

Methven Community Strategic Plan 2009



“Amazing Space”

DRAFT

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Our Strategic Goals	4
Introduction	4
Why we need a Strategy.....	5
Strategy Development Process	5
Methven Community.....	6
Current and Future Challenges.....	7
Goal One An attractive town in which to live, work and play	9
Goal Two Raise both the business and tourism profile of Methven locally, nationally and internationally.....	10
Goal Three A well informed and participating community who is effectively represented.....	11
Goal Four A safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community	12
Goal Five Our community is a leader in recreation opportunities	13
Appendix I: Action Plan.....	14
Appendix II: SWOT Analysis Findings	25
Appendix III: Population Projections	31
Appendix IV: Median Age Projections.....	32

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Executive Summary

Our Strategic Goals

Five strategic goals, each with supporting objectives and actions have been identified with input from the community in order to achieve this vision:

- 1 An attractive town in which to live, work and play
 - Our community is prepared for future growth
 - Our community maintains its unique character and protects its heritage
 - Our community is proud of our town's appearance

- 2 Raise both the business and tourism profiles of Methven, locally, nationally and internationally
 - Our community offers all year round tourism
 - We offer great opportunities for business
 - All businesses and all community members continue to work together to foster community spirit

- 3 A well informed and participating community that is effectively represented
 - Our community is well informed
 - Community involvement is encouraged and opportunities are provided

- 4 A safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community
 - Our community's wellbeing needs are met
 - Our community is safe and accessible for all

- 5 Our community is a leader in recreational opportunities
 - Our community is a national leader in outdoor recreation
 - Our sport and recreational activities cater for all



Introduction

Why we need a Strategy

The purpose of the strategy is to provide direction for progress in Methven over the next ten years. The strategy development process gives the opportunity to plan together as a community in order to achieve an enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors.

The first Methven Community Strategic Plan was developed in 1997 by the Methven community in a process facilitated by Ashburton District Council. The plan provided the Methven community, Ashburton District Council, and other key stakeholders with a structure and focus for developing the Methven area as planned for by the community itself.

Most of the actions identified in the first strategic plan are now complete, or a long way towards being complete. It is now the opportune time to review the Plan; to confirm that the underlying information in the plan remains correct and relevant, and to develop a new set of actions to guide the progress of Methven over the next ten years.

Strategy Development Process

To update the existing Methven Community Strategic Plan, developed in 1997, a process was agreed upon between the Methven Community Board and Ashburton District Council to review and establish new goals and actions for the strategic plan.

The plan has been reviewed and updated, through consultation with the community which included two public workshops, a focus group meeting and a four week consultation period. The workshops have been facilitated by an independent facilitator, Mr Richard Budd, who was supported by Ashburton District Council staff from the Community Planning Team.

The workshops were well attended with over 30 residents from a cross-section of the community attending each session. The attendees were asked to work in both small and large groups to complete a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of Methven as well as an assessment of the current goals from the 1997 strategic plan. This process generated group discussion, which was captured by Community Planning staff present at the meeting.

During the second workshop, community members worked together in small groups to confirm the goals, and finalise the actions and visionary data to be included in the plan.



Attendees of the first Methven Community Meeting working on the SWOT analysis

Methven Community

Methven lies beneath the foothills of the Southern Alps between the Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers and is the second largest community in the District, with an estimated population of 1,460 in 2008 (Statistics New Zealand, Population Estimates 2008).



Map of Ashburton District

Source: www.ashburtondistrict.co.nz

The population of Methven has grown by over 25 percent since 1991, making the community the second fastest growing population in the district. Methven is predicted to continue this trend of growth over the next 25 years, with a forecasted population of 1890 by 2031.

Trends indicate that the population of Methven is set to age significantly over the next 20 years. Methven has a current median age of 37.6 years which is lower than the Ashburton District median age of 39.8 years at present, but is projected to surpass the district's median age within ten years. Methven's current median age is higher than that of New Zealand's at 35.9 years. By 2031, Methven is expected to have a median age of 49.6 years which is significantly higher than the forecast district and national projections of 46.6 years and 40.9 years respectively.

The impacts of the community's changing population include increased demand on existing facilities and services. Provision of core infrastructure upgrades and expansion of current facilities and services within Methven will be required to meet community demands and expectations.



Methven, traditionally known for its agricultural activities, is also now synonymous with winter tourism activities. Mount Hutt is the main tourist attraction for the area, offering some of the best snow conditions in Australasia for skiers and riders alike. Methven's population swells significantly during the snow season, attracting large numbers of visitors and seasonal workers to the area. Agricultural activities provide balance to the local economy, with the community well known for its livestock, arable and dairy farming.

Current and Future Challenges

As with any thriving modern community, there are a number of challenges Methven is likely to face in the future. As part of the strategic plan development workshops residents were asked to identify what they thought these would be. This was done through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. The seven themes which emerged from the results of the SWOT analysis focus on the growing community, town centre, economy, representation, wellbeing, and recreation.

