

POHANGINA VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



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1. Foreword

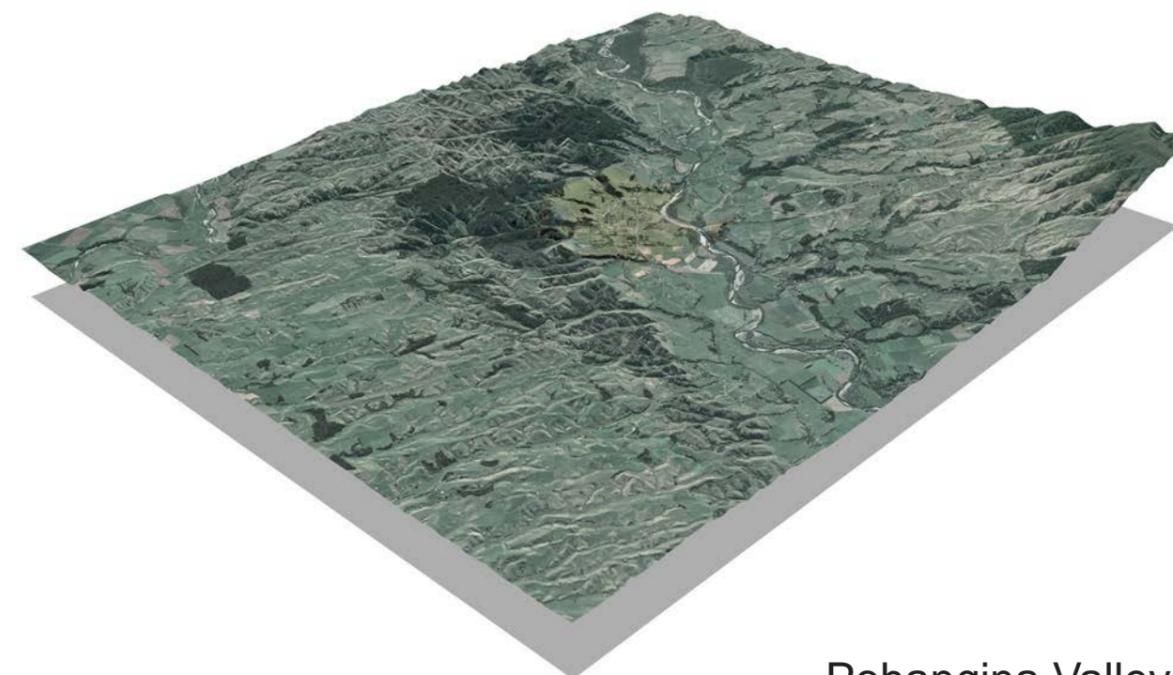
This community action plan represents a summary of outcomes from a series of community planning workshops and meetings that occurred from August 2013 through to February 2014. This document has been compiled by Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of Manawatu District Council (MDC) and the community of the Pohangina Valley. The observations, ideas and opportunities identified in this plan are intended to provide an over arching and holistic summary of the community's vision and identify specific projects and actions that help deliver this.

The shared community vision in this document has been developed by members of the Pohangina community and builds on the work already underway through Project Pohangina and the Pohangina Valley Community Committee (PVCC). This document also outlines the process used to establish the community vision and illustrates some of the observations, constraints and opportunities for Pohangina Valley.

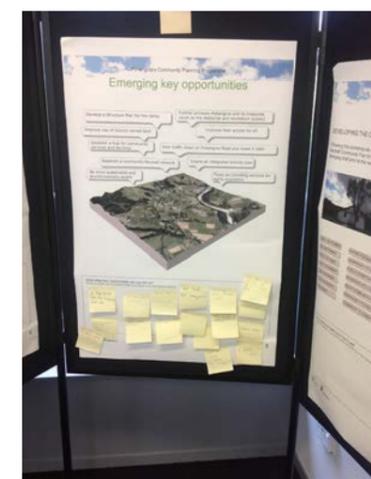
This community action plan makes recommendations for three specific strategic projects that will help deliver the shared community vision and work towards outcomes already identified in Project Pohangina.

To help articulate the themes that arose throughout the community planning process, four over arching areas (or themes) have been identified that tie back to the community vision statement. A list of specific actions have been compiled under each of these areas of focus.

This document is intended to be a 'living document' with actions being reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The intent of the document is to be 'action focussed', whilst reflecting the strategic and shared community aspirations for Pohangina Valley.

