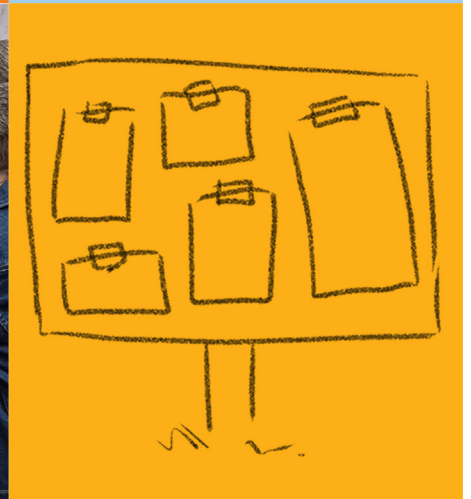
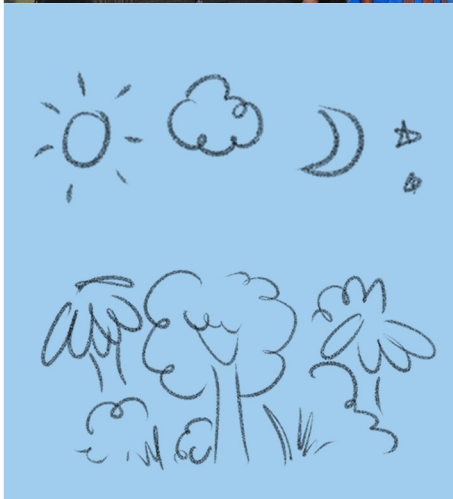
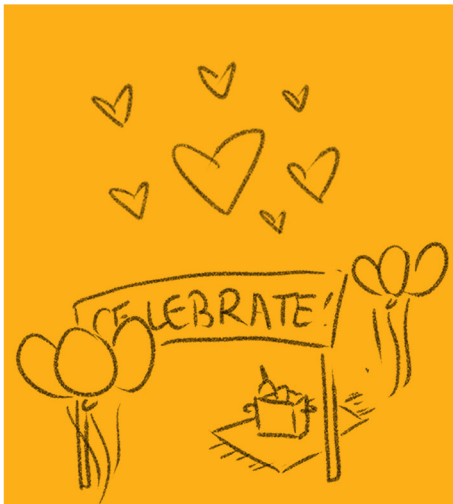


EPUNI-FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY PLAN

2023



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Acknowledgements

Epuni Fairfield Community Group consists of representatives from the heart of the Epuni community including:

- Epuni residents (new and existing)
- Kāinga Ora
- Hutt City Council
- Common Unity
- Epuni Baptist Church
- Epuni Primary School

epunifairfield@gmail.com

[Epuni Fairfield Community Group](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

This plan has been developed in collaboration with Community Think and Epuni Fairfield Community Group.

www.communitythink.nz

cissy@communitythink.nz | 021 964884



Forward

This plan is a result of the collective aspirations of the Epuni Fairfield community that were gathered, workshopped and created by the community, for the community.

This plan is for everyone who lives, plays, and works in Epuni Fairfield. It can be used by the community for funding applications, to start new projects or build on existing ones, to advocate for resources, and to form part of the work programme for the Epuni Fairfield Community Group.



This plan has both short-term actions and longer-term aspirations that can be picked up by anyone in the community to work collaboratively on.

This is a living document that will shift and adapt as the community starts to take action.

Themes & Actions

Themes:



Having a heart of the community



Integrated Intensification



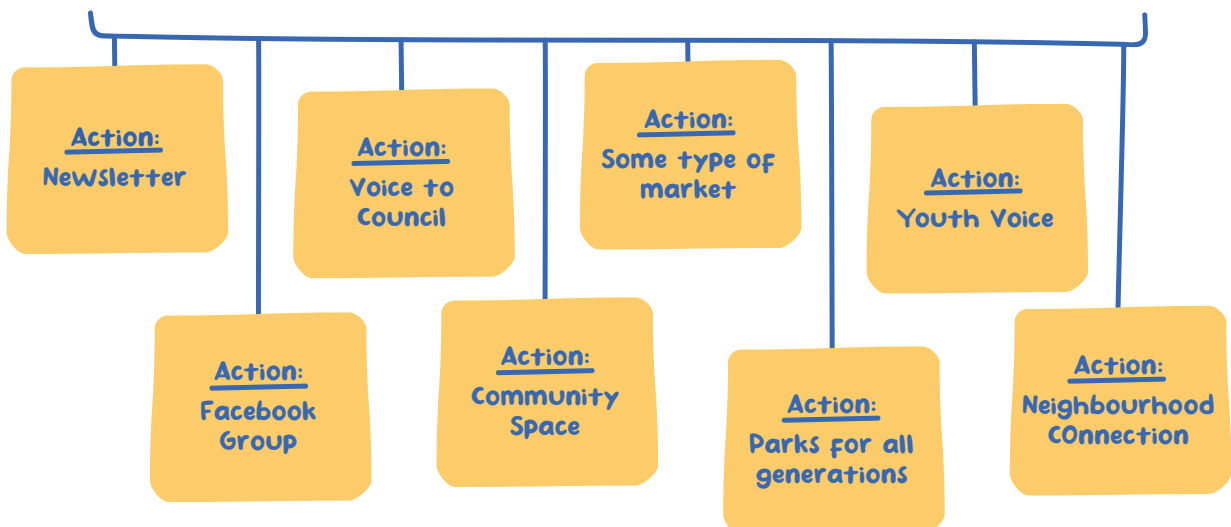
Thriving Local Economies



Safer & Accessible Ways of Getting Around



Connecting with neighbours



Working together to amplify community voice

Throughout this document there are themes and ways the community can take action. This page gives an overview of three different methods for action that you will see scattered throughout this document: advocate, organise and communicate.

Advocate



There is an advocacy role here which might involve creative ways of collecting information from residents about things that aren't working in the community, helping people with submissions to the Council, having open community forums so people can come and let Council know what needs changing e.g more footpaths or a new pedestrian crossing. It is important to find people in Council who will help support more democratic processes, but also building spaces where people in the community can come together to strengthen their voices and skills around how to make their voices heard.

Organise



Being organised can make things happen. The Eponi Fairfield Community Group has been set up and is ready to help to support activity and ideas in the community. Other groups exist in the community who are already organised, and more collectives may start up to organise around some of the actions in this plan.

There is a real desire to make sure that young people's voices are heard and incorporated into the development of the Eponi-Fairfield community. The ways that we do this have moved from traditional ideas such as youth reps and youth councils, and more into youth-led projects that capture youth dreams and aspirations. This might look like applying for funding, and having a discreet youth voice project. An example of such a project is in [Dargaville](#)¹ where young people were hired to do youth-led research and form a youth-led project.

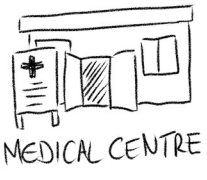
Communicate



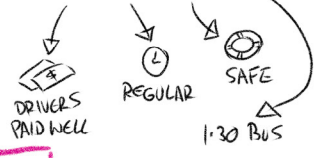
There is a real desire to have spaces to communicate so that people can get connected. This includes community newsletters, Facebook pages, notice boards, community centres and more. This is about creating spaces and platforms where people can communicate and connect with each other.

1 kaiparayouth.thinkport.nz/2022/04/18/introducing-nga-potiki-toa

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



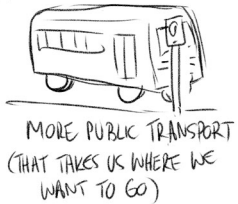
HOW DO WE HELP NEW PEOPLE TO FEEL WELCOME? MORE RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT



LOTS OF UNCERTAINTY



GETTING AROUND TOWN



LOCAL ECONOMIES



PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MANAGING ALL THE THINGS



CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBOURS



BEING INCLUSIVE



EXPERTS SHARING WHAT'S WORKED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