Our Growing Community

Methven community has the second fastest growth rate in the district. Growth of a community benefits the local economy and can be a driver for diversifying the range of facilities and services available locally, which in turn enhances the community's quality of life. While the town has the physical room to grow, a number of concerns around the potential impacts associated with growth, such as the potential for the character of the town to be compromised, and the capacity to cope with increased demand on existing facilities and services have been identified as future challenges the community may face. With forward thinking and good planning, Methven will be able to prepare for, and thrive on, a growing population.

Our Town Centre

A visually appealing town plays a strong part in attracting visitors and new residents to a community. Much has been achieved under the previous town beautification plan, however it is up to the community to ensure that this is maintained, improved and continued to ensure that Methven is an attractive town in which to live, work and play in the future. The community has identified some areas in need of beautification work, such as the town gardens and Spaxton Street Park. It is anticipated that a community working group will continue to plan for future town beautification projects and to ensure the community plays a part in the continuing development of the Methven town centre.

Our Economy

Farming and tourism industries form the backbone of Methven's local economy. Methven has a strong tourism base and the town's facilities and services meet many of the needs of the visitor market. At present tourism in Methven remains largely seasonal, focussing on the winter ski season. The community is keen to continue to work towards the goal of making Methven an all-year-round tourist destination, which will involve identification and development of opportunities to increase summer tourism in the area. Promoting Methven as a year-round destination will have positive impact on the local economy and better utilise the skills and investment in tourism infrastructure that Methven has.



The number of businesses, in addition to the economic balance of the main industries of tourism and agriculture is considered a key strength of the Methven community. The Methven community has identified a range of initiatives for future focus, including; the promotion of Methven as an attractive centre for both business and tourism, and further developing the strong working relationship between the community and local businesses to foster community spirit.

Our Voice

Methven has a strong sense of community spirit and, like many other small rural communities, is reliant upon the active participation of its members and a co-ordinated voice to represent their interests in Council decision making. This is the role of the Methven Community Board. In a growing and changing community, the challenge for the future is to ensure that Methven is a united community effectively represented, and that community members are well informed and involved in the development of Methven.

Our Lifestyle

Methven residents take pride in the lifestyle their community offers. The core of the community's needs, including health care and education can be met within the town. It is expected that range of services and facilities provided in the town will need to grow to meet the needs of residents who currently have to travel outside of Methven for some necessities, such as dental services. This expansion of services will be especially important to provide for a growing town.

Accessibility and safety are an important focus for the future of Methven. As the town has become busier there are increasing concerns regarding road safety, particularly around schools; and the intersection of Main Street and Forest Drive. It is important that as Methven grows and our town becomes busier we can continue to enjoy our community spaces safely.

Facilities and services within the town are within walking distance and easily accessible for those who have the ability to access the town centre. The community would, however, like to aim for more inclusive access to meet the needs of all members of the community. Community initiated transport from Methven to larger centres, such as Ashburton or Christchurch, is one option which could not only allow inclusive access within town, but also cater for the needs which cannot be met within Methven.

Our Recreation

Recreational pursuits are an attraction for both new and existing residents as well as visitors. Methven offers a diverse range of recreational facilities and activities, which the community is keen to further develop as a key strength of the town. This will involve maintaining the range of recreation activities and facilities the town currently has, as well as exploring a number of potential opportunities for recreation development, with a focus on sectors of the community that are not currently catered for.





Goal One:

An attractive town in which to live, work and play

Over the last twelve years significant progress has been made in improving the appearance of Methven. It is now a more visually appealing town in which to live, work and play. More can be achieved in the future if we explore further opportunities and prepare for future growth. These will benefit our community socially, culturally and economically and attract more people, business and activity to our town.

Objectives and actions to achieve this goal:

Our community maintains its unique character and protects its heritage

1. We establish a working group to address enhancing our town's unique character and heritage
2. Our working group establishes and implements a plan for the future enhancement of Methven's character and heritage, which complements the township beautification plan
3. The Methven 'character and heritage plan' will incorporate building and development guidelines to enhancing our unique character as a community
4. We will identify additional heritage items for inclusion in the District Plan Review
5. We will discuss and review the protection and maintenance rules of heritage items in the District Plan Review

Our community is proud of our town's appearance


1. Our community establishes a volunteer 'town beautification' group
2. The 'Town Beautification Group' will develop a beautification plan in consultation with Council and the wider community which complements the character and heritage plan.
3. The beautification plan is implemented

Our community is prepared for future growth

1. Council will ensure the Methven Community Board and Methven community are able to contribute to decisions about future land zoning for growth through the District Plan review process.
2. Council is committed to working with the Methven Community Board and the wider community to provide agreed appropriate quality infrastructure (such as water, wastewater and stormwater) for a growing, changing population.
3. Council will work with community organisations to promote alternative water storage options including residential rainwater storage tanks for garden use.
4. Our community keeps up with communication technology changes and we take a proactive approach to improving our internet options, by investigating plans for the future

Stakeholders who can contribute to achieving this goal:

Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, Methven Garden Club, Local businesses, Methven Heritage and Historical Society, Telecom, Electricity Ashburton, New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Methven Heritage and Character Group, Methven Beautification Group, Local community groups and organisations



Goal Two:

Raise both the business and tourism profile of Methven locally, nationally and internationally

Methven is fortunate to have two strong foundations for its local economy; an agricultural service centre and a popular visitor destination, particularly as a winter ski resort. The focus through to 2019 is to continue to develop the area as a year-round tourist destination, raise the profile for business and tourism opportunities locally, nationally and internationally and encourage our business and community to work towards a common interest.

