



Kaikohe Safer Together



Considerations and Proposal for a Whole Community Safety approach in Kaikohe.

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Page Index

1. Title
2. Page Index
3. Proposal Summary
4. Introduction and Background
5. Current State
 - A. Crime Rates
 - B. Kaikohe Business Association
 - C. CCTV
 - D. Under Veranda Lighting
 - E. Pavement Use
 - F. Community Patrol and Maori Wardens
 - G. Police
 - H. Truancy
 - I. Gang Impact and Local Response
 - J. Prisoner Reintegration into the Community
 - K. Kaikohe Community Watch Facebook Page
- 10 Community Solutions
- 11 Local Aspiration
- 12 Opportunities
- 13 Potential Funding
- 14 Where to from here?
- 15 Appendix 1 and 2
 - a. City Safe Whangarei Hui Notes
 - b. Kaikohe vs Kerikeri Crime stat tables

Proposal Summary

Community safety is as vital to the revitalisation of Kaikohe as community economic development is to. There is a strong community aspiration to bring a sense of safety back to the community, to restore respect and community pride in Kaikohe.

An intentional collaborative approach that brings the many people and initiatives already working towards this together may strengthen collective impact and more effectively action solutions that create the change the community wants to see.

Kaikohe Safer Together is a vision to create a holistic community approach, including on the ground community security kaitiaki, based on the Whangarei City Safe (WCS) model, <https://citysafe.co.nz/>

This proposal provides further information to underlying issues, solutions, and a proposed model of community safety as a way forward to collectively engage the community for positive impact in Kaikohe.

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Introduction

Kaikohe was once the central thriving hub of Northland, referred to as Te Pū o te Wheke by Ngāpuhi, the heart of the octopus. It is culturally rich, but economically depressed, with a recent spike in gang incidents a catalyst for the community to come together to identify issues and find solutions.

Community safety is as vital to the revitalisation of Kaikohe as community economic development is to. There is a strong community aspiration to bring a sense of safety back to the community, to restore respect and community pride in Kaikohe. There are many people and initiatives already working towards this, however a more intentional collaborative approach may strengthen collective impact and more effectively action solutions that create the change the community wants to see. This includes a whole of community safety model which is currently being led by the Kaikohe Business Association with support from FNDC's Community Development team.

This proposal provides further information to underlying issues, solutions, and a proposed model of community safety as a way forward to collectively engage the community for positive impact in Kaikohe.

Background

In the last 30 years, Kaikohe has seen a shift from a thriving main centre to a town which scored 1302 on the deprivation index of disadvantage in 2018, indicating it is the most disadvantaged area in the Far North District. There is an intergenerational dependency on benefits with 2018 stats showing 42.5% were not employed out of total population of 3081 aged over 15 years. Furthermore, Kaikohe has a high youth population; data from the 2018 census shows 62% are aged 39 years and under; 30% aged 0 to 14 and 32% aged 15 to 39. Stats NZ projects the latter age group to rise to 34% in 2023.

In March this year, there was a spike in gang incidents bringing national attention to and negative reputational impact on Kaikohe, [March Violent Incidents](#). Similar concerns were identified 2018 in an article that noted 'In a 2015 data analysis of crime, the town was found to have the greatest number of assaults, robberies and sexual assaults among all "small urban areas" in New Zealand.' [NZ Herald 2018](#). In response to the March incidents, an emergency hui was held on 17 March 2022. Action outcomes from the hui include a letter to police requesting increased presence and support and commitment to exploring a Community Safety Model based on the Whangarei City Safe model. <https://citysafe.co.nz/>. This aligns with local aspiration as articulated in a recent article on Stuff [Local View](#).

While many of the contributing factors are larger social issues that Kaikohe alone cannot solve, there are many locals working tirelessly to find new localised solutions that will disrupt current trends impacting community economic and social wellbeing. These, alongside new projects such as Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Park, Te Kona Digital Hub and Sportsville bring increased opportunities to shift the line towards a revitalised Kaikohe. Ākau has also completed a Masterplan which brings together years of consultative work with locals, with aspirations to upgrade Memorial Park, build a pumptrack and look at options for a new library. FNDC supports this work with the appointment of a Kaikohe focused Community Development Advisor, the author of this report.

