

Kuaotunu Community Plan



December 2009

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Why do a Community Plan?

As a short to medium term initiative for the community of Kuaotunu, this plan aims to:

- Focus community debate and get people involved in making decisions and taking responsibility for our communities.
- Set direction and common goals, promote consensus and avoid division.
- Safeguard the community and the environment from exploitation.
- Capture all good ideas and identify initiatives suitable for external funding.
- Assist Community Board decision-making and allow more effective use of ratepayer funds.
- Ensure the small settlements are able to develop facilities that suit the area.
- Help avoid haphazard development.
- Help influence Thames Coromandel District Council's programme of works during its annual and long-term planning processes.
- Show opportunities for individuals and groups to develop new projects and provide goods and services.

Reporting on this Plan each year will enable the community to record achievements and to check that the identified priorities are still correct. It will also be a chance to include new information and new ideas.

How will this Community Plan work?

This Community Plan is a collection of aspirations and priorities for future directions. It is a community-owned document and provides a framework to be used to guide decision making for local planning purposes. For example, individuals and groups who may be wishing to undertake a community project could use the Community Plan to determine priorities for action or to support their requests for external funding.

As part of the Council's planning process, the Mercury Bay Community Board will use this Plan to determine local priorities and to recommend future work programmes to Council. The Thames Coromandel District Council will take into account the principles and priorities as outlined in the Community Plan when deciding its annual and longer-term work programmes. The Council will use the Community Plan as a basis for developing policies for desired growth within the District.

The plan will be used to secure support from within and outside the community for funding for specific projects and will be reported on regularly to the Community Board and the public. Annual reporting will enable success to be measured and information to be checked and updated.

There is opportunity for involvement at every stage of the process. The Community Board will take an active role in promoting the Plan to the community and where appropriate, facilitating project development. Others who have an interest in the future of the area will find the Community Plan an essential planning guide. These include:

- Government Agencies
- Other Councils
- Developers/Investors
- Visitors and Tourists

Who will have access to the plan?

This Community Plan is available from the local Council Office at 10 Monk Street, Whitianga or by telephoning Council on 07 867 2010.

How will progress and success be measured?

A central record of activity will be kept at the District Council office, 10 Monk Street, Whitianga and through the Mercury Bay Community Board. Progress will be reported to the community annually. Maintaining the integrity of the Plan and monitoring its use is a necessary part of the implementation. A review of the Plan's highest priorities will be carried out by the Community Board at a time to coincide with the preparation of Council's annual plan budgeting process.

A major review of this Community Plan will be undertaken every three years to coincide with the review of Council's LTCCP process. This will involve public consultation and input.

How can new ideas be incorporated?

The Community Plan has been arranged like a workbook so that an individual or group may use it to keep a record of their activity and ideas. The central record of activity, maintained by Council, will form the basis of the annual report to the community and the Community Board.

All comments on or contributions to this Community Plan should be made to the Thames Coromandel District Council's Mercury Bay Area Manager, 10 Monk Street, Whitianga.

Description of our Community

What is there at the moment?

At the time of the 2001 Census, there was a usual resident population of approximately 345 in Rings Beach-Kuaotunu West-Kuaotunu. This was an increase of 90 or 35% since 1991.

In terms of development trends, the Kuaotunu area consists of three main clusters of houses at Rings Beach, Kuaotunu West and Kuaotunu, with new subdivision occurring up the Waitaia Road and increasing numbers of lifestyle blocks scattered though the hills surrounding the district. There are few commercial operations, mainly located in or near the village centre or small Bed and Breakfast businesses. For the size of the settlement, the subdivision activity that occurred in Kuaotunu during 2000 is quite significant. There has also been a steady rate of subdivision in the outlying rural area.

At the time of the 2001 Census, the number of dwellings in the area was 288 (comparable information for 1991 was not available).

Analysis of the Council's building consent records for new dwellings from March 2001 to December 2005 indicates that total dwelling numbers are continuing to steadily increase. Over this time, around 83 building consents were issued for the construction of new dwellings, averaging around 14 per year.