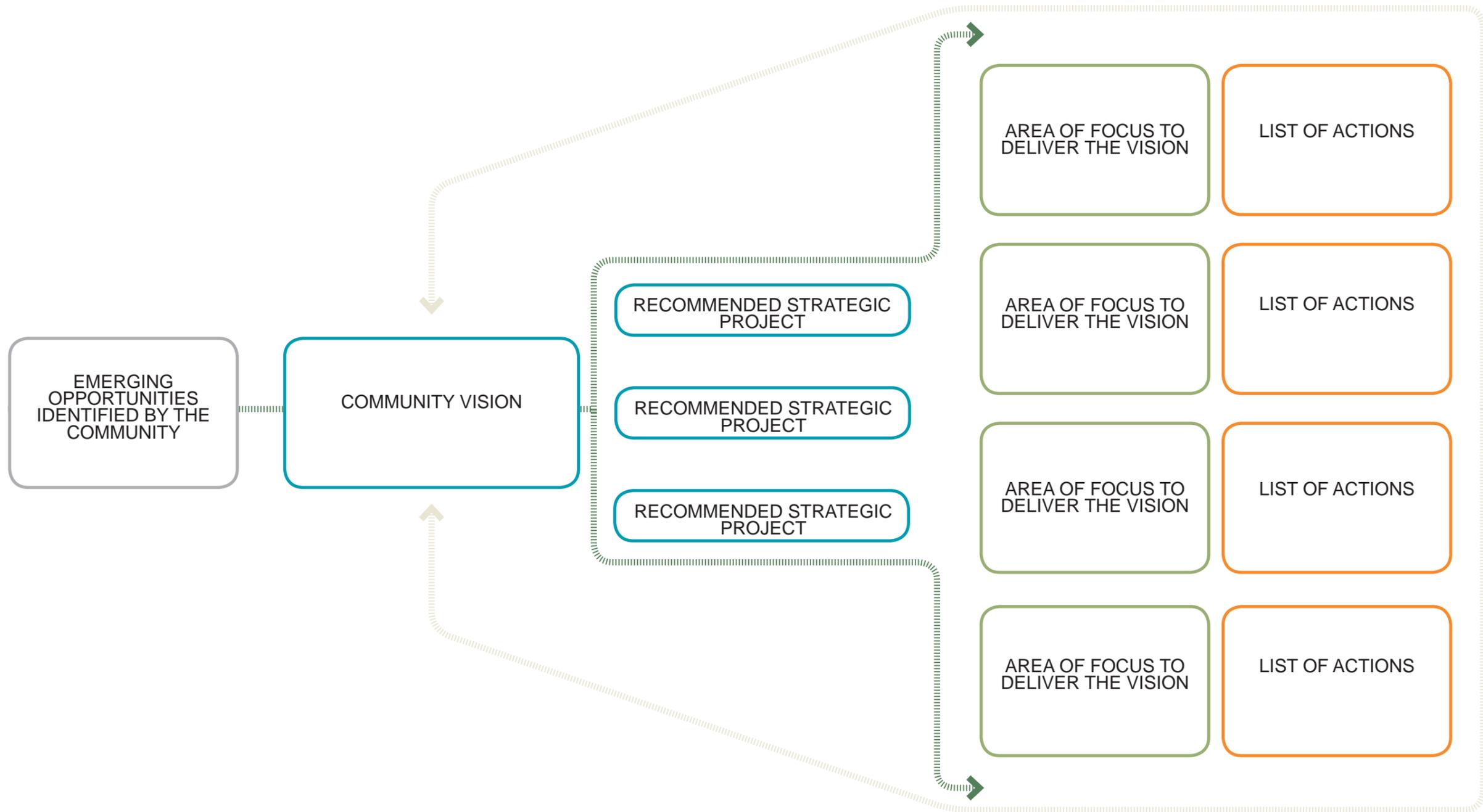


Pohangina Valley



Photos taken of Pohangina's community planning workshops and exhibitions

What you'll find in this document:



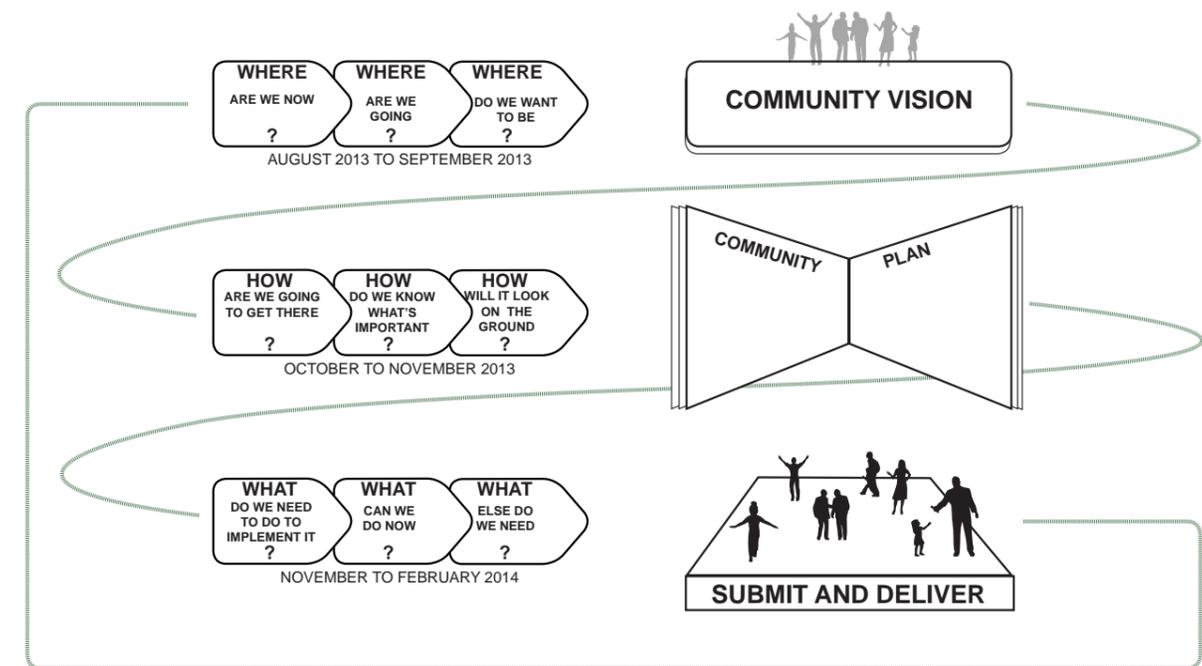
2. The community planning process

Pohangina's Community Planning programme has been ongoing since August 2013. A number of community workshops facilitated by Manawatu District Council were held in the community hall and County Fayre. The programme also included a series of public exhibitions and events.

