

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026, AT 1PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), W Doody, N Mealings, S Powell, Deputy Mayor Redmond and Mayor Gordon (arrived 2:27pm).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors T Bartle (Audiovisual Link), B McLaren and T Fulton.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), K Nutbrown (Communications and Engagement Lead), W Howe (Community Development Team Leader Vibrant Communities), L Mealings (Policy Analyst), A Claassens (Community Development Facilitator), M Pugh (Community Development Facilitator), M Foster (Community Development Facilitator – Arts Strategy Implementation), E Belton (Youth Development Facilitator) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

**1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts declared.

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 16 December 2025**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Redmond      Seconded: Councillor Doody

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 16 December 2025, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)**

Nil.

3.3 **Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 16 December 2025**

Moved: Councillor Powell

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 16 December 2025.

**CARRIED**

**4 DEPUTATIONS**

Nil.

**5 REPORTS**

- 5.1 **Welcoming Waimakariri Plan** – T Sturley (Community Team Manager) and A Claassens (Community Development Facilitator)

A Claassens spoke to the report, noting that the Committee was being requested to recommend to the Council to adopt the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026–2029 (the Plan). She explained that in 2023, the Council joined the Welcoming Communities Programme, a national initiative aimed at ensuring migrants and newcomers were effectively supported and empowered to participate in their new communities. The programme currently included 35 participating councils forming a nationwide network. In September 2025, a draft plan was released for public consultation, resulting in 55 submissions. The feedback received was thoroughly considered, and the draft plan was subsequently amended to reflect the community's views. A Claassens acknowledged the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group's voluntary contribution and its close collaboration with staff throughout the plan's development.

Councillor Cairns asked whether, among the 35 participating councils, any data existed on whether people felt more welcome in their communities or whether the programme had contributed to population growth within participating districts. A Claassens advised that staff were currently working with a consultation group to develop a monitoring framework that would extend beyond individual reports and focus on gathering qualitative data. At present, individual district reports were provided to the North Island or South Island Coordinator every six months, but they remained district specific.

Councillor Cairns then enquired about the next steps, including whether staff would be presenting the Plan to organisations such as Enterprise North Canterbury. A Claassens explained that, following advice from the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group, these considerations were incorporated into the prioritisation process.

Councillor Cairns also queried whether the four wellbeings would remain in the Plan. T Sturley confirmed the four wellbeings were embedded within the Council's Community Outcomes.

In response to a further question from Councillor Cairns, A Claassens noted that the Plan functions as a hybrid between a strategic document and an implementation plan. She explained that this approach was necessary due to the wide range of potential activities, which needed to be consolidated into high-level statements that would allow the Council to continue progressing work as priorities evolve over the next three years. However, the document was termed a "plan" because community feedback indicated a desire for clarity regarding the Council's intended actions, and therefore, examples of specific actions were included.

Deputy Mayor Redmond observed that the Plan referenced population projections indicating that the Waimakariri District's population was expected to increase to 77,100 over the next seven years. He suggested that this figure might be understated. T Sturley responded that the projection was likely based on the median population growth scenario.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Powell

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

(a) **Receives** Report No. 260128014558.

*AND*

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee recommends:

**THAT** the Council:

- (b) **Adopts** the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026 – 2029.
- (c) **Notes** that broad community engagement informed the development of the initial draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026 – 2029.
- (d) **Notes** that the attached Stocktake Report (Trim 250508081046) summarises that engagement, including details of participating stakeholders.
- (e) **Notes** that at the September 2025 meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, the initial draft plan was approved for release for community consultation.
- (f) **Notes** that community consultation was undertaken via a Welcoming Waimakariri survey on the Council's Let's Talk platform. The period for this consultation was 1 October to 30 November 2025.
- (g) **Notes** that the Consultation Summary summarises the results of the Let's Talk consultation, and feedback from the community and advisory groups.
- (h) **Notes** that Strategy and Business, Communications and Engagement, and Community Team staff reviewed the feedback in the Consultation Summary to determine appropriate amendments to the draft document, resulting in production of the attached Welcoming Waimakariri Plan, 2026 – 2029, presented in this report.
- (i) **Notes** that The Welcoming Waimakariri Plan 2026 – 2029 document covers the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Cairns commended the work undertaken by A Claassens, noting that he had attended several Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group sessions and had been impressed by the welcoming approach demonstrated by staff. He expressed confidence that, moving forward, the Plan would help make Waimakariri an exceptional place to visit and live.

