



ONEMANA
COMMUNITY PLAN
2022

Onemana Community Plan

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1. Map of Onemana



2. Introduction & Disclaimer

In 2017 the Onemana Ratepayers Association (ORA) developed the first Onemana Community Plan to provide guidance to TCDC in the first instance, but also to residents, developers and other interested parties on the strategy for management and development of Onemana.

At that time a questionnaire was developed and circulated to the whole community for comment and suggestions. The responses and feedback received together with matters raised by the Onemana Ratepayers Association Committee were considered in formulating the first version of the Plan which is now considered to be a working document, subject to regular review and update.

Each year in January, the Onemana Residents and Community Association (ORCA, formerly known as ORA) hold a Community Forum Meeting, to which residents are invited to either attend and/or make a submission, regarding the priorities for Onemana. The feedback received from residents is then used to periodically update the Plan. A copy is then submitted to TCDC to tie in with its 3 year review process of its Long Term Plan.

It should be noted that this current Plan is a synopsis of the feedback from a relatively diverse community and may not represent the views of all residents.

3. Community Culture and Identity

Onemana can be broken down into 4 distinct areas:

1. **The village of Onemana** consisting of around 406 sections serviced by a network of sealed roads and footpaths with a full infrastructure of power, water and sewage provided to all sections. Whilst the rural and forestry areas have long been established, the village of Onemana was only developed in the 1960s within the boundaries of a farm named Shang-ri-la. The original development was subject to a number of restrictions, particularly the limit on the area of development. Most sections have good quality established permanent dwellings.
2. **The crown land** (subject to a Treaty of Waitangi Settlement) covering the majority of the northern and western areas of the hills of the Onemana peninsula. This is currently under forestry lease and provides a backdrop to the village.
3. **The rural area to the south of the Onemana village.** Currently this is in private ownership and land use varies from olives and orchards to grazing and function venues. The properties are serviced by an unsealed road that also serves as a forestry road and is gated during the hours of darkness and at times of fire danger and forestry operations.
4. **The rural area to the west of State Highway 25** being a mixture of grazing and lifestyle properties.

In general, what is valued about the area is the unspoilt and uncrowded beaches, the wildlife, the peacefulness, the scenic vistas, the native bush reserves, the village commercial centre, the proximity to Whangamata and the full range of services there, the availability of all essential infrastructure and a good road network in the village.

The village's relative isolation, 3 km off the main road, limits the number of day-trippers, for most of the year, leading to a peaceful atmosphere. Also, the bounded nature of the village surrounded by forestry and rural areas is cited as giving a sense of safety and serenity.

While its proximity to Whangamata may suggest a close or suburban relationship, Onemana residents generally regard themselves as a distinct village community.

The permanent population of the village (currently around 160) has been steadily growing and consists mainly of families and retirees with a lesser number in paid employment or self-employed. Following several periods of Covid 19 lockdown, more residents are working part-time from home, in Onemana, than had previously been the case. This has resulted in good social cohesion with a small number of very active members taking a role in keeping the community strong and maintaining good conservation values.

There is limited information available about the population makeup of the rural areas and these residents tend to be independent of the village.

The majority of houses in the village are owned by out-of-area residents who occupy their houses on an irregular basis, but are still often keen supporters of the village culture.

Several houses are available for short- or long-term rental and there is a freedom camping area to cater for short stay visitors. The freedom camping situation has been highlighted by many in the community as a negative factor, principally due to regular non-compliance by some campers with the current regulations. Of concern is the lack of monitoring of camper numbers/inappropriate behaviour, the safety issues associated with a poorly positioned freedom camping site on a road bend and the presence of a fire hydrant on the site which is frequently used by the local Fire Force for cleaning equipment. The freedom camping signposted area was not established in accordance with the TCDC Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 and until recently was under review for relocation. This review has now been discontinued due to the revocation of the Bylaw following an administration mix up at TCDC. The end result is that a new Freedom Camping Bylaw will be adopted late 2022, following a rewrite and period of public consultation. The community stance is not one of total opposition to Freedom Camping, but rather that the signposted area, situated on a main road bend with limited visibility, is not-fit-for-purpose and unsafe. The parking of any vehicles on the road bend is considered a safety hazard.

