

Ahipara Community Plan August 2012



Table of Contents

Introduction

Executive Summary

The Purpose and Value of the Ahipara Community Plan

Ahipara Community Profile

Demographics

Total population

Number of occupied dwellings counted

Age

Ahipara Locality

Local History

The Kauri Gum Industry

Community Vision

Natural Environment Goals

Community Goals

Built Environment Goals

Economy Goals

Introduction

- Commencing in Dec 2010 4 public meetings were held at the Rugby Club and Marae to gain public perceptions and aspirations of residents in connection with Ahipara. At one of the meetings held at the Marae representatives were invited from NRC, DoC, NDHB, WINZ, DIA together with a number of people from FNDC departments.
- From the initial meetings a smaller working party was formed charged with the task of producing an Ahipara Community Plan. It was fortunate that this group comprised younger people, those with families and older people of both Maori and Pakeha backgrounds. This working party attended regular meetings at the Rugby club.
- During the development of the Plan, finished in August 2012, a number of local projects were undertaken:-
 1. The erection of picnic tables along the Foreshore Reserve together with an outside shower by the Public Toilets. Local tradesmen organised a number of unemployed young men to assist which, in turn, provided them with valuable work experience. The Te Hiku Community Board was approached for funding and local suppliers assisted with preferential prices.
 2. The area on the corner opposite the school had become a target for graffiti on the motel signs. These were removed and the area cleared of gorse etc and the signs were relocated at the Rugby Club for a small fee.
 3. Just before Christmas 2011 “Ahipara Christmas in the Park” was held and this included barrel racing on the beach, an open air concert and a variety of food and drink vendors. It was well attended and a great success.
 4. Funds have been allocated for additional footpaths in Ahipara and, again, local tradesmen are in negotiations with Council regarding the possibility of using Corrections labour in an attempt to make the funds go further.

Executive Summary

The Ahipara Community Plan Vision

Ahipara is a community in control of its destiny and one that connects its environment and people for a sustainable future.

Some of the aims identified during the process were:-

- Indigenous biodiversity (plants and animals) and their natural habitats are given adequate protection by educating locals and visitors in environmental care and responsible behaviour. Enhance breeding populations by protecting breeding areas and stocks plus establishing nurseries. (Examples are 1. the dotterels who have struggled to raise their chicks over recent years with the assistance of Doug & Jackie Klever 2. The re seeding of the shellfish by the Rueben Taipari and members of the Marae.
- The Ahipara economy has long term viability and all elements of the economy demonstrate sustainable practises. (Examples are 1. primary production systems in the Ahipara area cause no harm to the environment. 2. A ‘Time Banking’ scheme for Ahipara be introduced.)
- Significant views and site lines that contribute to the character of Ahipara are protected. (an example is a 2 storey limit on buildings is part of the District Plan zoning for Ahipara.)
- Stop the flow of pollutants to streams, estuary and sea. (1.investigate alternative methods for human waste disposal 2.explore current capacity and efficiency of current sewage system
- Effective coastal erosion avoidance/mitigation by way of structures and natural mitigation measures along the Foreshore.

On behalf of the Ahipara Community Plan working party I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken Ross, FNDC Community Development Advisor, without whose enthusiasm and hard work there would not be an Ahipara Community Plan.

Another person I would like to thank is John Edmonds of The Northwood Collection for supplying the historic photos of Ahipara included in the Ahipara Community Plan document.

Yvonne Smith - Te Hiku Community Board

THE PURPOSE AND VALUE OF THE AHIPARA COMMUNITY PLAN

Toward the end of 2010, the Far North District Council offered the community of Ahipara the opportunity of creating a Community Plan which included the concept of sustainable development.

A Community Plan is a document created by a community. It is an expression of the community's vision and aspirations for their land, waters and people for the medium-term future. As such, it firstly has to seek those visions and aspirations. In the case of this plan, that work took place in a series of public meetings held through late 2010 and early 2011. Secondly, there is then the task of designing the goals and specific projects that will deliver the vision and community aspirations, and the process of formulating these into a realistic roadmap (plan) the community can use to negotiate its way through each goal to the final overall vision. In the case of the Ahipara Community Plan (ACP), that work was conducted by a 'Working Party' from the community between March 2011 and July 2012. For convenience, this plan has been divided into obvious sections, or 'Focus Areas' to make the writing, reading and actions arising from the plan more 'do-able'. In reality, we know that social, cultural, environmental and economic issues invariably overlap, but for convenience, issues, goals and projects have been packaged in a manner which makes them more understandable and achievable.

Less obvious is another form of 'packaging' or categorising in the plan. This plan has three other 'categories' for the goals and activities that become more obvious as the plan unfolds. Firstly, the plan has goals that relate to the community's relationship with the Far North District Council, and the Council's responsibility for the Ahipara Community. Secondly, the plan has goals that relate to the community's relationships with other local, regional and national agencies and the responsibilities they have for the Ahipara Community. Finally, the plan has goals that are specific, unique and integral to this community – goals that the community can achieve for itself, like it has done so many times in the past.

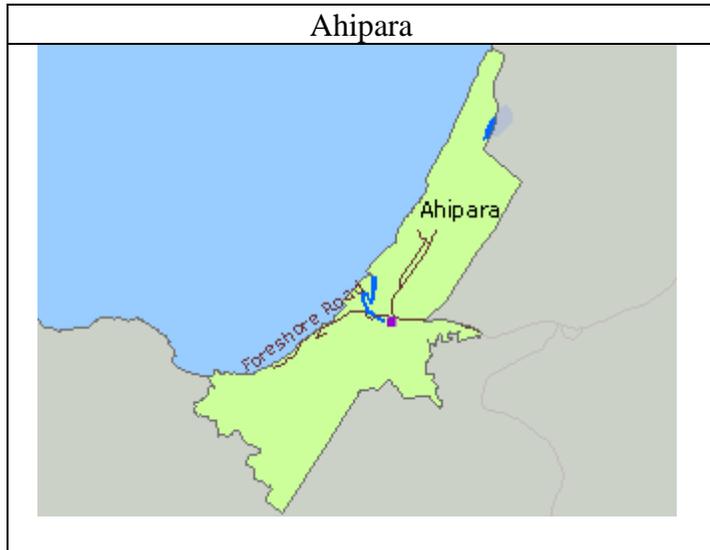
The purpose and value of this plan is therefore threefold: One, it informs FNDC of the community's aspirations and intentions, somewhat like a communal submission to council's own planning, so the community can contribute to its own development via FNDC processes and activity. Two, it informs all the other relevant agencies whose activities and responsibilities impact on the community, what the Ahipara Community want in their future. Three, it serves as a roadmap for the community itself, co-ordinating and timing all the various community projects and activities that will deliver the desired vision for Ahipara.

