



**ARAPUNI**  
our **VILLAGE**  
our **WHĀNAU**  
our **HOME**

The South Waikato connection  
**CONCEPT PLAN**



## Message from Community

Arapuni Village is a vibrant and connected community with a deep history and exciting future. The Arapuni Village Community Association (AVCA) was formed specifically to promote a closer more connected community, increased services to our young and our elderly, and to ensure that the villages needs were actively communicated to Council and other stakeholders.

Ultimately, it's Arapuni village residents that determine Arapuni village's future. This concept plan is critical in informing the framework that the future of Arapuni village is built on.

Everyone who lives here, or visits, quickly understands what a unique and special place Arapuni village is. From our historic Hydro Dam, our rivers and lakes, through to the amazing bird life that results from Maungatautari Ecoological Reserve, it's crucial that we guide our village's future.

Arapuni village is a place that our people are proud to call their home. A sustainable, diverse, and inclusive community which embraces technology to achieve a balance between the fast pace of modern life and the relaxed lifestyle of a small rural village. A community that values connection, friendship, and support and recognises the impact that our activities have on the natural environment.



## Message from the Mayor

Council is pleased to present the Arapuni village community with a *draft* Arapuni village Concept Plan for further feedback. This Plan – the vision, direction and actions - has been developed in collaboration with the Arapuni village community through a series of meetings and workshops over the past months.

Council would like to acknowledge everyone who has provided ideas and feedback, with special thanks to the Arapuni village Community Association (AVCA).

The Arapuni village Concept Plan, once finalised through this second feedback process, will feed into the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP) which Council is also currently working on.

Concept Plans capture the shared vision of local communities to enable integrated planning for the District as a whole. Local planning ensures that local communities are heard and their aspirations for their towns and wards realised through the LTP process which is where the all-important funding is allocated.

The draft actions in this plan are a collaboration between Council and the community, with some activities proposed to be Council led and funded and others led by the community and funded by grants or other sources of income.

Arapuni village may be one of the smaller centres in the South Waikato, but the community here is no less integral to South Waikato than our other areas. Arapuni is home to rural lifestyles, the mighty Waikato River, a suspension bridge that provides breath-taking views of the Waikato, and vacation getaway opportunities. The people here enjoy their country living and quiet lifestyle nestled against the beautiful backdrop of Maungatautari.



## What is concept planning | He aha tenei mea te mahere aria

Concept planning is about local people working together with public, private and voluntary organisations to plan and deliver better services that make a real difference to their lives. It is a process that focuses on developing and achieving long term objectives for improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of a community.



### Economic – to deliver a Sustainable and Diverse Economy

Arapuni village is the South Waikato's western entrance linking Waitomo and Rotorua. With its popular Rhubarb café and Swing Bridge, Arapuni village is a natural place to rest and provides an invaluable opportunity to showcase the South Waikato's tourism offerings. The natural environment and proximity to Maungatautari, and position on the northern section of the Waikato river Trail make Arapuni village an attractive destination for both domestic and international visitors. We have an opportunity to further highlight Arapuni village's cultural and historic heritage features to encourage visitors to stay and play. This could be in partnership with local historical groups, tangata whenua, and existing partnerships such as Waikato River Trails and Mercury.

Arapuni village residents enjoy the peaceful lifestyle that the village provides but recognise that tourism creates opportunities that benefit both the village and greater Waikato. The core objective is to ensure that economic development protects the village feel and is undertaken in a way that is sustainable and complementary to the environment and cultural values.



## **Environmental – promote a sustainable and nurtured environment**

Arapuni village is home to many precious environments which people have fostered and cherished for generations. There is also the growing concern around sustainable residential development, related infrastructure, and that infrastructures direct impact on the local environment. The delivery of this concept plan must produce sustainable actions that protect the environment and leave a legacy for future generations.

At a high level, the Reserves Management Plan 2010 (which is under review) will give the community a vision to aim towards. This would review current spaces, understand the recreational needs of the community and determine future open space requirements.

Arapuni village wants to be recognised as a sustainable community model that supports activities that constitute healthy community life such as air quality, unpolluted fresh water, uncontaminated land, and control of pollution. We want to embrace technologies that contribute to achieving a healthier environment through opportunities in solar power, electric vehicle charging stations, shrouded street lights to create low night time light emissions etc and take efforts to support the over flow of native bird life from Maungatautari through pest and predator eradication initiatives.

## **Social – support connected and safe community**

While the community is supportive, friendly and welcoming, there is a desire to remain connected both physically and socially as well as feeling safe while doing so.

Accessibility is important to many – both young and old. To ensure the community is inclusive, accessibility throughout the community needs to be improved – safer footpaths, walkways, disability access to the village Hall, and greatly improved main road safety.