Councillor Powell endorsed Councillor Cairns' comments. She acknowledged Claassens' significant effort and noted that members of the Working Group were enthusiastic and ready to progress the next stages of the initiative. Councillor Powell remarked that the Plan would help ensure the Waimakariri District became a welcoming place for all. She also recognised the funding provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, which had enabled the project to reach this point.

Councillor Mealings congratulated staff on the completion of the Plan, observing that their presence and engagement across the district had been extensive. She highlighted the Kaiapoi Waitangi Day celebration as a particularly meaningful example, where people from diverse cultures came together in a spirit of welcome, acceptance, and cultural expression.

Deputy Mayor Redmond commented that the Plan was both impressive and comprehensive. He congratulated staff and commended the quality of their work.

In his right of reply, Councillor Cairns acknowledged the Communications Team for their contribution to the development of the Plan.

5.2 **Approval to Consult on the Draft Youth Action Plan 2026-2029** – L Mealings (Policy Analyst) and E Belton (Youth Development Facilitator)

L Mealings presented the report, noting that its purpose was to seek approval to release the Draft Youth Action Plan 2026–2029 (draft Plan) for public consultation. She explained that the draft Plan was the outcome of an extensive early engagement process undertaken in 2025, reflecting the voices of more than 1,100 local young people. The draft plan formed part of the recently adopted Community Development Strategy. Its aim was to effectively support young people in Waimakariri District by outlining themes, goals, and actions to be undertaken over a three-year period in collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders.

Councillor Doody asked whether staff had considered setting up a stall at A&P shows to promote the Plan and facilitate community feedback. L Mealings advised that staff had identified a range of community events occurring during the consultation period to ensure they were present in the right locations at the appropriate times.

Deputy Mayor Redmond observed that the listed ethnicities totalled more than 100 % and queried whether this was correct. L Mealings noted that some individuals identified with more than one ethnicity, resulting in totals exceeding 100%.

Councillor Fulton noted that the draft Plan goals contained numerous references to enabling and supporting but not leading. E Belton explained that this was intentional, as positive youth development was grounded in strong community development. This approach focused on utilising community resources, energy, and leadership, with the Council's role being to support rather than lead, enabling community groups to pursue the outcomes they wish to see.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Powell

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260112003433.
- (b) **Approves** staff to release the Draft Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (260129015619) for public consultation for a four-week period, from 18 February to 18 March 2026.
- (c) **Notes** that the Draft Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 (260129015619) is the direct result of a thorough early engagement process, co-designed with the Youth Action Plan Advisory Group. This engagement directly captured the voices of over 1,100 local 12- to 24-year-olds.
- (d) **Notes** that following the conclusion of the consultation period on 18 March 2026, staff will process feedback received and integrate suggestions into the Draft Plan between April and May 2026. This will be followed by a report to Council in June 2026 presenting the final Youth Action Plan 2026-2029 and recommending its adoption.

- (e) **Circulates** this report and attachments to Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Doody expressed her support for the draft Plan being released for public consultation.

Councillor Powell noted that the draft Plan represented a significant amount of work by both staff and young people, with more than 1,100 responses received, an achievement she described as remarkable and a testament to staff commitment. She emphasised that young people aged 12 to 24 were the future of the district, and that contributing to initiatives such as this was one of the reasons she valued her role on Council. Councillor Powell considered the draft Plan to be of substantial benefit across all areas of Council and looked forward to receiving public feedback.

Councillor Mealings acknowledged the extensive effort that had gone into the pre-engagement phase, which had produced excellent qualitative insights. She stated that the draft Plan was thoroughly prepared and ready for consultation. Councillor Mealings expressed enthusiasm for the outcomes that might emerge, noting that the district had many outstanding young people and that it was important they felt valued and understood that they had a place in the community.

Deputy Mayor Redmond commented that, upon first reading the report, he found it excellent. He looked forward to the feedback the Council would receive. He described the draft Plan as an impressive resource and noted that obtaining more than 1,100 youth responses was an extraordinary achievement. Deputy Mayor Redmond anticipated positive progress as the process continued.