Land Use Planning

Rings Beach

The Rings Beach settlement is surrounded by land zoned Conservation and there is limited ability to expand. Approximately half of the area zoned Coastal-Residential has yet to be developed for residential purposes. The remaining land is zoned Coastal and under the Proposed District Plan, is not intended for intensive residential development.

Kuaotunu West (Grays Beach)

Kuaotunu West residential area is also zoned Coastal-Residential and has not been developed to its potential under the Proposed District Plan. Like Rings Beach, the settlement area is surrounded by land zoned Coastal which provides for low density residential development.

Kuaotunu

Kuaotunu settlement is zoned a mixture of Coastal-Village with large pockets of recreational and open space land. The Coastal-Village zone allows for development in a fairly similar manner to the Coastal-Residential zones in Kuaotunu West and Rings Beach.

What could happen in the future?

Rings Beach

The relatively flat nature of this area and the general popularity of coastal settlements on the peninsula indicate that there will likely be pressure to develop this area over time. As the Rings Beach settlement area meets its development potential, the surrounding Coastal area may also come under pressure for development. It is anticipated that the population of this area will remain relatively steady with a mixture of permanent and seasonal residents.

Kuaotunu West (Grays Beach)

As mentioned, some of the land zoned Coastal-Village has yet to be developed to its potential under the Proposed District Plan. In addition, a large area of flat land located behind the existing settlement and alongside State Highway 25 could come under pressure to be developed in the future. However, potential flooding issues may need to be addressed before this development could occur. Any development in this area would likely require a plan change as the area is currently zoned Coastal limiting subdivision opportunities under the Proposed District Plan.

The projected increasing median age of New Zealanders and subsequent potential relocation of retirees may further increase the number of permanent residents in Kuaotunu West.

Kuaotunu

Much of the Kuaotunu settlement area that has been zoned for residential purposes has yet to be developed to its full potential. Therefore the number of lots and dwellings in this area could potentially increase the size of the settlement substantially.

Potential storm water issues may need to be addressed in the central Kuaotunu area before further development may occur. This has been managed in an existing subdivision through larger property sizes and allowing for storm water ponding areas.

Due to road upgrades on State Highway 25, both Kuaotunu West and Kuaotunu have become relatively accessible compared to some of the other smaller settlements to the north. As a result, and due to their close proximity to Whitianga as a service settlement, Kuaotunu and Kuaotunu West are likely to come under pressure for further development in the short to medium term. Development within the Kuaotunu settlement and the surrounding area may cause the population to grow if the increase in person to dwelling ratio remains steady. However, the projected increasing median age of New Zealanders and subsequent potential relocation of retirees may further increase the number of permanent residents in this area.

The Kuaotunu Area



Kuaotunu River



Our Process So Far

Date	Action	Number
12/02/2007	A preliminary community planning meeting was held in the Kuaotunu Hall with members of the ratepayers association.	Approximately 35 members of the community
02/03/2007	A Community Planning Questionnaire posted to all ratepayers	Approximately 395
22 & 29 March 2007	A Public Notice was placed in Bay Notes in The Bay Beacon, advertising forthcoming community planning meeting	
07/04 2007	A public meeting was held in the Kuaotunu Hall	Approximately 60 attendees
March / April 2007	Completed questionnaires were received.	Approximately 40
April 2007	The Draft plan was compiled from the public meeting and completed questionnaires.	
25 May 2007	A meeting was held with Community Planning Committee to review Version 1 of Kuaotunu Draft Community Plan	6 plus 2 TCDC staff and 2 Board Members
Late 2007	Priorities for Action were developed.	
October 2008	The priorities were refined	
Aug – Nov 2009	The Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers committee conducted a detailed review of plan, revisions reviewed.	
Dec 2009	The final draft was reviewed and accepted by KRRA committee.	



Photos courtesy of Eric Hamilton

Key areas of focus



ECONOMIC - Retail / Service Industry / Industry / Tourism

What do we have?

- A commercial area at Kuaotunu incorporating a dairy, fuel and café.
- Tourist accommodation including B&B's, backpackers and camping ground.
- Local roading that is inadequate to support increased commercial activity.
- Basic community facilities including public toilets at three locations.
- A boat ramp that is at its maximum level of use over weekends in terms of launch/retrieval capability and parking.
- Agricultural, forestry and fisheries operations.
- Art and craft outlets.