## **Cultural – enable our strong cultural identity**

Enhancing the cultural identity of Arapuni village runs as a thread through all actions listed.

Any new, large capital infrastructure projects and strategic plans should include cultural design and detailing that has respect and reinforces cultural values of the community.

Arapuni village's population is diverse and inclusive, and we want our whakapapa to be recorded and published via online repositories and information signage throughout the village. There needs to be processes for documenting of local stories from both tangatawhenua and historical groups and this could then be used in various locations, information and interpretation arts and in a digital context. This will give richness to the visitor experience plus personally set history to anyone living as a local, in Arapuni village.

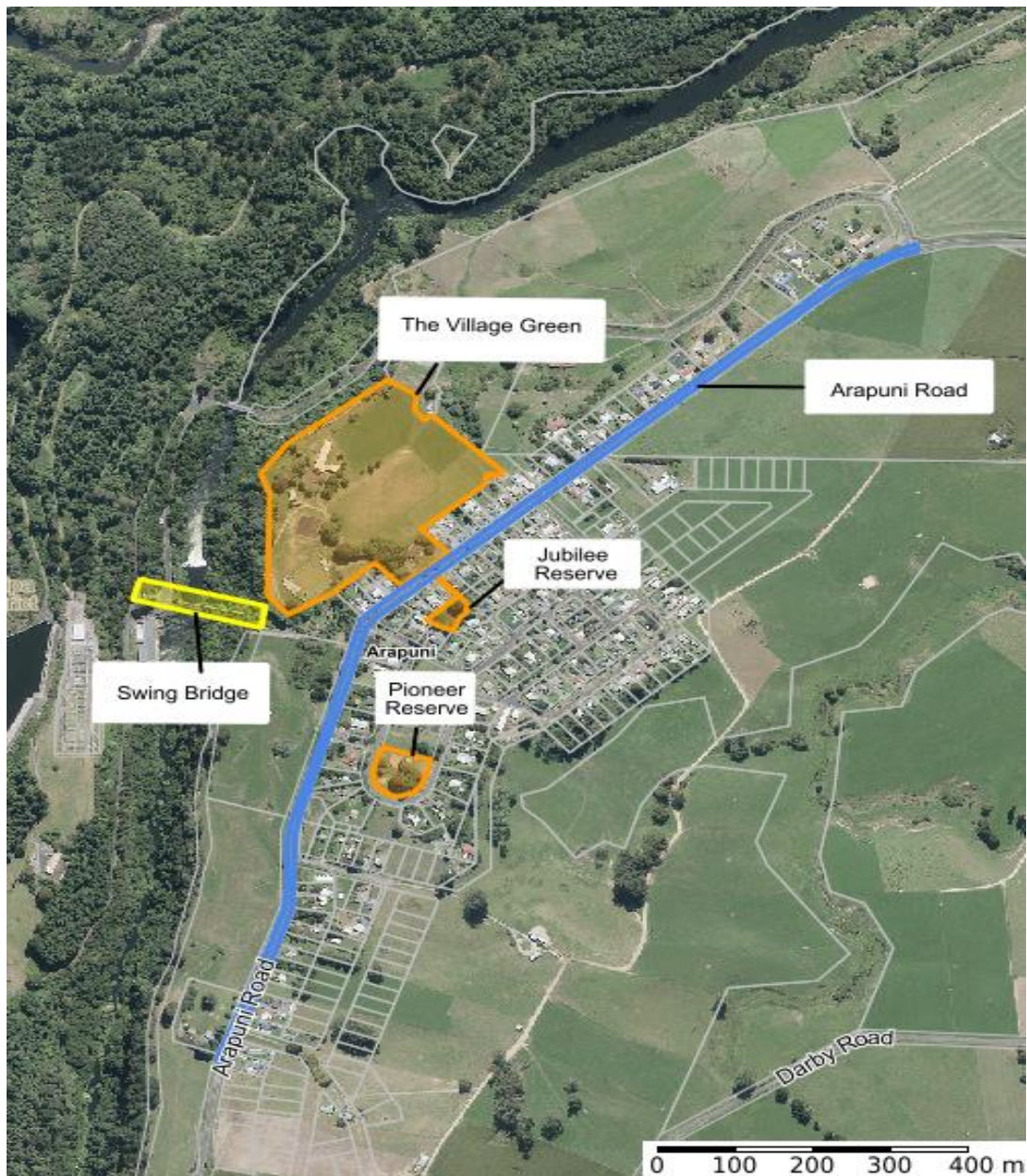
## How is concept planning used | Kei hea te mahere aria e noho ana

- Helps a community to signal to regional and national bodies what is important to the local people so that these aspirations and actions can be integrated into their respective planning.
- Helps inform and guide priority projects that the community want to lead and progress.
- Signals opportunities for collaboration and partnerships between iwi, community organisations and businesses.
- Can be used for submissions into Annual Plans, Long Term Plans, Reserve Management Plans and District Plans.
- Helps inform new residents of the key projects the community is working on.
- Helps give guidance and clarity to funding and grant applications.