YOUTH VOICES/ CATERING FOR TEENS

OLDER VOICES & SHARING KNOWLEDGE

INCLUDING PEOPLE WITHOUT EXISTING NETWORKS



REACHING OUT
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS
BEING OPEN TO DIFFERENT PPL/ WAYS OF CONNECTING



MULTIPURPOSE HUB BUMPING SPACES

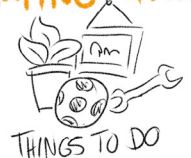
USING EXISTING GREEN SPACES

EVENTS AT ALL TIMES OF THE DAY



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

EVENTS AT NIGHT AS WELL AS DAY



COMMUNITY ORGANISERS (& FOLLOW THROUGH)

MANY MICRO HUBS



Main themes overview

THEME: HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



What was said

- People in the community see The Remakery as filling part of the role of a community hub—a place that brings people together, shares skills and resources.
- People want more spaces where all ages can meet up, connect and collaborate together on projects.
- Young people in particular need programmes, activities and spaces to participate.
- Shops that provided a heart for the community have shut down e.g. Jimmy's food mart, retro shops—some being priced out.
- There are shops and community spaces but there isn't a hub of shops that provide the services needed.





Idea: A community hub* that people can use for different purposes: meetings, group activities, events

There is a real desire for a community hub to meet up, connect, collaborate and be a heart for the community. People want to see more services and community spaces connected together.

***A community hub is a public space that brings community groups and neighbours together and offers a range of activities, programmes or events.**

Actions

- Do an audit to figure out exactly what spaces are available for the community. One idea floated has been to temporarily rent Jimmy's and make it a community space. Jimmy's already holds significance as a place in the community people connected to before it closed down.
- Visit some community spaces for inspiration e.g. there is Petone Depot which is worth visiting as a model.
- Organise with each other to make it happen
- Advocacy to Council



Idea: Newsletter

A hard copy newsletter which is accompanied by a digital copy. The idea would be to set up an editorial team to produce the newsletter and there is already interest in the community to do this. Copies would be distributed to the community.



Actions

- Call for interest to be on an editorial team, building on existing interest. Identify if there are gaps in skills that need to be filled e.g. graphic design
- Explore other community newsletters to get an idea of content, design, and distribution e.g. Naenae . You could choose a team of people to go visit another community newsletter editorial board to ask questions.
- Source resource for printing and distribution.
- Investigate funding opportunities



Idea: Social media

Building and maintaining a regular social media presence.



Search "Epuni Fairfield Community Group" on Facebook!

Actions

- This is already underway with the creation of a Facebook page. Choose admins who can monitor and share content regularly.