Proposal

The remainder of this proposal examines the current state of several aspects of community safety, considering what currently exists, or could be included, contributing issues and potential solutions for each one. It then articulates community aspirations, with a particular focus on the development of a local City Safe type model, before presenting options for funding and a suggested roadmap forward.

Current State

A. Crime Rates

Police data shows Kaikohe consistently experiences higher crime rates than Kerikeri, despite a lower population. policedata.nz.

Note, the data below shows decreasing crime incidents. The author notes that in 2022, Police stats included 6 crime types, with subsequent years reporting on only 5 and 4 consecutively. There is also minimal data in the period from Jan to March 2022. See Appendix 2 for further information.

Figure 1. Crime Incident Rates – Kaikohe vs Kerikeri

Year	1 Jan - 31 Dec 20	1 Jan - 31 Dec 21	1 Jan - 18 May 22
	Data on 6 crime types	Data on 5 crime types	Data on 4 crime types
Kaikohe *popn 4437	648	550	101
Kerikeri *popn 7164	550	302	82

*2018 census.

B. Kaikohe Business Association (KBA)

The KBA is run by volunteers and holds a leadership role in the community, running events such as the annual Christmas Parade. It is responsible for management and funding of the current CCTV network, including procurement of funding to repair and increase the network, and monthly monitoring costs.

A percentage of businesses and landlords belong to the association, and as there are no targeted business district rates, membership is the only source of income outside of funding procurement. With the recent economic downturn exasperated by Covid lockdowns, many businesses are not able to pay for membership or contribute to the CCTV network directly. The KBA is planning a business owners' networking event to discuss the development of improved CCTV and inspiring business owners by introducing them to Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Park developments.

C. Closed-Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV)

The CCTV network is owned by KBA, and currently has # CCTV cameras, with # of these out of operation or in need of repair. Maintenance is contracted to name. The KBA has secured funding through the Proceeds of Crime fund to repair and increase numbers with allocation of \$30K for CBD and \$30K for Lindvart/Sportsville. KBA carries the cost of monitoring and associated costs and maintenance at a total monthly cost of \$#.

Monitoring of footage is limited due to low volunteer numbers and limited access to the Police Station. This means footage is not utilized in real time to identify events as they happen to alert response teams for quick resolution, nor to monitor hot spots and identify trends. There is a push for CCTV cameras to be monitored from Kerikeri which would further reduce local control and response capacity. Furthermore, as some CCTV cameras are in private ownership in shops, not all of them are connected to the network and remain unmonitored. Unfortunately, after the March incidents, many shop owners were intimidated by members of the community seeking to see the footage.

Action Point: Provide missing information above.

D. Under Veranda Lighting, Absentee Property Owners and Empty Streets

There are approximately 70-80 fluorescent light fittings installed in the shop front verandas on both sides of Broadway (SH12), Kaikohe from the Mangakahia Road intersection to Lens Pies at the western end of town.

The 2015/2025 Long Term Plan states “*council is not responsible for the operational costs of shop front lighting in town centres*”. This confirms under veranda lighting (UVL) is the responsibility of property owners. With absent landlords, it is difficult to hold property owners to account and at a recent rough count, some 36 under verandah lights were not working along the CBD. It is noted that current planting of palms in planter boxes in the main street also have potential to damage lighting as they grow.

Local business Ākau has worked with local rangatahi to create CBD murals that beautify the streets, some of which depict role models from the town. While this builds pride, it doesn’t address the increasing problem of absent landlords and empty and/or delapidated shops, contributing to lack of pride and discouraging both locals and the returning tourism market from spending time in Kaikohe CBD.

An American study concludes ‘*there is a chance that by recognizing the link between physical conditions and crime and organizing accordingly... cities can create new opportunities for reducing crime and improving the quality of life in these long-suffering neighbourhoods.* (Spelman_1993).’