The compiling of this plan is the first step in a 25 year journey. This plan must remain a living document. It must grow and evolve to meet the many unforeseen challenges awaiting it. The community must nurture and up-date this plan, carry out its projects and stand behind it. The baton for its care and outcomes must be passed from one to another in this process, so the plan can serve the community that has created it, otherwise all its purpose and value will be lost.

Ahipara Community Profile

Demographics

This map shows the Ahipara Area:



- Area within boundary
- River/lake
- Coastal water/oceanic area
- Town/city boundary
- Road/street name
- School

Note: Neighbouring areas are grey to show they are not the subject of this map. Rivers and lakes not included in this area are also grey. This map is not to scale.

A full set of data for Ahipara can be found at: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2006CensusHomePage/QuickStats/AboutAPlace.aspx>

Total population

1,125 people usually live in Ahipara. This is an increase of 84 people, or 8.1%, since the 2001 Census. Ahipara has 0.8% of Northland's population.

Number of occupied dwellings counted

There are 405 occupied dwellings in Ahipara. For Northland, there are 55,929 occupied dwellings.

Age

11.2% of people are aged 65 years and over, compared with 14.5% of the total Northland population. 25.1% of people are aged less than 15 years in Ahipara, compared with 23.4% for all of the Northland.

Ethnic groups

The most common ethnic group in Ahipara is European, compared with European for Northland Region (68%). European 56.2%: Māori 54.3%. Statistics NZ allow multiple ethnicities, so can add up to more than 100%

Ahipara Locality

Sitting at the southern end of the world famous Ninety Mile Beach is Ahipara, an unspoiled sandy beach that curves its way up the Far North's western shoreline almost to Cape Reinga. Ahipara is 14 kms west of Kaitaia, and has a proud history of Maori settlement, gum digging and sea adventures. The name Ahipara means 'Sacred Fire' this ancient fire was kept burning constantly for the village, on the ground where the school is now located. Ahipara is in the tribal area of the Te Rarawa people, and descendants of the waka Tinana carried the first people here from the Pacific, landing at Tauroa on the south end of the reef past Shipwreck Bay

Shipwreck Bay was aptly named with the sinking of many ships including the 1863 Australian built paddle steamer Favourite (1 April 1867), with no loss of lives, which is still visible in the low tide surf. Above Shipwreck Bay you'll find the Ahipara Gumfield Historic Reserve where relics from the gum digger days can be seen, along with the remnants of ancient kauri forests. The majority of early Dalmatian settlers to the area made their living by digging Kauri Gum.

The first church and school at Ahipara were built in 1872 and the town of around 1000 supported several stores, post office and boarding house. In the 1950's, the market for gum fell away as did much of the population. The township is still a very popular place to live.

Renowned for spectacular sunsets, Ahipara boasts one of the best left hand surf breaks in the world. This surf breaks at Ahipara now recognized as a Schedule 1 protected surf breaks under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

Local History

Ahipara aka Wharo – Te Whenua
Karirikura – Te Moana
Whangatauatia – Te Maunga

The original settlers to this area of idyllic Far Northern Western Coastland were Maori whose ancestors were part of gther migration from Hawaiki arriving on the Takitimu canoe when it made land fall at Wharo (Ahipara), prior to continuing North and others on the on the Tinana canoe which anchored at Tauroa (a beach around the reef from Ahipara). Here the people settled, and spread as far as Kaitaia and some to the Far North.

Pakeha settlers dribbled in, in the early 19th Century, inter marrying with the Maori and setting up farms on their land. The 1840's saw the arrival of missionaries with names like Puckey, Davis, and Matthews who set up schools at Ahipara, on the western side of the Wairoa River, Wairoa, Ototoiti and Kohunga. There was a post office, general store, butcher, school, boarding house, churches, and Marae.

Dalmations arrived with the discovery of Kauri Gum on the gumfields above Ahipara. A township developed with a shop and a picture theatre up on the gumfields above Ahipara. In the 1850's when gum was reaching premium prices, schools closed while all labour available was centered on harvesting the gum. The gum was transported to Kohunga and shipped to ports around the world.

After the bridge was built over the Wairoa River, the main settlement was developed on its present site and a new school was built. As this township and population increased improvements and facilities developed, and the centre moved from the Ahipara bay area. Over the last 30 years Ahipara has become a haven for tourism, with many motels and holiday homes within the settlement. Ahipara has become a popular place for retirees, recreation, and workers that commute from Kaitaia.

The Kauri Gum Industry

During the 1880s, Dalmations and Croatian immigrants arrived in Northland, on the promise of great profits to be made on the Far North gumfields. Through the 1890s hundreds more men arrived, and by the 1900s there were several thousand working the gumfields. This over-production had a detrimental effect on both the local environment and the gum market. Gumfields were left marked by the gumdiggers' potholes and the annual firing of the scrub had destroyed the surface soil. With a fall in gum prices in the 1950s, there was a natural decline in both the market and the population.

In the late nineteenth century, gum diggers ranged far and wide, with fields both north and south of Auckland. The most productive area before the turn of the century was the northern Wairoa swamp lands around Dargaville. As the gum lands in the south around Auckland were converted to dairy farms, vineyards and orchards, the centre of gum digging shifted to the Far North around Ahipara and Houhora.

Ahipara prospered during the kauri gum digging days of the late 1800s. At their peak the Gumfields supported two thousand people, three hotels, and numerous shops. Bullock teams carted the gum to the beach at Shipwreck Bay; from here the ships sailed on to Auckland

Ahipara Community Plan Vision

Ahipara is a community in control of its destiny, and one that connects its environment and people for a sustainable future.

Natural Environment	Community	Built Environment	Economy
<i>We acknowledge and care for our beautiful and unique natural environment, utilising the principles of Kaitiakitanga.</i>	<i>The Ahipara community has a strong sense of place and ownership, and shares widely accepted cultural perspectives.</i>	<i>Ahipara is a safe and well resourced community for all.</i>	<i>The community of Ahipara enjoys full and meaningful employment.</i>

Natural Environment

We acknowledge and care for our beautiful and unique natural environment, utilising the principles of Kaitiakitanga.



