

## Topic 1 - Community Hubs – Dargaville and Mangawhai

### Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Notes the feedback received from the community.
- b) Agrees that staff apply this community feedback and key themes to related Long Term Plan projects.

***These recommendations do not change/impact what was proposed in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Documents.***

### Introduction:

Kaipara District 'Roadmap to Recovery' Long Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Document said:

**Q1 Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the Dargaville Community Hub?**

**Q2 Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the Mangawhai Community Hub?**

### Dargaville Community Hub

**Question 1:** Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the **Dargaville** Community Hub?

#### Submissions are summarised below:

Respondents' expressed concerns that community hubs are not a priority and believe the council should focus on core services (i.e. road and water services) instead. They argued that funds should be used for remedial work on existing community assets rather than new 'vanity projects' like community hubs and libraries. For those who supported the idea of a community hub, using universal design principles and considering accessibility for all council facilities and emergency preparedness and planning are also advocated.

#### An overview of the key themes from the submissions received included:

**Important facilities:** Respondents highlighted the need for a variety of key facilities in the proposed community hub. Meeting rooms were the most frequently mentioned, followed by spaces for events, cafés, and spaces to access technology. Other important facilities included arts and crafts spaces, dedicated youth spaces, theatre spaces, information centres, and multipurpose facilities. Art galleries, spaces for studying and learning, sports and recreation facilities, swimming pools, and community kitchens were also seen as valuable additions. Less frequently mentioned but still considered important were cultural spaces, movie theatres, spaces for hire, town halls,

dedicated spaces for young children, libraries, parking facilities, quiet spaces, central emergency hubs, medical facilities, accessible spaces, public toilets/showers, and storage.

**Important functions:** Respondents emphasised the importance of including a Citizens Advice Bureau within the community hub. Other important functions mentioned were assistance with social services, council services, family services, and skills training.

**Other comments:** The most common sentiment among respondents was to limit spending or not spend money on the project. Some respondents expressed a preference for keeping the status quo and focusing on core services or general town maintenance instead. A few respondents were opposed to developing the hub altogether and believed that libraries should be user-pays. On the other hand, some respondents advocated for creating a welcoming space and involving youth in the design and function of the hub.

Theme	Subtheme	Frequency
IMPORTANT FACILITIES		345
	Meeting rooms	38
	Facility for events	18
	Cafés	17
	Spaces to access technology	17
	Arts and crafts space	16
	Dedicated youth space	15
	Theatre space	13
	Information centre	12
	Multipurpose facility	12
	Art gallery	11
	Spaces for studying and learning	11
	Sports and recreation facilities	10
	Swimming pool	10
	Community kitchen	9
	Cultural space	8
	Movie theatre	8
	Spaces for hire	8
	Town hall	8
	Dedicated space for young children	7
	Library	7
	Parking facilities	7
	Quiet spaces	7
	Central emergency hub	6
	Medical facilities	6
	Accessible spaces	5

Public toilets/showers	5
Storage	5
Community hub	4
Gardens	4
Makerspace	4
Parks	4
Playground	4
Walking and biking trails	4
Workshop facilities	4
Basketball facilities	3
Charging facilities	3
Community board	3
Environmental centre	3
Museum	3
Office space	3
Sports facilities	3
<b>OTHER COMMENTS</b>	<b>49</b>
Do not spend money/limit spending	18
Welcoming space	8
Prefer to keep the status quo	6
Focus on core services	4
Invest in general town maintenance	4
Do not develop Hub	3
Involve the youth in design and function	3
Libraries should be user pays	3
<b>IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS</b>	<b>28</b>
Citizens Advice Bureau	15
Assistance with social services	4
Council services	3
Family services	3
Skills training	3

*Table 1: Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the Dargaville community hub?*

## Options and Assessments

LTP feedback tells us there is strong community support for multipurpose facilities, particularly those that can support and service the arts and culture community and local youth.

This feedback aligns with the Dargaville Township Improvement Plan, the Kaipara District Council Library Strategy and aligns with Kaipara District Council’s goal of Kaipara the place to be! helping to attract new residents to our district and empowering our communities to contribute and thrive.

