast District Council Representation Review in 2015

Purpose

- a) To develop representation options for the Kapiti Coast District Council which address the issues raised in sections 19H and 19J of the *Local Electoral Act 2001*, having regard to the factors specified in sections 19T and 19V.
- b) To present options for consideration by the Council to enable an initial proposal to be adopted for consultation with the community under section 19M of the Local Electoral Act
- c) The Council requires that the Review Panel report will allow the Council to make fully informed decisions on the options, including arguments and implications for each alternative, for the future governance structure of the District for the period 2016 – 2019. The work undertaken by the panel will comply with the requirements of the *Local Electoral Act 2001*.

Tasks

- 1) Identify and define communities of interest.
- 2) Conduct such research, enquiries or other work as considered by the advisory panel as needed to complete this brief.
- 3) Determine if early community input required and seek input as necessary.
- 4) Consider and recommend fair and effective representation arrangements throughout and for the District, including the election of councillors (at large, by ward or mixed) and community boards, if required.
- 5) Develop the reasonable alternatives available to the Council in regard to governance structures for the period 2016 - 2019 (including Community Boards if required) having regard to the legal tests.
- 6) Present and explain the panel's conclusions as necessary in front of the community, the Council and anybody charged with statutory responsibility for this function.
- 7) Report to Council on the representation options, including community boards, that were developed, the feedback and results of any community consultation, including the communities' views of the options and their desire (if any) for more or different representation.
- 8) Recommend options and a preferred structure.
- 9) Other such tasks as may be identified during the process.

Draft Process

A draft process to be followed by the panel may include the following steps:

- 1) Establishment of a work programme
- 2) Development of draft options and material for pre-consultation
- 3) Pre-consultation with community
- 4) Finalisation of option(s) and recommendation to Council
- 5) Presentation of options and recommendation to Council.

The Panel will determine the final process to be followed to achieve the tasks outlined above.

Panel Makeup

Five members, including 1 member of the Council will be appointed to the Review Panel. The panel will be assisted by Council staff. The Council will seek to appoint a mix of people with the right skills and experience, who represent a broad cross section of the community by age, gender, ethnicity, geography and any other relevant factors.

Person Specification

Some or all of the following:

- A demonstrated knowledge of local communities, their concerns and interests and how they interact with other communities in the Kapiti Coast District Territorial Authority area.
- Experience in democratic governance.
- An open and inquiring mind and the ability to accept different points of view.
- Ability to critique, probe and develop reasoned and principled argument.
- A willingness to take part in public consultation if required

Estimated Time Involvement

Meetings will be held as required. An estimated time involvement for the process is between 25-30 hours, depending on the process undertaken.

Phase 1:	Pre meeting background reading	3 hours
	Development of Options, 2 -3 meetings	6 hours
Phase 2:	Public consultation, 3 - 4 meetings each	10 hours
Phase 3:	Development of report to Council and attendance at Council meeting	6 hours



LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MANA KĀWANATANGA Ā ROHE

Determination

on a decision of the Kapiti Coast District Council to adopt representation arrangements for the local authority elections to be held on 8 October 2016 that do not comply with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001

Background

1. All territorial authorities are required under sections 19H and 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) to review their representation arrangements at least every six years.
2. Representation reviews are to determine the number of councillors to be elected, the basis of election for councillors and, if this includes wards, the boundaries and names of those wards. Reviews also include whether there are to be community boards and, if so, arrangements for those boards. Representation arrangements are to be determined so as to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.
3. The Kapiti Coast District Council (the council) last reviewed its representation arrangements prior to the 2010 local authority elections. Accordingly it was required to undertake a review prior to the next elections in October 2016.
4. The representation arrangements that applied for the council in 2010 and subsequent 2013 elections, comprised a mayor and 10 councillors, five of whom were elected at large and five elected from wards as follows.

Ward	Population*	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Ōtaki	9,690	1	9,690	-528	-5.17
Waikanae	11,100	1	11,100	+882	+8.63
Paraparaumu	20,100	2	10,050	-168	-1.64
Paekākāriki-Raumati	10,200	1	10,200	-18	-0.18
TOTALS	51,090	5	10,218		

*These figures are updated 2014 population estimates.

5. In addition, Kapiti Coast District has four community boards for Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati and Paekākāriki, each comprising four elected members with the ward councillor(s) also appointed to each board.
6. On 18 June 2015 the council, under sections 19H and 19J of the Act, resolved its initial proposed representation arrangements to apply for the 2016 elections. The proposal was for the retention of existing arrangements i.e. for the council to continue to comprise a mayor and 10 councillors with five elected at large and five elected from the current four wards subject to a boundary alteration between the Waikanae and Ōtaki wards. The proposal was also for the retention of the existing four community boards with existing representation arrangements.
7. The initial proposal resulted in the following arrangements for the election of the five ward councillors.

Ward	Population	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Ōtaki	8,470	1	8,470	-1,744	-17.07
Waikanae	12,300	1	12,300	+2,086	+20.42
Paraparaumu	20,100	2	10,050	-164	-1.61
Paekākāriki-Raumati	10,200	1	10,200	-14	-0.14
TOTALS	51,070	5	10,214		

8. The boundary alteration between the Waikanae and Ōtaki wards involved the transfer of a large mainly rural area from Ōtaki Ward to Waikanae Ward and had the effect of returning the ward boundary to its pre-2004 position. The boundary had been moved in 2004 in order to comply with the '+/-10% fair representation requirement' as set out in section 19V of the Act. With the enactment of amending legislation providing more flexibility in the application of the +/-10% requirement, the council was now proposing to return the boundary to its previous position.
9. The council notified its proposal on 25 June 2015 and at the same time noted that the Waikanae and Ōtaki wards did not comply with the fair representation requirement of section 19V of the Act. The council stated it considered that compliance "would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards".
10. A total of 10 submissions were received on the council's initial proposal by the closing date of 31 July 2015. Eight submissions supported the initial proposal and two sought detailed amendments. One of these sought the inclusion of a further meshblock, covering the Waikanae Downs area, in Waikanae Ward (from Paraparaumu Ward).
11. Following consideration of the submissions, the council on 27 August 2015 resolved to adopt its initial proposal as its final representation proposal subject to the inclusion of the Waikanae Downs area in Waikanae Ward and also Waikanae community board area. This involved the transfer approximately 150 additional people from Paraparaumu Ward to Waikanae Ward.
12. The Council notified its final proposal on 3 September 2015 and sought any appeals or objections by 5 October 2015.

13. No appeals or objections were received against the council's final proposal.
14. The council, however, was required to refer its proposal to the Commission, pursuant to subsection 19V(4) of the Act, as two of its proposed wards (Waikanae and Ōtaki) did not comply with the fair representation requirement of subsection (2).

Legislative requirements

15. Subsection 19V(1) of the Act sets out the requirement for local authorities, and where appropriate the Commission, in determining the number of members to be elected from any ward, to ensure electors receive fair representation. Fair representation is to be determined having regard to the population of the district and of each ward.
16. For the purposes of giving effect to subsection (1), subsection 19V(2) requires that the population of each ward divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward, produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district divided by the total number of members elected by wards (the '+/-10% fair representation requirement').
17. Subsection 19V(3) provides that, despite subsection (2), if a territorial authority or the Commission considers one or more of certain prescribed conditions apply, wards may be defined and membership distributed between them in a way that does not comply with subsection (2). The prescribed conditions are:
 - (i) non-compliance is required for effective representation of communities of interest within island or isolated communities situated within the district of the territorial authority
 - (ii) compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards
 - (iii) compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by uniting within a ward two or more communities of interest with few commonalities of interest.
18. Subsection 19V(4) requires a territorial authority that decides under subsection (3) not to comply with subsection (2), to refer that decision to the Commission.
19. Subsection 19V(5) requires the Commission to treat a proposal referred to it under subsection (4), as if it were an appeal against the decision of the territorial authority for the purposes of sections 19R (other than subsection 1(b)), 19S and 19Y. Subsection 19(1)(b) provides that the Commission must determine:
 - (a) in the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19H, the matters specified in that section (these matters relate to the basis of election for councillors and the number of councillors to be elected) and
 - (b) in the case of a territorial authority that has made a resolution under section 19J, the matters specified in that section (these matters relate to establishment/retention of community boards and the election of board members).
20. Subsection 19V(6) requires the Commission on receiving a proposal referred to it under subsection (4), to determine whether:
 - (a) to uphold the decision of the territorial authority, or
 - (b) to alter that decision.

21. The effect of the above provisions was that the Commission had only to determine whether to uphold or alter Kapiti Coast District Council's decision not to comply with subsection 19V(2) in respect of the proposed Waikanae and Ōtaki wards.

Consideration by the Commission

History of wards and community boards

22. The Waikanae and Ōtaki wards have existed since the Kapiti Coast District was constituted in 1989. Two community boards covering the same two areas as the wards were also established at that time and continue today.
23. In 2004, when the stricter +/-10% fair representation requirement first took effect, the Commission saw it had little choice but to transfer a large rural area from Waikanae Ward to Ōtaki Ward. This area included the Peka Peka area to the north of Waikanae, a rural area to the east, and the Reikorangi area and Akatarawa Road to the south-east. The area also included the northerly extension of Huia Street which began in Waikanae. The community board boundary was also altered to reflect the new ward boundary.
24. In its next review in 2010, the council proposed to alter the Waikanae community board boundary back to its previous pre-2004 position on community of interest grounds. The Commission subsequently endorsed this proposal.
25. There was also an appeal in 2010 from a resident of Huia Street against the location of the Waikanae-Ōtaki ward boundary, on community of interest grounds. Huia Street is a long dead-end road originating in Waikanae township, but which now extends into what was previously rural land north of Waikanae.
26. While the Commission had sympathy for the arguments of the appellant, it was unable to uphold the appeal given the +/-10% requirement. The Commission's determination resulted in the community board boundary and ward boundary no longer coinciding.
27. With the amendment to the Local Electoral Act in 2013 providing more flexibility in the application of the +/-10% requirement, the council was now proposing the return of the ward boundary to its pre-2004 position and so it would again coincide with the community board boundary.

Present communities of interest

28. Waikanae and Ōtaki are reasonably distinct communities of interest, with Waikanae and Ōtaki town centres approximately 15 minutes apart on state highway 1 and separated by a large rural area. The area proposed to be transferred back to Waikanae Ward comprises the areas referred to in paragraph 23. Each is clearly associated with Waikanae as follows:
 - Peka Peka is now joined by road to Waikanae Beach and provides a link to state highway 1 from the beach area
 - Reikorangi area is only a few minutes from Waikanae town centre and residents have to drive through this centre to travel north to Ōtaki
 - Residents in the Huia Street extension have to drive into Waikanae town centre to join state highway 1 to travel north to Ōtaki.
29. Both Waikanae and Ōtaki have their own well-established community boards which represent and advocate for their respective communities and administer, under

delegation, specific grants funds. Both areas also have their own council service centre.

30. The council has a number of decentralised services at the ward and/or community board level with Waikanae providing similar types of local services to residents as are available in Ōtaki, such as a library, swimming pool and recycling services. Accordingly there are few reasons for Waikanae residents to regularly travel north to Ōtaki as opposed to, if necessary, travelling south to the council headquarters and also to the larger retail area in Paraparaumu which is closer for Waikanae residents than Ōtaki.
31. The Waikanae and Ōtaki communities are also quite distinct in terms of demographic, socio-economic and ethnic characteristics. For example, areas of Waikanae have markedly higher proportions of the population who are European and in the older age group, while Ōtaki has higher proportions of Māori and areas with higher social deprivation based on the 2013 social deprivation index.
32. The Commission noted the proposed further addition of the Waikanae Downs area to Waikanae Ward and community board area (meshblock 1998404) exacerbated the non-compliance with the +/-10% requirement, albeit only slightly, with approximately 150 people adding a further 1.47% non-compliance (i.e. now +21.89%). Again this appeared justified in terms of physical proximity to Waikanae town centre and in relation to access to local services.
33. This was reflected by a submitter on the council's initial representation proposal from the Waikanae Downs area, who pointed out that he had a Waikanae postal address and was "less than a 2 minute drive from the (Waikanae) village ... where we visit the doctor, cinema, supermarket, post office, plumber, vet, bank, pharmacy, library, restaurants, hardware store, and a host of other local businesses". He added: "we consider ourselves Waikanae locals" while "Paraparaumu is a 10 minute drive away and we certainly do not consider ourselves 'Paraparaumu locals'".

Options for fair and effective representation

34. Given the distinct nature of the Waikanae and Ōtaki communities, the Commission considered there were few options for retaining the two separate wards, other than status quo arrangements, in a way that complied with the +/-10% fair representation requirement.
35. The Commission did have the option of retaining status quo arrangements which did comply with the +/-10% requirement. The council, however, supported by submissions received on its initial proposal, did not consider this provided effective representation for communities of interest given the distinct nature of the two communities. This argument reflected factors identified in the Commission's representation guidelines, including the ability of elected representatives to effectively represent electoral areas.
36. The Commission also noted in relation to effective representation, the requirement set out in section 19T of the Local Electoral Act, for a council, and where appropriate the Commission, to ensure that, so far as is practicable, ward boundaries coincide with community boundaries. This was not the case under status quo arrangements. The coinciding of boundaries is seen as desirable to assist residents' understanding of local government arrangements and thereby encourage their participation in local government affairs including such activities as elections.
37. Another option was to combine the Waikanae and Ōtaki wards. A combined ward with two councillors, would comply with the +/-10% fair representation requirement.

But as the Commission had noted, the two communities have well-established identities, reflected in them both having had their own ward and community board since 1989, and are quite distinct. Given their lack of commonalities, the Commission did not consider this option would provide more effective representation for communities of interest in the area than status quo arrangements.

Conclusion

38. The Commission considered that the proposed extended Waikanae Ward, mirroring the Waikanae community board area with the addition of the Waikanae Downs area, reflected a distinct community of interest warranting councillor representation. Compliance with the section 19V(2) +/-10% fair representation requirement for this ward, and Ōtaki Ward, would require a continuation of the split of the Waikanae community of interest. The Commission agreed this would “limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards”. On this basis non-compliance with subsection 19V(2) is justified.
39. In reaching this conclusion, the Commission did note the proposed non-compliance of Waikanae Ward reflected under-representation for the local community (with Ōtaki relatively over-represented). While this was disadvantageous to Waikanae, the Waikanae Community Board supported the proposal, including the addition of the Waikanae Downs area to Waikanae Ward and community board area.

Commission’s determination

40. Under section 19R of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Commission upholds the decision of the Kapiti Coast District Council not to comply with the subsection 19V(2) +/-10% fair representation requirement in respect of Waikanae Ward and Ōtaki Ward, as compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards.
41. Accordingly for the triennial general election of Kapiti Coast District Council to be held on 8 October 2016, in addition to other arrangements determined by the council, there will be:
 - (a) a Waikanae Ward, comprising the area delineated on Plan LG-043-2016-W-3, covering the same area as the current Waikanae community board area with the addition of the Waikanae Downs area (meshblock 1998404), electing one councillor
 - (b) an Ōtaki Ward, comprising the area delineated on Plan LG-043-2016-W-2, covering the same area as the current Ōtaki community board area, electing one councillor.

Next representation review

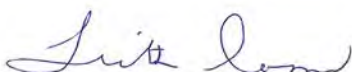
42. In its consideration of the council's proposal, the Commission noted that recent development in certain areas adjacent to the Waikanae-Ōtaki boundary, established by the Commission in 1989, did bring into question the ongoing appropriateness of sections of this boundary. It noted in particular that 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 (Pukenu Road) crossed this community boundary. As surrounding areas are further developed in future, the appropriateness of this boundary will become more questionable. In addition the impact of the new expressway, now under construction, to replace the existing state highway route, will need to be taken into account.

43. 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.

**REPRESENTATION REVIEWS COMMITTEE
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Annear', written in a cursive style.

Commissioner Janie Annear (Chair)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leith Comer', written in a cursive style.

Temporary Commissioner Leith Comer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline Kingi', written in a cursive style.

Temporary Commissioner Pauline Kingi

28 January 2016

INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Martin Jenkins

Kāpiti Coast District Council 29 June 2020

(Clauses 145-54)

Community Boards provide grass roots representation for the community at the governance table 146 The role of Community Boards is to provide grassroots representation for the community. Community Board Chairs can sit at Council meetings and contribute to the debate from an advocacy perspective. They also participate in standing committees, where they are able to influence the discussion. In this way the Community Board is able to provide local community insights to inform the Councillors' strategic thinking process. Community Boards also have some responsibilities for such things as distributing grants funding to achieve social outcomes. All meetings are publicly notified in the newspaper and the agendas are available on the Council website. Community Board perceptions of their role 147 When asked how they would describe their role, current KCDC Community Board members mentioned engaging with the community, advocating for community needs and bringing community concerns to the Council's attention, and managing community expectations on the Council's behalf. This showed the Community Boards' recognition of their key role of representing the interests of their community to the Council. 148 The Community Board members we spoke to indicated a strong interest in clarifying for the community (and for Councillors) their role in building an understanding of community needs and aspirations and bringing community perspectives to the Council. They saw the connection between the Community Board and the local community as an asset that could work more positively in the interests of both the Council and the community. Community Board members recognised that they can play a key role in communicating updates on current or future Council activities to their community. 149 As well as being a group to be consulted when the Council is engaging on an initiative, some members suggested that the Community Board could assist the Council more proactively in facilitating its consultation process. Some challenges and frustrations 150 Some frustrations with current arrangements were expressed, and there were perceptions that the Community Boards were not able to make the contribution they otherwise might. In particular, some Board members felt the Council did not provide enough or timely information to Community Boards when the Council was asking for their input on an initiative. 151 Some Community Board members we spoke with also said they are not always included in Council Chambers, with Board members being asked to leave sessions that excluded the public. 55 See 'Managing the Relationship between a Local Authority's Elected Members and its Chief Executive', retrieved from <https://oag.parliament.nz/2002/chief-execs/part4.htm> 47 Commercial In Confidence Under the legislation, local authorities have the right to exclude members of the public from meetings or parts of meetings if the proceedings would result in

disclosing information that there would be good reason for withholding. 56 The legislation also requires the local authority to issue a 'Resolution to exclude the public', detailing the reasons for this. 152 Those resolutions are standard procedure for the Kāpiti Coast District Council. 57 However, some Community Board members felt there was not a clear rationale for those decisions applying to them as well as the general public, and created for them a perception of a lack of trust that their role was not as valued as it should be. 153 Community Board members several times referred to the Local Government New Zealand commitment to 'localism', for strengthening self-government at the local level,⁵⁸ as signalling an opportunity for the role that Community Boards might play. 154 KCDC provides some administrative support to Community Board meetings, with a Group Manager oversight of this. The Review also heard that, in order for them to be effective, Community Board members would appreciate more technology support from the Council, to help them access information and communications. Currently, Chairs are supplied with tablets but other Board members must provide their own technology, and this can create difficulties with document and information sharing.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3683331

First name

Quentin

Last name

Poole

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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 – Quentin Poole

2/10/2021

Introduction

I do not support the changes contained in the 2021 Representation Review on the basis that it fails to deliver the 'fair and effective representation of communities of interest' required under the Local Electoral Act.

The proposed changes include amalgamating the Waikanae Ward and Paraparaumu-Raumati Wards into one, and scrapping all four Community Boards in Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu-Raumati, and Paekakariki.

The initiative is solely coming from the KCDC as its required part of the six-yearly Representation Review with only the nebulous support of a report by Empathy, commissioned by KCDC and with only 150 people surveyed out of a population of 57,000 odd. This equates to only 0.26% of the population base for the Kapiti District.

Council's proposed changes are inconsistent with *a democratic model that brings me closer to my elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest*. Also the preferred option is inconsistent with the majority of the "design principles" as council presented to the Community Boards on 5th August 2021.

I support the current ward model which could be made more compliant with the + or – 10% variance requirements for Otaki and Waikanae through population redistribution, or seeking approval to maintain the current variances in recognition of the clearly-defined communities of interest and the wide geographical split across 40 kilometres of the Kapiti plain.

I do not support the proposal of retaining 5x Districtwide Councillors; these seats should be re-distributed amongst the wards in the basis as developed below.

I do not support re-naming the current 4 Wards; their names correctly and accurately describes their community of interest derived from the historical association of each area.

I 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.

Currently, Community Boards within Kapiti are being under-utilised when looking at their role as proscribed by the LGA 2002. Empower them to fulfil the mandate proscribed by LGA 2002 and they will add immensely to the communication and administration of our District.

I do not support the change in “new” boundary lines.

I would like to speak to my submission.

1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?

Neutral

Please tell us why:

The actuals sum of councillors will depend on the criteria of the wards and population mix within each ward. If all current wards are retained and all councillors are ward councillors, the following could be the set-up for the composition of the wards:

	Current Pop	Councillors	Pop Excess	% Above/Below Avg
Otaki	9,870	2	-1,130	-20.5%
Waikanae	14,450	3	-2,050	-37.3%
Paraparaumu	21,800	4	-200	-3.6%
Paekakariki/Raumati	10,950	2	-50	-0.9%
Total	57,070			
	5,500			

In this model, the councillor numbers equate to 11 but it allows for population growth districtwide especially in the Otaki and Waikanae catchments which are the 2 main areas for future growth.

See further discussion below.

2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?

Strongly disagree

Please tell us why:

- A. Districtwide councillors are not responsible to anyone, any area but are supposed to do what's best for the area as a whole. Under the auspices of the LGA, all councillors are supposed to "do what's best for the area as a whole".

- B. **There is a direct lack of accountability to the constituents of the Kapiti District by the Districtwide councillors.**
- C. **Districtwide councillors are viewed rather similar to “List” MP’s. Once they are elected, they are not responsible to anyone and therefore do not communicate with any community within the district.**
- D. **A common theme in the Empathy review of 9/7/21 is that: “People want councillors to know the people and issues of the district. Most people stressed that councillors need to hear from the diversity of people in the district, not just the loudest voices, or those who have time or access.” By making all councillors “Ward Councillors”, there will be a greater opportunity for the people to connect whilst allowing the Ward councillors to develop contacts into the diversity of people.**
- E. **The following statements in the council literature: ‘Empowering existing or new community groups to do more to foster community-led development’ and ‘Strengthening Councillors ability to know and understand their communities’ further enhances the change from Districtwide Councillors to ALL councillors being elected from a ward.**

3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?

Strongly disagree

Please tell us why:

- F. **Combining the current Waikanae and Paraparaumu Wards fails the test of “community of interest” on the following grounds:**
- G. **GEOGRAPHICAL: the 2 wards share a common physical boundary – the Waikanae River.**
- H. **HISTORICAL: Waikanae has always been a separate identity to Paraparaumu; before the 1989 reorganisation of local government, Otaki used to be a Borough Council, Waikanae was a Town Council, and Paraparaumu south (including Raumati and Paekakariki) was the centre of Kapiti Borough Council.**
- I. **IWI: Te Atiawa historically settled north of the Waikanae River whilst Ngati Toa settled south of the river.**
- J. **ECONOMIC: Paraparaumu is the industrialised base for the Kapiti District while Waikanae has only 1 small street of very light industrial activity.**
- K. **SOCIAL: Waikanae is colloquially known as “God’s Waiting Room” due to the high preponderance of retirees. All secondary schools are south of the river. There is major differences in the make-up of the two areas.**

4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

Strongly disagree

Please tell us why:

- L. Community Boards can be and are advocates for their area at council meetings and workshops. They know the intricacies of their area and can often balance competing and contrasting views within their community.**
- M. My observation of our Community Boards are that they are not empowered by Council to maintain a formal overview of services provided by the territorial authority. This can simply be rectified by formal delegation from the territorial authority.**
- N. Allocating a specific percentage of rates revenue derived from a particular ward for use in that locality according to Community Board consultation to determine local community priorities.**

5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?

