

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE OXFORD-OHOKA COMMUNITY BOARD HELD AT THE OXFORD TOWN HALL, MAIN STREET, OXFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2026, AT 6.30PM.

PRESENT

S Barkle (Chairperson), T Robson (Deputy Chairperson), M Brown, T Fulton, W Godfrey, N Mealings and P Merrifield.

IN ATTENDANCE

S Hart (General Manager Strategy Engagement and Economic Development), B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader), K Rabe (Governance Advisor) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There was two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

Moved: S Barkle Seconded: M Brown

THAT an apology for absence be received and sustained from R Harpur.

CARRIED

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.1. Eyre Community Environment Safety Society Inc (ECESS) – Catherine Ballinger

C Ballinger noted that ECESS had made a deputation to the 4 February 2026 Board meeting and after which B Walton had spoken. A question was raised, if in the consent conditions, what provisions had been put in place for emergency evacuation of the area. She noted as far as ECESS understood from the consent conditions that the evacuation plan could be a paper only exercise. The Group had hoped that the consent would request a practical evacuation drill to ensure communications were effective and everything ran according to plan.

S Barkle asked if the Community Liaison Group had met yet. C Ballinger replied that they had a meeting with a facilitator to determine the members to be appointed. There were five members from ECESS on the group.

2.2. Oxford RSA Club – Kyle Scott

K Scott noted that the Club would be applying to the Board's discretionary grant funding to assist with signage to commemorate the Oxford East Railway Station. The foundations and remnants of the Oxford East Railway Station was located behind the Oxford RSA Club. By marketing this important site, the Club hoped to acknowledge the past while enriching the cultural heritage for the future. When the settlers first arrived in Oxford, there was a lot of dense bush and timber was very much in demand in Christchurch. The railway from Rangiora to Oxford was established in 1875 and it became a very important hub for Oxford and the district bringing in goods and passengers. Experience Oxford had talked about a rail trail which would help to bring visitors to Oxford. The Club thought having a heritage railway site with appropriate signage could be one of those 'must do sites' for people to see. The Club were proposing to erect a heritage style sign for the East Oxford Railway Station with an interpretation panel which would include some historic photos and information. They also wanted to erect a small shelter near the site and a location sign from High Street to show the way as it was not visible from the street. The Club estimated the project would cost \$2,500.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

N Mealings and T Fulton declared a conflict on item 7.2, as they would be making a decision on the submission later in the month.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board – 8 April 2026

Moved: T Robson Seconded: P Merrifield

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the Inaugural Oxford-Ohoka Community Board meeting, held on 8 April 2026.

CARRIED

4.2. Matters Arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

6. ADJOURNED BUSINESS

Nil.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Enhancement Plan – B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)

B Dollery spoke to the report noting it was seeking approval for the enhancement plan staff had developed for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve Walkway. It took in an area which ran along Ohoka Road with a small section of 300m along the Ohoka Stream. The project was under the banner of Arohata te Awa which was a project concerned with increasing recreation in the natural environment, protecting waterways and biodiversity across the district. Staff had conducted surveys to establish what was currently growing in the area and what native plants would be suitable for the area. There were a lot of other parameters such as the stream capacity, so staff were working closely with the Water Services Unit who were doing a study to look at the capacity of the stream.

T Fulton asked if the study would also identify what were the valuable must keep existing plants. B Dollery explained that S Allen would be working closely with the unit in regard to the survey results. In the small section that staff surveyed there was only one plant that was of value.

T Fulton questioned if there were a best imagined profile of the banks and the way the Ohoka Stream went. B Dollery believed that all of those decisions would be made once survey results were known.

W Godfrey enquired about the connectivity of the site to the wider community and why the track was not being connected to the Silverstream Reserve. There was the opportunity to put an underpass at both the Ohoka Stream Bridge end and the Ohoka Road Bridge. B Dollery agreed it would be great to have people go under the bridges at either end. Staff had discussed at depth with Utilities and Roading staff, and they had been assured that it was not possible due to health and safety regulations.

W Godfrey questioned the cost of \$95,000 for a carpark as he believed there was no need for parking when there was adequate parking at Silverstream. B Dollery noted the figure was included as a holding figure and would be costed properly at a later stage.

T Fulton queried if there was any capacity to do natural drainage works in the path of the streams. B Dollery stated that staff had been advised that it was not feasible. It was a shame to not get access under the bridge. However, if there were significant changes to the stream it may offer opportunities later.

P Merrifield asked if there was any aquatic life in the river. B Dollery noted that staff had not done an aquatic survey as part of this plan.

