



## **Wood Street revitalisation project – some common questions**

### **What is the Wood Street revitalisation project?**

In September 2019 the Mangawhai Business Association approached council to address issues relating to high levels of congestion and pedestrian safety around Wood Street. These ongoing issues on and around Wood Street intensify during peak times in summer, when the town sees an influx of part-time residents and visitors, creating multiple problems relating to congestion, traffic issues, and pedestrian safety in the area. The Mangawhai Business Association remain an integral partner in this project.

### **Who's paying for the Wood Street revitalisation project?**

The latest interim design, in place and tested from December 2020, has been 90 percent funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, as part of their Innovating Streets programme. The project cost is \$506,000, of which \$455,000 has been funded by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency. The Council has contributed the remaining ten percent. We were one of approximately 40 projects that were approved for funding in round one of Waka Kotahi's Innovating Streets programme and pilot fund.

### **Why has Wood Street changed to one way?**

During the first summer trial (2019/2020) we installed a one-way traffic system on Wood Street. The community feedback was positive, with more than 70 percent agreeing that it improved congestion and safety in the area. This has been one of the key changes we are implementing again, this time with more permanent road markings and signage.

### **It's always difficult to find a park in the Wood Street area, particularly during the summer months. Have you allowed for more carparking in this latest interim design?**

The latest interim design includes a number of parking reconfigurations, increased off-street carparking, and improvements to existing carparks. The central area (in front of the shops) was identified as one of the key points of congestion in the area – and increasing the off-street parking facilities was one of the requests made by community to help support more shared people-friendly space. The rear carpark temporarily installed for the summer trial last year (behind the Senior Citizens Community Centre) has been formalised, with aggregate laid down and wheelstops to be installed, accommodating significantly more parking away from the shop fronts. Additional parking has been incorporated near the Molesworth Drive entrance, at the back of the old fire station site and out behind the Senior Citizens Community Centre and playground.

The addition of the road through the old fire station site increases access to the off-street parking from either end of the commercial area.

### **Who designed all the road art?**

The road artwork is spearheaded by local artist [Aaron McConchie](#), in collaboration with [Mangawhai Artists Incorporated](#). The group also ran a volunteer day getting locals painting the water ripples at the entrance to Wood Street, whai (sting rays), kākahi (whales), and pātiki (flounder) that can be seen throughout the area.

“It has been a challenge to create 2D elements for the pedestrian and shared spaces while also being mindful of the multiple uses, safety concerns, special paint with limited colour palette as well as the variable surfaces to be painted on. The overall design for the painting is of the connection to the sea and the natural environment below the waves,” says Aaron McConchie.

The art design will continue to be worked on over summer, with a lot more to come which will continue to help liven up the shared spaces and encourage creative uses. View the road art design on our [website](#) (please note that some areas are subject to change).

### **Who’s maintaining the plants and how is it being paid for?**

Greenery in the area was one of the identified priorities that came out of the community co-design workshops. The cost of the plants (including maintenance) has been incorporated into the overall project cost. All of the native plants – coprosma kirkii, tūrutu (dianella nigra), nikau, and tukauki/mikoikoi (libertia grandiflora) – have been chosen for their drought resistant, low maintenance qualities, with minimal watering needed.

### **Are all these changes permanent?**

No, though any successful changes will become permanent, depending on feedback given during this latest trial period. We are using an approach called ‘tactical urbanism’, where we are co-designing with the Mangawhai Business Association and community and testing layout and design. As part of this process the interim design is subject to tweaks and changes throughout the testing period. We will be regularly asking for feedback, and monitoring the impact on how the space is being used (by pedestrians and vehicles), so we can fix what’s not working and improve anything that is.

### **Has the community been consulted about this project?**

The Wood Street revitalisation project is a co-design project, initiated by the Mangawhai Business Association and informed by ongoing community co-design workshops.

The first summer trial (2019/2020) was followed by three co-design community workshops held in July and August. Each workshop informed the next workshop so that the latest design was arrived at through a series of improved iterations. We have kept the community up to date through regular mailouts to our database, as well as updates on our social media page and through our local newspapers. Sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

### **How do I give feedback on this latest design?**

We want to know what you think about the new changes. We would like to hear about what you think is working, and what you think isn’t so good. Please send us your thoughts and suggestions at any time during the trial by emailing [mangawhaicommunityplan@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:mangawhaicommunityplan@kaipara.govt.nz).

We will also be running surveys at different points during the trial to gauge success, so that we can learn and adapt with real-time feedback.