Strongly disagree

Please tell us why:

- N. They do not relate in any form to the proposals in this submission.**
- O. The current boundary lines between Paekakariki/Raumati and Paraparaumu can be retained.**
- P. The current boundary lines between Waikanae and Paraparaumu must be retained.**
- Q. The boundary line between Waikanae and Otaki could be adjusted to enable closer representative numbers in each ward.**

Quentin Poole
[address redacted]
Waikanae
[phone redacted]



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3671373

First name

[name withheld]

Last name

[name withheld]

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?

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?					✓	

Please tell us why?

This is a well balanced Council and from my observation serves the community very well. But see my note at Q10 below re Waikanae.

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?

This structure preserves the opportunity for democratic input and allows local input to Community Boards.

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?

Each community on the Kāpiti Coast is unique. Combining will weaken the ability of each community to effect it's own unique concerns and solutions.

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?

This is a destruction of democracy. I have attended many Board meetings and appreciate the diversity and scope of their activities and their closeness to their community.

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?

I support the CURRENT council structure and boundaries as being generally well balanced. Perhaps Waikanae could have 2 councillors, giving 11 councillors in total.

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

The current structure seems to work well. There is a good balance of representation for each ward. Community Boards SHOULD BE RETAINED. They provide a forum for local, personalised, friendly input.



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?				✓		

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?

Please refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED

28th 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 flaxroots 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 PP2O 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 2021¹

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.

¹ 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 26th 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.’*² 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

² 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 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 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](https://www.lgc.govt.nz/~/media/1/2/2/0/152016_Kapiti-District-Determination-2016.pdf) ([lgc.govt.nz](https://www.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 (Pukenuamu 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.³*

More exact findings relating to Community Boards the commentary were:

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

³ 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.’⁴*

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.’⁵,*
- 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.

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

⁵ 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.*



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3648388

First name

Tim

Last name

Costley

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?

It's not perfect but it's definitely not broken. It's smaller than some councils but increasing the number too high increases costs and reduces effectiveness. I would be open to a maximum of 11, so that you could make the wards more proportional, but this involves removing district-wide 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?

Strongly agree with current four wards to be clear. It is very important to give the four key regions (and thus wards) representation. If you want to make that proportional you need at least five councillors. The reality is that to make it truly proportional, you would need 11 councillors, (one per 5000) all voted by wards, with three in Waikanae, four in Paraparaumu, and then two a piece for the rest. But I'm happy enough with the current compromise. However, the key point is that Waikanae is distinct from Paraparaumu and truly deserves to have at minimum of one guaranteed councillor coming from the ward; without community boards this need for discrete representation is exacerbated.

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 above. By this logic why not join Paraparaumu and Paekakariki. The two are connected just as much as Waikanae is. This is meddling and trying to fix something that isn't broken. If anything, as above, you should go in the other direction.

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?

I believe discrete representation is needed for Waikanae. I think a ward is the most effective way to do this to give the township the strongest possible voice on council.

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?

I disagree with the concept of merging, but I am open to tweaking the existing ones as mooted if it did not remove the Waikanae ward.

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

My only other comment is that I just don't think this review is necessary or well-timed. The comms coming from council are a little confusing around priorities and focus. I would submit that you would be better to focus on initiatives that the community support and see direct benefit from. I'm not sure the Gateway and this review have achieved that.



Kōrero
mai **Have**
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3646701

First name

Marilyn

Last name

Stevens

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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

The councillors we have don't always represent the views of the community - there is a disconnect!

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?

Maybe 5 districtwide and no ward councillors. Community boards represent their communities more effectively.

With the removal of Community Boards, I wonder how our ward councillors, particularly if they have other paid employment, are going to continue with the 'flax root' engagement in their communities. Setting up neighbourhood clinics is not going to help with the multiple community groups Community Board members are engaged with. It would make far more sense to have Community Boards who have a voice around the Council table and remove Ward 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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

Waikanae does not want or need to become part of Paraparaumu.

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?

In your proposal all you mention about community boards is the grant they give. What about the huge amounts of work they "do" in their communities that never gets acknowledged. In a lot of community groups their constitutions dictate they must have a community board member as a trustee or committee. They will all need to change their constitutions!

The removal of Community Boards is showing democracy at its worst. Community Boards are very engaged in their communities doing a lot of work that never gets recognised at Council. In your proposal it mentions Community Boards don't have the teeth they need. So, given them the teeth!!

Here's how: Have an induction process that is flexible, for the workers have flexi times, so if they are unable to attend an induction through the working day - have evening or weekend alternatives. In that induction teach them how to write comms & give them a budget to do some meaningful comms. Give them a web presence - that might be as simple as a tab on Council website for each community so that the community can be kept up to date with what's going on in their community. Digitally support Community Boards. (If there is a cost for this \$20,000 has already been approved in the budget for Community Boards - use some of that).

Give them the power to appoint lwi representatives that are remunerated for meetings they attend - led by Council not Community Boards.

Strengthen ties between staff & Council - Community Boards were not even on the mailing list for the Submission.

Managerial Support - if a Community Board is seen to be dysfunctional, help them work through the problem. The problem is generally a Governance one it is never to do with the service they provide to their communities. Everyone that stands for Community Boards does so to provide a service to their community, that passion doesn't change. It is sometimes a personality issue that if Council were doing their job would help to sort out with team building!

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?

If we have to change it makes more sense for Waikanae and Otaki to combine.

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

The lack of consultation prior to putting this proposal forward shows the lack of disconnect with the people. If they can't get this right what chance has this proposal got of succeeding?



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3651934

First name

Royd

Last name

Sampson

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?			✓			

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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

Waikanae is a separate community as it is. I believe we draw the short straw on most decisions. Keep the community board or we will lose our voice.

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 community board needs to be retained as stated. We lack a voice at the table, give the community reps more air time in council and make sure they are listened to!

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?

Our farm has been here for 100 years and we've always considered ourselves part of Waikanae community. The moving of the northern line puts us in the Ōtaki area. This will impact on access to hospital in Wellington and bring many more disadvantages upon us.



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)

	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



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.

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.

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

4th Oct 2021

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

[phone number redacted]



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

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 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



Ōtaki College

Saint Peter Chanel School



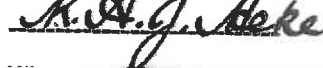
Te Horo School



Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rito



Te Kura-a-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano



Waitohu School





121

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)

	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 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

PH 06-364 8204
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





Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3685810

First name

Roger

Last name

Booth

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?						

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.

[REDACTED]
Raumati Beach 5032
4 October 2022
The Chief Executive
Kapiti Coast District Council
PO Box 60601
Paraparaumu

Dear Sir

Submission on Retention of Community Boards

Attached is a submission which concentrates on retaining the Community Boards. It is based on the known efficiency possible with the current electoral structure, very much the heart of how Kapiti Coast District Council operated four terms ago, when those supporting this submission were all involved as elected members.

I, Roger Booth, was Deputy Mayor, and would like to speak to the document.

The submission has the support of the following, who all endorse their support in attached emails –

Hilary Wooding, ex-Councillor
Diane Ammundsen, ex-Councillor
Peter Ellis, ex-Councillor
Kathy Spiers, ex-Councillor
Trevor Daniell, ex-Community Board member

My details are attached.

Kind regards


Roger Booth

Submission on Retaining Community Boards

The future of Community Boards as part of the Kapiti Coast electoral structure should not be based on what they currently achieve, but on what they can and should be achieving. This submission is from a significant number of elected Councillors over a period when Community Boards were very much part of how the elected members contributed to council deliberations. And as a result of the collective efforts Council (amongst many other things) restructured the civic building, bought needed recreational land between Paraparaumu and Waikanae, built the swimming pool complex, and brought in water meters to control water usage.

District Characteristics and Identity

Every district, town or country, has feature characteristics and recognisable identity. The Kapiti Coast's character very much comes from its collection of villages. The towns and villages were here long before the district, which has only been an entity for about 60 years. The first communities were Maori, long before the European arrived. The European villages then emerged, with Otaki, Waikanae and Paekakariki very distinctive. A lot of their character was generated from their respective geographical features.

As the population of the Kapiti Coast has risen remarkably quickly to around 50,000, beckoning city status, its own character has slowly developed as well.

The current electoral structure, with a representative council and a set of elected community boards, retains the opportunity to retain the significance of the villages and their respective communities as part of a district framework. This is how it was when the district was first set up, and this is how it should continue into the future.

Need for Review

We understand that this is a government requirement. But such a process allows for the status quo to continue unless there is real need of change.

A significant factor is that what is put in place as a result of the review is here for six years, so there is real need to get any changes right. It should not involve impulsive unthinking changes. They need to be thought through, reviewed thoroughly, and based on sound and researched arguments, because changes will be here for 6 years.

The suggested changes to the Kapiti Coast electoral structure appear to have been offered because a 'review' suggests changes. But the counter argument to a proposal of unjustified changes is retention of the status quo.

Retention of the status quo is what is supported by the under-signed.

Why Our Contribution to this Discussion is Significant

Four terms ago the Community Boards were used effectively as part of the Kapiti system.

1. Community Boards were encouraged to bring relevant matters to the attention of Council.
2. They were also brought into consultation by Council on Council-generated matters.
3. Mayor Rowan and Deputy Mayor Booth attended most meetings, both as a courtesy and as part of the process of encouraging the building up of relevant discussion on Council matters.
4. We also encouraged Community Board Chairs to attend some Council meetings. Councillors Holborow and Cootes began their Council experience this way.
5. After each Community Board meeting four people could pass on the views of each Board to Council – The Community Board Chair, the ward Councillor, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor. This was what happened.
6. The best people to understand the strengths of community funding applications are locals chosen by locals.
7. The role Community Boards play in allocating grants of up to \$500 has actively supported many community groups and initiatives.
8. It is absolutely a feature that the Community Board has been democratically chosen by voters from the part of the district that they serve in their CB roles. For panels to be chosen by bureaucrats to be put up to allocate funding is totally inappropriate.

In our time, one of the key roles of Community Board members was to be aware, up-to-date, and proactive about any local things affecting their respective community of citizens. The aspects mentioned in the next section of this submission are not all the responsibility of Community Boards – the responsibility often sits with another body. But because it is a matter that affects their village and patch, they have a responsibility to retain an active interest.

Amongst matters initiated, driven, developed, or supported by respective Community Boards –

Paekakariki/Raumatī South

Maintenance of the seawall, and assisting the citizens to understand that this is to save roads and services, not private residences.

Promotion of the hill track through to Pukerua Bay, and attention to safety concerns getting to and walking this track

Concern re maintenance of the Paekakariki Hill Road, of safety on the road, and of the decided way of entering traffic at the Paekakariki end of the road.

Locally produced v centralised water supply

Growing vegetation on verges

Quality of the streams

Living with highway development

Raumati/Paraparaumu

Effect of motorway development through this part of the district

Continuing development of mini railway facility and the associated park

Major concerns re the stream, surrounds, and protection from associated flooding

Margaret Road sewerage

Pursuit of Argentine ant infestation

Retention of Ocean Road community Hall

Development of Raumati and Paraparaumu Beach shopping areas

Retention of the market

Sea wall, beach area and associated reserves and buildings, including the Kiosk and its usage as an assistance facility for reserve users

Rivers, and sea outlets, and access to fishing sites

Retention of the Airport (a given) and development of the surrounding land

Waikanae

Retention of the market

Retention of the sports reserves

Promotion of Nga Manu

Effect of the motorway on the village, the Mall and shopping precinct, and on Nga Manu

Railway crossing vicinity, and walkway through the district

Upgrading of Mahara Gallery facility, and promotion of the fundraising for this

Retention and restructure of the library

Waikanae River surrounds and vegetation

Waikanae Beach matters

Using Waikanae water sources for district supply

Otaki

The retention of both villages

Efforts to retain Otaki Health Camp

The many issues associated with the Highway development, and the securing of Otaki as a shopping destination

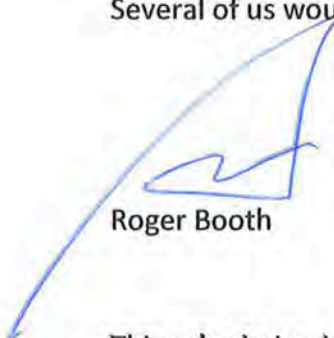
River, streams, and entry of them to the sea

The train service, and bus services, and ensuring Otaki residents can take part in Kapiti activities, particularly young people

Assisting problems associated with Police and Health Services having a Kapiti/Horowhenua split across Otaki.

This group absolutely supports the status quo. What is not broken does not have to be fixed or replaced. The same structure that worked for us is still there. We have to believe that the lack of any coverage of what the Boards are currently achieving suggests they are not

being utilised as they might be. Better efforts need to be made to return the use of the Community Boards to the successful ways they used to operate.
Several of us would be most happy to assist better usage of Community Boards.



Roger Booth

This submission is from –

Roger Booth	ex-Deputy Mayor
Diane Ammundsen	ex-Councillor
Hilary Wooding	ex-Councillor
Peter Ellis	ex-Councillor
Kathy Spiers	ex-Councillor
Trevor Daniell	ex-Community Board rep

Your Submission

Diane Ammundsen [REDACTED]

Mon 04/10/2021 12:48

To: Roger Booth [REDACTED]

Hello Roger,

I support the submission you are sending to KCDC re Community Boards and am happy to add my name.

Diane Ammundsen

Diane Ammundsen

5 Supporting Emails

Re: Supporting email

Hilary Wooding

Mon 04/10/2021 13:13

To: Roger Booth

I Hilary Wooding Support the submission on retaining Community Boards as submitted by Roger Booth.

From Hilary's iPad

> On 4/10/2021, at 12:45 PM, Roger Booth wrote:

>

> --_000_SYCP282MB0464172DFB930DFA71E97E6EC5AD9SYCP282MB0464AUSP_

> Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

> Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

>

> Hi Hilary and Peter

>

> Attached the document with some additions, as suggested.

>

> Could you please send me an email saying you support the document as submit=
> ted by Roger Booth to save collecting signatures.

>

> Cheers

> Roger

>

> --_000_SYCP282MB0464172DFB930DFA71E97E6EC5AD9SYCP282MB0464AUSP_

> Content-Type: text/html; charset="iso-8859-1"

> Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

>

> <html>

> <head>

> <meta http-equiv=3D"Content-Type" content=3D"text/html; charset=3Diso-8859-=
> 1">

> <style type=3D"text/css" style=3D"display:none;"> P {margin-top:0;margin-bo=
> ttom:0;} </style>

> </head>

> <body dir=3D"ltr">

> <div style=3D"font-family: Calibri, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 12pt;=
> color: rgb(0, 0, 0);">

> Hi Hilary and Peter</div>

> <div style=3D"font-family: Calibri, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 12pt;=
> color: rgb(0, 0, 0);">

>

> </div>

> <div style=3D"font-family: Calibri, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 12pt;=
> color: rgb(0, 0, 0);">

> Attached the document with some additions, as suggested.</div>

> <div style=3D"font-family: Cal

Hilary Wooding

submission

Peter Ellis

[REDACTED]
Mon 04/10/2021 13:16

To: 'Roger Booth' [REDACTED]

Roger. I agree with the submission on retaining community boards for Kapiti .

Cheers peter Ellis

Re" Representation Review - Kapiti Coast District Council October 2021

Kathryn Spiers [REDACTED]

Mon 04/10/2021 12:49

To: Roger Booth [REDACTED]

Kathy Spiers

Kia ora

I hereby submit my full support for the Submission to keep all Community Boards for the the Kapiti Coast District Council's Representation Review October 2021 as submitted by Mr Roger Booth, [REDACTED] Raumati Beach

Kind regards

Kathy Spiers

[REDACTED]

Paraparaumu Beach

Kapiti Coast

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

4/10/2021, 13:19

Email - Roger Booth - Outlook

Fwd: Submission on Community Boards

Trevor Daniell [REDACTED]

Mon 04/10/2021 13:14

To: Roger Booth [REDACTED]

I support this submission

Trevor Daniell

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Trevor Daniell** [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 9:31 AM

Subject: Re: Submission on Community Boards

To: Roger Booth [REDACTED]

Yes 5 pm

On Sat, 2 Oct 2021, 8:47 PM Roger Booth, [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi Kathy and Trevor



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3685878

First name

Joanna

Last name

Poole

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?						

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.

2 October 2021

To: Kāpiti Coast District Council

From: Joanna Poole

Submission – Kāpiti Representation Review – How can Council better represent you and your community?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my view on “how can Council better represent you and your community”.

My view

I **do not support** the Kāpiti Coast District Council’s proposed changes to the wards and boundaries, and proposal to have five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors, as set out in Council’s ‘proposal for 2022’.

In summary, my reasons for this are:

1. Council has not provided residents and ratepayers with evidence and rationale supporting its proposed changes to the wards and boundaries as set out in Council’s ‘proposal for 2022’.
2. Council’s proposed changes are inconsistent with *a democratic model that brings me closer to my elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.*
3. Council’s preferred option is inconsistent with the majority of the ‘design principles’ (as it presented to the Community Boards on 5 August 2021).
4. Council has not pursued the option of seeking approval from the Local Government Commission for the continuation of the current levels of representation. (To achieve ‘fair representation’, under Local Government Commission rules, Councils can exceed the +/- 10% rule if compliance splits a community of interest.)
5. Council has not provided residents and ratepayers with sufficient time to consider and respond to such a significant change to the Kāpiti Coast District’s representation model as that which is currently proposed by the Council.

I have substantiated these points below as well as responding to the questions asked by Council in its document: ‘How can Council better represent you and your community?’.

1. Evidence and rationale for change

According to information about the review provided by the Kāpiti Coast District Council, Council’s overriding rationale for the proposed changes to the Kāpiti Coast District’s current representation (combining two existing Wards - Waikanae and Paraparaumu, changing boundaries - and eliminating all four Community Boards) is that it will “strengthen local representation” by:

- 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.

Quite simply – this rationale is flawed.

There is no evidence to support it or that indicates our District's current representation is broke and the so called 'research' by Empathy, which Council has used to "inform" Council's proposal, constituted engagement with a mere 150 people (0.26% of Kāpiti Coast District's population estimated as at 30 June 2020 of 57,000 – statistically unrepresentative), was principally, self-selecting, and wasn't backed up with quantitative research (statistically representative).

Qualitative research comprising 150 people out of a total population of 57,000 does not give "in-depth information" (as stated in Council's booklet 'How can Council better represent you and your community?'), let alone should be used "to help develop options for councillors to consider and refine."

Additionally, and importantly, I follow local matters with keen interest, and have not observed any call for change from ratepayers, residents or councillors (at least publicly).

2. Democratic model

Council's proposed changes:

- **do not** reflect the diversity of the district and communities of interest
- provide for a lack of local voice and accountability to elected representatives.
(Interestingly and ironically, these are some of the very flaws that Councils, including Kāpiti Coast District Council, have identified are issues with the Government's proposed Three waters reform.)

As stated in Council's booklet 'How can Council better represent you and your community?':

Effective representation is about your access to elected members, and the size and configuration of wards, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.

Community of interest

The development of four Wards came with recognition that for historical, geographical and social reasons, Ōtaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Paekākāriki evolved as distinct entities. All four have 'distinct and recognisable boundaries'. Since the 1989 reorganisation of local government, all four wards have remained separate 'communities of interest' with strong local affiliations.

Doing away with the current Waikanae Ward in favour of three larger Ōtaki, Paraparaumu and Paekākāriki-Raumati Wards fails the test of 'community of interest' on the basis of:

1. Historical grounds – refer to Waikanae's special place in history in Chris and Joan Maclean's book, 'Waikanae'. (Te Āti Awa historically settled north of the Waikanae River while Ngāti Toa settled south of the River). Furthermore, Waikanae has always been a separate identity

to Paraparaumu. Before the 1989 reorganisation of local government, Ōtaki used to be a Borough Council, Waikanae was a Town Council and Paraparaumu south (including Raumati and Paekākāriki) was the centre of Kāpiti Borough Council. Since the 1989 reorganisation, all four wards have remained separate ‘communities of interest’ with strong local affiliations.

2. Geographical grounds – Waikanae and Paraparaumu have a ‘distinct and recognisable physical boundary’ – the Waikanae River. Waikanae and Paraparaumu certainly are **not** “contiguous”. Residents’ postal addresses are Waikanae or Paraparaumu, depending on where they live, i.e. Waikanae residents’ postal address is not Paraparaumu.
3. Social and functional grounds – my shopping, club memberships (e.g. Gym, Bridge), visits to the farmers’ market and cafes, and connections with friends and acquaintances – all are based in Waikanae – not Paraparaumu. This is where I feel a sense of “community/belonging” and “access daily goods and services”.
4. Political grounds – a larger Paraparaumu Ward that incorporates Waikanae serviced by three councillors could be less able to represent the interests and reconcile conflicts of all its members. (Refer to the Local Government Commission’s guidelines identifying the three dimensions for recognising communities of interest).

3. Design Principles

Council’s preferred option is inconsistent with the majority of the design principles. (Refer Council presentation given to the community boards on 5 August 2021)

- Reflect distinct geographic ‘communities of interest’
- Help ensure high-calibre representatives
- Don’t spread councillors too thin, ensure they can get across the people and issues
- Support councillors’ responsibility to reach out and hear from the community
- Ensure minority voices are heard, not overshadowed
- Support the likelihood of councillors coming from across the district
- Give more focus to in-need suburbs, tackle inequity, foster equity
- Build barriers to parochialism, support ability to look across the district, make it easier to do what’s best for Kāpiti as a whole
- Ensure councillors hear from a diverse range of community voices, not just one type.

4. Fair representation

Interestingly, while legislation requires the Kāpiti Coast District Council to put forward just one proposal for consultation, Council has selected a hugely disruptive option which breaks up distinct and recognisable Wards and removes one entire ‘community of interest’ – the Waikanae Ward. At the same time, Council has provided no evidence that this is going to improve its ability to do a better job, or be cost saving, in providing effective representation.

- Given this, the lack of evidence for change, and the timing (see ‘Timing’ below); there is good reason for the Kāpiti Coast District Council to seek approval from the Local Government Commission for the continuation of the current levels of representation. To achieve ‘fair representation’, under Local Government Commission (LGC) rules, Councils can exceed the +/- 10% rule if compliance splits a ‘community of interest’. (Council successfully

did this in 2016 when it referred to LGC as Waikanae and Ōtaki wards +/- 10% non-compliant.)

How could Council better represent me and my community?

- Council could better support the status quo i.e. the current Ward Councillors and Community Boards to “bring us closer to our elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.”
- If there are issues with ‘confusing layers of representation and barriers to engagement’, and I’m not satisfied that Council has provided evidence for this, it is Kāpiti Coast District Council’s responsibility to take corrective action and make more effective use of Wards and Community Boards. Rather than “empowering” existing or new community groups (with no evidence the outcome would be better), provide and empower Ward Councillors and Community Board members (i.e. our existing structure) with the support and “the teeth they need” – don’t reinvent the wheel with no certainty of outcome and cost savings – use the tools we have!
- Currently, the Kāpiti Coast District Council is under-utilising our Community Boards – empower them to fulfil the mandate prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002.