There is no strong desire to further develop the village or to encourage large-scale commercial activity in the area. Nor is there any enthusiasm for major community events beyond the current Market Day and Beach Hop Friday.

There is significant opposition to the possibility of mining in the area.

There are divided views on dog controls in the village, especially as the number of visitors using the beach for canine recreation has substantially increased over the years. During the summer, there are strict rules regarding dogs on the beach areas, with an off-leash area on the northern half of the main Onemana beach. This is a requirement due to the dune area being a breeding ground for the nationally threatened dotterels. All year round the requirement in the village area is for dogs to be contained on properties or on leash in public areas. There are many calls for better dog control together with a professional approach to the enforcement of current rules. In recent times complaints of barking dogs left unattended within residences, has escalated.

The proposed introduction of the Three Waters Reform is concerning for many residents primarily because there is a lack of clarity on how the reform is to be implemented and whether overall rating costs will rise.

4. Facilities and Resources

There is a small commercial centre consisting of a café/bar, a very basic dairy and a real estate office. This includes an appropriately-sized parking area and is situated close to the main beach access. Only essential items and quick-moving stock are held in the dairy and it predominantly functions as a food take-away outlet. There is strong community feeling that the café/bar, in particular, is an essential community hub within the village and in recent times there has been strong resident support of the weekly Friday Happy Hour, ORCA quiz/game nights and speciality food nights.

There are 2 new buildings on the Beach Reserve:

- A modern, larger clubhouse for the Onemana Surf Life Saving Club, completed in 2021, which replaces the old building. The new building is a great new community facility which is used for community meetings and functions, in addition to surf life saving activities. The building also has a public unisex toilet as well as internal non-public toilet facilities and incorporates a viewing platform.
- A new toilet block, adjacent to the lower beach parking area, completed in 2020, with 2 unisex toilets and with access for disabled people.

An existing freedom camping area has been established and signposted adjacent to the new toilet block. Most of the community are opposed to the current size and location of this area, on safety grounds and would like the monitoring of freedom campers by TCDC to be improved. Hopefully TCDC will address the community concerns in the new TCDC Bylaw, to be released for public consultation in mid 2022.

A rural fire station is located at the entrance to the village which serves as a base for the Onemana Opoutere Rural Fire Force. The building is located partly on the road reserve and partly on crown land which is subject to a Maori land claim. It may need to be removed on completion of the

settlement. Several residents within the village are voluntary, active members of the Fire Force which services the area of Onemana and well beyond.

A swimming and spa pool complex is located close to the centre of the village. The complex has 4 spas, a swimming pool, a paddling pool and toilets. The complex is managed by volunteer committee members from the Onemana Swimming and Spa Pools Incorporated Society and maintained by community members. It is available for use by its members during opening hours. (The pools are not staffed by attendants). Members pay a maintenance levy to access the complex. Members are made up of permanent and visiting residents of Onemana and the greater community – extending to, but not limited to Whangamata. Membership is available to the public.

There is no public transport serving the village. A daily shuttle service to Auckland is available on demand as well as a twice weekly service to Thames. The Whangamata taxi service does service the area and there are informal arrangements between residents to assist those without transport. St Johns run a “health shuttle” service to get patients to doctor and hospital appointments.

Reported crime in Onemana is low. Currently Onemana is patrolled on a regular basis by the Whangamata Community Patrol, a voluntary organisation that works with police. Police visit the village on a random basis, mainly when there are indications of potential problems. A security camera is located on Onemana Drive, adjacent to the commercial centre carpark to monitor vehicle traffic within a portion of the village. Camera footage can be viewed by the Police in the event of a problem incident.