Objectives and actions to achieve this goal:

Our community offers all year round tourism

1. Methven adopts the logo 'amazing space' as its marketing and promotional slogan, and we expand its use to make it well-known nationally
2. Ashburton District Tourism continues to work with the Methven community and tourism operators to develop our summer tourism opportunities, with Council and local business support
3. The Methven i-site information centre is relocated to the Methven Heritage Centre and is the 'community hub' and is well informed, funded and supported by all.
4. The Methven Heritage Centre is developed and supported and is a key year-round attraction in Methven

We offer great opportunities for business

1. Business opportunities are promoted locally, nationally and internationally
2. Our community together with Council advocates for the needs of new businesses
3. Methven is well represented on the board of Enterprise Ashburton
4. As a community we continue, and seek innovative ways, to support local businesses, who in return support our local organisations
5. Local businesses are in contact with each other through various media (eg meetings and emails) and work together on projects of mutual interest

Stakeholders who can contribute to achieving this goal:

Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Tourism, Enterprise Ashburton, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, Methven i-site, Snowfed, Methven Heritage Centre, Local community groups and organisations, Local businesses



Goal Three:

A well informed and participating community who is effectively represented

The term 'community' reflects a feeling of belonging which is not limited by any physical boundary, and which can only be identified by the individual.

All communities depend on the vision and energy of volunteers and community groups who are involved in many different capacities throughout the community, and Methven is no exception. One of the challenges is to focus the community on achieving key goals all agree are important to the development of the town and surrounding area.

The Methven Community is represented by the Methven Community Board, who advocate on behalf of the wider community in Council decision-making. Objectives of the 1997 strategic plan have been achieved, including increasing the number of Board members to five, and extending the Community Board boundary to include properties that were previously immediately adjacent to the boundary.

The future focus is now on encouraging our wider community to actively participate, and making sure our community is well informed and effectively represented.

Objectives and actions to achieve this goal:

Our community is well informed

1. We undertake a 'stocktake' of local information currently available (what, where etc.) and identify ways to improve the quality and accessibility of local information to the Methven community
2. Council continues working with the Methven Community Board to keep them well informed
3. Methven Community Board seeks new ways to keep the wider community informed of local events and opportunities through a range of communication tools including Snowfed, email, internet and the i-site 'community hub'
4. We encourage all members of the greater Methven area to get involved in volunteer opportunities

Our community is effectively represented

1. Council works with the Methven Community Board and the Methven community to ensure the interests of the greater Methven area are represented both locally and nationally
2. The greater Methven area is effectively represented by the Methven Community Board

Stakeholders who can contribute to achieving this goal:

Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, Snowfed, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site, Sport Mid Canterbury, Local community groups, clubs and organisations.



Goal Four:

A safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community

Being safe, healthy, and able to access services and facilities to meet our needs are important aspects of our community's social wellbeing. We can achieve a caring community by ensuring safe and inclusive access in all areas of our community, and by building strong relationships and effective communication links.

Objectives and actions to achieve this goal:

Our community's wellbeing needs are met

1. Build relationships with key organisations to ensure residents healthcare needs are met now and in the future. The planned extension of the existing medical centre is an important first step towards this
2. We will advocate for the establishment of a local dental service
3. Our community is well connected and cares for one another through initiatives such as neighbourhood support networks and newcomer projects

Our community is safe and accessible for all

1. Our school children have safe transport options to and from school and the speed limit is lowered further outside of schools during peak times
2. Council and the community work together to ensure road users and pedestrians have safe and appropriate facilities to use, including investigations regarding a second pedestrian crossing on Main Street and Chertsey Rd
3. Our service clubs explore all community initiated public transport options and implement if appropriate
4. Our community advocates for inclusive access for the disabled and elderly

Stakeholders who can contribute to achieving this goal:

Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, local community groups and organisations, Ashburton District Health Committee, Ashburton Safer Community Council, Neighbourhood Support, New Zealand Transport Agency, Canterbury District Health Board, Rural Canterbury Primary Health Organisation, Methven Medical Centre, Our Lady of the Snows School, Mount Hutt College, Methven Primary School, CCS, Disabled Persons Association, Environment Canterbury, Total Mobility (Ashburton), New Zealand Police, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site.



Goal Five:

Our community is a leader in recreation opportunities

Methven is already considered a leader in winter recreation, with the continuing development of Mt Hutt ski field attracting many tourists and seasonal residents during the winter. The focus for the future is to concentrate on building on the wide range of existing outdoor recreational opportunities Methven has to offer, and to investigate new recreational pursuits, with the goal of becoming a destination well known for its outstanding recreational opportunities.