5. Timing

Given that the Council is required to conduct a representation review every 6 years, why has the Council decided now is a good time to make these significant proposed changes rather than in previous reviews (e.g. six years ago when the District was also outside the +/- 10 percent rule) – especially when ratepayers and residents have limited capacity to evaluate the proposal and provide feedback for the reasons described below:

- In 2021, ratepayers and residents are participating in at least two other significant Council consultation initiatives: Long-term plan and Growth Strategy.
- The community is burdened with managing other issues such as COVID-19, housing costs, managing income/expenses/debt and has limited capacity to think about, or understand the rationale for the timing of, this major change being proposed by Council to the Kāpiti Coast District’s representation.

Why was the representation review, given its significance to ensuring democracy, not flagged in the Long-term Plan 2021- 41 community consultation document ‘Securing our future – what matters most Kāpiti’, as Council did with about the upcoming consultation on Council’s growth strategy? (Democracy matters a lot!)

Why, given the significance and of where future growth of the district occurs and impact on representation, has the Council not consulted with Kāpiti Coast District ratepayers and residents on the Growth Strategy before consulting on the Representation Review proposal?

Why is Council only providing Kāpiti Coast District ratepayers and residents with a one-month submission period for something as significant as the changes proposed in the Representation Review?

- Compare this to the time given to Councils to evaluate and provide feedback on the Three waters reform (as noted by the Kāpiti Coast District Council chief executive: *“While the proposal has taken some 18 months to develop, we’ve been given an eight-week window to evaluate the WICs analysis and provide feedback. That’s not long.”*)
- From what I can ascertain on the Council’s website, the representation review started at least, if not before 4 August 2020 when it first briefed elected members. This means the Council’s Representation Review proposal has taken at least 13 months, but the community has only been given four weeks to evaluate and provide feedback. (Statistically, that’s a lesser/inferior period of time than Council’s being given to evaluate and provide feedback on the Three waters reform!)
- According to Council’s timetable, LGC determination is not due until 10 April 2022, so Council has given itself a generous four-month window between appeal objection period (20 December 2021) and LGC determination (10 April 2022).

Last but not least, why is something so fundamentally important to democracy, being rushed through before Central Government’s review of Local Government?

Please give the community a break from this constant barrage of change, and in this case unnecessary and significant change!

YOUR QUESTIONS AND MY FEEDBACK

1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor?

My Response: I agree with retaining 10 councillors and a Mayor with the following caveat:

- That the number of councillors representing the Kāpiti Coast District community (and this includes the Mayor) is proportional to the population of each Ward (this includes Waikanae as a ‘Ward’). Currently the number of councillors, both Ward and districtwide and including the Mayor, who reside in or represent Ōtaki Ward is out of proportion to its population (and the ‘community of interest’) which gives both a perceived and real bias of favouritism to the Ōtaki Ward.

2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five districtwide councillors?

My Response: I strongly disagree on the following basis:

- Districtwide councillors, akin to List MPS, are not accountable to a defined set of constituents and as a result are not bound to listen to and implement constituents’ feedback and wishes. Kāpiti Coast District ratepayers and residents have seen countless examples of districtwide councillors running roughshod over ratepayers’ and residents’ views and wishes for their community on the basis that the districtwide councillor knows best!

3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?

My Response: **I strongly disagree on the following basis:**

- As per my submission above: pages 1-5.

4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

My Response: **I strongly disagree on the following basis:**

- Community Boards provide important representation for the local community.
- Council could better support the status quo i.e. the current Ward Councillors and Community Boards to “bring us closer to our elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.”
- If there are issues with ‘confusing layers of representation and barriers to engagement’, and I’m not satisfied that Council has provided evidence for this, it is Kāpiti Coast District Council’s responsibility to take corrective action and make more effective use of Wards and Community Boards. Rather than “empowering” existing or new community groups (with no current familiarity and understanding of Kāpiti Coast District Council’s governance or evidence the outcome would be better), provide and empower Ward Councillors and Community Board members (i.e. our existing structure) with the support and “the teeth they need” – don’t reinvent the wheel with no certainty of outcome or cost savings – use the tools we have!
- Currently, the Kāpiti Coast District Council is under-utilising our Community Boards – empower them to fulfil the mandate prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002.

5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?

My Response: **I strongly disagree on the following basis:**

- Council’s proposed changes to the boundary lines are inconsistent with retaining Waikanae as ‘a community of interest’ which I strongly support and is the basis of my submission.
- The Kāpiti Coast District Council’s proposed solution for resolving the +/- 10 percent rule, (removing the Waikanae Ward in favour of expanded Ōtaki, Paraparaumu and Paekākāriki - Raumati Wards), lacks imagination, logic and most importantly **does not** “retain a significant community of interest” – the Waikanae Ward. In essence, Council has used a sledge hammer to crack a nut!
- For the reasons I’ve already given on pages 1-5, it’s unfathomable to think that Council could have come up with such an obviously biased and lazy proposal as the option it has put forward (“our proposal for how our ratepayers and residents should be represented”). **You definitely have not got it right!**
- **The current boundary line between the Waikanae Ward and Paraparaumu Ward must be retained (for the reasons I’ve provided on pages 1-5).**
- The current boundary lines between Paekākāriki/Raumati and Paraparaumu could be retained. (The proposed changes/tweaks by Council change a relatively small minus variance to a relatively small positive variance.)

- The Ōtaki Ward is currently over-represented (variance of -13.53%) with an average population of 9,870 per Ward Councillor (not including the Mayor and districtwide councillors residing in Ōtaki Ward) and Council's proposal barely improves this situation. Council's proposed representation solution would see this increase by a paltry 180 people to an average per Ward Councillor of 10,050 and it still has a large variance of -11.92% i.e. barely any change!
- Meanwhile, the distinct 'community of interest', Waikanae, loses its Ward representation completely – and guess who pays the largest share of the Kāpiti Coast District's rates per property – Waikanae (refer p 86 'Securing our future – Long-term Plan 2021-41 community consultation document')! Remember – no tax without representation!
- If Council truly wants to achieve 'fair representation' **and** meet the Local Government Commission's +/- 10 percent rule, it's time for some 'imagination' or, in Council's words 'reimagination'! An obvious and potential fix for better aligning the representation variances for the Ōtaki and Waikanae Wards, currently (- 13.53% and +26.6% respectively) would be to extend the Ōtaki Ward boundary to include the territory north of and including Peka Peka Road.
- Including Peka Peka in the Ōtaki Ward, and removing Peka Peka from the Waikanae Ward, is logical for geographic and social reasons in that:
 - The Kāpiti Expressway ends at Peka Peka and the yet to be completed Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway starts at Peka Peka
 - Peka Peka is approximately equidistant between Ōtaki and Waikanae townships with equivalent access to the amenities of both townships.
 - The community of Peka Peka has been campaigning for an interchange which if it is provided, would strengthen further Peka Peka's proximity to both Ōtaki and Waikanae townships and amenities, and
 - it's certainly more logical than doing completely away with the Waikanae Ward!
- Finally, does Council really believe the Local Government Commission is going to be satisfied with, or taken in by, the miniscule proposed change to the boundary of the Ōtaki Ward and corresponding representation while annihilating an equally important 'community of interest' – the Waikanae Ward?!

Joanna Poole

[address redacted]

Waikanae

Email: [email redacted]



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3646744

First name

Ian

Last name

Powell

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

No good reason to change.

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?

Useful balance.

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?

Separate wards better - ensures more effective community understanding and focus.

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?

Reduces community engagement.

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?

Separate wards better - ensures more effective community understanding and focus.

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

The potential tension between local community and district-wide interests should be seen as a positive and a strength of good governance.



152

Kōrero
mai **Have**
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3679092

First name

Asher

Last name

Wilson-Goldman

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Please tell us why?

With ten councillors, KCDC is at the low end of the comparator councils used - from other districts of similar population. Of those comparator councils, three: Porirua, Nelson, Invercargill are much smaller geographically and therefore have fewer populated communities than Kāpiti does.

Given the distinct communities, and the relative populations of these, within the Kāpiti Coast District, I believe that in order to cater for geographic representation while still retaining the benefits of districtwide councillors, we should increase the total number of councillors to 13 - three more than present, but the same as Gisborne, Tasman and Waipa, all of which are councils that, like Kāpiti, have several population centres within their districts.

The makeup of a 13-strong council should be: two in Paekākāriki-Raumati, Ōtaki and Waikanae, three in Paraparaumu, and four districtwide.

I believe that this will ensure councillors are better able to be connected and engaged with their local communities and community boards. With the rate of pay for a councillor role generally not enabling that to be done as a fulltime job, having only one councillor in any given ward means that residents will struggle to access their elected officials - particularly given the high number of Kāpiti residents who spend their weekdays working in Wellington, and are only in the district and available on weekends. Increasing the minimum ward size to two councillors will help ensure that all residents voices are heard around the council table.

If Council decides to disestablish community boards, I believe the total number of councillors should increase to fifteen - one in Paekākāriki, two each in Raumati, Waikanae and Ōtaki, and three in Paraparaumu, together with five districtwide councillors. This would ensure that all of our districts population centres have fair access to their elected officials.

As an example of the failure of the current structure, across both the ward and districtwide councillors, there are currently zero residents of Raumati (South or Beach) on the council. Combined with Raumati sitting in a different ward (joined with Paekākāriki) and community board (joined with Paraparaumu), it means there is no cohesive voice arguing for Raumati's needs around the council table. The current term of council is not unique in this respect - the same issue existed previously and has done on many occasions, given Paekākāriki residents' domination of the ward seat.

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Please tell us why?

I strongly agree with a mix of ward and districtwide councillors, however I believe the number of ward councillors should increase, as per my answer to the previous question.

With community boards, there should be 13 councillors in total: two in Paekākāriki-Raumati, Ōtaki and Waikanae, three in Paraparaumu, and four districtwide.

Without community boards, there should be 15 councillors in total: one in Paekākāriki, two each in Raumati, Waikanae and Ōtaki, and three in Paraparaumu, together with 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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

This would run counter to providing better and more closely connected elected official - community engagement. Larger wards are the opposite of where we should be going.

The proposal as it stands would also mean more ward councillors in the large ward than outside of it, which would mean their interests would significantly dominate council debates. With districtwide councillors also disproportionately likely to come from Paraparaumu or Waikanae (given voters propensity to vote for candidates near them, where they don't have sufficient information about the candidates overall) this would likely result in less attention being paid to the north and south of our district than is currently the case.

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?

It is clear that some of our community boards are not currently functioning well. It is equally clear, however, that this is not universal, nor is it intrinsic to the nature of community boards. The highly functioning and well supported Paekākāriki Community Board is a key example of this.

When functioning well, Community Boards can and should play a critical role in our local government ecosystem. Their areas of work include:

- Being Council's eyes and ears on the ground, identifying issues while they are still young and easily fixable, and bringing them to the attention of Council (whether staff or elected officials).
- Acting as a conduit to funnel strongly / widely held community views into a Council decision making process.
- Putting a local lens on current issues being discussed by Council, so residents can better understand and engage with these.
- Providing a supportive and accessible environment for residents to raise new issues and ideas.
- Managing a low-cost, low-risk fund for local community projects.
- Driving (in partnership with Council staff) processes of rejuvenation for their town centre(s).
- Providing an opportunity for residents who are interested in local government to get involved, whether

formally (as elected community board members) or informally (leading or being involved in projects driven by the community board), thereby strengthening the overall skills in our population.

- Engaging with other agencies and organisations (e.g. Waka Kotahi, Kāpiti Coast Chamber of Commerce) on matters of interest and importance to the community, that don't rise to a level requiring Council involvement.

If some community boards are not functioning well, the answer is not to disestablish them all. The answer is to support them better to fulfil the above areas of work, and to resource them appropriately so they can do so.

I have spent many years working at a senior level engaging with councils right across the country - including mayors, councillors, community board members and staff at all levels. The most successful councils are those that embrace their communities and actively resource and support engagement with them. Councils that retrench and look inside themselves are setting themselves up to fail.

Community boards can and should be at the heart of a truly functioning local democracy, and I urge you to not only retain them, but to help them grow so better support community engagement with local government across our district.

As part of this, I also urge you to create a Raumati Community Board, in addition to the existing boards. This will ensure that the voices of Raumati residents - who have not had any representation on council for some years now - are better heard by council as a whole, and end the current messy situation where Raumati residents look south for their ward councillor but north for their community board.

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?

I am supportive of the changes proposed in Map 2 to the Raumati / Paraparaumu boundary.

I have no opinion on the changes proposed in Map 1 and Map 3.



156

Kōrero
mai **Have**
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3624804

First name

Peter

Last name

Katz

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?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Please tell us why?

I think if Waikanae / Paraparaumu wards are combined and supporting community infrastructure withdrawn two further "local" counsellors should be appointed to the W/P ward to ensure there is a diversity of people for ratepayers to appoint. Also, at least two of the five should be from Waikanae. The benefit of this approach may increase the diversity of opinion and discussion in decision making.

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?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Please tell us why?

Realistically each counsellor carries some personal views into voting - it is human and accepted. My objection is that I do not think the current proposal ensures fair representation for Waikanae/Paraparaumu. It is possible for 3 counsellors to come from Paraparaumu or vice versa from Waikanae which would distort fair representation. I suspect the government would never consider combining 4 Auckland seats with 4 MPs.

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Please tell us why?

I strongly disagree under the present arrangement. Refer above. There needs to be more detail on how counsellors will be more accessible, and how they record their discussions with ratepayers to ensure the ratepayer side is represented in the chambers and to demonstrate they are considering all genuine concerns expressed by ratepayers. I appreciate that cost savings are sought or the current funding supports better representation. I do think that a big load is taken off counsellors if there is strong transparency between KCDC and ratepayers.

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?

As above, further information and some modification to proposal would have to be made to justify the change.

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?

I think there does need to be a line where Waikanae interests are clearly represented by at least one council vote. The council's own presentation characterised and demonstrated there are 5 very diverse wards. The diversity should not be retained for some and not others.

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

I agree it is important to review representation. Council workshops can be difficult to contribute through but is it possible on some key issues to run an electronic survey to test the ratepayer sentiment. These surveys can be efficient to run and process once established. This seems a democratic approach for kapiti wide issues. It certainly could be more efficient than Boards and allow commentary. The results would have to be transparent.

KCDC Representation Review

From Peter Katz

10 October 2021

KCDC Representation Review

- Appreciate and understand objective for efficiency, but:
- Waikanae and Paraparaumu wards by council's own advice have different priorities and ratepayer profiles

Submission:

- *The current proposal could lead to 3 Paraparaumu base councilors, or vice versa, 3 Waikanae Councilors, representing the single ward – this outcome is not representative of the Waikanae and Paraparaumu diverse needs and specific priorities*
- *Further insight to “how” KCDC plan to ensure there is a transparent process to share and address concerns raise by ratepayers from Waikanae and Paraparaumu is essential to fully assess and comment on the democratic strength of the proposal.*
 - Ie How would ratepayers from each Ward be made aware of key issues and contribute at the “community” level

I would support the current 5 ward system with a “streamlined” more efficient transparent interface between ratepayers the community, and council.

As a ratepayer, I would normally like to contribute to making the process more robust and contribute positively to solutions. To achieve this, it would be helpful if the council promoted wider discussion of the four options presented by the consultants from which a hybrid solution may better serve the democratic process



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3680562

First name

[name withheld]

Last name

[name withheld]

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

Seems to be working fine as it is.

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?

Is fine as it is.

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?

From my personal experience, the community boards are a valuable tool in representing the community's interest at council, and provide more accessibility for local voices.

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?

I think the council needs to strongly consider the retention of the community boards.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3683003

First name

Shelly

Last name

Warwick

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.

[address redacted]

Otaki 5583

Ph: [phone redacted]

3/10/2021

Empathy Report / Representation review submission

Please accept this as submission from Shelly Warwick, Otaki Community Board member.

Like other Community Board members I am stunned at the current proposal by Kapiti Coast District council in their representation review, and the 2 main proposed changes to districtwide representation

- 1) Move ward boundaries and create 1 Super ward and 2 very small wards.
- 2) Remove Community boards from the 4 current wards.

I joined the Otaki Community Board in 2016 due to frustration while trying to campaign KCDC staff on important road safety issues in our community. Getting no-where I turned to the local community board for help. And help they did, as they were my local conduit to Council and Councilor's. Any member of the community can attend and speak at local community board meetings, raising issues and requesting the Community board members assistance with information and resolution. Public speaking is minuted and because Community board meetings are held in the community they are often convenient for people to attend.

This is not so at council. In the last couple of trienniums the ability of the public to have their say at council has changed. Now there is a casual Public speaking time prior to council meetings, with no requirement for Councilor's to attend, and no minuting of the public speaking, and so no requirement for follow up by the council. This is a huge barrier to people bringing issues to the council table as there is no formal follow up of issues. Public speaking is only minuted in a council meeting if it addresses items on the agenda, and agenda set by council.

In the Empathy report I am struggling to find the specific information that directs council to either remove community boards or move ward boundaries, nor can I find any information that would justify this. There seems no evidence on mass, of those interviewed, that either of these suggestions are issues in Kapiti.

The Empathy report itself is, in my humble opinion, is poorly written with a lot of referencing but no actual statistics on anything, except the amount of people with whom they engaged. An embarrassing 168, out of a population of over 40 thousand eligible voters. With embarrassing comments like in page 6 "We engaged enough people". Enough people for what? "With enough contexts to ensure a good understanding of community perspective" How did they assess the variety of context from the people interviewed.

The proposals in the consultation document are not evidenced in the report. Where in the research does anyone talk about boundary changes or an improvement in the allocation of community grants, or indeed removing community boards?

Empathy reports over 80 meaningful engagements at pop ups. These 'Meaningful engagements' were only conducted at the Paraparumu and Waikanae Markets. What then of the people in Paekakariki, Raumati, Te Horo and Otaki.

And of the 18 people in the Semi Structured interviews of persons "recruited" the report states "Sometimes family members were part of the conversation eg: a **Pepe** on a mums lap"

My question is that if a "**PEPE**" or baby is still young enough to sit on its mothers lap, what input about local government would that child have? The dictionary description of a Pepe is a baby. So what gems of knowledge were gained from the Pepe's conversation.

It is embarrassing that our Rates have gone towards such a dismal report.

On page 18 the report states "Reflecting on why they don't put their view to council one reply 'why would I put my view forward to council? They don't listen to us up here anyway'. This would indicate that this person would need another avenue to get their voice to council. In the same report it states 'Community boards can be a great tool for the community'. Contradicting the proposal to remove them.

How much of the interviewing and reporting was done by Empathy's 'Qualified staff' and how much was done by council staff, we don't get this breakdown, but it was not all done by Empathy staff. Does this create a conflict that would jeopardize the legitimacy of the report.

And what is in it for Otaki and Paekakariki? We will be tiny wards competing against a super ward of Paraparumu and Waikanae with the ability to sway a vote by sheer size. We are really going to be the poor cousins then. This will have a very negative effect on these two communities.

How many of the 168 people interviewed, (0.4% ward population) were from Otaki? Or indeed from Paekakariki?

How many from our local Iwi? How many identified as Māori? How many were women? Otaki has a higher-than-average Māori demographic, and so that should be reflected in the "recruiting" strategy. Was this a KCDC requirement for the Empathy company in light of the council's commitment to Te Tiriti O Waitangi?

What was the cost of the report and why won't KCDC disclose this?

And what of the consultation document, designed and printed by KCDC. With two major changes proposed you would suppose these ideas would be front and center of the document. But you have to flick through to page 10, second to last page for 'Reasons for the proposal'. Where there is misrepresentation of the research document. The first sentence on this page says 'Councilor's believe the proposal for three large wards with a mix of ward and district-wide councilors, strikes a balance between representatives who are close to local issues and those who take a district-wide view'. What councilors believe this? This seems like a mistruth on two fronts

- 1) This is not proposing 3 large wards as it states in the consultation document, but rather 1 large ward and 2 tiny wards, as representation is based on population not land mass.
- 2) What Councilor's believe this? I know of at least one who does not. Can KCDC stand by this statement?

And the research indicated 'community boards added a confusing layer of "bureaucracy", particularly in our more in-need communities'. Community boards are not part of the Bureaucracy, we are part of the democracy. How can council endorse a document with such obvious flaws?

There is reference to the money that might be saved by removing community boards but no reference to how much the projected costs of the replacement structure will be including,

- 1) Increased councilor hours = increased remuneration.
- 2) Secretaries for councilors.
- 3) Set up of community committees, hall hire, recruitment

In my personal experience on the community board individuals and groups have approached me as a board member for advice and support when their engagement with council has been fruitless and they are frustrated. They see the board as a way to express their concerns or aspirations for our community and an avenue for their issues to be addressed and taken to council. And as a board member this is exactly what I joined the board to do.

In my time on the board, I have experienced very little attendance from the 5 Districtwide councilors to our local meetings, and very little attendance from the Mayor. In fact some of the districtwide councilors have never attended any of our meetings. Why is there then an assumption that they will be present in our community committees if, as districtwide elected members, they currently show such disinterest in this local democracy.

My recommendations.

- Do not remove the Grass roots democracy the community board offers
- Concentrate on getting a bottom-up model of local democracy not a trickle down.
- Give more training and support to community boards.
- Return the decision on how to spend all or part of, the building development contributions generated in a ward, on that ward, as it used to be. Give the decision making around this to the Community board who know their community best.
- Support Community boards to do projects to enhance their communities, with real value and input from members of the community.

I wish to speak to my submission.

Shelly Warwick

Ph [phone number redacted]



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3668703

First name

Prue

Last name

Hyman

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

Enough to gain views from across the district and different views: not too many which could get expensive and unwieldy

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?

Similar to above: guarantees representation across the district but includes half with a more general perspective

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?

I'm in Paekakariki and know too little about that area to have a view

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 Paekakariki CB has been very active and effective and consults widely in the village (admittedly we are a small population which makes it easier). There is very little indication or detail of HOW the views of the whole population will be canvassed in the absence of CBs - just a lot of waffle. It is far too much for a single councillor to do. The research report, such as it is, points out that Paekakariki and Otaki have their own characteristics, and it is likely that they would be swamped without having their own CB to represent their opinion. There is no evidence given to support the opinion that it adds a level of unnecessary bureaucracy rather than adding real value. The comparatively low cost of \$250,000 is well spent on CBs. Holly Ewens, chair of the Paekakariki CB has written an excellent analysis of the reasons for their being retained and I support her analysis

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?

Process pretty odd, though not due to KCDC, but to the law - presenting one option only, when there were 4 considered, with very little reason advanced for it is poor. Further, the research report is very thin and basically indicates the very wide range of opinion you would expect. Trying to get everyone involved in local government is not realistic: some people will not be involved and that is their right. Hearing from the voices that ARE involved is perfectly reasonable.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3684470

First name

Neville

Last name

Watkin

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

The +/- 10% rule is a bureaucratic constraint on Ward boundaries and representative options.

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?

Proposed distribution strongly favours the "Central" 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?

The "Northern Ward" (currently "Otaki") should OBVIOUSLY be Otaki + Waikanae.

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?

Proposed structure reduces democracy. Removal of CB's makes it worse!

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?

See Q6 above. Should also extend "Southern" Ward.

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

Frankly, it's a disgusting ill-conceived proposal that Council should be ashamed of! (And why not wait for the LGC proposals?)



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
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

**A FRESH LOOK AT LOCAL DEMOCRACY:
HOW CAN COUNCIL BETTER REPRESENT YOU
AND YOUR COMMUNITY?**



TEMPLETON

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 268,021km², 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 41,285km². 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

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.

