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Version 1.1

# Hutt City Council

## Pito-one Project: The Esplanade & town centre

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Summary of engagement workshops

**StudioC Design**

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 **StudioCDesign**



**Images:**  
Workshop participants  
mapping ideas

# Project Overview

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Hutt City Council engaged StudioC Design to run two co-design workshops with key stakeholders to consider the alignment of Council projects in Petone, to identify the challenges and opportunities, and to establish priorities for Council investment.

The sessions were based on Petone 2040, and incorporated additional updated information around climate change, the District Plan review, other related projects, and community engagement on the neighbourhood hub. The sessions also included consideration of sites of significance to mana whenua.

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This document captures the ideas of those at the workshops using sketches to bring community voice to life. All of the visuals included in this report, are by no means intended or indicative of final designs. They are simply a tool for us to summarise ideas by using visual aids to showcase what is important to the community. These ideas will be tested for viability and affordability as part of the ongoing process.

## **Links to pre-read material**

Workshop participants were sent a pre-reading information pack with updates on the key projects relevant to each workshop. This ensured everyone had the relevant background to be able to consider how Council should prioritise and coordinate Petone projects.

Workshop 1 focused on the area around The Esplanade, while Workshop 2 focused on Petone's town centre.

- Workshop 1 pre-read - [click here](#)
- Workshop 2 pre-read - [click here](#)

[Links to site photos here](#)



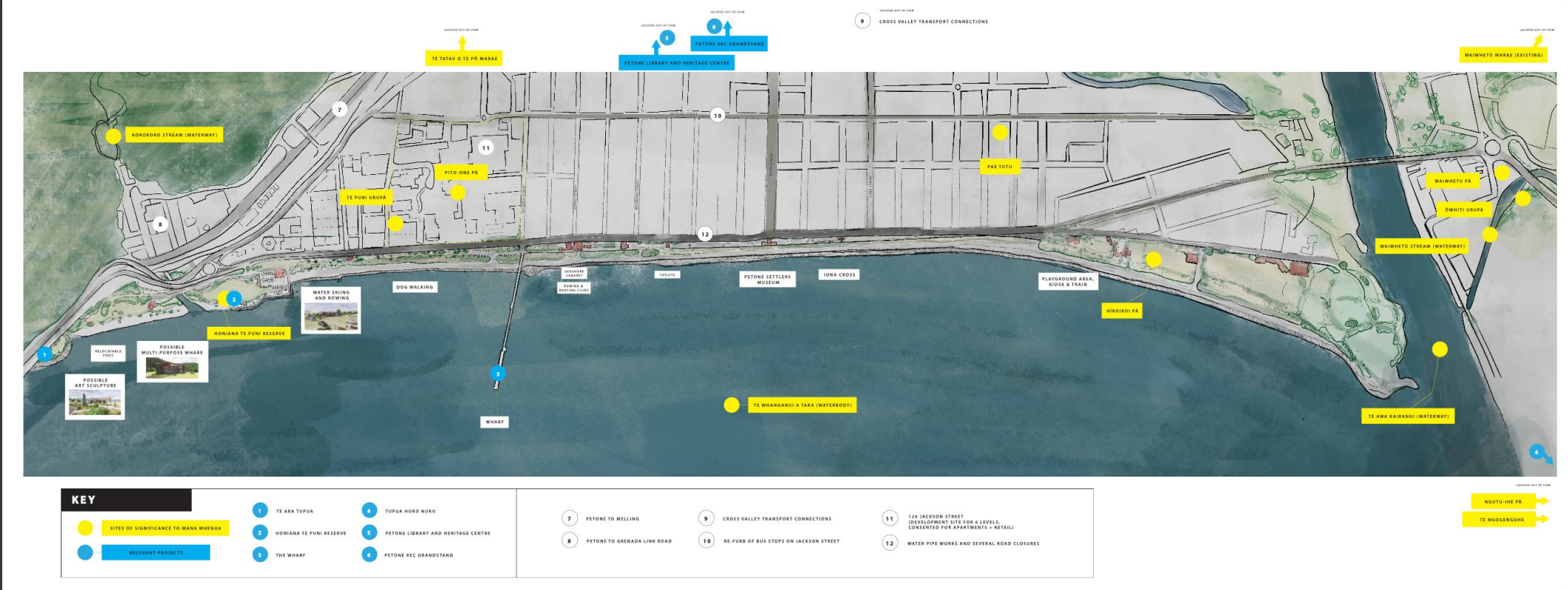
# Workshop 1: The Esplanade

The purpose of Workshop 1 was for participants to consider the area around The Esplanade, the challenges and opportunities for the future, and what Council should prioritise for investment. Specifically, we wanted participants to consider the wharf and how that site is likely to be used in the future.

## Recommendations from Workshop 1:

- Remove car traffic and buildings from The Esplanade.
- Prioritise restoring natural habitats and creating spaces for recreation in different areas along The Esplanade.
- Improve the area's accessibility.
- Strengthen connections to other parts of Petone.
- Highlight mana whenua's history and aspirations for the future.
- Consider less expensive options for the wharf.

We created this map of The Esplanade to show the current projects in the area (white), alongside mana whenua sites of significance (yellow). Workshop participants used the map to visualise connections and overlaps among all of these.





## Theme 1: Think ahead to the Esplanade of the future

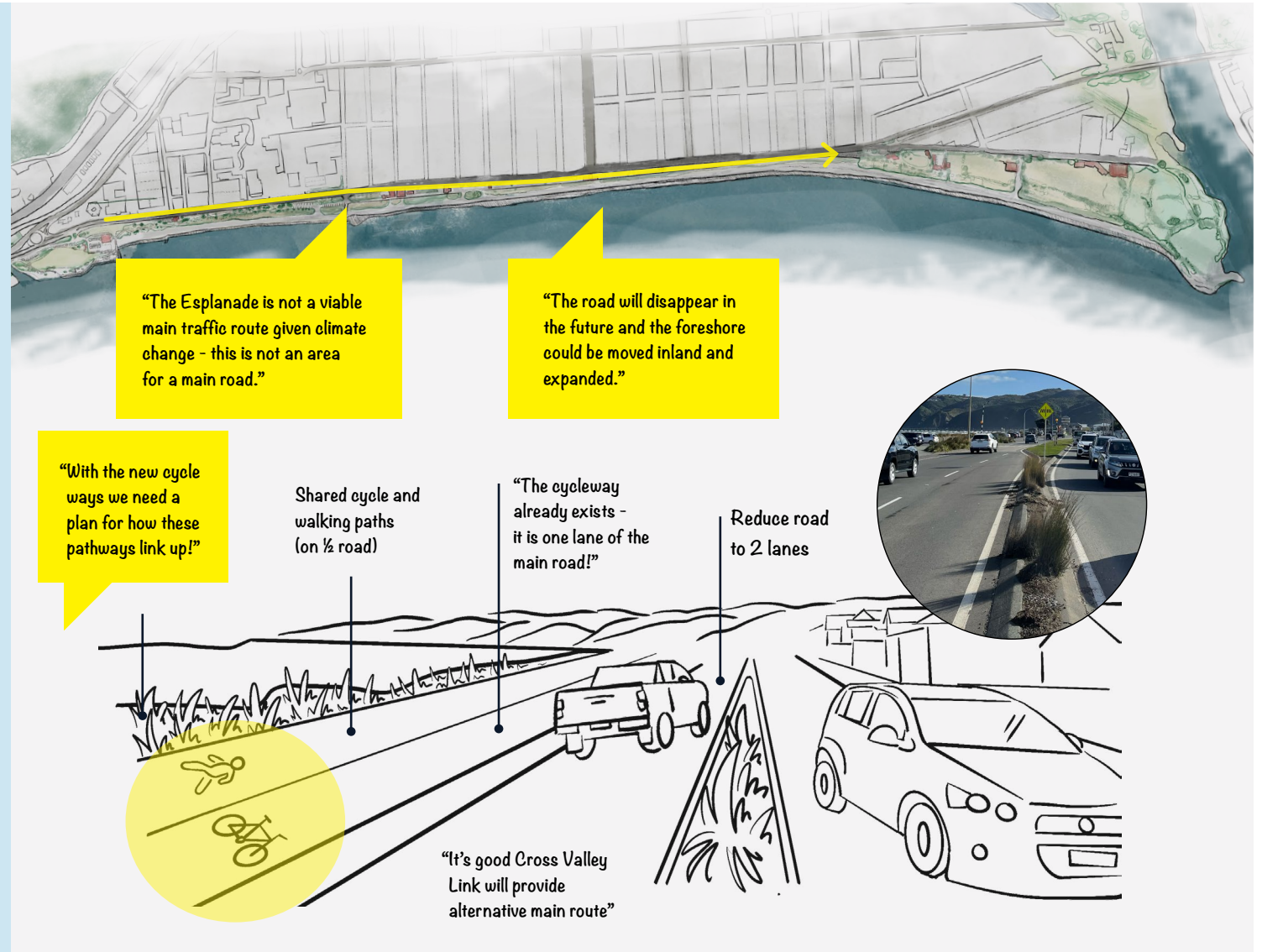
### Problem:

The Esplanade is currently bordered by a very busy road, but the planned Cross Valley Connection project will take traffic away. There was a strong theme around taking that opportunity to return the Esplanade to a recreational space for locals and visitors.

### Opportunity:

The road will become a local route for people to access the beach and foreshore. Narrowing the road will create space for more natural habitat and recreation.

**Insight:** How might we create a smaller footprint for cars, creating more space for recreation, restoring nature, and enhancing micro-mobility?