Organisations that are active in the community are:

- a. The **Onemana Residents and Community Association (ORCA)** is an active body dedicated to maintaining the quality of the village environment. It has a good proportion of residents as members and has been effective over the years in organising working bees and social events, fundraising for the community and liaising with TCDC to maintain and upgrade facilities. Members of ORCA regularly install and upgrade tracks and signage and assist with maintenance of the tennis courts, rock map, reserves and public facilities. Further tasks taken on by members include control of litter, pests and weeds. They also organise and run the Annual Market Day which takes place between Christmas and New Year, and assist with the annual Beach Hop Onemana Day.

The work of this active group, managed by a voluntary committee, is responsible for much of the current high standard of the environment within the village. Over the summer months ORCA have traditionally erected a marquee next to the commercial centre which serves as a meeting venue for larger community gatherings such as Carols by Candlelight. Changes to the ORCA website are ongoing with a view to making it more user-friendly, informative and relevant. The website (www.onemana.org.nz) contains links to the ORCA Facebook page, Onemana informations, schedules of events and services etc.

ORCA have also taken on the role of providing information to the community in the event of a COVID outbreak or other pandemic in the village (and/or surrounding area), through its various means of communication. ORCA maintain the defibrillator located outside the

café/bar which can be accessed by members of the public in the event of a cardiac emergency – the key is attached to the unit.

- b. The **Onemana Surf Life Saving Club** and its members are active all year round with local beach activities including patrolling during the Summer and training in the Winter. The main patrolling period is from the weekend prior to Christmas through to Waitangi Day as well as over Labour Weekend and Easter – occasional weekend patrols take place outside of this main period. Lifeguards have also been active in the community assisting with medical emergencies, boat accidents and even the odd house fire. The new clubhouse has a purpose-built First Aid Room equipped to deal with most medical emergencies that can happen on the beach and in the community. The Club is managed by a voluntary committee.

The Club runs a Junior Surf Programme from Boxing Day to Auckland Anniversary Weekend and this year has introduced a Junior Surf Sports Programme. These programmes are invaluable in growing the water and surf confidence in our youth for them to become lifeguards of the future.

- c. The **Onemana Opoutere Rural Fire Force (Fire Brigade)** is a voluntary organisation, primarily focused on prevention and control of vegetation fires in the rural environment. It currently consists of 16 fire crew (highly trained in fire fighting, medical co-response and working around helicopters) together with 10 support crew and 4 well-equipped, privately-owned trucks. It assists with vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, and helicopter evacuations, and is involved with fire prevention education. It also supports other residential fire control teams in areas ranging from south of the Bombays down to Rotorua and across from East Cape to Kawhia.
- d. **Voluntary groups take on environmental projects** from time to time as the need arises. Such groups are responsible for dune and bank plantings/weeding within the Onemana reserves, maintaining pest controls through a network of traps, monitoring and supporting the dotterels over the breeding season, keeping walking tracks clear and development of new walking tracks.

A Community Response Plan has been developed to ensure there are measures in place to help the community look after itself for up to 3 days, should we become isolated following a natural disaster. The plan has been developed in conjunction with TCDC, WRC, Civil Defence and local emergency service providers and addresses the following potential hazards – flood, damaging wind, sea inundation (Tide or Tsunami), earthquake, pandemic, bush fire and infrastructure damage. There are nominated responders and ORCA has purchased the required equipment, including 2 way radios and generators. There are also plans to cover medical response along with support in the form of food, blankets etc. Information on the Response Plan is available on the ORCA website.

5. Beaches and Reserves

There are 9 excellent ocean beaches in the Onemana area. They all are classic Coromandel beaches with golden sand generally backed by Pohutukawa trees and are both clean and highly valued by residents and visitors.