## What area does the plan cover | Te rohe takiwa o Arapuni



### Map identifies current District projects.

## What has already been done | Te anga whakamuri

The previous Concept Plan was completed in 2007 and some of the actions have been completed while a few have been revised.

The 2007 Concept Plan identified three focus areas:

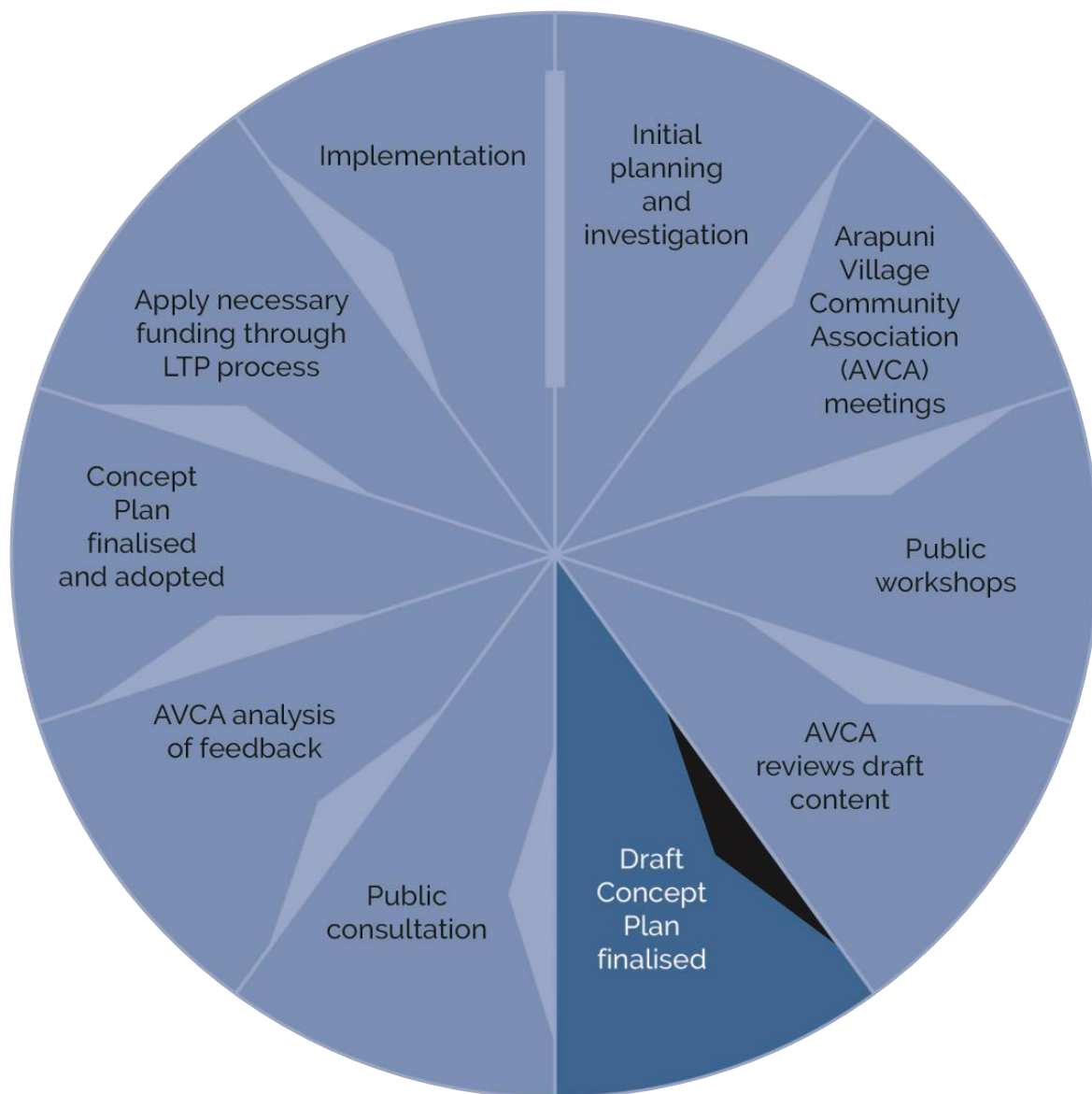
- Tourism slow town
- Excellent services, facilities, infrastructure
- Family and youth friendly

Now, twelve years later, it is time to revisit the plan and to chart – Our Village, Our Whānau, Our Home 2021-2031.