## Theme 2: Restore the natural environment by removing buildings from the Esplanade

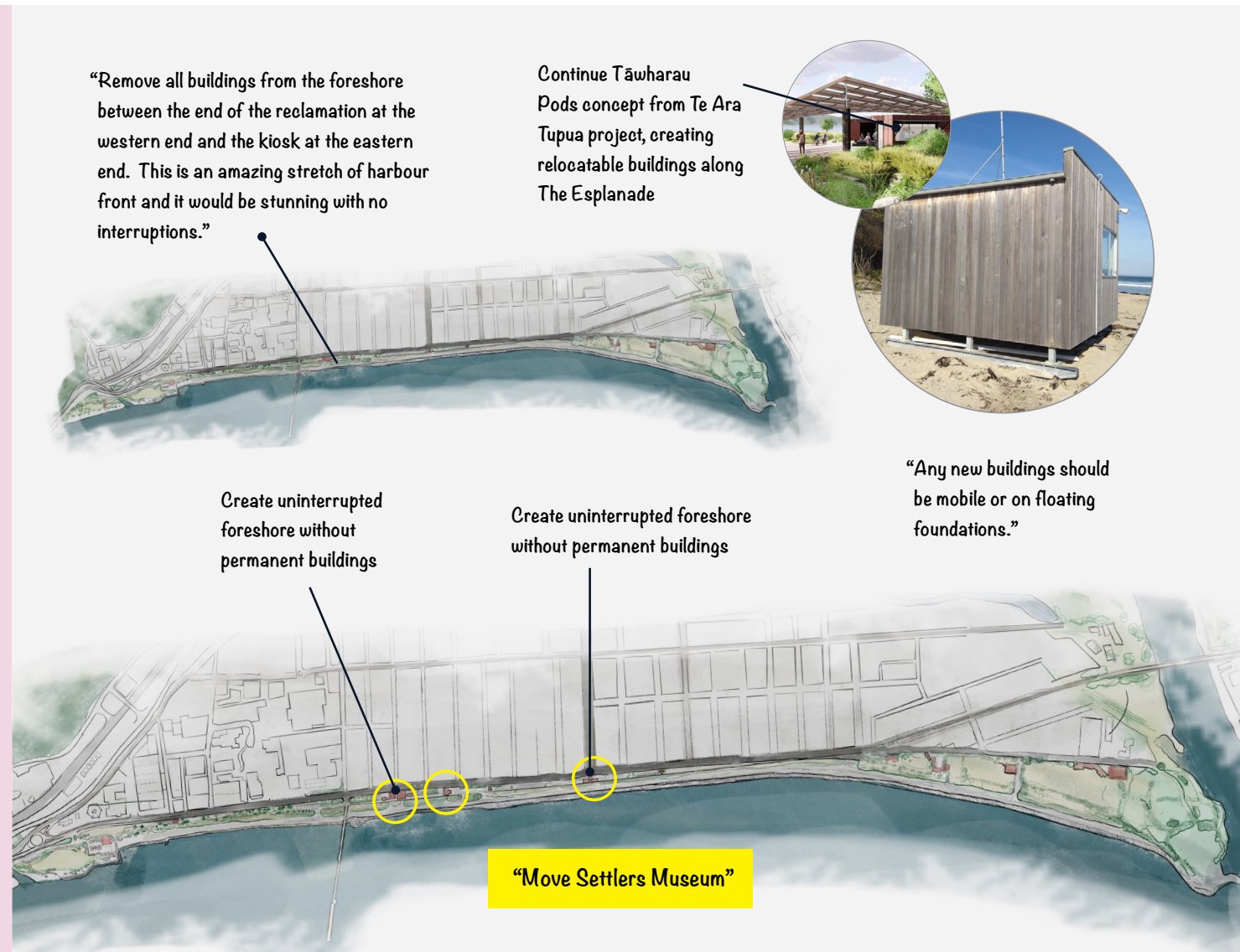
### Problem:

Over time sea-level rise and increasing storm surges will threaten existing - and any new - buildings along The Esplanade.

### Opportunity:

As buildings need to be relocated, encourage shifting them to the western and eastern ends to create space for recreation and habitat restoration.

**Insight:** How might we create a stretch of foreshore uninterrupted by built structures, creating opportunities for restoration and recreation?





## Theme 3: Restore nature through kaitiakitanga

### Problem:

Human development and impacts have damaged and (in some cases) destroyed natural habitats along the foreshore.

### Opportunity:

Rehabilitate and restore native habitats and protect native species by limiting human development and activities in some areas.

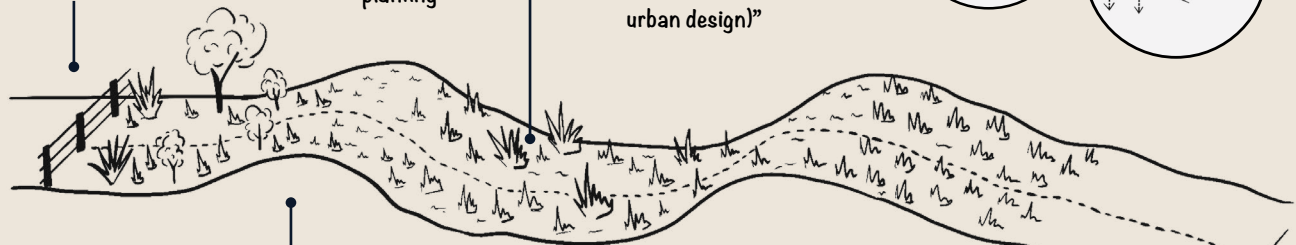
**Insight:** How might we identify some areas where the focus is protecting and restoring natural habitats and human activities are restricted for the benefit of all?

“The beach is both a natural environment and a public amenity - we need to balance these.”

“I like and enjoy the natural feeling of the foreshore without the built up or manufactured feel of something like Oriental Parade.”

“Block off dunes in areas with limited beach access and do predator control here”

“More planting”



“Have separate areas for dog walking away from where native birds and lizards nest”

“Creating more dunes through planting and artificial dunes will protect the roading and infrastructure along the foreshore, as well as the houses and businesses on the Esplanade and up the side streets.”

“Natural filtration/drains to keep rubbish and effluent from getting to beach and flowing into sea”

“Pipi gathering - restoration of shellfish beds”





## Theme 4: Improve accessibility

### Problem:

Not everyone is able to access and enjoy The Esplanade currently. For example, the pavement is too rough for bikes and buggies in places and a lot of carparking is used by commercial vehicles.

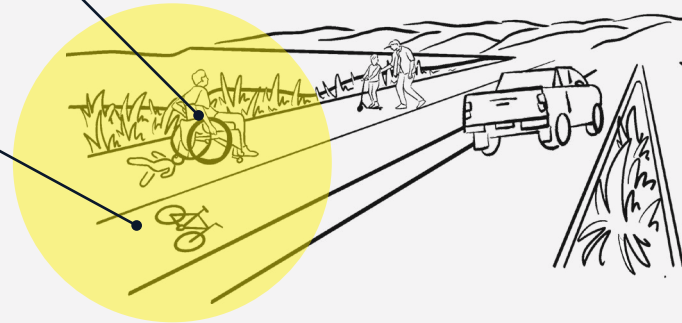
### Opportunity:

Provide better access to The Esplanade so everyone can enjoy the natural environment and different forms of recreation.

**Insight:** How might we make The Esplanade more accessible to everyone, including kids on skates, scooters, the elderly, the mobility impaired, bikers, runners, and sight-seers?

“Make this a place for all ages.  
We want people to be able  
to access and appreciate the space.”

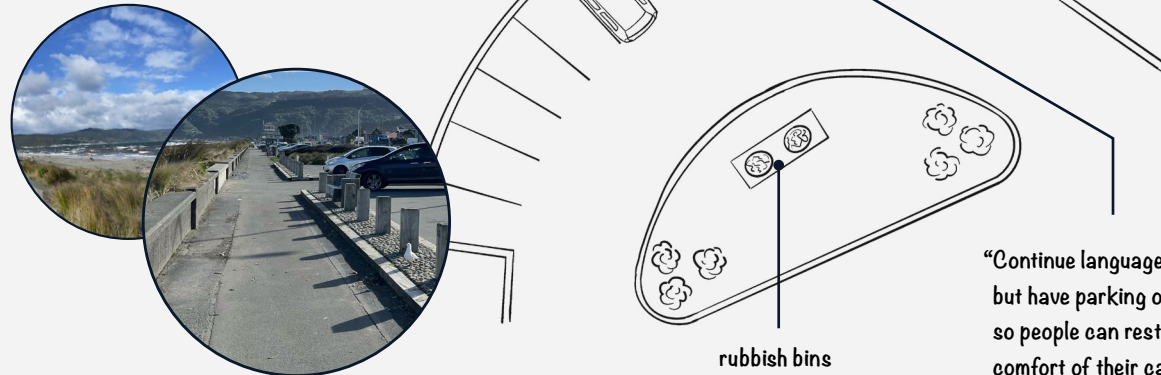
Wide, smooth pavement that can  
be used by wheelchair users, kids  
on skates, scooters and bikes



“Don’t lose accessible carparking with  
views (and adequate rubbish bins) for  
families, elderly, and mobility impaired.”

“Teens lack other places to go.”

Park with  
a view



rubbish bins

“Continue language of uranga  
but have parking ones too,  
so people can rest in the  
comfort of their cars!”