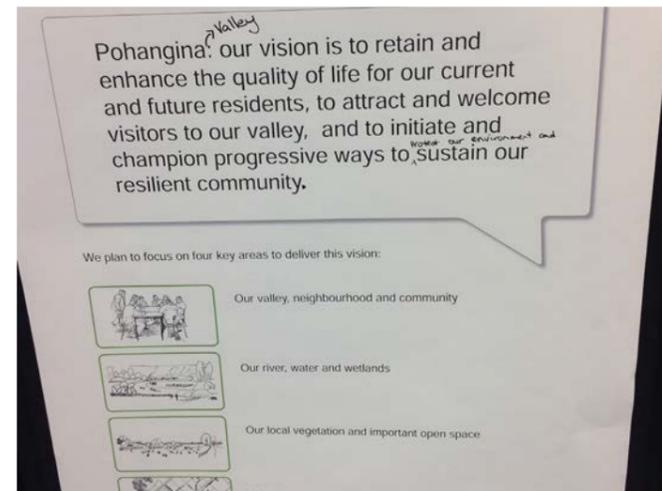
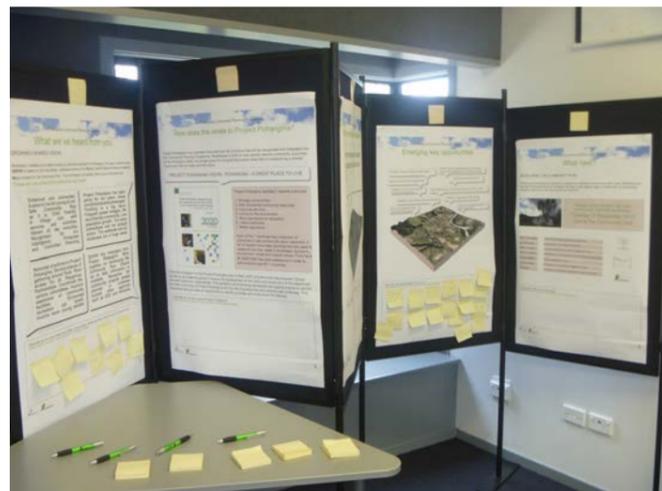
The workshops were focussed on establishing a shared vision for what the community want the village and valley to be in the future. Current issues and constraints were discussed as well a focus on opportunities for improvements. This information has informed what's presented in this document.

This Community Action Plan is intended to summarise the vision and aspirations the community have for Pohangina village and valley. It also provides a list of actions that the community feel are important to them. Some of the actions identified may be easy to deliver, others are more challenging and may take some time.

This Community Action Plan and the list of preferred actions will be submitted to Manawatu District Council to help them identify projects that could be included in their future workplans (Annual Plan and Long Term Plan).



Community Planning Process

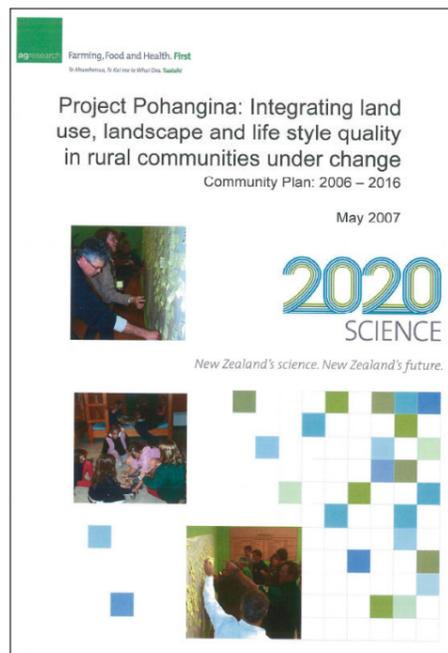


Utilising and continuing to deliver Project Pohangina

Project Pohangina is an important project for the community and the environment of the Pohangina Valley. It has been underway since 2004. This Community Action Plan complements and delivers on a number of the desired outcomes identified in the Project Pohangina Plan.

Project Pohangina's vision statement:

POHANGINA - A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE



Project Pohangina identifies 7 desired outcomes:

- 1: Stronger communities
- 2: Well maintained community resources
- 3: Improved services
- 4: Caring for the environment
- 5: More opportunity for recreation
- 6: Viable livelihoods
- 7: Better regulations

Each of the 7 outcomes has a selection of objectives to help achieve the vision statement. A list of impacts have been identified and are used to measure how they relate to landscape, economic, environment, social and cultural values. From here an action plan has been established in order to achieve the specific 7 outcomes.

Through Project Pohangina and the Pohangina Valley Community Committee (PVCC) there are a number of projects that are currently underway. These projects will continue and form part of this Community Action Plan.

Current projects underway include:

River Access:

A series of negotiations and a successful funding application to the Walkways Commission is underway to provide walking access to the river from Pohangina Village.

Valley Road Lookout Restoration:

An action group including community members, Lions and MDC have been involved in the clearing, planting and development of infrastructure of the lookout.

