



Arrowtown Community Visioning Forum

Wednesday 26th August 2015 - 70 attendees

Thursday 27th August 2015 - 56 attendees

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Introduction

The aim of this report is to capture the outcomes of the Arrowtown Community Visioning Forum in a way that can help the Taskforce shape its recommendations. The same format was used for both nights of the forum and the information has been combined. It records the community's long term aspirations, their views about current challenges facing Arrowtown, priority issues and issues that need to be addressed in the shorter term.

A Shared Vision for the Future:

The input from the forum showed some long term aspirational goals that were generally agreed. They are summarised below:

1. **Growth –**
 - a. Growth is managed and planned with community input.
 - b. Development boundaries are established/maintained/ planned growth areas to take into account the needs of the community eg social, educational, recreational, commercial
 - c. Infill/density are managed within building design and streetscape guidelines.
 - d. Established greenbelt around Arrowtown (multi-purpose to include recreational ground). Development eg Retirement Village outside of boundary. development boundaries, retirement village, densities, tourism growth, planning for population growth, maintaining character, values and uniqueness of Arrowtown
2. **Heritage and Character –**

- a. Authentic character of Arrowtown as a village is maintained by appropriate planning and growth management.
- b. Historic areas are protected by design controls developed by the appropriate experts and administered/regulated by people with specialist knowledge of Arrowtown.
- c. Trees and streetscapes are protected and enhanced to reflect the character of Arrowtown – enhancing, protecting and maintaining the heritage of Arrowtown – buildings, green spaces and environment.

3. Environment – 3 waters, air, flora and fauna

- a. Arrowtown has clean air and water with effective wastewater systems. Pollution is measured and reported on to the community.
- b. Housing is sustainable and uses efficient heating systems.
- c. Native plant species are actively planted and nurtured in the historic and new areas.
- d. Invasive plant species are eradicated, managed over time.
- e. Arrowtown will have healthy and beautiful green environment that visitors and residents will cherish
- f. Walkways and Cycleways are well maintained with the appropriate infrastructure in place eg toilets, rubbish bins

4. Economy/Infrastructure

- a. Tourism, commercial and residents needs are balanced.
- b. Funding for infrastructure is established eg bed tax, visitor levy,
- c. Parking is sympathetic to the town centre and well maintained/signed

5. Community

- a. The community is thriving with diversity – youth through to elderly engaged in the community.
- b. Housing, education, recreation, commercial and health needs can be met within the Arrowtown community.

Vision for the Future

Everyone was asked to provide two words that they would want to see included in a short aspirational vision statement for the Arrowtown community. The following words were offered:

Vision for the Future (from post it notes)

Affordable	Family x 6	Infrastructure	Quiet	Trails
Authentic x 4	Free	Innovative x 3	Recreation	Tranquillity
Balance x 2	Friendly x 3	Lifestyle x 3	Relaxation	Uncrowded
Beautiful x 10	Fun	Multi-generational	Respect	Understanding
Boutique	Green x 2	Maintained	Resilient	Unique x 3
Boundary	Growth	Mighty	Safe x 19	Unpolluted
Character x 12	Happy	Natural/Native x 6	Smallness	Vibrant x 2

Charm	Harmonious x 4	Peaceful x2	Social	Village x 7
Clean x 6	Healthy x 3	Positive Planning	Spacious	Walking
Clever	Heritage x 6	Preservation x 4	Self – Sufficiency x 2	Youth
Community x 14	Historic x 6	Pride	Smokefree	
Content x 2	History x3	Progressive	Sustainable x 17	
Constant Scale	Home x 2	Prosperity x 2	Technology	
Creative	Idyllic/Ideal	Quaint x 2	Thriving	
Diverse x 3	Invigorating	Quality		
Easy				
Employment x 2				
Environment x 3				

Describing Future Success

Forum attendees were invited to supply their ideal ‘headline’ for the Lakes District in 2035. The following themes and ideas were put forward. ** indicates where an idea was described more than once. This is an exercise to focus attendees on the long term future of Arrowtown

Whats the Headline in 2035 that says ‘We’ve done it’