## Theme 5: Strengthen connections

### Problem:

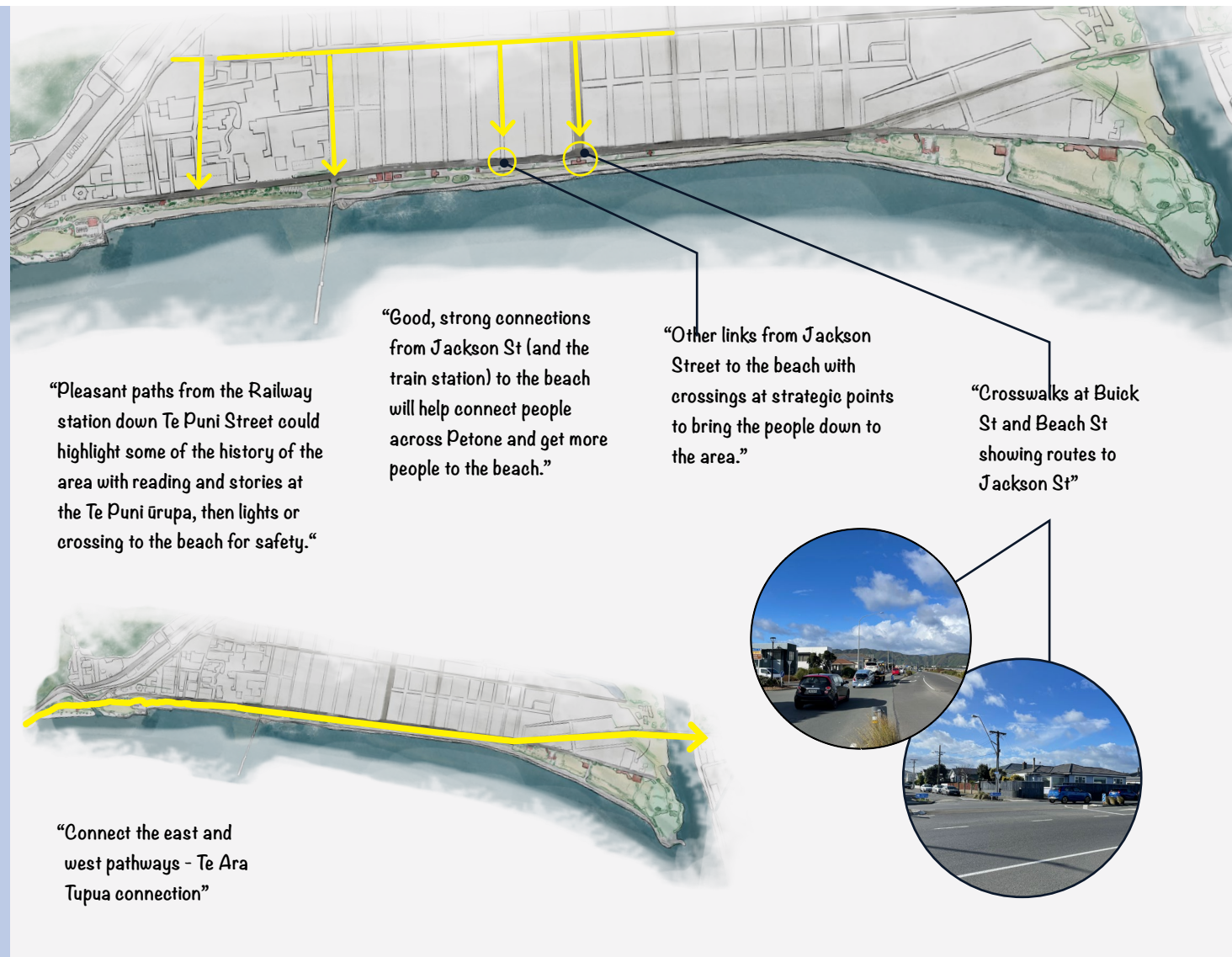
Petone lacks connections among its key amenities (for example, The Esplanade and Jackson St), which makes it difficult for people to move around. There also also limited opportunities to connect with whānau, with Petone's history, and with the natural environment.

### Opportunity:

Create stronger connections between The Esplanade and:

- Petone train station
- Jackson St
- the eastern and western shared pathways.

**Insight:** How might we use design and wayfinding to create these stronger connections?





## Theme 6: Create recreation zones for different activities

### Problem:

People use The Esplanade and beach for many different recreational activities, some of which may conflict with each other or desire different things for the area.

### Opportunity:

Create 'zones' for different types of activities in different areas, so that The Esplanade caters to diverse interests.

**Insight:** How might we segment the Esplanade into recreational zones that mirror the activities that are popular here?

"Variety. What I noticed from the workshop was that everyone liked a different part of the beach for a different reason. Having some public areas, secluded areas, dog areas, play areas, café etc, most people's interests were catered for. Maybe that variety makes it such a cool asset for the Hutt and wider Wellington region."

"Having a single sports club building is hard to maintain whereas a combined water sports clubs building could share facilities and costs across a wider section of the community and offer more opportunities to water based activities for the Hutt residents."

"Create 'waterpark' or 'watersports hub' at eastern end around Hikoikoi reserve for rowing, waka ama, canoeing, swimming, sailing, sea cadets and seascouts. Have public toilets, drinking water and maybe a café to encourage more activities at the Eastern end of the park with better parking and water access."

"Bikes and scooters are getting very fast along there and mixing with kids, dogs, and slow walkers - so its getting fraught at times now, and will get worse with more cycle traffic on the route in future."



"Create wider split path to separate walkers and bikers/scooters"

"Māori playground (māra hūpara) on Jessie St"



"This is the beach of the Valley and a playground for the Wellington region."

"Whilst still retaining some secluded places along beach"

"Platforms for swimming and diving"



"Pontoons to jump off"



## Theme 7: Highlight mana whenua history and aspirations

### Problem:

Mana whenua history and cultural narratives are currently missing, and sites of significance to iwi are not marked or recognised.

### Opportunity:

Tell mana whenua stories and history and give effect to their aspirations for the future.

**Insight:** How might we use signage and design to showcase mana whenua?

“When we walk through Pito-one, we don’t see our names and faces.”

“We’ve always been here.”

“The wharf is the reason for Te Ati Awa losing their presence in the area and our sites being desecrated.”

“Cover or shelter that welcomes people at western end, connect to urupa (through stories) - include history of area and continue this along foreshore”

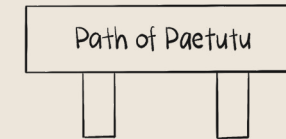
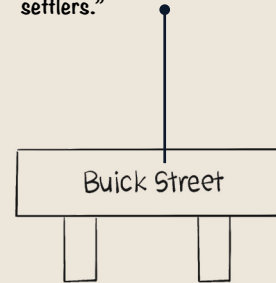


Capture history through signage and art

“There is an important area in the west where ancestors lived (urupa) - demarcate sites of significance through design.”



“Revise street naming - street names and rivers are all names after settlers.”



Above Example: Koke Kōrero - Ngāke & Whātaītai Artwork, Len Hetet, 2019

Left Example “Te Keo” sculpture  
Example of possible sculpture for Te Ara Tupua project



## Theme 8: Show identity and heritage through storytelling

### Problem:

People need ways to connect to the history and cultural narratives of Petone.

### Opportunity:

Use storytelling to create a consistent design theme connecting sites throughout Petone and highlighting its unique history and cultural narratives.

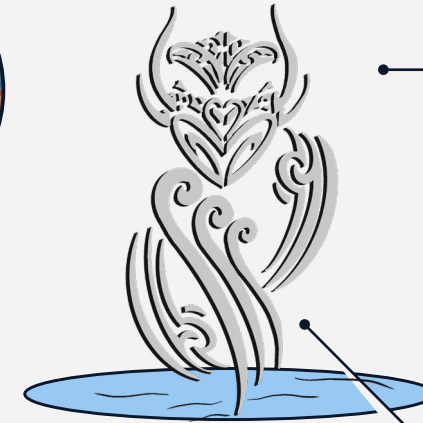
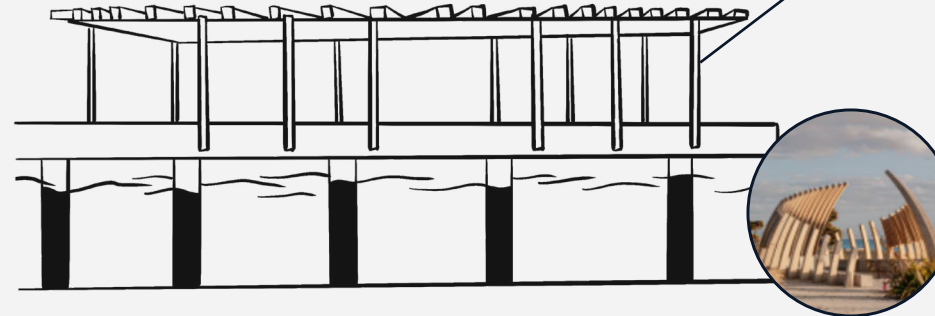
**Insight:** How might we use stories to connect Petone's main areas and reflect its unique identity and heritage?

"Create places to see what the beach was like pre-1840. How do we connect to what it used to be like?"



"Our idea tells stories of place, people, recreation, history, nature, resilience and sea-level rise."

"I would like to see more focus on the history of the area. Iwi, industrial and colonial history plaques pointing out areas and stories from different aspects of the Petone area would be awesome."



Extract from Te Ara Tupua Cultural Expression.  
Len Hetet.

Commemorate the wharf - replace with sculpture in the water, or a whale bone sculpture at the entrance / meeting point that speaks to its history

# Specific ideas: ūranga

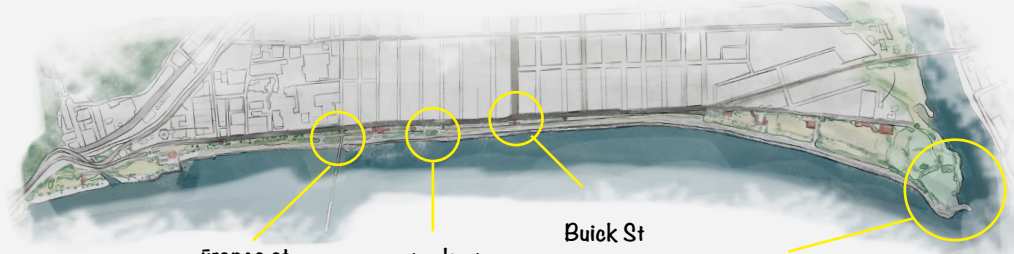
“Use uranga to unite The Esplanade with the shared pathways at both ends, creating a single walking and cycling pathway around the Wellington harbour.”

“Natural ūranga exist along the beach - celebrate these”

“Uranga along the Esplanade would create more areas to stop, pause, rest and a viewing platform to look out to sea and back over Petone”



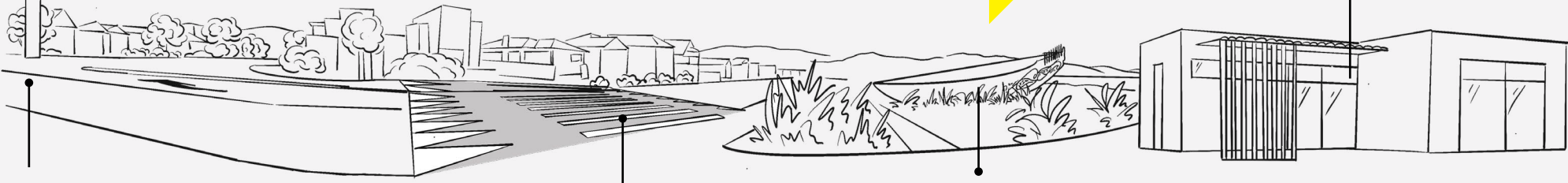
Concept design for ūranga in Te Ara Tupua project. They would create a visual language that binds the shared pathways together along The Esplanade.