What do we want?

- To retain the quality of our environment; i.e., unspoiled beaches, bush and dark skies by strict control of commercial development, roadside camping, subdivisions and outdoor and street lighting.
- A service station offering all fuel choices.
- Small café/restaurant(s).
- Encourage small scale commercial development for businesses which add to the character of the town including small scale tourist accommodation.
- To retain the store and services we have.
- For Whitianga to remain as the service centre for Kuaotunu.
- A transport link/bus service to Whitianga especially over the summer months.
- Farming to continue.
- Better signposting of public toilets.
- Enforcement of no camping rules including signage.

What don't we want?

- To degrade the quality of our environmental experiences by encouraging more visitors or inappropriate commercial activity and unnecessary lighting.
- To lose the availability of fuel in the area.
- Any changes to zoning which would allow large scale or inappropriate commercial development in this rural / coastal area or heavy industry.
- More commercial fisheries, including any aquaculture.
- Mining in any form.
- Large motels or hotels.
- The camping ground to turn into a shanty town.
- Concessions operating from local beaches and reserves without community approval.
- Helicopter charters permitted on any reserves, beaches or rocks [e.g. heli-fishing] except for emergency use.
- Eco-tourism ventures that exploit our environment without making a contribution.

Priorities

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Identification of a possible future commercial area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit on the District Plan. • Encourage further small scale commercial development for businesses that add to the character of the town including eco-tourism, -small scale tourist accommodation, cafes/restaurant, art and craft galleries. 	KRRA	TCDC		√	
		KRRA?????	TCDC	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

ENVIRONMENTAL

Roading / Energy and Telecommunications/ Water, Storm water, Wastewater/ Waste Management, Bush, Streams and Coastline/ Reserve Management/ Land Use

Roading

What do we have?

- Sealed and unsealed roads, in varying conditions, mostly without footpaths and kerb and channel.
- State Highway 25 going through the community.
- Speed zones that are dangerous for a small community which has limited footpaths in some places and no footpaths in the most dangerous places (i.e.) in a 100 kmh state highway with no safe margin to walk on.

What do we want?

- LTNZ to work with the community for solutions to controlling speed on the community roads including signage.
- 50 km per hour speed restrictions the entire length of Kuaotunu as per above, which is strictly enforced. Enforcement of policy requiring the developer of any subdivision that increases road usage to be responsible for paying towards the upgrade of that road.
- A safe network of footpaths as per above, with priority given to connecting Kuaotunu West and the main beach area.
- Bluff Road to be kept open and maintained.
- Bluff Rd to be sealed from end of Cuvier Crescent to Seavill Park Rd.
- 'Dust' to be included as a health issue within the roading policy when it is reviewed. In particular, address dust as a health issue for the residents of Waitaia Road and Seavill Park Road.
- Remove wilding pine trees in native tree blocks and road sides especially along Black Jack Road.
- Develop a policy and implement a programme for seal extension.

What don't we want?

- Big rate rises to fund roading.
- Speeding cars and motorbikes.
- To lose any sort of programme of maintenance and development upgrades for unsealed roads.
- Unnecessary street and outdoor lighting causing light pollution or other additions detracting from the rural atmosphere and views of our dark skies.
- To close Bluff Road.
- Visual pollution at night of the yellow Transit NZ signs – tone them down.

Energy & Telecommunications

What do we have?

- Limited underground power.
- A line network to properties.
- An unreliable power supply.
- Poor cell phone coverage.
- Poor radio and television reception.

What do we want?

- Improved and more reliable power supply.
- Mobile telephone coverage for the whole area via unobtrusive towers.
- To have as much power and telecommunication lines as possible underground when funding allows.
- Quick response to power failures.
- Council to support initiatives that provide for the reduction of energy use and for services that are environmentally friendly (e.g., solar heating).

What don't we want?

- Inaction from telecommunication service providers.
- More street lights.
- To lose the power supply we have now.