## How was the plan developed | I pehea te waihanga o te mahere

The drafting of the Concept Plan has been an Arapuni Village Community Association led and South Waikato District Council support which started in October 2019 and included a series of conversations, meetings and public workshops in February 2020. Key points include:

- The consultation has been led by village residents so that people felt comfortable to participate and contribute.
- Drafting of this plan has included a review of existing reports and research available.
- No government organisations have been involved in the plan's development. This means that the outcomes represent a true and authentic community voice.





## Arapuni village profile | Te Kotaha Arapuni

**Arapuni village** is a small rural village of around 260 residents, located 10 kilometres west of Putaruru on the road to Waitomo. It is home to a hydro-electric power station and dam which were among the first to be built on the Waikato River. It is also the home of many artists and crafts people.

Waikato|Tainui is the main iwi in the area. The local Pohara Marae is a meeting ground with Ngāti Koroki-Kahukura and Ngāti Mahuta hapu. It features the Rangiatea meeting house.

The New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage gives a translation of *blocked path* for *Arapuni*. The name Arapuni derives from *Ara*, meaning path and *puni*, meaning blocked or covered, and translates as blocked or covered path.

The village sits next to the Arapuni Dam, a hydroelectric dam at Lake Arapuni commissioned in 1929. The Arapuni Power Station consists of eight turbines which give a total output of 196 MW, the largest of the power stations on the Waikato river. A *drowned forest* was revealed after water was diverted in 1929. The Arapuni hydro station is now owned and operated by Mercury.

Local attractions include the Arapuni Swing Bridge, Rhubarb Cafe, Lakes Arapuni and Karapiro, the Waikato River Trails which provide spectacular views of Lake Arapuni including its unique pink cliffs. Maungatautari Ecological Island showcases the restoration of pristine native flora.

The Arapuni Suspension Bridge Walkway is a key access point for the Waikato River Trails to ride, Trail run, or walk the length of the South Waikato District and beyond to the other hydro lakes along the Waikato River.

Edged by Lakes Arapuni and Karapiro, the Western side of the South Waikato is renowned for recreational activities like water-skiing, Jet Skiing and boating, Fly fishing from Jone's or Bulmers Landings. Lake District Adventures provides night-time kayak tours from Karapiro Lake up the Pokaiwhenua stream to showcase the brilliant display of glow-worms on the canyon walls.



## Our economic profile | Tatou kotaha ohaoha

**Arapuni village** has experienced significant increases in both the value of residential property and the amount of property changing hands since 2015. Understanding the specific growth aspirations of the community is critical to ensuring appropriate and timely investments take place in infrastructure, to support growth, both commercial and residential. Opportunities exist to leverage the proximity to the Waikato River Trail and the Arapuni Suspension Bridge for visitor experiences/attractions/ accommodation and food and beverage, both existing and new.

For **Arapuni village** specifically, the main industry is farming. Dairying, with sheep and beef is the main farming activity in the surrounding area.

The **South Waikato District** has experienced strong and sustained economic growth, with GDP growth of 10% from 2015-2019. During the same period employment has increase by 6%; productivity has increased by 4.2%, compared to 3.1% for New Zealand. Unemployment fell by 23% during this period overall, with a 20% reduction in 15-24-year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)<sup>[1]</sup>. Population has reached 25,100 across the district by December 2019.

More recently the local economy has taken a significant hit as a result of COVID-19, in line with the rest of New Zealand. The numbers of people in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance has increased by 24% in November 2020<sup>[3]</sup> compared to December 2019. The impact on the district has been lower than many other parts of New Zealand and the Waikato.

The population of the district is expected to grow to 38,310 by 2053<sup>[2]</sup> which will require substantial investment in growth related infrastructure (water/roading etc). There is a growing requirement for new housing within the district, from social, through progressive and onto market-based supply. Council is working with each community to better understand and facilitate its growth aspirations and how best to manage this growth alongside economic, environmental and social aspirations.

South Waikato District Council and the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust are working closely with Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology to widen the scope, of tertiary courses and trade training delivered within the district. \$10.8m government funding for the development of a new \$14m tertiary training hub has been approved. This will have a major impact on training and the creation of job opportunities for our community in the future.

The establishment of the Generation Programme with the Central North Island Wood Council in late 2020, as well as the development of a digital and entrepreneurial hub to reduce the digital divide, should offer pathways to employment and business start-ups utilising digital skills.

