

Our Place

Community Plan

Kaitangata

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



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 Kaitangata Community Plan, which lists a series of key projects intended to make Kaitangata a more liveable community, and make it more attractive for people to live and work here. The projects included in this Community Plan were informed by public engagement in early 2021.

Although the Our Place Kaitangata Community Plan is primarily about Council infrastructure and facilities, it is also intended to help support and guide the activities of community groups when they make decisions about their own assets. Some of the groups which help to make this a great place to live and work include Kaitangata & District Promotions and the Kaitangata Swimming Pool Group.

This Community Plan ties closely with the 'Living and Working in Clutha Strategy'. The objective of this strategy is to help generate growth in our district, and to create a place where people want to come and work. This Community Plan is intended to provide a structure through which this strategy can actually be implemented, as shown in the following diagram. Similar plans are being developed for Clutha's other main towns.

Living & Working Strategy



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THE PROCESS SO FAR...

The consultation process

Consultation and engagement for Our Place Kaitangata aimed to seek input from the public, to support and inform the development of this community plan.

The objective was to stimulate interest in the project, encourage feedback, and develop stronger relationships and partnerships. The consultation was designed to provide accurate information for decision makers, to assist them in making informed choices about future projects and initiatives in Kaitangata and the surrounding area.

Council's elected members provided input and leadership for

this project, as well as approving consultation material, and assisting with consultation and engagement activities.

The public consultation phase took place from February to April 2021. Council staff and councillors attended drop-in sessions at the community centre, went along to community-based events, and arranged consultation sessions at the local pub and at the boat ramp reserve.

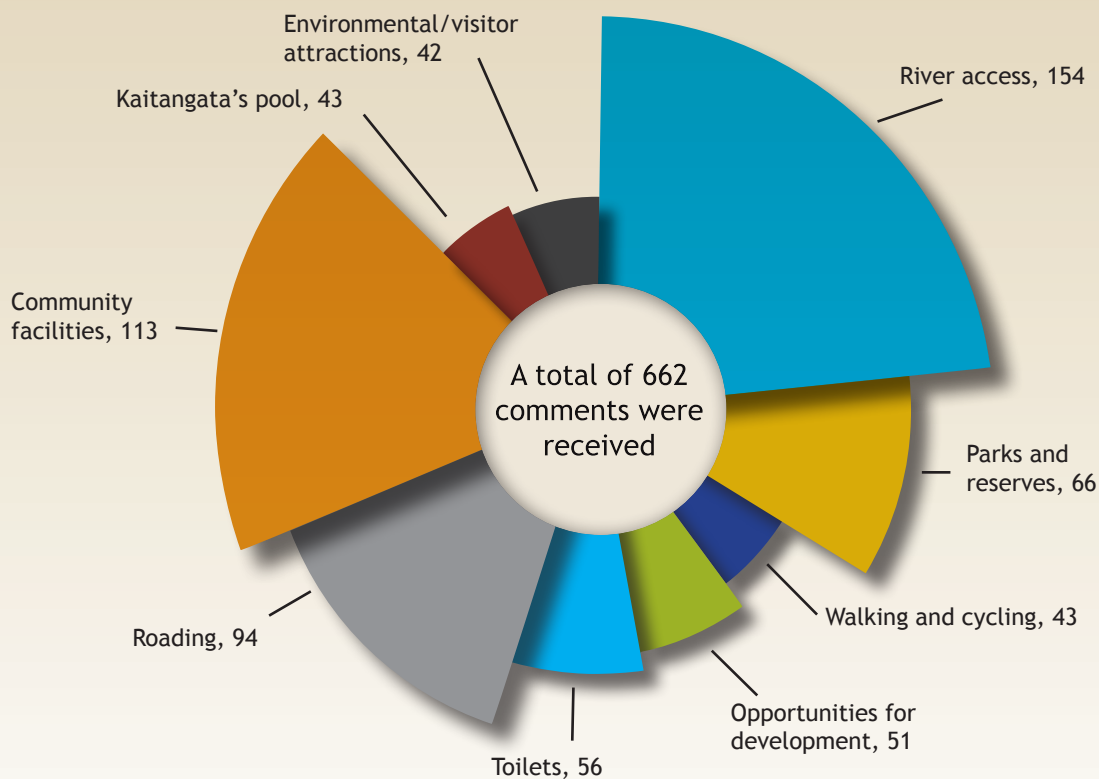
A consultation document was also developed to help prompt ideas and discussion, and this was delivered to all mailboxes in Kaitangata. Copies of the document were available from

the Kaitangata Community Centre, Council offices, and Council's website.

Nine 'focus points' were identified, representing the key areas of concern to the Kaitangata community. There were 662 feedback items received in total, and the number which related to each focus point is shown in the following graph. These items were from one-on-one conversations with locals, notes from meetings, and written submissions.

