

Our Place

Community Plan

Milton

We're backing these key projects intended to promote living and working in Milton.



Our Place Milton
Community Plan

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Clutha District Council
www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Introduction

Clutha District Council's goal is to promote living and working in the Clutha District. To help achieve this goal, Council has developed the Our Place Milton Community Plan, which lists a series of key projects intended to make Milton a more liveable community, and make it more attractive for people to live and work here. The projects included in the Community Plan were identified through extensive engagement with

stakeholders and the public in 2016 and 2017, and through other consultation for the Milton Reserves Management Plan, and the District Plan Zoning Review.

Although the Our Place Milton Community Plan is primarily about Council assets (such as buildings and parks), it is also intended to help guide the activities of community groups and other organisations,

when they make decisions about their own assets. Some of the agencies which play a role in ensuring Milton is a great place to live and work include the NZ Transport Agency (SH1), Otago Regional Council (drainage and flood protection) and KiwiRail (Main Trunk Line). The Our Place Milton Community Plan ties closely with the district-wide 'Economic Development' and 'Living and Working in Clutha' strategies. The objective of these two

strategies is to help generate growth and promote living and working here. The Community Plan is intended to provide a structure through which these two strategies can actually be implemented, as shown in the following diagram. The process of developing Community Plans will extend beyond Milton, with similar plans developed for Clutha's other main towns over the next 6 years.



The process so far...

Consultation and engagement for Our Place Milton aimed to seek input from the community to support and inform the development of the plan. The objectives of the consultation were to stimulate interest in the project, encourage feedback, and develop stronger relationships and partnerships. The consultation process was designed to provide accurate information for decision-makers, to assist them in making informed choices around the resourcing of future Milton-based projects and initiatives. The engagement plan was

prepared in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and was signed off by Council on 8 December 2016.

The initial role of Council's elected members was to provide input and leadership for the project, approve consultation material and methods, and assist with consultation and engagement activities.

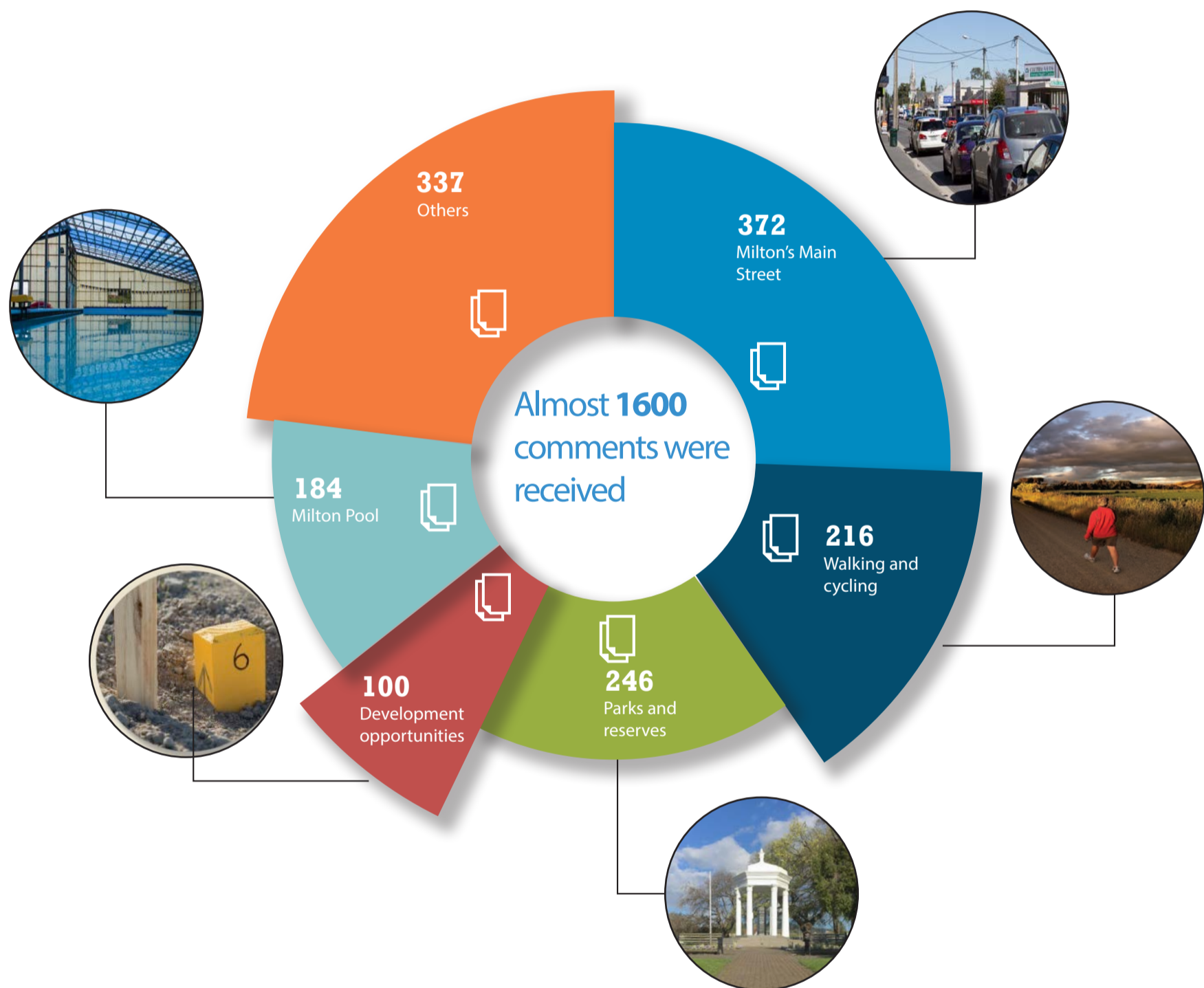
The public consultation phase took place from the beginning of December 2016 through to the end