Moved: N Mealings

Seconded: T Fulton

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260120009234.
- (b) **Approves** the enhancement works for the Ohoka Road Esplanade Reserve including weed removal and planting scheduled over 3 years with 5 years maintenance (Trim: 251219243191).
- (c) **Notes** that the project is budgeted for by the Arohatia te Awa Working Groups programme of works (Code – 101554.000.5223; c. \$230,000).
- (d) **Notes** that ecologists within the Biodiversity Team will continue to work with the Water Services Unit to ensure no adverse impacts to the Ohoka Stream following hydraulic assessments for planting in the riparian area.
- (e) **Notes** that staff will continue to work with the Utilities and Roading team to ensure safe access to the site and the possibility of a carpark in the southern area of the site.
- (f) **Notes** that staff will liaise with local community groups (including the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust) to organise planting days and events for the area.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Kaiapoi-Tuahivi Community Board for information.
- (h) **Requests** that prioritisation of funding be given to enabling pedestrian access rather than a carpark, from Ohoka Esplanade Reserve over Ohoka Road near Skewbridge Road and near the Silverstream bridge at Ohoka Road enabling a larger circular walk experience connecting the Ohoka Esplanade to the Silverstream Reserve.

CARRIED

N Mealings commented that she was the Chairperson of the Arohatia te Awa Working Group and she was excited about this project. It was great to get this project to the point it could be brought to the Board for approval. It was a shame that there were some limitations. Looking through the report, it was shocking that the ecology side of things had degraded to the point where there were no invertebrates of note. This exercise was not viewed as a restoration as there was nothing to restore it was a recreation. She agreed it would be great the track was able to navigate under the bridge.

7.2. **Ratification of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's submissions to the Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plans – K Rabe (Governance Advisor)**

K Rabe took the report as read.

There were no questions from members.

Moved: T Robson Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 260414095877.
- (b) **Ratifies** its submission to the Waimakariri District Council draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260414095680).
- (c) **Ratifies** its submission to Environment Canterbury's draft 2026-27 Annual Plan (Trim Ref: 260330086773).
- (d) **Notes** that the Board Chairperson and/or Deputy Chairperson will speak at the Waimakariri District Council Submission Hearings to convey the Board's view in person on Thursday, 7 May 2026.

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

9. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

9.1. **Chairperson's Report for April 2026**

- Oxford A&P Show – The Board had a fantastic set up. The hamper was very successful at drawing people in and engaging in conversation. Whenever someone entered into the hamper, they were given a flyer which had information about what the Community Board did and how they could be contacted. Most feedback from residents was around the Oxford dog park – a much loved and used facility but it became difficult to access during wetter months when the entry became very boggy. There was quite a lot of interest in creating mountain bike tracks in the area. Something for the Board to consider for future projects. Considering this was also an annual plan drop-in session for Oxford, it would have been nice to see more Councillors attend.
- Wards Road Planting Day – Feedback received was that there was a fantastic turn out of locals again. The Swannanoa Fire Brigade came with their water tanker to water the plants. The area was really starting to take hold and looked great. She acknowledged Pat and Nicky Bodgers effort to the local community. They had put countless hours into local planting projects and were still keen to do more.
- Attended ANZAC Services in Ohoka and West Eyreton – Ohoka service was attended by all the students from Ohoka School. This was an exceptional service and extremely well attended. West Eyreton was also very well attended and a lovely ceremony. Local scouts group did a great job helping to clean up after.
- Burnt Hill Storage Dam Meeting – Met with staff to get a rundown on what the Council was responsible for.

- Oxford Future of Health Meeting – Was a phenomenal turnout of residents, particularly older residents. There was a clear message that Oxford Hospital was a resource that was very important to the Oxford residents. Interesting to note that some people had encountered situations where they were in need of respite, but Eldernet and Hospital staff were not aware Oxford had beds available for this purpose. They had to advocate for themselves to get in there. There should be a directory to refer to rather than a staffing turn over problem as one of the panel members suggested. Mayor Dan Gordon suggested a working group be established so that further consultation and feedback could be given. This was welcomed by both residents and the health board. The purpose of the meeting was to seek feedback in regard to health services needed in Oxford now and into the future. She hoped that the location of services was equally evaluated when assessing the information gathered. People could provide feedback to TWPlanning@tewhataora.co.nz.
- Regional Council Update on Public Transport – Deputation from Environment Canterbury in regard to an upcoming feedback programme that was about to be launched across the region. This would only be for the greater Christchurch area so would not include anything West of Two Chain Road. The Regional Council were planning quite an extensive feedback programme particularly targeting residents from the main town centres. She asked whether they would seek specific feedback from residents within our ward in the peri-rural settings. They responded that if there was an event where they could seek engagement in to let them know.

