

19 NOVEMBER 2008 DETERMINING ORATIA'S FUTURE

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Q1: WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND VALUE ABOUT THE AREA?

Q2: WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE AREA?

Q3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE?

Q4: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE AREA TO BE, LOOK AND FEEL
LIKE IN 50 YEARS TIME?

Q1: WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND VALUE ABOUT THE AREA?

Natural environment

- Open space
- Contrast between horticulture and bush
- Views
- Clean air
- Proximity to the Ranges and beaches
- Mix of native and exotic plantings
- Biodiversity- bush, wild life, birdlife, streams
- Orchards
- Wooded valleys
- Peace, quiet and serenity
- Buffer to the Ranges

Social values

- Sense of community and cohesion
- Knowing your neighbours
- People look out for one another
- Community events e.g. street bbq and drinks every Friday night (Carter Rd) and Stark-Brown picnic
- Privacy but strong sense of family and community
- Mix of people- creative, entrepreneurial, innovative, creative
- Good balance between social/private lives

Community and recreation

- All the shops and community facilities that contribute to developing a village feeling- e.g. the school, museum, farmers market, Artisan wines, multi-faith church, scouts, cubs, dairy, post office, garage, fruit shops, play centre, halls, cemetery, Albion Vale
- Oratia settlers association (facebook page)
- Close to public transport

History

- Sense of history and links to the land
- Working landscapes
- Old fruit - this was a place where ancestors worked- they created this place
- Sense of being valued - follows from extended culture and heritage
- Dalmatian background evident and celebrated as well as other cultures
- Orchards and vineyards define Oratia

Development

- Managed development
- Structure plan not relitigated
- Potential for horticulture and orcharding to come back (if conditions right)
- Large sections combined with low density housing
- Restrictions on subdivision
- No close neighbours
- Houses in proportion to land size

Other

- Sense of excitement about working, owning and living here
- Handy to modern facilities and proximity to cbd
- Land prices remain low compared to other parts of Auckland
- Businesses operating from home premises
- Remoteness from and closeness to Auckland

Q2: WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE AREA?

Natural values

- Not enough weed spraying of roadside berms
- Soil quality remains poor
- Abandoned orchards- increased fire risks
- Limited weed control on private and public land
- Vegetation dumping
- Big ditches and drains
- Streams are full of rubbish
- Limited public access to stream
- Introduced pests are a problem, these include species such as pigs, stoats, possums as well as invasive weeds

Mobility

- No footpaths
- Few recreational walking tracks
- Speed limit too fast (70kph)
- Boy racers
- Limited access to public transport- services to Glen Eden, Henderson
- Increase in traffic on Shaw, Parker and Carter Roads

Planning

- Too many restrictions and too much control by Council
- Structure plan (didn't represent community)
- Subdivision creep
- Uncertainty of land use plans
- Costs of maintaining property
- Restrictions on colour schemes
- Costs to subdivide- geo and soil tests
- Blocks are too large – unable to manage
- Personal choice removed (fires, tree clearance)
- New large homes being built that are out of character with the area
- Medium density housing
- Big concrete driveways
- Want to sell one block for retirement but costs are too prohibitive

Community

- No public toilets
- No intermediate or high school
- No small scale community centre
- Breakdown of community spirit
- Untended properties
- Gang houses
- Rubbish dumping
- Fly tipping
- Graffiti- Glengarry Road
- No street lights

Other

- Not economically viable to maintain orchards
- Industrial activity
- Substation
- Overhead power lines
- People wanting to buy more land to expand their lifestyle blocks but nothing available

Q3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE?

Environment

- More pest control (plants and animals)
- Walking tracks in special bush areas
- Council parks signposted and better maintained
- Maintenance of riparian margins
- Restoration of the stream (expansion of PTS)
- More plantings and use species other than natives for planting
- Value of permanent crops/ trees e.g. vines, sub tropical's, fruit and natives for stormwater mitigation

Community and recreation

- Small scale public transport introduced
- Shuttle to train station 'dial-a-ride'
- Better walking facilities and connections
- Improved road safety, underground power lines
- Reduce traffic speed
- Character bus shelters introduced
- Cycleway extended
- More street lighting
- More accommodation and facilities for visitors
- Protection of historic buildings
- Better broadband/wireless capacity

Economic opportunities

- Perception that land is productive (it isn't)
- Buy out or compensate for lack of/removal of opportunities
- Structure plan expanded to wider area
- Greenbelt- no more subdivision
- Co-op for fruit and vegetables
- Boutique distillery e.g. a cider house, café, art store, wine bars, orchards revitalised

Planning

- Less red tape
- Reduce expense of process
- Less resource consent fees and restrictions
- Fees in general (readjust land titles)
- Flexibility in planning-land recently converted to bush could be reverted back to productive land
- Better long term planning
- Consistent advice and application of rules and governance
- Create a 1 stop shop for Council for consistent messages and administration of processes
- Less rates

Other

- Use Yugoslav names for places, parks
- Name areas after old fruit varieties
- Brand the Heritage area and Oratia
- Change pronunciation of Oratia – Ora-tia

Q4: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE AREA TO BE, LOOK AND FEEL LIKE IN 50 YEARS TIME?

KEEP IT MUCH THE SAME!!

Environment

- Access to streams and bush
- More riparian planting
- Replant orchards
- Provision of bush and open space
- Better weed maintenance
- Working orchards and vineyards
- Clean streams- a source of education and recreation, fresh air

Community

- Ability for children/grandchildren to stay on land (subdivision vs. Maori land concept)
- Retain/emphasise historic values
- Erect a 'Welcome to Oratia Valley' sign
- Area with a sense of community and ability to share with outsiders through visitor experiences
- More public transport
- A living, working rural community
- Social impacts considered alongside environmental impacts
- Well maintained traditional values school
- Sociable community
- Additional community space/services in the form of parks, halls, community centre

Economic

- Local employment/jobs- creative low impact businesses integrated within community
- Continue filming activities
- Fruit co-op, cider house co-op
- No significant manufacturing industries
- Tourism potential- smaller cottage businesses
- Road side stalls, produce, arts and crafts
- Rural innovation e.g. Eden project in the Ranges
- Food producing area to cater for population growth
- Recognised for organic industry
- Defined business development around village

Design

- Cluster houses
- Well spaced houses with plenty of room
- Keep building character e.g. fruit sheds
- Nestle houses into landscape- not dominate
- Limited subdivision
- Less concrete-more permeable paving
- Eco-friendly house design
- Smaller houses
- Aesthetically pleasing buildings
- Heritage buildings maintained, loved and used