The main beach at Onemana has easy access from the village and the two small carparks. Access ways are maintained by ORCA with assistance from TCDC. The dunes at the top of the beach have been planted with a variety of dune-retaining plants by the community, with assistance from DOC, TCDC and Waikato Regional Council, which helps to reduce erosion, sand loss and sand migration into residential areas. The beach profile is variable and is frequently reshaped by sea, wind conditions and the two streams which flow into the sea. Future sea level variations may necessitate the strengthening of this planting program.

The main beach is also a breeding area for the endangered New Zealand dotterel and the variable oyster catcher, and dogs are not permitted on the southern half of the beach during the summer breeding season. A small, dedicated team of residents monitor native bird numbers and erect appropriate fencing and nest protection structures.

The other beaches are more remote and are accessed by walking tracks. The track to Pokohino Beach from the adjacent carpark was constructed and is maintained by DOC. This carpark can be reached via a forestry road that is closed at night and at the discretion of the forestry operator. An alternative good quality track from Onemana beach also exists.

Octopus Bay (Pakahakaha Beach) can be accessed by a regularly-used track leading south from the upper carpark through DOC land. Access to the more southern beaches is by less well maintained and signposted tracks.

The use of driven vehicles for recreational purposes on TCDC parks and reserves is expressly prohibited.

General reserve maintenance and grass mowing by TCDC is a contentious issue in the community with several viewpoints on how to get the best outcome for Onemana from the TCDC-allocated funds. Meetings on this topic have been scheduled with TCDC to highlight areas where some residents feel the service is not satisfactory or can be improved.

The reserves within the village boundaries can be classified as follows:

- **Beach Reserve** – this area is situated between the sand dunes and the village roads and sections, is grassed and has a small number of pohutukawa. The existing developments on the reserve include two carparks, the surf life saving clubhouse/community meeting building, a public toilet structure, a children's playground, a freedom camping area, a petanque area, 3 shower/feet-cleaning stations, two tennis courts and a sewage pumping station. There are also several seats and picnic tables. The children's playground includes a slide, swings and various climbing challenges centred around a pirate ship which has recently been spruced up by painting some of the prominent masts on the ship.

The number of rubbish bins is inadequate during the summer busy period. This area is maintained in general by TCDC, though upkeep of the tennis courts and children's playground has predominantly been undertaken by ORCA and community members. Recently a volleyball net has been re-erected on the main beach for public use.

During extreme wet and windy periods, the recently-constructed unisex toilet rooms can be infiltrated by driving rain resulting in a slippery and dangerous floor. TCDC have been approached to remedy the situation, but so far have shown little interest.

Dog poo bag dispensers are located at the entrances to the Beach reserve and the bags are now replenished by TCDC – previously supplied by ORCA.

Restoration planting of the sand dunes by residents with suitable natives such as pingao and spinifex as well as muehlenbeckia plants, propagated from local seeds harvested from Onemana Beach, is ongoing. It is planned to extend the areas of planting to combat expected sand dune erosion in the future. Other areas of erosion include the banks situated above the beach access walkway at the southern end of the beach and the banks uphill of the tennis courts where heavy rain has caused erosion damage. Planting of suitable species is urgently required to prevent further damage.

Although the reserve Norfolk Pine trees and pohutukawas provide a pleasant shade canopy, some adjacent residents are concerned about diminishing view lines to the beach. There is general community concern that no further new tree planting (other than replacement tree planting) or installation of new structures should take place on the Reserve without prior community consultation.

- **Lakes Reserve**

This incorporates a series of 3 connected lakes (storm water retention ponds) and the surrounding area. The ponds were originally intended to be maintained in a clean sand bottomed state suitable for children's recreation, but this has not proved possible with the build-up of silt and invasion by weeds, water lilies and wildfowl. The southern side of the ponds is grassed and maintained by TCDC while the northern area consists of regenerating native bush reserve which is maintained by the community. The tracks through this area are of a good standard and are maintained by the community with assistance from TCDC. Usage is moderate by families and walkers and as an access route from Tuna Place and Bambury Place to the beach, dairy and café/bar.