THEME: INTEGRATED INTENSIFICATION



What people have said

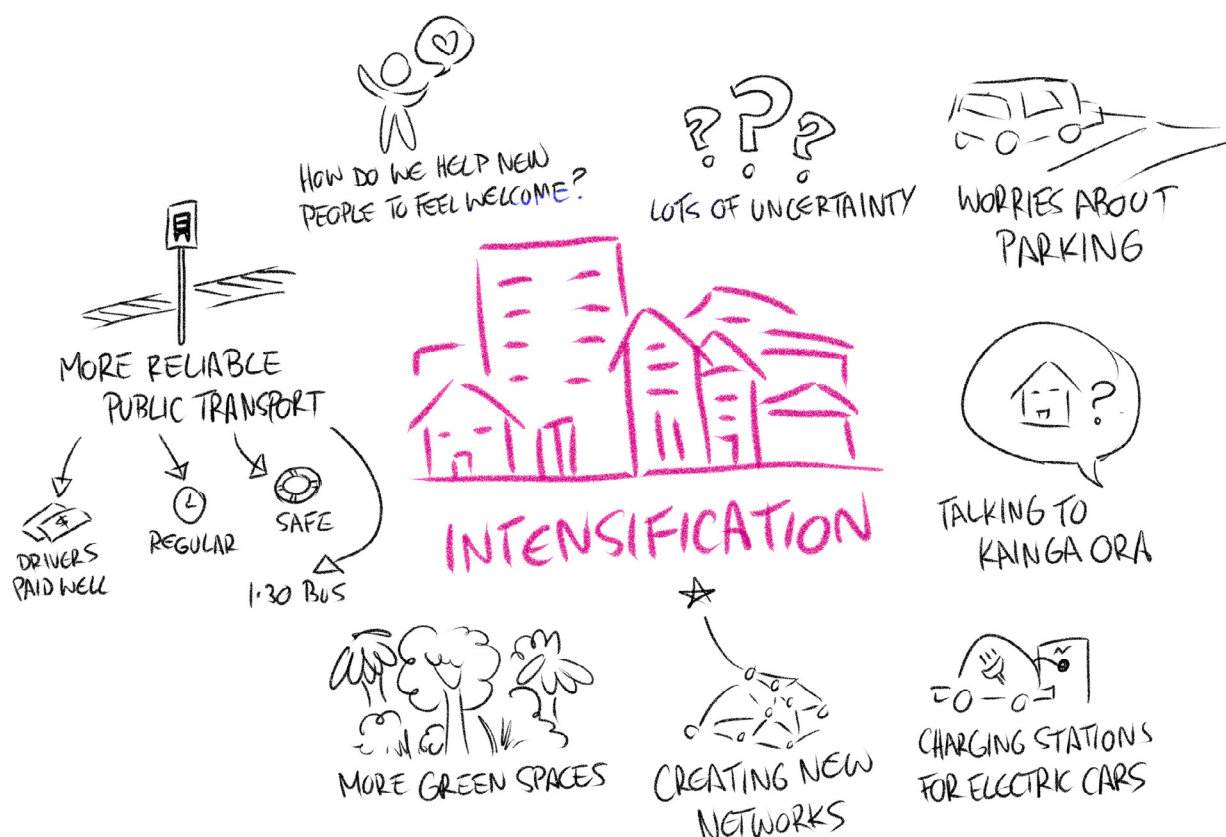
- Concerns about intensification and the impacts on the small town feel – quietness and wide open streets.
- Worried about the pressure on facilities, services and infrastructure which need updating.
- People feel like their voices are not being heard and have concerns that living closer may bring tensions.
- Want to ensure that there are green spaces, parks and spaces for people to move freely.
- Excited about the possibilities that come from new people moving into the area.

Idea: Parks for all generations

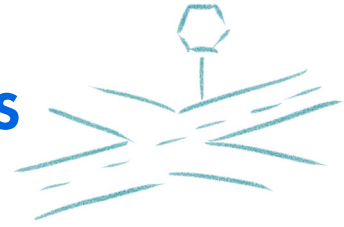
There have been talks about activating park spaces for intergenerational play. This includes getting gym equipment in a park so that families and different generations have a place to play, exercise and meet up.

Actions

- This may involve organising with others and advocacy to Council.



THEME: SAFER AND ACCESSIBLE WAYS TO GET AROUND



What people said

- Desire for more places for cycling and walking.
- Concerns that new neighbourhood design will reduce car parking
- Want improvements to public transport and bus stops to improve access to employment and services, and to reduce reliance on driving.
- Easier, safer and more accessible ways to move across the train tracks.