“They give it a natural visual identity, creating new landmarks along the shore, helping with navigation along the Esplanade”

“Could we future proof the collection and shift the Settlers Museum to the town centre and re-purpose this to changing rooms and toilets or cafe here instead?”

TOWN centre



5 min walk to town centre up Buick St.

New crossing at end of Buick Street to enable easier access to beach

A natural site for an ūranga exists here already



## Theme 9: Create less expensive options for the wharf

### Problem:

Repairing the whole wharf is not feasible and saving part of it is very expensive and will use limited resources that are needed elsewhere in the community.

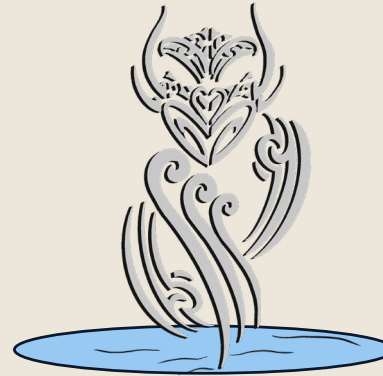
### Opportunity:

Create a new structure that nods to the wharf's history but can be used for recreation and storytelling.

**Insight:** How might we create a wharf that commemorates the past and creates recreation and storytelling opportunities for the future?

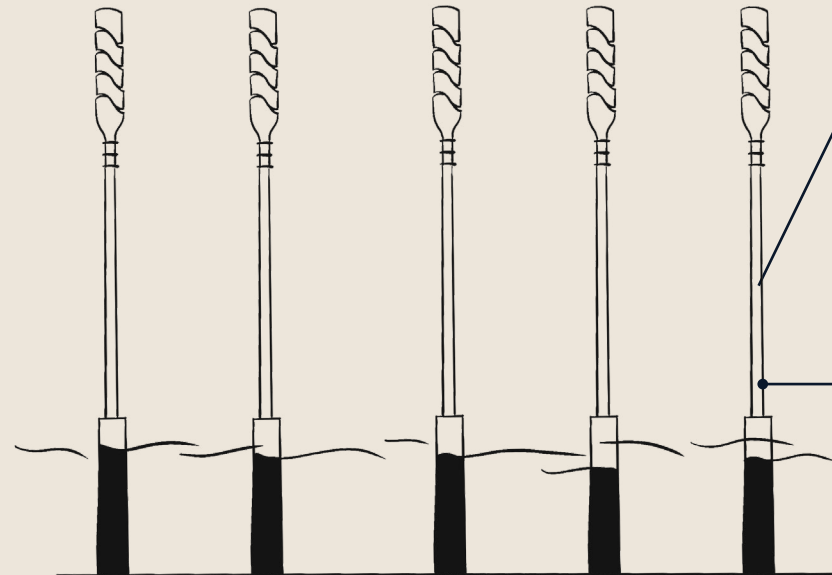
### — Sculptural Artwork

“Create sculpture  
or artwork”



“Retain part of the  
historic wharf.  
Heritage links are  
important.”

Connect with this visual  
language further up  
the beach



Demolish some or all of the  
wharf and instead build  
something to commemorate  
the wharf and reflect our  
cultural heritage

Strainers are left in  
place but create artwork  
and “nod” to what was there

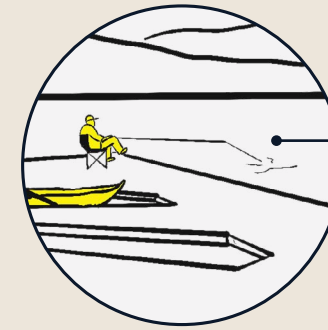
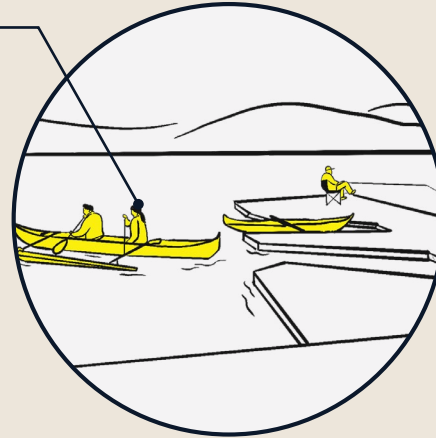
# Specific ideas for the wharf

Pontoon or starter jetty

Wooden floating pontoon might be a more budget friendly option



Spaces to launch waka ama and kayaks



Pontoon would still allow for fishing, walking and climbing in and out of water

The structure should encourage recreation



Install a short pontoon, lighter structure over the water

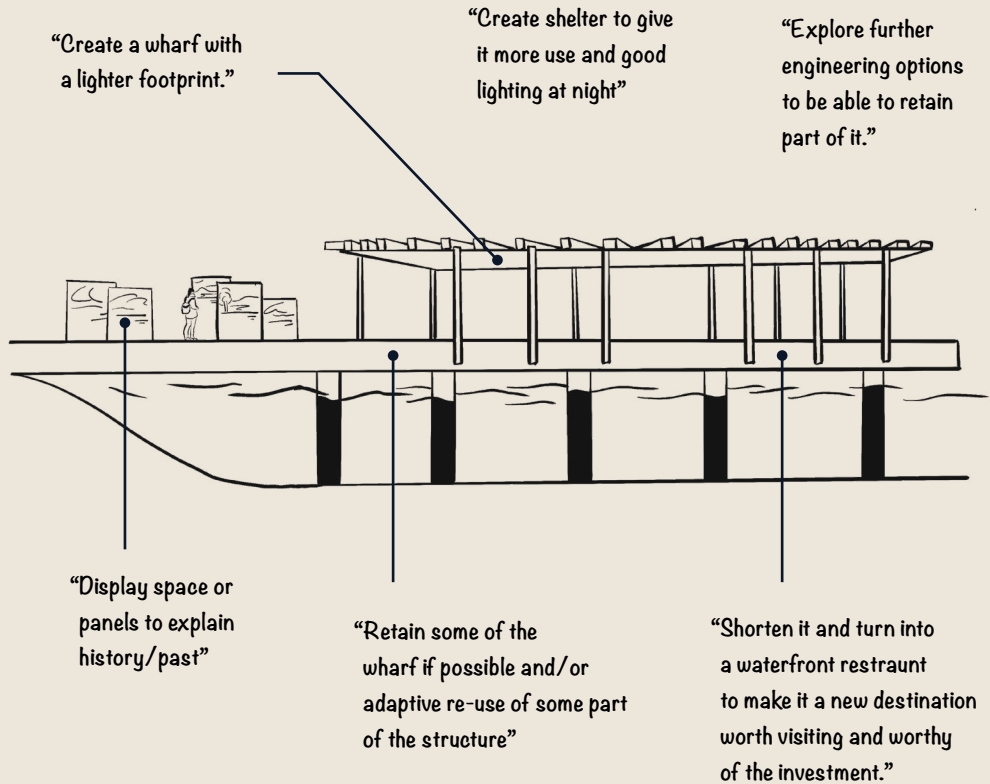
“Create a wharf with a lighter footprint.”

Replace the current wharf with a new, narrower “starter jetty” for walking and fishing.



# Specific ideas for the wharf

## Shorten it & add more value



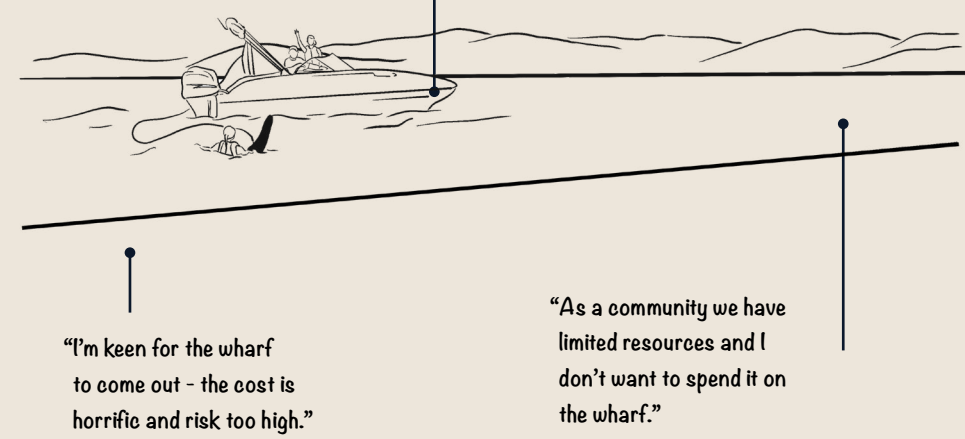
## Remove it

“It has low use and the cost of repair or replacement appears very high for its amenity value. Currently it creates a barrier for the Wellington rowing and ski clubs based in the Green shed (soon to be the new Integrated Clubs Building).”

“Removing it would open up the entire foreshore for all watersports.”

“I’m pragmatic about it - the funds could be used elsewhere.”

“The wharf is the reason for Te Ati Awa losing their presence in the area and our sites being desecrated.”



# Specific ideas for the wharf

Build ūranga or viewing platform/s

“Carry the ūranga concept from the Te Ara Tupua project through to the Esplanade.”



“A viewing platform”

“A chance to be above the water (rather than in/on it) and to have a different perspective of Petone”

“The wharf should be made accessible.”

## Summary of wharf options:

Most feedback recognised that the increased cost and limited amenity value mean that retaining the full wharf is no longer the best use of a significant investment in Petone.

**A number of alternate ways to provide waterfront amenity and social, cultural and economic value were identified:**

### **Create sculptural artwork to commemorate the wharf**

- Demolish some or all of the wharf and instead build something to commemorate the wharf and reflect the cultural heritage of Petone.

### **Retain but create lighter footprint - shorten it or build pontoon**

- The wharf is a highly valued local landmark, and some people would ideally like to retain part of it and/or re-use some part of the structure.
- If retaining part of the wharf is not feasible/affordable, there are a number of ways to provide waterfront amenities, ranging from retaining a short section of the wharf to replacing it with a shorter, lighter structure over the water to enable recreation.

### **Build ūranga or viewing platform/s**

- Participants said that the wharf should be more accessible. Also, it is a chance to be above the water (rather than in/on it) and to have a different perspective of Petone.
- A viewing platform could achieve these objectives and carry through the ūranga concept from the Te Ara Tupua project to The Esplanade.