The article [Crime in Empty Streets](#) Guardian 18 May, also addresses this from a NZ perspective.

‘That emptiness may be a key reason for the inner-city crime spikes, says University of Canterbury criminologist Jarrod Gilbert. He cites the theory that for most crime to occur, it needs a likely offender, a suitable target and the absence of a capable guardian – people who, simply by their presence, discourage crime from happening.

Even if offenders and targets remain the same, in New Zealand’s cities right now, “there’s the issue of capable guardians”, he says. “Spaces that are populated by large amounts of people inhibit crime.” And emptiness can beget emptiness: if people feel unsafe, they’re less likely to come out – making environments feel increasingly deserted and vulnerable”.

The KBA has recently successfully acquired absent landlord information that may help address this.

Possible Action Points:

- *KBA contacts absent landlords with requests to remedy issues. Approach KHCB to endorse/support this?*
- *Identify ‘dark areas’ of lighting across Kaikohe and remedy to reduce anti-social behaviours.*
- *It is also noted that in some American towns ‘Vacant and abandoned buildings are such serious problems that some local governments threaten steep fines if owners allow their unused buildings to fall into disrepair or become safety hazards’. This raises the question, should FNDC consider such bylaws to support improved community safety and pride in Far North towns.*

E. Pavement Use

Pavement use and offences for wheeled recreational devices, (skateboards and scooters) are detailed in the Road Use Bylaw 2022 (RUB) [final-road-use-bylaw.pdf \(fndc.govt.nz\)](#). The relevant parts of the bylaw are clause 8 (3) and Schedule 2 a list of roads.

“Clause 8/3) *Wheeled recreational devices are prohibited from being used on the roads, or parts of roads, listed in Part C of Schedule 2. A person must not use a wheeled recreational device in contravention of this subclause. Related information Devices include skateboards and scooters, but not cycles. On roads not listed in Part C of Schedule 2,*

wheeled recreational devices must be used and operated in accordance with clause 11.1 of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004. The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 also contains restrictions and prohibitions on riding cycles.”

Bicycles are covered in the [Land Transport \(Road User\) Rule 2004 11.11](#) legislation forbids bicycles on footpaths.

“11.11 Riding cycles on footpaths, etc

(1) A person must not ride a cycle on a footpath or on a lawn, garden, or other cultivation forming part of a road.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to a person who rides a cycle on a footpath in the course of delivering newspapers, mail, or printed material to letterboxes.”

The RUB has been made under both the LGA and the Land Transport Act (LTA). Clause 32 discusses penalties. Noting that enforcement of these bylaws is by the Police. An ‘enforcement officer, under the act, is a constable or similarly qualified person, not a Council officer/employee. Council staff will conduct “low level” enforcement of the new bylaw, such as providing information and advice, no warrants are needed for them to do that work. Most instances of non-compliance are likely to be effectively dealt with that way because research shows 75-80% of people will comply when they are told what the rules are.

The only Council employee with enforcement powers is the designated “parking warden” and they can only enforce in accordance with section 128E as follows:”

“A person who commits an offense against this Bylaw under the Land Transport Act 1998 may be served with an infringement notice in accordance with sections 22AB and 139 of the Land Transport Act 1998 and may be liable to a fine of up to \$1,000. A person who is convicted of an offense against this Bylaw under the Local Government Act 2002 is liable to a fine not exceeding \$20,000. Breaches of this bylaw may also be offences under the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999 with fines of up to \$1000.”

Action Point: Follow up with FNDC enforcement team for further information.

F. Community Patrols and Maori Wardens

This Community Patrol and Maori wardens are both volunteer organisations with aging members and diminishing numbers, and therefore presence in the community. As per the Guardian article, “for crime to occur, it needs a likely offender, a suitable target and the absence of a capable guardian – people who, simply by their presence, discourage crime from happening.” The reduction of presence of the Community Patrol and Maori Wardens as capable guardians contributes to increased opportunities for crime to happen.

Both organisations rely to an extent on funding, with KHCB recently providing \$1000 towards cost of maintenance of vehicle with further funding from ?