There are several large exotic trees (particularly wild cherries, acmena, willows and banksias) that have been identified as pest species for removal by TCDC and areas that require clearing and replanting by the community.

Of major concern is that the ponds and associated silt traps are not regularly maintained leading to silt build up, invasive weeds and insanitary water flowing into the beach lagoon. This also increases the risk of periodic flooding.

- **Tuna Place Reserve**

A narrow reserve bounding a stream covered by an assortment of native and exotic trees and bushes. A track has been constructed by community members, but more work is going on to achieve a pleasant and maintainable area. Generally, usage of this area is low. Many of the trees in the upper reserve are undesirable. TCDC has now felled these trees, but the mess left behind is unlikely to be much improved by volunteer actions.

Unfortunately, the part of the reserve adjacent to Tuna Place, is sometimes used as a racetrack, carpark and boat parking area and installation of bollards have been suggested by some residents to prevent access for the above activities.

- **Russell Bruce Place Reserve**

A broad area bounding a stream, mainly grassed, but with areas of native tree plantings and flax. TCDC mow some of the area and community members assist with revegetation. There is one formed track and an area used as an access way. Usage is moderate as an access route, but generally the reserve is poorly maintained with the stream tending to be weed- and rubbish-clogged and much of the grass area is boggy during winter partly due to stormwater runoff from neighbouring properties.

There is an unstable area which has been partially remedied, but unfortunately TCDC have reduced the mowed area such that we now have encroachment of weeds and undesirable plants. Planting of suitable species such as coprosma is required on the banks of the stream to control the proliferation of weeds.

- **Upper Onemana Drive Reserve**

A steep hillside leading up to the top level of Onemana Drive generally covered in trees and scrub. The area is not maintained and the one walking track through the area was closed due to safety concerns. A large slip has recently occurred requiring extensive remedial measures by TCDC. Usage is nil.

- **Lower Onemana Drive Reserve**

A steep area running from Onemana Drive and the top carpark down to the southern end of the beach reserve. This is divided into a grassed area containing a sewage pumping station and an area of trees and scrub with a formed walking track giving access from the top level of Onemana Drive to the beach reserve. This is maintained by TCDC with moderate usage.

- **Southern Headland Reserve**

This is an area under DOC control and consists of a steep headland area including a Maori pa site and is covered by Pohutukawa trees and scrub. The pa site has no signage and there is little local knowledge on the pre-European history of this area. There is a steep, poorly formed track from the beach to the upper carpark and usage is light to moderate. TCDC and DOC have plans to provide some pa site signage.

6. Recreational Opportunities

- An excellent children's playground has been established on the beach reserve. There have been calls to extend the facilities here, particularly for smaller children and teenagers, but generally residents are happy with the status quo as long as the equipment is adequately maintained. Recently the swings have been removed due to corrosion issues and will be replaced soon. Provision of further seating for parents would be an advantage.
- Use of the tennis courts and petanque playing area on the beach reserve is publicly available, free of charge. These facilities are jointly maintained by TCDC and ORCA.
- Walking and jogging is available on several tracks both inside and outside the village boundaries. A popular walk is beside Whitiwhiri Road out to SH25 which in general does not have a formed footpath despite many years of negotiation with TCDC and the forestry managers. Unfortunately, 4 x 4 vehicles sometimes illegally use the road reserve and have caused significant damage. Walks also exist at both the southern and northern headland to all the isolated beaches which are regularly used. Forest roads are also popular with walks down Norman's Access Road and to Pokohino Beach. Suitable signage and general maintenance of tracks by the responsible parties is under review.
- Rock and beach fishing is popular using casting rods, torpedoes and drones. There are also dinghies and kayaks which are launched from the beach for fishing. Spear fishing and collecting of kai moana is also a popular pastime. Most residents value the ability to store kayaks and small water craft on the dunes at the southern end of the beach but there is a call to reduce damage to dune plantings.
- A mountain bike track runs parallel to Whitiwhiri Road up the hill and down towards SH25. Mountain bikers also regularly use the northern tracks towards Pokohino Beach which the community maintain.
- Beach swimming is possible at all the beaches, although only Onemana beach has patrols in the summer school holiday period, and the nature of the beaches is such that caution is required. Rips are common and only the main Onemana beach has warning signs.
- Pool swimming and spa soaking is available for members of the Onemana Swimming and Spa Pools Incorporated Society. A significant number of ratepayers are members and have access to the facility year-round (the outdoor pool and paddling pool are closed during winter - normally re-opening on Labour Weekend). The nearest public pool is in Whangamata.
- There has been a suggestion by several residents that a small concreted basketball area (i.e. a "half court" or at least a hoop) should be installed on the beach reserve, possibly adjacent to the tennis courts for use, both as a kid's play area and a general recreation area.
- Community members have proposed that a suitable concrete pathway be constructed from the middle carpark, off Oratia Place to facilitate access for disabled persons to the Surf Club

