

APPENDIX 5.2: GREATER LAWRENCE AREA (includes Tuapeka and Waitahuna)

Consultation Highlights

Small population in area means it is hard to put together sports teams for both school and club sport. The local community is very supportive when it comes to fundraising for projects.

Lawrence Area School is committed to offering a comprehensive and broad sport programme and has employed a Sports Coordinator (9 hours per week) to run lunchtime sport programme. This enables bus pupils to participate in the sports programme. The School is combining with Blue Mountain College in some sports to be able to form a team. Motocross and netball were

Lawrence has a strong hub for most sports activity in the Simpson Park complex shared with the Lawrence Area School. The development overcame major obstacles including a road closure to secure the best site. The bowling club and swimming pool are the only major facilities away from Simpson Park. The Area School wants to put more emphasis on learn to swim but the pool is inadequate. Lawrence Swimming Pool depth was reduced in an attempt to achieve warmer water temperatures but still has a short season because it is unheated. It is now too shallow for activities such as aquajogging. An ideal solution at the end of the useful life of the pool would be to replace the existing pool with a new pool at or adjacent to the Area School as part of the Simpson Park complex.

Many residents travel through Milton to Dunedin to use facilities such as Moana Pool and full service fitness gyms. Some participate in sports competitions in the City rather than play locally or travel to Balclutha or Milton. There was a lack of awareness of Milton facilities such as the new fitness gym as part of Milton Recreation Centre.

Squash club has seen substantial growth in junior members due to an enthusiastic coach settling in the area. The single court facility is limiting further growth. Social basketball league of mixed teams of adult and school age players operates on a Monday night at Simpson Park gymnasium. The Lawrence Bowls Club and Tuapeka Indoor Bowls Club have declining memberships and are concerned about long term sustainability. Lawrence Golf Club is developing new clubrooms and would like support from Council with compliance costs and construction costs. Club is expanding its junior and beginners coaching programme.

Mountain biking and walking have been identified by locals as having great potential but currently there are few off road tracks. Horse activities are popular with a horse trekking club recently started. There is potential for horse, bike and walk tracks in the surrounding area particularly in the nearby forests and Gabrielles Gully. Footpaths in Lawrence are highly valued for walking and improved lighting in the urban area would improve opportunities for year round

walking, particularly for women. The planned major development of the Lawrence Chinese Camp provides an opportunity to link Lawrence by shared pathway to the Camp site (a distance of less than a kilometre).

Several local actions were identified during the consultation process and these are listed below. These actions will only progress with significant local leadership and community support.

Issue	Consultation summary	Recommended action	Commence	Contributing Stakeholders
A community activity coordinator for Lawrence	A part-time community activity coordinator was suggested. This role could have a physical activity and nutrition focus as well as community development approach. Could be additional hours to the Sportfit Coordinator position already operating at the Area School. Possibly a club administration role as well. Could optimise use of the Simpson Park complex. Would need a combination of funders from health agencies, Active Communities Fund of SPARC, funding trust as well as user pays component to programmes.	Investigate feasibility of a community activity coordinator for Lawrence.	Medium term	Sport Otago (lead), Area School, Public Health South, Council (advocate role), funders
Permanent and affordable location for fitness gym	The fitness gym is highly valued but has struggled with viability (the commercial gym closed) and finding affordable and suitable premises (currently in former Anglican Church hall.) The equipment is old and owned by the Rugby Club. A long term solution is needed. A logical location would be as part of the Simpson Park complex. Aerobics and Swiss Ball sessions used to operate at the Hall.	Feasibility of the fitness gym and relocation into a long term location as part of the Simpson Park complex be assessed.	Short term	Simpson Park Inc (lead), Council (supporter role), Area School, Lawrence Rugby Club, funders
Safer walking and cycling	Improvement of footpath lighting and surfaces in Lawrence was suggested. Priority should be given to a circuit that follows the heritage trail around Lawrence to benefit exercise walkers and visitors alike. The lighting of the heritage building could become a feature for visitors.	Undertake a walking audit of footpaths in Lawrence ¹ ,	Short term	Relevant local group (lead), Lawrence Areas School, local walkers in Lawrence, Lawrence Information Centre
		Develop a work programme and establish priorities in consultation	Medium term	Relevant local group (lead), Lawrence-Tuapeka Community

¹ Living Streets Aotearoa a national advocate organisation supported by Land Transport New Zealand has developed an audit process for use by professionals and community volunteers to audit streets for walkability (ease of use).

Issue	Consultation summary	Recommended action	Commence	Contributing Stakeholders
	A walking map is being produced of the Lawrence area through volunteer effort. Better lighting for year round use is needed.	with the local community and what they can afford.		Board, Council
	The potential link to the Lawrence Chinese Camp needs to be integrated into planning. This could possibly be as part of the proposed Lawrence to Roxburgh Rail Trail. The high speed of SH8 traffic means an off road walking track is needed.	Develop a shared pathway link between Lawrence main street and the Chinese Camp development.	Medium term	Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board (lead), Council, , Lawrence Chinese Camp Charitable Trust, Roxburgh to Lawrence Rail Trail Working Party
	Roxburgh to Lawrence Rail Trail concept is exciting locals. Roxburgh to Beaumont is on formed road but has major hurdles with access to former rail corridor now in private ownership from Beaumont to Lawrence. 3 tunnels in this section. This is a long term project and a trust is now forming to drive the project. Council through the District Development Board and Central Otago District Council are jointly funding feasibility study. Ultimately part of a complete loop with Central Otago Rail Trail.	Support feasibility study for the Roxburgh to Lawrence Rail Trail as primarily an economic development tourism initiative rather than as a physical activity initiative.	Short term	Roxburgh to Lawrence Rail Trail Working Party (lead), Council/District Development Board, Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board, Central Otago District Council
Refurbishment of tennis/netball courts	The Area School has 3 courts that need refurbishment because they are becoming a health and safety issue. There is potential to provide a multi-use outdoor turf surface that could be used by tennis, netball and hockey. The School has estimated the cost at about \$80,000 but is yet to plan how to fund it.	Area School to complete a feasibility study into court resurfacing options and costs.	Medium term	Lawrence Area School (lead), funders
Improvement of Simpson Park sports fields	Sports fields are on Department of Conservation recreation reserve and are maintained at significant cost by School and Simpson Park Incorporated. There are ongoing problems with drainage	Investigate feasibility and cost of improving the drainage of the fields	Long term	Simpson Park Inc (lead), Council, (supporter/coordinator role), Lawrence Area School, Lawrence Rugby Club, Department of Conservation