### **Allocate investment to other areas on The Esplanade**

- There was also a lot of support for improvements to the broader area (west Petone, Victoria Street, Te Puni Street through the train station and, Jackson Street) and the opportunity to tell the cultural narrative through wayfinding and design.
- There was strong support for ensuring that The Esplanade is developed to make the most of the opportunity of the two new cycleways at either end, and the expected increase in visitors.
- There was support for investment in bringing the Petone 2040 vision of a better connected 'town centre' to life through better connections to The Esplanade.



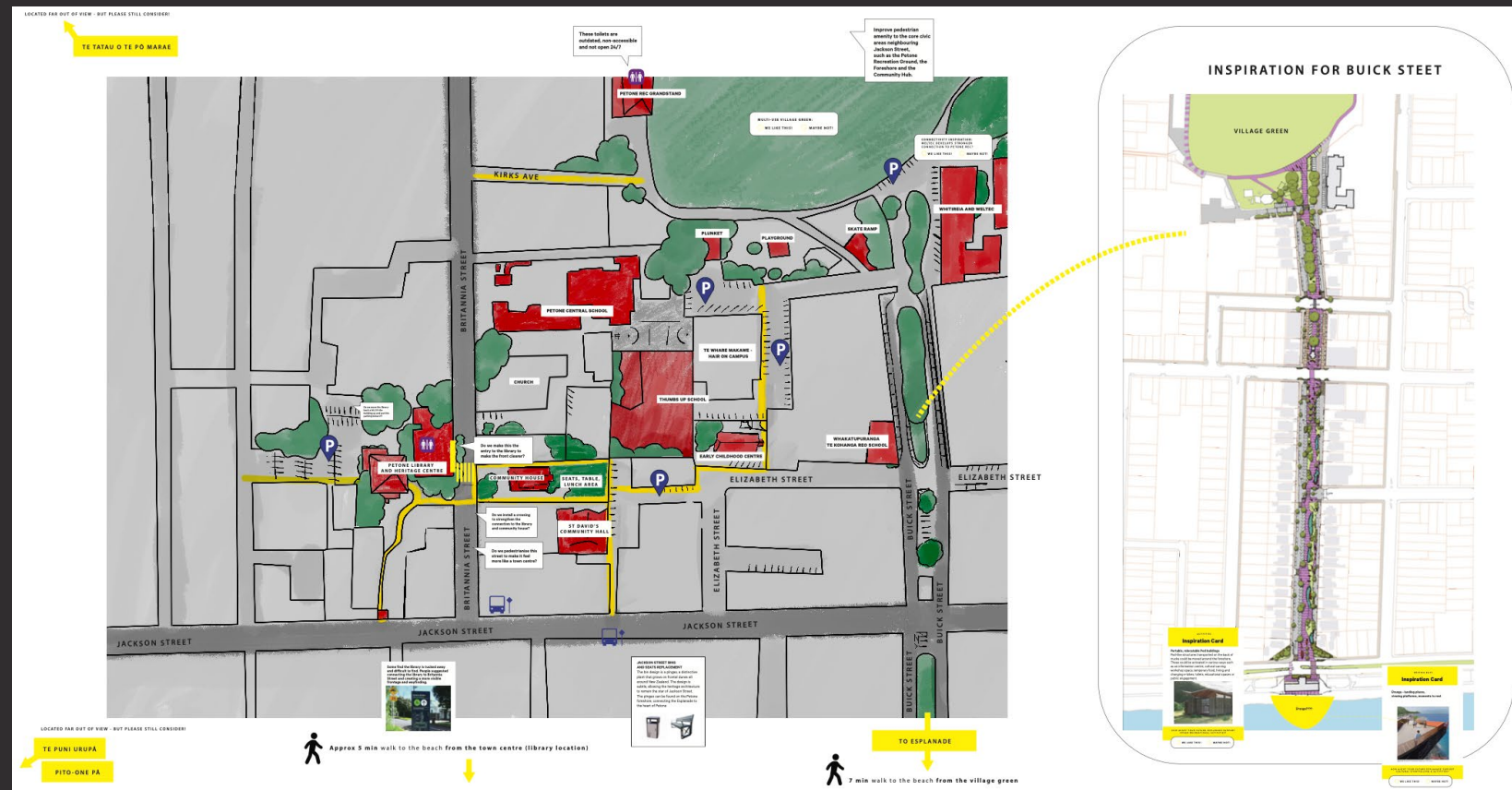
# Workshop 2: Creating a town centre

The purpose of Workshop 2 was for participants to consider ways to strengthen Petone's town centre, and what Council should prioritise for investment. Specifically, we wanted participants to consider the Petone Library (in need of urgent refurbishment), Petone Rec and grandstand, and a potential Buick St "amenity corridor".

#### Recommendations from Workshop 2:

- Consider moving the library and other Council services to create a town centre at Petone Rec OR build the town centre around the current library site.
- Make the town centre more pedestrian friendly through new walking paths and a laneway.
- Improve public transport options around the town centre.
- Improve the playground by Petone Rec.

We created this map of central Petone to show the current projects in the area (white), alongside common walking routes (yellow). Workshop participants used the map to visualise their future town centre.