Objectives and actions to achieve this goal:

Our community is a national leader in outdoor recreation

1. By being a well informed community we actively promote existing and new outdoor opportunities (how)
2. The community works with key stakeholders (such as the Department of Conservation) to ensure we have a well managed and accessible environment and stay involved in plans for natural recreation areas for our community (eg: walkways, river trails, cycleways)
3. Our community actively pursues linking in with the 'National Cycleway'
4. Our community completes the development of the Methven urban walkway

Our sport and recreation activities cater for all

1. Our community is actively involved as participants and volunteers in a range of local sport and recreation activities
2. We value and maintain existing recreation facilities. In the short term this will include resealing our tennis and netball courts, and working with Council to identify appropriate land for the re-location of our Gun Club
3. Our young people have access to a range of sport and recreation facilities and we look to develop new facilities such as a skate park and a BMX / Bike Track
4. Our community continues to investigate recreation centre options to cater for the needs of all in the community

Stakeholders who can contribute to achieving this goal:

Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, Snowfed, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site, Sport Mid Canterbury, Outdoors New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Mt Hutt Marketing, Local community groups, clubs and organisations, kidzmethven

Appendix I: Action Plan

Goal One: An attractive town in which to live, work and play

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Who will contribute	How we will measure progress
<p><i>Our community is prepared for future growth</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will ensure the Methven Community Board and Methven community are able to contribute to decisions about future land zoning for growth through the District plan review process 	<p>Ashburton District Council, Methven community Board, greater Methven community</p>	<p>Consultation with the Methven community is undertaken as part of the review process</p> <p>Methven Community Board makes a submission to the District Plan review</p> <p>Community organisations and businesses are involved in the review consultation process where applicable</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is committed to working with the Methven Community Board and the wider community to provide agreed appropriate quality infrastructure (such as water, wastewater and stormwater) for a growing, changing population. 	<p>Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, greater Methven community</p>	<p>Investigation complete by mid 2010 for Methven Water upgrade</p> <p>Council keeps the Methven community involved with planned upgrades for drinking water, including timeframes and costs</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will work with community organisations to promote alternative water storage options including residential rainwater storage tanks for garden use 	<p>Ashburton District Council, local organisations, Greater Methven community</p>	<p>Promotional material distributed on an ongoing basis, ideally every summer</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community keeps up with communication technology changes and we take a proactive approach to improving our internet options by investigating plans for the future 	<p>Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council, Telecom, Electricity Ashburton</p>	<p>Compile a “stocktake report” of options available to the community now, and what is to be offered in the future. Report to be completed by December 2010</p> <p>Ensure the wider community are aware of progress and planned changes</p> <p>Council's annual residents survey shows an increase from 2008 in Western Ward residents internet access and connection speed</p>
<p><i>Our community maintains its unique character and protects its heritage</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We establish a working group to address enhancing our town’s character and heritage • Our working group establishes and implements a plan for the future enhancement of Methven’s character and heritage which complements the township beautification plan • The Methven ‘character and heritage plan’ will incorporate building and development guidelines enhancing our unique character as a community 	<p>Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council, New Zealand Historic Places Trust, greater Methven community, local businesses</p> <p>Methven Heritage & Character Group Methven Community Board Ashburton District Council Methven Beautification Group New Zealand Historic Places Trust Methven Historical and Heritage Society Greater Methven community</p>	<p>Group formed by December 2009</p> <p>Plan completed in December 2010</p> <p>Plan endorsed by the Methven Community Board</p> <p>Plan aligns with the District Plan Review</p> <p>Develop guidelines for building and revitalisation of the town centre by June 2011</p> <p>Ensure these guidelines are widely spread and readily available at the Methven i-site</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will identify additional heritage items for inclusion in the District Plan Review We will discuss and review the protection and maintenance rules of heritage items in the District Plan Review 		Submission made to the District Plan Review in 2010
<i>Our community is proud of our town's appearance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community establishes a volunteer 'town beautification' group 	Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council, Methven Garden Club, Methven Historical and Heritage Society, Local businesses and organisations, greater Methven community	Group formed by December 2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Town Beautification Group' will develop a beautification plan in consultation with Council and the wider community which complements the character and heritage plan. 	Methven Beautification Group Methven Community Board Ashburton District Council Methven Heritage and Character Group, Methven Garden Club, Methven Historical and Heritage Society, Local businesses and organisations, greater Methven community	Beautification plan developed by June 2010 Plan to include provision for increased seating and trees in Spaxton Street Park and maintenance of the existing town gardens Plan endorsed by Methven Community Board
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beautification plan is implemented 		Plan initiated by January 2011



Goal Two: Raise both the business and tourism profile of Methven locally, nationally and internationally