Water / Storm water / Wastewater

What do we have?

- On-site tanks collecting rain water or water taken from local streams.
- A reliance on on-site disposal for wastewater and storm water.
- Collection sumps for road storm water runoff.
- A private scheme reticulating wastewater and stormwater for Kawhero Drive subdivision.

What do we want?

- Retain / upgrade on-site disposal and encourage regular maintenance of existing systems and the monitoring and upgrading of old systems where they are not functioning properly.
- A plan for sewage treatment where small plants may be viable.
- TCDC to encourage greater use of composting toilets.
- A management programme to control stormwater including maintenance of drains.
- Improved monitoring of local streams to manage water quality.
- TCDC/EW to maintain stream outlets to manage storm water flows.

What don't we want?

- Rate rises to fund expensive unnecessary schemes elsewhere on the peninsula.
- Any pollution into the sea, rivers and estuaries.
- Raw waste going into the ground near streams.
- Any new developments before infrastructure is in place.

Waste Management

What do we have?

- Good weekly kerbside collection of rubbish/recycling which is increased during holiday periods.

What do we want?

- Support for waste minimisation and aim for zero waste.
- Education programme for managing refuse from holiday weekend visitors.

- More rubbish bins at strategic locations.
- Inorganic collections.
- Reliable holiday collection with emphasis on recycling.
- Continuation of existing system which is very efficient.
- Reduction in fees for green waste.
- Reserves and roadside litter to be picked up by Council contractors.
- Expanded hours of operation for Matarangi Refuse Transfer Station.

What don't we want?

- Any reduction in the kerb side collection services.
- A rubbish dump / refuse transfer station in Kuaotunu.
- Dumping of slip debris on reserves.

Priorities – Infrastructure

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Concern about vehicle speed limits in and on the outskirts of Kuaotunu, especially on State Highway 25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above. 			√		
Concern that Bluff Road will be closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Bluff Road open. • Erect signs “not suitable for campervans” or similar. • Seal Bluff Road from the end of Cuvier Cres to Seavill Park Rd. 	TCDC TCDC TCDC	Opus	√	√	
Concern about the lack of mobile phone coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with providers. 	KRRA		√		
Lack of anywhere safe to wait beside SH25 between Kuaotunu West and the main beach area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and build a footpath urgently! 	TCDC and LTNZ		√		
Need to complete the link between the new footpath at Pumpkin Flat/Waitaia and either the village turnoff or the main road by the playground (preferred option?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and build boardwalk alongside Kuaotunu River as per Gay Hart's idea 	KRRA/ RMG/ TCDC			√	

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Light Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend building regulations to control unnecessary outdoor lighting and ban uplights. Greatly reduce the number of streetlights. 	TCDC		√	√	
The community does not like the power lines on beach front roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support power lines being put underground. 	KRRA	Network Co			√
Improved management of storm water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a management programme to control stormwater including maintenance of drains and clearance of river mouths. 	TCDC / EW?		√		

Bush, Streams and Coastline

What do we have?

- Enviale coastal and rural environment.
- Natural and accessible bush much of which is DoC land or private land protected by QEII Trust Covenant.
- Commercial forestry operation in the hills behind the community.
- Stream outlets onto the various beaches.
- Clean safe and accessible swimming beaches.
- A boat ramp.
- Tidal streams that get blocked.
- DoC walkway at Waitaia Road.
- New walkway at Matarangi Reserve.
- Major Kauri 2000 planting site at Matarangi Reserve, also at Waitaia Reserve.
- Project Kiwi and other environmental projects.
- Plant and animal pests on land and in the streams.

What do we want?