public viewing platform and beach reserve seating. This proposal is currently being costed out by TCDC.

7. Infrastructure

a. Roading

The sealed roads in the area are generally well aligned and maintained and have good drainage. The unsealed forestry roads are adequate for the traffic but are subject to closure during periods of forestry work, high fire risk and the hours of darkness. This is a particular concern to the residents on Peninsula Rd as emergency services have no access to this area without the access gate being unlocked.

One major area of concern is the intersection/corner of the main access road to the village (Whitipirorua Rd) and State Highway 25. Community members have recently cleared some of the invasive vegetation on the northern side of the intersection which has tidied up the area and provides greater prominence of the trees and shrubs which were planted there many years back. This has also improved vehicle visibility for vehicles exiting Whitipirorua Road, but it remains somewhat limited.

Several Canadian Reds and other exotic trees close to the entrance to Onemana village has been highlighted by some residents as an eyesore and further plans to remove them would be welcomed by the community.

Many residents have suggested that the speed limit within the village be reduced to 40 k/h in the vicinity of the shops and around the lower Onemana Drive carpark bend. Some residents feel that a pedestrian crossing on Onemana Drive, opposite the shops should be installed to provide safer access by children to the shops.

b. Water, Stormwater and Sewage

Water supply to the village is from 2 bores within the village area, commonly referred to as the Tuna Place and Grove site boreholes, which are pumped to 2 storage tanks and treated by removal of arsenic, followed by chlorination. Many residents dislike the taste and the silica content which causes surface residues and issues with heating elements. Water supply quantities have been generally adequate for the demand although water restrictions are sometimes necessary over the summer school holiday period. TCDC are in the process of upgrading the potable water quality, which work is expected to be complete by September 2022. The upgrade work will entail increased removal of iron, manganese and microbiological contaminants and it is hoped that residences will no longer require in-house filters.

Village properties are all connected to a piped sewage collection system which is pumped from the lowest point up to settling and oxidation ponds to the south of the village. These ponds discharge into a small stream running through private property which discharges directly into the sea.

The Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consents have recently been renewed for a further 35 years. These consents relate to the extraction of water from bores together with the treatment of wastewater and discharge of the treated wastewater. TCDC have a history of high compliance with these consents, although some residents have reported wastewater pond odours during peak holiday periods.

Storm water from the village is generally collected from the roads and piped into the open waterways which discharge onto the beach. The system is under pressure and needs attention to reduce the risk of flooding. As the main stream outlet is often blocked by a sandbank, a sandy lagoon often forms at the back of the beach and allows for settling out of suspended material. The lagoon has become larger and more inland, due to recent beach dune erosion. Many properties discharge their stormwater onto the road, into waterways or onto reserves. Relatively few properties have adequate disposal through soakage, although TCDC new building regulations now require more extensive soakage arrangements.

