

Have your Say!

Draft Methven Community Strategic Plan

We've been developing a plan for Methven to set out what we, as a community, would like to achieve over the next 10 years. The draft plan is based on the ideas and feedback that our residents have shared with us, and we want to know if you support what we have planned for Methven's future!

Find out more and have your say inside.

Submissions close 6 April

Learn more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

MCB METHVEN COMMUNITY BOARD

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL



Introduction

The Methven Community Strategic Plan is a roadmap for the town's future.

It lays out our objectives, short, medium and long-term, and includes a series of actions to help achieve them.

This plan will also help identify the community's needs and aspirations, enabling the Methven Community Board to focus its attention on the community's priorities and the Council to make informed decisions on how resources and funding are allocated during the Long Term Plan process.

Methven's first community plan was developed in 1997, followed by a second version in 2009. Both plans were developed by the community and successfully implemented. Some of the projects completed as result of these plans are the skate park and redesign of our town centre.

With the previous plans completed, the Community Board has been allocated $20,000 by Council to develop an updated community strategic plan which will help define our community's goals and objectives for the next 10 years.

In the next chapter, you will read more about how we got to this stage, but it's important to note that this plan is just a draft. We now need to hear whether you think we're on the right track or if you think we should make changes.

This document includes a summary of the draft plan, the proposed vision and goals and a submission form for your feedback.

If you'd like to find out more, we'd also encourage you to read the full draft plan at ***itsourplace.nz***

Feedback closes Sunday 6 April



Methven Community Board



Kelvin Holmes
(Chair)



Richard Owen
(Deputy Chair)



Allan Lock



Megan Fitzgerald



Robin Jenkinson



Cr Liz McMillan



Cr Rob Mackle

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ItsOurPlace.nz

How has the draft Methven Community Strategic Plan been developed?

The Methven Community Board has led the development of the community plan in close partnership with residents.



Over November and December last year, we asked our community to share their ideas and feedback with us through the ***"What do ya reckon, Methven"*** campaign.

This included a month-long online survey and two public workshops attended by Methven residents, local businesses, and community groups.

School kids also shared their views on Methven's future by filling out activity sheets. The feedback, including 84 written submissions, has helped us put together this draft plan.



You can read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

What did we hear?

We saw some common themes emerge from the community's feedback. Check out the following pages to see how these comments and ideas have influenced the draft plan.

For Methven to be lively all year round, there should be activities that will attract visitors in summer as well as winter.

See objectives 2 & 16

It is important for people's wellbeing to live in an attractive town. This means tidy buildings in the town centre and plantings to enhance the area but not block out the mountains!

See objectives 5, 6 & 8

Having more pedestrian crossings especially on the main road and near the pubs would be ideal to increase the safety of our tamariki in Methven.

See objectives 7 & 24

Let's be welcoming of newcomers - there are a lot of groups for parents, but if you don't have children it is hard to meet people.

See objectives 17, 20 & 21

More suitable native trees and shrubs could be planted to entice native birds, in the parks in town and an extension of the Garden of Harmony.

See objectives 8 & 9

Methven needs reliable, scheduled transport to and from Ashburton - to reduce work commuting, and improve access to hospital, shopping and community activities.

See objectives 23, 25 & 26

Proposed vision and goals

OUR VISION

Methven

A recreational hub where natural beauty and vibrant communities come together.

Thrilling tourism to chilled-out vibes are supported by thriving local businesses.

A connected, safe, and accessible community for all.