- Iconic NZ values preserved*
- Arrowtowns unique family character maintained*
- Arrowtown again voted top community to live in in NZ/Australasia***
- Arrowtown most tech savvy community in New Zealand*
- Arrowtown comes together for best community festival in 65 years
- Community spirit in historic in Arrowtown still present
- Autumn colours saved
- Clear air, clean heating, sustainable (check!)
- Arrowtown wins world heritage status*
- Avenue trees celebrate 200th birthday
- Arrowtown the Village that was and is
- Arrowtown, the envy of New Zealand
- New Zealands most beautiful, clean town
- 50th Anniversary of Autumn Festival
- Celebration of 15yrs of the Retirement Village in Arrowtown
- Character of Arrowtown unchanged despite population growth/retains it’s heritage/charm despite growth ***
- Last conifer gone
- Arrowtown goes off the grid*
- Arrowtown a model of Sustainability
- Arrowtown the new silicon valley
- Arrowtown Museum goes digital
- New chairlift opens from Arrowtown to Cardrona
- Place for all generations

- Environment at the forefront of Arrowtown Village with enviable native parks, flora, fauna**
- Arrowtown leads the way with walkways and cycleways**
- Last fire extinguished in Arrowtown
- Autumn Festival gets a Golden Globe for 50yrs
- Wilding Pines exterminated
- Arrowtown model of sustainability
- Record numbers of tourists don't affect character of Arrowtown
- Arrowtown named top town in New Zealand
- Genetically modified trees provide colour
- 1 million deciduous trees planted

All attendees were asked to give one word that described a successful outcome for Arrowtown. These were compiled into a wordle:



What are the big issues for Arrowtown

Everyone attending the forum was asked to give one word that they described as the biggest challenge facing Arrowtown today. The words were combined into a wordle:



Attendees were asked to discuss in their groups the big issues/priorities in the mid-short term for Arrowtown. They then voted to assess the highest priorities/importance, the higher the score the more importance placed on the priority by forum attendees. [The key themes were then explored further in the following exercise.](#)

Theme	Issue	Score	Comments/Details
Growth	Growth – Population and Development	125	Harmful effects of growth Population limit Housing affordability Development and natural boundaries
	Plan for sustainable growth in the Wakatipu	39	Wakatipu needs plan for growth, balance of developers/private sector, effects on natural environment, cost of housing, land,
	Population Growth – maintaining character and maintaining growth within the boundaries of Arrowtown	34	Planned growth to protect character of Arrowtown. Wider planning of growth within the Wakatipu not just Arrowtown
	Managed growth to ensure balance between history, nature and tradition	28	
Heritage	Heritage protection and village character	56	Building character, new building, redevelopment of buildings in the historic zone. Protecting the

			heritage of the whole town eg cribs
	Retain Heritage Precinct controls – heritage status	22	Expand or maintain CBD area, architectural integrity,
	Protect heritage status of buildings and trees	12	
Community	Retaining community facilities	44	Quality and Diversity
	Identifying values and criteria for the future of Arrowtown	20	
	Youth involvement in community affairs	6	
	A community that works/balanced for community and visitors	7	Includes commercial space – business park? Good diversity – age, nationality, disability, single/families/elderly. Communal market place,
	Safe and Friendly community	1	Encourages diversity, schooling, township etc
Infrastructure / Development	Infrastructure to manage growth	36	Roading/water system/sewage system. balancing tourism with resident needs.
	Elderly Care	32	Retirement Village in town
	Ribbon Growth – along empty roads	9	
	Keep the current boundaries	9	
	Education	6	Schooling, facilities at capacity
	Worker Accommodation	5	
	Design guidelines for new development	5	
	Retain low density housing	4	
	Parking/Transport/Public Transport for locals and visitors	3	
	Pressure on local infrastructure	2	Eg parking for visitors, how to pay for infrastructure – eg park n ride, tolls, visitor tax
	Elderly care, retirement village	2	
	Inadequate broadband	0	

Environment	Protect the natural environment – wilding pines	30	
	Protecting the environment	29	Clean air/water/rivers Control of wilding pines etc ORC enforcement of air pollution
	Preserving Green spaces and deciduous trees/remove wilding pines/broom	23	
	Clean Air and Water	14	
	Maintain greenways and walkways	1	
Economy	Maintaining a balanced and diverse economy / housing affordability	27	
	Develop more local jobs	3	
	Economic diversification	3	Over reliance on tourism
	Tourism Destination Management	2	
	Arrows town to attract higher spending visitors	0	
Governance	Governance	29	Long term strategic thinking/community participation in strategic decision making
	Maintain Arrow Ward representation	3	More community participation in community decision making
	Disaster Planning	0	

Key Issues

Attendees were asked to workshop the key issues (the following is in no particular order). Attendees were asked to consider the issue, critical driving influences, ideal future outcomes and some potential solutions or next steps.

