

**MERCER LAB**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Identity</b> MC1.1	Build a strong identity based on the river corridor, and the unique qualities of the local area. Consider tourism, wine, cheese, and skydiving.	<b>TOP</b>	Access to river corridor, lakes and reserve areas should be guided by WDC Trails Strategy 2016. This exercise should be facilitated with each community (via Community Boards / Committees) to improve the identity of each town/village.	Not started – possibly not Council led
<b>Iwi</b> MC3.1	Identify and preserve Maaori landmarks. Restore and commemorate historical Marae.	MEDIUM	Discussions have started with iwi, and Department of Conservation.	Underway
<b>Communities</b> MC4.1	Reconfigure the existing playground and upgrade playing fields.	VERY HIGH	The current playground is a converted old tennis court. Land issues are being sorted where the playing fields are currently, and usage of fields also determines the need for upgrades -\$100,000 for playground, \$600,000 to upgrade playing fields. This doesn't include the clubrooms, which are in a state of disrepair. Discussions for associated Reserve Management Plan inclusion under Sports Park Reserve Management Plan for Mercer Domain once this process has been resolved. This will provide strategic direction for a reserve area.	Not started
MC4.2	Consider the development of a community facility with a meeting place, possibly in the Fire Station (2). Consider incorporating public toilets.	<b>TOP</b>	Council is looking at feasibility study for this project. Discussions around community hall have begun between Council and community.	Underway
<b>Economy</b> MC6.1	Produce a village centre plan, placing an emphasis on destination, specialty retail and tourism, recreation, visitor and environmental aspects. Consider incorporating the relevant strategic opportunities proposed in the Local Area Blueprint.	HIGH	No work to date. Other town centre plans (Huntly and Pokeno) have been prioritised.	Not started
<b>Transport</b> MC7.1	Increase parking and improve roading infrastructure. Consider a new overbridge and the relocation of the sliproad.	<b>TOP</b>	An initial assessment of need would need to be done to understand the problem and then to define options etc.	Not started – needs clarification
<b>Infrastructure</b> MC8.1	Consider providing appropriate facilities to address impact of freedom campers.	HIGH	Needs clarification on the impact is from freedom camping in this community, whether there is a need for toilets, showers, bins, hardstand, dump station, BBQ facilities and shade. There is no current wastewater or water infrastructure. This would need to be factored into any budgets, as well as ongoing costs for	Not started – needs clarification

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			maintenance and operation of these facilities. Land would be required for these facilities. \$750,000 land acquisition, \$1 million for double cubicle toilet, shower and sinks.	
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Already started by Council

<b>Economy</b> MC6.2	Identify if, how much, and where, possible additional employment land for office development is needed beyond the zoning in the Proposed District Plan.	HIGH	Land capacity and demand analysis has been undertaken for Waikato 2070 (District Growth and Economic Development Strategy), including a stocktake of what is enabled by the operative and proposed District Plan, and an assessment of commercial feasibility as required by the National Policy Statement – Urban Development Capacity. No additional growth areas have been identified in Waikato 2070.	Completed and ongoing
MC6.3	Identify if, how much, and where, possible additional employment land for retail development is needed beyond the zoning in the Proposed District Plan.	HIGH		
<b>Nature</b> MC2.1	Explore opportunities for wetland preservation and a park (1).	MEDIUM	Area identified is subject to Treaty Settlement. This will have potential implications for all reserve areas north of Kimikimi Road. Staff awaiting direction from Crown on matter.	Underway