Councillor Cairns remarked that both the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan and the Youth Action Plan were exceptional pieces of work. He highlighted that this was the largest youth consultation ever undertaken in the district. Councillor Cairns commended staff for their considerable efforts and noted that the information gathered was highly valuable.

In her right of reply, Councillor Doody expressed her strong appreciation for the work that had gone into developing the draft Plan.

### 5.3 **Aquatics February 2026 Update** – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood took the report as read and provided a brief overview of the Aquatic Facilities' year-to-date progress. He noted that approval was also being sought for the continued use of promotions and discounts offered as part of the Aquatics Facilities Business's Strategy to attract, grow, and retain its customer base. Discounted pricing remained a common and accepted practice within both the local market and the wider recreation sector as a means of generating business.

Councillor Powell asked whether staff had received any customer feedback regarding the three-week maintenance closure at the Dudley Aquatic facility. M Greenwood observed that staff had received a message from a five-year-old expressing delight at being back in the pool. Several compliments had also been received from aquarobics participants.

Deputy Mayor Redmond observed a decline in patronage between December 2025 and January 2026, noting staff had attributed this to the combined impact of the Dudley Aquatic facility closure and the opening of the Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre in Christchurch. He asked, anecdotally, what numbers had been like since the reopening of the Dudley Aquatic facility. M Greenwood explained that it was difficult to determine precise trends due to the current swimming sports season, as the facility closed to the public during the middle of the day to accommodate school events. However, he noted that in the first ten days following reopening, the facility recorded 4,000 visits.

Councillor Cairns queried whether, in addition to discounts, there were other ways the Council could encourage greater use of the facilities. M Greenwood responded that staff were focused on growing the business and increasing patronage. Discounts were one tool that helped secure repeat customers and attract more people through the doors.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Redmond

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260204020262.
- (b) **Notes** total customer attendance of 11,542 customers for the month of January 2026. This is down 7,941 in comparison to January 2025 due to the three-week programmed maintenance closure at Dudley.
- (c) **Notes** several significant maintenance works were achieved during the maintenance closure at Dudley including the replacement of an air fan, tile replacement and floor repairs.
- (d) **Approves** the promotional calendar and its use of time limited promotional discounts to achieve attendance and income budget targets in a competitive market.
- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Cairns thanked staff for their work.

Deputy Mayor Redmond supported the motion; he was concerned that the attendance numbers had dropped, but he understood the reasons. He commented that it would be interesting to see if those numbers increased as staff had anticipated. Deputy Mayor Redmond supported the calendar programme; the proposed promotions were neat he did not think they would have any significant budget implications.

Councillor Doody expressed her appreciation for the activity list, noting that it offered a wide range of engaging initiatives. She remarked that few towns would host an event such as "Dogs in Togs," and she particularly liked the Easter egg colouring competition.

Councillor Powell commented that the calendar of events was well-designed, observing that aquatic facilities served purposes beyond swimming alone. She noted the need to remain mindful of health considerations and operational costs when running activities. She commended staff for their creativity and willingness to think beyond traditional approaches to encourage community engagement and increase pool usage.

In his right of reply, Councillor Cairns stated that he was impressed with the programme and appreciated the innovative ideas it contained.

#### 5.4 **Libraries Update to February 2026** – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)

L Sole spoke to the report and provided an overview of the libraries' activity across the holiday period. Across the three libraries, total visitation increased by 500 people. A further 1,200 children's books were issued compared with the previous year, contributing to a total of 47,111 physical items issued over the holiday period. A key highlight was the Summer Reading Challenge, with the Mayor presenting awards at the final celebration attended by 280 participating children. He also noted that the libraries were in the process of obtaining Hāpai Access Card accreditation for all three sites, a nationally recognised programme that identifies accessibility features within public and community spaces. The mobile service trial held its first event on Friday, 13 February at West Eyreton, where the collection was quickly borrowed out. In addition, the annual customer satisfaction survey had concluded with 850 responses, double the number received in 2025.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked to what extent weather conditions influenced patronage. L Sole responded that fewer visitors tended to come from outside the Waimakariri District during poor weather, but staff had observed that attendance increased on wet days.

Councillor Cairns sought clarity about membership numbers. L Sole explained that membership was tracked annually as part of the National Data Scheme, noting the distinction between active and current members. The Waimakariri Libraries currently had approximately 38,000 members.