Feedback overall indicated a desire for further investment and focus in Dargaville Township with improved maintenance and increased options for pedestrians and visitor to sit or enjoy the town centre.

Our focus now is on recovery from the last ten weather events, and we recognise in this tough economic climate, our residents would like us to keep rates as low as possible.

Staff recommend funding for the physical build of the Dargaville Community Hub could be sought through the formation of a Trust or by seeking external funding streams, as consulted on and agreed as part of the 2018/28 Long Term Plan.

**Impact of recommendation on the LTP (financial and non-financial)**

The recommendation has no impact on the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027.

Kaipara District Council owns the proposed Community Hub site on Hokianga Road.

The question asked in the LTP consultation was to understand the needs, wants and aspirations of the community to develop a concept plan for the Dargaville Community Hub.

Feedback from the community will feed into conceptual and spatial designs for the Dargaville Community Hub project which is externally funded by the Department of Internal Affairs – Better Off Funding Package and has no impact on ratepayers.

**Fit with Long Term Plan**

The recommendation is consistent with what the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027 consulted on.

**Policy Implications**

The recommendation has no policy implications

**Conclusion drawn:**

There was strong engagement in this consultation question with 345 respondents.

Approximately one quarter of respondents expressed concerns that community hubs were not a priority and believe the council should focus on core services (i.e. road and water services) instead. The consultation process showed most support for a multipurpose, flexible space which could be utilised by a wide spread of the community.

Most submissions were supportive of the Dargaville Community Hub, citing a current lack of social and community venues. Facilities providing for youth and retention of a bookable community kitchen were also highlighted to be of importance, alongside services such as Citizens Advice Bureau, counselling, after-school programmes, and social services.

Our focus now is on recovery from the last ten weather events, and we recognise in this tough economic climate, our residents would like us to keep rates as low as possible.

Staff recommend funding for the physical build of the Dargaville Community Hub could be sought through the formation of a Trust or by seeking external funding streams.

### **Next steps**

Staff will apply all community feedback into conceptual and spatial designs for the Dargaville Community Hub project which is externally funded by the Department of Internal Affairs – Better Off Funding Package.

Further external engagement, site feasibility, independent QS estimating, and conceptual designs are to be completed and presented to Council alongside potential funding streams for review, feedback and direction.

## Mangawhai Community Hub

**Question 2:** Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the **Mangawhai** Community Hub?

### Submissions are summarised below:

Respondents' expressed concerns that community hubs are not a priority and believe the council should focus on core services (i.e. road and water services) instead. They argued that funds should be used for remedial work on existing community assets rather than new 'vanity projects' like community hubs and libraries. For those who supported the idea of a community hub, using universal design principles and considering accessibility for all council facilities and emergency preparedness and planning are also advocated.

### An overview of the key themes from the submissions received included:

**Important facilities:** Respondents expressed the importance of various facilities in the community hub in Mangawhai. Key aspects highlighted include the need for versatile spaces, such as meeting rooms and multi-purpose flexible spaces, arts and craft studios, health and wellness centres, technology hubs, outdoor spaces, and a café. Other important facilities mentioned include a community gym, swimming pool, library services, sport and recreational facilities, meeting venues, and a youth centre.

**Important functions:** Respondents have highlighted the importance of various functions for the community. These include customer services that are accessible on weekends and the need for after-school programmes. There is also a suggestion to incorporate a Citizens Advice Bureau within the Community Hub, along with the need for medical services and after-school programmes.

**Other comments:** Some respondents expressed concerns about spending and suggested limiting expenditure or not providing any additional facilities or functions. Others emphasised the need for a welcoming space, focusing on core services, and better utilising the current library. A few respondents mentioned that Mangawhai has had sufficient investment already and that community feedback should be sought. Additionally, there were suggestions to incorporate Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view) into the community hub.

