



Community Development in South Wairarapa

A brief overview of the South Wairarapa
District Council's new Community
Development Coordinator Role



South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) appointed a 0.9 FTE Community Development Coordinator, 18 January 2021. This is a new role for South Wairarapa District Council.

Until 30 June 2021 this role is also supporting the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Recovery initiative (0.5FTE)

Community Development Coordinator purpose:

To work in partnership with residents, community groups, agencies, community boards and councils to develop, coordinate and provide a wide range of initiatives, programmes, services and/or policies that enhance community wellbeing and aspirations.

Community Development Coordinator role background:

- Community Development has been identified as a key gap that we needed to address.
- A joint role was established with Carterton prior to Covid-19 – impact and effects created by pandemic reinforced need.
- Role split from Carterton - initial scoping showed significant need across District.

SWDC's Community Wellbeings

Social Wellbeing

– residents are active, healthy, safe, resilient, optimistic and connected

Economic Wellbeing

– a place of destination, new business and diverse employment that gives people independence and opportunity

Environmental Wellbeing

– sustainable living, safe and secure water and soils, waste minimised, biodiversity enhanced

Cultural Wellbeing

– strong relationships with iwi, hapū and whānau, celebrating diverse cultural identity, arts and heritage

So, what is Community Development?

Community Development

is about everyone working together to make our communities a fantastic place to grow up, grow old and everything in-between. It is relationships, shared experiences and working together to create a sense of belonging.

Community-Led Development

- fostering communities to thrive, be strong and resilient.
- focus on communities of 'place' where local residents are the heart and key catalysts for their own and their community's development.
- allows different sectors (business, local and central government, iwi, pacific organisations, funders and voluntary organisations etc) agencies and services to work together to create local solutions and shared way forward

What is Community Led Development in Local Government

- Work together to create and achieve locally owned visions
- Building on local strengths and assets
- Communities own the change and lead where possible.
- Local body enablers are there to support, connect, advise, guide, resource, inform and leverage.

Community Wellbeings are informed by lived experience and community-led aspirations in “place”



Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Taskforce's Vision : *That all young people under 25 be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or positive activities in their communities.*

MTFJ Mission

- Integrate education, training, employment, economic and community development
- Maximise opportunities for our youth that are future-focused and aligned with economic development
- Build knowledge, skills and relationships with ongoing benefits to youth, employers, communities and the New Zealand economy