Moved: T Robson Seconded: M Brown

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the verbal report from the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Chairperson.
CARRIED

10. **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- 10.1. Woodend-Sefton Community Board Meeting Minutes 13 April 2026.
- 10.2. Rangiora-Ashley Community Board Meeting Minutes 8 April 2026.
- 10.3. Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board Meeting Minutes 20 April 2026.
- 10.4. Approval of the Transportation Procurement Strategy 2026 – Report to Utilities and Roothing Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
- 10.5. New Zealand Transport Agency Procedural Audit Report March 2026 – Report to Utilities and Roothing Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
- 10.6. Annual Stormwater Compliance and Monitoring Reports for 2024-25 for Oxford, Woodend and Kaiapoi – Report to Utilities and Roothing Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to the Oxford-Ohoka, Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi and Woodend-Sefton Community Boards.
- 10.7. May 2025 Flood Recovery Progress Update and Project Update on Infrastructure Resilience Fund for 2024/2025 and 2025/026 – Report to Utilities and Roothing Committee Meeting 14 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards.
- 10.8. Aquatics April Update – Report to Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 21 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards

10.9. Libraries Update to April 2026 – Report to Community and Recreation Committee Meeting 21 April 2026 – Circulates to all Boards

Moved: S Barkle Seconded: N Mealings

THAT the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board:

- (a) **Receives** the information in Items 10.1 to 10.9.

CARRIED

11. MEMBERS' INFORMATION EXCHANGE

N Mealings

- Oxford Community Networking Forum – Budgeting Services and CAB were very busy. Both were working closely with the Kaiapoi Foodbank. Social Services Waimakariri reported that it was looking into the effects on volunteer/ NGOs from the fuel crisis and how the North Canterbury Minibus Trust could be most effectively utilised. The Oxford Community Trust was very busy across its services. A social work apprentice at the trust was starting a new 'mum's group' to fill the void since the Plunket group finished in Oxford. The fuel crisis was affecting foodbanks and demand had tripled. However, Satisfy Food Rescue Satisfy had produced a video featuring Jo Seagar sharing economical food recipes and cooking skills. They were currently getting large amounts of food donations as people struggle to afford to buy the produce in the stores.
- Seed Savers Workshop at Oxford Library – Helped with a seed saving workshop alongside J Clements and EcoEducate held at the library over the school holidays to teach seed saving techniques and swap treasures. A great initiative and lots of fun.
- Oxford A&P Show – A great day out and lots of good conversations with people on everything from the Board to utilities, rate's structure, security, events and civil defence. Excellent event as always. A Cust resident enquired about graffiti removal and potential security cameras for the Cust Community Centre. An Ohoka resident was keen to see if they could get a recycling bin service on the Western end of Mill Road near the current service boundary.
- Contact by resident – A local agricultural contractor raised concerns with new road markings and signage at Two Chain and Downs Road that they were difficult to navigate with large machinery. Arranged for roading staff to contact them to discuss.
- Wards Road Planting – Fantastic community initiative by Pat and Nicky Bodgers. There was a good turnout by several locals. W Godfrey was an absolute legend as well, helping with one of his staff, machinery and refreshments. We got it all planted and mulched by noon in time for our wonderful Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department to arrive with the fire truck to water in the new plantings. A great example of 'many hands make light work'.
- Mandeville Sports Club and Board Meetings – Health and Safety discussion; Ohoka Tennis Club reconstituted, new Mandeville Park Run officially launched, Memorial Area works now underway, and new speed bump in parking lot had been installed to control speeding past the blind corner of the clubhouse as well as potholes filled. The groundsman role was not yet filled, and MSC concept plan discussed.
- ANZAC Services in Ohoka, Oxford and West Eyreton – This year marked a return to ANZAC Day falling within the school term, so the Ohoka Hall welcomed the entire role of over 245 Ohoka School students and staff along with some of their whanau, who walked down from the school to the hall for a service on Friday 24 April. It was a marvellous ceremony with a full complement of local residents also in attendance. She had the honour of speaking at the Oxford service representing the Mayor, who could not attend. It was a lovely service with a great turnout from the community. Following that, she attended another great service at West Eyreton, which was also well attended and followed by West Eyreton's legendary hospitality. An important day, well-marked and acknowledged by all.

- Future of Oxford Health Services Public Meeting – This was a hugely well-attended meeting run by Health New Zealand to discuss the future of health services in Oxford. There wasn't a seat left in the house, which reinforced the depth of interest in service provision plans.
- Ohoka Domain Working bee and Advisory Group Meeting – Took part in the working bee for the Ohoka Bush at the domain. Understorey species had been purchased and had nearly all been planted. The Gatekeeper's Lodge, the group were looking at funding options for maintenance needs separate to what they received for the Ohoka Bush. The Committee also discussed signage at the domain for the bush, to which she informed them about the Board plans for wayfinding/interpretive signage as part of the landscaping budget projects.
- Mandeville Sports Club – staff catch up.