of July 2017. To obtain a diverse range of feedback, several different activities and methods were undertaken, including:

- Consultation material being distributed to all mailboxes in the Milton area in July 2017.
- Feedback forms (or survey), included with this material, and also available online.
- 'Smoko shouts' and café conversations.
- Presentations / focus group meetings, including Milton Area Promotions, Milton RSA,

- Volunteer Fire Brigade, Tokomairiro Community Hub, Rotary and Lions.
- Displays / ideas boards in Council and public spaces.
- Supporting existing events – South Otago A&P Show.
- Targeted youth input.
- Social media advertising and; feedback.

Other planning-related consultation ran concurrently with this project, including for the Milton Reserves Management Plan and the District Plan Zoning Review.



Implementation

This document describes the projects and initiatives that together make up the Our Place Milton Community Plan. It is important to note that the projects will be staged - some may see action quite quickly, while others will take time to implement.

Council has made it very clear that projects can generally proceed where financially it is rates neutral, but where a project would be seeking additional Council funding,

it would go through a due process for consultation via Long Term Plans and Annual Plans. Alternative sources of funding will also be considered, and Council will work alongside community groups and other agencies to make progress on some projects.

It is noted that some of the items listed below may not be progressed, due to budget constraints or other limitations. In the short term, Council has built into each project a

requirement to consider "easy wins" as a priority. Council's role will be to help facilitate Community Plan projects. This will vary from project to project, but examples of the type of support CDC may provide include:

- Direct involvement of a CDC Project Manager, to direct and implement work.
- Providing administrative support to groups or organisations which have been set up to
- manage particular projects.

- Providing other technical support (e.g. mapping, consenting issues, greenspace management).
- Staff and contractors undertaking work as directed, within existing budgets and work programs.

This document summarises the key outcomes that are anticipated, and the general process for delivering them. Updates on progress will be made available from Council's website www.cluthadc.govt.nz.

Priority projects Council is backing

Upgrades to Milton's Main Street (Union Street)



Milton's Main Street is a busy thoroughfare for travellers on SH1, as well as a major focal point for the community, with many important buildings, shops and parks. The intended outcome of this project is to revitalise Union Street, making it a more attractive destination, and to improve safety. The project will be Council-led with support/partnerships with community groups, businesses and individuals. Upgrading the street forms a major part of the Our Place

Milton Community Plan, and there are 5 main components to this which are examined separately below. The cost of upgrades (including the 5 specific areas) is to be included for consideration as an issue for the 2018/28 Long Term Plan (LTP).

Burying the Power Lines



“ Burying the powerlines in the main retail area, between High Street and Abercrombie Street.

Burying the power lines has been described as 'instant beautification' for the main street area, as well as improving visibility for pedestrians and motorists, and helping to improve road safety. The work would involve removing the existing power poles and wires on Union Street over a distance of 610m (between High Street in the

south and Abercrombie Street in the north). The powerlines would be buried and new streetlights would be installed. Other key stakeholders for this project include NZTA and adjacent business owners, and Council will liaise with these groups as the work progresses.