Action Points:

- *Membership Drive for Community Patrol*
- *Investigate an appropriate ‘clean slate’ policy for Community Patrol candidates to gain Police clearance.*
- *Contact Maori Wardens and establish what they need to begin patrols in Kaikohe again, incorporate as part of a WCS localised model.*
- *Apply to Lotteries Volunteer capacity fund to drive membership for both groups.*

G. Police

The Police Station at Kaikohe is perceived to be inadequately staffed to provide a preventative presence and support a consistent sense of community safety in Kaikohe. The NZ Police Website states it is open from 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, (Kerikeri is 8.40 to 4pm) and has inadequate staffing to provide adequate community safety in Kaikohe. The building itself is shabby and up for renovation, creating further concern about loss of presence.

As an outcome of the Community Safety hui on March 17th, 2022 a letter with the following requests to address current Police constraints was sent to relevant Government Ministers. Superintendent Tony Hill, District Commander, Northland Police District addressed these in his response shown in italics under each request.

- Increased response rates.
 - *Approximately five years ago, the Mid North Area, which includes Kaikohe, moved to a 24/7 policing model which saw resources make up five Public Safety Teams (PST) that deliver the frontline services for the Mid North Area. Two of these PST teams work out of Kaikohe, two out of Kerikeri and one out of Kawakawa. This has given the communities across the mid-north greater service over the entire day. The five team model is nationally consistent with other districts.*
 - *The additional 1,800 uplift Police staff saw 86 more officers assigned to the Northland District. We have over 80 of those already. This enabled us to have a significant uplift in our frontline services, which included the Mid North Area. Therefore I am confident we have adequate resources, although we have had abstractions due to the Covid environment and general staff movement that has seen a necessity to shift staff into the area on occasion.*
 - *The increased response rates have been consistent across all of Aotearoa and this is not to do with the location of the headquarters. In fact, the District headquarters has been in Whangarei area for the last few decades. The Area Leadership Team is based at both Kaikohe and Kerikeri*
- 24/7 police presence.
 - *Regarding your second point about the end of 24/7 policing in Kaikohe, this is not correct. As previously stated, it was five years ago we started 24/7 policing in the Mid North. At times, the staff working are required to attend jobs out of the Kaikohe township. However, there are staff working 24/7 in the area. Prior to this model staff were required to be called out after hours significantly impacting our ability to respond to critical events in a timely manner.*
 - *We are also fortunate to be a proof of concept district for the Tactical Response Model, one of four nationally. This model provides better tactical support to the frontline, better training for our frontline staff, and dedicated resource to focus high risk offenders. They have spent a considerable amount of time assisting the investigation team working on the gang and organised crime issues in the area.*
 - *We also have great support nationally which was recently demonstrated with Waitemata sending additional staff to work in Kaikohe on the back of the recent gang issues.*
- An urgent upgrade to Kaikohe Police station.
 - *I am pleased to advise you there is a programme of work underway already that is seeing the Kaikohe station receive an uplift. The planning for this has been completed and all alterations should be completed in the next financial year.*
- A dedicated police advisor.
 - *“we have an Area Prevention Manager, Senior Sergeant Peter ROBINSON, who effectively carries out this role. I will discuss with Peter and the Area Commander, about creating greater visibility of his work to you and your team. The points you’ve raised I am aware he is currently focusing on. “*
- Funding
 - *At a recent meeting with Mayor CARTER and members of the Far North District Council, they asked questions about what could assist in making Kaikohe safer and I suggested the Whangarei City Safe model which has been successful in Whangarei. I support your request for service; however it is my understanding that this is funded by the Whangarei District Council.*

The recent Government Budget announced extra funding including \$94 million to tackle gangs and organised crime. It also commits extra funding to increase police numbers to ensure they “match population growth and to ensure there is at least one police officer for every 480 people, as there currently is”. [Recent Budget Police Funding](#)

Action Points:

- *Research the how the \$94 million is to be distributed to see if there is any opportunity for the community to access this funding.*