Focus Area: Natural Environment**Specific Element: Biodiversity and Habitats**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
<p>Indigenous biodiversity (plants and animals), and their natural habitats are given adequate protection</p> <p>Populations of indigenous biodiversity are in strong recovery</p>	<p>Establish sanctuary, rahui and reserve areas where appropriate to protect specific populations.</p> <p>Enhance breeding populations by protecting breeding areas and stocks, plus establishing nurseries.</p>	<p>Through planting programmes at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Point • Riparian valley / estuary <p>Plus Community Education programmes</p>	<p>Board Riders Landcare Group Coast Care Group CBEC General</p>
<p>The Ahipara community and visitors to the area display high levels of environmental and biodiversity awareness and need for protection</p>	<p>Educate locals and visitors in environmental care and responsible behaviour.</p>	<p>School programmes Brochures in the community and motels Signage</p>	<p>Primary School Community Plan Group FNDC / NRC</p>

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Economic Use of Natural Environment

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The community of Ahipara is mindful of the need to have a 'light' footprint on the land, and ensures all human activities cause minimum levels of disturbance.	All economic use of the natural environment for the purposes of production of materials or energy (and/or disposal of wastes) is conducted to the highest possible standards to preserve the environmental integrity of Ahipara	Ongoing education programmes in the community	Landcare and Coast Care Groups Other Kaitiaki

Focus Area: Natural Environment Specific Element: Soils, Modified Environments and Production Systems

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Primary production systems in the Ahipara area cause no harm to the natural environment	Primary production systems follow ecologically sustainable practices and utilise soil conservation methods. Natural fertilisers, herbicides and animal remedies are the predominant use materials.	Enforcement of NRC By-Laws and Fonterra 'Clean Streams Accord'. Education and encouragement	Coast Care, Landcare and Kaitiaki groups
The riparian areas in farming areas are protected by appropriate fencing and planting	Waterways in stocked areas are fenced and planted to preserve water quality and fresh water ecology.	As above	As above

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Recreational Tourism

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Locals and visitors behave in a responsible manner when undertaking recreational activity in the natural environment.	Education of locals and visitors for wise use of the local environment is wide spread and accepted practice.	Signage Brochures in motels Beach Ambassadors Community Enforcement	Maureen Te Paa and Street Matz Safer Communities programme
Beach traffic is well behaved and observes speed and locality restrictions.	Regulations are in place and enforced to reinforce educational activity. Speed and vehicle restrictions are in place and enforced. (Kaka to Kohanga 30k/h)	Signage Council By-Law enforcement Police Enforcement	FNDC NZ Police

Focus Area: Natural Environment**Specific Element: Landscapes, Sites of Significance and Wahi Tapu**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Landscapes and sites of significance are protected and treated with due respect	Significant sites are identified and interpreted, using correct names and spelling. Correct pronunciation of Maori place names is encouraged and celebrated.	Use Locals as 'Ambassadors' Welcome People and explain sensible behaviour expectations Share Brochures Community Notice Board	Kaitiaki Groups, Local Community
Significant views and site lines that contribute to the character of Ahipara are protected.	A 2 storey limit on buildings is part of the District Plan zoning for Ahipara. Appropriate tree planting is encouraged.	Submission to FNDC Planning Residents sight lines are given protection	FNDC, Ahipara Community Plan Group Residents who benefit, FNDC

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Education for the Environment

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Behaviour that protects and enhances the natural environment is encouraged.	<p>A “Wise Use and Care for the Environment” pamphlet is widely available to all residents of, and visitors to, Ahipara.</p> <p>The local schools have successful, environmental awareness programmes.</p>	<p>‘Wise Care’ pamphlet needs to be funded and written. Tony will look in to this</p> <p>Based around locally produced resources</p>	<p>Tony Walker and other Kaitiaki Landcare Trust FNEC</p> <p>Local Kaitiaki, FNEC</p>
Behaviour that can harm the natural environment is discouraged.	<p>Freedom camping is highly restricted (Places to be designated)</p> <p>Residents of Ahipara encourage locals and visitors to observe fishing and shellfish harvesting regulations.</p>	Education through ‘Wise care’ programme. Enforcement by locals	Landcare, Coast Care groups and Locals Fisheries Inspectors

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Marine Environment (dunes, rocky shores and sea [Moana])

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The marine environment and its natural biodiversity are well protected and well stocked with healthy native plants and animals	The community of Ahipara uses Rahui, restricted access and restricted take to preserve the marine environment and its biota.	Posted Rahui, and Notices Maps, Signage and Brochures	Local Hapu, Coast Care Group, DoC, NRC

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Fresh water, streams and estuaries

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Significant water ways and water bodies in Ahipara are in excellent condition.	The waters of Wairoa stream and its tributaries, Waimimiha lake and Kohanga stream are protected from pollution and excess sedimentation.	Fencing and planting riparian areas with appropriate species	Farmers / land owners, Local Hapu, Landcare Group, NRC

Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Hills (Maunga) and forests (Ngahere)

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The hills and forests of Ahipara are valued as a part of the history and landscape of Ahipara	The hills and forests that frame and shelter Ahipara are given due recognition and protection. The community can name them and tell their 'stories'.	Part of School education programmes Maps and Signage General Community Awareness	School, Local Hapu FNDC, Whole of community

