Kinloch Community Plan Survey Report

Prepared for the Kinloch Community Association | 2 October 2026

Introduction

Taupō District Council is facilitating the development of an updated Community Plan for Kinloch, shaped by our community. The Kinloch Community Association (KCA) carried out this survey to better understand what our community values and believes should be prioritised. The findings will help KCA represent the views of the wider Kinloch community and contribute constructively to the Community Plan process.

The KCA provided a copy of the 2017 Kinloch Community Plan on our website for people to refer to before completing the survey.

The survey invited everyone with a connection to Kinloch, including permanent and part-year residents, property owners, businesses, community groups and regular visitors. KCA membership was not required. It was promoted through KCA's social media, website and email communications.

The survey launched on Saturday 5 September 2026, with an advertised closing time of 5 pm on Friday 18 September. The results export includes responses dated 23 September, so collection continued beyond the advertised deadline. This report uses the SurveyMonkey export provided on 2 October 2026.

Overall findings

Respondents show a strong attachment to Kinloch's village character, peace, natural surroundings, lake access and community spirit. The leading listed priorities were reserves, the Community Structure Plan, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, streamside trails and pest control. Written feedback adds practical demands for better roads, toilets, upkeep and waterfront safety, often expressed with considerable frustration.

There is no single view on growth. Some want further development stopped; others support carefully managed growth, new services and a stronger visitor economy. Similar differences arise over boat ramps, parking, tree management, community facilities and spending.

Participation and how to read the results

Answer option	Percent	Responses
Question 1 Listed priorities	100.00%	257
Question 2 Other issues and opportunities	66.15%	170
Question 3 What people value and want protected	83.66%	215
Question 4 Connection to Kinloch	98.83%	254

Participation percentages above use 257 as the survey response base. Questions 2, 3 and 4 had 87, 42 and 3 skipped responses respectively. Question 2 includes brief answers such as “No”, “NA” and “nil”.

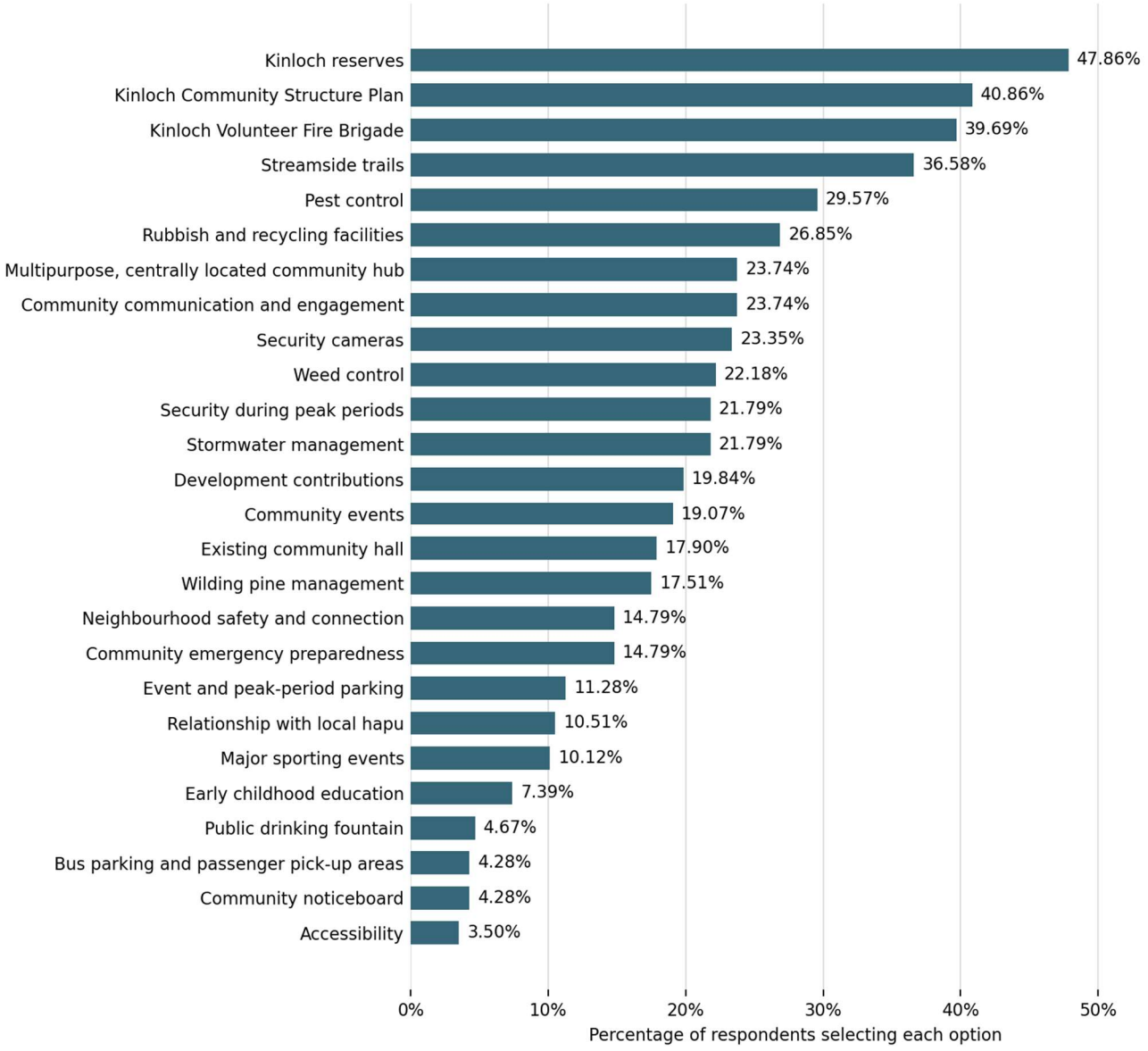
Open comments are grouped qualitatively; themes overlap and are not counted or ranked. Quotes retain original wording.