Signage:

An action group has been working with Destination Manawatu to update and coordinate signage in the valley.

Howell's Gully Upgrade:

The PVCC have written a submission to MDC detailing how this year's scheduled upgrade of this dangerous stretch of Pohangina Road could benefit the community future users.

Restoration of the Pohangina Domain and Sports Ground:

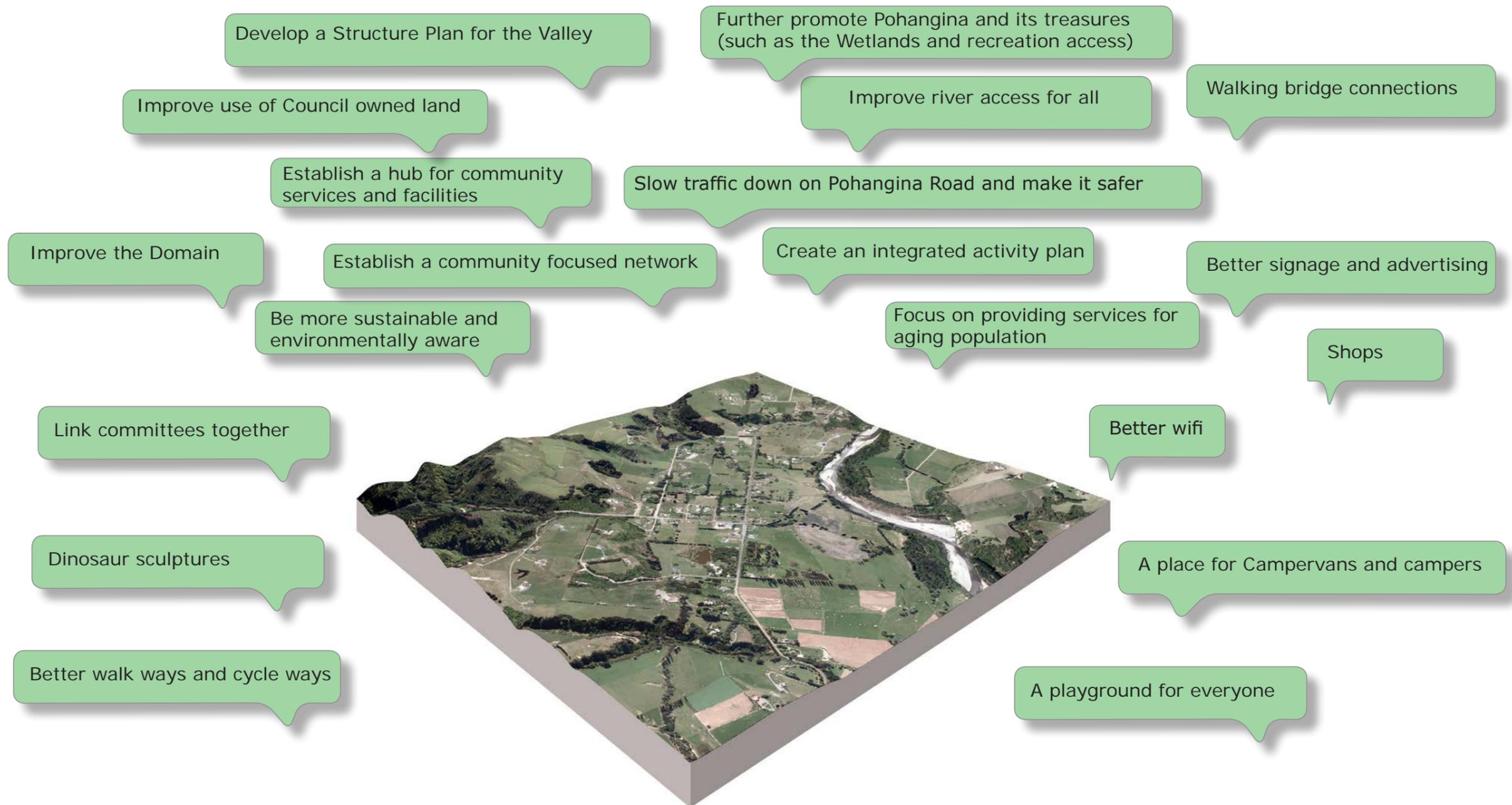
Action groups have been involved in negotiations with MDC on how best to manage the Domain for the benefit of the community.

3. The emerging opportunities

Early in the community planning workshop process a number of goals for the future of the village and the valley were identified. Existing constraints and issues were also identified and discussed during the workshops. Both the goals and the current issues informed a number of opportunities that this community action plan could look to address. These emerging opportunities comprised of physical and non - physical improvements to the community. A list of ways forward for the community planning programme were then discussed and identified.