- *Follow up on Community Constable position re-establishment in Kaikohe*
- *Research if the population-based allocation aligns with population per town, i.e. if Kaikohe has a population of *4437 will Police be allocated to 9.2 in Kaikohe (giving Kerikeri 14.9 with a population of *7164. (*2018 census, numbers to show disproportionality).*

H. Truancy

Covid lockdowns have increased the truancy issue across Aotearoa. [Truancy in the Nation](#) Herald 18 May with estimates of one in five students absent last term. Te Tai Tokerau Principals Association president Pat Newman said he surveyed members recently and all who responded were missing significant numbers of children causing concerns schools will lose resourcing due to decreased numbers. He said schools could only do so much, and the wider community needed to tackle truancy too by taking school attendance more seriously. In Kaikohe truants are noticeable with groups regularly gathering around the old Sportsville complex.

The government recently released \$88 million to support improved attendance. There are several locals working with youth and truants, with one of them recently approaching the KHCB to obtain funding to continue his work.

Action Point:

- *Connect with the local Community of Learning to gather information on AE, and to see if there are any potential funding streams that can support locals who are currently working in this arena.*
- *Find current stats for local truancy numbers.*
- *Create an RBA scorecard using the KAIKOHE YOUTH ACTION PLAN (JULY 2013–JUNE 2015) and assess what has been achieved, what hasn't and what now needs to be done. Use this as a basis for a collective approach to procuring funding to enable Kaikohe bespoke programming and support for Kaikohe rangatahi. Update: this work is in sight by a local community organisation.*

I. Gang Violence

Clearly gang violence is not part of a safe community. However as this proposal seeks to inform a holistic approach to community safety, it assumes addressing current gang violence is currently largely a police response, while acknowledging there are local initiatives in progress to address it as well.

Instead this proposal offers a perspective from respected community member Jay Hepi, whose lived experience reminds us that gang violence stems from deeply rooted social issues that see our young people slip through the system and lost in a lack of positive alternatives. It provides insight into why gang life is attractive, and what our young people need to be included and supported for equal opportunity to thrive in positive pathways to adulthood.

“From my perspective, everything starts from the home environment. When I was a young boy incarcerated in residential care, foster home, etc. It wasn't because I had misbehaved, but because of the actions of my parents and our home life. Constant domestic violence triggered by alcoholism.

*Growing up in Kaikohe foster homes and going to local schools you soon identified those who were going through the same problems as yourself at home. So you would naturally gravitate toward each other. Many of us young boys felt more secure with our friends and slept at each other's houses, or on the streets so that we didn't have to witness constant fighting in our home or bare the blunt end of hiding ourselves. That is where comradeship is formed and it follows you into teenager status and then to adulthood. **Survival***

Belonging, comradeship, the system fails to take care of them so they see their friends or cousins or uncles in the gang and they want to belong also. However a big part of gang membership these days are bling, Harleys, and quick money. Social media is the key to reaching far and wide”

Action Point:

- *Investigate and develop a community led long term walk alongside mentoring and support framework that gives sustained support for young people and whānau to make changes, alongside the support systems changes needed to provide them.*

J. Reintegration of Correction Facility residents into the Community

Reintegration of Correction facility residents into the community needs a strategy.

Action Point: FNDC Community plan to be discussed more with Jay Hepi and with Pauline from NRCF to inform this.

K. Kaikohe Community Watch Facebook Page

Kaikohe Community Watch Facebook page is a private group aiming to ‘make Kaikohe homes, streets, neighbourhoods and community a safer and more caring place to live’. The aim of the group is to ‘collect names of offenders, these names will be passed onto the proper authorities’. This is done via FB messaging or an 0800 number provided.

Administration of this page is currently in need of change.

Action Point: Investigate the legal issues regarding posting of photos taken from video footage and placing on SM.

Community Solutions

For many in the community, Kaikohe feels less safe than it used to, but it is important the positive work and sense of community is also celebrated and supported.

While this proposal focuses on direct actions to create a safer community, the wider contributing factors include social issues that safety alone cannot address. For the curve to turn, whole of community support and solutions are needed.