OUR GOALS

Goal One

Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work and play

This means Methven:

- ✓ Is a leader in recreational offerings
- ✓ Has well utilised and cared for community spaces
- ✓ Is committed to being a biodiverse and sustainable community

Goal Two

Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities

This means Methven:

- ✓ Is known as the district's recreational hub
- ✓ Supports its business community to grow
- ✓ Is recognised as a year-round tourism destination

Goal Three

Methven is a well informed and participating community

This means Methven:

- ✓ Is a well-connected and participating community
- ✓ Is effectively represented by its Community Board
- ✓ Is a well-informed community

Goal Four

Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community

This means Methven:

- ✓ Is safe for residents and visitors
- ✓ Has safe and efficient transportation options
- ✓ Provides accessible healthcare for residents and visitors

How we will achieve our goals

Goal One:
Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work, and play



How we plan to achieve Goal One

1. Support the development of youth-based activities by connecting with education providers and sports clubs to understand needs/wants and identify opportunities
2. Diversify outdoor activities by investigating the use of the RDR for kayaking and possible locations for a disc golf course
3. Enhance Methven's walkway/cycleway network by focussing on maintaining what we already have and supporting the development of additional tracks
4. Define the future use and purpose of Mt Hutt Memorial Hall by developing a 10-year plan for the hall
5. Improve the appearance of shops and buildings in the CBD and surrounding area by working with businesses and building owners
6. Enhance appearance of town entrances on SH77 by working with various organisations and groups such as ADC, NZ Transport Agency, Lions
7. Ensure community spaces are easily accessible for all by supporting and advocating for improved accessibility
8. Restore, increase and diversify native plant species throughout Methven by partnering with various agencies
9. Futureproof investment and maintenance of the birdsong project
10. Improve waste management and minimisation practices through community education
11. Support community investment in pest control initiatives by partnering and supporting other agencies

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Goal Two:
Methven is a leader in tourism and business opportunities



How we plan to achieve Goal Two

12. Develop branding to support the promotion of Methven as a recreational hub
13. Support the promotion of Methven's business community
14. Facilitate collaboration between existing businesses through initiatives like establishing a business leaders group and working with the Mid Canterbury Tourism Advisory Group
15. Promote existing activities/offerings that are unique to Methven
16. Develop destination activities to attract visitors year round by identifying annual event opportunities

Have your Say!

The easiest way to share your feedback is at ***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Goal Three:
Methven is a well informed and participating community



How we plan to achieve Goal Three

17. Support active participation, volunteer partnerships, youth involvement, and community events
18. Ensure Methven's community interests are well represented by the Community Board
19. Grow a strong relationship with takata[1] whenua through engagement on issues of significance to Methven
20. Streamline reliable sources of community-related information
21. Welcome newcomers by guiding them to reliable community information sources and providing other opportunities

1 Please note this document uses the Kai Tahu dialect where "k" replaces the use of "ng" in words, for example "takata" replaces "tangata".

Goal Four:

Methven is a safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community



How we plan to achieve Goal Four

22. Support community safety through enabling collective efforts of the community and key organisations
23. Investigate and support suitable public transport options
24. Advocate for improved pedestrian accessibility across town
25. Advocate for improved accessibility to healthcare
26. Support construction of a helipad in Methven to enable rapid emergency transfers

Learn more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

Do you support these goals and actions? Let us know!

Review process and timeline

Once the consultation has closed, submitters will have the opportunity to present their views to the board in person at the submissions workshop, after which the board will consider and deliberate on all the submissions received.

Monday 10 March - Sunday 6 April

Community consultation

The community can check out the draft plan and provide feedback.

Late April/ early May 2025

Submissions workshop and deliberations

Submitters have the opportunity to speak to their feedback in person.

June – July 2025

Plan finalisation

Methven Community Board will consider all the feedback received and make any final changes that are required.

July 2025

Final plan adoption

The final plan will be adopted by the Methven Community Board and put into action.



Do you support the draft plan or would you like to see changes? Let us know!

Submissions close 6 April

Fill out the attached short survey and return it via:

FREEPOST
Ashburton District Council
Freepost 230444
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740

IN PERSON
Dropping it off at:
Ashburton District Council
2 Baring Square East

You can also provide feedback:

ONLINE
ItsOurPlace.nz

EMAIL
submissions@adc.govt.nz

Want to know more?

You can read the full draft plan at

ItsOurPlace.nz

Scan the QR code to read the full draft Strategy.

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