Ideas and opportunities generated by the community:



4. Community Vision

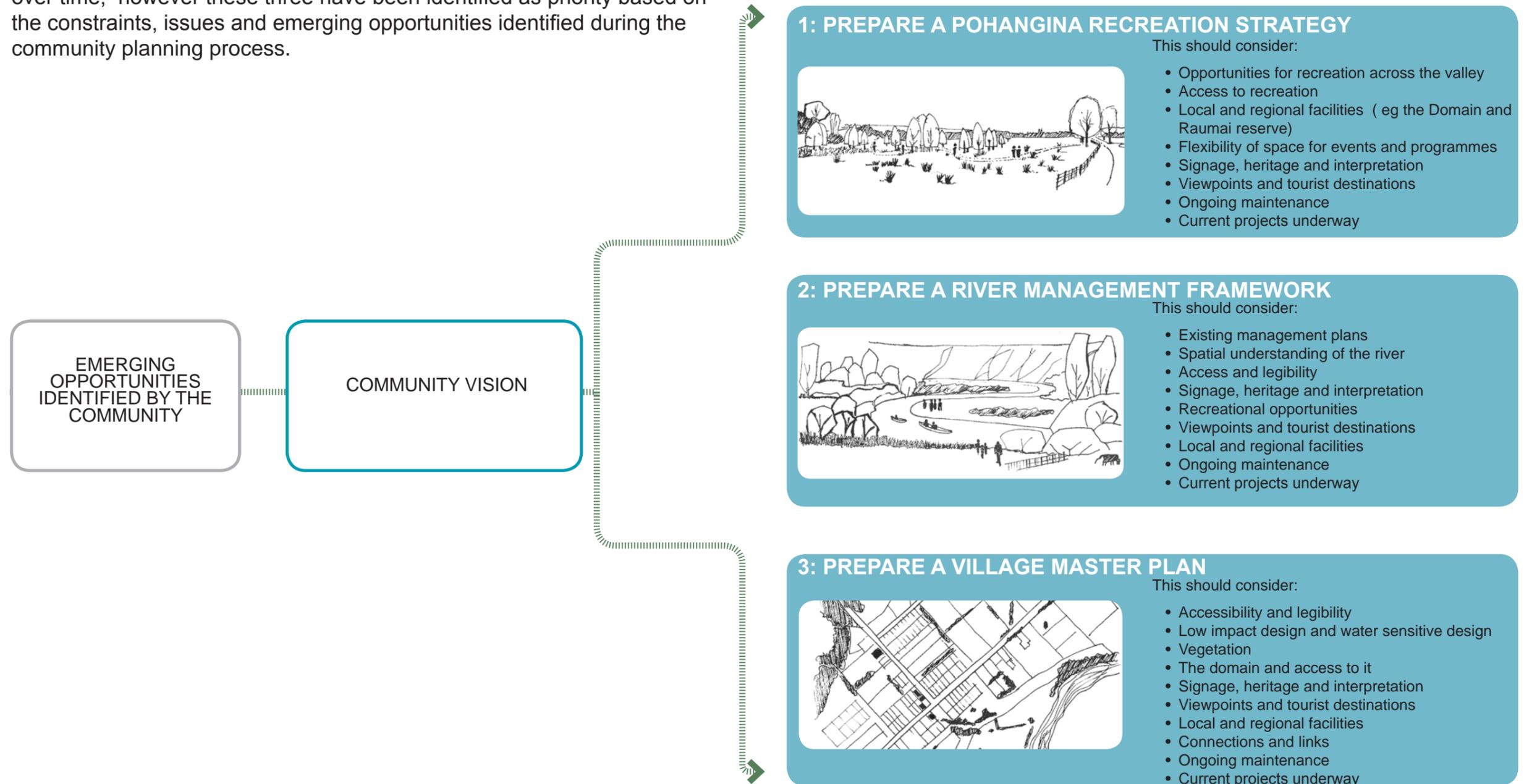
The following community vision statement has been developed during the community planning process. This statement represents the community's values and aspirations for the future of Pohangina Valley. It is considered to be a shared vision statement from across the Pohangina Valley community.



Our vision is to retain and enhance the quality of life for our current and future residents, to attract and welcome visitors to our valley, and to initiate and champion progressive ways to protect our environment and sustain our resilient community.

5. Recommended strategic projects

This community action plan recommends three specific strategic projects to help deliver the community vision. Further strategic projects may occur over time, however these three have been identified as priority based on the constraints, issues and emerging opportunities identified during the community planning process.