Question 1 Priorities for the next five years

Which FIVE of the following areas do you believe should receive the greatest attention over the next five years? Respondents were asked to select up to five.

Key findings: Kinloch reserves led with 47.86% (123 respondents), followed by the Community Structure Plan at 40.86% (105), Volunteer Fire Brigade at 39.69% (102), streamside trails at 36.58% (94) and pest control at 29.57% (76). These selections emphasise shared outdoor spaces, planning and emergency services.

257 answered. The graph shows all options in descending order; percentages do not add to 100 because multiple selections were possible.



Question 1 Full results

Answer option	Percent	Responses
Kinloch reserves	47.86%	123
Kinloch Community Structure Plan	40.86%	105
Kinloch Volunteer Fire Brigade	39.69%	102
Streamside trails	36.58%	94
Pest control	29.57%	76
Rubbish and recycling facilities	26.85%	69
Multipurpose, centrally located community hub	23.74%	61
Community communication and engagement	23.74%	61
Security cameras	23.35%	60
Weed control	22.18%	57
Security during peak periods	21.79%	56
Stormwater management	21.79%	56
Development contributions	19.84%	51
Community events	19.07%	49
Existing community hall	17.90%	46
Wilding pine management	17.51%	45
Neighbourhood safety and connection	14.79%	38
Community emergency preparedness	14.79%	38
Event and peak-period parking	11.28%	29
Relationship with local hapu	10.51%	27
Major sporting events	10.12%	26
Early childhood education	7.39%	19
Public drinking fountain	4.67%	12
Bus parking and passenger pick-up areas	4.28%	11
Community noticeboard	4.28%	11
Accessibility	3.50%	9

Total selections: 1,331. Figures are retained exactly as reported in the export.

Data check for review: 1,331 selections exceeds the 1,285 maximum implied by 257 respondents selecting up to five options ie. Some people selected more than 5.

Question 2 Other issues and opportunities

Are there any other issues, opportunities or projects you think should be considered as the updated Kinloch Community Plan is developed? 170 answered; 87 skipped.

Key findings: Written feedback combines frustration about basic maintenance and infrastructure with concern about development and pressure on the waterfront. Respondents also propose community facilities, trails and services. Views differ on the scale of growth, spending and how shared spaces should be used.

Control development and match infrastructure to growth

Repeated comments call for development to be slowed, restricted or stopped, citing smaller sections, density, overcrowding and the capacity of roads, water and wastewater. Some want development conditions and construction timeframes enforced. Other respondents want growth embraced, infrastructure to allow second dwellings, medium-density accommodation and a decision about where growth belongs.

Fix roads and make walking and cycling safer

Kinloch Road attracts blunt criticism over its surface, tree-root damage, drainage and construction traffic. Respondents request resealing, continuous footpaths, safer movement around the store and waterfront, and a roundabout at the Whangamata/Kinloch Road intersection. Several want slower traffic; one wants the Whangamata Road limit increased from 60 to 80 km/h.