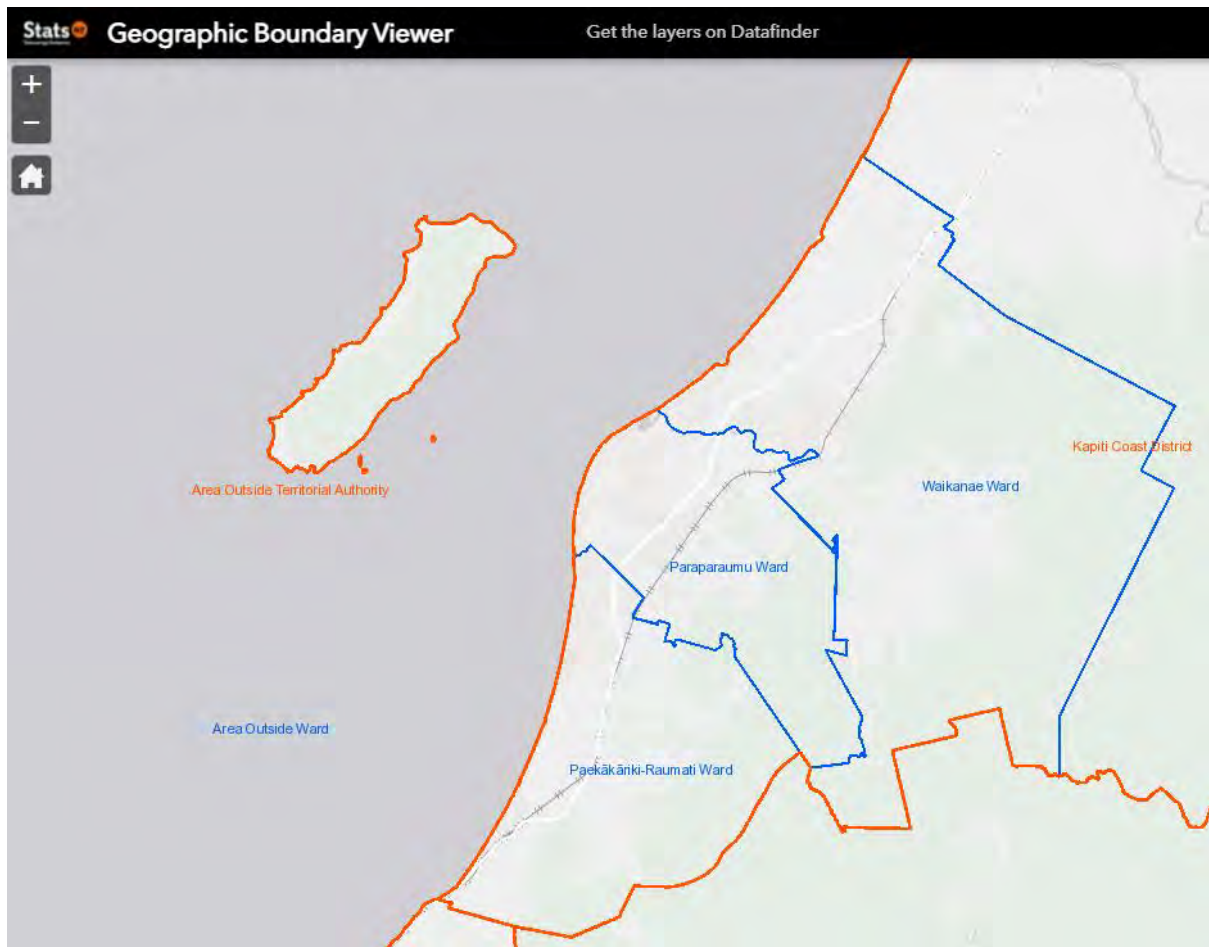
3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae Wards?

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.

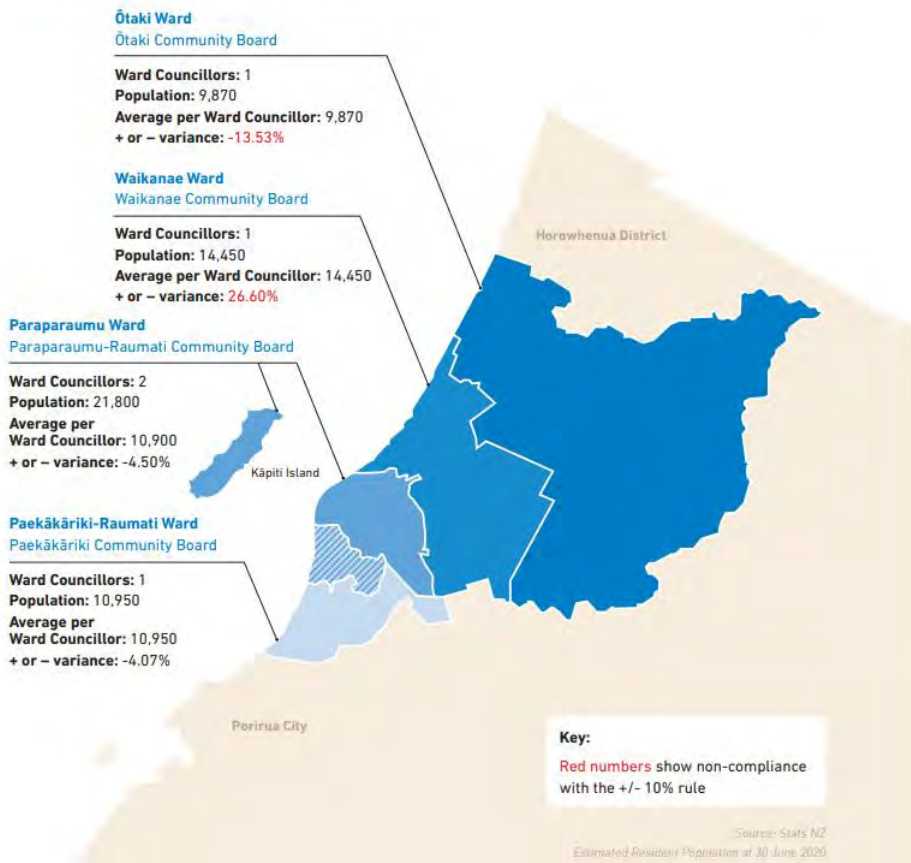
Councillors

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
Subtotal	57,070	5
At large	57,050	5
Total	57,070	10

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 Switzerland¹ 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 km², 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 km² (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 km², 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

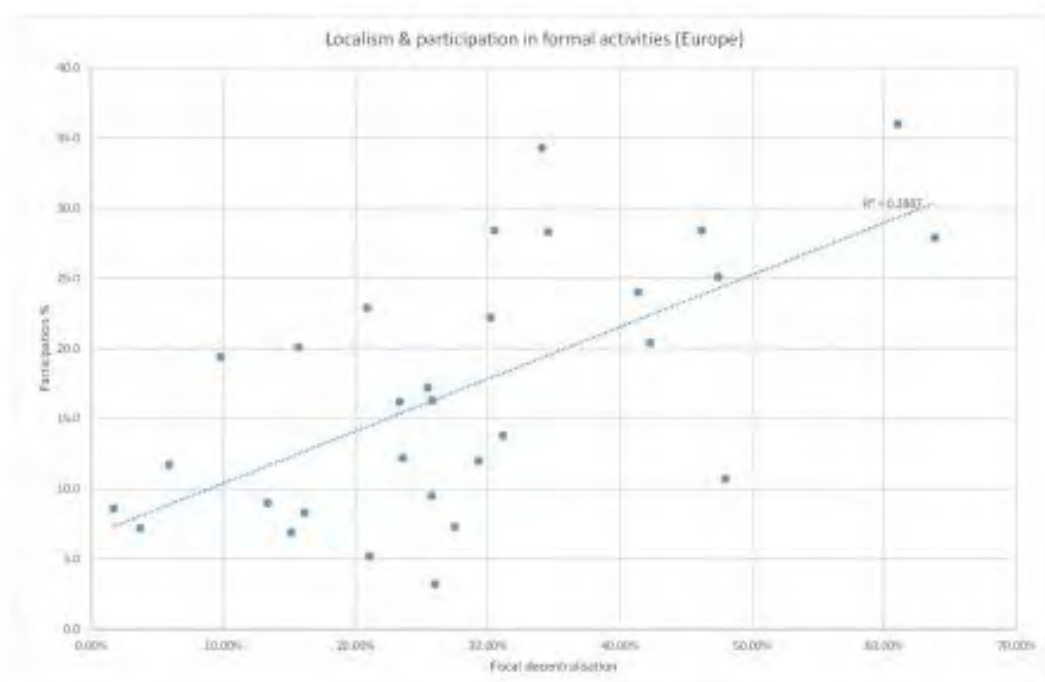
¹ <https://www.nzinitiative.org.nz/reports-and-media/reports/go-swiss-learnings-from-the-new-zealand-initiatives-visit-to-switzerland/document/506>

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



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3683055

First name

Colin

Last name

Davies

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?

I reject the current proposal.

Please retain the existing Community Boards.

As they are the links of each Township/ Village to the District Council.

The Kapiti Coast District Council is the District Council of the Kapiti Coast.

The Kapiti Coast District comprises towns and villages, it is not a city and suburbs.

As such each town and village should be fairly represented on the District Council based on their respective populations.

Therefore please just adjust /update Community Boards and District Council Ward boundaries to represent the current population .

Please retain the existing structure of Representation.

For the sake of clarity-

Please do not abolish the Community Boards .

Please do not set the representation of Paraparaumu so as to dominate the Kapiti Coast District Council.



199

Kōrero
mai **Have**
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3656648

First name

Conrad

Last name

Petersen

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?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Please tell us why?

These numbers (retention of) will need further scrutiny (as per questions 3-10).

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?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Please tell us why?

Retention seems sensible for the "moment".

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?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Please tell us why?

Seems sensible for the "moment".

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?					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Please tell us why?

A layer we do not need. The funds should be applied to a secretariat for councillors, to increase their

effectiveness.

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?

Seems sensible and workable.

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

"Survey" questions can be "created" to give you the answers you want to hear. The entire issue (no disrespect intended) is a little more complex than answering five questions.



202

Kōrero
mai Have
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3659413

First name

Penelope

Last name

Eames

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?

9 leaving 1 for Māori 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?

Districtwide don't answer to any area.

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?

Doesn't make any sense at all.

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 need local representation - Ōtaki and Paekākāriki work well. Let us try to sort out Waikanae.

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?

Te Horo should be in Waikanae. Waikanae should NOT be in Paraparaumu.

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

I think there should be 5 Wards. Councillors - 1 Māori, 2 Ōtaki, 2 Waikanae, 2 Paekākāriki, 3 Paraparaumu - no districtwide - the wards with the number of councillors as above.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3676627

First name

Chris

Last name

Mitchell

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?

Consistent with population.

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?

I would prefer either all ward councillors or all district wide. Current mix is confusing and accountability is uncertain. Councillors should be visible and/or accessible to their communities, while retaining responsibility of governance of the whole district.

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?

So far as Waikanae is concerned the proposal is a marginal improvement, but both of these urban areas have significant local issues and would benefit from representation from several ward councillors (as per my preference above).

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 review focuses on the point that they are currently a waste of time and money. This position however is the result of Council choices about delegations to CBs, and expectations. The point is that CBs could be a valuable part of representation with greater delegated functions, higher expectations, and visibility.

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?

As above.

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

A good starting point for the review is for each councillor to consider what structures would best achieve the purposes of local government as defined in s.10 LGA. I haven't seen any evidence that the Council has considered (or is even aware of) the full range of possibilities available to it to engage with various communities and to use talent and expertise where it is available within the community.



Kōrero
mai Have
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3678468

First name

Brett

Last name

Sangster

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

How can Council better represent you and your community?

Submission from Brett Sangster, [REDACTED] Paraparaumu Beach

If the Kapiti Coast District Council is serious about taking a “fresh look at local democracy” and how council can work better for its district, it needs to take a first step of clearly outlining the community’s expectation of democracy and what that means for council behaviours, policies and systems like Key Performance Indicators. Council must expect to be held accountable for the delivery of credible democratic processes. It must be prepared to go the extra mile on engagement.

Proposals about numbers of elected councillors (including the mayor), wards and community boards flow from and must support that first step.

KCDC should consider adopting guiding principles as a basis for leading its democratic processes and community engagement. These principles should be the basis for engagement and better social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes for people living in the Kapiti Coast District.

There are six community engagement principles outlined by the OECD that KCDC should consider:

1. Connecting with those hardest to reach

- **Inclusiveness** – More inclusive processes and practices will increase community access to Council information and broaden involvement in Council policy development, planning and decision making.

2. Changing the ways government and the community work together

- **Reaching out** – New and more effective ways to involve communities in the planning and decision-making processes will allow the Council to move beyond established networks to tap into the significant knowledge and expertise within communities.

3. Listening, understanding and acting on experiences different from our own

- **Mutual respect** – Listening to and understanding the views, concerns and experiences of people and communities, will lead to better decisions and strengthened Council-community relationships.

4. Open and accountable practices and processes

- **Integrity** – Open and accountable engagement practices and processes that genuinely inform decision-making will increase community trust and confidence in Council.

5. Incorporating diverse values and interests

- **Affirming diversity** – Incorporating diverse opinions and perspectives into policy development, planning and decision-making will help achieve effective and sustainable outcomes.

6. Working together to add value

- Council, individuals and communities working productively together will add value in policy development and programme and service planning.

Local government in New Zealand, unfortunately, does not work in this manner. The concept of representation is blurred with no real expectation that councillors or council officers will do anything more than any minimum engagement requirements set out in legislation. There is an expectation that communities will come to them, rather than councils actively engaging with communities, not just about specific issues, but more generally about community health and wellbeing.

Councils don't hear from renters, rarely hear from workers, students, and from people who are beneficiaries. There are so many voices that are not part of Council's picture. This is why Council needs a policy that says it will seek out quiet voices – people who don't have the resources or the inclination to seek out Council. Effective engagement needs to be driven from the bottom up, not from the top down.

About six years ago, changes to the Local Government Act required councils to adopt a significance and engagement policy. There was an expectation from government at that time that such a change would improve council engagement with their communities. Sadly, apart from having S&E policies, nothing has changed. It would be interesting to know how many KCDC councillors have read the council's S&E Policy.

Councils currently embrace democracy and engage with communities because they have to, not because they want to. Until that mindset and commitment changes, little else will.

Council has raised five issues that it seeks public submissions on:

1. Do you agree with retaining 10 councillors and a mayor?

The issue should be the role of councillors and the support they receive regarding democracy from council officers rather than the number of them.

While councillors may be elected to be representative of voters and communities, they rarely are. There is also often an "arrogance of office", which is seen when people with issues have to take those to council, rather than council actively looking. Councillors receive little training in this vital area.

An issue of diversity has been raised. If this is to be a real issue, then council must actively seek and interact with hard-to-reach groups, such as mana and tangata whenua, youth, the elderly, recent immigrants, the unemployed, young families, ethnic groups, LGBTQI+. It is vital that elected councillors demand this active engagement and are prepared to be guided by it.

2. Do you agree with having five ward councillors and five district-wide councillors?

All councillors should be equal. They should be elected to represent Kapiti Coast District, not a portion of the district. All councillors should have a district-wide focus. If active engagement measures such as those outlined in submission point 1. are embraced, then council will be richer for that, rather than relying on variable councillors to perform the task.

3. Do you agree with combining most of the current Paraparaumu and Waikanae wards?

Dividing the district into geographic wards for the purposes of representation adds little value. There are communities of interest on the Kapiti Coast who deserve to be heard, not just communities of place. All geographic wards should be removed.

4. Do you agree with the removal of community boards?

Community boards have no real authority bestowed on them by council. They are not decision-making bodies. They rely on council officers to resource and direct them. They are a barrier to engagement between communities of place and communities of interest being heard by all council decision makers. Face-to-face engagement is important and there are better tools for delivering that than community boards. These boards are expensive in terms of council monies and time. They should be removed and replaced with more effective measures.

5. Do you agree with the new boundary lines?

Answers to submission points 3. and 4. above answer this.

Yes, I would welcome an opportunity to speak to this submission in person.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3679008

First name

Richard

Last name

Mansell

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?

If effective and fair representation is achieved then the quantum of councillors is not important. However, if more councillors were needed to achieve this (or less) then I would not be opposed to change.

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?

I do not think the proposal provides fair representation. By splitting the councillors into 5 ward or 5 district wide councillors it takes away the ability to give distinct communities of interest fair representation. Waikanae has approximately 25% of the population but only 10% of the councillors currently and none under this proposal.

I do not believe that having district wide councillors provides greater diversity or a greater calibre of candidate.

I think the issue of parochialism can be dealt with by the oath of office, the standing orders and general management of elected officials by the Mayor.

It may be possible to increase the amount of ward councillors to improve the representation of the distinct communities of interest.

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?

Waikanae is a distinct community of interest. People have make a choice to live, work and play there. It has been under represented for the last six years. Combining Waikanae with the numerically larger Paraparaumu creates the very real possibility that 25% of the population will have no direct

representation. I completely disagree with your views that Waikanae is not a separate community of interest and question the logic behind your reasoning.

KCDC staff admitted that Waikanae was a separate community of interest when attempting to create an equalised ward but gave up because it was “too hard”.

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?

If don't knows are ignored Council surveys suggested that Community Boards are equally valued or not valued. That is no basis for doing away with them. The fact that many people did not know what Community Boards do is an indictment on KCDC for not giving Community Boards some proper powers and for not promoting them properly.

Community Boards add a valuable layer to the representation process. Community Board members are able to interact with their community in a way Councillors can and have not.

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 boundary lines need to be adjusted to allow for proper representation of Waikanae.

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

Richard Mansell
 [email redacted]
 [phone number redacted]
 [address redacted], Waikanae 5036

I reside in Waikanae Ward.

I do not support the representation model as proposed by Council as it does not provide fair representation. I believe Waikanae is a distinct community of interest and my comments should be read with that to the forefront.

In response to the questions asked in the feedback form I respond –

Q1. Neutral
 Comment – If effective and fair representation is achieved then the quantum of councillors is not important. However, if more councillors were needed to achieve this (or less) then I would not be opposed to change.

Q2 Strongly Disagree
 Comment – I do not think the proposal provides fair representation. By splitting the councillors into 5 ward or 5 district wide councillors it takes away the ability to give distinct communities of interest fair representation. Waikanae has approximately 25% of the population but only 10% of the councillors currently and none under this proposal. I do not believe that having district wide councillors provides greater diversity or a greater calibre of candidate. I think the issue of parochialism can be dealt with by the oath of office, the standing orders and general management of elected officials by the Mayor.

It may be possible to increase the amount of ward councillors to improve the representation of the distinct communities of interest.

Q3 Strongly Disagree
 Waikanae is a distinct community of interest. People have make a choice to live, work and play there. It has been under represented for the last six years. Combining Waikanae with the numerically larger Paraparaumu creates the very real possibility that 25% of the population will have no direct representation. I completely disagree with your views that Waikanae is not a separate community of interest and question the logic behind your reasoning.

KCDC staff admitted that Waikanae was a separate community of interest when attempting to create an equalised ward but gave up because it was “too hard”.

Q4 Strongly Disagree
 If don't knows are ignored Council surveys suggested that Community Boards are equally valued or not valued. That is no basis for doing away with them. The fact that many people did not know what Community Boards do is an indictment on KCDC for not giving Community Boards some proper powers and for not promoting them properly.

Community Boards add a valuable layer to the representation process. Community Board members are able to interact with their community in a way Councillors can and have not.

Q5 Strongly Disagree

The boundary lines need to be adjusted to allow for proper representation of Waikanae.

Further Comments

Empathy Survey

I find it difficult to accept that survey of 168 people in five different formats is sufficiently robust enough to completely change, for the worse, the rights of residents of Waikanae to any elected representation. I note that as of 1 October there were 331 submissions, 44.7% were from Waikanae. Waikanae residents obviously believe they are a separate entity and have responded accordingly. I hope that this weight of numbers is given more weight than the previous attempt to gauge public opinion.

Public Submission Timelines

I note that the time for public consultation occurred over a Covid Lockdown period. This has resulted in important information not being given to the Public who do not have access to social media. The 12 page booklet was only included in the Kapiti News in the week when it was not delivered. The council staff member responsible for the whole process has admitted she did not receive a copy of the newspaper that week. Neither did I, nor my mother. That is not good enough. The booklet should have been resent. The timelines should have been extended.

The council was asked to extend the period for submissions due to Covid. Its response was that the Local Government Commission required certain dates to be met so it was unlawful to delay. If this is the case then Local Government Commission needs to be taken to task. I asked the Mayor for strong leadership in this but he declined.

I wish to be heard in person.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3682457

First name

Jenny

Last name

Rowan

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.

Kāpiti District Council Representation Review - Submission

2 October 2021

Introduction

My name is Jenny Rowan, former Mayor of Kāpiti District Council and of Inglewood District Council, and former community board member of the Paekakariki Community Board. I have 20 years experience in elected local government governance roles.

I support the submission from the Paekakariki Community Board.

I will comment on three matters below:

- Ministerial Review of Local Government
- Iwi representation
- Community Boards

The Process

Before I address those matters, I would like to comment on what I see as a very inadequate consultation process for this review. I understand the Council has used an external American based company. Seemingly their process has resulted in responses from a total of 168 individuals from a voting population in excess of 25,000. This could hardly be seen as adequate community engagement and consultation, or a statistically robust process. It also seems there was a deliberate decision to give no opportunity for the community boards themselves to comment, and that the whole matter has been kept very much 'under wraps' until quite recently.

When where you going to invite feedback from the Community Boards? You would not find it at all acceptable if this process was applied to you as the elected Council governing body.

Ministerial Review of Local Government

You will already be aware of the legislative changes that are coming your way from Central Government. In the week of 27 September 2021, Government tabled an amendment in the form of the Covid 19 response Legislation Bill, which will give the Government the ability to delay local government elections not just once but through until 2023. This amendment has passed its first reading under urgency.

More importantly there is a review currently underway about the traditional role and functions of Local Government, with the intention of significant change. The overhaul of the three waters sector and the resource management systems are foremost among a suite of reform programmes that will reshape our system of local government. This will inevitably impact the structure and size of local authorities, and elected representation. The report is scheduled to be on the table by the end of next year.

So, whilst I fully understand the requirement for this representation review, I don't know what is driving these local proposals for significant change, especially when this national review is likely to change the entire structure of Local Government and its activities.

If I read the signals of the future possibilities for Local Government correctly, you could be heading into a more socially responsible role, including housing, and more of the four wellbeings activities. I believe you should be waiting for these outcomes before considering the changes proposed in this local representation review. The community has a low tolerance for democratic structural change, unless they can see a real benefit to them personally. It is easy to confuse the public when so much is going on, and you could end up being the brunt of the frustration, as you try to initiate local change with an over-lay of pending central government change. This would also be exacerbated if you have not been able to have an election next year to explain your position and

reasons why.

Your ability to inform and educate our communities will be severely challenged, given the lack of media transparency with the current Council, evident by how this process has been introduced and conducted.

I believe the central Government changes ahead of us are going to be considerable. If the three waters are removed from Local Government business there could be future amalgamations and a complete overhaul of the representation structure. You would be wise to focus on the potential outcomes, and be prepared to take the Kāpiti community with you in that change, and not be tied up in these seemingly minor domestic representation matters.