We received some great feedback from Kaitangata residents through the consultation phase, and this has helped to guide the priority projects described in this plan. A big thanks to all those that got involved!

Feedback summary

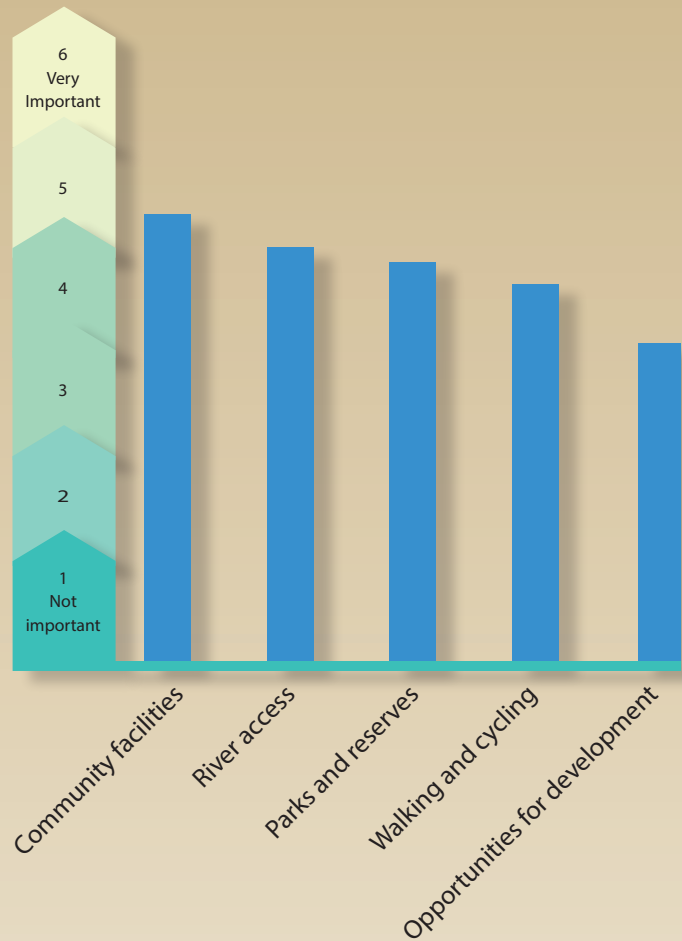


THE PROCESS SO FAR...

Summary of rankings

A key component of the consultation was a structured survey for respondents to rank the importance (or priority) of existing facilities within Kaitangata, as well as possible projects and ideas. The survey asked respondents to rank various items, on a scale between 1 (not important) to 6 (very important) for five of the focus areas listed above. There were several items within each focus area. There were 74 survey forms returned, and the average rank for each focus area is shown in the graph on the right.

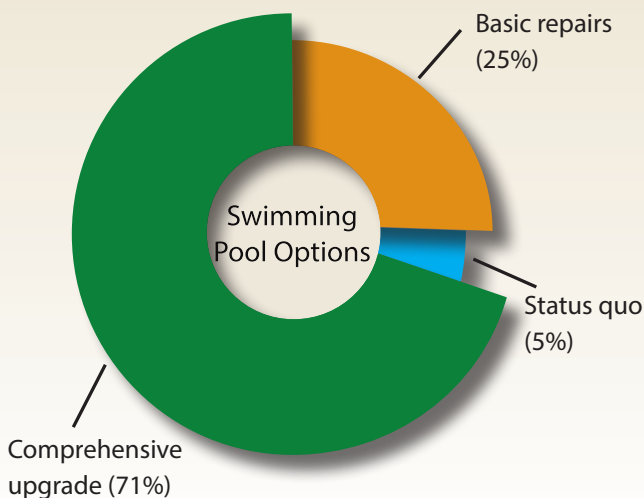
The feedback indicates that Kaitangata people value their community facilities highly, particularly the local pool and the community centre. The average rank for community facilities was 5.1 out of 6, with river access not far behind with an average rank of 4.9. Opportunities for development was the lowest ranked focus area. Within this topic, respondents ranked residential and commercial development reasonably highly, but were less in favour of industrial development.



Key consultation questions

We asked what should happen with the Kaitangata Pool, and most respondents said they would prefer a comprehensive upgrade of this popular community facility.

An investigation into how the pool might be upgraded, and how this might be funded has therefore been included as a project within this community plan.



Public toilets were also a key consultation topic. Most respondents said that a simple toilet facility would be best, although a 'destination' style toilet, with unique or special design features was also reasonably popular.

Council will undertake further investigation to determine where new toilets should be located, and whether/how any design features could be included.



IMPLEMENTATION

This plan describes the projects that make up the Our Place Kaitangata Community Plan. These have been determined by community feedback as part of the Our Place project.

