

Franklin Local Board term achievements 2016-2019

Purpose

To provide an overview of the key achievements for the Franklin Local Board over the 2016-2019 term.

Context

The Franklin Local Board Plan 2017 (the plan) is the strategic, three-year plan, developed in consultation with the community. The plan sets out local priorities and objectives, informing board projects and initiatives during the term. This report summarizes the term achievements against the outcomes of the plan.

Achievements have been reported by plan outcome area, providing an overview of related board achievements, focusing on key highlights (some of which are on-going), and identifying innovative approaches to issues or opportunities for future consideration.

Achievements

Outcome 1: A well-cared for natural environment

Enhance, protect and maintain our diverse natural environment and make sure it's able to be enjoyed.

The Franklin Local Board:

- funded and/ or supported volunteer opportunities including pest control, planting, ecological restoration and community clean ups. These included the Pest Free Franklin bait and trap days, and community-led clean-ups at Clarks Beach and Beachlands
- funded and/or supported community education programmes, ranger walks, school discovery walks, the Out and About programmes, Sustainable Schools programme initiatives, community garden projects, and an adopt a park school scheme.
- had continued success with Zero Waste Waiuku, which receives both local and regional funding
- continued funding additional print runs and distributions of the Franklin pest plant brochure, which was created in the previous term
- funded signage to raise awareness of the high impact of invasive aquatic weeds and reduce their spread, and was installed next to the only boat ramp on the Wairoa River in 2017
- established the Waterways Protection Fund in 2018 to support projects that improve water quality through fencing and restoration for the Mauku catchment
- contributed to the Awakura Restoration Project since 2018 with Ngati Te Ata, with over 3000 native trees planted to improve the water flowing into the Waiuku River and Manukau Harbour
- funded a Litter Prevention Plan in 2018, delivering eight 'Be a Tidy Kiwi' signs that were installed on high volume rural roads to discourage littering behaviour, supported a Waiuku Litter Blitz event was held with students from two primary schools, and support the national "Be a Tidy Kiwi" campaign
- developed and delivered Hunua Domain biodiversity improvements, leveraging the Mayor's million tree programme and included fencing and community planting in May 2019.

Key highlights:

Pest Free Franklin

The Pest Free Franklin programme is a local board initiative that involves council staff working to empower community groups on pest control. Pest control equipment has been provided to community-led environmental groups including Awhitu Landcare, Whakaupoko Landcare, Friends of Te Wairoa and Southern Wildlink Group. Through the capacity building programme, groups have hosted many free workshops with communities across Franklin, where traps, bait and information on pest control methods were provided. In 2019, the Pest Free Franklin programme delivered pest control hub days in Hunua, Clevedon, Waiuku and Pukekohe East; and promoted the initiative at the Pukekohe A&P show.

Waiuku Trails

The Waiuku Trails were identified as a key project in the Franklin Local Board Plan 2017. The Waiuku Trails Plan/ Waiuku Te Ara Hikoi was adopted by the board on 12 December 2017 following years of work by the community to develop the initiative. A community steering group was established in 2017 and has worked with council staff to define roles, responsibilities and the process for identifying priority development sites. In the 2017/18 Financial Year (FY) the board allocated \$300,000 in local capital funding (LDI Capex) to toward the delivery of the Trails, which commenced in April 2018. On 22 March 2019, the Waiuku Trails 'sod turning' event was held to celebrate the start of the community led delivery. There was also a Waiuku Trails volunteer planting day held in June 2019, which was attended by members of the public and local board. This is a highlight as the immense progress made on this has enabled community delivery of the trail to begin.

Wairoa River restoration

The board have continued to support the regeneration of the Wairoa (Clevedon) River by funding a co-ordinator to support this community-led project. The Wairoa River Action Plan was endorsed by the board in 2017, and won the 'most improved Auckland river' category at the New Zealand River Awards in 2017. At the end of 2017, the steering group became an incorporated society and known as Friends of Te Wairoa. They have subsequently delivered a range of community meetings, workshops and planting events.

Ongoing opportunities:

- Like the Waiuku Trails, the Pohutukawa Coast Trail Plan was adopted in 2017 and received \$300,000 of LDI capex to commence delivery in the 2017/18 FY. The Pohutukawa Coast Trail, however, is at a different stage of development with the project still in the early planning and development phase. Staff have engaged with the committee on a draft project plan, and in 2019 began a feasibility investigation on two trail sections and started installing way-finder markers along the route. The opportunity in the next term is to continue to support the community to move to the delivery stage of this trail
- The draft Wai o Maru Reserve Management Plan, is a co-management opportunity being progressed with Ngai Tai ki Tamaki. In early 2019, discussions have progressed with further work scheduled to ensure the plan reflects the aspirations and cultural practices of Ngai Tai ki Tamaki.
- Litter, including illegal dumping is an ongoing issue across the Franklin Local Board area, particularly along rural roadsides, where regular litter collection by council is not practical. There is an opportunity to build on the Litter Prevention Plan of 2018/19 by further empowering and enabling local communities to manage their environment in the future through the 'Litter Free Franklin' programme.