So, I trust you as a Council haven't pre determined your decision to do away with community boards. You might need them more than ever in the future. I am mindful that Mayor Guru campaigned on a promised to empower the Community Boards, what has happened to that idea and process?

Iwi Representation

Fair and Effective Representation.

The make up of this Council is very good in that our communities clearly understand the need to have a mix around the table of men and women - but not in terms of tangata whenua however.

What ever is ahead of us this is a major issue that has to be addressed now. We can no longer continue to make critical decisions without mana whenua at the table.

How have Iwi been involved in this discussion, what are they thinking about this review, and how do you know about their ideas of how they might want to participate. ?

Was Te Whakameninga approached?

And let's be clear here, like the Three Waters debate, if we don't start to meaningfully bring our mana whenua to the table, legislation will do that for us, as is being proposed in the six entities in the three waters debate, that will be established in Aotearoa/New Zealand: six Councils and six mana whenua/Iwi.

So the last remaining hurdle, is that of Iwi representation.

I see that Iwi advice is to not establish a local Maori ward for electoral purpose for the 2022 elections. That's understandable. This community has unfortunately demonstrated a high level of ongoing racism, where the lack of understanding of the role of non-Maori and of Council as Treaty Partner is still feared by many of the voting population.

You might like to put some thinking into how you are going to bring representatives from our three local Iwi to this table, if you are not able to bring them through a Maori ward process. This should be taken to Local Government NZ, as it is a critical issue for our national democratic process in the future. Local Government does not want to be left behind, as it becomes irrelevant to Tangata Whenua, and as they gain more economic and power based entities.

When I re-imagine a Council and Community Boards in the not too distant future, I want to see committed younger men and women, sitting at the table, alongside our Tangata Whenua, making decisions for all, and leading discussions in a world of impacting climate change challenges. I wish them much courage.

Community Boards

However if you choose to proceed with changing the representation review here are my thoughts for the Community Boards.

I am submitting on this review this because I have a long time commitment to the role that our Community Boards play in our District.

This conversation is about democracy, not bureaucracy. It is about the way our communities can continue to have the critical grassroots representation that connects us all to the issues of the day.

This requires you to think in a bigger context of how our local government democracy fits into our way of life. This should not be about doing away with them because some of our Community Boards don't appear to function well.

From my experience of the Paekakariki Community Board, it performs way above its weight, and over the years has allowed community members to gather the support needed to further quite major ideas and projects. To this end, our little village has benefited hugely from this statutory connection to our District Council.

Community Boards - History

I was Mayor of Inglewood when Community Boards were introduced as a concept that would better serve the local populations within a wider District Council setting. I supported the democratic idea of local representation, of a group of very local people who would know their local community, and be able to address very domestic matters, and if need be assist with larger matters with their local Councillors.

This did require a commitment by all players to be willing to work and be educated in a way that the local community benefited, which meant that each elected representative understood their role and place in the sun.

On that note, if you decide to keep the Boards, then you will need

to ask the Mayor what he meant by ‘empowering the boards’, and how to put those ideas into play.

What I know is that ongoing education and training for all elected representatives is critical, especially in these fast changing times. It is important to ensure that the administration support is in good heart, and the link between the Boards and Councilors is strong. And that their brief is wide enough to make the job interesting, and they are paid a fair wage.

The Mayor may have other ideas.

Recommendation

I recommend that you:

1. Defer any local representation review decisions until Government representational review is complete (due October 2022)
2. Formally engage with each of the three local Iwi to discuss options for inclusion of Mana Whenua in the local Council role and function, and in Council discussions and decision-making (including this review).
3. Formally engage the Community Boards in consultation on this review, and provide opportunity for their formal submission to Council.

Jenny Rowan, QSO
 [address redacted], Paekakariki
[\[email redacted\]](#)



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)

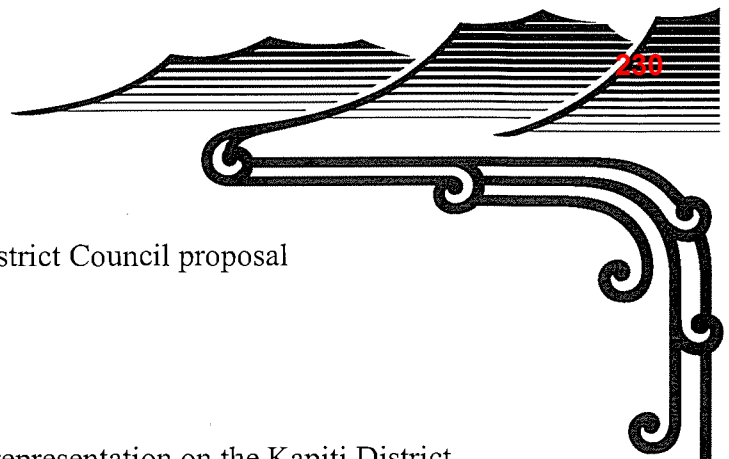
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Do you agree with the removal of community boards?						

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.

Te Manuao Road, Otaki

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



Kōrero
mai Have
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3673418

First name

Ann

Last name

Chapman

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

It works so why change it. The Minister may do so anyway.

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?

As above.

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?

Different communities of interest. The plus or minus 10% requirement.

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?

Anti-democratic to minimise the local voice.

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 to the Kapiti Coast District Council on their Representation Review. 2021

I am Ann Chapman from Ōtaki, former District Councillor and Deputy Mayor. I have, since I retired, mainly kept away from commenting on KCDC. This review has changed that. I will be brief, and my views are that of an Ōtaki resident who has lived here for over 30 years.

My submission will be in three parts:

1. Logic or the lack thereof
2. Democracy or the lack thereof
3. The removal of distinct historic identities

Logic

I understand you are obliged to have a representation review. I also know that attempts have been made in the past to remove community boards. This has always been rejected, noisily and with some anger.

I also understand that one of the options open to you is to retain the *status quo*. It defies logic that you would rark up the community when the Minister of Local Government will be announcing her own review of local government before the next election.

The *status quo* would be the logical and sane proposal to take to the community.

Democracy.

You sit here as district councilors. That is your role. To speak for, and to make decisions on behalf of the district.

Community Boards speak for their communities. That is their role.

To abolish them not only removes a direct local link to the role of local government and one which is accessible to all. In Ōtaki, we know who they are, we know where they meet and in a community with little to no public transport making our views known to the community board means local governance is accessible. We can get to the members of the community board, and they understand the issues arising in Ōtaki. A district councillor cannot possibly know in detail what matters in our community.

To abolish them will not enhance your role, it will diminish it as in the eyes of this community. You will have betrayed them by denying them easy access to democracy. They will, I suspect turn their backs, not only on you, but also on the democratic process because it will no longer be relevant to them.

Furthermore, I note that your intention to remove the community boards, the most significant change for most people, is almost hidden within a small

paragraph at the bottom of the last page 10. I view that as deeply cynical. To claim that you will hear our voice from a volunteer group, which will have no power and no money and payment, is an insult.

The Removal of Historic Identities.

Ōtaki, is blessed with a long multicultural history and by removing the name Ōtaki as a ward, you remove that history. Remember we are like Janus, the God of Roadways looking both ways. We can, and often do look to the north. When there have been murmurings from the community in response to the lack of perceived empathy for our community from Council, there is a call for us to look to the north, to amalgamate with Horowhenua. Why would you want to stir that debate up again by renaming us 'Northern Ward'? Kapiti will no longer be 'the string of pearls', merely a rather bland, unimaginative district comprising of Southern, Central and Northern Wards.

Conclusion.

Your preferred option not only removes our voice, but it also removes our name, our identity.

In the words of the 17th century philosopher, John Stuart Mill, in his essay on 'Considerations of Representative Government.' *Di Meliora* – God forbid.



Ann Chapman MNZM, JP (rtd)
September 2021



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3685857

First name

Geoffrey

Last name

Churchman

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?						

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 on the KCDC Representation Review

By Geoffrey Churchman

Executive Summary

1. All Councillors should be elected district-wide
2. If the Community Boards are retained, the number of Councillors could be reduced to 7 or 8.
3. The Community Boards should be retained, but only if they are given more powers.
4. If the Community Boards are retained, the present Ward boundaries should apply to them.
5. If the Community Boards are retained, all Councillors should have speaking rights at Meetings, but not voting rights.

Councillors

All Ward Councillors are required to sign an oath that they will not put the interests of their Ward above the interests of the whole district. This rather negates the purpose of the Wards.

I see a problem with Ward Councillors that those who live in the Ward may prefer for whatever reason not to deal with that Councillor, and instead deal with another Councillor/Councillors on their issue(s) of concern. Living in the Waikanae Ward I am in that situation at present. That again negates the purpose of the Wards.

Because they make decisions that affect the whole District, all Councillors should be electorally accountable to the whole District and not just to those voters who live within a Ward.

Present Councillor duties involve a lot of time, at least for those who take them seriously. Their becoming fully conversant with all the matters that happen within the District for which their awareness and understanding of is required is easily a full time job. I do not think that there is any room for them to have another full time job in addition, and only part time jobs that are less than 10 hours a week can be accommodated.

Therefore if the Community Boards are not retained, then the number of Councillors should not be reduced as the amount of time they need to spend will increase significantly.

To reflect the increased astuteness and number of hours that will be required by Councillors if the Community Boards are not retained, their pay needs to be increased so that good calibre candidates are not deterred for financial reasons.

Community Boards

I have followed the functioning of the Waikanae Community Board for most of the last 15 years and closely for the last 5 years. I successfully ran for it in 2019. To some extent I have also followed the Paraparaumu-Raumati Board.

The only powers the Community Boards have at present are to make small discretionary grants to local residents and groups, and to decide the names of new streets from a choice of three that developers and iwi jointly present in order of preference. About half the time of many Meetings is spent on the former. While these grant applications can be quite interesting when they are made by organisations, they are usually not when they are made by individuals. I took the responsibility of a guardian of the public purse seriously while I was a member of the WCB, as did the other members, although I did not consider it an important role as the aggregate grants were not substantial in the scheme of things.

The street names proposed were not controversial and only required a question or two.

Thus these roles are minor.

The advocacy role is important, however, and the boards provide for Town Hall Democracy by enabling the public to give vent to desires and frustrations, which the members can then take up with appropriate staff.

If there is no opportunity for that at Community Board meetings, then the public will likely instead do that at Council meetings, adding to the duration time for these.

I believe the main areas that Community Boards can be empowered additionally to the two mentioned are in the areas of traffic regulation, parking, parks and reserves, libraries, minor works and minor events. community centres, public toilets, swimming pools and cemeteries.

All councillors should have speaking rights at Community Board meetings, but not voting rights, a reverse of the situation now with Community Board chairs at Council meetings.

I make the point that the old saying "two heads are better than one" applies to all issues and indeed a few heads are better than one. Extra elected members can bring extra insight, often from personal experience to the table and thus there is not the responsibility of one person having to be very knowledgeable about every issue and possibility not making a good decision if their knowledge is deficient.

A democracy costs money and participatory democracy is not to be compromised.



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)

	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 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, KDCDC, 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.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3683517

First name

Tony

Last name

Bevin

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

A good balance between overall rep and community representation.

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?

As for Q2 above.

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?

Combines two areas of quite distinct communities Paraparaumu and Waikanae - also separated by the river a major geographical feature.

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?

Provide a more community focussed link and broader representation of community interests.

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?

Combining Waikanae and Paraparaumu results in a very large ward - diluting individual community representation.

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

The mapping of existing and proposed boundaries is confusing and inconsistent and what is the striped area supposed to be.
 The current variance should be able to be reduced by marginal boundary changes - e.g. moving Otaki boundary southwards.
 Also retain existing ward names as readily and widely recognised by all residents and have strong historical links.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3684914

First name

Allison

Last name

Webber

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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

These communities have little in common, have very different identities and would not have each other's best interests at heart. Money needs to be allocated to building capacity and leadership in both areas.

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 board's provide an important link to community democracy, issues and viewpoints. In Paekakariki successive boards have made a big impact, both locally and at a districtwide level.

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Because I strongly disagree with your fundamental premise for reform.

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

This review is completely inappropriate:

- (a) because it's been done during Covid
- (b) because it should not be undertaken until the 3-waters debate is complete and decided
- (c) it should wait until the results of the current Govt. review of Local Govt
- (d) it is being driven by council staff NOT by councillors
- (e) the research on which it's based is shonky; and
- (f) there has been inadequate consultation

File upload

Additional notes to (No 4)

My apologies for handwritten notes - my system is down ☹️

One of the biggest issues facing our district is the lack of community engagement + consultations. In light of this, community boards are more important than ever ☹️
We need to build more leadership + capability in the boards not do away with them ☹️

In my ~~five~~^{30 years} living in Paetakariki the community board has played a significant role and punched well above its ~~weight~~^{weight} ☹️

- * We had the debate on building Transmission Gully in the district.
- * We had a previous debate on abolishing Community Boards.
- * We had debate + community action on saving Whareva Farm + keeping it in community ownership.
- * The Board took a strong leadership position in recovery from the 2003 Paetakariki floods.
- * The current + previous boards have been instrumental in the refurbishment of St Peter's Hall.
- * The current Board is contributing to strong debate on environmental issues, and is also lifting the lid on systemic racism impacting tangata whenua families.

It has also lead some very important local discussion on housing + energy issues.

Once the 3 waters are removed from the mandate of District Councils + other reforms have been mooted for the reshaping of ~~communi~~ local government we need to look for a new system where community boards are at the heart of local democracy.

Our Current Council is running a dangerously corporatist model where decisions are being driven by the executive - this is not leading to a healthy outcomes and intelligent 21st Century governance.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3620689

First name

Adrian

Last name

Gregory

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?					✓	

Please tell us why?

I do not wish to see any diminution of local representation, particularly as there are significant variations across the communities that make up the District

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?

I agree with the argument for an effective mix of local and district-wide representation

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?

I can see the rationale of 3 councillors for the population of the proposed Central Award but I can't see any detail about how the 3 would divide their responsibilities and manage their engagement with the communities in the Ward. If 3 councillors are needed for the population why are there not 3 Wards - Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati? I can see that might not be neat in terms of c10,000 populations but the final proposal really does need to be more explicit about how the 3 councillors will operate as Ward Councillors in a single Ward of 35,000 people.

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?

I wasn't expecting this proposal, but am not surprised by it. The Mayor campaigned in 2019 to strengthen Community Boards, which I supported in the last Representation Review, now the Council's proposal is to abolish them. I can see no rationale refuting the 'strengthen Community Boards' approach, which I think should have been included, otherwise it just comes across as a wilful choice to dispense with them. While I accept that the proposal "instead focuses on... working together to foster community-led development, and on new, creative and contemporary ways to help our communities..." that is not at all well delineated in the bullet points on page 10. When you talk of "community-led development" I, as an active member of my community, do not want to be told there is going to be a "meeting space/neighbourhood clinic for councillors", I want to know how our community, in all its diversity, will be enabled in leading community-focused development. I do not accept that ONE Councillor, even when s/he is supported by Council staff, can manage that sort of workload. This part of the Representation proposal is, in my view, clumsy and inadequate in that it simply does not address underlying questions such as 'what is wrong with Community Boards... if that's what is wrong, what would fix it...' Instead the proposed solution is utterly simplistic and in its current form I could not support it.

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?

I'm neutral because I cannot see any explanation of/rationale for the changes, other than a 'lines on a map' approach

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

Other than guiding councillors to take note of where I believe there are significant weaknesses and inadequacies in the proposal that should be addressed by the final proposal, no...



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 elements¹, we do not support the ‘implicit’ suggestion to get rid of Community Boards.²
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.³

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:

¹ ‘Representation Review: A fresh look at local democracy’ p4

² ‘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....’*

³ <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.'*⁴

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.⁵
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.'*⁶, 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'⁷, 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.'

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

⁵ Ibid

⁶ LTP pp 224/225

⁷ 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.'*⁸

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 2021⁹

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:

⁸ Council Briefing 10 August 2021

⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.'*¹¹ 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".'*¹²

¹⁰ Council Briefing 10 August 2021

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

¹² 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'*.¹³ 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.



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

3655087

First name

Gavin

Last name

Beattie

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?						

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?

Please refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

Gavin Beattie
Johnsonville
Wellington

Submission on Kāpiti Coast District Council's initial representation proposal

Introduction

Section 19M(2)(d) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 makes it clear that “persons interested in the resolution” (i.e. an initial representation proposal resolution made under section 19H) may make submissions on that resolution. Despite Kāpiti Coast District Council’s public notice of its resolution referring to “residents and ratepayers”, I am making this submission as an “interested person”.

My interest includes my family having previously been long-time non-resident ratepayers in the district and my resulting ongoing familiarity and interest in the district. Until recently I was also an adviser to the Local Government Commission and was involved in five rounds of hearings of appeals and objections on council representation proposals. Prior to that I was in the Local Government Policy Team in the Department of Internal Affairs and I led the policy development for the Local Electoral Act including the new representation review provisions.

A particular interest I now have is to pass on the experience I have gained on the representation review process and to help ensure councils are fully aware of all the options open to them and the connections between these options, when determining the best representation arrangements for their district.

I found the council’s online submission form very constraining and accordingly, in light of the above, I am making this free-form submission which in my experience has always been acceptable for councils.

Approach to Kāpiti Coast District Council’s representation review

As noted in the officers’ report to the council meeting on 26 August, the current Kāpiti Coast District representation arrangements have been in place since 2004 subject to some ward boundary changes. Accordingly it is appropriate, as also confirmed in the report, and citing Local Government Commission good practice advice, to “start with a blank page” in relation to the current review.

Further, the report refers to the two decisions to be made by councils before commencing the formal representation review process i.e. choice of electoral system (FPP or STV) and option of dedicated Māori representation. The report notes “these are important in helping to identify appropriate representation arrangements”. While the council has resolved not to pursue dedicated Māori representation at this time, there is no evidence presented as to the role the STV electoral system decision has played in helping the council identify its initial representation proposal.

It is this factor I wish to address along with the decision to exclude community boards from the proposal. In particular, I address the opportunities STV provides for the council to truly take a “blank page” approach to providing effective representation for communities of interest in Kāpiti Coast District and at the same time go some way to achieving a number of desirable objectives if community boards are retained.

Council's motivation for adopting STV

The STV electoral system is a preferential voting system in which voters rank candidates according to their preferences. Subject to the number of preferences a voter identifies, they will contribute to the election of at least one candidate. Given this, STV can be seen to be a fairer system in that votes will not be 'wasted' on unsuccessful candidates i.e. they will be transferred to voters' next preferences.

STV can also be a proportional representation system providing representation for communities of interest in approximate proportion to their size. But this will only occur under certain circumstances. It will occur in 'at large' elections or when wards are sufficiently large, generally considered to be at least 5-member wards. By way of contrast, you cannot achieve proportional representation in one- or two-member wards.

This raises the question as to whether the council has continued to adopt STV simply as a fairer voting system, or with a view to achieving proportional representation for Kāpiti Coast communities of interest? If it is the latter, the council should be seriously considering larger wards than are proposed in its initial representation proposal or even a fully 'at large' system.

Potential of STV to achieve effective representation for Kāpiti Coast District

The research undertaken for the council by Empathy Design identified "two dominant versions of geographic communities of interest" in Kāpiti Coast District:

- horizontal stripes that run from west to east, largely aligned to hubs, and
- vertical stripes that run from north to south; rural, urban, coastal.

Clearly this raises questions of how to design a ward system that will achieve effective representation for both these versions of communities of interest? Given the adoption of STV, one obvious answer is to adopt an 'at large' system, rather than wards, allowing for proportional representation of the different communities of interest making up Kāpiti Coast District.

This can be achieved firstly by understanding that to be elected to the council, a candidate needs a certain proportion of the votes called the 'quota'. Applied in Kāpiti Coast District for the election of a 10-member council, the quota of votes to be elected is just over one-eleventh of the valid votes cast. For the 2019 elections, the maximum possible quota was 3,672 votes (i.e. 40,395 people on the roll/11). This, however, is using the total number of people on the roll, whereas only approximately half this number typically vote, meaning the quota to be elected is more likely to be around 1,800.

Applying proportional representation to Kāpiti Coast District

Using a rounded quota of say 2,000 votes, a candidate in an 'at large' Kāpiti Coast District election from any of the four current ward areas could easily be elected with a focused local campaign, as shown in the following table.

Ward area	Number of electors on roll in 2019
Ōtaki	6,826
Waikanae	10,842
Paraparaumu	15,138
Paekākāriki-Raumati	7,602

It is noted, that the number of electors on the electoral roll in 2019 for the Paekākāriki Community Board election was 1,389. While this is below the likely quota, this situation is no different than that currently applying for Paekākāriki electors who are currently in the Paekākāriki-Raumati Ward.

In addition to enabling local geographically-based candidates (the “horizontal stripe”) to be elected, an ‘at large’ election would also enable candidates representing other significant communities of interest but spread across the whole district (the “vertical stripe”) to be elected. Included here would be candidates representing, for example, particular urban interests such as business, young people and Māori; rural interests; and coastal and environmental interests.

It is not possible to break down currently enrolled electors associated with such groups/interests. However, the following statistics are relevant:

- approximately 8% of the district’s population was between 20 and 29 years in 2018 (Statistics NZ census data) and this equated to about **4,300** young electors
- the district’s total Māori population was 7,884 in 2018 and with say three-quarters over 18 and eligible to vote, this equated to about **5,900** Māori electors
- the district’s estimated rural population in 2020 was 4,450 (Statistics NZ data) and with say three-quarters over 18 and eligible to vote, this equated to about **3,300** rural electors.

It can be seen that an ‘at large’ election in Kāpiti Coast District, with a reasonable understanding of how STV works and particularly the quota needed to be elected (say around 2,000), could result in enhanced representation for the district. This is in the form of effective representation for *both* local geographically-based communities of interest *and* communities of interest spread across the district. In other words, this can be seen as ‘the best of both worlds’ in terms of community representation.

I also note that STV literature suggests STV can have a positive impact on voter turnout. This is as a result of more (previously non-engaged) electors seeing, with the help of a little education, they are able to have a say in the election of a particular councillor i.e. their vote will not be ‘wasted’. I am not aware of any research in New Zealand to support this and it would also be difficult to undertake this given the number of councils which have used STV since it was first available in 2004, and the even fewer councils that have used it with elections ‘at large’ or with large wards. However, to me it is a plausible supposition for a council which is looking at all possible ways to increase voter turnout.

Further benefits of an ‘at large’ election

I do not have a particular view on the number of councillors that should be elected to Kāpiti Coast District Council under ‘at large’ elections. I note, however, that with a total of 10 councillors, as first introduced in 2004, the district is currently on a par with other districts with similar sized populations around the country.

‘At large’ elections in Kāpiti Coast District (say with 10 councillors) would go a long way to achieving the following desirable objectives identified by the respondents to the council’s own research:

- “a diverse elected council is very important” with diversity seen as including “diversity of thought and life experience”, the “diversity of the district’s community” and “diversity of skillset”
- “people want councillors to come from across the district”
- “efficiency is desired, but not at the expense of diversity”
- “councillors need to know the people and issues of the district”.

In addition, ‘at large’ elections compared to ward elections:

- allow voters to vote for all councillors giving them a greater say in the running of the district
- provide voters with a greater choice of candidates
- provide residents with more choice when approaching councillors after the elections
- make it easier for councillors to act in the interests of the whole district in line with their oath of office

- free council from the constraints of the ‘+/-10% rule’ (likely to remain an ongoing issue given projected population growth in Kāpiti Coast District) and the requirement to seek Local Government Commission endorsement of any non-compliance with the rule.