[1] Infometrics District Profile, December 2019

[2] Natalie Jackson Demographics Ltd, May 2019



## What our community have said | Nga korero a ta matou hapori

Residents identified strengths and assets that make the Arapuni village community unique and a great place to live. In order of response, the top six strengths/assets were identified as:

1. Lakes and river trails
2. Central to major centres such as Hamilton / Tauranga etc
3. Friendly / close community
4. Tranquil, scenery, ambience
5. Small population / village feel
6. Community events

Residents also feedback on areas for improvement. In order of response, our community have asked for improvements in the following areas:

1. Reduced speed of through traffic on Arapuni Road
2. Maintenance of public spaces / services / footpaths / walkways
3. Untrimmed trees and hedges blocking footpaths and verges
4. Slow Internet and near unusable cellular coverage
5. Derelict old school and school grounds
6. Separate dog exercise area from children's playground
7. Disability access and facilities provided at village hall

In terms of the future of Arapuni village, the community were asked how they would like to see Arapuni in ten years' time. Main themes included:

- Digital signs indicating speed of through traffic
- Reasonable designated fenced dog exercise area
- Skate park / pump track
- Improved playground
- Community fruit trees / orchard / gardens
- Old school buildings are removed, and the grounds converted to public park.
- Weekend markets / music / art / festivals
- Village has fibre equivalent high-speed internet and reliable cellular coverage
- Footpaths extended on either end of the village to 80/100kph signs, and on both sides of road

## The Partnership Approach – Te huarahi whakahoahoa

This plan cannot be achieved by one organisation or individual working in isolation. Instead a partnership approach will ensure that there is collaboration with relevant agencies and funding partners to get the best possible outcomes. By developing a partnership approach, it puts the community at the heart of the plan.

It is acknowledged that there are already existing partnerships with Maungatautari Ecological Trust, Mercury, Waikato River Trails, and South Waikato District Council. However there needs to be other partnerships so to deliver positive change and fulfilling community objectives. Implementation of this plan must align with partners to add value and to be effective.

### South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT)

In 2014, the Council established the South Waikato Investment Fund (SWIF) Trust for the purpose of increasing employment and economic growth in the South Waikato District.

The Trust manages a fund which is available for economic development projects in the South Waikato. The Trust recognises the importance of Tourism in the South Waikato's economic development and the important role that Arapuni village can play in that tourism offering.

### The Waikato River Trails

The Waikato River Trails are proud to be a member of the New Zealand Cycle Trails network.

The Waikato River Trails opened officially in November 2011 and are managed by the Waikato River Trails Charitable Trust. The Trust was formed in 2006 to develop a network of trails along the Waikato with the aim of bringing visitors to the beautiful South Waikato.

The trails are in the heart of the South Waikato and extend from Atiamuri village in the south to the southern end of Lake Karapiro in the north. The trail is broken into 5 sections, each section named after the lake that the trail is connected to.

### Maungatautari Ecological Trust

The vision for the Trust is *Kaitiakitanga – Protecting our past for the future*. The mission and purpose of the Trust is to *remove forever, or control, introduced mammalian pests and predators from Maungatautari and restore to the forest a healthy diversity of indigenous plants and animals*.

### Ministry of Youth Development

The Ministry of Youth Development - Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi - encourages and supports young people, aged between 12 and 24 years old, to develop and use knowledge, skills and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.

### Mercury

The Waikato River and its catchment is Mercury's generation heartland. We share our history here with iwi and stakeholders, including some communities that were originally villages built as part of the construction of the hydro infrastructure. Arapuni is one of the nine hydro power stations that make up Mercury's Waikato Hydro System that generates around 10% of New Zealand's electricity.



We believe that partnerships built on mutual understanding and support create both social and economic benefits. We work collaboratively with iwi and partners such as the Arapuni village community and Waikato River Trails who, like us, are looking for long-term sustainable outcomes across the Waikato River catchment.



## Our Priorities – A matou kaupapa matua

To realise our vision, we have identified six (6) principles for our community and partners to focus attention on:

1. Road safety on Arapuni Road
2. Our children and young people
3. The utilisation of recreation spaces
4. Digital connectivity
5. Arapuni village's role in South Waikato visitor attraction
6. Being relevant in regional economic development plans and initiatives

### 1. ROAD SAFETY MAIN ROAD

The residents major concern was the issue of through traffic significantly exceeding the speed limit through the village with the danger and likelihood that a child or tourist will be killed crossing the road. Whilst some improvement has been seen following the speed calming initiatives implemented four years ago, recent SWDC monitoring showed excessive speed was still a major problem that needs to be addressed immediately, especially given the increased tourist activities in the weekends.

#### **The outcomes we are seeking:**

- To urgently develop a Road Safety Plan for the future which will share the desired action safety outcomes for the main road i.e.: reduced speed limits, speed warning signs, permanent speed camera's, chicanes.
- To work alongside Fonterra, logging firms, delivery trucks of large firms to try and initiate a Drive Safety Programme in rural communities.