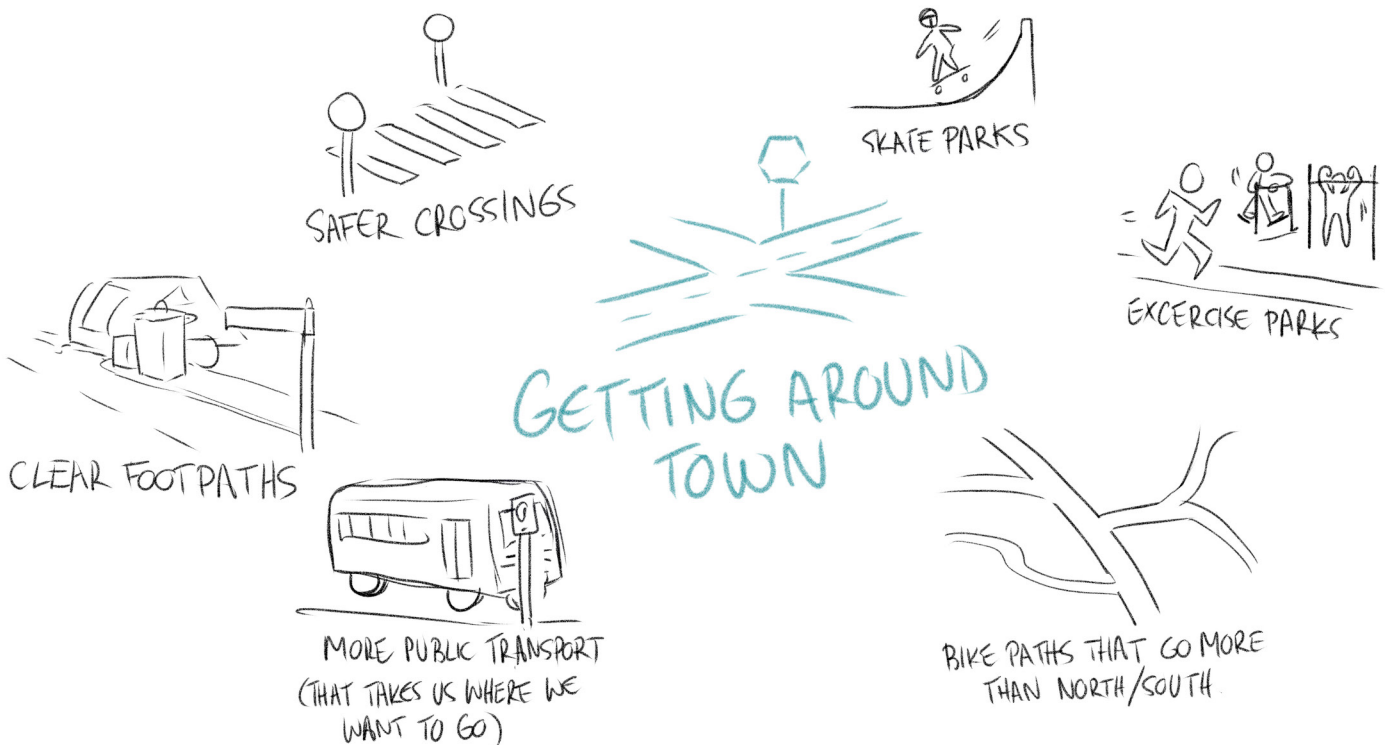


Ideas: Safer crossings, more cycle paths and more public transport

A long-term vision for more connected and accessible ways to get around the community and to access services elsewhere.

Actions

- This may involve a combination of organising together, and advocacy to Council.



THEME: THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES



What people said

- People are concerned about poverty, high rents pushing out families, cost of living and food insecurity.
- People want to be able to support local but there aren't any local food markets.
- Desire to increase urban farming and have more spaces to grow food.
- More opportunities and spaces to contribute and share skills and resources that already exist in the community.
- People want the community to be reflective of all the people who make up the area.



Ideas: Markets

People want to have markets of different sorts where they can access locally sourced fresh food and crafts, hand-made goods. Markets are meeting spaces that help create connection. The Remakery has a carpark where a market could take place and there is existing interest around using this. This could be a partnership with The Remakery.

Actions

- Set up a market project group.
- Visit Naenae or other markets to talk to the organisers about how they got started.



LOCAL ECONOMIES



THEME: CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBOURS



What people said

- There is a sense of community with those who have lived in the area a long time.
- People connect around common activities—shopping, dog walking, the gardens, churches—but not really with their neighbours.
- People are feeling isolated and find it difficult to reach out. Barriers to connection include when local shops have closed down, work hours, fear of neighbours and people feeling cost of living pressures.
- Desire to build connections between owner occupiers and Kāinga Ora tenants.
- People want to strengthen relationships with neighbours.

Idea: Join Neighbours Aotearoa












Get involved with Neighbours Aotearoa, an existing campaign which encourages neighbours to share, grow and celebrate together around Aotearoa.

Actions

- Share communication around Neighbours Aotearoa on the Facebook page to encourage involvement.



Methods for action

	 Having a heart of the community	 Integrated Intensification	 Thriving Local Economies	 Safer & Accessible Ways of Getting Around	 Connecting with neighbours
Communicate	 Newsletter Social Media				 Join Neighbours Aotearoa
Organise			 Markets		
Advocate	 Multi-purpose hub bumping space	 Park for all generations		 Safer crossings, more cycle paths & more public transport	



PROCESS

1st & 15th June Community Table Talks



People who live, work, play in Fairfield Epuni will come together for two public workshop sessions where they can learn, develop and practise their community engagement skills.