Issue	Critical Driving Influences	Ideal Future Outcomes	Solutions/Next Steps
Diluting what makes Arrowtown Special – Design Control	Quick Decisions made by QLDC to fix things without relating it to any controls	Having a healthy and beautiful green environment People will still love Arrowtown and comment on it as 'beautiful'	Defining what makes Arrowtown beautiful – in words and document Creating a design guidelines for all of Arrowtown which control future development on 'What makes Arrowtown beautiful'. Having a design review board which not only decides on big development but also on small ones eg benches, lighting etc Designs are sustainable eg no tropical hardwood. Design review board should handle/agree on all design impacts QLDC decides, The DRB should consist of different groups of the community and should be voluntary eg architects, landscape architects, business owners, school, community groups.
Managing Growth (4 groups info combined – was very similar)	Demand for living 1. Retired, youth, families – need for range of housing 2. Pressure from local government	Establish a permanent greenbelt Satellite retirement village Infill on case by case basis	Satellite towns in Wakatipu Basin Capped population for Arrowtown Greenbelt becomes a community resource eg recreational spaces <i>Housing – infill, tax empty holiday homes, range of housing options,</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Appeal of Arrowtown as a place to live 4. Rate of growth relative to current boundary limit 5. Planning for growth of residents and visitors 6. Capping population could be a negative outlook 7. Quality of life/values/accessibility 	<p>Redevelopment of existing sections Build on empty sections Building design control Streetscape design including trees Potential medium/high density area eg bottom of Manse Rd Jobs for locals Land planned and zoned for specific purpose eg housing, school, commercial, recreation, reserves</p>	<p>2nd primary school and establish high school Tax empty holiday homes, encourage use. Establish a sustainable population without disturbing the character of Arrowtown <i>Integrated community planning – schooling, health, social support</i> <i>Govt policy to allow diversity</i> <i>Long term thinking and planning in place –</i> <i>Plan for diversity</i> <i>Tourism</i> <i>Leadership</i> <i>Plan for growth</i> <i>Diverse community</i> <i>Visioning</i> More community input into growth – community board. Incremental increases in boundary</p>
<p>Adverse effects of growth</p>	<p>Demand for Arrowtown. Growing district economy Inadequate/inferior planning QLDC/DQ/Business Community/Developers/Central Government District/Regional Plans not flexible enough to move with times.</p>	<p>Arrowtown remains a great place to live. Preserved heritage area Green spaces maintained Houses reflect the character of Arrowtown. Diverse population Modern technology in place.</p>	<p>Planned growth – does a housing cap need to be put in place. Maintain present Heritage centre Analysis tools established and measure Rigorous planning controls and systems. The community needs to be involved via the government – local and regional</p>

	<p>Growth not managed well by committee</p> <p>Building of houses/subdivisions not suitable for the environment</p>	<p>Established measurement tools:</p> <p>Census, Tourist count, housing count/affordability, enjoyment/satisfaction measure</p>	<p>Community has a strong voice – campaigns and petitions during the democratic process to QLDC and regional councils.</p>
<p>Character – maintaining the character of the village</p>	<p>Boundary – puts pressure on infill housing, releasing boundary creates spread.</p> <p>Increasing population increases demand on housing.</p> <p>Town planning rules</p>	<p>Authentic character of Arrowtown as a village maintained by appropriate planning and growth management.</p>	<p>Establish what character is – defined characteristics, values, village vs town.</p> <p>Planned development and guidelines for village.</p>
<p>Retaining historic character throughout the whole town.</p>	<p>Aesthetics</p> <p>Tourism Magnet</p> <p>Town culture</p> <p>Development pressures</p> <p>How – design guidelines and enforcement</p> <p>Rates relief and support for owners</p> <p>Streamlined consent process for heritage owners, Adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings</p>	<p>All development should reflect the central otago vernacular</p> <p>Maintain heritage to a very high level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensitive signage - Street furniture - Plantings/fencing etc - Council maintenance, <p>Measure – if the town still retains its character of the past, development is sensitive.</p> <p>Trees and streetscapes are protected.</p>	<p>Enforcement of guidelines for parts of the town.</p> <p><i>Arrowtown specific planning advisory group to assess all development with power to co-opt specialists</i></p> <p><i>Planners who are well versed in particular design issues relevant to Arrowtown esp heritage buildings</i></p> <p><i>All stakeholders need to be part of planning eg DOC, QLDC, Community</i></p> <p>Protect the name Arrowtown</p>