Kaikohe Safer Together

The KBA is leading action on community safety solutions. It’s aspiration is a town in which tamariki are walking to school and extra-curricular activities, where shop owners feel safe, where the community is out and about in their neighbourhood, making connections, where tamariki can develop a sense of belonging in their hood because they can roam it safely, where fracas are not happening in the main street attracting national attention and impacting negatively on Kaikohe’s reputation. One where there is a sense of respect for and pride in the community and its assets and facilities, an attractive CBD and surrounds in which cyclists and tourists stop and spend time as part of the Twin Coast Highway, Kaikohe as a key stopping point bringing economic activity to the market. Where national attention is not focused on the underbelly, but on a town benefitting from promotion of a Kaikohe that is safe and welcoming.

Kaikohe Safer Together is a vision to create a holistic community approach, including on the ground community security kaitiaki, based on the Whangarei City Safe (WCS) model, <https://citysafe.co.nz/>

The kaupapa behind this model is to provide a user friendly, as opposed to enforcement focused, community safety approach. The WCS model achieves this with a local engagement whānau approach where there are visible street

level teams with a mandate to be engaging, friendly ambassadors who know everyone by name. They are employed via a local security company contracted to WCS, so the teams come trained and qualified in crowd control, guard duty, self defence, health and safety, and are also trained and warranted enforcement officers who can enforce Public Places Bylaws.

Furthermore, weekly reports from CCTV goes to Police, DHB and Council as it contains info about homelessness, truants, alcohol use, relevant to licensing, and helps identify trends and hot spots in real time. This contributes to a better connected network with improved chances of timely, proactive and effective response to issues rather than reactive actions to mitigate behaviours.

The WCS model is a collaborative partnership between Police, WDC, NRC and Northland Chamber of Commerce. It encompasses five other aspects that contribute to community safety. See Appendix 1 for further information.

Local Aspiration

At a community led hui in March, there was a local desire to develop a similar model focused on community patrols. This group provides security at the weekly Kaikohe Markets. Their vision is detailed in this article from Stuff. [Local View](#).

There are further initiatives in early stages of development in the community.

Opportunities

Improved Community Safety

- More people on the streets, safer streets, more social activity
- Builds a safe town reputation and builds community pride
- Partnerships between organisations creates a more collaborative holistic approach that increases opportunity to build initiatives to address wider social contributions to poor community safety outcomes.
- Tourists and visitors more likely to stop and spend time if they feel safe here

Employment and Volunteering

- Local employment generated, ambassadors, CCTV monitoring collation and reporting.
- Increased local procurement opportunity
- Increased funding to Community Patrols increases volunteer opportunities and pipelines into employment
- Potential to give new life to Maori Wardens if they were included in on the ground teams, could lead to mentorship and grow new capacity.

Increased Social Wellbeing

- Safer communities = improved social wellbeing
- More people out and about growing social activity, building stronger communities
- Improved connections between networks enabling proactive responses and solutions
- Police resources can be re-directed from dealing with incidents to building community programmes in a similar way Australian Police do. <https://www.pcynews.org.au/>

Improved Community Economic Development

- Kaikohe could potentially become an affordable housing area for the growing population of Kerikeri
- Greater population more people in streets, local school populations grow, increased resourcing for education
- With developments at Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Park, a safer town means satellite gains from the park, including support businesses and community economic development opportunities come to Kaikohe.
- Increased potential to gain from the returning tourism market, especially around the Cycleway and local history of which Kaikohe is rich in.

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Potential Funding

Most of these need a lead organisation to apply, hold funds, roll out project and provide accountability reports.

Proceeds of Crime Fund

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/about-the-justice-sector/proceeds-of-crime-fund/>

- Aligns with purpose of testing innovative solutions to complex issues causing crime related harm
- Meets criteria of addressing crime related harm and improving community wellbeing.
- Simple application which KBA has experience with, and a strong relationship with Police, needed to support such an application.
- No update on 2023 dates for application on website

Lotteries Communities

<https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-community/>

- Aligns with several outcomes and priorities of the fund
- Community Grant Round 1, opens June 22, closes July 20, 2022, decision in October 2022
- Community Grant Round 2, opens Nov 2nd, closes Nov 30, decision March 2023
- Community and Volunteer Capability Fund opens 13th July. For a one-off project that promotes and supports volunteer/aroha mahi.