The priority projects section summarises the key outcomes that are anticipated, who is leading them and describes why they are important to the community. The timeframe and scope vary between each project. In some cases the timeframe is clearly defined, while other projects which simply reflect community aspirations may not yet have specific funding allocated, or an implementation plan in place. These will likely take longer to develop and are included to help guide planning and decision-making.

Updates on progress for all projects will be made available on Council's website (www.cluthadcc.govt.nz).

Council has made it clear that projects can generally proceed where financially it is rates neutral, but where a project would be seeking additional Council funding it may require additional consultation through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan process.

Alternative sources of funding will also be considered, and Council will work alongside community groups and other agencies to make progress on some projects.

As noted, some of the projects in this plan may not be progressed immediately, due to budget constraints or other limitations. However, 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 Council may provide include:

- Staff and contractors undertaking work as directed, within existing budgets and work programmes
- Advocating on behalf of the community for actions or decisions by other agencies, to progress priority projects.
- Direct involvement of a Council Project Manager, to direct and implement work.
- Providing administrative support to groups or organisations which have been set up to manage projects.
- Providing other technical support (e.g. mapping, guidance on consenting issues).



Kaitangata skate park upgrade, June 2021. Credit: O. Walker

PRIORITY PROJECTS COUNCIL IS BACKING

PROJECT 1: RIVER ACCESS

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements to the boat ramp, parking area, and Water Street Reserve. 2. Riverbank improvements to mitigate erosion, and to improve access to the river. 	<p>This will be a community-led project, with project management and funding support from Council.</p>	<p>Part 1 of this project involves improvements to the boat ramp and surrounding area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional vehicle parking. • Widening and improving the boat ramp. • Reserve improvements (picnic areas, BBQ facilities, seating). <p>The second part of the project is about investigating, and where possible implementing the following improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical works to mitigate bank erosion near the boat ramp. • Amenities which help to improve access to the river, e.g. boat loading, swimming or kayak launching areas. <p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by providing facilities which encourage people to participate in active and passive recreation.</i></p>



Kaitangata Boat Ramp & Reserve


PROJECT 2: WALKING AND CYCLING

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>There are two parts to this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving linkages within Kaitangata. 2. Creating connections to the wider area. 	<p>Part 1 will be Council-led, as footpaths and tracks are generally 'Council-owned' assets.</p> <p>Part 2 will be community-led, given the ability of community groups or trusts to access alternative funding sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Linkages within Kaitangata</i>; Repairs to footpaths and trails can be undertaken as part of routine maintenance programmes, with more extensive improvements or extensions funded through the Annual or Long Term Plan process. • <i>Wider connections</i>; This project is about investigating options and finding ways to fund longer trails to other towns or destinations, such as Balclutha, Lake Tuakitoto or the mouth of the Clutha River/Mata-Au. <p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by providing facilities which encourage people to participate in active and passive recreation.</i></p>




Walkway on Start & Eddystone Streets


PROJECT 3: KAITANGATA POOL

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>A technical investigation and options assessment will be completed. This work will be used to help decide how this community facility should be managed and maintained into the future.</p>	<p>This will be a Council-led project, with input from the Kaitangata Pool Group.</p>	<p>Although the Kaitangata Pool is still owned by Council, it is currently managed and operated by a local committee, with access via a key system.</p> <p>The remaining lifespan of the pool may be limited without a major upgrade, and professional advice will be needed to help inform decisions on the future of this facility. Work is required to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What upgrades are required to provide an acceptable level of service (e.g., the pump, filter system, and the building itself). • The costs, benefits and risks associated with a major upgrade, as well as maintaining the status quo. • Potential funding sources (rates, grants, fees).
		
<p>Kaitangata Pool</p>		
<p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by providing facilities which encourage people to participate in active and passive recreation.</i></p>		
<p>Once this work has been completed, an informed decision can be made on what is an acceptable level of service for this pool, and how this can be achieved. Further consultation may be required once preferred options and costs have been identified. It is noted that ownership of the pool may need to be transferred to the community as part of any major upgrade package.</p> <p>Improvements for Victoria Park will also need to be considered as part of this project, and the roles and responsibilities of Council and the community (through the pool committee) will need to be clearly defined.</p>		


PROJECT 4: VICTORIA PARK RESERVE

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>There are two parts to this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements to the Victoria Park Reserve. 2. Trim or remove trees shading the pool and playground. 	<p>Improvements or additional facilities at Victoria Park will be led by the community. Council may provide funding, technical or administrative support.</p> <p>Work to trim or remove trees will be led by Council.</p>	<p>The community told us that this reserve is very important. This project is intended to make further improvements to this area and ensure that the playground and surrounding park is a vibrant, well-used space.</p> <p>Several of the larger trees in this reserve are causing issues with shading. Further work is required to understand whether removal or trimming is the best option to provide more sunlight into the pool and playground, and ensure the safety of park users.</p> <p>Availability of funding and completion of the Kaitangata Reserve Management Plan are key considerations for the completion of this project.</p>
		