Councillor Cairns further asked whether the mobile service was enrolling new members. L Sole confirmed that people were able to sign up on site and that staff would be monitoring these numbers.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Doody

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260204020236.
- (b) **Notes** consistent increases in visitation and engagement in library services, including an increase of 500 visits over the holiday period compared to the previous year.
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Mealings thanked staff for the report, noting that while libraries were not solely about books, the provision of books remained a core function, and one that staff delivered exceptionally well.

Councillor Doody expressed her appreciation for the work undertaken by staff, observing that the libraries were a well-used and valued community resource.

Councillor Powell commented that it was an excellent report. She admired the enthusiasm with which staff participated in library activities and remarked that the Waimakariri library service was outstanding, particularly given the limited space available. She commended staff for their continued dedication.

Councillor Cairns added that he thoroughly enjoyed visiting the libraries.

## **6 REPORT REFERRED FROM THE WOODEND-SEFTON COMMUNITY BOARD**

### **6.1 Pegasus Youth Space – Approval of Activities and Locations – G Stephens (Greenspace Design and Planning Team Leader)**

G Stephens reported that the option recommended by the Woodend-Sefton Community Board required a change to the budget, hence the matter was referred to the Community and Recreation Committee for approval. He provided the Committee with an overview of the project's history.

Councillor Cairns asked who determined the level of service to be provided in an area. C Brown explained that this had been defined by the Council as part of an earlier Long Term Plan, during which the budget for skateparks across the Waimakariri District was established. This process resulted in the extension of the Rangiora skatepark and confirmation that no additional funding was required for Oxford. A level of service was subsequently developed and incorporated into the Greenspace Activity Management Plan, which outlined the provision of skateparks in the major towns. A calculation was undertaken based on square metres per population to inform this approach.

Councillor Powell asked whether it would be possible to review and potentially amend the level-of-service description in the future. C Brown confirmed that the Council had the ability to make such changes.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Redmond      Seconded: Councillor Powell

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Approves** the change of project purpose for the Pegasus Youth Space Budget (PJ 101552.000.5223) from the original intent of a Dedicated Skate Park to a Distributed Youth Spaces Approach for youth spaces across Pegasus.
- (b) **Notes** this requires Community and Recreation Committee approval as the delegation to change the capital programme and individual project purpose sits with the committee delegation.
- (c) **Notes** that the Pegasus Youth Space has been allocated \$192,515 (PJ 101552.000.5223) in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Both recommended options are estimated within this budget, including the associated landscape amenity.
- (d) **Notes** the original budget allocation aimed to address the shortfall in skatepark level of service provision within Pegasus.

**CARRIED**

Deputy Mayor Redmond commented that the matter had been thoroughly debated and considered by the Woodend-Sefton Community Board. The consensus reached supported a distributed approach, as it offered a wider range of activities and could benefit more young people.

Councillor Powell noted that the proposal involved changing the terminology from “skate park” to “youth space.” She encouraged members to support the change and expressed her desire to see the wording of the level of-service updated accordingly.

Councillor Cairns considered this an excellent example of the Council listening to the community, with the Woodend-Sefton Community Board referring the matter to the Committee for decision-making. He thanked staff for their work in bringing the matter to its current stage and looked forward to the Community Board's determination of the appropriate locations and components.

In his right of reply, Deputy Mayor Redmond thanked staff for their responsiveness to the Board's feedback.

## **7      CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1      Herbicide Update and Usage by Council Contractors in 2024-2025 – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

Moved: Councillor Powell      Seconded: Councillor Mealings

**THAT** the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 251023201716.

**CARRIED**

## 8 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

### 8.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Brent Cairns

- Construction of the Kaiapoi Hub playground on Courtney Drive, Kaiapoi, was scheduled to commence in March 2026. A security fence and two containers would also be visible on site, marking the establishment of the new premises for the Kaiapoi Menzshed.
- The Play, Active, Recreation and Sport Strategy (PARS) held its inaugural Project Steering Group meeting on Wednesday, 11 February 2026.
- The Canterbury Park Playground project in Ashley was currently out for tender for the supply of play equipment. Contract documentation for the civil works component was being prepared by the Design and Planning Team.
- Consultation for the Elm Green Reserve play space closed in late January 2026. The Design and Planning Team was preparing a report for the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board to seek approval of the final design, enabling equipment procurement and completion of civil engineering contract documents.
- Favourable summer weather had created ideal growing conditions, which had been challenging to manage. Mowing and shrub pruning had been continuous throughout the season. This had been reflected in feedback received by the team; however, the contractor was actively working to meet demand, with all available staff assisting where possible.
- Preparations were underway for the seasonal transition, noting that many summer sports competitions were approaching finals, while pre-season activities for winter sports were beginning. This created a window of opportunity during March for Greenspace staff and contractors to undertake field renovations and other works ahead of the next summer season.

