

Mihi

[insert mihi and translation]

Local Board Foreword

We are delighted to present the Howick Village Centre Plan. The Howick Local Board sponsored the process and ha4se worked very closely with the planning project team in putting the plan together. We have listened closely to community and stakeholder feedback and this has helped us shape the plan's content and proposed actions.

The plan sets out a vision for the future of Howick village. It aims to capitalise on the area's rich history, character and cultural values which are highly valued by the local community. Your feedback has shown that the area must ultimately be a place for people. The Local Board welcomes the opportunity to work with council and the community to implement the action plan, to help realise the vision for Howick.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the centre plan, to ensure that we make the village and surrounding areas a better place to live, work and play.

[insert David's signature]

David Collings

Chairperson

Howick Local Board

[insert photo of the LB]

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Introduction

This Howick Village Centre Plan has been sponsored by the Howick Local Board to build on the strengths of Howick and to ensure the village thrives in the future. The plan sets out a 30 year vision for Howick based on four interlinked key concepts. Each concept is supported by actions that will help to realise the vision. The concepts and actions were developed based on feedback from the community, the wider council family and other key stakeholders.

Strategic Context

Centre plans are non-statutory documents that provide strategic guidance and potential projects and actions to improve a centre. They do not contain any specific rules controlling development. A centre plan is prepared within the wider context of Auckland's strategic planning documents which are outlined below.

The Auckland Plan

The Auckland Plan is a strategic document that provides guidance on how growth is to be managed while protecting and enhancing the attributes and qualities we value most in our region. It addresses how we will prepare for an additional one million people and four hundred thousand new homes by 2040.

Long-term Plan

Auckland Council's Long-term Plan sets out all council and Council Controlled Organisation funding across Auckland over a 10 year period. It is one of the key tools for implementing the Auckland Plan and includes budgets for projects and initiatives identified within local board plans.

Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in Part

The Auckland Unitary Plan is the principal statutory planning document for Auckland. It sets the regulatory framework through zoning and rules for land use development. Under the Auckland Unitary Plan the commercial heart of Howick along Picton Street, and between Picton Street and Fencible Drive, is identified as a Town Centre zone with a Special Character Business Overlay. The surrounding areas are zoned for Mixed Use, with a mixture of residential zones surrounding the Mixed Use area.

Howick Local Board Plan

Local board plans are strategic three-year plans that set out the aspirations and priorities of the community and guide the decision making and actions of the local board. Local board plans form the basis for development of the annual local board agreements for each financial year and inform the development of the council's Long-term Plan. Actions identified in the Howick Village Centre plan can be prioritised for funding and implementation through the local board plan and annual agreements.



IMPLEMENTATION

Includes plans, policies, procedures, projects, activities and frameworks to deliver the strategic framework. Includes the Māori Responsiveness Framework and organisational transformation projects, etc.

Historical Howick¹

Pre European history

Before the arrival of people to New Zealand Auckland was covered in kauri forest and was home to many species of moa. Moa bones have been uncovered throughout the eastern beaches. Moa crop stones have been found in Howick and it is possible that Selwyn Road and Picton Street served as moa trails linking feeding areas. The old moa trails later became tracks used by Māori who settled the area, and with the arrival of European settlers these ancient routes used for traversing the landscape were developed into the roads we know today.

Howick and its surrounds were traditionally known as Ōwairoa, which means “of the long (flat) water”. Artefacts found at Howick beach indicate a long history of mana whenua settlement. The historic Papāroa pā was located south of Howick beach, and pā, kāinga, middens and agricultural areas that were cultivated with kumara and bracken fern, are scattered throughout the area. Although many tribal groups have settled in Howick, the area forms part of the heartland of the rohe of Ngai Tai who

¹ The information in this section came from La Roche, Alan J. (2011) *Grey's Folly: A History of Howick, Pakuranga, Bucklands-Eastern Beaches, East Tamaki, Whitford, Beachlands and Maraetai*. Manukau, N.Z. Tui Vale Publications.

descend from the crew of the Tainui canoe that settled throughout the Tamaki region between 25 and 30 generations ago.