<p>Environment – protection and enhancement of green spaces (two groups)</p>	<p>Impact of Growth Zero tolerance to encroachment on green spaces Council Management Community ownership and responsibility Long term planning/specialist knowledge Invasive species Damage from 4WD to river beds Visual protection of skyline – eg building on hilltops, ridgelines</p>	<p>Plan for species eradication, protection of natural environment eg historic trees 90% of wilding pines gone within 5 years 100% in 10 years Review of advisory board Maintenance of green spaces, increased native planting Maintenance and development of walking/cycling tracks and facilities eg toilets Historic trees protected/maintained and expanded Native species flourishing with increased areas of native planting</p>	<p>Management and planning for protection of green environment flora and fauna Protection and enhancement of green spaces as public facilities, eg walkways, cycleways Long term planning – QLDC Encourage planting of natives, amendment to the historic zone guidelines for this. Housing developments allow for green spaces Arrowtown Advisory Group is more transparent. DOC/Volunteers/Council to work together on managing and eradicating invasive species More rubbish bins/toilets eg Lake Hayes pavilion, Whitechapel bridge, Chinese village Native planting – Wakatipu reforestation, volunteers</p>
<p>Environment – air</p>	<p>Wet firewood Wood burners / old wood burners Badly insulated homes</p>	<p>2035 – Fresh air all year around Air quality measurements in place Houses and heating suitable for the area</p>	<p>Regulation of firewood supplies – confirm it is dry Sign off of existing burners – if old must replace Encourage use of clean burning eg pellet fires, alternative options Regulation of new houses – insulation etc, higher standards, energy efficiency</p>

<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking, poor signage - Funding of supersized infrastructure needed for tourism and growth - Walking/train signage/cycling tracks - Water quality 	<p>Parking Funding – small population/high costs Walking/Cycle signage Water quality - poor</p>	<p>Parking is clearly sign posted and maintained. Parking established outside of main town/ short walk Sensitive upgrade of current parking facilities Reduced traffic in main area Funding – visitor tax/environmental tax? Entry fees? Pay to poo Walking/Cycling trails well maintained and signposted Water Quality – robust testing – information shared with community. Maintain rivers health</p>	
<p>Retirement Village (Wed night only) – ageing population that currently must go out of the district for care or options</p>	<p>No age care facilities currently Ageing population/growing demand People want to live/die in Arrowtown and the basin Needs to be affordable</p>	<p>Anderson/Monk proposal meets much of the needs of the district. Staff accommodation available in the area Families to be integrated into the community (not all agreed). Measures of progress Retaining elderly within their community</p>	<p>Retirement village and aged care hospital build Village residents will come from the local area. 80% local 20% Otago/Southland</p>

Housing Affordability – market driven pricing, limited space and high demand	Keeping entry level pricing in Arrowtown Ownership of housing stock by non-residents Families finding area desirable – schooling, walking environment etc Lack of worker accommodation in Arrowtown.	Decent PT system, affordable Worker Accommodation available and affordable External boundary of town Retirement Village outside of town Private school on Hogans Gully Road	Infill, look at smart ways to fill in spaces eg flat above garage, residential unit Manage opposing views, Plan for the next 50-100 years, public transport, population increase, green fields, housing areas Limit on new subdivisions and cap density.
Development Boundary	Population Growth Desirability of Arrowtown Council, local community and government are all stakeholders Council pressure from Govt Passion about the community	Retain current boundaries/ managed growth with strong/appropriate design guidelines Measures – desirability to live here, infrastructure that is adequate and in line with any growth.	Defend boundaries / keep low density but allow for some managed growth. Community Groups (potentially AVA) to represent the whole community
Economy - mix of tourism and residents	Population Growth Type of tourists – FIT and Domestic High commercial rents Parking Infrastructure	Successful local economy attractive to tourists supporting employment, landlords, business owners, local users and tourism. Quality build environment – safety, lighting, beauty Vibrant mix of business Integrated	Special commercial zone policies for AW Check AW community plan – is it still relevant/up to date Look at other attractive international tourism destinations – what do they do, how do they control/guide tourism, achieve a mix of community values/heritage and tourism, economic factors

		Excellent IT provision, Free wifi, More commercial tenancies Tourism experience is guided by the AW community	
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