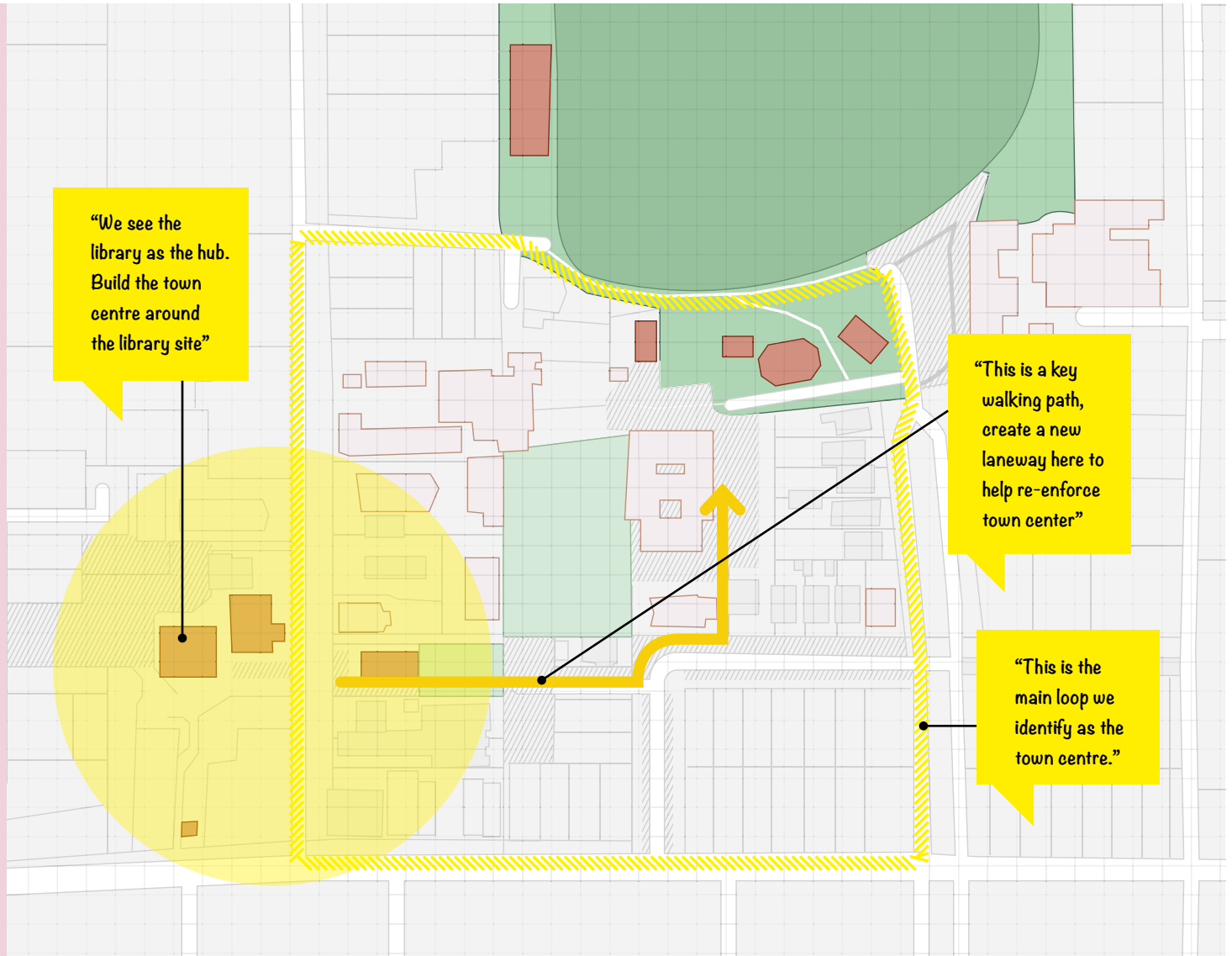


## Option 1: Build town centre around current library site

### Opportunity:

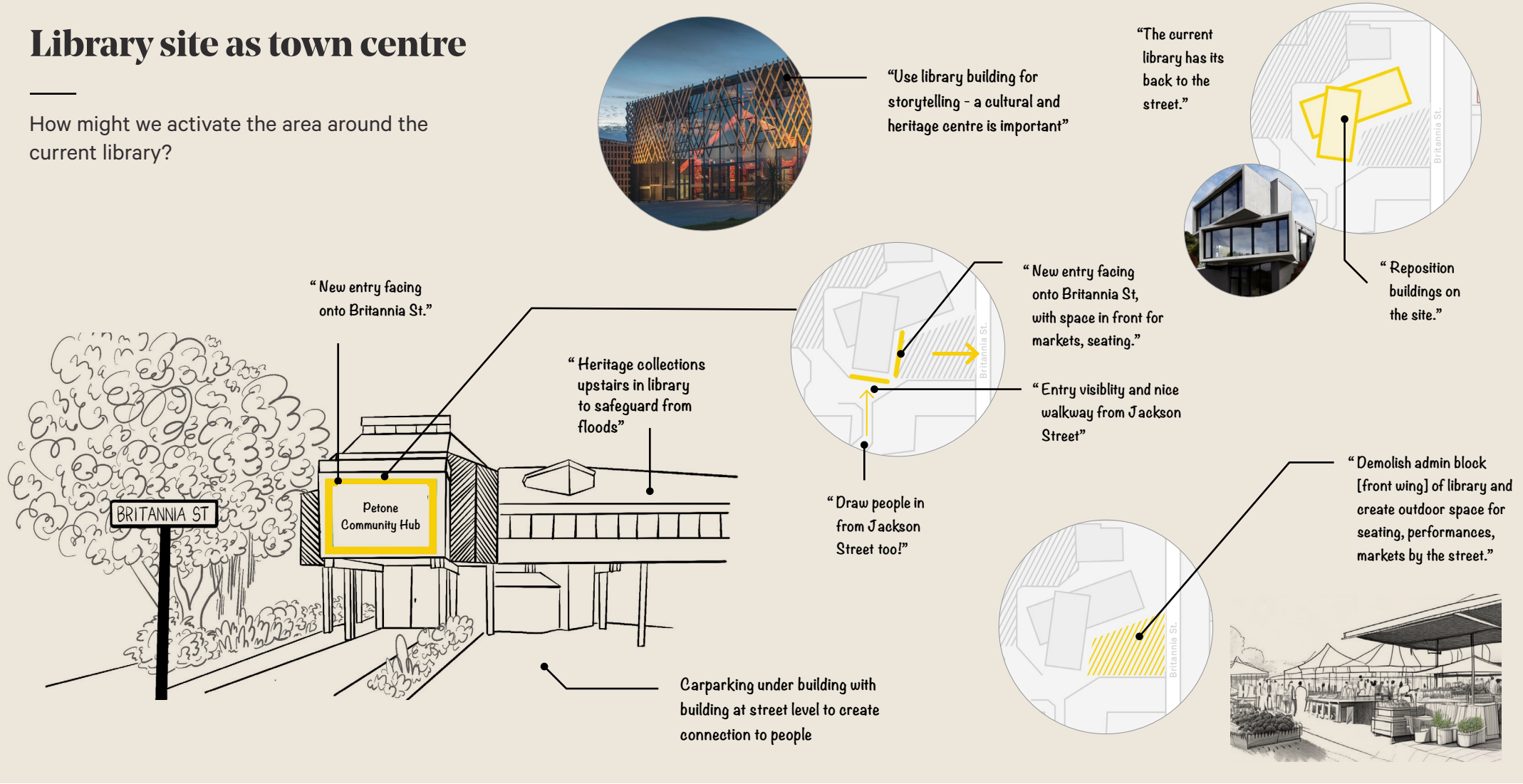
The library site is close to Jackson St and other key amenities and could be activated and connected more clearly with other key attractions throughout Petone.

**Insight:** How might we activate the area around the current library?



# Library site as town centre

How might we activate the area around the current library?





## Option 2: Create a new town centre at Petone Rec

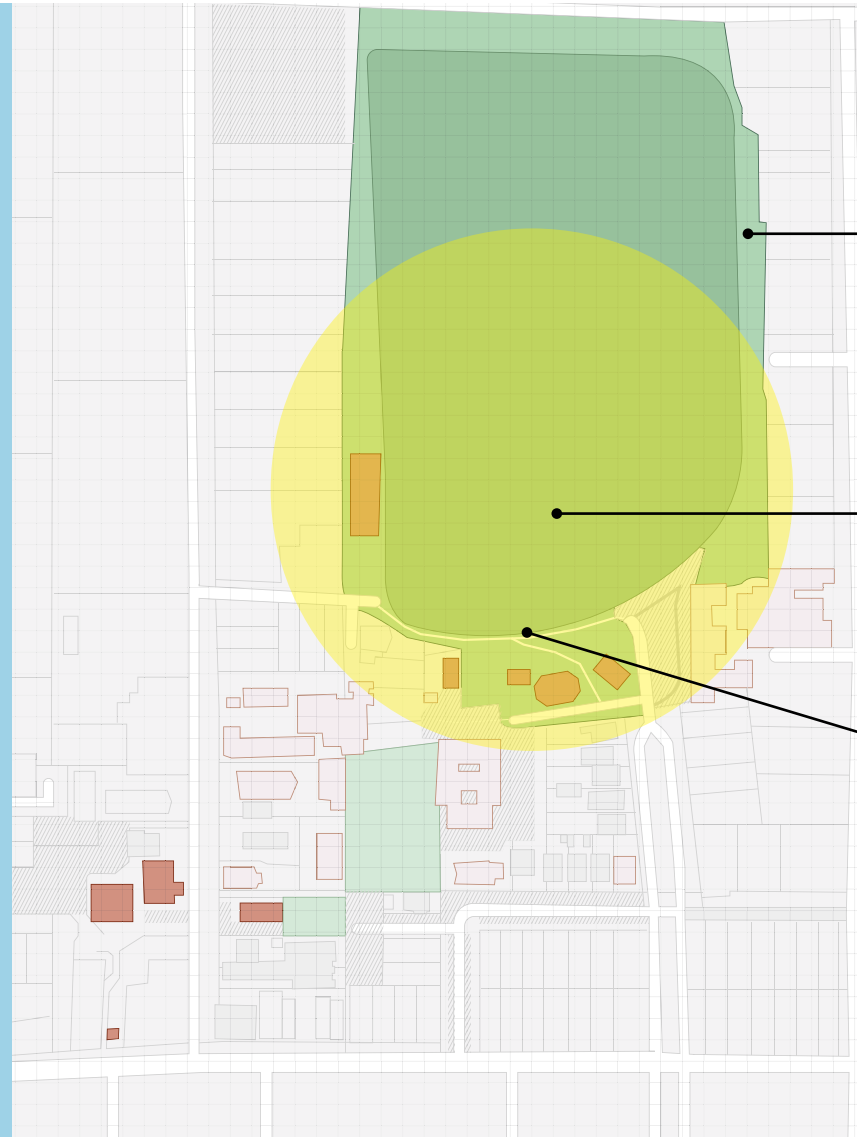
### Problem:

Petone currently lacks an identifiable town centre that links key attractions. Also, the Rec is not well utilised.

### Opportunity:

Create a town centre at the Rec by building a multi-purpose outdoor space and community hub.

**Insight:** How might we create a town centre in Petone that weaves together spaces for outdoor recreation and events alongside key community services?



“Retain existing trees around Rec and create more shade, especially with climate change and high temperatures.”

“Focus on the Rec as the town centre - move the library there and create a hub feel.”

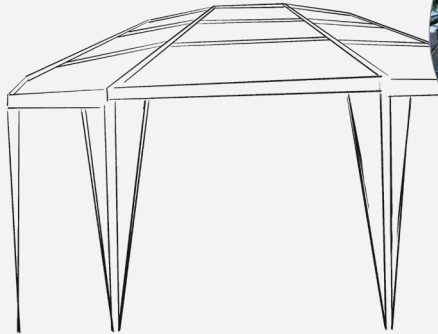
“Create better footpath that circumnavigates the Rec and is safe for buggies, bikes, scooters.”



# Petone Rec as town centre

How might we create a vibrant town centre in the Petone Rec that weaves together spaces for outdoor recreation and events with key community services?

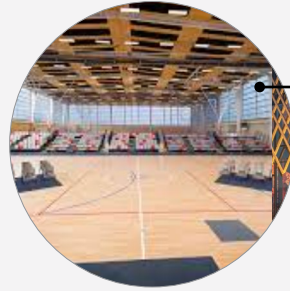
“Build a korowai (cloak) that serves as a canopy/protection against wet weather for sports and events”



“Keep the name ‘Rec’; ‘village green’ sounds too colonial.”

“Consolidation of function and activities - flexible, multi-purpose, and meet family and community needs and create a Petone ‘centre’.”

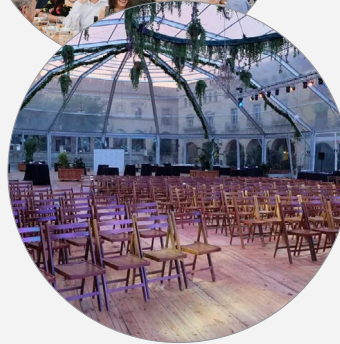
“Focus on the Rec - move the library there and create a hub feel. I love the korowai idea.”



“Make the Rec a community hub like Walter Nash, for indoor sports and community gatherings. No one uses the grandstand!”



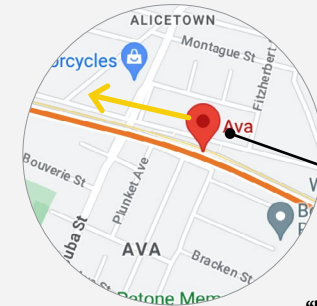
“The grandstand is only used a few times per year. Instead have a multi-use facility for concerts, weddings, events, etc.”



“Relocatable pod structures”



“Make changing rooms into pods that can be moved”



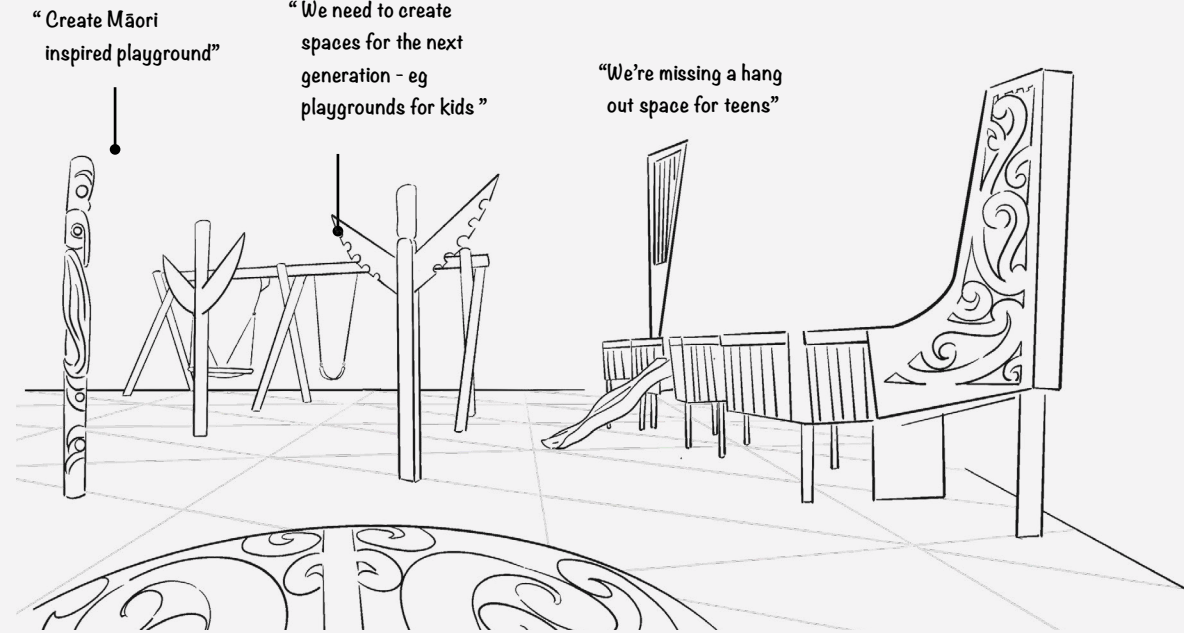
“Move Ava station west to north of Rec to make town centre more accessible by public transport”



“Put more low lighting under the trees to prevent light pollution”

# Specific idea: improve playground near the Rec

The community told us the playground is a loved space but it's run-down and tired. Refurbish the playground to encourage more families to the area. The ideas on this page summarise participants' ideas for how we might create a unique and fun playground that draws families into the town centre.