### 2. OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe our children and young people deserve to live in a community that is safe and caring to ensure they feel a true sense of belonging. Playgrounds and park spaces play an important part in creating friendships and connection.

Feedback from our community request improve facilities that allow for a wider range of activity for our children and especially our young people. Arapuni village is largely disconnected from organizations that specialize in children and young people's development and we would like to see this improved for our community. Our children and young people should be involved in creating initiatives that inform their future and give them leadership skills.

#### **The outcomes we are seeking:**

- Our children and young people understand they live in a friendly and safe place which is rich in history and natural resource.
- Our children and young people believe their contribution is authentic and have a valued connection to Arapuni village and the world.
- Our children and young people are involved in influencing, shaping, designing and contributing to the future of Arapuni village.
- Our children have safe play areas with appropriate facilities such as seating, toilets, and water fountains.



### 3. THE UTILISATION OF RECREATION SPACES

In the earlier years, Arapuni village's community had enjoyed a common meeting and play area (including courts and a swimming pool) at the former Arapuni School in the centre of the village however this longer exists. Over the many years, spaces have changed, and residents have tried to provide for everyone through other means i.e. community events.

Arapuni village has three official recreational spaces:

- The grassed and wooded space at the western end of Pioneer Crescent. Located amongst residential and adjacent to the old Arapuni School this space has been utilised as a neighbourhood park since the village's inception.
- The village Green area below the Arapuni village Hall provides a playing field and tennis courts and is used for market days and events.
- The bowling club is an historic and thriving community hub, providing a formal playing green for lawn bowls in supportive of an active club
- It's noted that the old school grounds currently provide a fourth unofficial community space for kids to play or dogs to be socialised.

Given that Arapuni village experiences growth during the weekends and holiday period, it is also important to retain adequate open green space for recreational use and not succumb to sacrificing recreational green space for development.

#### **The outcomes we are seeking:**

- High level of service for the upkeep of our recreational spaces to ensure that it does not put unreasonable financial burden on ratepayers.
- The conversion of the old school grounds to a public park.
- Further investigation of a pump track or skateboard bowl installed either in the village green or converted school grounds.
- The increased utilisation of the village Hall to support recreational activities and socialising opportunities.
- Disability access and facilities added to the Hall to increase ease of access and encourage inclusive usage.
- In perpetuity lease agreements established for Mercury owned land to ensure they remain public spaces once the current lease ends (expires in 2031)

### 4. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Fast internet access is becoming increasingly important for everyday life. With the changing demographics of Arapuni village there is significant frustration with the speed of internet and near unusable cell phone reception.

With the ongoing impact of the COVID19 pandemic, Arapuni village presents a fantastic opportunity for work-from-home executives and small businesses, but this is made particularly difficult with the poor communication infrastructure.

Visitors and tourists looking for accommodation to stay in the South Waikato also expect modern levels of connection speed and reliability in communication devices and the current situation is viewed negatively.

### **The outcomes we are seeking:**

- With support from IS at Council to understand the network giants involved for the ability to approach network giants to propose connection tower to be placed in the vicinity of Arapuni village.
- Greater access to digital services creates economic development and employment opportunities – work / life balance.
- Fibre equivalent high-speed broad band service throughout the village.

## **5. PROMOTION OF ARAPUNI**

Arapuni village is the western gateway to the South Waikato and a key access point to Waikato River Trails. It is situated on one of the busiest main thoroughfares to the Waitomo Caves and other tourist centres. It is also centrally located and within proximity to the major urban areas of Tauranga, Rotorua, Cambridge, Hamilton, Putāruru, Tokoroa and Taupō.

The icon is the Arapuni Suspension Bridge, an engineering marvel of its day, and the only bridge of its kind in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Sharing the rich and natural landscape of Arapuni village, a place to live, work and play must be taken advantage of.

### **The outcomes we are seeking:**

- Providing visitors with pristine environment with abundant native flora and fauna through the ongoing focus on sustainability and reduced environmental impact.
- Providing visitors with safe access, open spaces, seating and public conveniences.
- Community market days that share local food, arts and crafts.
- Arapuni village coordinates its tourism offerings with other, complimentary activities in the District and that these are promoted as tourism packages by the regional tourism organisation.
- Visitors have clear guidance signage and direction maps to points of interest including relevant information boards communicating history etc.

## **6. BEING RELEVANT IN DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND INITIATIVES**

Formally established 6 July 2018, Te Waka is a business-led and governed organisation established to drive economic growth in the Waikato.

Te Waka is an economic development agency that is working to deliver on some high-level objectives for our region:

- Lift economic performance across the Waikato region
- Attract, retain and grow investment, talent and business across the region
- Champion and provide one voice for economic and business needs and opportunities across the region



They work in partnership with existing economic development, iwi, business, and government and community organisations to get things done and to create opportunities that will lead to jobs, prosperity and sustainable economic growth for everybody, thereby improving well-being for all communities.