- Develop new and maintain existing bush walking tracks.
- To keep our bush PTA (kauri dieback disease) free; signage required at all entrance/exit points for all trails.
- Reserve Management Group to consult more with the community.
- More planting of native trees on foreshore.
- Trees to be maintained and pruned but NOT removed.
- Better protection of the sand dunes.
- More animal and plant pest control.
- Further clean stream initiatives.
- Improve public access to Waitaia and to the old miners' cemetery.
- Management of streams and professional assessment of the creek to provide solutions to flooding problems.
- Clean streams and clean water in the bay.
- Ban set nets.
- More support for environmental projects.
- Protect our bush backdrop.
- Protection of breeding sites for dotterels.
- Creation of covenant over wetland area surrounding Kuaotunu River flats and estuary and work towards purchasing the parts of the flood plain not suitable for development and creating a wetland reserve.
- Protection for all native fauna and flora.
- Kuaotunu Beach, Grays Beach and Rings Beach to be designated safe swimming areas and as such a complete ban on jet skis to be implemented in those areas. [As a compromise we would be willing to discuss a trial of marker buoys at the 200m limit, with clear signage indicating the rules for jet skis, water skiing etc, plus strict [and responsive] enforcement of the 5 knot/200m rule.]

What don't we want?

- Inactivity in regard to protection of bush, streams and coastlines.
- Uncontrolled dogs on beaches.
- Animal and plant pests destroying our environment.
- Set nets.
- Jet skis.
- Dunes degraded by human impact.
- For the Kuaotunu River to stagnate.
- Any vehicles on beaches.
- Fish carcasses dumped near the boat ramp or beaches.

Reserve Management

What do we have?

- A Reserve Management group.
- One main active recreation reserve by the tennis courts at Kawhero Drive (The Domain).
- Foreshore and other reserves.
- Torea (Blackjack) Reserve opposite the store being used as a village green.
- Sporadic vandalism on reserves.

What do we want?

- More community consultation by the new Reserve Management Group.
- Remove wilding pine trees in native tree blocks and road sides.
- Comprehensive animal and plant pest control programme.
- More native tree planting programmes including native grasses and flaxes on reserves.
- Shade trees provided on beaches and reserves in consultation with adjoining owners.
- Protection of all trees in reserves.
- Good sand dune management including investment in sand ladders and roping off dunes.
- Continued management, protection and funding for reserves.
- Maintain and extend reserve areas.
- Regular maintenance of the Black Jack walking track and the Waitaia loop tracks.
- Review dog control by-laws to enable dogs to be walked on all beaches from 5pm onwards during controlled times of year.
- Macrocarpa and wilding pines on foreshore at Kuaotunu not to be removed or pruned unless unsafe, and prior consultation with affected local residents. Native tree planting to continue.
- Reduce use of spray by contractors and use only where absolutely appropriate, not in drains or near waterways; require signage when sprays are used.
- Additional play equipment in the reserves.
- A drinking fountain in the reserve opposite the store.
- For recreation reserve / open space and tennis courts to be in public ownership through TCDC with clear lines of responsibility.

What don't we want?

- To lose any of our publicly owned reserves and current public open spaces.
- Large trees planted blocking views.
- Landowners killing trees for the views.
- Weeds to flourish on reserves.
- Uncontrolled dogs on reserves.
- Encroachment on reserves by private property owners.

Land Use

What do we have?

- Dominated by three main clusters of houses at Rings Beach, Kuaotunu West and Kuaotunu.
- Small areas of land zoned for residential development.
- Surrounding hills zoned 'Coastal'.
- Small coastal villages that are unique.

What do we want?

- Keep Kuaotunu and its environs as it is!
- Strict enforcement and monitoring of consent conditions.
- Development to be controlled and appropriate for the area to retain the existing small beach village atmosphere.
- Improved and less expensive building consent procedures.
- Landscape plans for new subdivisions to be enforced.
- To retain low key development zoning of Kuaotunu.
- No more subdivisions until infrastructure in place to support it.
- Encouragement for farming in the district.

What don't we want?

- High rise apartments (greater than 10 metres) or comprehensive development.
- Beach front houses should not dominate and should have low visual and landscaping impact on beach users.
- No further residential or industrial development until infrastructure is in place (waste water, roading etc).
- For Kuaotunu to become like Matarangi.
- Big shopping complexes.
- Any further development on low lying ground surrounding the Kuaotunu Estuary and the creek.
- Any sale of reserve land.