<p>Victoria Park</p>		
<p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by providing facilities which encourage people to participate in active and passive recreation.</i></p>		

PROJECT 5: WAR MEMORIAL RESERVE

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>The aim of this project is to create an attractive community park in central Kaitangata, on the site of the old town hall and War Memorial Reserve.</p>	<p>This will be a community-led project, with support from Council.</p>	<p>The old Kaitangata town hall was demolished in 2020, due to safety issues. This project will incorporate the old hall site into the adjacent War Memorial Reserve to create a centrally located hub, with links to the nearby BMX track, skate park, Clutha River, and the Community Centre.</p>
 <p>The image is a detailed concept plan for the War Memorial Reserve. It shows a central area with various zones marked by numbers 1 through 9. Zone 1 is a large open space. Zone 2 is a children's play area. Zone 3 is a passive rest/contemplative area. Zone 4 is a heritage/cultural element. Zone 5 is a connection to the wider community. Zone 6 is an open space for community gatherings. Zone 7 is a children's play area incorporating an existing train. Zone 8 is a passive rest/contemplative area. Zone 9 is a heritage/cultural element. The plan also shows an existing planted embankment and an existing access to the river.</p>		
<p>A concept plan for this reserve was included in the Our Place consultation and this has been refined based on the community feedback received.</p>		
<p>The main elements in the plan include:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open space for community gatherings. • a children's play area, incorporating the existing train. • a passive rest/contemplative area. • heritage/cultural elements. • connections to the wider community. 		
<p>Concept plan for the War Memorial Reserve. Credit: Rough & Milne</p>		
<p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by providing facilities which encourage people to participate in active and passive recreation.</i></p>		
<p>Council support includes funding and project management assistance. Council will continue to maintain the reserve through its greenspace maintenance contract.</p>		

PROJECT 6: PUBLIC TOILETS

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>Provide additional public toilets in central Kaitangata.</p>	<p>This will be a Council-led project, with community input on key decisions.</p>	<p>There was widespread support for additional public toilets in central Kaitangata through the consultation process, with the existing toilets located 650m away at Victoria Park. A range of options were identified, including on the site of an old toilet block on Exmouth Street.</p>
 <p>The image shows a large, white, single-story building with a gabled roof, situated on a grassy area. In the background, there are utility poles and a clear blue sky. The building is identified as the old toilet block on Exmouth Street.</p>		
<p>Old toilet block, Exmouth Street</p>		
<p>New toilets in this area would serve existing and planned developments in central Kaitangata, including the skate park, BMX track, and the War Memorial and Water Street reserves. Council has allocated funding towards this project, with further work required to finalise the project scope (location, level of service, design).</p>		
<p>As part of this project, Council will also consider whether the existing pedestrian crossing on Exmouth Street should be re-located to a safer and more convenient position.</p>		
<p><i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by investing in infrastructure which enables growth, and promoting healthy, safe communities.</i></p>		

PROJECT 7: ROADING

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
Seal extension programme on urban streets in Kaitangata.	This will be a Council-led project, as roading is a core service.	Through the consultation process, there was considerable support to include urban road sealing as a project within the Our Place Kaitangata Community Place. This project relates mainly to unsealed sections in the lower, western part of Kaitangata, parts of which are potentially flood-prone. A number of short sections of road on the more elevated parts of town could also be considered. Road sealing is expensive, and this project would have a noticeable rates impact. Road sealing options will therefore be included as a key consultation topic in the 2024/34 Long Term Plan, before Council makes a decision on whether or not to progress this work. <i>This project aligns with the Living & Working in Clutha Strategy, by investing in infrastructure which enables growth, and promoting healthy, safe communities.</i>



Water Street & St Albans Street pot-holes

PROJECT 8: WANGALOA DOMAIN RESERVE

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
Improvements to make the reserve more user-friendly and accessible.	This will be a Council-led project, with support from the local community.	The Wangaloa Domain provides access to Smith's Beach and is a popular spot for local residents, especially during the summer months. The Wangaloa Golf Course is located on the same piece of reserve land. Potential improvements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better beach access (currently the track is steep and tricky in places). • Improvements to the reserve itself. This could include providing for camping, or installing fencing or bollards to protect the grassed area from damage by cars. Availability of funding and completion of the Kaitangata Reserve Management Plan are key considerations for the completion of this project. Work to provide for camping would need to align with the Clutha District Freedom Camping Bylaw. Any easy wins which can be implemented within existing budgets will be progressed first. This might include changes to the maintenance program such as mowing, vegetation trimming, or minor repairs.



Access to Smith's Beach