The Howick area continued to be occupied and cultivated into the 18th century, however as intertribal warfare between the people of Tāmaki, Hauraki and Northland grew, alliances were formed that led to internal divisions, and to war.

European Settlement

Howick was part of the area purchased by Reverend William Fairbank of the Church Missionary Society in 1836, to be held by the church as part of peace-making efforts. At the time of purchase the Howick area was unpopulated due to ongoing tribal conflict. Although the area of the original land purchase was greatly reduced in size by the Crown Commissioners, land did not revert back to Māori ownership and instead became surplus land for disposal by the Crown. Much of it was taken up by European settlers.

The Fencible village of Howick was established in 1847 and intended to protect Auckland from possible attack from the south. For many years Howick remained a rural town with limited access to Auckland, and following the Waikato war of 1863-1864 many of the settlers left. The population of Howick slowly rose in the early 20th century as the village developed into an attractive retirement and seaside holiday location. Beginning in the 1940s and continuing through to the 1970s the Howick area experienced rapid growth as new roads connected it with other settlements and post war subdivisions.

Howick Today

Today Howick is recognised as one of Auckland's character villages. Howick is close to the sea and its centre is focussed along Picton Street which is home to local shops, restaurants, cafes, banks and the popular Saturday market held in the village square.

There are two main roads into Howick, Pakuranga Road from the west and Whitford Road, which turns into Cook Street, from the east. The centre plan area extends down to the beach and up to Stockade Hill which sits on top of the ridge line with views out to the Hauraki Gulf.

Community facilities, including the library, the Uxbridge Arts and Cultural Centre and Emilia Maud Nixon Garden of Memories are located on Uxbridge Road, just a few minutes' walk from Picton Street. Further down this road you will find yourself at Howick Beach. There are public reserves dotted in and around the village, including Crawford Reserve, Nixon Park and Stockade Hill.

In recent years low rise apartment buildings have been developed in the village. These provide opportunities for people to live within a short walking distance of Picton Street. In embracing new development and change it is vital that Howick's village atmosphere is maintained and enhanced as both Howick, and Auckland, grow.

You Spoke We Listened

This village plan has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community. Workshops were held with key stakeholders late in 2016 to find out what people liked and did not like about the village and what their aspirations were for the future. Feedback from these workshops was used to create the four concepts which were then taken out to the community for comment from December 2016 to January 2017. The feedback gathered in this round of consultation helped us write the draft document.

The draft document went out to the community in April 2017 for a five week consultation period. In this period almost 200 pieces of feedback were received through various mediums including Shape Auckland, paper feedback forms and emails. Consultation was also carried out with four schools in the area and feedback was received from approximately 100 students. The feedback was analysed and has shaped this document and helped to ensure it reflects community aspirations.

[Insert quotes from feedback]

[Insert photos from consultation events]

Vision and Concepts

The planning team has listened to community and stakeholder feedback to develop a vision for Howick Village. The vision will be implemented through the four concepts. The concepts are interlinked and are detailed in the next section of this document. Each concept is supported by actions which are detailed further in the implementation plan on pages x-x.

Vision - An attractive, lively and walkable village that celebrates its history and provides a strong sense of identity and community

[insert vision and concept image]

A Character Village

In 30 years Howick will have enhanced its distinctive village atmosphere and will continue to celebrate its past. Residents and visitors alike will enjoy the experience of being in a bustling character village nestled in its natural landscape, and they will come away with an appreciation of the stories of Howick.

Howick is proud of its past and the key characteristics that help to define its identity. These include its village like atmosphere, ridgeline setting, sea views, a traditional main street, mature trees and heritage buildings. A character village will celebrate and enhance the historic characteristics that set Howick apart through the preservation and celebration of its unique European and Māori history.

The village is centred on Picton Street, which is the historical east-west axis and is now the main shopping street. It is bookended by two historic landmarks, Stockade Hill and All Saints Church. Within the village centre are a number of other buildings

and sites associated with the growth of Howick from its earliest roots, these are scattered amongst more contemporary buildings of a similar height and scale.