Resolve waterfront parking and boat access

Comments describe cars on the beach, erosion, obstructed views and access, trailer congestion and conflict between vehicles, swimmers and walkers. Suggestions include barriers, designated or sealed parking, better Domain use and removing lakefront parking. Several want Scotsman's Ramp repaired for affordable public launching; another wants all boats launched at the marina because of safety concerns. Parking charges have support in some comments, while others oppose access fees.

Provide toilets rubbish facilities and reliable upkeep

Permanent Eastern Beach toilets and improved public toilets recur, alongside more rubbish and dog-waste bins and better summer servicing. Respondents criticise mowing, dead trees, storm cleanup, drains, street sweeping and Domain or hall-area drainage. For some, these basics should precede new buildings.

Question 2 Further themes and differing views

Care for the environment and keep reserves natural

Requests include foreshore erosion protection, shade planting, picnic tables, cleaner lake water, algae management and weed and pest control. Rabbits, blackberry, gorse, broom and hazardous trees are identified. Some want waterfront improvements; others want reserves left natural. Requests to remove poplars or damaged trees sit alongside calls in Question 3 to retain iconic trees.

Improve facilities and activities for different ages

Ideas include an upgraded or replacement hall, a multipurpose hub, sports fields, tennis courts, playground shade and outdoor exercise equipment. Comments seek provision for teenagers and older residents as well as young families. Opinions differ about the hub's location and cost; one explicitly rejects treating a kindergarten as a substitute. Other suggestions include better public transport, a health clinic, library, petrol station, police station and fire station relocation.

Support recreation and business while managing tourism

Some see opportunities for more trails, cafés, accommodation, events and a local pub, with Kinloch becoming a lake and trail destination. Others oppose commercial expansion, criticise short-term rentals and want tourism limited or accommodation charged commercial rates. These are competing ambitions, rather than consensus on expanding tourism.

Address behaviour enforcement and public access

Concerns include noisy motorcycles and music, speeding, roaming dogs, dog fouling, unsafe boating and disruptive holiday behaviour. Several want public access to bays and beaches protected and criticise council enforcement around Boat Harbour. Individual comments also raise concerns about local hapū involvement in managing shared spaces and whether hapū relationships should be addressed separately from wider community engagement.

Strengthen involvement and accountability

Suggestions include regular meetings, a newsletter, walking groups, celebrating local history and greater use of facilities. Some want event funds directed by representatives of community groups and clearer reporting on money raised and spent. Views on funding include user-pays and objections to rates increases. There is also appreciation of community work.

Question 3 What people value and want protected

What do you value most about Kinloch, and what would you particularly like to see protected as the community grows and changes? 215 answered; 42 skipped.

Key findings: Village character, tranquillity, the lake, green spaces, trails, safety and community connection recur throughout the feedback. Respondents often link protecting these qualities to managing development. They differ on how much growth, tourism and commercial activity is compatible with the Kinloch they value.

A small village with its own identity

“Village feel” expresses attachment to a slower pace, familiar community, space and an identity distinct from Taupō. Many fear subdivisions and greater density will erode this character; several explicitly oppose more housing.

Peace quiet and the ability to get away from it all

Tranquillity, solitude and a relaxed lifestyle are reasons people live in or visit Kinloch. Some particularly cherish the quieter months and feel the atmosphere is already changing. Others enjoy summer visitors, activity and longstanding family holiday traditions.

The lake waterfront and access for everyone

Respondents value beaches, views, the marina, boating and the ability to reach the lake easily. They want clean water and safe shared access maintained for future generations. Some want fewer vehicles and boats along the beach, while others stress accessible parking for elderly people and families.

Green spaces trails trees and wildlife

Reserves, stream walks, bush and cycling routes connect people to the lake and each other. Many want maintenance without excessive formal development. Comments support native birds, stream protection, pest control, iconic trees and, in one case, darkness for stargazing. Tree retention is not a shared view across all feedback.

Question 3 Further themes and differing views

Safety freedom and a family friendly lifestyle
People value low crime, security and children's freedom to walk, cycle and explore. Concerns focus on speeding, waterfront vehicle movements, roaming dogs and peak-season behaviour. Suggestions include cameras, better footpaths and slower traffic, although speed humps and restrictions draw opposing views.

