

# The Rangitikei Mail

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## Residents against land sale

by Glynnis Harding

KOITIATA residents will hold a public meeting in the community centre on February 7 to try to block the sale of land referred to as the Koitiata Domain.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm and involves Rangitikei District Council personnel.

Council director of corporate services Pamela Taylor said an approach was made last year to the council by a private individual interested in buying a lifestyle block and inquiring about the availability of land at Turakina.

Ms Taylor said the council looked at the files and felt the only block which may have been suitable was at Koitiata. She said the council has a subdivision there, with two sections left.

The former Rangitikei County Council created the subdivision before local body amalgamation. Its intention was to subdivide the area in two stages. Stage one and two were completed with stage three covering the area of interest to the land buyer.

The interested buyer approached the district council, however elections and a change of

council stopped proceedings.

Ms Taylor said, "I did clarify that the expression of interest was a firm one and considered I should put it back to the new council to consider. The recommendation that came out of the last round of meetings was that we (council) go through the public consultation process in terms of the Local Government Act to ascertain the community's thoughts on the proposal."

Ms Taylor said the district council would at no time sell the land without the community's full support.