The past is the foundation for Howick's future and the Fencible history and village atmosphere of Howick are two qualities that are highly valued by the community. The aim is to preserve the village atmosphere and local character, and ensure this is the overarching principle for any actions.

In a character village there is an opportunity to provide a heritage trail for people to navigate through landmarks in Howick. This will encourage locals and visitors, young and old, to explore the area and learn about its past. The map on page x shows a number of historical buildings and sites, along with a possible heritage walking trail.

[insert heritage trail map]

Interpretative signage is an important part of telling Howick's story. Interpretative signage, complemented by digital technologies such as story-telling apps, will be installed at key locations in the village and along the heritage trail. These signs will explain the history and significance of existing buildings, and of places such as the old pa site, Māori middens and World War Two gun emplacements that are no longer evident in the existing physical environment. This will help to improve understanding of the historic character of the area and provide educational opportunities for both European and Maori history.

[insert image of interpretative sign]

The main street, its street frontages and retail signage all contribute to the amenity of the area. The development of guidelines for shopfront signage will encourage a cohesive and distinctive look that celebrates the character of Howick village. The

local board will work with the Howick Village Business Association to develop these guidelines.

Supporting actions

1. Showcase Howick's diverse history, including key Maori historical sites and history, and character through heritage trails, public realm developments and signage at key locations and viewpoints.
2. Implement Howick Local Board's Heritage Plan, in particular investigate further opportunities for interpretative signage in Howick village.
3. Support the Howick Village Business Association to develop shopfront signage guidelines to encourage a retail streetscape that contributes to the character of the village.

A Community Village

In 30 years locals and visitors alike will appreciate Howick's relaxed and vibrant village atmosphere, local facilities, art and culture. Howick will be an inclusive community, with activities and events attracting people of all ages. The village will have welcoming and active public spaces centred around a village square that functions as a social hub.

A community village will have a village square that provides a true heart of the village. The square is currently an underused space, only coming alive during the Saturday markets. Over time, it will be developed to accommodate a range of temporary and permanent activities including art, performances, the Saturday market and a range of seating opportunities. Its design will be in keeping with the village atmosphere and help to tell the story of Howick in line with the character village concept.

[insert image of village square]

The image shows an artist's impression of what a redeveloped village square could look like. The information centre has been repurposed as a more flexible community space that engages with the square. There are spaces for performances and art displays and a prominent community notice board.

Fencible Walk will offer a pleasant, garden setting for people to relax in. Projects to develop and beautify this space will ensure that it continues to function as a flexible, open space for the community to use. Fencible Walk is currently not well integrated

with its surrounding environment. In a community village it will provide a clear connection through to the library and Uxbridge Arts Centre.



The image above provides an artist's impression of how the space could be transformed by adding seating, plantings and activities such as a chess table. The space could be activated by a small café or a similar attraction that would make the walkway more visible, and an outdoor reading area at the back of the library would help make the walkway from Picton Street more usable.

The council owns several key sites within the village, 16 Fencible Drive and 34 Moore Street are two of these sites that are in strategic locations. 16 Fencible Drive is on a corner site in the town centre zone and 34 Moore Street is also on a corner site in the Mixed Use zone. Both sites offer opportunities to create building frontages onto Fencible Drive which would further develop the village centre. In a community village any future development of these sites will support and enhance the village atmosphere, offering improved connections, additional retail and residential, and well integrated public spaces where appropriate.

A community village will provide spaces for a wide range of activities and events that will strengthen social connections and cater to the interests of a diverse community. Locals of all ages will be empowered to create and run these activities and events which will be well advertised in Howick and beyond. The community village will embrace its role as an arts and culture hub, offering creatives spaces to display both public and community art and support community led projects to enhance the environment.

