

APPENDIX 5.3: GREATER MILTON AREA (includes Tokoiti and Waihola)

Consultation Highlights

Milton both suffers and benefits from the close proximity of Dunedin. A large proportion of residents commute to Dunedin for work and education. This means they are less available to volunteer particularly for after-school sport activities. Many teachers commuting from out of the area and this means they are less available for coaching after school hours. Residents believe there is a good range of clubs but many report declining (such as touch and squash) or static membership. Residents also travel to Dunedin to use facilities such as Moana Pool and participate in sports competitions in the City rather than play locally or travel to Balclutha.

Milton is a “walkable” sized town but there was general concern that footpaths and rural walking tracks are in poor condition or non-existent.

A fundraising event for the Milton Karate Club called the Jail Break Ride has turned into an iconic event for Milton. A large number of participants (and the revenue) come from outside of the local area and illustrates the potential to benefit from the closeness to Dunedin.

The development of the Milton Recreation Centre through expansion of the gymnasium and the new fitness gym at Tokomariro High School are a good example of a community-school partnership. This has strengthened the physical activity and sport “hub” of the cluster of facilities and fields at the High School, Centennial Pool, Taylor Park and Showgrounds. The skate park, playground and outdoor basketball court recently developed at Moore Park by the Youth Advantage Trust are reported to be well used and provide an important recreation option on the eastern side of the main road that bisects Milton. Calder Stewart are a strong supporter of community projects in the Milton area such as the Milton Recreation Centre and the recent developments at Moore Park. The company is committed to supporting their staff with physical activity and recreation opportunities. The company is soon to relocate to a new site that will have sport and recreation facilities for staff including sports fields, walking track in landscaped grounds as well as a recreation facility and staff café.

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
Safer walking	Improvement of footpaths was a recurring theme of feedback from the Milton area and was top priority of those attending the Milton workshop. Criticism of footpaths was strongest in this community including their uneven surface, narrow width in some sections and gravel surface used on some sections. Better lighting for year round use is needed as well on popular routes. There are over 50 mobility scooters in Milton and their needs are not being met by current provision of footpaths and off-road tracks.	Undertake a walking audit of footpaths in Milton ¹ ,	Short term	Relevant local group (lead), Sport Otago, , walkers in Milton, senior citizen reps, Council, Transit
		Develop a work programme and establish affordable priorities in consultation with the local community.	Short-medium term	Relevant local group (lead), Council, Transit
	Walking school bus concept needs better promotion.	Schools to start walking school buses for students.	Short-medium term	Land Transport NZ (lead), Milton schools, Transit, Council (advocate),
	The very popular Four Mile Block circuit needs improvement for walkers preferably an off road walking track or at minimum widening seal to provide marked shoulders. Possibly attract in-kind support from a roading contractor.	Council to investigate improving safety for walkers on Four Mile Block circuit	Medium term	Council (lead),
Safer cycling	Concern that cyclist particularly school age residents should be able to minimise travel along SH1 in Milton urban area. Council and Transit need to do more to improve safety in consultation with community. Lack of cycle lanes on SH1 or sign-posted alternative routes away from main road such as along Spenser Street and Centennial Avenue.	Consider cyclist needs as part of walking audits as above.	Short term	Milton Area Promotions(lead), cyclists in Milton, Council
		Council to investigate developing cycle lanes on side streets parallel to State Highway 1 with connection to pedestrian crossings on SH1.	Medium term	Milton Area Promotions (lead), Transit, Council, schools, cyclists in Milton

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
Milton Recreation Centre viability	The Trust that operates the Centre has struggled to maintain financial viability. However, the recent increase in fitness gym patronage and the co-location of the physiotherapy practice has improved viability but it is still marginal at this time. Concern that school has exclusive use of the gymnasium to 5.00pm and community could make more use of some of this time. More active programming of supervised recreation and social sport sessions could improve the financial yield per hour of use in off-peak times such as Friday evenings and the weekend. Sessions lead by paid activity leaders because volunteers are already overcommitted and are unlikely to be a sustainable option. After initial start up of the programme the objective will be to return a surplus to the Trust to help sustain the facility and expand services.	Trust to contract activity leaders to operate supervised sessions at the Centre to provide physical activity for residents and increase revenue. ²	Short term	Milton Recreation Centre Trust (lead), Sport Clutha
		Trust to seek funding support with endorsement for start up costs of activity programme at the Centre	Short term	Milton Recreation Centre Trust (lead), Sport Otago
		Trust to renegotiate with High School to gain access gymnasium during school day for community programmes	Short term	Milton Recreation Centre Trust (lead), High School
Centennial Pool season	The Centennial Pool is a substantial facility providing covered and heated swimming on a seasonal basis. The large scale and age of the facility combined with the climate means there are significant operating and maintenance costs. The Milton Swimming Club would like the pool to be open for longer. However, there is a need for balance between length of the swimming season and affordability for rate payers and users. An analysis of the costs of the earliest weeks and latest weeks in the season and the effect on user charges and local rates need to be undertaken..	Council to undertake analysis of costs and impact on rates and user charges assessed and establish a workable and affordable season.	Short term	Council (lead), Milton Swimming Club, schools
Further enhancement of Moore Park	The skate park, outdoor basketball court and playgrounds have been developed. However, there is a need to further enhance the Park by creating seating with wind and rain shelter, lighting, provision of a unisex and disabled access toilet and a water fountain to optimise use of the facilities. The Youth Advantage Trust will be seeking further funding support for these developments.	Council support the additional works needed to optimise the current Moore Park facilities.	Medium term	Youth Advantage Trust (lead), Council, funders, local residents

² Refer to paper developed by Dale Wyber and colleagues at Milton Medical Centre with programme suggestions for all age groups.

Issue	Consultation summary	Recommended action	Commence	Contributing Stakeholders
Equestrian arena	Milton Pony Club wants to build a post and rail arena because it will improve safety for riders.	Council (via Community Coordinator services) support planning of new arena and applications to funding trusts.	Medium term	Milton Pony Club (lead), Council (advocate), funders
Waihola Sailing Club boat shed	Lake Waihola is popular for water sports. Schools from the local area as well as schools from as far away as Southland use the Lake and sailing boats of the Waihola Sailing Club for teaching sailing skills. The boats are vulnerable to damage at present because there is a shortage of secure boat storage . An extension to the boat shed would solve the problem.	Investigate the feasibility and secure funding for an extension to the boat shed.	Short to medium term	Relevant local group (lead)