

ORATIA AND WAIATARUA LAP COMMUNITY MEETING WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Exercise 1

Groups were asked to work through a list of elements of character and amenity of Oratia and Waiatarua adding more elements as necessary. They were asked to describe the values associated with these things and imagine how those elements should look in the future.

TABLE 1

- Verdant landscape: bush, open spaces (meaning cultivated and farmed land, shelter belts)
- Sympathetic development: that preserves the serenity, tranquillity and privacy of the environment for all development, residential and non-residential
- Community heart: a clustered gathering place. Business, community facilities etc

TABLE 2

- Subdivision: Holden Rd. 3 lots Forest Hill Rd (Holden triangle). western side of Forest Hill Rd half acre lots – Vitasovich/Price. Lack of alternative – Sapich vineyard.
- Proximity: Good access to bus stops. Train to Henderson and Sunnyvale. Farmers market/Oratia market.
- Sense of history: vineyards and orchards
- Traffic: more speed control, cameras etc

TABLE 3

- Community. Place to meet – informal opportunities to say hi and bumping into neighbours. The cider house. Church, dairy, craft group, fire brigade, theatre, Elevation restaurant, Oratia Apple, film society, newsletters.
- Traffic/walking access: ability to get around safely, not just cars, possibly with parking, judder bars.
- Green belt, Environment: bush, streams, vineyards, bush varied landscapes. Streams as opportunities for access – meet and greet. Waiatarua is primarily a beautiful place, beginning of true Ranges. Weeds and rats – how to keep it beautiful, gateway.
- Broadband.

TABLE 4

- Oratia Valley as a defining name and character. Call it that and it solves the geography issue. Language change and reinforcement. Sign posted? Gateway. 'Dobri dosli/haere mai'.
- History: nationality/founders and pioneers. Return to old traditions and harvesting food for the local community and greater community.
- Land science: crops/orchards/vines
- Bush regeneration – scale of trees. Huge. Rural.
- Meeting places. Community, neighbours – hall, street BBQ, school
- 50/70 kph speed, share with care, pedestrians/cyclists. Too fast.
- Recreational precinct of Auckland. History of athletics and training.
- Connecting to facilities – history, geography, drystone trails (?)
- School – into intermediate age

- Self-sustaining within itself – school, food walk (?)
- Retreat to a place. Sanctuary of peace and tranquillity.

TABLE 5

This group chose not to work through the list. The points from their discussion are listed below.

- Something to make the area viable
- Topography and economics are the key/main driver
- Council's job. Council should do it.
- Jewel of the crown
- People of Oratia made their living in the area
- People of Waiatarua had baches
- 'Dine and Dance' and entertainment. People used to come especially for this. Had character. Need to replace this to build community
- Need lovely small hotels and accommodation
- Walking tracks- problem with vandalism when walking. Have land available, parking area and shop to protect cars. Make available and people will drink coffee etc. Problem with regulations inhibiting these things.
- Need a 'place marker' so you know you are in Oratia – not a sign but a building or feature.
- Way buildings sit on sites, materials, bad design. North facing etc important
- Get economically working
- Nihotupu – rock between Cascade and Scenic Drive
- Council should write plan now and make things as easy as possible. Resource consents should be without cost to people. Should not have to pay \$\$ for information.
- Some parts are suburban, for example Raroa Terrace, Rimu Rd, Atarua Gardens.
- Pest control has made a difference. More wood pigeons now, needs to continue.
- Old red corrugated shed – was a taxi post for coaches – on West Coast Rd near Raroa and Bush Rd
- Councils should buy old heritage sites.
- Maintaining drains and swales important or else roads slip away – not as good as used to be

TABLE 6 The group had a free flowing discussion as well as selecting elements from the list. Discussion points were:

- Avoid destroying area, its traditions. First group are pioneers, their children work the land and fear is that grandchildren don't have some desire to work the land – leads to abandonment. Want to see way forward.
- Waiatarua – different place with a different history.
- Be realistic that some orchards and vineyards that remain are not viable. Desire to retain orchard flavour – but no confidence in Council.
- Want reasonable permitted activity vegetation control rules – want light around house. Want to avoid cost of unreasonable consents – some common sense. The existing bush is important.
- Arataki is a great visitor experience. The visitor potential is untapped. Potential to get economic opportunities to continue use of rural land.
- Council should not be involved in private land - leave it up to individual choice.
- Council should focus its intention on public land
- 180 lots that could be developed in District Plan is not a lot of development. The change over 50 years may not be that great.

- Currently only day trippers go to Ranges and beach. No visitor accommodation. Feeling that regulation has driven out what accommodation was there.
- Like to see village in valley with small lots. Shift in historic buildings to create instant amenity and a desirable place for cafes, pub. Contrary to this there were also views that a pub is not necessary. Things are doing well and there is no need for change.
- The design of housing is a matter of personal choice.
- Privacy is important. Achieved by current spaciousness. Distances from neighbours important to people and character.
- Rural buildings – need to keep using, convert to new uses, and allow new rural buildings within economic uses. Need to change rules to allow people to develop and grow businesses.
- Proximity to urban Auckland important.
- Cycle ways should be part of rural trails from city to ranges.
- Orchards and vineyards need to be viable to survive. Many aren't. Option suggested is to subsidise landowners to plant.
- Make a good domain.
- Community buildings need to be incorporated into any future village.
- Recent road sealing was good on West Coast Rd. Too many road signs. Must keep speed sign by school.
- Public transport not viable.

Exercise 2: The groups were asked to describe the future wellbeing of Oratia and Waiatarua, responding separately on environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

TABLE 1

- **Economic wellbeing:** two choices are
 - Create an environment for economic activity (Oratia)
 - Create an exclusive residential environment (Waiatarua)
- **Environmental wellbeing:** unpolluted bush and farmland with diverse vegetation

The group did not have time to address social/cultural wellbeing

TABLE 2

- **Social wellbeing:** good neighbours, having a close relationship with others which tolerates difference and safety through community network
- **Cultural wellbeing:** good cultural linkages between Maori and Croatians

The group did not have time to address environmental/economic wellbeing.

TABLE 3

This group did not discuss the wellbeing questions.

TABLE 4

- **Social wellbeing:** recreational trails, cycling. Neighbourhood connectedness
- **Economic wellbeing:** rekindling of land-based agriculture. Cooperative, food bowl. Self sustaining work from home.
- **Environmental wellbeing:** stormwater management, sustainable.
- **Social/Cultural wellbeing:** café

TABLE 5

This group did not discuss the wellbeing questions.

TABLE 6

This group did not discuss the wellbeing questions.