Outcome 2: A thriving local economy

Franklin has a strong economy and attracts people to live, work locally and visit its attractions.

The Franklin Local Board:

- adopted the refreshed Franklin Local Board Local Economic Development Action Plan in 2018, to ensure alignment with the Franklin Local Board Plan 2017
- provided an Arts Brokerage service that has facilitated and funded artist-led initiatives, such as the Clevedon Arts Trail (launched in 2017) and Franklin Arts Trail (launched in 2018). These initiatives have provided a platform for local creatives to engage with new audiences, promote local creative industry and generate visitation
- provided annual funding to a range of local events that celebrate local business and enterprise and attract visitors, including Pukekohe and Clevedon A&P shows, Blast to the Past, Steel 'N' Wheels in Waiuku, and the inaugural Onion Festival in Pukekohe
- facilitated and attended a Horticulture NZ field trip in 2018 to raise the profile of the elite soils protection issue at a regional and national level
- advocated for local industry/job provision through structure (future) planning processes, including the Pukekohe-Paerata Structure Planning and Drury-Opaheke Structure Planning
- funded the Youth Connections and Franklin Skills Network initiatives to support job creation.

Key highlights:

Unlock Pukekohe

Pukekohe's strategic location, strong community background and opportunities for improvement made it suitable for urban regeneration and development, which was advocated for by the board and endorsed by the Governing Body in October 2018 to become an *Unlock* location through Panuku. Since then the board has worked closely with Panuku to contribute ideas on the development of the vision, goals and key moves of Pukekohe Town Centre. Panuku are also co-designing a partnership framework with mana whenua to ensure an authentic Maori voice and meaningful cultural narrative is shaped for the project. The High Level Project Plan, which guides all the proposed Unlock Pukekohe projects, initiatives and decision making was endorsed by the board in April 2019, the Panuku Board and Planning Committee in May 2019, and the Finance and Performance Committee in June 2019. This project is estimated to span over 10 years, and Panuku are looking to collaborate with Auckland Transport, Plans and Places, Parks Sports and Recreation, Community Services and Healthy Waters to combine funds and resources to get the best outcome.

Hunua Trail

The Hunua Trail received New Zealand Heartland Trail status in 2018. This means Heartland Ride accreditation will promote the trail route and is part of the government funded New Zealand Cycle Trail initiative. As a result, budget was reallocated from ATEED to accelerate the project development, with a facilitator progressing the development of the project plan and established a Trail governance model. The Trail project has been developed with support from partners Watercare, the Governing Body, Regional Parks and mana whenua, and in consultation with the Hauraki District Council and NZTA. The Aspirational Hunua Trail Plan was endorsed by the board on 26 March 2019, and by the Governing Body in July 2019. This is an ongoing project and has upcoming work programme items for ATEED and PSR in the 2019/20 FY. The Trail is anticipated to launch in the next financial year, providing local business an opportunity to leverage from anticipated visitation.

Ongoing opportunities:

- The board granted funding to support the Franklin Tourism Group in promoting the tourism sector in 2018 to build capability and promote visitor attractions across the Franklin Local Board area. The focus for this group is on the west of the local board area and the north Waikato (legacy Franklin). In the 2019/20 FY the board will work through ATEED to build capability and promote attractions in the east of the board area, and in doing so, leverage maximum benefit from the Hunua Ranges and Pohutukawa Coast as emerging recreational areas.
- The Franklin Local Board area Arts Broker will continue to support local creatives with a focus on projects that also raise the profile of local social and environmental issues and that enhance a sense of local identity, delivering enhanced value to the local community
- Provision of local jobs is critical in generating local prosperity. The board will continue to work with Panuku (through Unlock Pukekohe), ATEED, business improvement districts (BIDs) and The Southern Initiative, in the development of local business and employment opportunities that leverage local strengths.

Outcome 3: An improved transport system

Continue to work towards better public transport and safer roads in Franklin

The Franklin Local Board:

- funded a place-making approach to the upgrade of Beachlands Village road-side gardens
- funded new footpaths on Pacific Street, Waiuku and Weatherly Drive through to Te Puru in Beachlands
- funded new kerb and channel in Beachlands:
 - Second View Avenue between Wakelin Road and Bell Road on both sides
 - Sunkist Bay Road and Wakelin Road on both sides
 - Puriri Road and Cherrie Road on the north side
- commissioned a comprehensive car parking management plan and parking survey for Pukekohe to inform future planning
- advocated strongly through formal submissions on traffic and transport issues through the Regional Land Transport Planning process 2018 and other Auckland Transport Planning and Policy development exercises, highlighting a need for services and infrastructure to anticipate local growth and for road designs to accommodate local industry e.g. Truck movements and car dependent communities
- advocated to Auckland Transport on rural road safety issues, specifically regarding speed management, road quality and the safety improvements programme (the chevron signs issue).