“The playground is important - don't use plastic, use natural materials”

“Include accessible play equipment”

“Accessible toilets near playground and Rec, drinking water that is easier to get, good street lighting”



“Balance access and safety in area between carpark and playground”



“At least make this access more buggie friendly!”



## Theme 2: Make town centre more pedestrian friendly with new walking paths

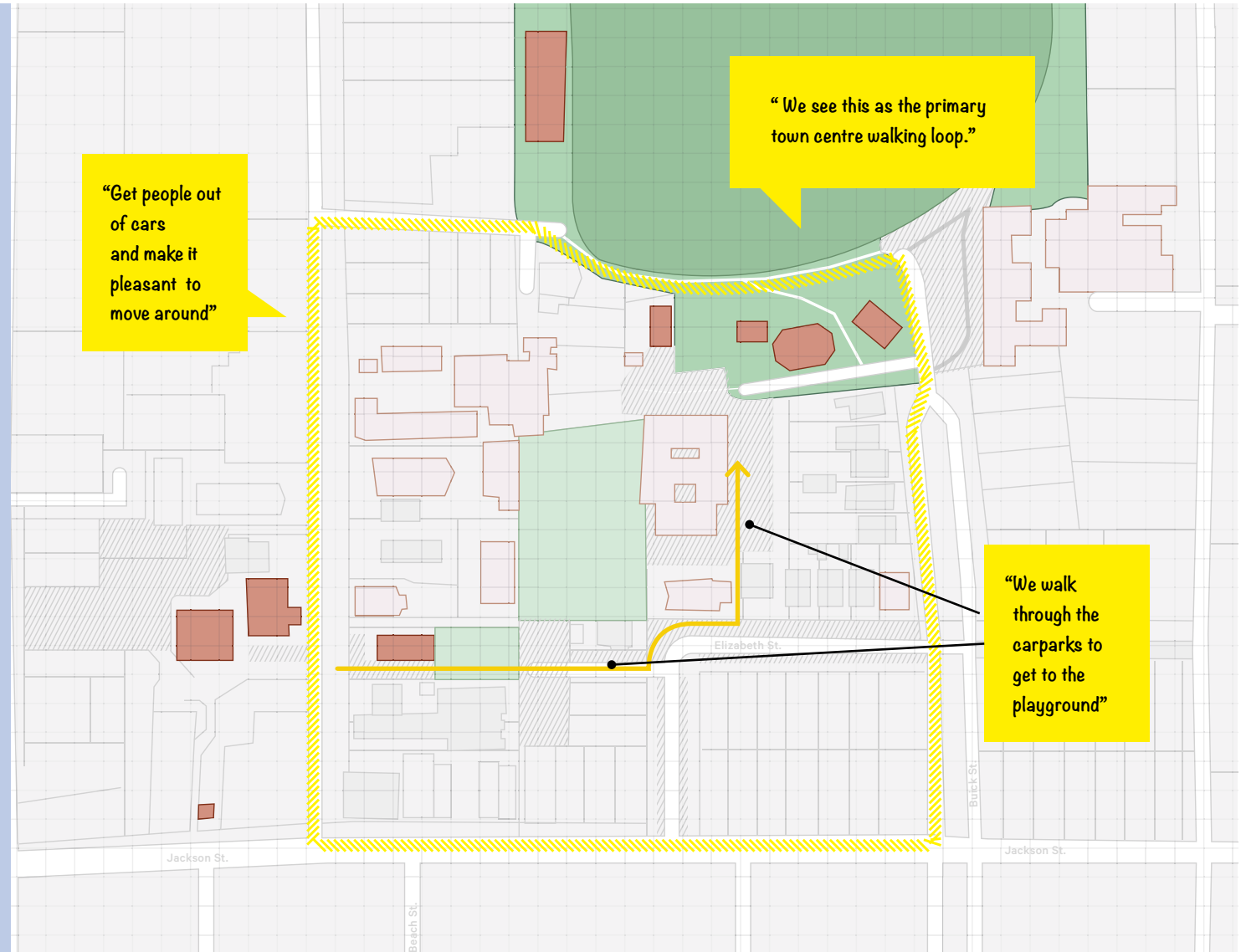
### Problem:

It's difficult to move around Petone without a car.

### Opportunity:

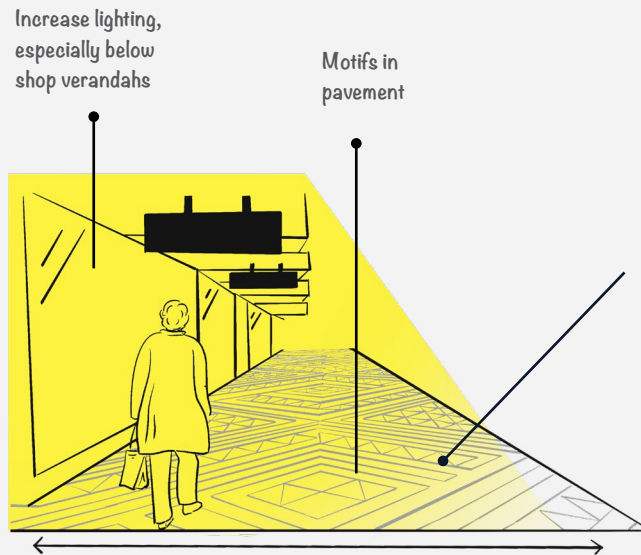
Create clearly marked walking pathways to demarcate the informal routes people typically use now.

**Insight:** How might we use new walking paths to connect key amenities and make the town centre more pedestrian friendly?



# Pedestrian friendly streets

How might we use new and existing walking paths to connect key amenities and make the town centre more pedestrian friendly?



Key walking loops

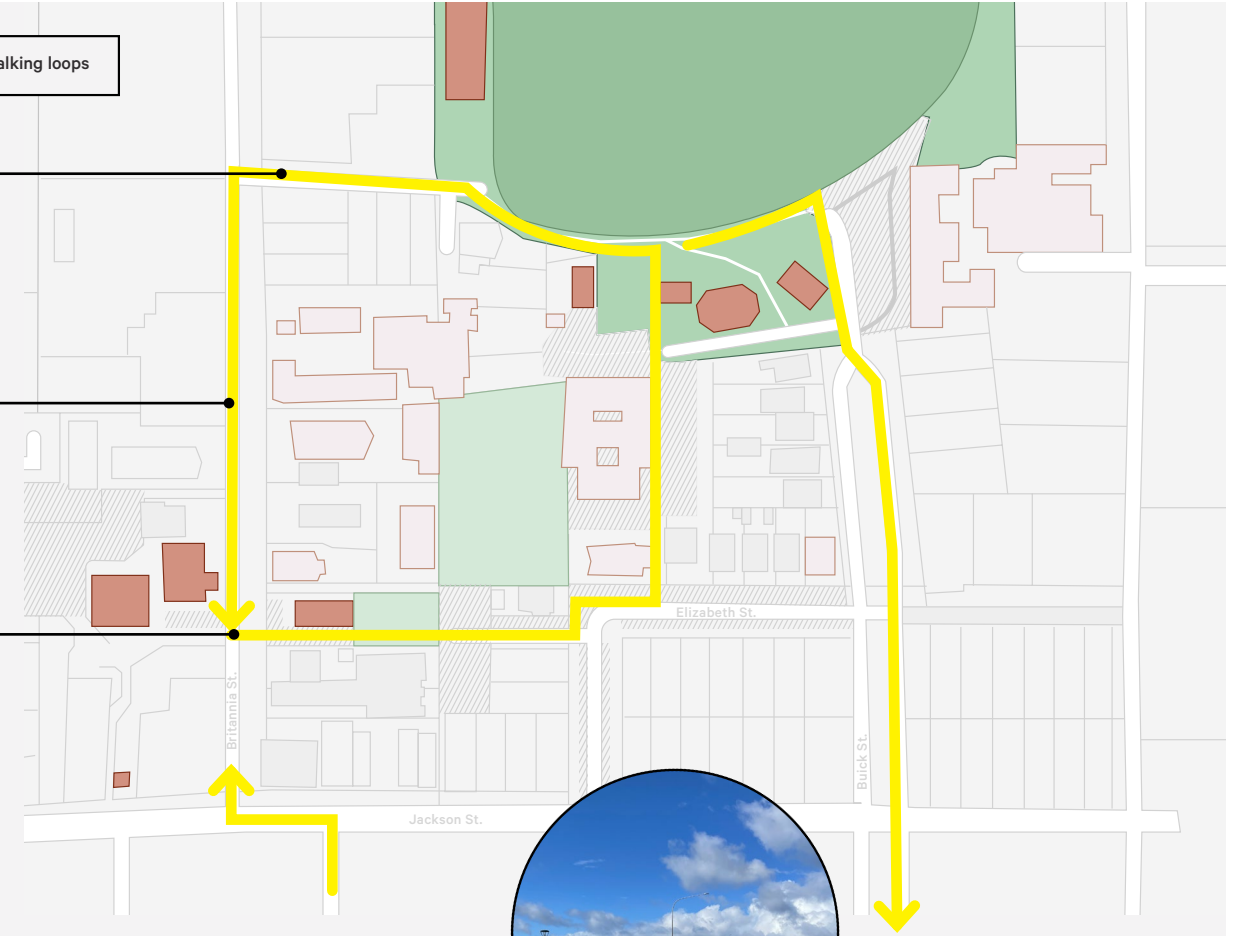
“Make Kirks Ave a pedestrian lane (currently no footpath)”

“Kids use the route around the Rec and down Kirks Ave to Britannia St after school to get to the library.”