The Council participates in this project with a view to achieving tangible actions for the South Waikato District.

Advocating the competitive advantage of Arapuni village, identifying how Arapuni village can leverage this collaborative initiative and proactively seize opportunities that arise should be a focus.

**The outcomes we're seeking:**

- The assets and interests of Arapuni village are well represented
- That Arapuni village has a voice as a district at the regional table that is well informed of the vision for Arapuni village
- Arapuni village is perceived by others as a great place to visit and live.



## Action plan

These actions have been specifically identified to progress the vision and outcomes desired for Arapuni village. These are intended to guide action but will likely evolve as Arapuni village continues to evolve.

The lead organisation is the first organisation listed in the table:

AVCA: Arapuni Village Community Association

Council: South Waikato District Council

M: Mercury

Iwi: Raukawa

MYD: Ministry of Youth Development  
Trust

SWIFT: South Waikato Investment Fund

AVHC: Arapuni Village Hall Committee

| No. | Action  | Lead organisation(s)  | Indicative timeframe |
|-----|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | <p>Urgently develop a plan to address the identified and recorded excess speed through the village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address road safety issues (reduction of speed limit to 40kph, chicanes, digital speed signs etc), and advocate to NZTA on these matters.</li> <li>Address continued excess speed by trucks and tankers – propose Drive Safely Programme in rural communities</li> <li>A revised Streetscape Plan to invest in increase signage, speed cameras and planting foliage on at entry points into Arapuni to narrow roadway and create additional visual speed calming</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of a heavy traffic bypass</li> </ul> | Council / NZTA / AVCA | 2020-2025            |



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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a heavy traffic bypass is not an option, provide double sided footpaths through the 50km and 80km speed zones.</li> <li>• Plant more trees and foliage to create greater visual impact. Regularly maintain the existing threshold strips, make pedestrian crossings more visible.</li> <li>• Add personalised images to the entrance signage. Include warnings of cyclists, children, tourists etc</li> <li>• Increased Police presence to assist with speed reduction</li> </ul> |                                   |              |
| 2. | <p>Digital Connectivity – internet network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliable cell phone coverage throughout village</li> <li>• Fibre equivalent High-speed internet connection throughout village</li> </ul>  | Network Companies /Council / AVCA | 2020 ongoing |
| 3. | <p>Plan for town entrances and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate feasibility of moving North Eastern 50kph threshold out to current 80pkh and extend 80kph out past the bridge</li> <li>• Planting of tree/shrub/vegetation foliage</li> <li>• Entrance Signage updated from Arapuni to Arapuni village</li> <li>• Signage to aid in through traffic speed reduction</li> </ul>   | Council / AVCA                    | 2020-23      |

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| 4. | <p>To investigate the future use of Pioneer Crescent Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of restoring the Arapuni School Buildings for community use. For example, a local, museum, yoga space, art studio or craft shop.</li> <li>Convert grounds to public park</li> <li>If not feasible to renovate, action the removal of the old school buildings and the creation of an information stand detailing the park as the former school site.</li> <li>Planting of fruit orchard and native trees or possible community garden</li> <li>Covered BBQ area</li> <li>Outdoor community event space</li> <li>Dedicated dog exercise area (not to conflict with BBQ and playground areas)</li> <li>Possibly also including the pump track providing residential noise issues can be mitigated.</li> </ul> | AVCA / Council / M / Iwi / LINZ | 2020-2025    |
| 5. | <p>Provide guidance to SWDC on future subdivision potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum section size increased on the district plan from 440 m<sup>2</sup> to over 650sqmtrs retaining the ability to subdivide but not to remove houses (unless deemed uninhabitable) to build town houses</li> <li>Future property development is of a</li> </ul>  | Council / AVCA                  | 2020 ongoing |



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|    | <p>high quality and is complementary not detracting from the historic nature of the village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure any development is within the capacity of the three waters system or that developer contributions for any subdivision ensure that the three waters system maintenance / upgrade costs do not negatively affect the rates burden of current residents.</li> </ul> |         |           |
| 6. | <p>Up to date Reserve Management Plan (RMP) 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently being reviewed to incorporate in the LTP 2021-2031 Plan</li> <li>• Ensure that all public reserve plans relating to Arapuni village outlined in this document are considered and allowed for in the RMP component of the LTP 2021-2031 Plan.</li> </ul>   | Council | 2020-2021 |