Foundation North

<https://www.foundationnorth.org.nz/funding/fund/quick-response-grant>

- Quick response under \$25K open to apply anytime with a two-month turnaround response
- Aligns with several outcomes and priorities of the fund.
- If successful at quick response level, funding relationship begins and larger funds may be gained in following years

Business Improvement District (BID) Targeted Rates

This has been unsuccessfully tried before but would provide increased funding for the business area to increase capability in identified areas. At this stage the understanding is this needs to go into the Long Term Plan via the Community Board strategic plan.

Action Point: *Find out process for a BID and all associated costs and timelines.*

KHCB

KHCB have proactively supported community safety by providing the following funding:

- 2020 - Kaikohe Business Association - \$1,000 for community patrol car
- 2021 - Kaikohe Business Association - \$1,000 for community patrol car
- 2021 - Kaikohe and Districts Sportsville - \$1,000 for Maori warden parking security
- They also have an application for consideration for \$5,000 from Wipe Out Project
- KHCB have capacity to provide further funding if it aligns with their strategy.

Northern Regional Council

Noting that the Whangarei City Safe Model names NRC in its funding partners. Further information needed to understand how this works.

Rotary

Rotary have capacity to fund local projects. Further information needed.

Where to from here?

It is recommended that a working party be formed to drive a community led collective initiative, utilizing current awareness and publicity of the need for this in Kaikohe.

The group would need a mandate to make decisions on behalf of the community to complete this proposal, define the desired approach, model and framework from which funding applications can be made.

FNDC can provide support through their Community Development team, as agreed to with such a group.

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Appendix 1

City Safe Whangarei Hui Notes

Oct 2021 | Dave Palmer (WDC Community Safety Officer) and Laurel Belworthy (FNDC)

City safe grew out of Safer Whangarei group, and is not yet branded as such, a concept brand. <https://citysafe.co.nz/>
City Safe is a collaborative partnership between Police, Whangarei District Council, Northland Regional Council and Northland Chamber of Commerce. They have a Governance Board that meets bi-monthly. It relies on strong relationships between these organisations, and those built in the community by City Safe Ambassadors.

The project includes the following:

1. City Safe Ambassadors

- Genesis is to focus on CBD, youth and anti social behaviour.
- Mandate is to be ambassadors and engage, local, know everyone by name. Friendly.
 - trained and warranted enforcement officers who can enforce Public Places Bylaws.
 - User friendly profile, primarily Māori, local engagement whānau approach.
 - Kaupapa is user friendly not enforcement focused
 - Employed via a security company who are contracted to City Safe.
 - Upside = trained and qualified pre-City Safe in crowd control, guard duty, self defence, Health and Safety.
 - Downside = low paid industry so percentage of high turnover

2. Summer Safe Carparks

- Volunteer Ambassadors in car parks greeting and advising visitors
- Presence in carparks prevents crime

3. Graffiti

- Community Paint programme

4. City Safe Online

- Report a hazard
- Information about programme and volunteering

5. 24 Hour Freephone Call Centre

- Toll free number to report any hazard, graffiti or safety issues

CCTV Activate Programme

This funded separately and is not part of the City Safe Contract.

- Council supply infrastructure of 60+ cameras, funded through normal rates business pay.
- Contractor downloads all CCTV and provides a weekly reviewed report
- Works with City Safe Officers
- CCTV volunteers managed by Police, cited in Police Station
- Weekly report goes to Police, DHB and Council as containing info about alcohol use, relevant to licensing.
- Ministry of Justice used to fund it via Crime Prevention fund but not funding to Territorial Local Authorities anymore. (?)

Top Issues Identified

- Youth; truancy, youth gang subsets, Mental Health, Gangs – meth use, Homelessness

Appendix 2. Crime Incidents 2020 – 2022 | Kaikohe vs Kerikeri | policedata.nz