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Who will contribute	How we will measure progress
<i>Our community offers all year round tourism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methven adopts the logo 'amazing space' as its marketing and promotional slogan and we expand its use to make it well-known nationally 	Ashburton District Tourism, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, Methven i-site, local businesses and organisations, Snowfed	"Amazing Space" becomes synonymous with Methven and is frequently used in publications both locally and nationally
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashburton District Tourism continues to work with the Methven community and tourism operators to develop our summer tourism opportunities, with Council and local businesses support 	Ashburton District Tourism, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, Methven i-site, local businesses and organisations, Ashburton District Council	Monitor visitor numbers – Commercial Accommodation Monitor Statistics) portraying an increase in summer bed nights from 2008 figures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Methven i-site information centre is re-located to the Methven Heritage Centre and is the 'community hub' and is well informed, funded and supported by all 	Ashburton District Tourism, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, local businesses, clubs and organisations, Ashburton District Council, Enterprise Ashburton, Methven Community Board greater Methven community	Council's annual residents survey shows an increase from 2008 in Western Ward residents satisfaction with tourism promotion of the District Council's Ashburton District Tourism annual customer survey shows an increase in service quality from 2008 Methven i-site improves its financial status from 2008 Visitor numbers to the centre increase from 2008 figures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Methven Heritage Centre is developed and supported and is a key year-round attraction in Methven 	Methven Heritage Centre,	
<i>We offer great opportunities for</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business opportunities are promoted locally, nationally and internationally 	Enterprise Ashburton, Methven Community Board,	Maintain, and increase where possible, the 2008 Business and

business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community together with Council advocates for the needs of new businesses 	Ashburton District Council, Local Businesses and community groups	Employee numbers (Statistics New Zealand – Business Framework data)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methven is well represented on the board of Enterprise Ashburton 		Ensure a Methven representative is retained on the Enterprise Ashburton board
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a community we continue, and seek innovative ways to support local business, who in return, support our local organisations 		Reciprocal relationship of support between local businesses and local community groups

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Goal Three: A well informed and participating community who is effectively represented

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Who will contribute	How we will measure progress
Our community is well informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We undertake a 'stocktake' of local information currently available (what, where etc.) and identify ways to improve the quality and accessibility of local information to the Methven community 	Methven Community Board , Snowfed, Local clubs and organisations, Ashburton District Council, Methven i-site	Report complete by June 2010 and following actions implemented accordingly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council continues working with the Methven Community Board to keep them well informed 	Ashburton District Council Methven Community Board	<p>Council continues to prepare Methven Community Board meeting agendas and minutes</p> <p>Methven Community Board to actively partake in Council consultation on issues of importance to the greater Methven community</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methven Community Board seeks new ways to keep the wider community informed of local events and opportunities through a range of communication tools, including Snowfed, email, internet and Methven i-site 'community hub' 	Methven Community Board Snowfed, Local clubs and organisations, Ashburton District Council, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site	Review of local information available in 2015 to assess if quality and accessibility has improved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encourage all members of the greater Methven area to get involved in volunteer opportunities 	Methven Community Board Snowfed, Local clubs and organisations, Ashburton District Council, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site	<p>Local clubs and organisations report annually to the Methven Community Board of volunteer changes, needs or achievements</p> <p>Methven Community Board facilitates through Snowfed any volunteer changes, needs or achievements</p>

<i>Our community is effectively represented</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council works with the Methven Community Board and the community to ensure the interests of the greater Methven area are represented both locally and nationally 	Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board, greater Methven community	Council's annual residents survey shows an increase from 2008 in Western Ward residents satisfaction with Council's advocacy role for the District
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The greater Methven area is effectively represented by the Methven Community Board 	Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council Greater Methven community	Raise awareness of the role and effectiveness of the Methven Community Board with the greater Methven area before the next representation review in 2011/12 More people standing for MCB election in 2010 than in 2007

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Goal Four: A safe and accessible area which cares for the wellbeing of its community

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Who will contribute	How we will measure progress
<i>Our community's wellbeing needs are met</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build relationships with key organisations to ensure residents healthcare needs are met now and in the future. 	Rural Canterbury Primary Health Organisation, Canterbury District Health Board, Methven Medical Centre, Methven Community Board, Safer Community Council, local community groups and organisations, Ashburton District Council.	Council's annual residents survey shows an increase from 2008 in Western Ward residents satisfaction with health services Methven has a local dental service by 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will advocate for the establishment of a local dental service 		Neighbourhood support network is re-established in Methven by 2010 Volunteer statistics from Census data shows an increased proportion of the community volunteering from 2006 results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community is well connected and cares for one another through initiatives such as neighbourhood support networks and newcomer projects 	Safer Community Council, Methven Medical Centre, Methven Community Board, neighbourhood support, New Zealand Police, local community groups and organisations.	

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<i>Our community is safe and accessible for all</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our school children have safe transport options to and from school and the speed limit to be lowered further outside of schools during peak times 	Ashburton District Council, Methven Primary School, Our Lady of the Snows School, Mount Hutt College Local community groups, Environment Canterbury, CCS, Disabled Persons Association, Methven Community Board, New Zealand Transport Agency, New Zealand Police	That investigations continue in lowering the speed limit further and awareness in the community is increased
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council and the community work together to ensure road users and pedestrians have safe and appropriate facilities to use, including investigations regarding a second pedestrian crossing mechanism on Main Street, and a control mechanism at the intersection of Main Street and Forest Drive 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our services clubs explore all community initiated public transport options and implement if appropriate 	Methven Community Board, Local clubs and organisations,	Investigate and report to the Community Board by December 2010. Implement by 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community advocates for inclusive access for the disabled and elderly 	Methven Community Board, Disable Persons Association, CCS, Greater Methven Community, Ashburton District Council, Ashburton District Tourism, Methven i-site, Methven Character and Heritage Group	Submit of the District Plan review regarding inclusive access principles Inclusive access is incorporated into all planning, development and revitalisation of the town centre Heritage guidelines to incorporate inclusive access Our accessible tourism facilities are promoted