Key highlights:

Pukekohe Train Station

Ongoing advocacy over previous terms facilitated the inclusion of the Pukekohe Station and electrification as part of the Regional Land Transport Plan. In June 2018, the first phase of station improvement, the Pukekohe bus and train interchange, was opened. AT and NZTA continue to work in partnership to build a fully integrated bus and train station in Pukekohe. The new facilities are the hub for the public transport (bus) network across Pukekohe and Waiuku, connecting Waiuku and Pukekohe town centres to the wider Auckland region.

Ongoing issues/opportunities:

Local Board Transport Capital Fund Opportunities

- Although the Pukekohe Bus and Train interchange has provided additional park and ride facilities, parking at Pukekohe remains an issue. The board are working with AT to improve parking capacity at Station Road and improve pedestrian safety.
- Installation of kerb and channel across Beachlands is an ongoing project, with improvements to Shelley Bay Road, Karaka Road, First View Avenue and Second View Avenue under development.
- Growth in the Franklin Local Board area, particularly in Clarks Beach, Glenbrook, Pukekohe, Paerata, Drury, Clevedon and Beachlands, is creating a significant impact on local quality of life in terms of traffic congestion. The board does not have authority nor budget to address these issues and will need to continue to advocate to AT, NZTA and the Governing Body on local concerns and for local transport services in advance of further development.

Advocacy Opportunities

- Advocating a ferry strategy- reviewing the ferry and bus issues at Pine Harbour and Manukau Harbour
- Advocating alternate routes for larger vehicles on the outer ring road in Pukekohe and Maraetai Coast Road
- Advocating bus services in developing areas, creating better commuter connections for new subdivisions to transport (train/ferry) hubs at Pine Harbour, Papakura and Pukekohe.

Outcome 4: Growth is dealt with effectively

Make full use of existing outdoor space and community facilities before developing new.

The Franklin Local Board:

- commissioned and adopted the Franklin Sport and Active Recreation Facilities Plan in 2017
- actively participated in the structure planning process for Pukekohe-Paerata and Drury-Opaheke
- facilitated and funded improvements to the Waiuku Sports Park and Tamakae Reserve Wharf
- facilitated and funded the Pukekohe Skate Park, which opened in December 2017
- facilitated and funded the Waiuku Skate Park upgrade, which opened in June 2018
- completed the renewals of Rosa Birch Park playground, Bledisloe Park play space, Samuel Miller Play space, Times Place Recreation Reserve play space, Omana playground
- completed the play space renewal for Whitford Point Reserve play space and Maraetai Park Junior play space, which included mana whenua consultation to inform design and planning
- endorsed and completed boat ramp and seawall renewals including- Big Bay Reserve boat ramp and seawall renewal and Waiau Beach boat ramp renewal, as well as the opening of Sandspit Reserve Seawall in December 2018
- funded carpark renewals including – Bledisloe soccer club carpark, Matakawau Point Reserve carpark, Te Puru carpark, Puni Recreation Reserve carpark, Patumahoe Recreation Reserve carpark and Orere Point Beach Reserve carpark
- delivered a range of renewals to pool facilities, libraries, the art centre, sports fields and toilets

- delivered new playgrounds in Beachlands: Constellation Drive Playground was completed in 2018 and development on Kahawairahi playground has begun with anticipated completion for September 2019
- endorsed the Pukekohe Paerata Paths Aspirational Plan, which was adopted in 2018
- In 2018/19 the board allocated \$21,500 of school pool community grants to enable public use of third party facilities.

Key highlights:

Third Party Facilities

In line with council's Facilities Partnership Policy adopted in December 2018, the board allocated \$30,000 of the 2018/19 LDI operations budget to investigate opportunities for public access to third party sport and recreation facilities, and establish a pilot programme that demonstrates the potential to connect community groups to unlock the capacity of existing sport facilities. The purpose of the budget is to maximise the utilisation of existing facilities. On 4 June 2019, the board allocated \$8000 to fund the use of the AstroTurf at Pukekohe High School for football training and for the provision of a port-a-loo to meet the training shortfall, and \$2800 to Tuakau College for the use of the indoor basketball court.