Supporting actions

1. Upgrade the village square to create an active, multiuse space for the community that celebrates Howick's history and identity and functions as a heart of the village.
2. Revitalise Fencible Walk to create a more usable and attractive green space and a better link to the library, Fencible Lounge and Uxbridge Arts Centre.
3. Ensure that future development of council owned sites within the village, in particular 16 Fencible Drive and 34 Moore Street, enhance the village atmosphere.
4. Improve awareness of local events and activities by providing a new community notice board.
5. Enhance the presence of arts and culture within the village, particularly in key public spaces, with the local arts community, Uxbridge Centre, Howick Village Business Association, and the Arts and Culture team.
6. Create a playground at Crawford Reserve with the Parks, Sports and Recreation team that is developed with input from local children.
7. Empower the community, particularly our young people, to organise events and showcase their creativity within the village.
8. Create spaces that are able to support local events (including pop-up events) and activities.
9. Encourage al-fresco dining along Picton Street while ensuring accessibility by working with Auckland Transport, the bylaws team and the Howick Village Business Association.
10. Identify opportunities for a dog friendly space close to the village with Council departments including Parks, Sports and Recreation team.

An Accessible Village

In 30 years, Howick will be a walkable and well-connected village where people can move around safely and easily. An accessible village will be better positioned to serve an increased population with diverse interests. Visitors and locals will be encouraged to explore the village guided by signage leading to key locations such as the beach and Stockade Hill.

In an accessible village, a range of traffic calming measures could be used to make Picton Street more walkable, ensuring the village atmosphere is maintained and enhanced. Options put forward by the community include street build outs that would allow for more space on the footpath and stormwater treatment, and lowering the speed limit. Such improvements would encourage more people to walk, and would help enhancing safety for pedestrians and all road users.



A walkability and accessibility audit was undertaken along the main streets of the village with representatives from the community. Priorities identified by this study include making surfaces smoother and more even, having less and slower traffic, pedestrians having a higher priority than motor vehicles and better visibility of vehicle movements. Participants in the study also talked about widening the footpath along Picton Street as a priority. This and other issues identified in the audit have helped shape actions in this plan and they have been fed back to Auckland Transport and the Howick Local Board.

An accessible village will use the network of laneways that provide access to and from Picton Street. Activating these laneways with temporary events, murals on the sides of buildings fronting the laneways, lighting and other measures will enhance the visibility and use of these spaces and allow people to move around the village easier.

In an accessible village, navigating around Howick will be a pleasure. The village centre will allow leisurely, safe and efficient movement which is supported by appropriate signage. This signage will guide people to points of interest to encourage pedestrian and cycle movements through the village. Howick Beach is less than one kilometre from the village but people don't tend to walk or cycle there. Connections to the beach down Uxbridge and Selwyn Road will be shown through signage and/or visual cues. Similarly, the connection to Stockade Hill will be safer and signposted from the village.

The connection from Uxbridge through to Fencible Walk, and the connection from the village square through to the carpark and Fencible Drive have been identified as key connections for the village. It is proposed to use pavement material as a visual guide to improve safety, visibility and usability of this connection. Below is a map showing key connections in Howick. These connections will provide safe, legible and attractive access through the village and help reduce reliance on cars. A Greenways Plan for Howick Local Board area will show how these connections link with walkways and cycle ways within the Howick Local Board area and to neighbouring local board areas.

[Insert aerial map showing connections]

Cycling is becoming a popular mode of transport and a recreational activity in many parts of Auckland. As cycling becomes more popular in Howick village, cycle stands will be provided at appropriate locations to encourage more cyclists to the village centre.

Supporting actions

1. Investigate opportunities to make Picton Street more walkable, including street build outs, lowering the speed limit and more opportunities for event based pedestrianisation (such as Midnight Madness) as appropriate.
2. Investigate methods to improve safe and efficient pedestrian access to Stockade Hill.
3. Improve linkages from the village to the beach and Stockade Hill by providing walking and cycling directional signage and/or visual paving cues.
4. Improve pedestrian safety on the footpath over Countdown driveway on Fencible Drive with Auckland Transport.
5. Provide wayfinding signage at locations within the village to guide people to key places such as Stockade Hill, community facilities and other places of significance.
6. Activate laneways, where appropriate, through lighting, signage and artwork by working with Howick Village Business Association and Auckland Transport.
7. Investigate the provision of cycle stands at appropriate locations in the village and at Howick beach.

A Green Village

In 30 years the green spaces and rich biodiversity provided by existing trees and healthy waterways will support and enhance the health and wellbeing of both the community and the wider natural environment. The sustainable design that has been adopted throughout Howick village will help to realise the green village concept.