T Robson

- Oxford A&P Show – A great day all round, overall positive feedback around the work the Community Board was doing. He thought next time the Board should ensure that there were two people there until 3pm to ensure they were getting maximum engagement.
- Pearson Park Advisory Group Meeting – Met to discuss the upgrade of some of the chairs around the old bowling green. Also discussed some other maintenance issues that needed attention.
- Oxford Community Trust Meeting – Monthly Board meeting.
- Oxford Health Services Meeting – He thought the meeting was very well attended which showed just how important the local health services, and the Oxford Hospital in particular were to the community. The fact that maintenance had been deferred for far too long allowing the building to deteriorate was of concern, but it was also raised that when people request placement at the hospital, they were told that the Hospital was not taking any more patients, despite beds being available. These issues that were raised by the community had led some to believe that there was a deliberate strategy to portray the Hospital as being run down and rarely used, to justify closure, when in fact it was very hard to get in to. Hopefully the decision makers would take the residents' concerns on board when making their decision regarding the future of the Hospital. he would like to thank the team at the Oxford Community Trust for helping to promote the meeting and ensuring a good attendance. The trust had received funding to purchase a new U drive car. They had brought a car and would be doing some media and a launch.

M Brown

- Oxford Promotions – new Committee with some great ideas.
- Waimakariri Health Advisory group – main topics mental health for rural workers and homeless.
- Health New Zealand – Future Oxford Health – future of Oxford Hospital and access to end of life and palliative care.
- Oxford A&P Show – great set up.

T Fulton

- Attended first Burnt Hill Storage Ltd Community liaison meeting – a large Group led by an independent Chairperson. Updates on activity available on Burnt Hill Storage Ltd website www.bhsl.co.nz.
- Attended ANZAC Day Services in Oxford, West Eyreton and Cust. Well run.
- Attended Swannanoa Cricket Club Inauguration of Honours Board.
- Spoke to North Canterbury Museums meeting at Cust on Wolffs Bridge.
- Attended Oxford A&P Show.
- Experience Oxford – a mostly new and enthusiastic Committee was in place.
- Wolffs Road Bridge – Welcomed two new committee members. They also had a new logo and were going to take external advice on a marketing strategy.

W Godfrey

- Ohoka Domain Working Bee.
- Ohoka Domain Board Meeting – There were comments regarding the ongoing challenges of funding for the Gatekeepers Lodge. Needs for maintenance and costs. Funding for Domain but not for the building. Plans were underway to build a tool shed on the Gatekeepers Lodge site for general tools and mower etc.
- Oxford-Ohoka Community Board Annual Plan Submission meeting – The process of the Annual Plan appeared largely already programmed meaning there was limited legitimate value in the submission process. This undermined the integrity of the process. Noted that local Government was in change however and this complicated the current process.
- Wards Road Walkway Planting – No issues but a really great and productive day for the community. While there was one Councillor and one Community Board member it would be good if the Council formally acknowledged the effort the community put in.
- Mandeville Sports Club all Clubs Meeting – One phone contact from the Bowling Club prior to the meeting regarding the request from Bowls to have their own bar. Detail tabled at the meeting and it was for them to deal with.

P Merrifield

- Greypower meeting – a number of older people were coming across skateboards on the main road through Rangiora, which made them nervous.
- A container for the Oxford Museum had been purchased.

12. CONSULTATION PROJECTS

12.1. Woodend/Pegasus Area Strategy Review

<https://letstalk.waimakariri.govt.nz/woodend-pegasus-area-strategy-review>

The Board noted the consultation projects.

13. BOARD FUNDING UPDATE

13.1. Board Discretionary Grant

Balance as at 30 April 2026: \$2,984.

13.2. General Landscaping Fund

Balance as at 30 April 2026: \$6,000.

The Board noted the funding update.

14. MEDIA ITEMS

- Oxford Health meeting – they were seeking feedback from the community about what services Oxford required, had now and needed in the future. TWPlanning@tewhataora.co.nz.
- Advertisement about the Boards discretionary grant fund.
- Upcoming roadworks in Oxford.

15. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil.

16. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDERS

Nil.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board is scheduled for 6.30pm, Wednesday 3 June 2026 at the Oxford Town Hall.

<p style="text-align: center;">Workshops 7:30pm to 7:33pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Members Forum</i>

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7:30PM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

3 June 2026

Date