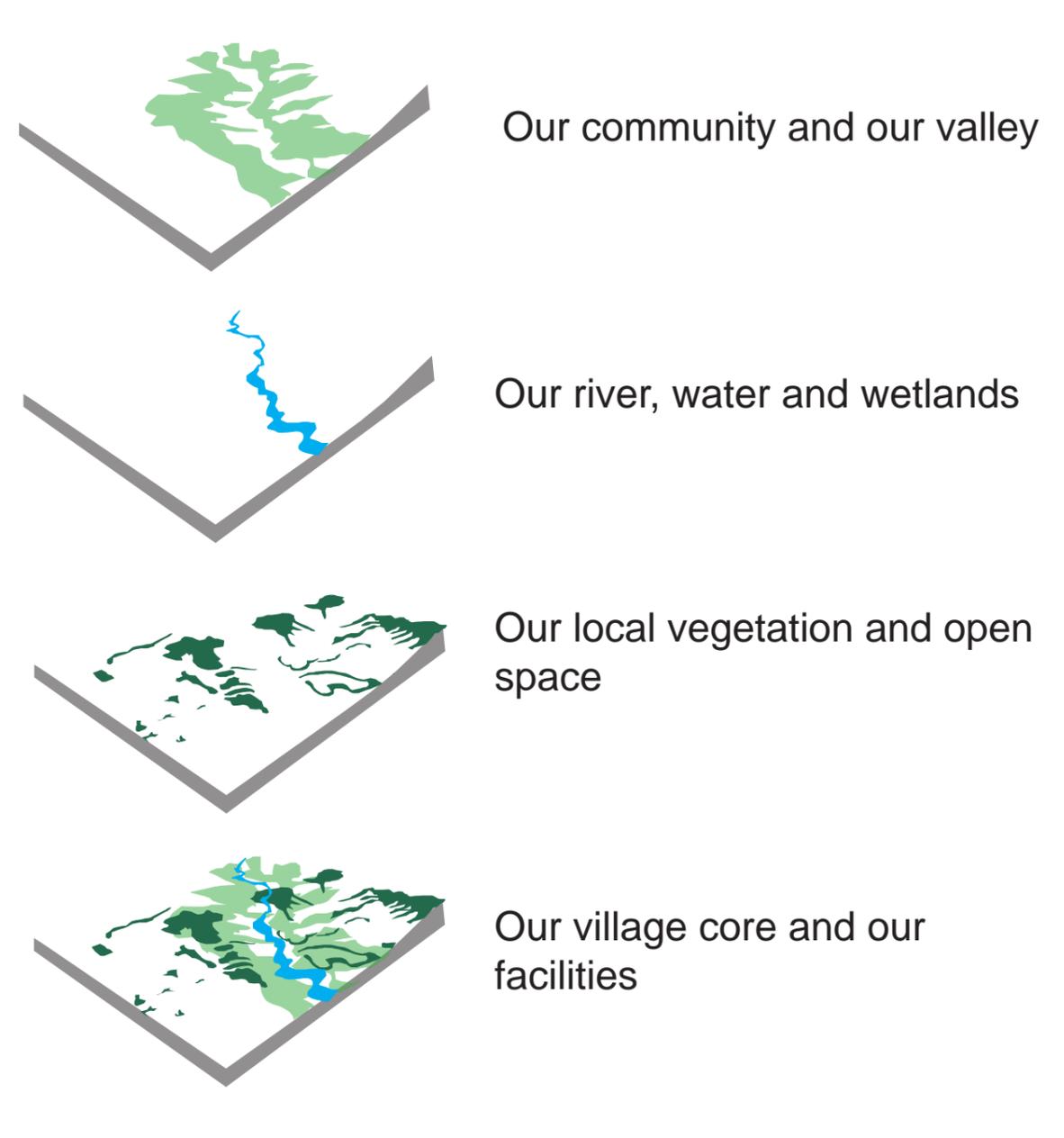


6. Areas of focus and action plans

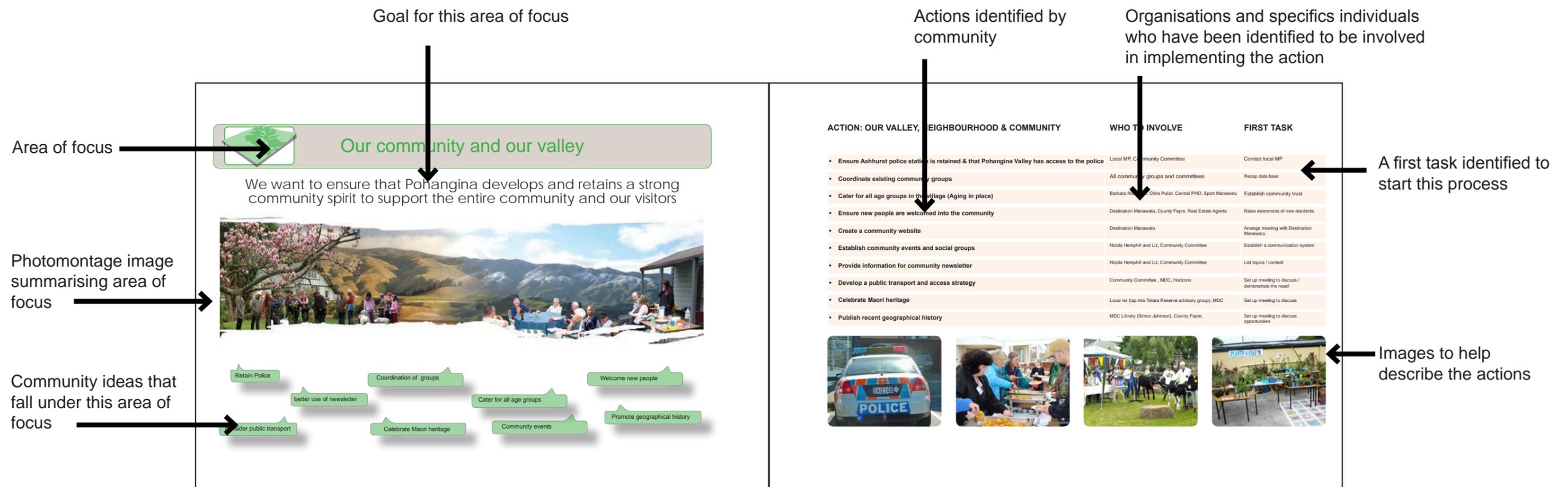
In addition to the three strategic projects, this community action plan includes a list of specific actions to help deliver the community vision. These actions have been structured under four areas of focus.

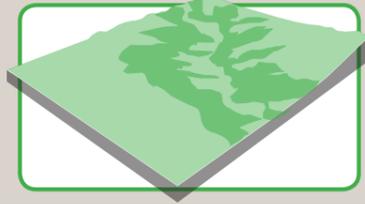
Our vision is to retain and enhance the quality of life for our current and future residents, to attract and welcome visitors to our valley, and to initiate and champion progressive ways to protect our environment and sustain our resilient community.