The people of Howick place a high value on maintaining and enhancing their natural environment. A green village vision for Howick promotes the role of mana whenua and the community as kaitiaki for the environment through an empowered communities approach. This includes the restoration and enhancement of the area's natural ecosystems and streams, supported by ongoing council input. Care for existing trees and gardens, as well as the establishment of new community garden spaces and native flora, will enhance the natural beauty of Howick village and allow local biodiversity to grow and thrive. Street planting will provide amenity and will contribute to the relaxed village environment.

A green village will provide for the enhancement of the existing network of parks and open spaces that people already enjoy. Initiatives that bring together different sections of the community and support active and healthy lifestyles will be promoted. Opportunities for people to engage in sustainable choices such as active transport via walkways and cycleways, will continue to grow. By enhancing the connections between Howick village and the sea there will be increased opportunities for people to enjoy this space and engage with the environment.

A green village will also provide opportunities for Howick to support new and innovative sustainable approaches to business, technology, and to resource use and reuse. It will use green infrastructure and its natural assets to manage stormwater and flooding through the utilisation of water sensitive design techniques such as tree pits. This is particularly relevant for roads that currently have a high traffic flow such as on Picton Street and Fencible Drive. Ongoing beach monitoring and infrastructure upgrades will ensure that stormwater and wastewater systems meet growth in demand, and the ongoing health and vitality of waterways and beaches is ensured.

[insert image of tree pit]

Howick will continue to support its distinctive village character and sense of community that the village values by encouraging sustainable building techniques for

new developments, as well as for retrofitting existing buildings where appropriate. This will help to ensure that any future development and growth in the area occurs in a sustainable manner.

Supporting actions

1. Integrate water sensitive stormwater design treatments into future streetscape upgrades on main roads such as Picton Street.
2. Monitor and upgrade stormwater and wastewater infrastructure to ensure capacity meets demand, and support the ongoing monitoring of water quality at Howick Beach as part of the Safeswim programme.
3. Investigate ways to link existing open spaces to each other, and to other spaces people use through the development of the Howick Greenways plan.
4. Investigate and provide support to find an appropriate location to develop a community garden space in Howick. The Emilia Maud Nixon Garden of Memories is a possible location.
5. Provide local board support to community-led environmental and public management programmes for enhancing and restoring the environment such as 'adopt a local garden' and hanging baskets in Picton Street.
6. Provide support to community-led initiatives for stream enhancement on private property.
7. Investigate recycling options including bins on the main streets and commit to zero waste for all public events, not just Council events.

Map of Key Projects

[insert map]

Implementation Plan

The preparation of the Howick Village Centre Plan is the first step towards achieving the 30 year vision for the village. The actions identified under each of the four concepts will be delivered via a range of projects.

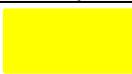
Most of the projects in the implementation plan are projects that can be delivered in the next ten years. The timeframes for these projects to be delivered are as follows:

- short term: the next three years
- medium term: the next four to 10 years

- long term projects 10+ years.

The Howick Local Board will be a partner in all projects and they will be delivered through a collaborative approach between the board and key stakeholders such as Auckland Transport, Panuku Development Auckland and the Howick Village Business Association. The people of Howick, supported by council's Community Empowerment department, will be essential to achieving some of the outcomes that have been identified and supported in the plan.

Some of the projects are funded but others will need further development and funding. The implementation strategy will be used to bid for funding in the Howick Local Board's Annual Plan, and council's Long-term Plan. The Howick Local Board plan is reviewed every three years, and future local board plans will also be informed by the actions and projects included in the Howick Village Centre plan. The Long-term plan is the main budgetary tool that determines all Council and Council Controlled Organisation funding across Auckland over a ten-year period.