Ongoing opportunities:

- Karaka Sports Park- the board resolved in June 2019 to support the indicative business case and partial redevelopment of the Multi-sport facility and upgrade of Karaka Sports Park as a regionally funded project. The board will continue to advocate for council staff to work in partnership with the Karaka Sports Park Trust and local board to progress this project, which will cater to both existing and new local communities
- Sunkist Bay concept plan was adopted in 2018, providing a long-term vision for public use of this reserve can be enhanced. The board will continue to deliver on concept plan aspirations through the renewals programme and advocate for development through regional facilities and growth programme
- The Roulston Park Concept Plan was approved in June 2019. However, there is insufficient budget at this time to deliver the concept. The board can advocate for delivery of the plan through the renewals programme and regional growth programme
- Te Puru and Clarks Beach concept plans are in work programmes for the next financial year.

Outcome 5: Communities feel ownership and connection to their area

Support community participation in helping to shape people's quality of life, creativity, health and wellbeing.

The Franklin Local Board:

- adopted the Franklin Maori Responsiveness Action Plan in June 2019, which includes key aspirations and priorities for Maori in the Franklin area, ways to build stronger relationships and share information
- continued its commitment to hosting citizenship ceremonies, Armistice Days at Pukekohe Memorial Hall, partnering to deliver ANZAC services and special 100 year acknowledgement events
- hosted successful information stands at the Clevedon and Pukekohe A&P shows annually. These stands are opportunities to promote local initiatives or engage with local communities on local issues

- funded a programme to enable successful and sustainable rural hall operations through the provision of a liaison and development programme through the Rural Hall Advisor. A community-led model has been developed, and five rural halls have been brought back into community management. This has enabled rural halls to become engaged with activation programmes in the community, delivering movie nights and neighbours day events in Ararimu, Beachlands, Buckland, Kawakawa Bay, Glenbrook Beach and Pukeoware
- established the Arts Broker programme to enable a range of diverse local artists the opportunity to develop, create, exhibit, share and sell their art. For example, in celebration of Matariki in 2017, local artist Fred Graham discussed his work 'Deep River Korero' (which brings together works by contemporary Maori artists who reference the environment) with Pukekohe High School students at the Art Centre and the broker has facilitated mural projects at Kawakawa Bay, Waiuku and Karioitahi
- funded the Franklin Youth Advisory Board (FYAB) to deliver children's day events each year and other youth engagement opportunities, such as Franklin's Got Talent. In 2019 FYAB worked with Pukekohe Lions to host the opening of the Samuel Miller Reserve barbeque facility
- supported the installation of suffrage themed public art work by local artist Jae Kang in Pukekohe Town Square
- annually allocated community grants to support community run programmes and events, Coastal Sea Rescue services and community access to swimming pools.
 - In FY 2016/17- the board allocated a total of \$262,942.35
 - In FY 2017/18 - the board allocated a total of \$385,785.39
 - In FY 2018/19 - the board allocated a total of \$285,721.67
- supported a range of events including Franklin Primary School Triathlon, Franklin Arts Festival, Franklin Positive Ageing Expo, Beachlands Trolley Derby, Karaka Vintage Day, Waiuku Duckboat Derby, and movies in the Park in Beachlands and Waiuku
- supported libraries to deliver a series of successful events and sessions celebrating diversity, history, and local places and people in Franklin. These included summer reading programmes, preschool programmes, capacity building workshops, heritage sessions, Christmas events, Diwali events, Waitangi celebrations, Lunar New Year celebrations, Matariki events, and rainbow family sessions. The board has also funded a Wriggle and Rhyme outreach programme through the library service at Beachlands and Maraetai
- through Youth Connections Franklin, engaged with 40 Rangatahi in employment, education or training through a Mahi Gains Accelerator Work Readiness Programme in 2018/2019
- sponsored the Lifetime Achievement award at Franklin's Finest Volunteer awards- held in 2016 and 2017.

Key highlight:

McShane Park placemaking collaboration

The board supported a collaborative project across council departments to enhance the sense of community pride in McShane Reserve, Pukekohe, using the playground renewal as a catalyst. While the playground renewal has yet to be completed, the community involvement in the consultation is a key highlight in supporting community participation. In May 2018, the board received an email regarding the anti-social behaviour at McShane Reserve playground. Following a needs assessment, staff agreed a renewal was required

and applied an empowered communities approach to enable the community to take greater ownership over the public space and help find solutions to the anti-social behaviour. Staff identified key community stakeholders and reactivated a resident steering group to engage with. Through the support of the Out and About programme, the community were consulted on at Nga Hau e Wha Marae Christmas event in November 2018 to inform the form and function of the playground renewal. 330 pieces of feedback were received from the event, significantly more than a standard engagement process. In 2019, other projects were initiated through this initial playground consultation, with funds allocated to local groups to activate the park, a Neighbours day event, and there is the possibility of an active neighbourhood support group being set up. This highlight shows the impact of cross council collaboration to strengthen community consultation and engagement in asset renewal.

Ongoing opportunities:

- There is an opportunity to shift the focus of safety projects from town centre safety through CCTV monitoring to community-led placemaking and activation.