There are number of uncertainties regarding potential outcomes of the Three Waters Reform which the Government intends to introduce. Residents are concerned as to what the final utility ownership will look like and whether household costs will escalate.

Piping infrastructure, particularly the water supply reticulation, is showing signs of age and deterioration, having been installed in the 1960s, and now requires frequent maintenance.

c. Electricity

All properties have access to electricity via an underground cable network. The power supply reliability has improved in recent years, but outages are still relatively common during periods of inclement weather.

d. Internet data and telephone services

A fibre optic cable has been installed along Whitipiroua Road up to a point on the north side of Onemana Drive, opposite the Fire Station. At this point it connects to the old existing copper network to provide residents with a reasonable VDSL service. Unfortunately, the service is subject to overloading during periods of peak data usage and is therefore inconsistent.

There are two 4G cell towers situated near the end of Onemana Drive on an elevated section of TCDC land adjacent to the village potable water tanks. The more modern, larger tower is a

Spark tower and the older, smaller tower is a Vodafone tower. Both towers generally provide a good service, but once again, are subject to overloading during peak usage periods. Onemana needs a secure and consistent internet data service and it is somewhat puzzling that the fibre optic cable has not been extended into the village as part of the NZ fibre roll-out plan. ORCA are pursuing the matter with the Ministry for the Digital Economy and Communications.

e. Street Lighting

At present street lights are located at intersections, the end of cul de sacs and a small number of other locations. TCDC has a policy to replace existing lights with low-impact LED lights as replacements occur. These reduce the light impact on neighbouring properties and the night environment. While the existing pattern does leave areas of pedestrian pavements with less than adequate light there is a strong call from residents not to increase the number of lights citing their appreciation of the night sky - intelligent street lighting has been suggested as an option for the future.

f. Rubbish Collection

Kerbside collection of household waste takes place weekly during most of the year with twice per week collection during summer. Recyclables are collected fortnightly (weekly in summer). Pukeko and seagulls are a nuisance, tearing bags and scattering rubbish.

There is no collection point for rubbish left by departing ratepayers prior to collection day. Such a collection point has been considered in the past and dismissed on the basis of being an attraction for rats and the likelihood of abuse. ORCA has recommended the use of wheelie bins for both rubbish and recycling.

There is no green waste disposal available in the village. The nearest tip/recycling facility is south of Whangamata.

g. Pest Control

The area has problems with possums, rabbits, pukeko, stoats and rats causing issues for residents and current control measures are inadequate. ORCA manages a supply of possum bait and bait stations. There is also an infrequent and ineffective rabbit and pukeko cull. Calci virus is released every three to five years for rabbit and hare control. ORCA have a cat trap which is available for use by residents, as and when required.

A small group of dedicated community members manage rat, stoat and weasel traps to reduce predation of the endangered birds. A substantial grant has recently been received by

ORCA to provide additional pest control equipment which will greatly improve the effectiveness of this group.

An extensive pest control program would be welcome with an aspirational long term goal to make the Onemana peninsula pest and predator free.

h. Signage

There is always a tension between adequate signage to guide and inform visitors and too many signs degrading the visual environment. Currently signs at the entrance to the village and the carparks are erected by TCDC, ORCA, the Surf Life Saving Club, the Rural Fire Force and Community Patrols, all having different formats and colours. The general sentiment of the community is that there is excessive signage at the entrance to Onemana as well as around the lower beach carpark and that permanent advertising signs in the village, other than temporary or sponsorship signs, should be removed. An integrated signage policy and amalgamation would assist.

Directional signage to Onemana on SH25 needs improvement with a clearly indicative Onemana sign, positioned 100m before the intersection. Currently the only sign is for a side road and Onemana is only noted at the intersection itself leading to hasty and unsafe reactions by motorists. In some cases, drivers miss the turn-off completely.