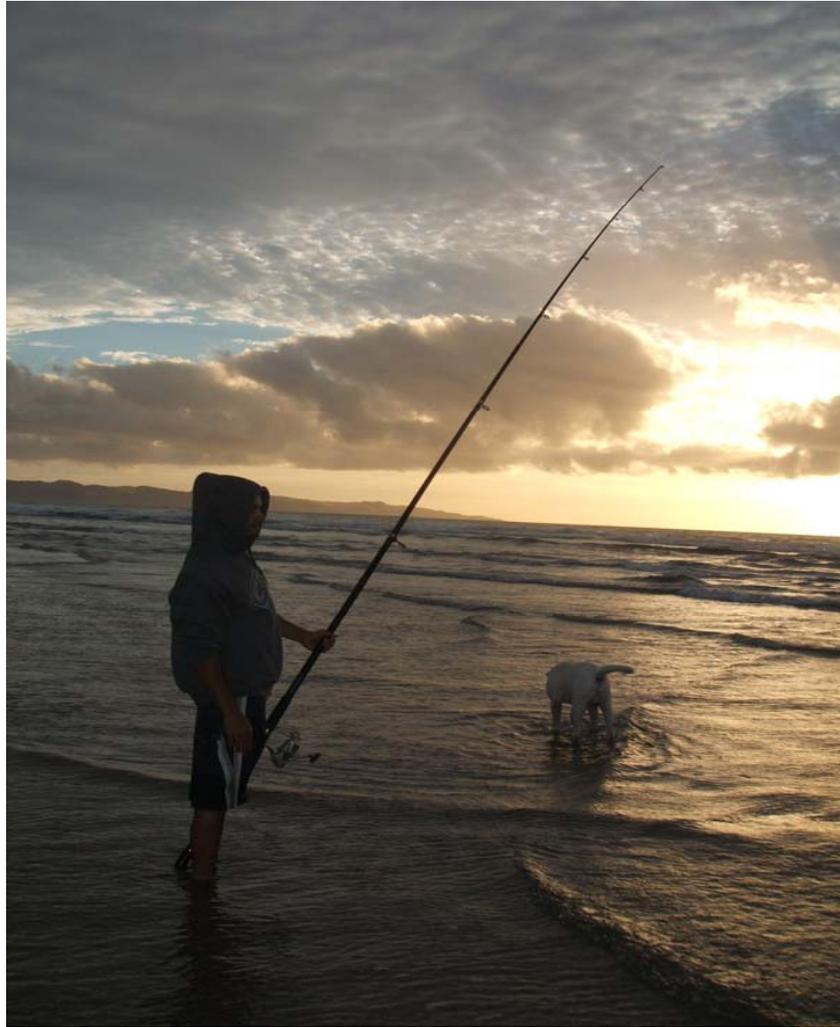
Focus Area: Natural Environment

Specific Element: Ecosystem Services

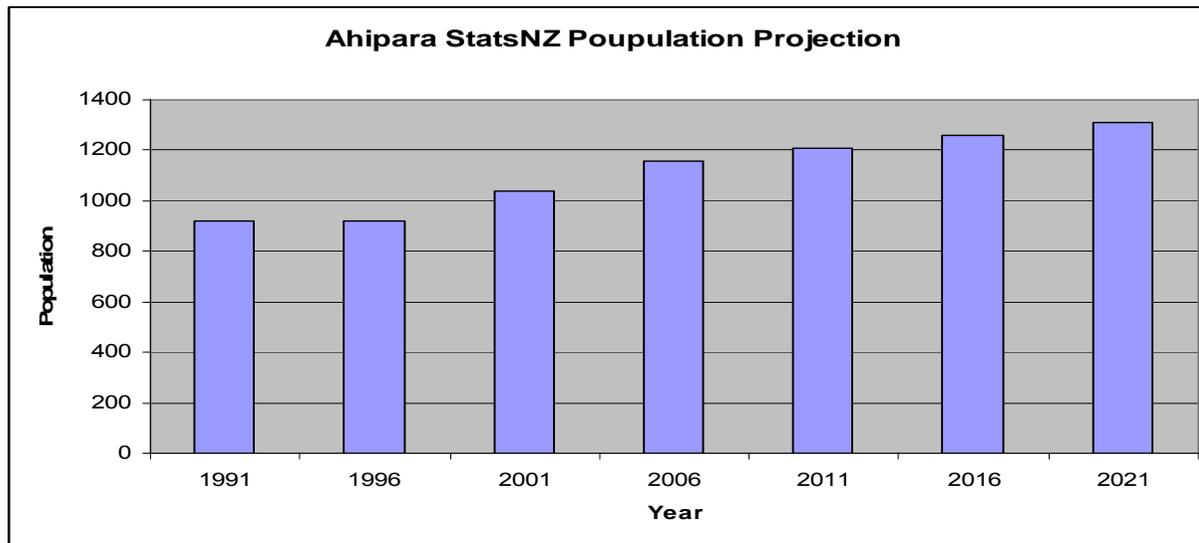
What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The community of Ahipara values its life support (Ecosystem Services) systems	The value of Ecosystem Services is an integral part of environmental education and awareness in Ahipara.	Through School programmes, Community Education programmes and brochures	School, Locals at all levels
Vital, natural resources and ecosystem services exhibit high levels of environmental health.	Environmental protection measures maintain the integrity of soil, atmosphere, fresh water and sea.	Riparian and dune, fencing, planting and other protection efforts are ongoing	Landcare and Coast Care Groups, Kaitiaki and Local Hapu. Far North Board Riders

Community

The Ahipara community has a strong sense of place and ownership, and shares widely accepted cultural perspectives.



Projected Population to 2021



Development Profile:

Ahipara is a small coastal settlement with businesses focused on a significant summer vacation market as well as tourists accessing 90 mile beach.

Retail

Ahipara is serviced by a superette and laundromat along with eating establishments. There are also builders and electricians available within the town.

Tourism

The mainstay of the Ahipara economy is tourism. Ahipara offers a range of accommodation types and tourism products to visitors. It also has to be acknowledged that the rural economy does play a role in the economic wellbeing of Ahipara. Due to proximity, the economic fortunes of Ahipara are closely linked to Kaitaia. Therefore at the present time, Ahipara can be seen as a satellite town of Kaitaia.

Education

Ahipara Primary School has a roll of 211 with a decile rating of 3. The school is coeducational.

Focus Area: Community**Specific Element: Community Organisation and Leadership**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
<p>The Ahipara Community Plan Working Party stays intact and brings the Ahipara Community together through participation in local projects and capacity building activities.</p> <p>Special interest groups are established such as the Ahipara Kaitiaki (Landcare and 'Harbour' Care groups) to unite the community through project work, and recognition of the very 'special nature' of Ahipara and the responsibility of the community to the 'Place'.</p>	<p>The choice and timing of projects and requests for assistance at 'working bees'</p> <p>Set up the 'Ahipara Kaitiaki' as an umbrella group for Whenua and Moana based activities</p>	<p>Radio, media, phone and email 'trees', word of mouth, Community notice board and/or website and/or newsletter.</p> <p>A 'coordinator' role will need to be established to pull together all the individuals and groups, so work can be promoted, efforts shared and essential work targeted.</p>	<p>All of community, plus schools, churches etc</p> <p>All the different groups currently caring for the Ahipara environment.</p>