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| 7. | <p>Identify how Arapuni fits into the district tourism plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of an Arapuni village Website.</li> <li>• village and Hydro Dam Tours.</li> <li>• Focus on Waikato River Trails and lake recreational activities with Arapuni village as a central hub for accommodation and entertainment.</li> </ul> | AVCA/ Council / Mercury / WRT                      | 2020-21      |
| 8. | Create a plan for the collection of historic Arapuni information. The creation of a history section on the village website and signage boards around the village relaying the village history.   | AVCA / SWDC / Iwi                                  | 2020-21      |
| 9, | Assess the services currently offered as to whether they adequately meet the needs of the rural communities', and identify what the gaps in service provision are identify existing transport options whose routes could be altered to incorporate Arapuni and enable residents to access Putāruru.  | AVCA / Regional Funding Partners & Philanthropists | 2020 ongoing |

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| 10. | <p>A commitment to support ages 0--24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with Ministry of Youth Development to upskill community leaders regarding effective youth engagement and youth development.</li> <li>• Development of Children and Young People Hidden Path Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• Investigation of skate/bike pump track.</li> <li>• The restoration and promotion of existing village recreation assets.</li> <li>• Improvement of current playground to include an accessible public toilet and drinking fountain. Install more seating and shade and improve the accessibility of existing barked areas. Extend the current playground equipment to include more natural materials, sensory experiences and disability friendly options.</li> </ul> | AVCA / Council / MYD / AVCA | 2020-2025 |
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|     |  |                            |              |
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| 11. | <p>Bowling Club as a thriving community hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Arapuni Bowling Club to attract new playing members and ensure its sustainable as a community hub.</li> </ul>   | AVCA                       | 2020-2025    |
| 12. | Develop guidance for SWDC on what additional businesses such as a small providore store etc would be perceived as beneficial to residents and complementary to existing businesses.  | AVCA / SWDC                | 2020 ongoing |
| 13. | Work with energy providers on the feasibility of installing an EV charging station.  | Council / AVCA / NZTA      | 2020-25      |
| 14. | <p>Arapuni is close to the Maungatautari Ecological Island, Pohara Pa, Waikato River Trails and other eco-tourism and heritage tourism opportunities, as well as local homestays and farmstays</p> <p>To look at additional ways to promote the village and link it to existing and potential ecological and heritage attractions.</p> <p>Ongoing negotiations will take place to develop linkages with adjacent and potential visitor attractions.</p> <p>Widening of the Pokaiwhenua Road Bridge to two lanes to improve safety on Horahora Road, with appropriate speed mitigation around the entrance to the Pokaiwhenua River Trails Carpark.</p> | AVCA / SWDC / NZTA / SWIFT | Ongoing      |

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|-----|--|----------------------------------|------------|
| 15. | <p>Planned Arapuni village Markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular market weekends with local craft and arts with music and food components to provide social opportunities.</li> </ul>   | Arapuni Village Market Committee | Continuous |
| 16. | <p>Arapuni is diverse and inclusive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maori and European history will be showcased in Arapuni and surrounding areas, including Jones' Landing and Aniwanui Reserve.</li> <li>• Meet with local iwi, hapu and marae to seek clarity on the history of maori in this area.</li> <li>• Any new large capital infrastructure projects should include cultural design and detailing that has respect and reinforces cultural values of the community.</li> <li>• Whakapapa is recorded and published via online repositories and throughout information signage throughout the village.</li> <li>• Cultural community events.</li> <li>• Mapping and connecting agreed historical sites of significance.</li> </ul> | AVCA / Historians / Iwi          |            |

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| 17. | <p>Work alongside the Arapuni Hall Committee to increase the accessibility and usage of the hall. Install an accessible toilet and ramp, and continued improvements such as heating, kitchen ventilation, block out blinds and stage curtains.</p> <p>Establish lighting on entrance road to village hall and village green driveway to improve safety and security.</p> <p>Work with SWDC and AVHC to provide clarity and transparency to residents over how Arapuni village Hall targeted rates funding is utilised and AVHC governance.</p> | AVCA / AVHC / SWDC | 2021 – Ongoing |
| 18. | <p>Conduct regular community engagement meeting to gather village resident's sentiment around the future development of the village and use that information to provide ongoing guidance to SWDC.</p>  | AVCA / SWDC / AVHC | 2021 – ongoing |



## The regional context – Te horopaki o te rohe nui

While concept plans must be driven by local people, aligning with regional strategies will help partners integrate the actions into their own business plans.

Arapuni is part of the South Waikato District and the Council develops a Long-Term Plan (LTP) every three years, each plan spans ten years ensuring it can link with activities and decisions of the past but keep iterating its future based on new information and activities.

While the LTP provides the overarching direction for the district, each individual community can capture aspirations and to implement their own actions, through a Concept Plan.

In addition – there is a need to consider Waikato Wellbeing Project launched in August 2019 to provide expert advice, support and overall vision, direction and voice for the future of Arapuni and the South Waikato District.