Priorities – Bush, Streams and Coastline / Reserve Management / Land Use

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Party/ies	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
There is an animal and plant pest control problem, especially on private lifestyle blocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate more funding and be more effective with weed and animal pest control programmes. 	EW Reserve Group	EW	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote/enforce the need for animal and plant pest control on lifestyle blocks, via ratepayer newsletters, and the EW and EBOP websites. 	EW	TCDC Reserve Group	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with affected residents re plantings and tree removal & maintenance (e.g., sight lines, wind). 	Reserve Group TCDC		√	Ongoing	Ongoing

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Party/ies	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
There is an animal and plant pest control problem on Council reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a pest control programme. Ensure pests are identified as an issue in individual reserve management plans. Continue support for reserve management group. Consult with affected residents 	Reserve Group	EW/ TCDC	√	√	
		TCDC	Reserve Group KRRA			
		TCDC KRRA	KRRA	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
		Reserve Group		Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Natural and planted kauri on the Coromandel are at risk from spread of PTA. and ensure that all those going into any bush practice boot hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the public about how to prevent its spread with prominent signage at all popular bush walks. All those working or hunting in the bush, including contractors, tree planting and track development in particular MUST observe DoC protocols in terms of boot hygiene, cleaning of machinery and tools, etc 	DoC	Kauri 2000	Immediate and ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
		Matarangi Walkway group, Kauri 2000, pig hunters etc	Matarangi Walkway group	Immediate and ongoing		
Clean stream initiatives should be continued and promoted / encouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor streams, Meet with local landowners, encourage riparian plantings that do not impede flood waters getting away. 	EW Reserve Group	Reserve Group	√	Ongoing	Ongoing
				Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Party/ies	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Lack of safety equipment on beaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstate vandal proof lifesaving equipment on beach fronts. 	TCDC	KRRA	√		
Concern that the Kuaotunu bush backdrop will be lost over time, from development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure bush is protected during building and development. Ensure any zoning changes are strictly controlled to prevent this 	TCDC	KRRA	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Concern that development will change the look and feel of Kuaotunu, need to retain bush backdrop and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that zoning requirements are reviewed / changed to ensure they reflect this concern, and are adhered to. 	TCDC	KRRA	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Riparian strips and the tidal river area need to be maintained to ensure flood protection, maintain flushing for clear water, and recreational use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a management plan for riparian strips and tidal river area. Obtain a covenant over the wetland and estuary. 	Reserve Group Reserve Group	EW	√	√	

CULTURAL – Recreation & Leisure / Arts / Heritage

What do we have?

- Tennis courts, playing field and children's play area.
- A community involved with water activities such as swimming, surfing, and recreational boating/diving/fishing.
- Long history of settlement in the area, not widely known or recorded, including pre-European settlement and a rich gold mining heritage.
- Recreational fishing, boating, kayaking in streams and sea.
- Small scale commercial fishing.
- Parking congestion at the boat ramp.
- Artists, crafts and community groups.
- Beach and bush walking tracks.
- Small village settlement.
- Camp ground operation.
- Boat launching at Torea Rd.

What do we want?

- All ramp parking fees collected at Kuaotunu plus a relevant percentage (determined by usage patterns) of all fees collected at other ramps in the Mercury Bay region to be invested in upgrades and maintenance of the Kuaotunu boat ramp.
- A Reserve Management Plan for Quarry Point Reserve that will prioritise expenditure to improve boat trailer parking on SH25, to improve pedestrian access & safety along SH25 and to upgrade the ramp to ensure navigation, boat safety and access is maintained at all times.
- Better signage by boat ramp to remind boaties of their responsibilities in regard to divers warning buoys / speeding and courtesy/ right of way when launching and retrieving.
- To retain boat launching at Torea Rd (Blackjack Reserve) for small craft only and ensure any upgrade has no detrimental effect on other users and the overall environment.
- Public discussion on a Marine Reserve in the area.
- Improve maintenance of community facilities such as the tennis courts, children's area, boat ramp and definitely the community hall.
- To see an historical display researching and recording the Maori and European histories of the area.
- For the tennis courts to be signed over to Council by formalising the zoning and to retain as a community facility.
- To update the community information sign in the commercial area including the one at the tennis courts displaying our history.
- Additional safety equipment on the beaches.
- To include artwork where possible in the reserves.
- Better enforcement of navigational by-laws.
- To retain our safe swimming areas, buoys marking the 200m limit, clear signage stating the marine rules for boats and jet skis and strict enforcement of the 200m limit.