There are four areas of focus to help deliver the community vision:



The following diagram shows how to use the Actions Plans:





Our community and our valley

We want to ensure that Pohangina develops and retains a strong community spirit to support the entire community and our visitors



Retain Police

Coordination of groups

Welcome new people

better use of newsletter

Cater for all age groups

Promote geographical history

consider public transport

Celebrate Maori heritage

Community events

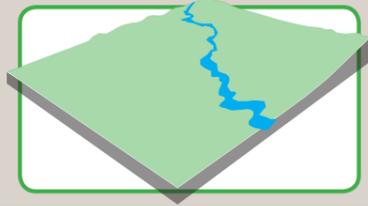
ACTION: OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR VALLEY

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST TASK

• Ensure Ashhurst police station is retained & that Pohangina Valley has access to the police	Local MP, Community Committee	Contact local MP
• Coordinate existing community groups	All community groups and committees	Recap data base
• Cater for all age groups in the village (Aging in place)	Barbara Robinson, Chris Pullar. Central PHO, Sport Manawatu	Establish community trust
• Ensure new people are welcomed into the community	Destination Manawatu, County Fayre. Real Estate Agents	Raise awareness of new residents
• Create a community website	Destination Manawatu	Arrange meeting with Destination Manawatu
• Establish community events and social groups	Nicola Hemphill and Liz, Community Committee	Establish a communication system
• Provide information for community newsletter	Nicola Hemphill and Liz, Community Committee	List topics / content
• Develop a public transport and access strategy	Community Committee , MDC, Horizons	Set up meeting to discuss / demonstrate the need
• Celebrate Maori heritage	Local iwi (tap into Totara Reserve advisory group), MDC	Set up meeting to discuss
• Publish recent geographical history	MDC Library (Simon Johnson), County Fayre,	Set up meeting to discuss opportunities





Our river, water and wetlands

We want to ensure that Pohangina has the right strategies to protect, enhance and allow access to waterways and wetlands for our community and our visitors



Better access to land adjoining water

Enhance Raumai Reserve

Better access to water

Improve bridge connections

Address flooding issues

Expand wetlands

Update flood maps

ACTION: OUR RIVER, WATER AND WETLANDS

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST TASK

• Community to be informed and involved in river management plans	Community Committee, Horizons, Community Communications group, MDC	Contact Horizons
• Improve Raumai reserve and access to the river (including signage)	MDC, PVCC, Police	Prepare a plan for improvements
• Provide recreational opportunities & links to our water, landscape & adjoining waterways	DOC, Horizons, MDC, PVCC, WANZ	Link with a recreation strategy
• Evaluate Raumai Bridge's connection and approaches to ensure they are sustainable and resilient to washout when the river is in flood.	MDC, Horizons	Undertake evaluation
• Consider alternative locations for bridges across the Pohangina river	MDC, Horizons	Link with an overall plan and do feasibility
• Implement water sensitive design to new infrastructure (such as raingardens and permeable paving)	MDC, Horizons, DOC and PVCC	Consider guidelines and tools as part of MDC District Plan
• Develop a succession plan for all wetlands	Horizons, DOC, MDC and land owners	Link with a river framework
• Update flood maps in the District Plan	MDC	Survey and update plans





Our local vegetation and open space

We want to ensure that we protect and enhance our vegetation and open spaces for our community and our visitors



Promote Beehive Walk

Promote local gardens

Arboretum proposal

Better recreational tracks

Create farm walks

Enhance lookout point Mt Richards Road

Access to Southern Ruahine

Environmental improvements

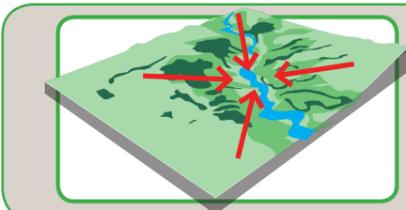
ACTION: OUR LOCAL VEGETATION AND OPEN SPACE

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST TASK

• Establish well connected local walkways, cycleways and horse tracks (eg Beehive)	PVCC, Walkway PD, Service Club, DOC, Horizons	Map our routes
• Develop a Arboretum proposal	MDC, PVCC	Prepare a business case
• Develop a reserve management plan (RMP) for Raumai Reserve	MDC,	Review current RMPs and prepare a business case
• Involve community in planting days	School, PVCC, MDC, DOC	Work out a plan
• Develop a vegetation strategy for the village core	MDC, PVCC, Massey University	Prepare a business case and contact Massey or other potential partners
• Promote existing DOC land	Destination Manawatu, DOC, Horizons, PVCC	Meet with Destination Manawatu
• Investigate tree canopy walkways within open spaces	Totara Reserve, MDC, DOC, Horizons	Link with Recreation strategy
• Develop management plans for Southern Ruahine's (including weed and pest management)	DOC, Horizons, PVCC	PVCC to meet with Horizons and DOC. Link with Recreation strategy
• Promote local gardens (open days)	Coffee and Gumboots, Destination Manawatu, MDC	Establish a promotion strategy
• Promote 'The 40km Loop' and provide look out points at key areas	Destination Manawatu, MDC, Sport Manawatu, DOC	Establish a promotion strategy