People will answer four questions and look at a map of Epuni.

June 15th Informal Table Talks

People who attended the Community Table Talks will then go and lead their own sessions in their communities. They will receive a Table Talk pack.



Table Talk pack will include:

- Map of the area
- Questions
- Stickers
- Facilitator resources



Set Table Talks

The Activators will concurrently run a series of set Table Talks with local organisations.



Community Activators

They will oversee the process and make sure all the information is being collected. They will also manage online enquires and social media.



The Activators will keep the project on schedule.

July

Meaning Making

Everyone will come together and make meaning of what they've heard. We will come up with themes that will eventually form the community plan.

AGM

Epuni Fairfield
Community
Group (EPCG)

A steering group will be setup and an AGM will take place on August 25.

August

Testing

We will test the ideas with the community to make sure we're on the right track.

Community Plan

At the end of this process, a community plan will be established and the EPCG will make this plan come to life.

Process

This community plan is a result of a community-led process to build connection, participation, belonging and celebrate diversity in Epuni Fairfield. This process started with a group of people in the Epuni Fairfield community who were dedicated to forming a community plan around supporting whānau moving into the new Kāinga Ora developments to feel connected and a sense of belonging. This purpose expanded to a community plan for the whole of the Epuni Fairfield area.



Table Talks



Hamdi and Katie—Community Activators

A group of people in Epuni (now the Epuni Fairfield Community Group) got in touch with Cissy Rock from Community Think to help with the process. Two community activators were hired, Hamdi and Katie, to work on developing the community plan.

A community activation course was run to start to strengthen skills in building community connection including learning to map the community, and skills around listening campaigns (see page 15-17) and taking action.

A bunch of table talks took place that were led by Hamdi and Katie. This involved conversations around a table guided by questions to capture community voice and start to form the foundations for the community plan. A guide was created so people in the community could run these sessions themselves.

From all the information and ideas gathered in the table talks some themes were produced which were further workshopped in a meaning making session where all those who participated were invited to help develop actions for this community plan. This session was graphically recorded by Sam Orchard.

The Epuni Fairfield Community Group (the interim group helping to hold this process) then held their first Annual General Meeting where a new group were elected who will hold this community plan and turn it into action.

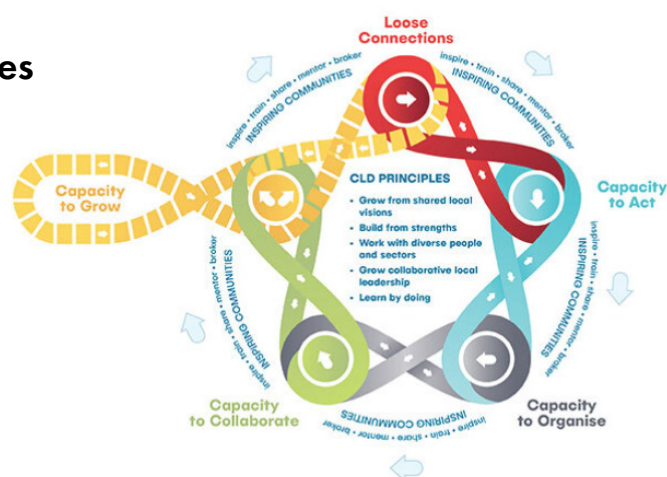
Appendix

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Community-led development principles

Inspiring Communities²

- Grow from shared local visions
- Build from strengths
- Work with diverse people and sectors
- Grow collaborative local leadership
- Learn by doing



Community organising principles

Some common features of community organising:

- **A form of injustice:** that needs to be challenged and overcome.
- **A strategy:** to guide a response which is community-led.
- **Building a base:** of as many people in the community as possible.
- **One-on-one conversations and listening campaigns:** taking the time to listen to the voices of your community, and having the community be actively involved and participate in making change happen.
- **Relational organising:** building trusting relationships between people in the community.
- **Leadership and training:** providing development and skills training to leaders.
- **Reflective practice:** reflecting on what you have done, where it could be refined or shifted. This is a learning process that needs to be ongoing.³

² inspiringcommunities.org.nz

³ Adapted from Ella Baker Organising School UK

Industrial areas foundation

Every community will be unique in the way they approach community organising. There may already be examples historic or current which define the way your community comes together around issues that matter to you.

