

How boomers are changing the landscape for small NZ towns – video transcript

Chris Murphy: This is the first retirement village that's actually been built in a little township.

Kevin Murphy: Everything that Central Warkworth offers, they'll have at their fingertips.

Chris Murphy: There's not one of these in New Zealand, so this is the first.

Dave Morrison: It's about the future, about the town growing and we have to grow with it.

Kevin Murphy: The big idea here was to do a village which was integrating with the community.

Kevin Murphy (overlay footage): The other option is to bring it bring it through here.

Greg Kasper: I'd had a bit of an eye on the old hotel for a couple of years and always had a hankering for Warkworth – the family roots really and in and around Warkworth.

Kevin Murphy: Greg saw the site, saw a for sale sign one day so we made two different approaches and ended up owning it.

Chris Murphy: When we finish we'll have 180 apartments and 30 or so rest home or hospital rooms and a population of about 350 people - a vibrant little group.

Kevin Murphy: It's a big boost economically for Warkworth. Now you're looking at a 34 million dollar build in the middle of Warkworth. But what we did was we set down with the contractor of choice and we said to them 'look, let's work together and get local trades on'. We have a local electrician; we have a local steel manufacturer; we have local scaffolding company; we have a local contractor doing the excavation; we have a local contractor supplying the concrete. They're all significant trades.

Dave Morrison: It's a big job for us. Yeah, it's probably thereabouts the biggest jobs we've done yet to date. I'm so excited.

Kevin Murphy (overlay footage): On behalf of Real Living, the owners of this place - from us, thank you very much.

Kevin Murphy: The beauty of this community here is they're going to have upwards of probably 250 people living and shopping on a daily basis, going to cafes. So the injection of money into the local Warkworth area for them just living on site it's quite phenomenal.

Penny Ford: Supporting something outside of the main center of Auckland is really exciting for us and seeings ways that people are getting creative about bringing back economical benefits to the regions. It's really important. There's a lot of demand for retirement villages across New Zealand, but with that increased demand and people's wellbeing is better they want more options to choose from. And I think what you're seeing now is a real variety of developments occurring and that's what's so exciting about this development. It really differentiates and gives people a choice away from the norm of retirement villages.

Kevin Murphy: We intend to create an environment where once they move in they can stay. This will become the community.