Focus Area: Community

Specific Element: Culture, Heritage, Arts and Spirituality

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
<p>Ahipara acknowledges and celebrates its rich cultural history and heritage.</p> <p>A range of tours and activities share this rich cultural history and heritage with residents and visitors.</p>	<p>Hold regular events and festivals to celebrate the range of cultures in the community.</p> <p>Possible sites and activities need to be listed and an economic viability check made</p>	<p>Build on the multi-cultural theme of Te Ahu.</p> <p>Create a cultural centre/hub for Ahipara.</p> <p>Establish tours of sites of interest, such as the gumfields and sites of cultural and historic significance.</p>	<p>Local Marae may be able to lead on some of this activity.</p> <p>An approach could be made to Peter Kitchen and Teresa Hart.</p>
<p>Ahipara has a wide range of art and craft workshops and endeavours offering high quality products and a wide range of learning, training experiences and tours</p>	<p>Possible art and craft sites and activities need to be listed and an economic viability check made</p>	<p>Establish tours of sites of interest, such as the weaving centre and craft workshops</p>	<p>Steve, Irish, Rueben and Heene. Peter Kitchen and Teresa Hart may be interested</p>

Focus Area: Community**Specific Element: Education and Learning**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The Ahipara community has excellent pre and primary school facilities	The Ahipara Community strongly supports its schooling and pre-school institutions and takes an active role in their governance.	The schools and governance systems are currently in good shape. It is over to the community to maintain that situation.	The entire community
The Ahipara community is actively involved in all aspects of education and learning and has broad, local learning opportunities through 'Life-Long Learning' programmes and Night Class activities	Community groups, artisans and individuals establish interest groups, learning opportunities and night classes in: Te Reo, Local History, Arts and Crafts, Gardening and food production skills, Boatmaster qualifications etc.	Through: The primary school Local Marae The Community Centre	Rueben and Heene Local Marae and Kaumatua Art and Craft groups Sports and Interest groups

Focus Area: Community**Specific Element: Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
All fresh water streams in the Ahipara area are safe for children to swim and play in and the streams and estuaries are safe habitat for the natural fauna and flora.	All sources of water contamination are removed	Fencing of riparian areas, education of land holders and industrial/commercial operations.	Ahipara's Kaitiaki (Landcare) Group and interested others.
The beach and dunes are a safe environment for people and natural fauna and flora to be in	Motorised traffic is adequately controlled	Speed restrictions are in place and regularly enforced. Areas of the beach and dune systems are closed to vehicles.	The community, FNDC and the Police

Focus Area: Community**Specific Element: Sport, Leisure and Recreation**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
The Ahipara community is well provided with sport and recreation facilities that serve a multitude of codes and purposes.	Ensure adequate facilities are in place, and assist groups and codes such as soccer and surf casting with their needs.	Create a co-ordination group to maximise the utilisation and maintenance of current facilities, and also plan for new ones.	Representatives from the current sports codes and leisure groups.
The Ahipara community successfully completes the two multipurpose facilities it has identified the community requires to provide for a variety of sport, leisure, recreational and social needs in the community.	Investigate the need for and the mechanisms for providing: 1 A community facility on the Foreshore at Ahipara 2 A Community Hall in the centre of the community.	Canvas community support at the Community Plan consultation Hui. Form comities to plan and fund raise for the facilities.	Members of sports codes, leisure and recreation groups, plus general public.

Built Environment

Ahipara is a safe and well resourced community for all.



Environment & Planning Profile

Transport

Council maintains 8.19 kms of roading in this area. Of this, 6.87 kms is sealed leaving 1.32 kms unsealed.

Council is currently undertaking a Roughness and Rating survey to determine what current roads need future works to be carried out.

Additionally:

- The township is on Ahipara Road which merges into Kaitaia Awaroa Road at Wainui Junction. Ahipara is 14.2 kms from Kaitaia
- Closest rail access is at Otiria, approximately 106 kms. Nearest port is Ōpua, approximately 119 km. Nearest commercial port of scale is Whāngārei; approximately 201 kms away
- Commercial air links via Kaitaia Airport, which is located north of Kaitaia on Quarry Road. The airport has 4 flights per day (Monday – Friday) and 2 flights on Saturday/Sunday. Kaitaia Airport is the most northerly airfield in New Zealand that has fuel available.
- The town is very well serviced by trucking firms delivering to Kaitaia and local courier from there.

Stormwater Catchment

The Ahipara Stormwater Management Plan includes extended catchment information. This is because the additional catchments are considered to contribute to the urban stormwater flow. There are a large number of small catchments that combine to make up the Ahipara urban area, of 80 ha with an area of 106.9 ha outside or upstream of the urban areas. A significant number of catchments (96) have been identified. 537 private properties are serviced along with 10 businesses.

The public system provides for the collection and conveyance of stormwater from roads and from developed areas. Typically runoff from roads, driveways and properties is collected via kerb and channel, catch pits, open drains and conveyed through a limited piped network to discharge to open drains, streams or rivers.

Council is responsible for:

- Maintaining the road drainage system (not including SH 12), kerb and channel and culverts
- Providing for and maintaining the public stormwater drainage system that receives stormwater from individual properties, reticulation (pipes), catch pits, manholes, inlets/outlets, detention dams/ponds
- Maintaining public watercourses, open drains, and overland flow paths.

Wastewater Disposal

Council supplies a full reticulation (17.9 km²) and sewerage system suitable for all household and most commercial purposes. The area of benefit services 1,034 people and has a total of 427 connections. The annual discharge of 54,977 m³ is treated by oxidation ponds and wetlands.

Water

Council does not own or manage a public potable water supply in the area.

Transfer Stations

Ahipara/Pukepoto - 2km up Sandhills Road (beside Ahipara Landfill)

Community Facilities

Pensioner Housing

Council has 1 complex at Ahipara, comprising 6 units with separate 1 bedroom.

The complex occasionally has a small number of vacancies.

Growth Opportunities\Nodes\Drivers

The following constraint and opportunity maps¹ provide general guidance on the constraints associated with known and potential hazards and other restrictions. The maps indicate areas unsuited for development, and areas where future development may be appropriate. They are based on information currently held by Council and have been developed at a very broad scale. Hence, they should not be related to specific sites and are provided for information purposes only.