Our village core and our facilities

We want to ensure that Pohangina has the right facilities in the right place for our community and our visitors



Promote Farmers Market

Playground

Facility Improvements

School connections

Consistent signage

UF Broadband / Communication

Recreation development

Celebrate history

Connect and link significant places

ACTION : OUR VILLAGE CORE AND OUR FACILITIES

WHO TO INVOLVE

FIRST TASK

• Set up regular market events (Farmers / Produce Market) in the village	RECAP- J. Walcroft, Feilding Promotions, Gumboots and Coffee	Establish a need / prepare a business case
• Develop recreational opportunities (eg cricket / playground for older children)	MDC, Sports clubs, PVCC	Link with Recreation Strategy
• Improve our domain and access to it	MDC, land owners	Link with Recreation Strategy and prepare a spatial plan
• Maintain public buildings, facilities and assets (eg bus shelter and cemetery)	MDC, PVCC, County Fayre, School	Establish and agree an asset management plan
• Further develop signage strategy for Pohangina (including street banners and finger posts)	Destination Manawatu, Lions club, MDC	Meet to discuss tasks and responsibilities
• Make better use of school for the whole community (Awahou School and old Pohangina)	MDC, School, PVCC	Meet to discuss opportunities / brainstorm ideas
• Celebrate history of Pohangina buildings (eg Luttrell's Museum, County Fayre)	MDC, County Fayre, Luttrell's museum, Destination Manawatu	Establish a strategy
• Establish internet UF broadband connections	MDC, service providers	Prepare business case
• Establish events and opportunities that provide fund-raising / grants for the community	MDC, PVCC	Explore potential for Creative Communities funding



7. Next Steps

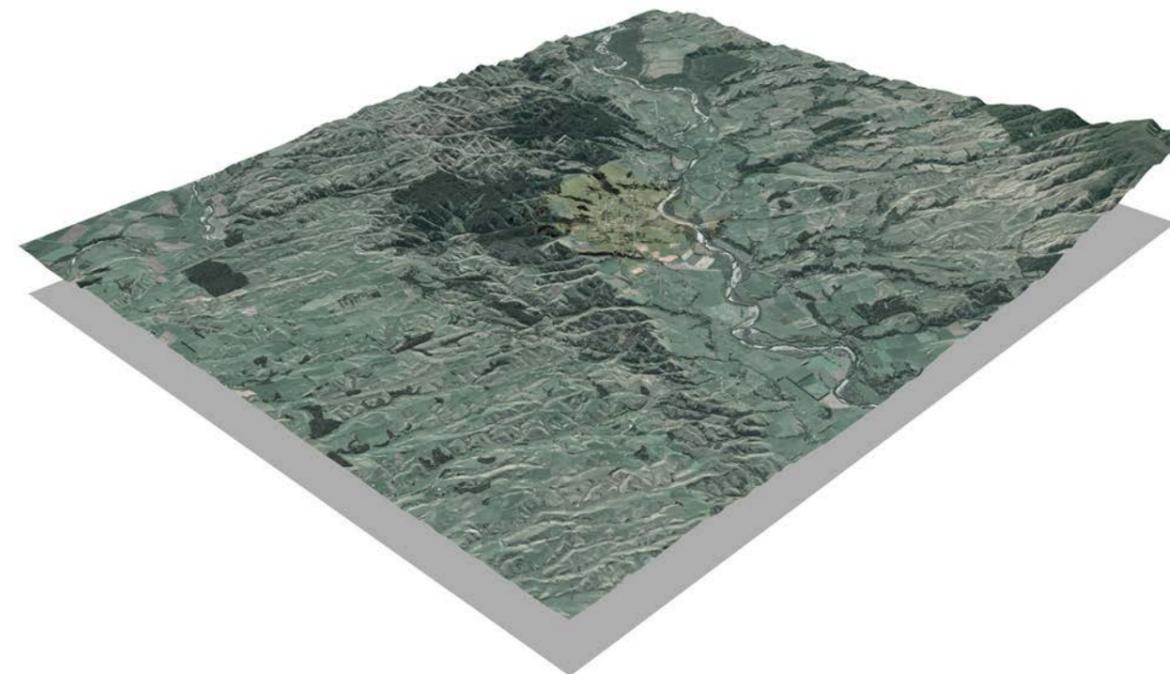
This community action plan is intended to be submitted to Manawatu District Council (MDC) to be considered as part of their annual and long term planning. It is recommended that MDC digest and consider the individual actions and seek to commence the recommended strategic projects.

There are a number of actions within this plan that are already underway, others that can start immediately, and some that may take time to get going. Most of the actions and strategic projects will require a numbers of parties / agencies and individuals to work together to implement.

The action plans are intended to be 'living documents' whereby the action list can be updated and refreshed on a regular basis. New actions may be added to under each areas of focus. Any new action should be assessed based on how it seeks to deliver the Community Vision.

Outcomes from the actions and strategic projects can be assessed against the Community Vision statement and the goals indicated under each of the areas of focus.

A review of the Community Vision statement and the areas of focus should also be undertaken on an annual basis to ensure that this still reflects a shared representation of the Pohangina Valley community.



Ownership of this document will be the responsibility of the Pohangina Valley Community Committee (PVCC) who will work in partnership with Manawatu District Council (MDC) and others towards implementation.

PVCC will work to create a communication strategy which will include documenting how various actions will be coordinated and reviewed.