### 8.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Bruce McLaren

- He acknowledged the significant contribution of the libraries and aquatics staff, as well as the important role these facilities play within the community.
- He noted the valuable service provided by library staff in supporting Justices of the Peace (JPs). He had recently joined the JP Service Desk at the Ruataniwha Kaiapoi Library and observed that staff offered excellent support to the service.
- The Rangiora-Ashley Community Board had approved the installation of a welded steel sculpture in the forecourt of MainPower Stadium.
- Staff were in discussions regarding the introduction of paddleball to the district. The current proposal was for a commercially operated facility at no cost to ratepayers, with the potential to generate a modest return to the community once operational. There were currently only nine paddleball facilities in New Zealand, with just one on the South Island.
- Consultants continued to investigate future options for the Rangiora and Kaiapoi museums.

### 8.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Shona Powell

- A Community Networking Forum was held in Rangiora with very good attendance and new people attending.
- A Volunteer Expo would be held from 4pm to 7pm on Friday, 6 March 2026, at the Rangiora Library, where people who were keen to give back to their community could connect with the many local groups and organisations looking for volunteers.
- The Chinese lunar New Year of the Fire Horse was welcomed with a vibrant celebration of culture, community, and connection at the Rangiora Library on 14 February 2026 with performances, food, and displays.

- Accessibility:
  - Training for Council staff and elected members led by the Waimakariri Access Group, with the aim of raising awareness around disabilities and what the Council could do to help make Waimakariri more accessible, will be held on 12 March 2026.
  - Libraries were about to apply for Hapai Card accreditation for accessibility.
- Term one Beginner and Intermediate English as a Second Language classes would be held on Saturdays from 14 February to 28 March 2026.
- Discussion on Homelessness:
  - On 12 March 2026, with support from Social Services Waimakariri and the Salvation Army, the Community Team would convene a meeting of local organisations involved in supporting the Waimakariri District's most vulnerable residents. Invitees included representatives from the faith sector, Housing First, MSD, City Mission, community housing providers, the Community Team, Hillmorton Crisis Mental Health, Odyssey House, Police, and others. Prior to the meeting, a survey was being undertaken to gain a clearer understanding of the extent of homelessness in Waimakariri.
  - The keynote presentation would be delivered by The People's Project, a collaborative response network operating in Tauranga and Hamilton. The initiative functioned as a community-led referral pathway that had proven successful in resolving instances of homelessness.
  - The purpose of the meeting was to establish a coordinated pathway for triaging reported cases of homelessness or rough sleeping within the district. The intention was to develop a local model similar to The People's Project to ensure that individuals receive the most appropriate support for their circumstances.
  - While a bylaw may be considered at a later stage, this collaborative process was viewed as the most effective starting point for identifying meaningful solutions. The aim was to provide timely support to those most in need and to prevent homeless individuals from moving around the district without receiving the assistance they require.
- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) had now achieved 18 of 35 contracted outcomes. With the contract ending 30 June 2026, this was an excellent result, particularly given a very slow job market in the second half of last year. Staff had established a weekly job-opportunities workshop, including work-readiness training and information. This was an opportunity to screen referred candidates for the best possible outcome. Staff was also focussing on driver licensing – the biggest barrier for local job seekers, and on 12 March 2026, were hosting a Business Breakfast, featuring celebrity economist Brad Olsen, with the aim to engage local employers around the value of employing a younger person and the supports available via MTFJ to make it more likely that the employment is sustainable.
- Council staff supported a three-day Violence Free North Canterbury (VFNC) "Loves Me Not" programme, a social media safety presentation for parents and a Valentine Safe Relationships event. These were conceived out of VFNC and delivered by Oxford Community Trust, with the planning and delivery supported by our facilitation staff.
- Council staff have been working with the various arts trusts in the Waimakariri District to affect a more collaborative and efficient approach to governance for Arts in the District. Alongside this, a draft document had been developed to serve as a guide, making it easier for prospective applicants to submit public art proposals.
- Council staff were supporting a Strategic Planning workshop, with the Food Security network in Kaiapoi, with some significant opportunities identified to increase the availability of free or low-cost, nutritious food in the Waimakariri District.