There are different models for community organising. Some models start off with an idea which is of concern in the community, map their networks, build relationships and a base of support, and then take action. Other models will involve going out into the community and gathering ideas from people about their needs and wants.



Adapted from Industrial Areas Foundation. In People Power Manual Community Organising, p. 22

Some of these ways of thinking and doing are adapted from the Industrial Areas Foundation based on old school community organiser Saul Alinsky. Sharing stories is about building relationships and therefore building power. Listening campaigns can also help identify leaders in the community.

Table talks are a way to engage in a listening campaign.

Table talks

Table talks involve a person drawing on their networks and having conversations around a table, usually with kai, and facilitating a conversation around a set of questions.

There are different reasons for doing a table talk, which includes:

- To identify new issues in the community
- To get a more detailed understanding of a particular issue
- To move people into action

The purpose for table talks are to:

- Bring in new people to your community organising
- Connect people to each other through shared experience
- Identify leaders
- Create commitment to action.

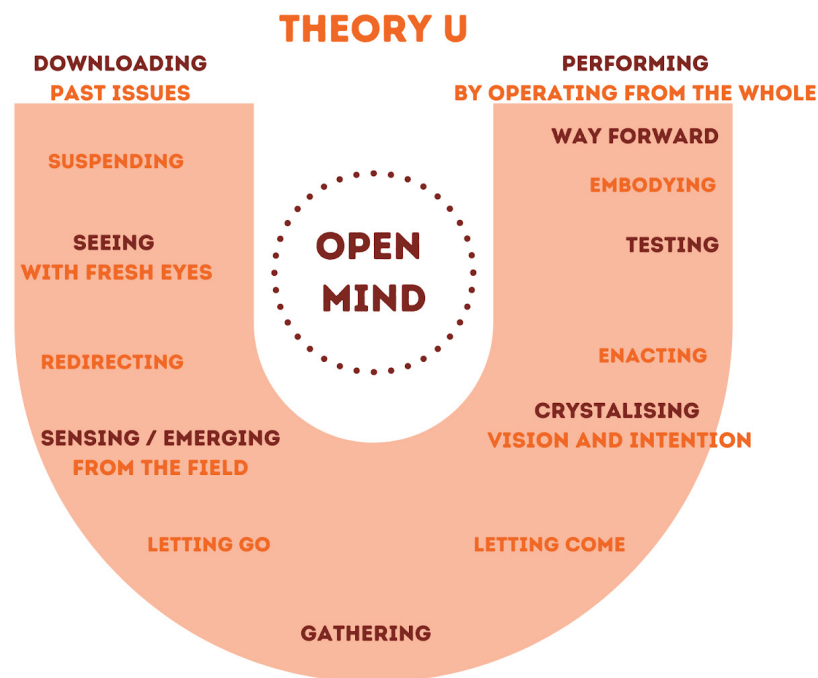
Steps:

1. Work out some questions that you want to ask (these questions may change after reflecting on the initial table talks)
2. Your group may want to provide some putea (money) for people to be able to host talks with kai.
3. Someone will decide to host a table talk and invite a group of family, friends, neighbours, colleagues to meet.
4. Together you will discuss these questions. You might do this over a cup of tea, a shared meal or just a chat.
5. During the conversation, someone will record responses to the questions.
6. If during the conversation, the group comes up with other questions or topics that seem relevant, they can also be sent in, this will help a group know if there's something we're missing in our process.
7. After table talks there will be a community making process where all the people involved in the table talks can make meaning of what was said to contribute towards strategy and planning.

What do you need?

- A facilitator
- Up to 10 people
- A note-taker
- Discussion guidelines for sharing stories
- Can take place anywhere but would be good to have kai
- An agenda

Otto Sharman Theory 'U'



You should feel encouraged to come up with your own models for organising and theories for change that works for your community, or to explore frameworks that exist in Aotearoa New Zealand.

EPUNI FAIRFIELD MAP

