**Our Story: Five Principles guiding the Featherston Masterplan**

**Principle 1: Honouring the past “Ka mua, ka muri” “acknowledging the past to move forward”**

This means:

* Acknowledging that in the past our moana and awa were healthy, providing us with an abundance of kai
* Committed to restoring the health of our moana and awa – getting everyone onboard – including our young people
* Looking for ways to promote sustainable and local food sources
* Respecting the enormous contributions that the community and local leaders have made to strengthening community spirit
* Always working in an inclusive way so we build Featherston together – never leaving anyone behind  
  Learning about our history to create shared understandings – moving forward together

**Principle 2: Comfortable with being ourselves and caring for each other**

This means:

* Featherston is quirky and different and that’s what makes us unique
* We are a community of workers, families, creatives, innovators and volunteers
* We are committed to connecting our community
* We take care of and plan for our young and aged residents
* That we make sure existing, local residents can afford to stay here and that there are opportunities to work locally, and/or commute for work
* Valuing our Booktown status and ensuring this remains a core part of who we are

**Principle 3: Acknowledging mana whenua, and whānau Māori**

This means:

* Working with Pae Tū Mōkai advisers to engage with Pāpāwai Marae and Kohunui Marae, and be guided by advice given
* Ensuring Māori have a visual presence in Featherston
* Dual narratives – recognising Māori history by creating opportunities for dual narratives to be expressed
* Openness to shared values – continuously learning from each other

**Principle 4: Caring about our physical and natural environment**

This means:

* We want to feel safe when we are in Featherston whether it is crossing the road, walking to the train station in the mornings and evenings, and having well maintained footpaths
* We have parks that work as cohesive and connected spaces – we need to help make them places where everyone can “hang out” easily, no matter what their age, or interests – make them spaces that bring people together
* We want more beauty in our environment especially on our main street and we will work to make it pleasant for residents, as well as functional as part of the regional transport network
* We want to live sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint
* We work hard to integrate infrastructure and land use.

**Principle 5: Doing what we can, being solution focused**

This means:

* Identifying actions that are possible now – and making a start
* Keeping the big picture in mind – balancing the “here and now” with future transformation
* Knowing that this is a journey, working out what we can progress, securing help, expertise and funding from anyone who believes in community and our future