Additional Tsunami Evacuation Information signage has recently been erected at the lower and middle carparks.

8. The Rural and Forestry Areas

The rural areas of Onemana are in private or state ownership and appear to be generally well managed by the owners and leaseholders. The only item of concern expressed is emergency service access to the gated Pokohino Road.

The crown land is currently under forestry lease with a review due in 2031. This land is subject to a Maori land settlement claim. As this land forms a backdrop to the coast and Onemana village, future subdivision or a substantial change to the usage of the areas on the seaward side of the hills would have a major impact on the environment of Onemana. The possibility of subdivision of this area is generally opposed by residents and would be resisted if district plan changes were proposed.

An aspirational goal would be to make the Onemana peninsula pest free to encourage more native birdlife. Several residents report hearing kiwi in the area in the past so a resurgence of them is always possible – however cost and remoteness make this an unlikely prospect.

9. The Onemana Community Priorities – in order of importance

1. Improved quality of the drinking water supply. Ensure the upgrade project is completed to the satisfaction of the community in 2022.
2. Relocation of the sign-posted Freedom Camping area to a safer and more suitable place with parking demarcation and clear signage to limit the number of Freedom Camping vehicles. No vehicles to be parked on the Onemana Drive bend. TCDC to ensure effective and more timely monitoring the new Freedom Camping Bylaw when it comes into force. The above points to form the basis of the ORCA submission on the new TCDC Freedom Camping Bylaw.
3. Improved and consistent maintenance of all Parks and Reserves by TCDC including the stormwater ponds and open waterways.
4. Open communication and clarity from TCDC and the Government regarding the proposed Three Waters Reform and its effect on residents.
5. Effective control of all animal pests and support of the volunteer group carrying out this work. Continue to apply for funding where necessary.
6. Consistent and reliable high-speed internet data services. Continue to lobby Government and talk with internet providers about the upgrading of the services.
7. Use of wheelie bins for rubbish collection to stop birds and cats from tearing apart the refuse bags. Liaise with TCDC about a workable system.
8. Addressing the erosion damage caused by heavy rains on the banks uphill of the southern beach access walkway and the banks immediately above the tennis courts (adjacent to Oratia Place)

10. What is NOT Wanted

- A boat ramp or jetty.
- Any subdivision of land into small sections on the eastern facing hillsides from Pokohino southwards.
- Mining or any new development that would substantially affect the landscape, water and soil quality or increase heavy traffic volume in the area.
- Any further structures or alteration of existing structures by TCDC without prior proper Onemana community consultation.

11. Potential Future Projects for 2023/4 – as suggested by Residents

- Better dune protection in reaction to rising water levels and storms.
- Northern Reserve Protection from diminishing dunes and water washing
- Concrete path (or similar) to facilitate disabled persons access to the Surf Club viewing platform – if not completed in 2022.
- Concrete play area adjacent to the tennis courts with basketball hoop.
- Installation of structures to prevent use of the Whitipirorua Road verge by 4 x 4 vehicles.
- Pedestrian Crossing on Onemana Drive opposite the shops. Lower speed limit around the lower Onemana Drive bend.
- Electric car charging station close to the shops.
- Removal of exotic trees within and around the village.

12. Conclusion

In general, the main requirement from residents is to keep the Onemana village and existing rural areas in their current state.

Most of the improvements that have been suggested are minor and aimed at improving the quality of life rather than economic development. Any major economic development in the area is strongly opposed.

The community is prepared to continue to keep the village in an attractive and safe state provided that TCDC is prepared to support their efforts. This is intended to follow the existing model where community volunteers contribute their time and effort to carry out regular monitoring, maintenance and upgrades of public areas and facilities within their capabilities while TCDC and its contractors carry out functions, and provide support for items that are beyond the physical and financial capabilities of community members.

13. Acknowledgements

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- Onemana Surf Life Saving Club
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