What don't we want?

- The natural environment being ruined – it is Kuaotunu's best asset.
- Kuaotunu to resemble Whitianga or Matarangi.
- Inadequate boat ramp facilities and parking.
- Deterioration of historic sites.
- Skateboarding park or go cart tracks.
- Big festivals – leave those to Whitianga.

Priorities

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Need better signage at boat ramp, informing boaties and divers of their responsibilities, fishing regulations, and courtesy rules for the boat ramp etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install signs 	TCDC	KRRA	√		
There is limited information available to the public on the history of the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form historical Society. 	Historical society		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an historical display. 	Historical society		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install signs at heritage sites 	TCDC & KRRA		√		
There is a lack of safe cycle and walkway linkages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a footpath/cycle-way connecting Kuaotunu West to shops [and ultimately on to the Waitaia Road]. Design work and negotiations with NZTA re a footpath connecting Bluff Road and the main beach front reserve to commence urgently in 2010. 	TCDC, NZTA KRRA to support			√	
				√		

SOCIAL – Health / Education / Safe Communities / Community

What do we have?

- By good luck we have avoided the worst extremes of absentee ownership and the distortions that creates. We have approximately 50/50 permanent and non permanent residents.
- We are a small community numerically but a very active and interconnected one, with a:
 - ❖ Kindergarten and playgroup at Kuaotunu, a primary school at Te Rerenga and an Area School at Whitianga;
 - ❖ Community hall that is well used but has been in a state of disrepair (currently undergoing repairs);
 - ❖ Strong volunteer ethic:
 - Volunteer Fire Force and Kuaotunu Land Search and Rescue;
 - Other volunteer groups such as KEA and Kauri 2000, Matarangi Reserve walkway volunteers;
 - Community groups such as garden club, tai chi, astronomy and craft groups;
 - Volunteer library.
 - ❖ Playground, playing field and tennis courts at the domain;
- People are very proud of Kuaotunu, its history and its beautiful setting.
- People are generally very oriented towards the outdoors, enjoying local beaches and the bush.
- We enjoy a balanced population in terms of spread of ages and there is respect and mutual pleasure in having these different generations active in the community.
- A State Highway running through the community creates conflicts and speed discrepancies between local and through traffic, as well as safety hazards for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Low crime rate and little vandalism.
- A boat ramp with limited parking, stretched beyond capacity at holidays and weekends.
- A village centre containing the hall, fire force building, a general store, petrol pump, art gallery and café that together comprise the social hub of our community.
- Police based in Whitianga.
- Ambulance First Response at Matarangi.
- Health services in Whitianga and Coromandel.
- Whitianga as service centre for this area.

What do we want?

- To retain our strong identity and sense of cohesion as a community based upon having a preponderance of permanent residents sharing core values, rather than the social and infrastructure distortions and sense of disengagement created by having too many absentee land owners and too great an influx of seasonal visitors.
- To have a safe, happy, confident, caring and healthy community that caters for the needs of residents of all ages.
- To prevent any development that would jeopardise the above in any way.
- To maintain and enhance the community hall and its surrounds as the social hub of our community, to cater for the needs of the numerous groups using it and build community spirit.
- To create a physically cohesive and safe community by developing a network of footpaths connecting Kuaotunu West, the main beach front, the village centre and through to Cemetery Road to enable people to walk freely and safely between the various parts of Kuaotunu.
- Further, to not only retain the posted 50km/h speed limit along the main beach front in the interests of pedestrian safety but to extend this to 100 metres past the Kuaotunu Bridge on the eastern side to 100 metres past the boat ramp, with 70k buffer zones extending beyond Cemetery Road and Hilldale Crescent.
- Speed limits to be clearly signposted, with other traffic calming measures to ensure the limits are observed, and enforcement to be carried out on a regular basis.