Additional local representation and empowerment

Clearly there are benefits in adoption of ‘at large’ elections for Kāpiti Coast District. As noted, this should not be seen as at the expense of dedicated representation for local geographically-based communities of interest within the district. However, to reinforce this, retention of community boards will further guarantee local representation as well as provide other important benefits.

By being representative of distinct local communities, community boards can assist the council to achieve the statutory principles (set out in section 14 of the Local Government Act) it is required to act in accordance with, including:

- making itself aware of, and having regard to, the views of all of its communities
- when making a decision, taking account of the diversity of the community and the community’s interests
- in taking a sustainable development approach, take into account the well-being of people and communities.

In a practical sense, community boards can assist a council achieve the objectives set out in its significance and engagement policy, with some councils using their boards to lead or co-lead council consultation in their communities.

Community boards can also play an active place-making role and promote resilience in local communities, with resilience here being the apparently increasing need for the ability of communities to “survive, adapt and thrive in the face of stresses and shocks (natural and man-made)” in the area. These roles are made easier when the communities concerned are distinct and geographically identifiable for residents.

In the council research, respondents identified distinct geographic communities of interest in Ōtaki and Paekākāriki. In the case of Ōtaki, clearly this should include all the Te Horo area as now is the case in the council’s proposed ward for this area.

These two communities are also quite distinct in non-geographical ways meaning residents are likely to have a clear sense of identity with and belonging to the area (the ‘perceptual’ dimension of a community of interest).

Historically, Ōtaki has been distinct for a long time having had a form of local government for 100 years dating back to constitution of Ōtaki Borough Council in 1921 and having had a community board since 1989. It also has a higher proportion of Māori than the district as a whole and areas of higher social deprivation (NZ Deprivation Index).

Paekākāriki also has its own distinctive characteristics. These include a description of Paekākāriki residents as “fiercely proud of their village with a long history of tolerance and creativity, and a culture of volunteering and community-driven action.”¹ It has had a community board since 1992.

The two other communities in the district currently with community boards can also be seen as having quite distinct communities of interest. In the case of Waikanae, this was recognised when Kāpiti Coast District was constituted in 1989 with the establishment of its own ward and community

¹ See Reid A. & Schulze H., 2019 *Engaged communities – How community-led development can increase civic participation*, BERL-Helen Clark Foundation co-publication.

board, and these have been retained since that time. Today Waikanae's demographics show a higher proportion of Europeans and lower proportion of Māori than the district as a whole, and in certain parts there is a distinctly higher median age and higher proportion of people not in the labour force than the district as a whole.

As the community with the largest population, the Paraparaumu-Raumati community, provided with a community board in 2004, has a profile more in line with the district as a whole. It is, however, quite clearly defined geographically, lying largely between the Waikanae River in the north and Queen Elizabeth Park in the south.

In relation to a local place-making role for community boards, this can be promoted by a council making delegations of decision-making in respect of the operation of local community facilities such as libraries, parks, swimming pools and community halls, and services such as local traffic control and parking (the 'service delivery' dimension of a community of interest). Such delegations have the dual benefits of empowering local communities and thereby encouraging community engagement, but also allowing the council to focus on strategic district-wide matters. At the same time, it is worth noting that any delegations of decision-making would be subject to council district-wide policies and council district-set budgets.

The council has in place a structure of community emergency hubs with several of these in each community board area. These could be part of an active and locally focused civil defence and emergency management strategy aimed at promoting local resilience with the community boards playing a key facilitating role.

The experience of councils where community boards can be seen to be most effective, is that this depends on a combination of mutually understood protocols and expectations between the council and its community boards, and also appropriate substantive delegations. I attach, for information, a possible guide for developing such protocols, expectations and delegations.

I note that council's research found that at least half of respondents "were not aware of Kāpiti Coast's existing community boards". Of the minority who could speak to their direct experience of community boards, viewpoints included "they don't have the teeth they need" and "they are fuelled by, and deliver to, a narrow subset of the community".

This feedback suggests there is a need for the council again to start with "a blank page" in relation to the potential for community boards to promote greater community engagement and at the same time enhance the well-being of the distinct local communities making up Kāpiti Coast District. I believe this should include more open-ended consultation with the local communities concerned, as distinct from a proposal to remove the current community boards with only the statutory one month consultation period for communities to respond.

Conclusion

I see this representation review as providing the council with an opportunity to take a fresh look at the options available to it for achieving effective representation for Kāpiti Coast District; noting that the current representation arrangements have been in place since 2004. The fresh look involves reflecting on the potential for STV to provide effective representation for both local geographically-based communities of interest *and* for communities of interest spread across the district. It also involves reflecting on the potential for community boards to provide representation as well as promote local community engagement and well-being.

To achieve this potential, I believe the council should seriously consider introducing fully 'at large' elections for the district and retaining the current four community boards.

Community boards: protocols, expectations and powers

Statutory role of community boards

1. Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community
2. Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board
3. Maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
4. Prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
5. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
6. Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority

Protocols and expectations

Possible council protocols:

1. appoint ward councillor(s) to community boards
2. invite community board elected members to attend council and committee meetings with speaking rights
3. use community boards to lead/share leadership on council consultation in community
4. accept community board recommendations where these *do not* relate to district-wide issues or they have implications wider than the local community
5. invite community board input into statutory consent applications (submissions, objections) in community e.g. resource consents, liquor licences
6. involve community boards in the early stages of preparation of long-term/annual plans including input into local service levels and fees & charges, and give particular consideration to the priorities identified in the community plan
7. appoint elected board members to statutory/bylaw hearing panels for local issues
8. encourage elected board members to be accredited to sit on RMA hearing panels

In order to carry out its statutory role, community boards will meet expectations to:

1. consult their local community and prepare a community plan each triennium identifying community preferences, priorities and desired service levels for council services to be used as basis for submissions on long-term/annual plans
2. seek and give special regard to the views of Māori on local matters, identify opportunities for collaboration and involve in decision-making as far as possible
3. promote community resilience through the provision of information on local hazards and risks, and awareness of actions to take in the event of an emergency
4. seek views of community groups and support them to provide local solutions to problems
5. facilitate community engagement in council consultation exercises
6. recommend any amendments to bylaws to apply in community
7. actively monitor council services delivered in community
8. undertake/monitor activities for which a budget is allocated to the community board

Possible delegations to community boards

It is important to note that while community boards would have the power to act “in the like manner and the same effect as the local authority” in relation to delegations, all decisions still have to be within the terms of the delegations, statutory limits, council policies and budgets. Delegations also need to sit comfortably beside delegations made to officers on efficiency grounds.

Parks & reserves (including cemeteries as appropriate) under Reserves Act, LGA and bylaws

1. approve reserve declarations/classifications/reclassifications and revocations
2. approve names
3. approve management plans
4. grant leases, licences and easements
5. approve development and activities on reserves
6. approve tree removals
7. carry out consultation on all decisions as required
8. liaise with and support volunteer reserves management committees

Community facilities

1. undertake governance for local facilities (libraries, swimming pools, community halls) such as usage policies/approvals, opening hours
2. approve the siting of new/upgrades of existing facilities e.g. playgrounds, toilets
3. appoint members or other persons to local (facility/activity) committees and groups

Community development

1. approve community projects, community events, collections & parades
2. seek and apply funding from external organisations for community projects
3. allocate funding and operational grants to community groups
4. make community awards

Roading and transport

1. act as roading authority for the community under LGA 1974 relating to: roadways, names, concept/landscape plans, public safety, health, convenience, traffic control & enforcement, vehicle crossings, bus shelters, road stopping, traffic & parking bylaws

Solid waste and recycling

1. make governance decisions on community recycling/resource recovery centres

Health and safety

1. introduce/amend/revoke alcohol bans
2. make decisions on particular local bylaw matters such as its application in the community (e.g. dog access & exercise areas), approve (non-)compliance/grant exemptions



Kōrero
mai Have
your say

Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3646761

First name

Ken

Last name

Rand

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?					✓	

Please tell us why?

This number provides reasonable representation for the size of our community and is in line with comparator regions Gisborne, Invercargill, Nelson, Porirua, Tasman, Waipa and Western Bay of Plenty.

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?

I believe Ward Councillor representation is the best methodology of representation and note that five of the seven comparator regions operate on this basis. I would contend that competent Councillors should be able to balance local community perspectives and views with a regional perspective and make informed judgements and decisions. Further I believe better decision-making would emanate rather than present arrangement whereby 5 Councillors by reason of structure focus on their wards and 5 supposedly take a regional wide perspective. I also think it would better assist Ward Councillors in providing their constituents with balanced arguments for decisions taken.

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?

As I see it Community Boards have little significant influence and if a decision was made to move to Ward representation would ensure Ward constituents views were better represented and thus the role for Community Boards is negated.

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?				✓		

October 2021

KCDC Representation Review

Tena Koutou Katoa

- In preparing this submission I have had regard to the;
 - Local Government Act 2002 purpose and KCDC's stated purpose of;
 - leading and representing the Community to enable democratic local decision-making or
 - Council is the voice of local people representing and balancing a range of interests.
- I have also read and considered the Empathy review and while I acknowledge the conclusion they have come to I note that the local input to that review only represents 0.29% of the districts population.
- I agree with a number of the principles expressed within that report although I arrive at a different conclusion. Comments that resonate for me are;
 - Councillors need to hear from the diversity of people in the district, not just the loudest voices or those who have time or access
 - most people want Councillors to do what's best for Kapiti as a whole
 - they want Councillors to be capable, able to consider issues fully and wisely, debate rigorously and constructively, make good decisions and take swift action
 - respondents believed it was the job of Councillors to reach out and understand the district not the responsibility of people to make themselves known and heard
 - they want to ensure Councillors have time to hear from people and understand the viewpoints and issues
 - one of the barriers perceived was confidence in Council to really listen and care
- I would contend that competent Councillors should be able to balance local community perspectives and views with a district wide perspective and make informed judgements and decisions. I do not buy into the argument for this to occur that one needs Ward councillors and District Wide Councillors and in fact I find that an indictment by implication on Ward Councillors abilities.
- As I said in my initial submission it is my belief that the All Ward Councillor model would drive the need for balancing a Local and District Wide perspective resulting in rigorous debate and strong and balanced decision-making. I further believe it would strengthen the feedback that Councillors could provide back to their Constituents.
- Having a look at our district I believe we should retain the old wards of Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati/Paekakariki and that we should increase the number of Councillors to 11 allocated as follows;
 - Otaki 2
 - Waikanae 3
 - Paraparaumu 4
 - Raumati/Paekakariki 2.

This allocation is based on one Councillor per 5000 constituents approx. I would contend this workload would allow Councillors to better reach out to their community in a proactive way rather than just responding to issues that arise and cause local community heat.

- This model may well require Councillors to have better support within the Council structure so there is a place where people can arrange Councillor appointments. Each Councillor as an example could also consider holding local meetings say quarterly to update constituents, flag issues arising and get input etc. Remember your Purpose is to be the voice of local people representing and balancing a range of interests. The argument may well be that residents would be unlikely to attend such meetings however I believe much of the current disinterest is because of a feeling of inability to have constituent views heard or considered.
- In relation to Community Boards I believe they have little significant influence and under the above model I would submit they should be disbanded and the resources used to better support the model outlined in this submission.
- Finally I note that 5 of the 7 comparator Districts operate this model.

Ken Rand

[phone number redacted]

[email address redacted]



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)

	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.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki Submission for Community Boards

DATE: 2.10.2021

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.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki Submission for Community Boards

DATE: 2.10.2021

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.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki Submission for Community Boards

DATE: 2.10.2021

Nga manaakitanga.

Ngati Haumia Ki Paekakariki



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



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



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3678926

First name

Mike

Last name

Woods

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?						

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?

I support Otaki Community Board chairwoman Christine Papps. Get rid of the current Ward councillors and replace with stronger community boards. I believe this would improve local democracy.



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?						

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.

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*¹

This rationale is based on research undertaken for Kapiti Coast District Council by Saunders and Peck² who state:

*... some people felt the two layers of elected representatives added unhelpful complexity.*³

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'⁴ and a 'small minority'⁵ 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'.

¹ KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#), p.19

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

³ Ibid. p.22

⁴ Ibid. p.21

⁵ Ibid. p.25

The report to the Council meeting of 26/08/2021 ⁶ 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 ⁷

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 ⁸ which asks:

will the proposal promote good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned? ⁹

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 ¹⁰

and

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

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.

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

⁷ Ibid. p. 19

⁸ Local Government Commission. [Representation Review Guidelines](#). 2021

⁹ Ibid. point 6.11, p.29

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

¹¹ 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 wards¹². 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-ward¹³.

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, Waikanae and rural, based on these geographical boundaries¹⁴. 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 dimension¹⁵ 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 2015¹⁶ 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.

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

¹³ Ibid. Section 19V, 3(iii)

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

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

¹⁶ 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 8th 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 19th, 20th 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 17th 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 Gurunathan
- Phone conversation with Mr [name redacted] – Nikau Valley
- Traffic Bylaw Briefing
- Stormwater Management Strategy Briefing
- Met with Mayor Gurunathan - 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 [namedredacted], Metlink, [name redacted], UZABUS
- Replied in writing to Mr [name redacted], Mr [name redacted], Mrs [namedredacted], 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 10th April

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

Wednesday 14th April

- Kena Kena Shops 10am - 12noon Kathy

Saturday 17th April

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

Wednesday 21st April

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

Saturday 24th April

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

Wednesday 28th April

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

Saturday 1st May

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

Wednesday 5th May

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

Consultation period 7th April - 10th 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
Paraparaumu-Raumati							
Increasing road safety around Paraparaumu Beach school (Gray Avenue, Beachwater Grove, Martin road) 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	
Localities Funding for Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board	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	
Kena Kena Flooding Mitigation 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.
Develop Park, Raumati South 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
RSA Memorial, Maclean Park, Paraparaumu Beach 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. 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. 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. 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.		Top				N	More work needed.
Maclean Park, New Toilets, Scooter Park Age Friendly & Disability Playground equipment, 2nd Hoop 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. 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	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. More younger children will have more fun in the outdoors, which will bring more parents down to the playground and beach. 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.	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
Nikau Valley, Community Hub Open Space Development 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’.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased community resilience• Increased community connectedness• Strengthening our community	Top	\$ 104,000		capex	N	
Indoor Sports & Recreation Centre The establishment of an indoor sports and community recreation centre within the Kapiti Coast.	Centralised all year round venue for current indoor sports clubs and community groups. Children and youth particularly need a venue they can go to and enjoy during school holidays. School programmes can be operated from this centre. After school and holiday recreation hub for friendship, exercise and fun can be created for everyone. 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. Retirees having a venue they can use during all times of the day throughout the year. Hosting of any events that are currently not done due to lack of a facility– sport/social/community, etc. Accommodation – retail – entertainment – other tourist attractions – family gatherings – etc, all benefits from such a centre.					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
Replacement of lights at Weka Park 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.	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.		\$ 50,000		capex	N	
Creating a safe crossing of Poplar Avenue at the North end of the QEP shared path 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.	Help users not in cars – pedestrians, scooter riders and cyclists. We will have a safer community, and safer roads. Accidents cost individuals, communities and our country money (\$68m for cycling injuries in 2019). 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 https://www.creds.ac.uk/publications/e-bike-carbon-savings-how-much-and-where/ 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.		\$ 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
Pohutukawa Park, Kotuku Park Toilets 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. 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?	Health and wellbeing		\$ 240,000		capex	N	
Policy for Security Cameras, Council Owned Parks, Reserves & Assets Request for council to include in the Policy Work Programme a Policy as stated above. To modify behaviour on council owned Parks and Open Spaces and to help with identifying any individual damaging council property	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					N	Advocacy.
Raumati Village Enhancement 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	Investment by council to ensure community connectedness and to promote economic benefit to the area. Vibrant areas create good community wellbeing			\$ 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
Te Newhanga Kapiti Community Centre 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. - Place holder - Ensuring the continuation of Te Newhanga kapiti Community Centre. - Development of space with community centric vision. - Community involvement in ongoing direction and management of Centre. - Planning with regards to continuation of community Centre in respect to condition and future of the Building.	Substantial						
				\$ 10,000	capex	Y	
Development of Raumati Pools - Allocated funding/resources for initial steps with regards to requirement of KCDC in relation to assessing a future use for this building. - What is KCDC required to do for this building to be considered for potential development or partnership development. Note: - Currently there is community conversation around the	- Potentially Substantial - Development of an existing asset rather than the creation of a new one. - Draw card to the Raumati beach area. - potential economic development for both the immediate area as well as Kapiti in general.					N	

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



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3681698

First name

Cameron

Last name

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)

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

Please tell us why?

It seems an appropriate number to handle all the relevant portfolios

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?

Only have ward councilors to help represent their area along with community boards. Since the election we don't physically see the district wide councilors in the Otaki area.

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?

Waikanae is geographically and demographically separate from Paraparaumu and will lose their identity.

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?

Community boards offer higher levels of representation for the community especially for communities of interest such as Otaki. Getting rid of them lowers local democracy and places too much power and workload on the ward councillor for the area.

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 lower Otaki boundary to include all of Te Hapua Rd is good however the other boundary changes are reflective of ward changes which I have disagreed with.

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

While I am not a market researcher, I cannot place any faith in the "research" that was undertaken to arrive at the conclusion of removing community boards. The evidence given is very little and not conclusive.

The community boards were not adequately consulted or given the chance to work on this constructively. I wish the Kapiti Coast District Council to reject the proposal in it's entirety and retain the status quo.



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'*.¹ 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



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)

	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.

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**



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3638329

First name

Mary

Last name

Oldham

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?

If we are not having community boards, then we should have more ward councillors as well as district wide representation, i.e. more 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?

If no community boards, we need greater representation in both wards and districtwide to ensure democracy continues.

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?

Bigger is not always better. Communities of interest should be paramount. Waikanae and PPram are not the same.

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?

They do not have any real power at the council table but they should be replaced with more ward representation than you have suggested.

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 central ward as proposed should be divided into two, with the river marking the boundry, and two ward reps for each area. Areas 1 and 2

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

Adequate Ward representation is vital to express the needs of each community and to protect their individual character and needs.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3659568

First name

Lynn

Last name

Sleath

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

- 1) Provides approx 10,000 residents per councillor.
- 2) 10 councillors is appropriate number of committee resourcing.

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?

District-wide unnecessary and concept is flawed. 10 ward councillors provides required accountability to the communities of interest.

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?

Provides better balance with 10,000 per councillor.

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?

Boards are an unnecessary filter/layer of bureaucracy and distance our politicians from their community.

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?

Of the examples given, the most relevant is Tasman District which is a similar collection of small towns/townships. There the council has NO district-wide councillors, ALL are ward councillors and therefore accountable to the communities.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3677958

First name

Nicolette

Last name

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)

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

Please tell us why?

On par with comparative councils.

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 district Council should be ward based to provide a range of views from distinct communities of interests. Together the councillors can work to make decisions and provide a whole of Kapiti view.

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?

Creates an imbalance. Waikanae and Paraparaumu are separate communities of interest. Also, promotes the views of those areas over other areas.

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?

Community boards play an important role in making the council accessible to the community. Any criticism of community boards is due to the failure of the council to delegate effectively to them and to support them. There should be many ways to contact and be in touch with elected members and community board members are key to that. They also provide an essential channel for community views through to the council. I am very uncomfortable with the proposal for an appointed neighbourhood panel. It is the very opposite of the purpose of local government. There is no electoral accountability or true representation in such a model. It does not promote local democracy. Also, the costs of this alternate model are not clear. It will not represent me, nor will I have any say in the appointees.

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?

Fine with the Otaki boundary including more of Te Horo.

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

Otaki is a distinct community of interest. It is not in Otaki's best interest to reduce local representation (through removing the community board), or to have only 1 directly elected councillor. I am also frustrated that Maori wards have been delayed. I wish to speak to my submission.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3656978

First name

Jan

Last name

Nisbet

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?

0

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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

they are definitely different communities

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 present Kapiti Coast district Council is made up of three former Borough Councils and various County Council communities. These communities while merged into one District Council still retain independent identities and these need to be acknowledged.

Grass roots democracy via Community Boards need to be kept. They need to be nurtured as we already have a very low participation rate at the triennial local body elections.

Taking away Community Boards will, most likely, cause even less people to participate, as with out local members of communities standing for the Community Boards people will often not recognise any names

of people standing and therefore not bother to vote.

Communities of interest must have grass roots representation. Dr. Mike Reid Principal Policy Adviser at LGNZ says "Community Boards are now even more important. "

They lead to more diversity of age culture and interest, and this is what KCDC is hoping to achieve for Council. "Active and effective democratic engagement at community level must be part of the solution to providing diversity in representation - Community boards are the flax roots of democracy.

They (Community Boards) have over the years been a stepping stone for a number of people to progress to become Councilors.

It is so much easier to contact local community representatives than to contact councilors – Community Board members are on the ground in times of crisis – such as the 2003 Paekakariki floods and in the beginning of the Covid crisis last year, plus being available for numerous other tasks and areas of concern.

They are available and approachable and interested and involved – they have fingers on the pulse of the smaller issues that the Crs don't have time to deal with.

In the proposed model of doing away with Community Boards and issues being dealt with by pop up meetings and the such, there is no formal structure – the issue presented by a community member can be either taken on board by the Cr or rejected where as if taken to a Board there are four members to give it consideration. It will be recorded, minutes taken and it can be taken forward to Council if require d or sent through to the relevant Dept of Council if it is an operational issue.

There is a regularity of when one can formally bring a matter to a Community Board - they are a good grounding place for younger people to come and see democracy in action or to speak about issues that concern them/impact on them in a less overwhelming situation than at a Council meeting – it is nonthreatening place where people young and old can hve their say and begin to learn about democracy . When an issue is presented at Com Bds they can hear the subject debated and some action to be taken is noted , topics put up at Council just disappear into a bottomless pit.

The proposal appears to suggest that someone in Council – staff or Councilors will select someone to do grant allocations – this is not satisfactory – grant allocations is an important part of the Com Bds jobs and a group of four people have a much more representative view and knowledge of the community and worthwhile projects.

For these and a host of other reasons do away with Community Boards at your peril.

Well-functioning Community boards are the foundation of local body government. If the Board isn't functioning well put in support for the Board.

Keep local body representative local – people can attend evening meetings.

My comments are based on my observations as a employee of the former Kapiti Borough council and as a resident who has had reasons to present at all of the four local boards either in a work related capacity or as a resident bringing up various issues or applying for funding.

Please keep community boards so there is an easy way for residents to bring issues to the attention of Council.

Community boards are grass roots 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?

Some of them strangely split up communities of interest. It is confusing enough that we as a District Council sit across two Parliamentary electorates



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3670486

First name

Cam

Last name

Ronald

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?					✓	

Please tell us why?

The current model allows sufficient representation from the community to enable the KCDC to effectively deliver the services to the community. Reducing this ratio would potentially overload the already busy representatives

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?

This 50:50 blend ensures that local communities, such as Otaki where I live, have direct access to "their councillor" with the districtwide councillors having a wider view.

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?

I don't offer a comment on this aspect as I am not sufficiently informed.

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 Community Boards are the most effective means for the views of the community to be brought to the Board, considered, consolidated, and then represented to the council. I have interacted with the boards at Otaki and Waikanae and found them to be responsive and a useful method of advancing community interests. I have not found them to be "a confusing level of bureaucracy" as suggested by the Empathy Review. The Boards serve a valuable local focus that would be lost if they were not retained. It is unrealistic to expect a single councillor to assume this wide role, and still maintain their elected representative focus.

