

**From:** [fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz)  
**To:** [haveyoursay](http://haveyoursay.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:06:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Proposed Destination Playground for Piopio.docx](#)  
[Letter.pdf](#)

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Please find attached submission for a playground in Piopio, and a support letter.  
Thank you very much.

Melanie Simpson

[REDACTED]

Piopio 3912

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: [fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz)

Or [REDACTED]

## **Proposed Destination Playground for Piopio**

We would like to ask Waitomo District Council to consider joining us to help create a “destination playground” that will help Piopio continue to thrive.

We believe such a project to be consistent with the Council’s vision and stated outcomes for our district as expressed in the draft Long Term Plan. It would become an attractive amenity for the community.

“Destination playgrounds” have been called the playgrounds of the future and are being constructed by various councils around New Zealand. Both Hamilton City and Otorohanga have them. They give children a unique play experience that is vastly different to traditional playgrounds. They are large, themed playgrounds with high-quality, creative and sustainable equipment designed to be fun, as well as physically and mentally challenging. These playgrounds serve as attractions for the local community, visitors and tourists. Often additional facilities are constructed with parking, toilets, seating, fountains and shade so families can stay all day.

This has already been seen with the new playground in Otorohanga. Many residents of Waitomo travel there for a family day out.

Kara Park would be the perfect spot for a new destination playground in our district. It already has toilets, rubbish collection and shade, while its current playground equipment is due for replacement. Space is not an issue in terms of design.

### **What are we planning?**

A destination playground will typically have:

- A large open space to play;
- 8+ pieces of play equipment;
- play equipment that caters for three different age groups (0-4,5-9,10-14+);
- all-inclusive play equipment;
- play equipment that supports the seven types of play: active, imaginative/creative, social, exploratory/educational, quiet, free and natural.



*(Pic of playground in Trentham Memorial Park, Upper Hutt)*

**What are we asking for?**

Clearly this is a project in its early planning stages, but we are asking for your support in concept now.

We propose to fundraise for a significant portion of the associated costs.

We would like to ask Council to make provision in the Ten Year Long Term Plan to support the project. We expect to approach council to request a contribution toward the cost of the equipment (when determined), and to assist with removal of the current playground and ground works that may be required on the site.

**Who are we?**

Melanie Simpson (Owner, Fat Pigeon Café, Owls Nest Motel, Night Owl Bar & Eatery, Fat Kiwi Café [Otorohanga])

With support from:

Cynthia Ronaldson (letter attached)

Yvette Ronaldson

**PIOPIO VILLAGE PLAYGROUND**

To Whom It May Concern

I write with concern - and hope - regarding the Piopio Village Playground

Piopio Village is an attractive small town in the heart of the King Country which attracts visitors from far and wide, especially those who travel between Taranaki and Waikato. The playground in Kara Park at the north end of the town, is a lovely space well planted with mainly deciduous trees, and with newly appointed toilet facilities. As the town is half way between New Plymouth and Hamilton, it is well recognised and frequented by service vehicles and family travellers alike. Neighbouring Kara Park is the legendary Fat Pigeon Café which provides outstanding and generous hospitality to all visitors, many visitors each and every long day throughout the year.

The Playground within Kara Park attracts volumes of children for exercise and fresh air to balance a long journey. The Playground itself is very limited in size, in venture, and in imaginative play for young children, and scope for older children. Besides these obvious limitations from autumn onwards, the area is shaded and provides high risk with damp and slippery surfaces. From a health and safety perspective, this Playground is actually a dangerous environment especially for the little people. With regard to the swings area, there is no option for belted in swings for the babies/toddler sector. There is no provision at all for a swing for the disabled child. It is a Playground quite inadequate to cater for the needs of the thousands of people who stop to play in our beautiful village.

Kara Park is a beautiful area which attracts many visitors from day to day. As a local Grandparent I am a regular visitor and mindful of the risks for a small toddler's play. I am also mindful - and hopeful - of the potential which lies within this space. I believe this Playground requires urgent attention from Council to consider

Health and Safety

Opportunity for upgrade

Potential for Gold Standard Playground for a Gold standard Community – **PIOPIO**

Yours sincerely

Cynthia Ronaldson

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