Theme	Subtheme	Frequency
IMPORTANT FACILITIES		253
	Meeting rooms	36
	Sports and recreation facilities	21
	Facility for events	16
	Spaces to access technology	16
	Dedicated youth space	14
	Multipurpose space	12
	Art gallery	11

	Swimming pool	8
	Workshop facilities	8
	Dedicated space for young children	7
	Information centre	7
	Library	7
	Spaces for studying and learning	7
	Theatre space	7
	Cafés	6
	Central emergency hub	6
	Community kitchen	6
	Council offices	6
	Cultural space	6
	Quiet spaces	6
	Spaces for hire	6
	Arts and crafts space	5
	Gardens	5
	Environmental centre	4
	Museum	4
	Playground	4
	Adequate parking facilities	3
	Office space	3
	Public toilets/showers	3
	Surf club	3
<b>OTHER COMMENTS</b>		<b>56</b>
	Do not spend money/limit spending	18
	No facilities/functions	10
	Welcoming space	7
	Focus on core services	6
	Mangawhai has had sufficient investment already	5
	Community feedback required	4
	Better utilise current library	3
	Te Ao Māori	3
<b>IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS</b>		<b>18</b>
	Citizens Advice Bureau	6
	Council services	6
	After school programs	3
	Te Whai Community Trust Heartlands service	3

*Table 2: Aside from library services, what facilities or functions do you think are important to provide in the Mangawhai community hub?*

**Options and Assessments**

LTP feedback tells us there is strong community support of versatile spaces such as meeting rooms, multi-purpose flexible spaces, arts and craft studios, health and wellness centres, technology hubs, outdoor spaces, and a café.

Residents tell us that Mangawhai’s population has outgrown its current recreational and community facilities. With growth forecast in the Mangawhai area to be 8,247 by 2027, and urban expansion planned, residents want to see investment in venues for community groups to meet, places to co-work and better facilities for youth and young children.

Our focus now is on recovery from the last ten weather events, and we recognise in this tough economic climate, our residents would like us to keep rates as low as possible.

Staff have forecasted a budget of \$4m from Development Contributions already collected for the build of the Mangawhai Community Hub in **Year 4** of the LTP (2028).

**Impact of recommendation on the LTP (financial and non-financial)**

The recommendation has no impact on the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027.

\$4m from Development Contributions is forecasted for the build of the Mangawhai Community Hub in **Year 4** of the LTP (2028).

Kaipara District Council owns both the proposed Community Hub sites in Mangawhai – Mangawhai Community Park and Urlich Park. No decision has been made regarding the location of the Hub.

The question asked in the LTP consultation was to understand the needs, wants and aspirations of the community to develop a concept plan for the Mangawhai Community Hub.

Feedback from the community will feed into conceptual and spatial designs for the Mangawhai Community Hub project which is externally funded by the Department of Internal Affairs – Better Off Funding Package and has no impact on ratepayers.

**Fit with Long Term Plan**

The recommendation is consistent with what the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027 consulted on.

**Policy Implications**

The recommendation has no policy implications

**Conclusion drawn:**

Approximately one quarter of submissions felt that Council should not proceed in the building of the Mangawhai Community Hub. Some respondents feel that Council’s current status quo should be maintained due to the economic climate, while others believe that the focus should be on prioritising basic infrastructure and maintenance rather than investing in new facilities like the community hub.



There was strong engagement in this consultation question with 253 respondents, and residents have highlighted the importance of various functions for the community. These include a place for art and culture, youth facilities, customer services that are accessible on weekends and the need for after-school programmes. There is also a suggestion to incorporate a Citizens Advice Bureau within the Community Hub.

The consultation process showed most support for a multipurpose, flexible space which could be utilised by a wide spread of the community.

Our focus now is on recovery from the last ten weather events, and we recognise in this tough economic climate, our residents would like us to keep rates as low as possible.

Staff have forecasted a budget of \$4m from Development Contributions already collected for the consenting, ground works and build of the Mangawhai Community Hub in **Year 4** of the LTP (2028).

### **Next steps**

Staff will apply all community feedback into conceptual and spatial designs for the Mangawhai Community Hub project which is externally funded by the Department of Internal Affairs – Better Off Funding Package and will have no impact on rates.

Further external engagement, site feasibility, independent QS estimating, and conceptual designs are to be completed and presented to Council for review, feedback and direction.

Staff have forecasted a budget of \$4m from Development Contributions already collected for the consenting, ground works and build of the Mangawhai Community Hub in **Year 4** of the LTP (2028).