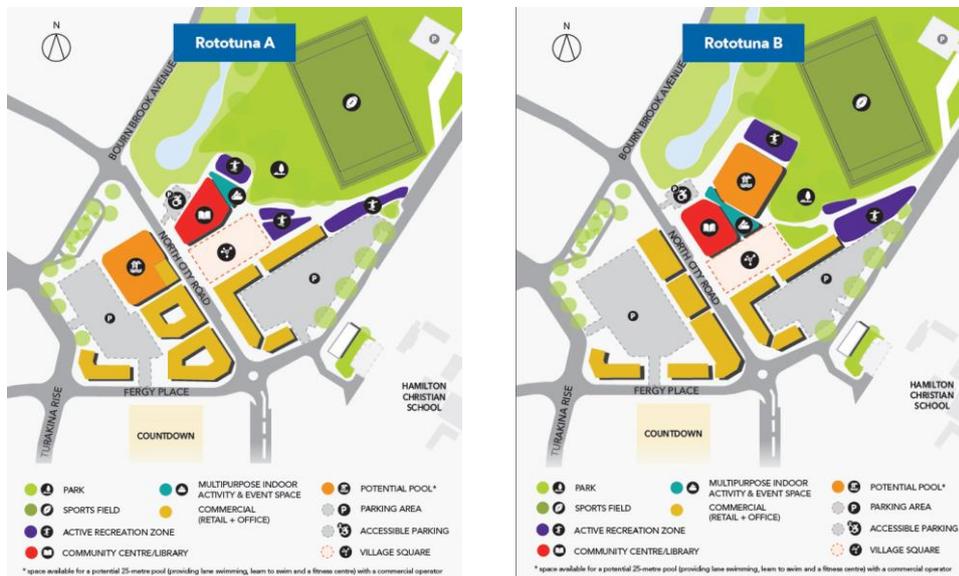


Community Engagement for Rototuna Village



In 2018, Hamilton City Council set aside \$19.6 million for community facilities in Rototuna as part of the Long Term Planning process. The area is to be known as Rototuna Village.

Elizabeth Hughes who is a consultant leading the community engagement process says that people need to involve themselves now with the community engagement sessions and feedback opportunities so that councillors have a clear idea what priorities are held by the residents of Hamilton’s north east suburbs.

“Councillors are more likely to make good decisions for the area if they are given clear and constructive feedback on what local people see as their needs” says Elizabeth.

North East Community Hub (NECH) is a team of residents from Flagstaff and Rototuna who saw the need for a community space, library and learn-to-swim facility in their area. NECH maintain a productive and respectful relationship with Hamilton City Council to improve community infrastructure in their rapidly growing area and work at grass roots level to encourage neighbourliness and to welcome newcomers to the area.

Diana Wood, past Chair of NECH says they were concerned that Flagstaff-Rototuna area was the only area in Hamilton not served by a public library; there were new houses and new schools in the rapidly growing area completely unsupported by community infrastructure; and that children in local schools had little access to opportunities to learn to swim and be safe in the water.

“Our rapidly growing population is extremely diverse with people coming into the area from a wide variety of cultures. Our team considered it essential that spaces were created where our new families could feel included in the local community and feel less isolated. Our concerns led to a concerted effort to make councillors aware of the urgent need for

community infrastructure and to encourage them to vote in favour of developing a community space in land that was earmarked for this purpose in the late 1990s” says Diana.

“We were ecstatic when Hamilton City Council voted in favour of developing our new community spaces, library and, potentially – if a partner for the project can be found – a learn-to-swim facility” she says.

Community engagement is underway, with brochures going out to 10,000 homes in the area between 12 and 14 March and with public meetings:

Tuesday 19 March – 3pm to 7pm, The Peak

Tuesday 26 March – 9am to 12 noon, Summerset Retirement Village, Rototuna

Saturday 30 March – 1pm to 5pm, Rototuna High School

Come along and have your say.