Community spirit connection and inclusion
Respondents value friendly neighbours, care, events, volunteering and participation. One calls for an end to "factional in-fighting" and transparency over community-raised funds. Another seeks "More involvement and inclusion with hapu".

Growth and amenities that preserve Kinloch's character
Many favour large sections, low density, limited commercial development and infrastructure that keeps pace. Some strongly oppose hotels, motels, campsites, pubs, fast-food outlets or cheaper housing. Others welcome shops, the kindergarten, cafés, accommodation and careful development. Respondents also criticise council planning decisions and unwanted expenditure.

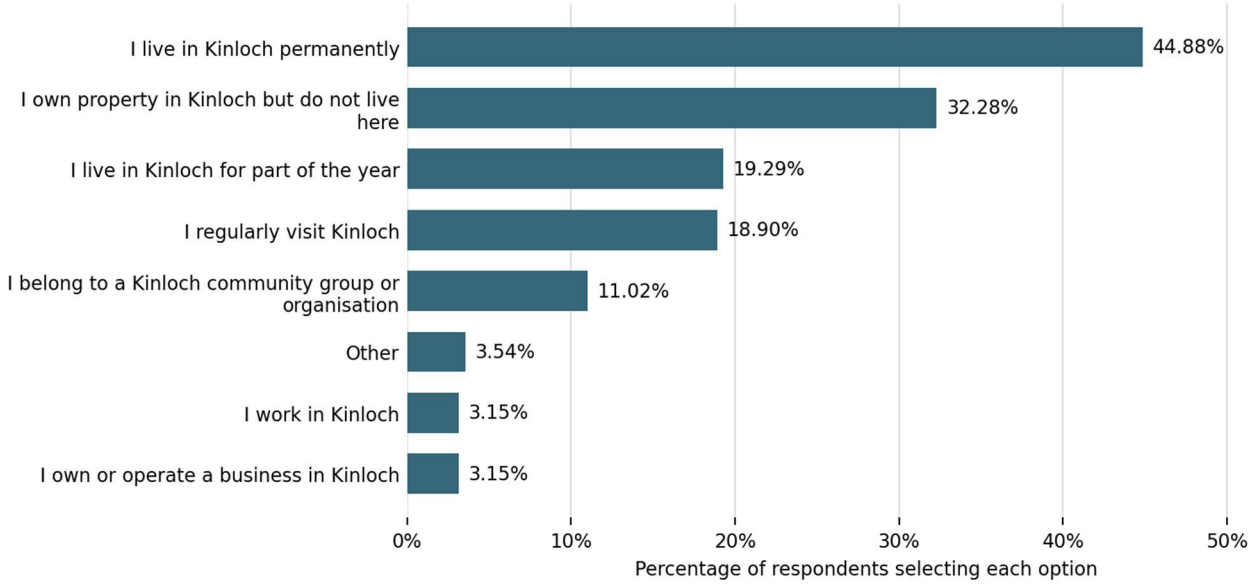
What the two written questions reveal together
People often value the same qualities but disagree about the action needed to protect them. A general statement that the community supports "sustainable growth" would lose the explicit calls to stop development. Equally, a statement that respondents oppose all change would omit those seeking better services, a thriving local economy and well-planned growth.

Other unresolved differences include keeping or removing trees; repairing Scotsman's Ramp or concentrating launching at the marina; adding waterfront parking or removing it; supporting new facilities or prioritising basics and rates restraint; and encouraging visitors or limiting their effects.

Question 4 Respondents connection to Kinloch

What is your connection to Kinloch? This optional question allowed multiple selections. 254 answered; 3 skipped.

Key findings: Permanent residents were the largest group at 44.88% (114 respondents). Non-resident property owners accounted for 32.28% (82), part-year residents 19.29% (49) and regular visitors 18.90% (48). The survey includes year-round and seasonal perspectives, plus community groups, workers and businesses.



Answer option	Percent	Responses
I live in Kinloch permanently	44.88%	114
I own property in Kinloch but do not live here	32.28%	82
I live in Kinloch for part of the year	19.29%	49
I regularly visit Kinloch	18.90%	48
I belong to a Kinloch community group or organisation	11.02%	28
Other	3.54%	9
I work in Kinloch	3.15%	8
I own or operate a business in Kinloch	3.15%	8

Total selections: 346. The nine “Other” comments include nearby residents, family connections, longstanding holiday visits, a planned move, golf club membership and ratepayer status.