The view that "boards can be a great tool for representation in bringing the voice of the community to the Council" is correct. They do indeed need greater teeth and to be better resourced, directly. Attempting to replace these with the bureaucracy suggested in the review with clinics, secretariat etc, simply creates greater bureaucracy and removes the community further from the contact points. This proposal would be a backwards retreat, not a step forward, for community consultation and interaction.

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 Otaki boundary proposal is a sensible one and reflects the changing community.

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

I have interacted with the Community Boards at Otaki and Waikanae through the Otaki RSA. The Boards have been pro-active and responsive to proposals, and this was very evident in the first OVID lockdown when both Boards took steps to support the isolated communities, especially for the elderly and those living alone, who were supported by the RSA welfare team at Otaki.

I have attended meetings and seen the Boards support all levels of the community from school children seeking to enhance their learning; sporting codes; community groups at all levels; and support for the arts and other initiatives.

I doubt that a single councillor could ever reach that level of support.

This quote from the Review (page 2) suggests the best answer:

Many believe it's currently hard for councillors to hear from the diverse range of people in the district. Barriers that prevent people from putting their views forward include lack of time, energy, communication ability, transportation, self-confidence, and confidence in council to really listen and care. Many note that, because barriers block engagement for some, council constantly only hears a subsection of voices and perspectives. Community boards might be a good vehicle for people who already have the confidence and ability to engage with council

I encourage the Council to follow the wisdom of the Review. The Community Boards are the ideal pathway for the Communities of Interest to be represented.

I would welcome the chance to speak to this submission.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3682478

First name

Sam

Last name

Buchanan

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

See written submission.

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?

See written submission.

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?

See written submission.

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?

See written submission.

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?

See written submission.

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

Submission on the Kapiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021

Sam Buchanan

October 4th 2021

Recommendations

The Ōtaki, Waikanae and Paekākāriki community boards should be retained.

A new community board should be established, representing Kapiti's rural areas.

The Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board be replaced by two boards, one for each of those communities.

That each community board's membership be increased to six, up from the current four.

As the closest institution to communities, community boards should become the Council's primary bodies for the disbursement of community funding.

Council should take steps to promote the work of community boards in order to increase public understanding of their role.

Training for Community Board members should be improved.

Under the principle of subsidiarity, council powers should be delegated to enhanced and better funded community boards.

Numbers of councillors should be reduced in order to free up resources for enhanced community boards.

If the present number of councillors is not changed, the Waikanae ward councillor position should be retained.

Community Boards

Community Boards can play a vital role in the representation of communities if well run and effectively resourced. However, as the council's research has found, there is a view in the community that community boards "lack teeth".

“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. They are sometimes excluded from council conversations, and sometimes ignored. They could be even more effective for the community if given more responsibility and ability to contribute to council discussions.

“Our Community Board is a good opportunity to raise local issues. Board members are supportive of the local community. However, Council can ignore them with impunity. For example, in 2017 the PRCB made a submission in support of Raumati Village that was voted down. So there needs to be a little more power invested in the Boards so they can support their communities better.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

Community Board members are effectively volunteers, and often lack time to carry out their duties effectively. For that reason, I recommend increasing each board's membership to six, up from the current four. A larger number of members will allow community boards to be more active in communities and increase their visibility.

There is currently considerable disparity in the numbers of people represented by each community board, which may, in part, explain why the Empathy Design company's research indicated a minority of residents consider them to be ineffective. Currently the Paekakariki community board represents 1650 people; the Otaki community board 10,000; the Waikanae community board 14,500 people; and the Paraparaumu/Raumati a ridiculous 30,000 people.

Splitting the Paraparaumu/Raumati Board into two will help ease the disparity, make representation fairer, and increase the capability of boards to work effectively in communities.

Council's research indicated a need to improve the representation of rural residents. At present there is no specific representation for this group's particular needs.

“Residents of rural locations presented different functional needs, which contributed to different focuses when it comes to council matters.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

The creation of a new rural community board, representing the specific interests of rural residents throughout the area, will help to address this.

“it is harder for at-large councillors to see local issues, as they have a big area to cover and a big population to understand. In that way, it makes it harder to stay close to the people.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

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.

“At least half of those involved in the research were not aware of Kāpiti Coast's existing community boards. A small minority could speak to direct experience of them.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

The same research also points to a concern that at least some of the diverse voices on the coast are not being heard. Promotion of community boards as a place to take concerns and raise issues could help to rectify this.

Evidence of the failure of the council to promote community boards can be gleaned from examining the council's press releases. Over the six-month period from March 14th, 2021, to August 14th, 2021, the council issued 84 press releases. With the exception of general references to community boards in press releases concerning this representation review, the Otaki Community Board was mentioned in one release, in relation to a by-election for that board, and the Waikanae Community Board was mentioned once in another, in relation to a grant. The Paraparaumu-Raumati and Paekakariki boards were never mentioned. While the mayor, councillors, council managers and other staff, members of community groups, and others were quoted in these press releases, no community board member was quoted or named.

It would also be interesting to examine the relative awareness of community boards in different communities. The council could facilitate inter-board cooperation, enabling struggling boards to learn from more successful ones. It may be useful to embed councillors from outside the community board area into boards in order to enhance cross-district knowledge and understanding.

Subsidiarity, the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level, should provide guidance to council structures. Powers held by council should be shed to community boards where possible. 379

Training for Community Board members should be improved, with a focus on the specific role of community boards, on consensus-building and meeting techniques. It may be of benefit to create a staff position within council to carry out the task of liaising between the council and the boards and improving information flow between council and boards. At present this task is carried out by managers for whom this work is a low priority, resulting in inefficiencies and cumbersome processes.

Councillors

I set out two options here. Firstly, if recommendations above regarding community boards are accepted, the number of councillors could be reduced, and the resources currently used to maintain those positions be reallocated to community boards. Five councillors and a mayor would allow each to be embedded into one of the proposed six community boards.

As a second option, if the council is unwilling to delegate powers to enhanced community boards, the ward councillors should be maintained.

“In reality, ward councillors are closest to their local issues and answerable to their local voters.”—Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

There seems mixed opinions as to whether ward councillors are effective in representing the local community, but no broad community interest in abolishing or combining wards. Maintaining the current mix of ward and at-large councillors, and keeping the present Waikanae ward appears the best option. Boundaries may have to be adjusted to maintain parity of ward populations.

According to figures on the KCDC website, Kāpiti has relatively few councillors compared with councils with similar populations. Of the cited councils, only Porirua has fewer councillors per capita. Increasing the size of the Paraparaumu-Raumati ward to include Waikanae will not improve local representation. This low number of councillors per capita makes it unlikely that suggestions of improving management of councillors' engagement with the community will much improve representation. Community Boards are much better situated to engage with communities.

Another said, “Why would I put my view forward to council? They don't listen to us up here anyway.”—Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

Ultimately, representation depends on the Council's willingness to take guidance from the community. Public participation in council processes will increase if it is seen as effective. The structure and management of representation will have little effect if the Council isn't seen to be responsive to community wishes.

Conclusion

These recommendations are initial steps. Research by the council suggests diversity or representatives is a major concern. Therefore, in the longer term I would suggest council look at ways to restructure the council as a decentralised federation of local boards.

The Kapiti Coast is a diverse group of communities with little in common, and without a dominant central hub. Each community on the coast has its particular strengths – Paraparaumu operates as a retail centre, Otaki as a centre of Maori culture and education, Raumati is a recreational destination for people with young children, Paekakariki is a centre for outdoor recreational activities and music performances, and Waikanae is, arguably, the visual arts centre of the coast. To decentralise representation would make the representation model a better match with the economic, social and geographical realities of the Kapiti Coast.

The limited steps outlined above may be as much as can gain immediate community support. However, more needs to be done to encourage community discussion of possible alternative models of representation. Limited decentralisation of powers should help to raise interest in council activities and make further changes possible.

Submission on the Kapiti Coast District Council Representation Review 2021

Sam Buchanan

October 4th 2021

Recommendations

- The Ōtaki, Waikanae and Paekākāriki community boards should be retained.
- A new community board should be established, representing Kapiti's rural areas.
- The Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Board be replaced by two boards, one for each of those communities.
- That each community board's membership be increased to six, up from the current four.
- As the closest institution to communities, community boards should become the Council's primary bodies for the disbursement of community funding.
- Council should take steps to promote the work of community boards in order to increase public understanding of their role.
- Training for Community Board members should be improved.
- Under the principle of subsidiarity, council powers should be delegated to enhanced and better funded community boards.
- Numbers of councillors should be reduced in order to free up resources for enhanced community boards.
- If the present number of councillors is not changed, the Waikanae ward councillor position should be retained.

Community Boards

Community Boards can play a vital role in the representation of communities if well run and effectively resourced. However, as the council's research has found, there is a view in the community that community boards "lack teeth".

"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. They are sometimes excluded from council conversations, and sometimes ignored. They could be even more effective for the community if given more responsibility and ability to contribute to council discussions."

“Our Community Board is a good opportunity to raise local issues. Board members are supportive of the local community. However, Council can ignore them with impunity. For example, in 2017 the PRCB made a submission in support of Raumati Village that was voted down. So there needs to be a little more power invested in the Boards so they can support their communities better.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

Community Board members are effectively volunteers, and often lack time to carry out their duties effectively. For that reason, I recommend increasing each board's membership to six, up from the current four. A larger number of members will allow community boards to be more active in communities and increase their visibility.

There is currently considerable disparity in the numbers of people represented by each community board, which may, in part, explain why the Empathy Design company's research indicated a minority of residents consider them to be ineffective. Currently the Paekakariki community board represents 1650 people; the Otaki community board 10,000; the Waikanae community board 14,500 people; and the Paraparaumu/Raumati a ridiculous 30,000 people.

Splitting the Paraparaumu/Raumati Board into two will help ease the disparity, make representation fairer, and increase the capability of boards to work effectively in communities.

Council's research indicated a need to improve the representation of rural residents. At present there is no specific representation for this group's particular needs.

“Residents of rural locations presented different functional needs, which contributed to different focuses when it comes to council matters.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

The creation of a new rural community board, representing the specific interests of rural residents throughout the area, will help to address this.

“it is harder for at-large councillors to see local issues, as they have a big area to cover and a big population to understand. In that way, it makes it harder to stay close to the people.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

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.

“At least half of those involved in the research were not aware of Kāpiti Coast's existing community boards. A small minority could speak to direct experience of them.” – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

The same research also points to a concern that at least some of the diverse voices on the coast are not being heard. Promotion of community boards as a place to take concerns and raise issues could help to rectify this.

Evidence of the failure of the council to promote community boards can be gleaned from examining the council's press releases. Over the six-month period from March 14th, 2021, to August 14th, 2021, the council issued 84 press releases. With the exception of general references to community boards in press releases concerning this representation review, the Otaki Community Board was mentioned in one release, in relation to a by-election for that board, and the Waikanae Community Board was mentioned once in another, in relation to a grant. The Paraparaumu-Raumati and Paekakariki boards were never mentioned. While the mayor, councillors, council managers and other staff, members of community groups, and others were quoted in these press releases, no community board member was quoted or named.

It would also be interesting to examine the relative awareness of community boards in different communities. The council could facilitate inter-board cooperation, enabling struggling boards to learn from more successful ones. It may be useful to embed councillors from outside the community board area into boards in order to enhance cross-district knowledge and understanding.

Subsidiarity, the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level, should provide guidance to council structures. Powers held by council should be shed to community boards where possible.

Training for Community Board members should be improved, with a focus on the specific role of community boards, on consensus-building and meeting techniques. It may be of benefit to create a staff position within council to carry out the task of liaising between the council and the boards and improving information flow between council and boards. At present this task is carried out by managers for whom this work is a low priority, resulting in inefficiencies and cumbersome processes.

Councillors

I set out two options here. Firstly, if recommendations above regarding community boards are accepted, the number of councillors could be reduced, and the resources currently used to maintain those positions be reallocated to community boards. Five councillors and a mayor would allow each to be embedded into one of the proposed six community boards.

As a second option, if the council is unwilling to delegate powers to enhanced community boards, the ward councillors should be maintained.

"In reality, ward councillors are closest to their local issues and answerable to their local voters."—Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

There seems mixed opinions as to whether ward councillors are effective in representing the local community, but no broad community interest in abolishing or combining wards. Maintaining the current mix of ward and at-large councillors, and keeping the present Waikanae ward appears the best option. Boundaries may have to be adjusted to maintain parity of ward populations.

According to figures on the KCDC website, Kāpiti has relatively few councillors compared with councils with similar populations. Of the cited councils, only Porirua has fewer councillors per capita. Increasing the size of the Paraparaumu-Raumati ward to include Waikanae will not improve

local representation. This low number of councillors per capita makes it unlikely that suggestions of improving management of councillors' engagement with the community will much improve representation. Community Boards are much better situated to engage with communities.

Another said, "Why would I put my view forward to council? They don't listen to us up here anyway." – Community insight to inform and inspire Kāpiti Coast District's representation arrangements, Empathy Design memo, July 2021.

Ultimately, representation depends on the Council's willingness to take guidance from the community. Public participation in council processes will increase if it is seen as effective. The structure and management of representation will have little effect if the Council isn't seen to be responsive to community wishes.

Conclusion

These recommendations are initial steps. Research by the council suggests diversity or representatives is a major concern. Therefore, in the longer term I would suggest council look at ways to restructure the council as a decentralised federation of local boards.

The Kapiti Coast is a diverse group of communities with little in common, and without a dominant central hub. Each community on the coast has its particular strengths – Paraparaumu operates as a retail centre, Otaki as a centre of Maori culture and education, Raumati is a recreational destination for people with young children, Paekakariki is a centre for outdoor recreational activities and music performances, and Waikanae is, arguably, the visual arts centre of the coast. To decentralise representation would make the representation model a better match with the economic, social and geographical realities of the Kapiti Coast.

The limited steps outlined above may be as much as can gain immediate community support. However, more needs to be done to encourage community discussion of possible alternative models of representation. Limited decentralisation of powers should help to raise interest in council activities and make further changes possible.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3676877

First name

Jill

Last name

Griggs

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?

This is an effective number to represent the district and be able to have workable meetings.

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?

I think it is appropriate for some councillors to have a district wide responsibility to shape the strategic direction and to maintain an overview of the different viewpoints in the district while others represent smaller divisions of the district.

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 area is far too big with diverse areas with different needs. having three councillors represent the area means they are not individually accountable and residents don't know who is responsible for representing them.. I have included my proposal to this submission below.

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?

I think the Community Boards are an ill conceived structure and add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. However, I do think that it is critical that they are replaced with a more effective means of a further level of representation granularity and I have made a proposal to this submission below.

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?

They are effectively the whole district with Paekākāriki and Ōtaki separated.

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

The key word here is representation. Each resident should know who represents them at the local level, the ward level and at the district level.

Multiple representatives for an area result in (ACE Electoral Knowledge Network):

- ☐ dilute the relationship between representatives and voters;
- ☐ dilute the accountability of individual representatives.

Each representative should have accountability to a well defined area.

Community Boards

As a previously serving member of a Community Board, I think that the structure is ineffective and adds another and unnecessary, formal layer.

The role of the Chair is unclear and carries the power to stifle valid contributions by members of their Board as almost all representations of the Community Board in Council business is through the Chair. It is also frustrating for the Chairs as their role at the Council table is not well defined.

However, there are some very good people on the Community Boards who do a lot of good work in the community and I don't believe this should be dispensed with. The alternative suggestions for Community Boards are vague and non definitive.

Community Boards also suffer from the issues created by having multiple members representing an area.

My Proposal

In addition to the Mayor and 5 district wide councillors (for the reasons given above), there would be 5 ward councillors.

The district would be divided into 5 areas with one ward councillor representing each.

The Community Boards should be discontinued and replaced with local representatives.

The district should be divided into 16 areas, each of which to fall completely into a ward ie a division would not straddle the boundaries of a ward.

For each of these smaller areas, a representative should be elected.

These representatives would be paid an equal amount. Adding the salaries of the current 16 Community Board members and Chairs and dividing it equally would be the recommended way to determine the amount.

Each of these representatives would be accountable to the residents in their area and act as an advisor to their ward councillor.

The ward councillor could call meetings of these representatives to debate issues with inconsistent opinions across the ward.

It may be useful to have a twice yearly meeting of all 16 of the local representatives.

The ward councillor has an accountability to represent the diversity of views in their ward, as conveyed by the local representatives.

The district would be divided into 16 areas with greater consideration given to the range or commonality of views rather than the number of residents.

Using the population numbers from <https://peopleandplaces.nz/kapiti-coast/> a possible division could look like:

Population	Representative	Councillor
Forest Lakes 864	2661	8895
Ōtaki Beach 1797		
Ōtaki 3444	3444	
Ōtaki Forks 795	2790	
Te Horo 1395		
Peka Peka 600	4023	13833
Waikanae Beach 3423		
Waikanae Park 2064	2064	
Waikanae West 4368	4368	
Waikanae East 2382	3378	
Waitohu 996		
Paraparaumu Beach North 4026	4026	9336
Paraparaumu Beach East 2655	5310	
Paraparaumu Beach West 2655		
Otaihanga 804	4341	11937
Paraparaumu North 3537		
Paraparaumu Central 3966	3966	
Paraparaumu East 2259	3630	
Mangatukutuk 1371		
Raumati Beach East 2361	5280	10785
Raumati Beach West 2919		
Raumati South 3738	3738	
Paekākāriki 1767	1767	

My apologies that it is not possible to format this table correctly in this forum. I am happy to provide it separately in a more readable format.

The population numbers are out of date and some of the subdivisions may no longer be current. However, the numbers are provided to illustrate the thinking.

In this proposal, every resident would know who their local representative was and which ward councillor they advised providing a direct route of accountability for each representative.

It would decrease the costs of the Community Board structures, reduce the overhead work for KCDC staff but maintain the active work of Community Board members.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3677565

First name

Steve

Last name

La Hood

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

Seems about the right NUMBER of representatives for the population of the district

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?

I have reservations about the ward structure - Kāpiti's future should be more cohesive than separating the representation into wards, just because that's how the communities have developed. What's right for Raumati is equally right for Ōtaki.

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 above. I imagine a cohesive 'new city' future for the entire Kāpiti District, rather than the separate wards we currently have.

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 Community Boards have no authority beyond grants and polite submissions. They are in effect toothless. There's little or no integration from one Board to another across the District. If they can't influence Council decision-making on behalf of their communities, why bother with them?

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?

Again, I wish the Council would start to see Kāpiti as a unit, rather than a sum of parts.

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

There are demographic projections that show this District will burgeon in population by some 30 thousand people in the next 10 years. I feel that's an underestimation, particularly one TG is completed through to Levin and the Palmerston Nth link is done. We should be focused on designing a new, ecological, human-scale city centre at Paraparaumu, from Coastlands to the Expressway and from the Expressway to the beach (including the Airport land). Tinkering with gerrymandering the 'boundaries' of separate wards is a 'today' issue - given that those separate wards will likely become suburbs of the new Kāpiti City over time. Now is the time to imagine that new City and plan for it.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3678431

First name

Francis

Last name

Neill

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?				✓		

Please tell us why?

This appears to be the appropriate number for the Kapiti Coast

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?

It provides for both local and district-wide representation

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?

While the proposed ward structure for 2022 does solve an issue with the number of people in each ward being represented by an appropriate number of ward councillors, it does so at the cost of two communities of interest, namely Waikanae and Paraparaumu, being lumped together. This has a number of risks, including the risk that Waikanae could effectively not have any representative on the council, given that Paraparaumu will have 50% more voters in the ward than Waikanae will have.

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?

As our elected representatives, the Ōtaki Community Board has made a significant contribution to the region over the years.

Most recently it unanimously adopted the resolution of Councillor James Cootes that the Kāpiti Coast District Council investigate establishing a Local Alcohol Policy for Ōtaki (and possibly for the whole district). This proposal was subsequently adopted by the full council. Many people in the Ōtaki community are looking forward to a Local Alcohol Policy becoming a reality. Going back in time, the community board advocated for a patch-free town when gangs sought to establish headquarters in Ōtaki. The community board established the award-winning Greater Ōtaki Project, and there have been many more initiatives over the years.

Our elected community board members also play a very important role in our community. This includes contributing their time and expertise to community groups. Indeed, some community groups include in their constitutions provision for a community board member. If the council abolishes community boards, these community organisations will need to pay the cost of changing their constitutions. It is a concern that the Kāpiti Coast District Council proposes placing this extra monetary and time cost on local community organisations.

The council included a document named “A fresh look at local democracy – How can Council better represent you and your community?” which arrived inserted in a community newspaper.

That document states that the council’s “proposal does not include community boards”.

It gives two reasons:

1. Research indicated community boards added a confusing layer of bureaucracy; and
2. About \$250,000 a year saved from running community boards could be redirected towards supporting or enhancing others ways of engaging with our community.

Looking at the first point, it is not correct in fact to state that community boards add a “confusing layer of bureaucracy”. That is because community boards are not, in terms of the dictionary definition of bureaucracy, a “level of bureaucracy”. Dictionaries define bureaucracy, in terms of this context, as the body of officials and administrators, especially of a government or government department (including local government).

The clause “layer of bureaucracy” is possibly just very poor wording by the council staff responsible for putting the document together. Because of this, it is not clear what is meant in terms of being a reason to abolish community boards. Because of this, I submit that council would need to further consult the community with a proper reason given before it could legally abolish community boards.

The research which the document refers to is presumably that recently conducted by Empathy, which is reported on the council’s website. That report indicates that researchers spoke to 168 people. The report also stated that of these only a “small minority” could speak to direct experience of community boards. I submit that it is very telling that the council, when approached by the Ōtaki Mail, said it was unable to say how many people that “small minority” was.

Given that there is not mention in the Empathy report of community boards adding a “confusing layer of bureaucracy”, it is reasonable to conclude that this was not a significant community concern, nor even an issue for a small but concerned minority.

On the second justification for abolishing community boards, that the council would save \$250,000 a year, the council lists a number of other ways of engaging with communities – all of which would cost money. All five ways its lists would cost money. One, a “secretariat to support councilors in the community” would probably cost much more than \$250,000.

Simply saying that it costs \$250,000 a year to run community boards is not, in itself, a reason to abolish them. Of course democracy costs money. How much money would we save by not having an elected council?

Having elected representatives, who are answerable to the people in the community and who are working for our community, is a much preferred option to having the work done (as in the five suggestions the council lists in its consultation document) by either bureaucrats, neighbourhood forums or community

panels – none of whom are elected.

In a nutshell, then, council has not provided one single valid reason for abolishing 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?		✓				

Please tell us why?

The current boundary lines need to be retained until there is a proposal that provides for communities of interest

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

If council decides to press ahead with the suggestion of abolishing community boards it would leave itself open to accusations that it has done so without properly giving reasons for doing so, and for not properly consulting with the community on its proposal.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3678876

First name

Viola

Last name

Palmer

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?				✓		

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?

Should have 6 ward councillors and 4 district wide.
Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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?

Community Boards have an important democratic function.
Refer to SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

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.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021

Submission from Dr Viola Palmer, resident and ratepayer of Waikanae.

Personal experience

I consulted the Waikanae community board once. They listened and the chair provided follow-up.

The recent closure of the Waikanae recycling centre occurred without my prior knowledge.

It disadvantages the residents of Waikanae. There is insufficient publicity by the board about impending Council decisions which would impact local residents.