Upgrading the Stewart Reserve and Memorial Park areas



“ Make the Stewart Reserve more of a focal/ stopping point and more inviting to the public

The intent of this project is to make the Stewart Reserve and Memorial Park focal points in the town. An upgrade could reinvigorate and beautify the area, enticing visitors to stop on their way through to stretch their legs, use the public toilets and look around the shops. The work would involve a revamp

of the reserve area, creation of an information board detailing interest points about Milton, and signage to help visitors find their way around the town.

Upgrading the Public Toilets and Repave the Surrounding Area



“ This project would involve upgrading the Milton public toilets to make them modern, safe and easily accessible

A key reason motorists stop in a town is to use restroom facilities. Once visitors get out of their car, there is a greater chance of them spending additional time exploring the surrounding area, and spending money in the town. This project would involve upgrading the Milton public toilets to make them modern, safe and easily accessible. Consultation shows that this

project has the highest priority for people in Milton.

The work would involve demolition of the current toilet block and the installation of new modern public toilets, as well as removal of the existing surface surrounding the toilets and the installation of new paving.

Upgrading Milton's Three Main Pedestrian Crossings.



Pedestrian crossings are located in areas with high traffic volumes and provide a safe place to cross. Residents in Milton have previously expressed concerns about crossing the road safely at various points on the main street.

The work would involve upgrading lighting and reconfiguring 3 pedestrian crossings to improve visibility of pedestrians, and ensure

safer crossing points across State Highway 1 / Union Street between Ossian Street and Abercrombie Street.

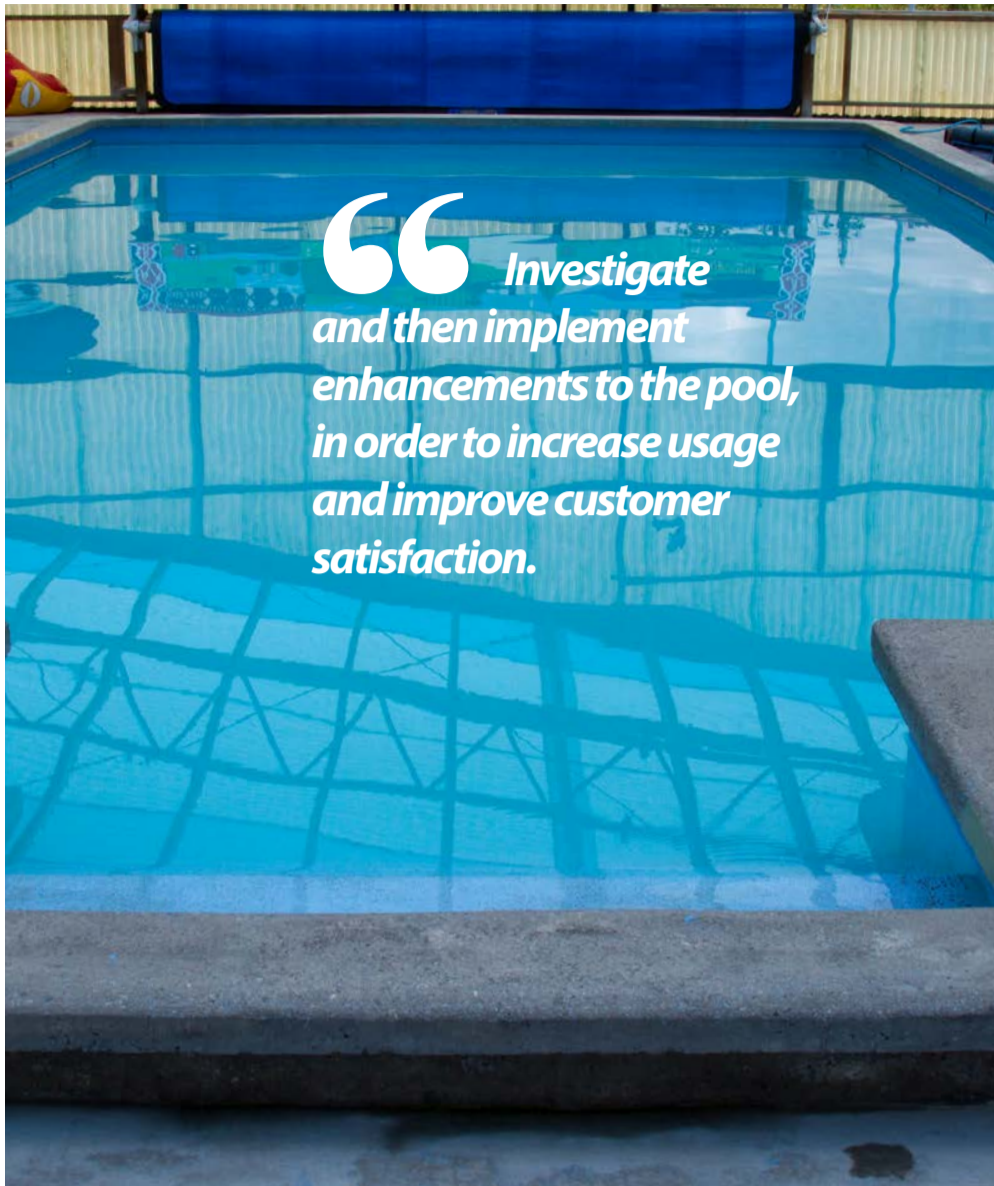
“ *Upgrading lighting and reconfiguring three pedestrian crossings*