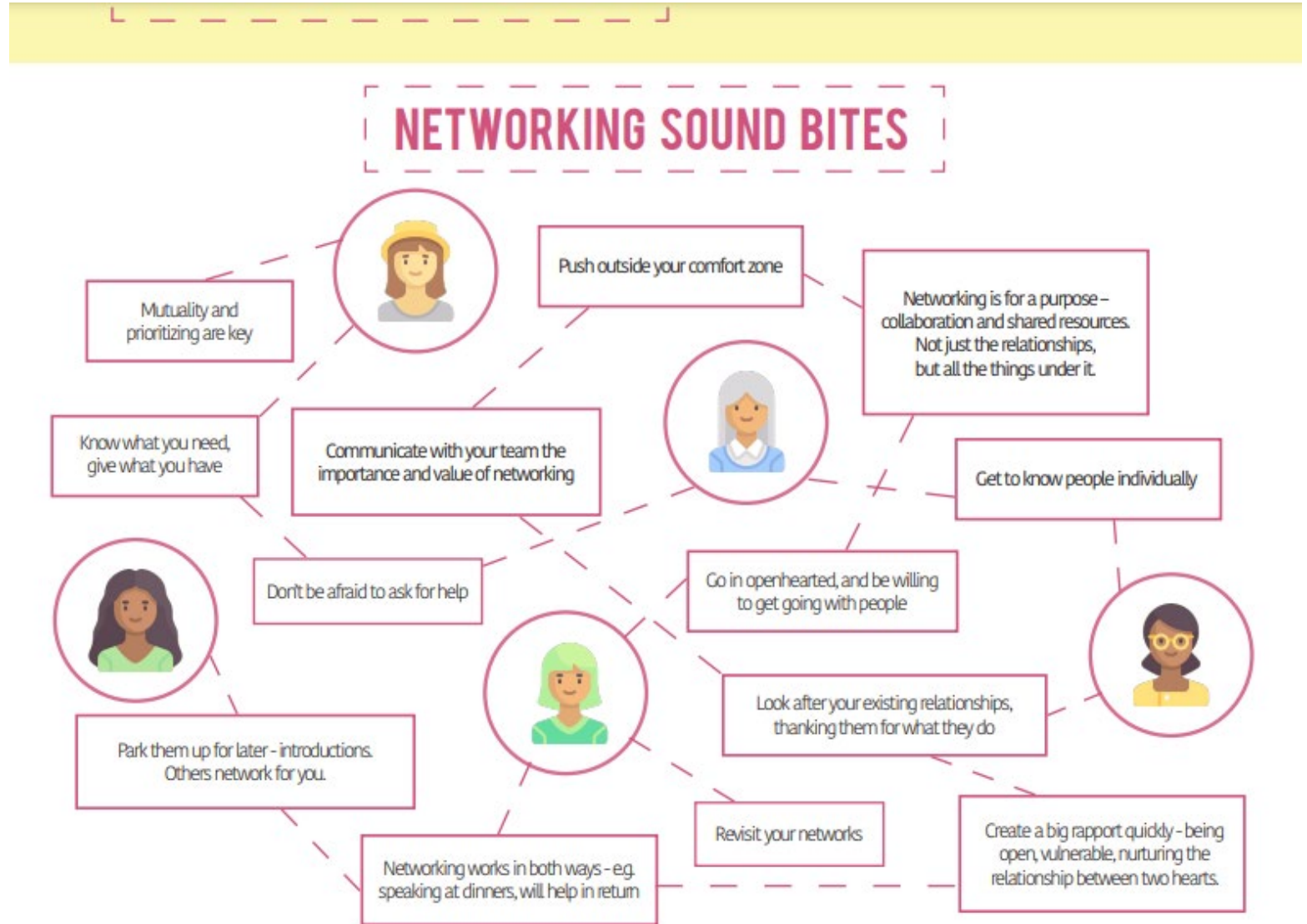
Key to local success for this initiative:

- We identify jobs, training and activities that align with the young people's aspirations
- Employers are youth employee ready
- Everyone; Council, Iwi, communities, local businesses, agencies, providers and educators work together to identify local solutions to achieve this vision for our young people and for the future prosperity of the region

How do we work together?

First things first:

Getting to know the community, hearing your stories, building a fresh picture of what's important to the community.



5 key Principles of Community-led development :

Grow from shared local visions

Build from strengths



Te Whakawhanake ā-Hapori
Weaving our connections and contributions

Work with diverse people & sectors

Learn from doing

Grow collaborative local leadership

Is the glass half empty or half full?

Communities have deficiencies and needs.



Communities and its citizens have capacities and assets!



Asset based Community Development (ABCD) empowers people and place:

- 1) Focuses on community assets and strengths, rather than problems and needs.
- 2) Identifies and mobilises community and individual assets, skills and passions.
- 3) Is built on community leadership
- 4) Builds relationships

Celebrating diversity and supporting awareness and community resilience

- Children's Day (cancelled due to COVID) – 7 March 2021
- Neighbours Day Aotearoa – 20-30 March 2021
- Whakarongo ki te taiao – feeling the rhythm of the land – Wairarapa Moana RAMSAR status celebration and community event – 21 March 2021
- Matariki Celebrations – starts 2 July 2021
- Conservation Week – 4-12 September 2021
- Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – 13-19 Mahuru 2021
- Other events and campaigns in the making

What are some of the opportunities?

- Empower community to identify and achieve aspirations.
- Support Community-led projects & initiatives.
- Strengthen connection with Māori, hapū and iwi.
- Facilitate connections across the community.
- Support Community-led projects, initiatives, activities and events.
- Identify and remove barriers to access and/or participation in council related activities, services, infrastructure, processes and information.
- Support vulnerable communities to reach potential.
- Celebrate diversity.
- Develop community plans.
- Strengthen or rebuild Neighbourhood Support in the community.

What are some of the ways that Community Boards can help us support community development:

- Help us connect with the community & help the community connect with us
 - towns
 - rural
 - coastal
 - neighbourhoods
 - groups/projects
- Help ensure key information reaches the community (for example)
 - Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
 - Events or national campaigns that community can participate in
 - information about where the AEDs are in our community
- Participate in CLD workshops and goal setting sessions, develop community plans and more