



**How do you feel about the options outlined in the Big Issues section of this website?**  
 We would like to commend Council not only on identifying these 'big issues', but in making the submission process so accessible for our whole community. Thank you!

**Water supply - support: yes**  
**Water supply - comment:**

The Chamber of Commerce is in favour of option one. It is reasonable to expect that this would require a significant capital investment and we believe that the returns will be more than justified due to the ability for the region/council to attract more business into the district. We also believe that an option that does not require extensive resource consent will be more expedient, and most likely cost effective in the long run.

**Changing rating system - support: yes**  
**changing rating system - comment:**

In broad terms the Chamber is in favour of the change to the rating system - we believe that business units in particular should be paying their fair share of rates in return for the services they receive. HOWEVER we would like to note - the introduction of UAGC would, in our view, mean it unlikely that a BID be successful in Te Awamutu, and yet this is one thing identified by businesses in the CBD as potentially being of benefit to them, particularly if it were directed to the promotion and support of the retail precinct. The Chamber is currently undertaking some research regarding this and will advise council accordingly once it is complete. - A UAGC could potentially be a negative for microbusiness and social enterprises who are currently sharing space with others due to the nature of their business. . We are aware of a number of these businesses, particularly in our CBD who pay below market rent simply by virtue of their income/circumstances. Whilst a UAGC may discourage more of these types of businesses setting up in town (arguably not a bad thing according to some retailers), it is an additional stretch for small startup. We would like the Council to consider rates relief (even in the short term) for businesses of a certain size (say a sole trader), and for social enterprise (op shops and the like)

**Cambridge pool - support: no**  
**Cambridge pool - comment:**

The Chamber in Te Awamutu does not have a particular view on this proposal however we wish to show support for the submission made by the Cambridge Chamber.

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**Te Awamutu museum - support: yes**  
**Te Awamutu museum - comment:**

We are strongly in favour of moving forward with this project, and would like to be part of the working group that is likely to be formed. We see the Museum as an integral part of our community, and it fits in with the work-live-play-learn philosophy of Totally Te Awamutu. We also see this being of huge benefit to the CBD, particularly once the long term spatial plan is complete. The Chamber has commissioned an MBA student from the Waikato Management School to conduct an extensive research project about Te Awamutu and how we might create a brand and story for the town - we look forward to sharing this research when it is complete, and expect that the Museum project will form part of the research and outcome.

We have begun the process of talking about this project with potential funders and community stakeholders and will be pleased to be part of the working group.

**Cycleways - support: no**  
**Cycleways - comment:**

Whilst the Chamber is very supportive of growing business and vibrancy in Kihikihi we do not believe that a cycleway is a good use of funds to do this. A considerable amount of ratepayer funds has already been invested in the town and is yet to bear fruit. Also, there is already a good footpath and wide road that is quite suitable for cyclists.

We do however strongly support the proposal for a cycleway to Pirongia. As well as being a natural extension to the newly opened mountain bike trails based on the Mountain, there would be potential to have cyclists also go out to Lake Ngaroto (becoming more mountain bike friendly by the year), and would encourage the already burgeoning tourist numbers coming from Raglan south, to stop or make a side trip from Pirongia.

This proposal is also supported by Pirongia Tourism and the Pirongia Community Board who see the potential to further strengthen visitor numbers into Te Awamutu from there, as well as providing a safe ride for the many cyclists already using this road for recreation and fitness.

**Waipuke park - support: yes**  
**Waipuke park - comment:**

In principal we are supportive of this project, particularly if there is the potential to create swimming space in the Waipa.

We would however like to note that we would prefer to see more investment in Lake Ngaroto - ultimately we would love to see this as a swimming spot (it would be an integral part of the Totally Te Awamutu brand, would be suitable for cyclists, and is in dire need of upgrade at the water's edge (currently minimal seating, play space and shade)

**Rural drainage - support: yes**  
**Rural drainage - comment:** Not specified

**Not budgeted - support: no**  
**Not budgeted - comment:**

We support the judicious use of ratepayer money, and would like to commend Council on the 10 year plan. We believe that the funds are being directed considerably but would like to note - we are aware that there has been no funds allocated for ongoing upgrades to the Te Awamutu CBD or the Pirongia CBD

- as there is no money within the council budget to investigate and or implement a sound brand story for Te Awamutu, the Chamber is undertaking this research themselves and will present the findings when they are available

- similarly the Chamber has undertaken to deliver training, support and services to CBD businesses (Totally TA and the Pledge, and LINK Sustainability). This programme is available to all businesses (not just Chamber members) and we acknowledge the support of Council through Steve Tritt and Hope Williams in delivering these.

- in the absence of a Chamber in Pirongia, we support the submissions made by the Pirongia Community Board, and Pirongia Tourism, as they relate to business development in the district.

- the Chamber also plans to take an active role in the Security Camera project as we believe this is a fundamental part of the ongoing development required for our CBD, similarly the Museum project.

- We wish to thank and acknowledge the Waipa District Council for their involvement in Chamber activity, in particular, the Waipa Business Awards, as a way of supporting and promoting business vitality in Te Awamutu and its surrounds

- We would also like to acknowledge and thank Jim Mylchreest and Gary Dyet for their ongoing and open communication with Chamber about issues affecting Te Awamutu. At a later date (not necessarily as part of the 10 year plan consultation process) we would like the opportunity to meet more regularly with our Councillors and Community Boards to discuss how best we can support each other.

- We also support the submission being made by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce

## Summary

There are a number of initiatives beginning this year that will have long term positive effects on the business community of Te Awamutu and the wider Waipa area.

A summary can be found at [www.teawamutuchamber.org.nz](http://www.teawamutuchamber.org.nz)