“Link the library to the Rec along the natural route people walk - and make it obvious using lights and footpath motifs”

A key route is from Buick St -> The Esplanade -> Beach St -> Jackson St -> Rec

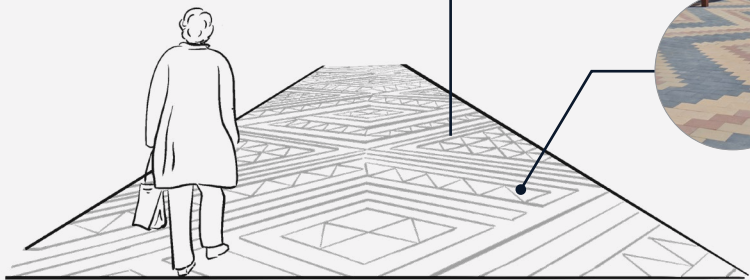
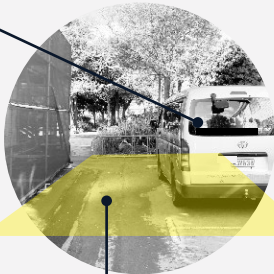
“If there was a crossing at the end of Buick St over the Esplanade, I would go down Buick St.”



# Specific idea: a new laneway

The following page summarises a specific idea related to pedestrian friendly streets. The idea was to establish a new laneway down a path next to community house since community already use this but it's not currently a footpath.

“Removing these three carparks and making this a walkway would help community walk a path they already use more safely”

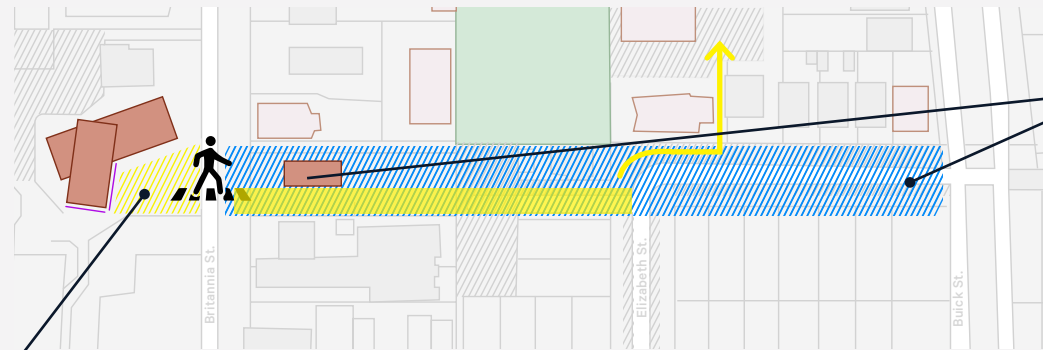
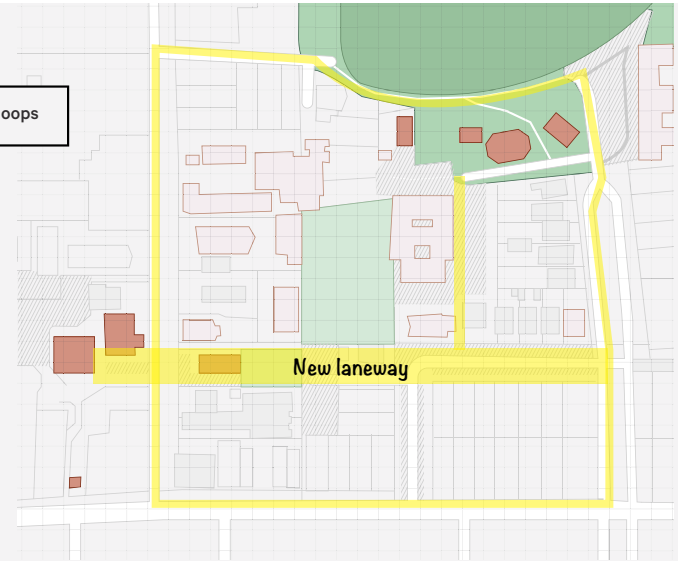


“Install pedestrian crossing from Library over to laneway”

“Create a park in the Community House area - this is an under-utilised space that could be used for activities.”



Key walking loops



“Forecourt area for markets”

“The new laneway could run next to Community House or we could shift community house activities into the community hub”

“Currently we walk through car parks to head upto the playground, surely that's a safety problem!”

“Laneway could be wider and run right through to Buick Street. If we moved the Community House then you could see from one end to the other.”

## Specific idea: Buick St heritage and arts trail

There is no connection and natural walkway between the Esplanade and Petone Rec. How might we create an interesting walkway along Buick St that encourages people to walk between the town centre and the Esplanade?

“Extend public art and sculpture trail into main streets around Petone.”

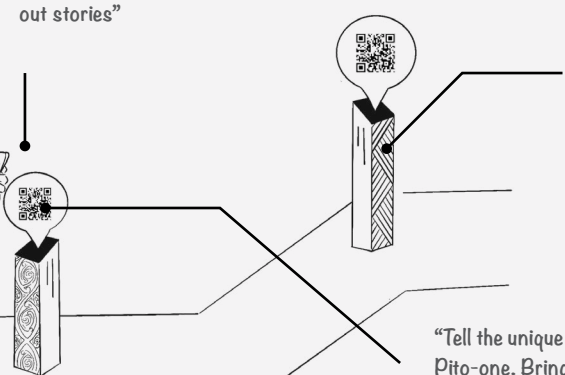
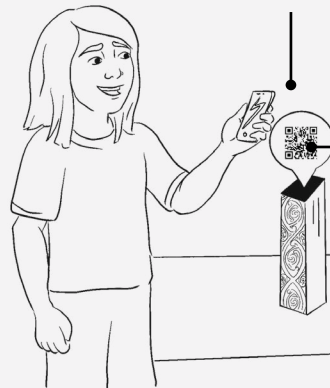
“Signage with QR code scan to find out stories”

“Reflect voices of children and young people”

“Create heritage and arts trail with more public art: water features, sculptures, murals, and seats at regular intervals.”

“Need signage that is consistent with the heritage of Petone and that links to iwi sites of significance and Honiara Reserve.”

“Tell the unique history and stories of Pito-one. Bring forward iwi stories of the place and their people, eg the story of Ngake and Whataitai.”



Create an interesting walkway along Buick St

“Highlight the presence and activity of local businesses in back streets”

“Is there a piped stream under Buick St that could be opened up?”

“Make the street interesting (not just trees and green space).”

“Culture and heritage centre - connecting the culture and heritage assets; improve what we have in ūranga along Esplanade with connections/linkages to repositories at Settlers Museum and library”



## Specific idea: create public transport loop

Creating a public transport loop around Petone centre, based on existing bus routes, would make it easier to move around Petone without a car. How might we encourage more people to use public transport to move around Petone?

### Other ways to improve mobility/access:

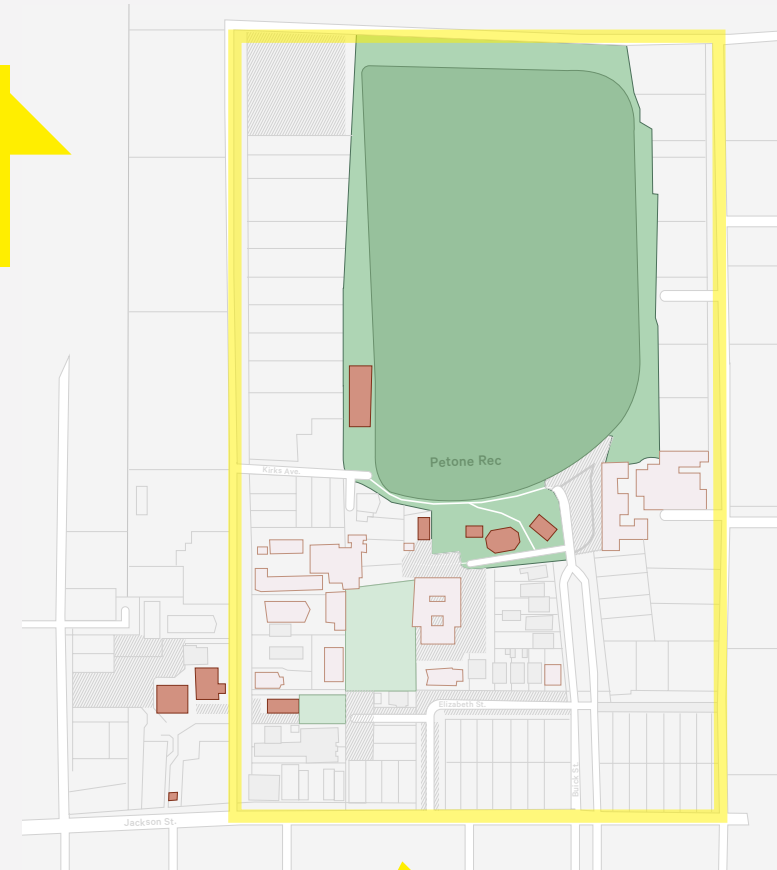
- Improved access to accessible toilets
- Seating at regular intervals and under cover (esp at bus stops)
- Light rail linking Waterloo to Petone via Jackson St
- More bus stops: Jackson St between Elizabeth St and Buick St and on Britannia St
- Wider footpaths for scooters and/or pedestrians or shared walking/cycling streets in centre
- Support car share and bike share schemes (eg, through dedicated parking and rental bikes and scooters at the station)
- Improved bike parking and e-bike chargers (for larger cargo bikes too)
- “More pleasant green-ness to lift the walking and biking/sitting experience”

“Create a public transport loop around Petone centre, using existing bus routes.”

“Easy access to public transport is important.”

“Need off-peak bus services for Jackson St nightlife.”

“Go along side streets and to stations, so people can take public transport to shop.”



“Free loop bus to link key landmarks and big box stores with Petone Station: station -> Udy St -> Cuba St -> Jackson St - #110 is nearly this loop already!”

# Potential Next Steps





# Ngā Mihi

Thank you for your time!

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