The types of information which the maps have been based on include:

- Hazard areas (e.g. floodplains, landslips, coastal erosion)
- Important cultural and heritage sites (e.g. sites of significance to Maori including Pa and waahi tapu, heritage buildings, registered archaeological sites)
- Natural features (e.g. geological features such as lava flows and volcanic cones)
- Indigenous vegetation
- Waterways (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams)
- Soil type.

As part of the community planning process, the purpose of the maps is to provide background information to assist the community in developing their aspirations. The maps provide a valuable visual and information tool, and, like pictures, are worth a thousand words.

Map 3 - Areas most suited to development opportunities

The areas **not** included in Maps 1 & 2 are considered to be most suited to future urban growth. The map identifies areas suitable for intensive future urban development only as far as 1km away from the existing proposed Area of Benefit. These are the areas closest to existing urban development, are areas that are under pressure for subdivision and development, and are within or close to the current Area of Benefit. It shows where the need for serviced land is most likely to be needed, and where the potential demand for facilities in the future is likely to be.

¹ Kent Consulting (New Zealand) Ltd, *Constraints & Opportunity Mapping, 2008*

District Plan Zone Map

The District Plan zoning map shows the current zonings for the area. It can be compared to the areas identified as most suitable for future higher density urban development and shows where future changes to the District Plan may be appropriate, if the need arises.

Future Plans

The Ahipara Community agrees with the proposed future development areas that are located to the north and east of the Ahipara Village. The community does not agree with the proposed future development areas to the south of the gumfields and further to the north and north-west of Shipwreck Bay. The areas to the north and north-west of Shipwreck Bay are not considered to be suitable for future intensification of development areas as they are sensitive coastal areas and are potentially susceptible to high erosion rates due to the steep topography and exposed coastal location of this land. The areas to the south of the gumfields is not considered to be suitable for intensification of future development as this area is considered to be cultural significant to the community and local Iwi. The gumfields also contain large areas of indigenous vegetation, which provide a habitat to local fauna.

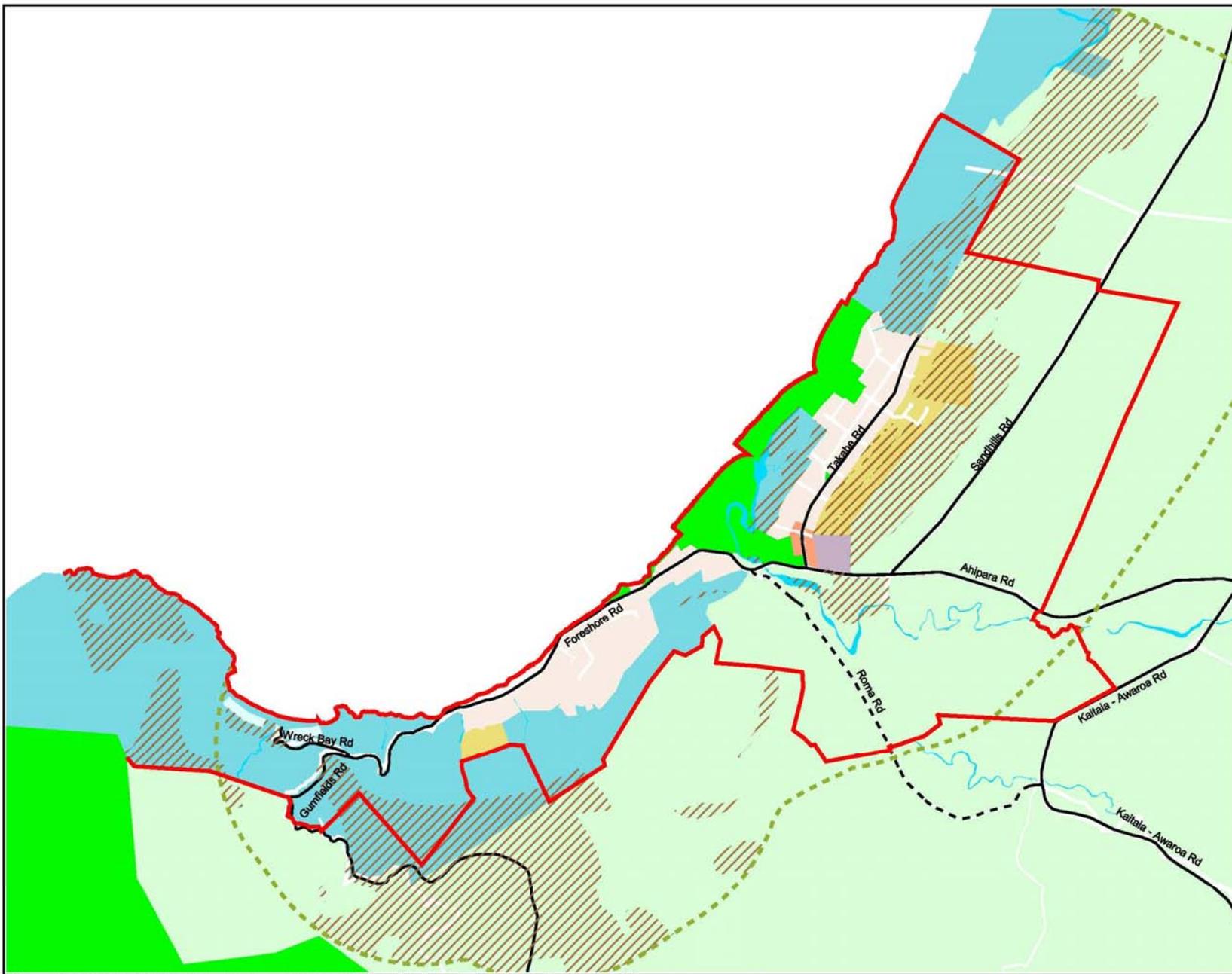
MAP 4 District Plan Zones

Ahipara Community
Plan

(INDICATIVE ONLY)

LEGEND

- Study Area
- 1 Km buffer from Proposed Area of Benefit
- Areas Most Suited for Development
- Partly Operative District Plan**
- Coastal Living
- Conservation
- Commercial
- Coastal Residential
- General Coastal
- Lakes and Rivers
- Residential
- Recreational Activities
- Road
- Rural Production
- Roading**
- Sealed Road
- Metal Road



Note:
Layers may overlap
or obscure each other.
Scale 1:20,000 @ A3
Printed 25 November 2008