Goal Five: Our community is a leader in recreational opportunities

What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Who will contribute	How we will measure progress
<p><i>Our community is a national leader in outdoor recreation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By being a well informed community we actively promote existing and new outdoor opportunities 	<p>Methven i-site, Sport Mid-Canterbury, Ashburton District Tourism, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, Department of Conservation, Outdoors New Zealand, Environment Canterbury, Local clubs and organisations, Snowfed, greater Methven community</p>	<p>‘Stock take’ report complete by June 2010 and following actions implemented accordingly</p> <p>Review of local information available in 2015 to assess if quality and accessibility of information has improved</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community works with key stakeholders, such as the Department of Conservation to ensure we have a well managed and accessible environment and stay involved in plans for natural recreation areas for our community (eg: walkways, river trails, cycleways etc) 	<p>Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council, Methven i-site, Sport Mid-Canterbury, Ashburton District Tourism, Mt Hutt Marketing Group, Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Local clubs and organisations, greater Methven community</p>	<p>Walking and cycleway plan is developed with stakeholders and implementation began by 2010</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community actively pursues linking in with the ‘National Cycleway’ 		<p>Methven is a key element of the National Cycleway by 2019</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our community completes the development of the Methven urban walkway 	<p>Walkway completed by July 2010</p>	

<i>Our sport and recreation activities cater for all</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community is actively involved as participants and volunteers in a range of local sport and recreation activities 	Local clubs and organisations, Sport Mid-Canterbury, Methven i-site, Snowfed, greater Methven community, kidzmethven, local businesses	A record of new recreation/sport clubs/organisation formed is kept from 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our young people have access to a range of sport and recreation facilities and we look to develop our facilities such as a skate park and BMX / Bike track 		Skatepark is developed by December 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We value and maintain existing recreational facilities. In the short term this will include resealing our tennis and netball courts and working with Council to identify appropriate land for the re-location of our Gun Club 	Local clubs and organisations, Methven Community Board, Ashburton District Council, Greater Methven community	The BMX/Bike Track is developed by June 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community continues to investigate recreation centre options to cater for the needs of all in the community 		Methven Recreation Centre Group, Local groups and organisations, greater Methven community Maintenance is monitored and undertaken as needed Tennis and netball courts are resealed Gun Club is relocated A feasibility study of the proposed recreation centre is complete by December 2010

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Appendix II: SWOT Analysis Findings

Attendees at the first workshop were asked to record in small groups what they considered strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing Methven (SWOT analysis). These results have been grouped into relevant themes by Community Planning staff, along with other data collected.

GROWTH

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Population growth - currently experiencing a baby-boom 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upgrade of water supply needed to cope with the growth of town ➤ Building codes need to be in place to maintain the character of the town ➤ Lack of ratepayers to fund facilities etc ➤ Lack of room for expansion of the town centre ➤ Lack of population to sustain business ➤ Lack of pre-school facilities ➤ District Council land being used up
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Room to grow ➤ Growth rate needs to be considered in future planning and spending ➤ Town houses should have rain water storage tanks 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Size of sections – no residential subdivision ➤ Rain water tanks compulsory for all new houses ➤ Population growth ➤ Ageing population ➤ Rezoning the A&P Show grounds as residential ➤ Gun club has nowhere to go due to zone changes

Summary:

- Methven has the physical room to grow, however the community has concerns around potential negative issues associated with growth
- Identified issues that the community may face with growth include;
 - maintaining the character of the town
 - zoning and subdivision issues
 - the increased number or improvement of facilities and services that may be required to handle the population growth

RECREATION

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ideal place for outdoor recreation pursuits ➤ Winter recreation – Mt Hutt ➤ Diverse activities ➤ Sporting facilities and clubs ➤ Number of playgrounds around town 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tennis and netball courts need to be resealed ➤ Non-funded library ➤ Unheated indoor swimming pool ➤ Lack of facilities and activities for young people ➤ Swimming pool's current condition ➤ Lack of Methven fitness opportunities
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase recreational facilities and grounds around town ➤ More recreational facilities ➤ More activities ➤ Skatepark ➤ Development of walkways and cycleways ➤ Indoor pool ➤ Youth facility ➤ Dam Pudding Hill Stream for recreational lake and water reservoir ➤ Land for Gun Club 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Losing the facilities we have ➤ Gun club has nowhere to go

Summary:

- Methven offers a diverse range of outdoor recreational pursuits, which are recognised as a key strength of the town
- The threat of losing the facilities the town has, and the need for upgrades and maintenance were identified as key weaknesses of the community's recreational opportunities
- A lack of facilities and activities targeted at youth was identified as a weakness, with suggestions including a skate park and youth facility
- The Methven community is keen to further develop recreation as a key strength of the town, recommending a number of potential opportunities for recreational development
- Recreational facilities are an attraction both for residents and for visitors to Methven

