

Project FAQ

Why is this project happening in Ōtara?

Illegal dirt bike riding is an ongoing issue in Ōtara. For a number of years, residents have expressed concern about dangerous riding and its impact on public safety. Police acknowledge that this issue cannot be achieved through enforcement alone and that solutions must be grounded in local knowledge, relationships and experience.

Who is running the project?

Community Think has been contracted by the NZ Police to support the development of a co-designed, community-endorsed intervention model that provides clarity around safety protocols, activation processes, and how Police will work together with community partners going forward. To be clear, Community Think will be working independently from the Police on this project.

Who is Community Think?

Community Think is a collective of creative people, committed to social change and making a positive difference to the society we live in. The Community Think team is led by Cissy Rock, an experienced practitioner with local government and community experience spanning over 20 years.

What will happen?

Over the next few months, Community Think will work with people in Ōtara to:

- Understand the different perspectives on this issue;
- Hear from local people, groups and organisations about what an effective response would look like in practice; and
- Incorporate findings and recommendations into a report back to the Police for future implementation.

Where is this happening?

Engagement will happen in and around the Ōtara community, from informal street-level conversations through to more structured kōrero with whānau and community leaders. This will be led by three 'social interviewers' with strong connections to Ōtara, with support from two experienced community development coaches.

Who can get involved?

If you live or work in Ōtara and have something to share, then we would love to hear from you. Once recruitment for the social interviewer roles have finished, you will be able to get in touch with them to schedule a meeting. In the meantime you can contact us at lucy@communitythink.nz.

What is co-design?

In this context, co-design is about people being actively involved in responding to issues that impact their lives. It means solutions are shaped with the people most affected. Our role is to support this process, not to make decisions for the community.

When does this stage of the project start and finish?

Community engagement will take place from late August to early October. Insights from this engagement will then be incorporated into a report back to the NZ Police in mid-October. This report will then inform phase two of the project.

What is the long-term goal?

The long-term goal is for intervention and enforcement to work together to address the underlying drivers of this behaviour and create more positive pathways for rangatahi in Ōtara.