Supporting concept	Project	Timeline	Funding Status	Delivery Partners
	Investigate possible routes and sites for a heritage trail.	Short term	Unfunded	Howick Tourism, HLB
	Install interpretative signage at key historical sites.	Short term	Partially funded	Howick Local Board (Howick Heritage Plan)
	Develop a shopfront and signage guidance document.	Short term	Unfunded	Howick Village Business Association, Howick Local Board
	Create a playground at Crawford Reserve.	Short Term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks) Community (schools)
	Encourage al-fresco dining, while ensuring accessibility.	Short Term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Bylaws)
	Produce a Greenways Plan for Howick and investigate ways open spaces can be linked to each other.	Short term	Funded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Community Facilities)
	Work with schools to encourage reuse and recycling.	Short term	n/a	Auckland Council (Infrastructure and Environmental Services, Community Empowerment)
	Zero waste at all events within Howick village as a requirement of receiving grant	Short term	n/a	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Infrastructure and Environmental Services, Community

	funding.			Empowerment)
	Investigate and provide support for a community garden space in Howick	Short term	Unfunded	Auckland Council (Community Facilities, Community Empowerment), Emilia Maud Nixon Garden of Memories
	Development of council owned sites within the village, in particular 16 Fencible Drive and 34 Moore Street.	Short term – investigation and development briefs Medium- long term – develop sites	n/a	Howick Local Board, Panuku Development Auckland
	Create spaces that are able to support local events (including pop-up events) and activities.	Short-medium term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks; Arts, Community and Events; Community Facilities) Uxbridge Centre, Howick Village Business Association
	Investigate methods to improve safe and efficient pedestrian access from the village centre to Stockade Hill.	Short term – investigate options and design Medium term - delivery	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks, Sports and Recreation), Auckland Transport
	Improve linkages from the village to the beach by providing walking and cycling directional signage and/or visual paving cues.	Short term – investigate options and design Medium term - delivery	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks, Sports and Recreation), Auckland Transport
	Improve pedestrian safety on footpath over Countdown driveway on Fencible Drive	Short term – investigate options and design Medium term - delivery	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Transport
	Provide support to community led environmental programmes for enhancing and restoring the environment	Short term – long term	n/a	Requires the community to initiate and apply for funding
	Provide support to community lead initiatives for stream enhancement on private property	Short term – long term	n/a	Requires the community to initiate and apply for funding
	Investigate options to redevelop and revitalise the village square to create an active, multiuse space that functions as a heart of the village.	Medium term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Community Facilities; Arts, Community and Events)
	Investigate options to redevelop and revitalise Fencible	Medium term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks)

	Walk to create a more usable and attractive green space that provides a clear link through to the library and Uxbridge Centre.			
	Identify opportunities for a dog friendly space close to the village	Medium term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Parks, By laws)
	Enhance the presence of arts and culture within the village, particularly in key public spaces.	Medium term/ongoing	Partially funded	Howick Local Board, Local arts community Auckland Council (Arts, Community and Events Department), , Uxbridge Centre
	Provide wayfinding signage to guide people to key places such as Stockade Hill, community facilities and other places of significance.	Medium Term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Arts, Community and Events), Auckland Transport
	Investigate the provision of cycle stands at appropriate locations in the village and at the beach.	Medium Term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Transport
	Investigate opportunities to make Picton Street more walkable, including traffic calming measures, street build outs and opportunities for event based pedestrianisation (such as Midnight Madness) as appropriate.	Medium Term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Arts, Community and Events), Auckland Transport
	Activate laneways, where appropriate, through lighting, signage and artwork.	Medium – long term	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Arts, Community and Events Department), Auckland Transport, HVBA
	Integrate water sensitive urban design into future streetscape upgrades on main roads in Picton Street.	Medium - long term	Unfunded	Auckland Transport, Auckland Council (Healthy Waters)
	Providing a new community noticeboard in the village square.	Ongoing	Partially funded	Auckland Council (Arts, Community and Events Department) Howick Tourism, Community, HVBA, Howick Local Board, Uxbridge Centre
	Empower the community, particularly our young people, to organise events and showcase their creativity within	Ongoing	Unfunded	Howick Local Board, Auckland Council (Community Empowerment Team) Howick Youth Council, Local Schools,

	the village.			Community
	Support ongoing monitoring of water quality at Howick Beach as part of the Safeswim programme	Ongoing	Funded	Auckland Council (Environmental Services)