ROADING / SAFETY

<p>Strengths</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pedestrian crossing on the Main St by the BNZ bank ➤ Intersection of Main St and Forest Dr is dangerous ➤ Blind spot on level crossing near school ➤ Morgan St footpath is affected by tree roots
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road built off Methven Chertsey Rd for school drop-offs ➤ Roundabout on Main St at Forest Dr ➤ Utilise railway reserve for roading, parking and bus bay 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trees by intersections are blocking visibility ➤ Safety issues around school – McDonald St ➤ Pedestrian crossing by school ➤ No school signs on the Main Rd ➤ 50 kilometres per hour outside the school gate is too fast

Summary:

- Road safety was highlighted as an important issue facing the Methven community, with particular reference to pedestrian safety
- The roads surrounding the schools were the greatest area of concern, with suggestions of ways to improving safety for children including alternative traffic routes, further speed restrictions, and increased signage
- A roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and Forest Drive has been suggested to improve the safety for drivers at the intersection

ENVIRONMENT

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Green town – recycling ➤ Number of green areas around town ➤ Town centre beautification 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spaxton St Park needs trees and park bench ➤ Beautification of town gardens ➤ Symmetry of town centre layout ➤ Water race system within the town boundary ➤ Need wheelie bins instead of plastic bags
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Green belt attractive surrounds & trees 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate change ➤ Open water races within the town boundary

Summary:

- Although the beautification and the number of green areas of the town were recognised as a strength of Methven, beautification was considered required in particular areas, highlighting a need for the continuation of the Council beautification programme
- With regard to solid waste management, Methven prides itself on its 'green' image, and would prefer to replace their plastic rubbish bags with wheelie bins

TOURISM

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accommodation and Restaurants ➤ 'Next Wanaka' ➤ Retail ➤ Winter recreation – Mt Hutt ➤ Infrastructure to support tourism industry ➤ Number of out-of-town events held in Methven 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reliant on outside influences
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote as a location with all year round tourism ➤ Increase summer tourism ➤ Maintain promotion of town to tourists ➤ Sign on SH72 with attractions and logos ➤ Amazing Space branding to promote Methven ➤ Expansion of summer school ➤ Dam Pudding Hill Stream for recreational lake and water reservoir 	<p>Threats</p>

Summary:

- Methven has a strong tourism base and many of the facilities and services necessary to provide to the visitor market
- Continuing to increase the marketing of Methven as a visitor destination is seen as an opportunity
- Despite tourism being considered as one of the key strengths and the primary industry of Methven, there was some concern that this means the town is reliant on outside influences
- The main future action discussed by attendees of the meeting was the promotion and identification of opportunities to increase summer tourism in the area

REPRESENTATION

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community is coordinated 	<p>Weaknesses</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ADC could allocate funds to the MCB for their discretion on the spending of the funds within the community ➤ Increased power for MCB to make decisions ➤ Whole of District rating approach 	<p>Threats</p>

Summary:

- Attendees of the meeting consider Methven to be a coordinated community
- Opportunities to enhance the community's representation through the Methven Community Board including giving the Board more decision-making responsibilities, and the authority to allocate funding

TRANSPORT/ ACCESS

Strengths ➤ Accessibility of facilities – all within walking distance	Weaknesses ➤ Lack of public transport to and from Methven
Opportunities ➤ Bus route to Ashburton	Threats

Summary:

- Within the town the easy access to facilities and services is considered a strength, as all are within walking distance.
- The lack of transport from Methven to other centres, particularly Ashburton and Christchurch, is a perceived weakness of the community. Some form of public or community transport has been suggested as a solution.

COMMUNITY

Strengths ➤ Wide range of education facilities ➤ Medical facilities ➤ Location ➤ Lifestyle ➤ Community is coordinated ➤ Community is strong and supportive towards projects ➤ Community and District spirit ➤ Youthfulness ➤ Wide range of nationalities ➤ Positive attitude	Weaknesses ➤ No Dentist services available in the area ➤ Doesn't cater for anyone living outside of the town boundary ➤ No funding for Christmas lights
Opportunities ➤ Create a Youth Award for young achievers promoting Methven	Threats ➤ Losing small town identity ➤ Ageing population ➤ Too many proposed activities for ratepayers to support

Summary:

- Methven's sense of community is strong, and residents take pride in the lifestyle their community offers.
- The possibility of Methven losing its small town identity was acknowledged as the greatest threat to the community
- To encourage the sense of community spirit among youth, the creation of an award for young achievers promoting Methven was suggested
- Weaknesses identified included the lack of dental services available in Methven, and a perception that Methven does not receiving funding for events that Ashburton receives, such as Christmas lights

BUSINESS / INDUSTRY

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Agriculture➤ Infrastructure to support agriculture➤ Economic balance between farming and tourism➤ Number of businesses	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Increased business rates are a threat to business development

Summary:

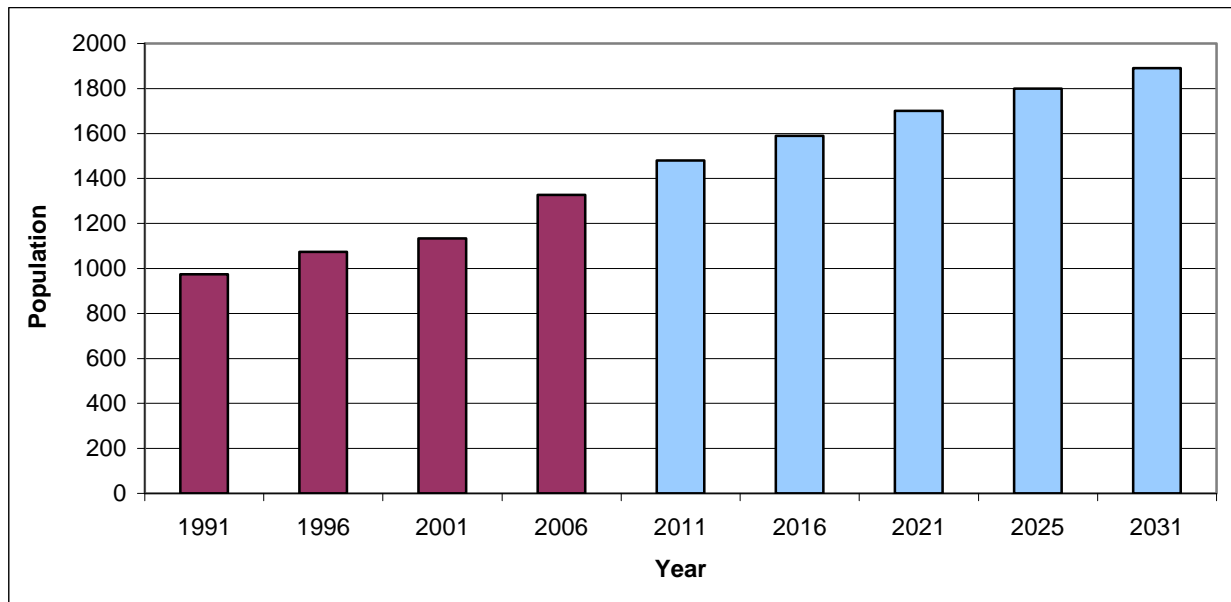
- The number of businesses in Methven, as well as the economic balance of the main industries of tourism and agriculture, are considered a strength of the community.
- Increases in rates are seen as the primary threat to the development of business in the region.

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Appendix III: Population Projections

Methven's population has grown dramatically within the last 10 years, and according to Statistics New Zealand's projections, this trend is expected to continue.

Methven Population Projections, 1991-2031



Source: Statistics New Zealand 2006 Census & 2007 'HIGH' Population Projections

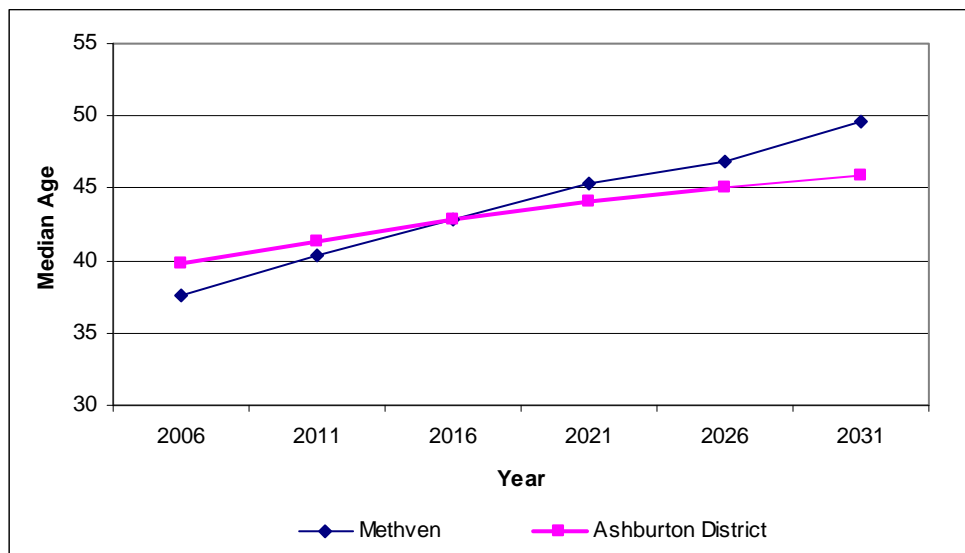
Since 1991, the population of Methven has grown by a quarter (26.5%); proportionally making Methven has the second largest growing population in the District. As a District, Ashburton experienced 9% growth between the ten year period between 1996 and 2006. This is strongly at odds with previous Statistic New Zealand predictions for the District.

Methven is forecasted to continue to grow and by 2031 the population is estimated to be at 1890 (Statistics New Zealand, 2006, High Population Projections). This majority of this growth is contributed to migration.

Appendix IV: Median Age Projections

With growth there is likely to be a change in the composition of the community. Currently the median age for Methven is 37.6 years; this is younger than the District's 39.8 years and older than median national age of 35.9 years. Over the next ten years median age is forecast to change. Firstly it is predicted that the median age will increase to 49.6 years, and secondly the median age for Methven will surpass District and National projections, 46.6 years and 40.9 years respectively.

Methven Median Age Projections to 2031



This ageing population may have far reaching impacts on the Methven community, such as providing suitable housing, services and facilities, and resident's ability to pay for such items.

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