- To have more social events that bring people together in the community.
- To keep and enhance our volunteer emergency community services -- fire force and land search and rescue.
- To develop a civil defence plan with particular emphasis on a well thought out, communicated, understood and rehearsed tsunami warning system.
- Repairs to the fire brigade and hall buildings to be completed as required.
- Consistent police presence particularly during long weekends and the summer season.
- Consistent enforcement of all bylaws.
- Meaningful consultation and community involvement between TCDC, the Community Board and the community.
- Councillors, TCDC staff, and Community Board to reflect community wishes in their decision making, and ensure the preparation of this plan is not just a piece of meaningless window dressing.
- Councillors, TCDC staff, and Community Board members to work in a transparent, ethical, efficient, timely and constructive manner at all times, with a sense of vision and respect for local communities.
- All planning and consent decisions to be transparent and to ensure the intent of the District Plan, RMA and community wishes (e.g., for environmental protection) are honoured.
- Community groups responsible for our environmental, physical and social wellbeing to liaise and consult with the wider community regularly (i.e., Ratepayers, Fire Force, KSAR, Reserve Management Group, Hall Committee as a core group), at least twice a year.
- Long term, an alternative location for the fire brigade as part of a multi-purpose emergency services base that would also include facilities for KSAR, ambulance and civil defence. This would enable cost efficiencies and more effective response in emergencies. The existing fire brigade location may not be ideal as the community grows, and is at risk in a tsunami.
- Impacts of seasonal visitor influx and tourism industry to be minimised:
 - ❖ boat ramp behaviour to be better controlled and roadside parking to be enhanced where possible and controlled.
 - ❖ no concessions to operate from Kuaotunu beaches, reserves etc, or eco-tourism ventures to be approved without prior consultation with and approval of the community and a financial contribution made by the operators to the community to compensate for their social and environmental impact.
- 'Dust' to be included as a health issue within the roading policy when it is reviewed.
- Develop and implement an upgrading / maintenance plan for community facilities.
- To meet regularly with Council/elected members and the community to discuss community matters.
- To investigate the potential for a local health clinic.
- To encourage our senior residents to stay here by investigating options such as transport into Whitianga, possibly by encouraging local children to do gardening etc?
- To preserve our dark skies unspoilt by light pollution from poorly designed exterior and street lighting.
- Development that encourages permanent residents.

What don't we want?

- To lose any existing services including police.
- Any changes to zoning that would allow more intensive subdivision or development.
- Tavern.
- More street lights.

Priorities

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
Concern about vehicle speed limits in and on the outskirts of Kuaotunu and Transit moves to raise them.	• Consult with Transit NZ.	TCDC / KRRRA	LTNZ Opus TCDC	√		
	• Prepare and implement a plan that includes speed limits, road signs and other traffic calming techniques.	TCDC/ NZTA IN CONSULT ATION WITH KRRRA		√	√	
	• Extend 50km zone to 100m past the bridge on the Whitianga side and 100m past the boat ramp, with 70kmh buffer zones extending beyond Hilldale Crescent and Cemetery Road.	NZTA IN CONSULT ATION WITH KRRRA		√		
	• Install speed feedback devices in 50kmh zone	NZTA IN CONSULT ATION WITH TCDC / KRRRA				
Current fire brigade location may not be ideal as community grows. Locating emergency services together will assist in better coordination during emergencies	• Identify a location for a multi-purpose emergency services base for Fire Force, Land Search & Rescue, St John's, Civil Defence and community support.	TCDC /KRRRA	TCDC			√

Issue	Action	Lead Agency	Other Parties	Priority / Timeline		
				09/10	10/12	13/15
The community has no formal civil defense plan or tsunami warning siren.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and implement a civil defense plan with particular emphasis on tsunami warnings. 	TCDC / CD / K'tunu Fire Force KRRA	Emergency. Service orgs, TCDC	√ √		
The community hall (Council owned) requires ongoing maintenance and enhancement of hall facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with TCDC for ongoing repairs. • Prepare a plan for the staged maintenance and redevelopment of the hall, to be approved by the wider community. 	Hall Committee Hall Committee	TCDC	√ √		

N.b., KRRA = Kuaotunu Ratepayers Association