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure

Specific Element: Legislation and Zoning

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
<p>Create a special 'Mixed use Zone' area on Foreshore Rd near the toilets (retail use), or alternatively allow a Council owned reserve on the foreshore to become a mixed use zone that includes a small retail unit.</p>	<p>ACP WP applies for plan change</p>	<p>Ahipara community work with Te Hiku Community Board and planners</p>	<p>Adjacent land owners, TH/N CB, ACP WP</p>
<p>Community has more direct input in to regulatory issues in Ahipara including: Roaming dogs, liquor bans, Zoning issues, waste water pond placement, vehicle speed, parking and access, landfill operation</p>	<p>More direct lines of communication with FNDC. Community speaks with one voice</p>	<p>Community Board member and ACP WP hold regular meetings</p>	<p>FNDC ACP WP TH/N CB</p>

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure**Specific Element: Roading**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Improve road condition and safety in the school and Ahipara commercial/retail area.	Community hold discussions re perceived issues with FNDC Roading Engineers	Through RFS and Annual Plan processes	FNDC, Ahipara Primary School and Community
Slow traffic in CBD/School area, and along Foreshore Rd (through road design, use of chicanes etc)	Community hold discussions re perceived issues with FNDC Roading Engineers	Through RFS and Annual Plan processes	FNDC, Ahipara Primary School and Community

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure**Specific Element: Pavements**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Create better links with paving between school, retail, recreation and residential areas in Ahipara	Get the development flagged in FNDC planning and budgeting process	Apply through TH/N CB for sequential development, plus submit to annual plan	TH/N CB and ACP WP
Improve pedestrian access to beach and improve footpaths on foreshore, with a section of the foreshore path to be a 'Board Walk'.	Get the development flagged in FNDC planning and budgeting process	Apply through TH/N CB for sequential development, plus submit to annual plan	TH/N CB and ACP WP

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure

Specific Element: Refuse and Solid Waste

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Increase efforts to minimise the waste going in to the Ahipara Landfill.	Mount an educational campaign through the wider area, through retail outlets, schools and community in general	Apply for external funding and carry out waste audit and reduction analysis. Conduct community awareness campaign	FNDC ACP WP CBEC
Provide a facility for green waste	Suitable section of land set aside and a mulching machine purchased to recycle the material	Part of CBEC business operation or a local cooperatively owned business opportunity	CBEC ACP WP

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure

Specific Element: Waste Water Management

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Broaden the area of benefit for waste water (sewage) disposal	Investigate current capacity and efficiency of system. Gradually extend area of benefit as finances and community buy-in allows.	Approach Council and create rationale for extension of area of benefit. May require high density subdivision to justify	FNDC Ahipara Community Central Government?
Move wastewater ponds away from residential area. Work with local Hapu to decide on appropriate placement	Establish perceived problems with current site are insurmountable. Obtain a more suitable site at reasonable cost.	Couple this issue with the investigations below	FNDC Ahipara Community Central Government?
Improve the effectiveness of waste water treatment in Ahipara and stop the flow of pollutants to streams, estuary and sea	Set up an Ahipara Community / Iwi / FNDC / NRC working group to investigate the effectiveness of the waste water treatment plant and state of discharge waters.	Monitor operation of the plant and the state of the final discharge at all stages of treatment, across all environmental conditions (rain loading, temperature etc.)	Ahipara Community Local hapu Fndc NRC DoC
Investigate alternative methods for human waste disposal.	Investigate the possibilities of discharge to land, or raupo ponds and the use of raupo for bio-fuels. Investigate possibilities for converting residential toilets to composting systems.	Set up a pilot group that would look at other individuals and communities in Northland utilizing alternative systems, and then report back to the community.	Initially, the Ahipara Community. Eventually, FNDC and NRC would need to be involved.

Focus Area: Built Environment /Infrastructure Specific Element: Storm Water / Water Supply

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Encourage appropriate stormwater retention and management with effective collection and disposal.			FNDC ACP WP
Provide a reticulated water supply for Ahipara	Define area of benefit and do cost/benefit analysis.	Take findings to Council. Submit through AP and LTP process if project is feasible.	Residents in area of benefit ACP WP TH/N CB FNDC

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure

Specific Element: Community Facilities and Aesthetics

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
<p>The Ahipara Community builds a multi-purpose meeting place ('Community Centre' 'Events Centre', 'Youth Centre' 'Information Centre' in Central Ahipara)</p>	<p>Identify need, possible site(s) and costs</p>	<p>Community would have to establish a successful fund raising programme to reach Community Contribution, then approach external funders such as ASBCT or Lotteries Board</p>	<p>Community 'Community Centre' Trust TH/N CB External Funders</p>
<p>The central area of Ahipara and the waterfront benefit from beautification activity conducted by the community and supported by Council</p>	<p>Plan areas of need for development and maintenance, and plan beautification activity</p>	<p>Through working bees, Setting up a community nursery</p>	<p>Community FNDC Schools</p>

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure

Specific Element: Community Protection and Safety

<p>What are some possible (tentative) goals?</p>	<p>What would need to be done to achieve the goal?</p>	<p>How might it be done?</p>	<p>Who will be involved?</p>
<p>Ahipara enjoys effective coastal erosion avoidance/mitigation by way of structures and natural mitigation measures along the foreshore.</p>	<p>Effective sea wall systems are constructed in the areas of greatest risk</p>	<p>Map levels of risk to waterfront with NRC input. Lobby NRC for assistance</p>	<p>Community NRC FNDC</p>
<p>Ahipara is a safe community environment with: adequate street lighting, effective and safe parking, an enforced liquor ban, controlled freedom camping, secure reserves and recreation areas, and effective traffic speed control.</p>	<p>Outline acceptable standards and thresholds for issue.</p>	<p>Present issues to TH/N CB, and Police</p>	<p>Community FNDC NZ Police</p>

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure**Specific Element: Reserves and Recreational Facilities**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Create a recreational area by the beach with children's playground and an area for parents.	Create proposal and suggested site.	Take to TH/N CB with cost/benefit analysis and level of community contribution	Community FNDC
Create a cycle way and walkway to Kaitaia, and cycle tracks to wilderness areas	Establish the need for this facility both in the local community and the tourist industry	Map the cycle way and conduct feasibility study. Take information to stakeholders and create buy-in.	Community Tourism groups Sport Northland DoC FNDC

Focus Area: Built Environment / Infrastructure**Specific Element: Reserves and Recreational Facilities**

What are some possible (tentative) goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Ahipara has attractive reserve and recreation facilities for locals and visitors, with well placed and maintained: picnic tables and seating, toilets, play areas, rubbish bins, bollards, paving and plantings	Reserve requirements/requests need to be mapped and planned.	Community needs to work closely with FNDC reserves staff to achieve goals.	Community FNDC

Economy of Ahipara

Vision: The community of Ahipara enjoys full and meaningful employment.