Improving Milton's Southern Entrance



Along with public toilets, an attractive entrance creates a positive impression for both locals and visitors and can entice people to stop and spend time in the town. The Milton Area Promotions community group has been working hard to make the southern entrance to Milton more attractive.

A range of good suggestions were received from the public on how to improve Milton's southern entrance. Council will now work with the Milton community to see which of those suggestions would work best, and to make further improvements to this area.



“ *Investigate and then implement enhancements to the pool, in order to increase usage and improve customer satisfaction.* ”

Milton Pool

The consultation undertaken for the Our Place Milton Community Plan showed that there is a clear preference to future-proof the Milton Pool at its current site, and that the facility continues to be Council-owned and operated. Subsequent to this consultation Council has determined to broaden the scope of the Community and Visitor Facilities project to investigate an option to include a new swimming pool. This ensures all options are continuing to be considered leading up to final decisions on ultimate funding. To ensure the sustainability of pool operations, increased community input may be required. Council, together with community partners, will investigate and determine what improvements can be undertaken within existing budgets, in the short term. It is noted that there is an existing Council

budget for capital renewal work at the pool over the next few years, including heat pump, filtration and roof replacements. Other larger projects to future-proof the pool are likely to occur over the medium to long term. Possible options include lining the existing pool, a new pool structure using existing roof and changing rooms, or a completely new pool complex. The scope, budget and timing of major work such as this still needs to be determined, and would require a specific project plan. Note that this project will be run in conjunction with the Community and Visitor Facilities project below in respect of the location of a new swimming pool as an additional alternative to consider.



Future investment in the Milton Pool is likely to be led by Council, but with significant community input.



“ *Determine the best way to future proof a community and visitor facility in Milton.* ”

Community and Visitor Facilities

Council will investigate possible options to future-proof the Milton Service Centre and Library facility, based on options identified during the community consultation. At this stage, 2 main possibilities have been identified:

- Seismic strengthening and refurbishment of the existing service centre/library building.
- Create a new service centre/library facility.

Further investigation would be required before a final decision was made to refurbish, or create a new facility. A process for funding this work would also need to be determined through the Long-Term Plan process.



This is a Council-led project, as this asset provides a core service.

Other Milton projects

Walking and Cycling Linkages in and Around Milton.



Council will initially look at ways to make progress on this project within the existing budget, through some 'easy wins' such as improved signage and maps for local pathways. Council will also investigate ways to make more substantial improvements, as community feedback indicates that there is significant support for this project. It is hoped that 1 or more community organisations will undertake to work alongside Council, to reduce the rates impact, and to allow for greater community involvement in determining outcomes.

“ **Improve and extend the network of walking and cycling links within Milton.** ”

A longer circuit of about 6km, linking Milton and Tokoiti has already been identified as a suitable option, and there is also potential to provide better accessibility and shorter linkages throughout the town and to key areas and facilities.

If further improvements are identified which require increased Council funding, further consultation will be undertaken regarding possible rates impacts.



It is intended that this project will be Council-led, with community input.

Lawrence to Waihola Cycle Trail Extension

“ **Create links to neighbouring communities, and enabling tourism opportunities in Milton and the surrounding area.** ”



Progress on this project will depend on funding requests and Long-Term Plan consultation. Through the current Long-Term Plan process, Council has budgeted \$1M towards the total \$7M cost of this project. The project is therefore dependant

on other funding sources, including from Central government. Although Council is not leading this project, it is supportive of the community organisations behind it, and will continue working with them to help enable its success.



The Lawrence to Waihola cycle trail extension is a community-led project.