Waikanae community board has lobbied successfully for facilities for the ward in the past.

My views on Council's proposal

Q. 3 The proposal to amalgamate Waikanae with Paraparaumu community board does not sit well with me.

- It removes local democratic representation. Waikanae is a separate entity from Paraparaumu.
- I would like more representation, not less which is what this proposal amounts to.
- An appointed panel to advise on local matters is no substitute for an elected board and is undemocratic.
- Suggestions for councillors to interact with the community are nebulous. Why are councillors not currently running clinics in their communities ?
- The \$250,000 spent on community boards *could* be redirected towards other ways of engaging with the community. There is no guarantee that this would occur. In the light of penny-pinching relating to the recycling centre I have no confidence that this would be the case.
- Waikanae residents would be less inclined to consult with a Paraparaumu community board.
- I am less concerned with numerical representation than with real consultation.

Each of the Kapiti townships should have a community board. In addition to the present 4 there should be one for Raumati too.

Q. 1 & Q.2 I agree with retaining the same number of councillors. My suggestion of an extra ward would result in 6 ward councillors (2 for Paraparaumu) leaving 4 as district wide representatives.

Q. 4 I do not agree with the removal of community boards. The public are more likely to consult a community board or ward councillor than a district wide councillor. The latter are akin to list MPs ie they represent nobody and everybody. My solution is to adequately fund community boards to do the job of consulting with the community and representing it.

Q. 5 As stated previously I am less concerned with numbers in each ward than in adequate representation. I would trust officials to draw up suitable boundaries which do not put lines through communities.

Conclusion

The crux of the matter is how to get better communication and representation of the community in Council. I do not believe that removal of a community board would do this.

Viola Palmer

September 2021



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3682425

First name

David

Last name

Ogden

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?			✓			

Please tell us why?

The number is presently adequate

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?

Because it is the current form.

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?

Simplification brings some benefits

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 residents will naturally feel their local identity and democracy has now been damaged. If it is passed

the connection between the council and local communities will be lessened. It will be an emotional and a functional disconnect. The community boards are a good training means for representatives, and a good means of communication.

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?

They seem reasonable

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

I understand that the remuneration of the elected persons will increase as a result. The question of integrity has to be ensured at this point.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3683153

First name

[name withheld]

Last name

[name withheld]

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?

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?

I believe the current system, while not perfect provides the residents of the Kapiti Coast the best chance of having their views heard.

The Kapiti Coast is made up of a number of communities and each has its own feel and needs. I used to live in Raumati Beach before moving to Waikanae 12 years ago. There is a totally different feel in each community and the current system gives these different communities the best chance of representation.

To do away with the community boards would be a huge step backwards and the suggestion of combining Waikanae with Paraparaumu is not a thought that I can see any merit in as we are two different communities.

Democracy is to be respected and not removed lightly.

Finally, I see the Community Boards as the perfect training ground for residents who aspire to stand for Council as the Community Boards are an excellent training environment.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3678792

First name

Guy

Last name

Burns

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?		✓				

Please tell us why?

Have more wards, more wards councillors, less district wide 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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

Paraparaumu and Waikanae are special 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?

Community Boards are essential democratic institutions of 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 new boundary lines delete/merge Communities of Interest, that is, Waikanae, Paraparaumu.



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3651858

First name

Guy

Last name

Burns

What ward are you in now

Paekākāriki-Raumati

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
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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

Undemocratic - weakening of localism.

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?

Not mandated or popular.

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?

Keep status quo.

Guy Burns

SUBMISSION REGARDING 2021 REPRESENTATION REVIEW.

Summary

I reject the recommendations made by the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) meeting 26 August 2021 (Appendix One) particularly:

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 ¹

This rationale is based on research undertaken for Kapiti Coast District Council by Saunders and Peck² who state:

... some people felt the two layers of elected representatives added unhelpful complexity. ³

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' ⁴ and a 'small minority' ⁵ 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'.

¹ KCDC. [Agenda 26/08/2021](#), p.19

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

³ Ibid. p.22

⁴ Ibid. p.21

⁵ Ibid. p.25

The report to the Council meeting of 26/08/2021 ⁶ 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 ⁷

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 ⁸ which asks:

will the proposal promote good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned? ⁹

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 ¹⁰

and

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

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.

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

⁷ Ibid. p. 19

⁸ Local Government Commission. [Representation Review Guidelines](#). 2021

⁹ Ibid. point 6.11, p.29

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

¹¹ 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 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 ¹². 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 ¹³.

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 ¹⁴. 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 ¹⁵ 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 ¹⁶ and the Working Party report to councillors at that time recommended as such (Appendix Two). Surely, the Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati communities have suddenly ceased to exist as communities of interest and I question 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. I strongly reject the Kapiti Coast District Council's proposal to merge the two wards of Waikanae and Paraparaumu into one super-ward. At a minimum, Council must retain the existing Otaki, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Raumati/Paekakariki wards.

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

¹³ Ibid. Section 19V, 3(iii)

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

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

¹⁶ Kapiti Coast District Council meeting 18 June 2015

Summary of points to Kapiti Coast District Council:

1. At a minimum, keep all the existing Community Boards of Kapiti;
2. consider Community Boards for each community of interest, this would entail separating the current Raumati/ Paekakariki Community Board into two separate Boards of Raumati and Paekakariki;
3. do not merge the Waikanae and Paraparaumu wards into one super-ward;
4. consider establishing smaller wards in Kapiti, and;
5. consider fewer district wide councillors.

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



Representation Review

Your details

Response ID

3682032

First name

Michelle

Last name

Lewis

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?

I agree with the number of elected representatives. I do not agree with the allocation of councillors to existing (2021) wards. I am concerned that Waikanae has a growing population and that has been under represented in the last 6 years. It is my preference for 2 councillors for Waikanae, this could be at the expense of a Districtwide councillor.

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?

No. If the new proposal went ahead, I would support 6 ward councillors, 2 for each ward and 4 District wide 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?	✓					

Please tell us why?

I strongly object to this part of the proposal. Paraparaumu is a District wide centre where people from across the district come to key facilities such as regional shopping area, and major community facilities. Waikanae is a local centre, like Otaki with its own supermarkets and local facilities that allow ratepayers to undertake all their regular needs within the Waikanae town. Waikanae is distinct from Paraparaumu, it is physically separated by the Waikanae River. Rivers have traditionally been used for planning purposes as natural boundaries. It is bizarre to think that Waikanae and Paraparaumu are a similar community. They are two distinct communities and both require representation as such. I would also support Raumati having its own ward councillor. Kapiti has long been marketed as five centres (Paekakariki, Raumati, Paraparaumu, Waikanae, Otaki) joined by a state highway. To disregard this long held and used way of marketing the area is a disservice to the people of each of the five centres.

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?

I believe that removing the community boards removes the ability for people to engage and share their opinions with their representatives. It is impossible for one person to represent the views of over 10,000 people. It is possible for 5 people (4 community board members and a ward councillor) to have a greater understanding of the different elements of the community and for board members to be selected by these different groups within our communities. However, I do believe that this requires community boards to be more proactive and to drive their own agendas at meetings and not be driven by the council. This is critical for a good democratic process to be maintained.

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?

Above principles in my comments override the boundary lines which result.

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

To preserve the voice of the people, retaining more elected members is increasingly important for communities as a whole. The issue you vote on today, is not just about Kapiti today, its about the voice and choices you take away or give to future generations. Keep the voice of the people alive, do not restrict the process to a numbers game. Keep individuality alive.

From: [michelle lewis](#)
To: [Mailbox - Representation Review](#)
Subject: Presentation of petition - Representation Review - Feedback
Date: Monday, 4 October 2021 1:30:54 pm

Kia ora

As part of the representation review I have collected signatures to a petition which I wish to give to the council as part of the representation review process for their consideration in the decision making prior to confirming a decision.

For visibility I attach below the petition, which has 275 signatories. You advice as to whether they should be accepted in this email as official acceptance. I intend to bring this to the councillors attention at the speaking time I have allocated for me on 19th October [my personal submission time].

Petition wording starts:

We support retaining all four Community Boards in the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) area as part of the representation review for the 2022 Elections.

Specifically the four boards are the Waikanae Community Board, Otaki Community Board, Paekakariki Community Board and Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board.

Through surveys the community told KCDC that we wanted a democratic model that brought us closer to our elected representatives and decision-makers, while reflecting the diversity of the district and communities of interest.

The current proposal for representation from 2022 onwards by KCDC does exactly the opposite, making it harder to access elected representatives and diluting the diversity of the district into three non-descript wards.

Community boards keep us closely connected to our elected representatives and reflect the diversity of the district and communities of interest within it.

We agree our community of interest is where we feel we belong; where we live, work, shop, and play.

The three wards proposed by Kapiti Coast District Council, do not represent our communities of interest. It is not possible for one elected councillor to effectively represent and consult with 10,000 people.

If every one of those 10,000 people wanted to connected with their councillor they would have just 1.5 minutes per year to voice their views. This would leave the councillor no time, in a 40 hour week, working 48 weeks per year to do anything other than listen to people, no time to attend meetings, read papers, act on the information, discuss or progress changes sought. Elected councillors would be in a no-win situation unable to meet with their communities in an effective way and to effectively represent their views.

This option as currently proposed by KCDC does not bring people closer to their elected representative and decision maker. It makes it harder for ratepayers and people living in the communities of interest to access their elected representative.

Community boards with 4 members could provide 1 elected member for every 2,500 people. This provides people with greater access to their elected representatives, four times more opportunities to engage and share their thoughts. Giving community board members greater representation on council and council committees would further strengthen the request from the community to be more closely connected to our elected representatives.

We request council retain all four community boards and further that all community boards have voting rights on council and all council committees from 2022 onwards. This is how Kapiti Coast District Council can act on the feedback it received from the community to keep us closely connected to our elected representatives.

Petition wording ends.

The petition and signatories to date can be found at:

<https://www.change.org/p/kapiti-coast-district-council-save-waikanae-otaki-paekakariki-raumati-paraparaumu-community-boards>

Should you wish to discuss this further I can be contacted on [phone number redacted].

Kind regards

Michell Lewis

petition_signatures_jobs_30786273_2021101118

Name	Country	Signed On
Michelle Lewis	New Zealand	2021-09-23
Dorothy Ogston	New Zealand	2021-09-23
Leigh Walkinshaw	New Zealand	2021-09-23
Julie-Anne Moore	New Zealand	2021-09-23
Susan Sinclair	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Cameron Butler	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Rosemarie Begbie	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Graeme Joyes	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Loretta Pomare	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Amanda Kerr	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Anne Hadjimi	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Daryl Udy	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Janine Robbins	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sallie Pearson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Joe Mansell	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Murray Forsdyke	New Zealand	2021-09-24
deanna clark	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Nicki Cook	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Georgia Beechey-Gradwell	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Bede Laracy	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Tracy Solomon	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Karen Bleach-Wood	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Shane Elers	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Cushla Holford	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Ben Tennant	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Iain WATSON	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Karl Webber	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Fiona Devlin	New Zealand	2021-09-24
fiona green	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sue Watson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Rob Crozier	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Anita Spencer	New Zealand	2021-09-24

Christopher Berry	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Allan Christie	New Zealand	2021-09-24
donna bridgeman	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Laurence Green	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jane McWhirter	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Shirley Baskiville-Robinson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Tonchi Begovich	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Ross DevlinThomas	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Kelvin Prentice	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Vivienne Gunning	New Zealand	2021-09-24
sean o'leary	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Lyn Turner	New Zealand	2021-09-24
William Mansell	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Liana Stupples	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Stefan Hadfield	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sarah Malone	New Zealand	2021-09-24
carole hirst	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Michael Ross	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Guy Burns	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Lauren Solomon	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Hilda Daw	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Phil Byrne	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jill Brown	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Royd Sampson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Kathy Thomson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Darryl Ramage	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Angela Woodman Aldridge	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Tania Sheerin	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jamie Bull	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Tony Sheila Hart	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Julie Stevens	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sally Walker	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Geoff Knighton	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Rosalind Heasman	New Zealand	2021-09-24

Tia Shaw	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jordon Wansbrough	New Zealand	2021-09-24
helen jonassen	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Haylee Wright	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Joe Shaw	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Kate Frater	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Robyn Moore	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Colin Moar	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Blanche Charles	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sheona Smithson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Brigid Groves	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jan McKenzie	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Mary Campbell-Cree	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Chris Hoult	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Michelle Abbott	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Jacqui Randall	New Zealand	2021-09-24
joanne cook	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Leanne wellborne	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Mary Thomas	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Leanne Pokere	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Chris Warring	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Kitty Fitton	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Esme Schlotjes	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Shirley Arbuckle-Hart	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Rachael Mence	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Roger Wiig	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Brenda Nelson	New Zealand	2021-09-24
raelene joyce	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Valerie Long	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Karen Stewart	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Donna Spargo	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Mike Rowe	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Nicola Easthope	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Rhys Cornor	New Zealand	2021-09-24

Virginia Richards	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Sheila Beckers	New Zealand	2021-09-24
Maureen Godwin	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Gina-Marie Aburn	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Andrea Reid	New Zealand	2021-09-25
ALAN TRISTRAM	New Zealand	2021-09-25
David Todd	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Dave Johnson	New Zealand	2021-09-25
John Dillon	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Peter Morton	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Chris Turver	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Amanda Vickers	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Dan Eastwood	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Donna Peters	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Shannon Gillies	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Kim udy	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Dave BOYD	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Brian Frampton	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Avon Dykstra	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Mark Frampton	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Lynley Barker	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Aunard Barlow	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Shane Gibbons	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Ben Christie	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Catherine Chandler	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Maxine O'Connor	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Joseph Porter	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Gabriela Fyfe	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Beryl O'Neil	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Kane Pomare	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Vicki Bunch	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Helen Punton	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Heather Cameron	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Louise Mallia-Patterson	New Zealand	2021-09-25

Peter Jones	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Bianca Begovich	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Patricia Tourell	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Trish McQueen	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Annie Law	New Zealand	2021-09-25
Chris Ford	New Zealand	2021-09-26
GUNSTON Robin	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Suzanne Spellacey	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Vicky Cooper	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Trevor Rowe	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Monique Howell	New Zealand	2021-09-26
judi hart	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Vicki Stoner	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Alan Rench	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Carla Maria Rench	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Clare Hynd	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Stefan Horn	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Mervyn Falconer	New Zealand	2021-09-26
KATHRYN HARDWICK	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Kevin Bennett	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Jenny Cliffe	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Ane Parata	New Zealand	2021-09-26
James Westbury	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Emma Cross	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Janice Meeres	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Mandy Hager	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Russell Watson	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Helen Cliffe	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Wainui Smith	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Sharon Hunter	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Derek Cavanagh	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Mary Craigen	New Zealand	2021-09-26
John Smith	New Zealand	2021-09-26
Ann Reading	New Zealand	2021-09-26

Chriss Bull	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Yvonne Mansell	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Linda Hill	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Marilyn Stevens	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Grada Dixon	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Alison McEwen	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Don Moselen	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Vanessa Jefferies	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Brent Bythell	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Hinerau Kingi-Ransom	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Laurel Dunstan	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Sarah Angus	New Zealand	2021-09-27
moira wylie	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Jenny Askwith	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Denise Bradbury	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Jo Michat	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Viola Palmer	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Alastair Bridge	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Chris Bridge	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Andray Ochkas	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Annie Christie	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Neil Robertson	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Brea Singh	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Roger Bloxham	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Joy Clifton	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Helen Bainbridge	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Iorayne baker	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Gordon Whittleston	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Rick Harvey	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Graham Priest	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Tim Boyer	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Jacqueline Rutherford	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Sheryl Holme	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Diane Connal	New Zealand	2021-09-27

Selwyn Crane	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Olive Jean Shields	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Quentin Poole	New Zealand	2021-09-27
Kate Turner	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Christine Baxter	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Lanita Mulholland	New Zealand	2021-09-28
marie Hammond	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Wendy Bishell	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Milena Miteva	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Kylie Crimmins	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Davi Henare	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Diana Roy	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Amanda Kemp	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Tommy Donohue	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Gerald Wineera	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Irene Young	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Roy Frisby	New Zealand	2021-09-28
Ron Minnema	New Zealand	2021-09-29
Julia Atkins	New Zealand	2021-09-29
Yvonne Oliver	New Zealand	2021-09-29
Pat Bloxham	New Zealand	2021-09-29
Di Buchan	New Zealand	2021-09-29
Julie Warren	New Zealand	2021-09-30
Susan McIntosh	New Zealand	2021-09-30
kim Green	New Zealand	2021-09-30
connie humphrey	New Zealand	2021-09-30
Gunda Tente	New Zealand	2021-09-30
Gladys Rowsell	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Rehutai Cooper	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Eileen Hollands	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Jeff Ashby	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Kirsten Fulford	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Jess Croad	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Greg Estall	New Zealand	2021-10-01

Sam Woodford	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Robert Taylor	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Tracey Manning	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Kirsty Doyle	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Michaela Leger	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Deborah Wood	New Zealand	2021-10-01
Crystal Shearer	New Zealand	2021-10-02
Gillian Burfield	New Zealand	2021-10-02
Lenny Burg	New Zealand	2021-10-03
Pan Weston	New Zealand	2021-10-03
Akhil Joshi	New Zealand	2021-10-03
michele warwick	New Zealand	2021-10-04
Lorraine Duffin	New Zealand	2021-10-05
Julieanne Stephens	New Zealand	2021-10-05
Dinesh Patel	New Zealand	2021-10-05
Raewyn Hewitt	New Zealand	2021-10-05
Mike and Genevieve Langda	New Zealand	2021-10-06

petition_comments_jobs_30786273_20211011181234

Name	Country	Date	Comment
Cameron Butler	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Community boards are an asset to the community and council."
Loretta Pomare	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"We in Waikanae need a voice, already we are being treated like the poor cousins to Paraparaumu! We have lost valuable facilities and council can't even tell us why! Our Board is the only place I can go to, if I want to highlight an issue and get my voice heard!"
Anne Hadjimi	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Save the boards"
Murray Forsdyke	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"This is erosion of democracy driven by central government agendas"
Bede Laracy	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I support community boards and there has been no proper conversation about whether we should abolish them"
Karl Webber	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Kapiti needs as much on the ground representation as we can get at this time and the community boards need to step up, be better resourced and increased rather than done away with lmo, I havnt seen any better alternatives proposed amongst the representational review either, nor do I think it's a good idea to make a decision like this at the last minute, council knows these reviews come around every six years and I think there should be an opportunity for the whole community to have input of ideas from a clean slate or at the start, not towards the end of the process."
Rob Crozier	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I'm signing because the present system recognises the geographical nature of Kapiti's pearls (as Guru calls them) — we are one big town and three small ones. We're not a city with suburbs. Please keep the Boards."
donna bridgeman	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"The community needs the Community Boards to continue so that everyone can give their views to the councillor representing their area who in turn will bring important issues to council"
Liana Stupples	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Keep democracy active and place and face based"
Royd Sampson	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Keep the community boards"
Kathy Thomson	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Local Community Boards are more representative off our Communities & are easy to approach for someone to listen to you without all the extreme formalities. They are more in touch with the people they represent & take care to listen to you. I find them very approachable unlike KCDC!!"
Tania Sheerin	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Community boards need to & be seen & heard more."
Jamie Bull	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Ōtaki is a unique community on the Kapiti Coast and needs genuine representation and under the current system we receive this"
Jordon Wansbrough	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"E hiahia ana ahau a Jordon Marshall Wansbrough (Nemo) kia whanui to taatau hapori i roto i a taatau pooti mo te Kaunihera a rohe o Kapiti 2020 pooti I support keeping the community broads for Kapiti District Council for the 2022 elections"
helen jonassen	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I feel passionate about this issue"
Kate Frater	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I believe community boards are better able to impart local knowledge and concerns."
Robyn Moore	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I am concerned that Waikanae is being sidelined. Hopeless library, dog issues, poor maintenance of river tracks, closing the recycling station. It's as though Waikanae doesn't matter."
Blanche Charles	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"KCDC has already endorsed one of 4 options - ie the option which permits Paekakariki & Otaki, each with a pittance of Waikanae's population, will each remain as separate Wards, while Waikanae & Paraparaumu, the 2 largest towns, are to be amalgamated into one Ward. It is possible that Waikanae could be left without representation on the Council. Yes, there is an opportunity for public submissions but a waste of time given that the decision has already been made by the Council. It's a fair accompli. Democracy trashed!"
Sheona Smithson	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Community boards are vital to our voices being heard."
Mary Campbell-Cree	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I'm signing because, over the 11+years I've lived on the coast, the local community boards (Raumati & Otaki) have achieved significant results for the communities."
Michelle Abbott	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I'm signing because Waikanae needs a local voice KCDC would not be able to include the true feelings of our little community when governing for such a large area, we need to be heard!"
joanne cook	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"It's the right thing to do. Kcdc need sorting out."
Leanne wellborne	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"This is the right thing to doEven though ,historically KCDC never listens to its employers (rate payers)"
Shirley Arbuckle-Hart	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"I want Waikanae to have it's views represented properly"
Rachael Mence	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"The community boards serve a purpose. There is zero need to get rid of them."
Karen Stewart	New Zealand	2021-09-24	"Waikanae has its own unique character and we deserve our own representation on the council, and not be combined with Paraparaumu and lose our identity."
John Dillon	New Zealand	2021-09-25	"While they are all on the Kapiti Coast they are all unique and each needs its own representation"
Donna Peters	New Zealand	2021-09-25	"Local people, & local organisations must have a voice. Locals know best what is needed locally."
Helen Punton	New Zealand	2021-09-25	"This will reduce community representation in decision making and goes against what people want."
Vicky Cooper	New Zealand	2021-09-26	"I see value in the community boards."
KATHRYN HARDWICK	New Zealand	2021-09-26	"Each community needs it's own representative so needs can be heard and appropriate positive actions can met those needs ."
Mary Craigen	New Zealand	2021-09-26	"Each of the four current boards represents an area that is different to each other, different people, different needs. Amalgamating them takes away our voice"
Marilyn Stevens	New Zealand	2021-09-27	"I believe in our democratic rights"
Laurel Dunstan	New Zealand	2021-09-27	"Community boards keep us closely connected to our elected representatives and reflect the diversity of the district and communities of interest within it."
Rick Harvey	New Zealand	2021-09-27	"Because I live in otaki and believe we need them"
Olive Jean Shields	New Zealand	2021-09-27	"Just keep it like it is now. We need to keep our individual boards, we voted them in so leave it alone"
Pat Bloxham	New Zealand	2021-09-29	"I believe it is important to retain the community boards"
Julie Warren	New Zealand	2021-09-30	"I want and expect adequate community representation."
kim Green	New Zealand	2021-09-30	"I believe we need to boards kept."
connie humphrey	New Zealand	2021-09-30	"I wish to keep the community boards ,and the status quo ,"
Jeff Ashby	New Zealand	2021-10-01	"The local representation is important to get good governance"
Robert Taylor	New Zealand	2021-10-01	"Abolishing ward committees would add unacceptably to councillors workloads, reducing their effectiveness.Abolishing ward committees does nothing to improve (or even maintain) local democracy transparency, or accountability.A responsive effective Council needs local input, insight, and knowledge. Ward committees provide this.Keep them."
Lorraine Duffin	New Zealand	2021-10-05	"I believe that a community board for each is still warranted. We the people need to feel that we have a voice through our community boards"
Julianne Stephens	New Zealand	2021-10-05	"Why should the signs go? They're iconic!"