Key Principles/Concepts of the Ahipara Economy

- Sustainable:** The Ahipara economy has long term viability and all elements of the economy demonstrate sustainable practices.
- Accessible and Inclusive:** The economy functions in such a way that the whole community can participate and benefit from local economic activity.
- Balanced:** The local economy is environmentally, socially and culturally responsible and sensitive.

Features of the Sector Economies

Desired Features of Primary Sector Economy	All businesses operating in the primary sector of the Ahipara economy use proven, ecologically sustainable practices, and have an environmental restoration approach to their operation. Cadet schemes provide opportunity for young people to enter this sector of the economy.
Possible Primary Sector Ventures	Paua Nursery, Cooperatively Owned Organic Gardens, Seaweed Fertilisers for Local Gardens, Dairy Goats, Apiculture and Medicinal Honey, Kina Farming, Cooperatively Owned Sub-tropical Orchards, Coastal and Riparian Plant Nursery, Free Range Poultry, Growing Fresh Herbs, Rearing Calves for Life-style Blocks
Desired Features of Secondary Sector Economy	The secondary sector of the Ahipara economy consists of small businesses that utilise local resources in a sustainable manner. The sector provides training and mentoring schemes for young people and operates in a socially and culturally responsible way.
Possible Secondary Sector Ventures	Utilise commercial kitchens in Marae for processing local produce, Produce Kina Pate, Establish Beach and surf clothing design, Expand Wood turning, carving and furniture, Create Shell and driftwood art & jewellery, Make Goat's cheese, Make Pesto's and preserves, BBQ the tourist's 'catch of the day'
Desired Features of Tertiary Sector Economy	The tertiary (Service) sector of Ahipara's economy recognises the areas dependence on a "clean, green image" and the need for conservation of iconic landscapes and local biodiversity. The sector provides training and mentoring schemes for young people and operates in a socially and culturally responsible way.
Possible Tertiary Sector Ventures	Create balance in motel/lodge/chalet/B&B accommodation market; Guiding of tourists for fishing, diving, shellfishing, bird watching ventures; Create cultural tourism experiences around Marae Noho, Te Reo, Rongo, Whakapapa and Tikanga; Hire kites and Blow Carts on the beach in Winter; Form an Ahipara Time Bank and align with Kaitaia; Create a local currency for local use in Ahipara and for sale to tourists; Create a 'bach renting, property maintenance, information centre, one-stop-shop'

Focus Area: Economy

Specific Elements: Current Businesses and Gaps / Opportunities

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Identify all primary, secondary and tertiary sector businesses currently operating in Ahipara area and determine opportunities for related support businesses (and any likely constraints).	Compile a Business Inventory and question business owners.	With the use of questionnaires.	ACP WP Ahipara Business Association CBEC
Carry out an assessment of untapped and/or under utilised primary, secondary and tertiary sector economic opportunities in the area.	Hold facilitated community meetings and 'brainstorm' possibilities.	Request assistance from REAP or CBEC	ACP WP Ahipara Business Association CBEC

Focus Area: Economy

Specific Elements: Business Development and Sustainable Practices

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Engage the skills of a business development group to teach skills and facilitate new business development for locals	Approach CBEC and/or REAP and/or KBA to see what they can offer	Hold weekend workshop or a series of night classes to get skills dissemination	CBEC, REAP, KBA
Organize training/education for primary sector operators in ecologically sustainable practices	Seek the person with the necessary skills, plus the funding to provide a training workshop	By holding a public workshop or field day for primary sector business owners/operators	CBEC, NorthTec, Landcare, NRC, DoC

Focus Area: Economy

Specific Elements: Environmental Monitoring and Employment Pathways

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Form environmental monitoring and restoration groups to assist with ecosystem restoration	Select and train appropriate people in monitoring technology.	Approach a group already doing similar work and engage to carry out monitoring while Ahipara group works alongside and receives training	CBEC, NRC, Ngati Hine, Ahipara Kaitiaki, Local Marae, Te Rarawa, MSD
Provide technical training and all industry sector cadetships as entry pathways for school leavers, the unemployed, and people seeking career changes	Set up a work skills and work brokering scheme in Ahipara	Start with a small group in rented premises and external funding, and build to a community owned cooperative business.	Ahipara Business Association Local Marae, CBEC NorthTec

Focus Area: Economy**Specific Elements: Time Banking and Local Currency**

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Introduce a 'Time Banking' scheme for Ahipara (or align with Kaitaia's Time Bank) to include people excluded from the formal economy but who operate in the 'non-market' economy.	Investigate the nature of time banking systems and decide on a mechanism best for the needs of Ahipara.	Set up a central clearing house, recruit participants and list skills on offer.	Rebecca Ranum of Herekino would be a good Resource person. CBEC, REAP
Establish a Local Currency to facilitate local economic exchange, and attract tourist dollars	Explore the range of alternative currency types to find the type that would work best for the local economy and still have tourist interest	Through an organisation such as Living Economies, or by copying a similar scheme such as Bay of Island's 'Bex' or Golden Bay's 'HANDS'.	LE.Org.NZ, or any of the other NZ communities with an established currency. Ahipara Business Association.

Focus Area: Economy

Specific Elements: Business Practices and New Business Establishment

What are some possible goals?	What would need to be done to achieve the goal?	How might it be done?	Who will be involved?
Educate all business operators in the practices of environmental, social and cultural responsibility	Hold workshops with business operators.	Enlist the skills of some one trained in business ethics, plus others with good cultural, sociological and environmental backgrounds	Local Marae. KBA DoC NRC CBEC
Establish new businesses that complement the existing businesses in Ahipara and create networks of interdependence to strengthen the community	Explore the opportunities provided by community owned cooperatives. Encourage local ownership and local purchasing	Get Lindsey Margolis from Coop NZ to visit the Far North and assist with set up.	ACP WP Ahipara Business Association CBEC Coop NZ

References:

Kent Consulting (New Zealand) Ltd, *Constraints & Opportunity Mapping*, 2008

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2006CensusHomePage/QuickStats/AboutAPlace.aspx>