Milton Reserves Management Plan (RMP)



“ **Work with the community to make the most of Greater Taylor Park, Moore Park and Fairfax Cemetery.** ”



Council-led with support/partnerships with community groups and individuals.

A reserve management plan submission process was run in conjunction with the Our Place Milton community consultation. The RMP proposes that additional work is undertaken to make Milton's parks more vibrant and attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Potential projects at Taylor Park, Moore Park, and Fairfax Cemetery are listed below. In general, any 'easy wins' which can be implemented within existing budgets will be identified and progressed. However,

it is noted that currently there is limited or no Council funding available for major items of new work in these parks. Major improvements would therefore require additional funding through the Annual Plan process. Council will look to engage with community groups to help fund or undertake improvements.

Progress updates for the main projects are provided on Council's website, in the Reserve Management Plan area.

Enabling Development in and around Milton

“ **Work within the District Plan Re-Zoning Plan Change process for new residential land.** ”

Council has consulted with landowners in and around the Milton, Milburn and Tokoiti areas about potential rezoning options as part of District Plan changes. This has identified some opportunities, as well as challenges, in how we provide for future growth. In particular, Milton has some flood hazard issues which would need to be considered as part of any future development. In addition, Council does not currently own a great deal of land suitable for residential development in the Milton area. However, Council

will continue to work with any prospective developers to support residential development, as well as identifying opportunities for Council purchase and development of land.



Council-led in the role of facilitating development with commercial interests.

Greater Taylor Park



“ *Make a series of improvements to make Taylor Park a more attractive and usable option, for Milton residents and visitors alike.* ”



This project will be Council-led with community support/ partnerships with community groups and individuals where relevant.

Taylor Park is Milton’s largest reserve, where a number of the town’s key facilities are located. Community consultation has identified that there is potential to improve the park; by increasing the number of activities available, and by improving its connections to other activities. Specific items of work which could potentially be undertaken include:

- Repairing and repainting perimeter fencing including the historic gateways on the Milton Highway.
- Providing more park furniture.
- Tree replacement strategy.
- Annual Sports day.
- Installing new gateway entrance to showgrounds / sportsgrounds.
- Establishing pedestrian gateway and access for Taylor Park to SH1 footpath at Salmond Stream bridge.
- Removing tennis club and integrate space for Dog Park and further planting.
- Upgrading pedestrian bridge across Salmond Stream.
- Revocation and sale of portion of reserve as identified in the Milton Reserve Management Plan.
- Providing an attractive route through the reserve for the proposed future cycleway.
- Refreshing and introducing fitness equipment around park to create a destination loop for runners.
- Removing/repairing older playground equipment.
- Resurfacing carpark and driveway facility.
- Determining future visitor, options include:
 - No longer providing a camping ground facility.
 - Providing a camping ground facility for short term occupancy only (e.g. up to 2 week stays).
- Council continuing to operate the reserve with rates input to cover costs and long-term residents are permitted.
- Riparian planting along Salmond Stream.
- Creation of a drinking fountain and public BBQ.

As this project is developed, Council staff will investigate and determine which aspects can be delivered in the short-term (1-3 years), and which will take place over the medium term (3-5 years).

Moore Park

Moore Park is a destination park that attracts visitors and is a focal point for the community. It features various facilities and amenities that are a credit to the community group and wider community who have driven these projects.

Potential work or activities which could be undertaken or investigated include:

- A series of temporary activities during the summer.
- Closing an adjacent street for community market days.
- Additional low level native planting in the park.
- New exotic tree planting along Johnston Street.
- Integrating more seating throughout the park.
- New feature gateway.
- Better wayfinding signs from the SH1 (Union Street) to encourage motorists to stop and utilise the facility.
- Kids bike safe events with the community.
- Creation of a drinking fountain and public BBQ.

As this project is developed, Council staff will work with the community to determine which aspects can be delivered in the short-term (1-3 years), and which will take place over the medium term (3-5 years).



Community-led with some Council involvement.

Fairfax Cemetery



Fairfax cemetery is located to the east of Milton in Tokoit. It was established in 1860, prior to Milton becoming a borough and being proclaimed an incorporated township in 1866. Items of work which could potentially be undertaken include:

- Incorporating seating.
- New tree planting to create an avenue.
- Introducing additional signage.
- Exploring the creation of a heritage trail from the church in Milton to the cemetery, as part of the walking and cycling project.

Council staff will investigate and determine which work can be delivered in the short-term (1-3 years), and which will take place over the medium term (3-5 years).



Council-led with community support/ partnerships with community groups and individuals where relevant.