- A current priority of the On Track Capability-building programme was working with local community groups and organisations to ensure that they were prepared for changes in the Incorporated Societies Act, which would come into effect in April 2026. Alongside this, staff had been providing individualised strategic planning support, including a weekend workshop to Riding for the Disabled and ongoing support for North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support.
- Youth Council recruitment was underway, with applications closing 1 March 2026.1st.
- Planning for the Youth Futures Employment Expo 2026 was underway.
- A local mini Safe Communities conference was being planned, following the success of last year's event.
- Council staff were working with Social Services Waimakariri to plan a series of Health forums, to be held three times per year, aimed at bringing representatives from primary and complementary health services together, with keynote speakers and a chance to present activities and challenges. The idea was to facilitate better collaboration and encourage the sector to think more holistically about the wellbeing of local residents. The aim was better health outcomes, better cross-disciplinary referral, and reduced pressure on primary health care.
- Global Locals of Waimakariri (GLOW) was organising a regular 'Mum's and Bubs' coffee morning for Migrants and Newcomers
- Alcohol and Drug Harm Steering Group met this week to finalise a review of their action plan and identify some key priorities for the year.
- Waitangi Day in Kaiapoi saw a celebration of community, culture, and connection and was enjoyed by many, including the Welcoming Waimakariri team at a stall.

#### 8.4 **Arts and Culture** – Councillor Brent Cairns

- Waimakariri Public Arts Trust Meeting:
  - The Kippenberger Art installation/sculpture had yet to get any submissions.
  - Rangiora-Ashley Community Board discussed the new sculpture, which will go into the courtyard at MainPower Stadium.
  - The Trust's new website was in need of work; once that work was completed, the Trust would be able to share/promote the arts trail project.
- Rangiora:
  - Flow State by Amelia Green was on at the Chamber Gallery.
  - Flavio Villani presents Memoria on 4 March 2026.
  - Schmuck Rangiora – celebrating innovative Aotearoa Contemporary Jewellery – 15 March to 23 April 2026.
  - Last Friday, Angela Clifford, "Food Farm", presented her latest book in the Chamber Gallery - the gallery was filled, and many books were sold.
  - Jackey Foss "Between the Notes" storytelling brought to life - This Friday, 20 February 2026, at North Canterbury Musical Hall.
- Kaiapoi:
  - Future is Bright by Nemesh exhibition is on at Art on the Quay, Kaiapoi.
  - House Concert series "Kaiapoi with Canada" – Canadian Duo Zonnis to be held on 17 March 2026.
- Oxford:
  - Creative catch-ups on the last Friday of the month at Oxford Gallery. They were also running a fundraising raffle.
  - The Oxford Gallery summer exhibition was called Shared Currents
- Pegasus
  - Pegasus Bay Art Show was scheduled for 20 March 2026.

8.5 **Property** – Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond

Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond opted not to provide a report at this time.

8.6 **Housing** – Councillor Wendy Doody

She attended a site visit of the pensioner housing being developed in Kaiapoi and was very impressed with the design. She suggested that a site visit be arranged for Councillors before people moved in.

**9 QUESTIONS**

Nil.

**10 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

**9. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Powell

In accordance with section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act (or sections 6, 7 or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may be), it was moved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

9.1 Confirmation of Minutes 16 December 2025

Item No	Subject	Reason for excluding the public	Grounds for excluding the public.
<b>REPORT</b>			
9.1	Confirmation of Minutes 26 December 2025	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	To enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, including commercial and industrial negotiations. <b>LGOIMA Section 7(i)</b>

**CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 1pm in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4:08PM.

**Workshop**  
**(Trim XXX)**

- *Waimakariri District Arts Strategy Update*
- *Performing Arts Feasibility Study Memorandum of Understanding*

**Briefing**  
**(Trim XXX)**

- *Greenspace Update – Key Projects*

**CONFIRMED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date