

Our Place

Community Plan

West Otago



Clutha District Council
www.cluthadc.govt.nz

INTRODUCTION

The Our Place West Otago plan identifies key projects to support and promote living and working here

Clutha District Council's goal is to promote living and working in the Clutha District.

With help from West Otago Community Board and the community, this plan has been developed to identify key projects intended to support and promote living and working in West Otago.

This plan ties closely with the *Living and Working in Clutha Strategy* which aims to help generate growth and develop the Clutha District as a great place to live and work. This plan and its projects provide a structure and means to implement the *Living and Working in Clutha Strategy*. Similar plans have also been developed for the District's other main towns.

Although the projects are primarily about Council infrastructure and facilities, they are also intended to help support and guide the activities of community groups when they make decisions about the assets owned and managed on behalf of their community.



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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community feedback played a crucial part in developing this plan and its projects

Consultation was designed to stimulate interest in the project, encourage feedback and provide information about future projects and initiatives in West Otago.

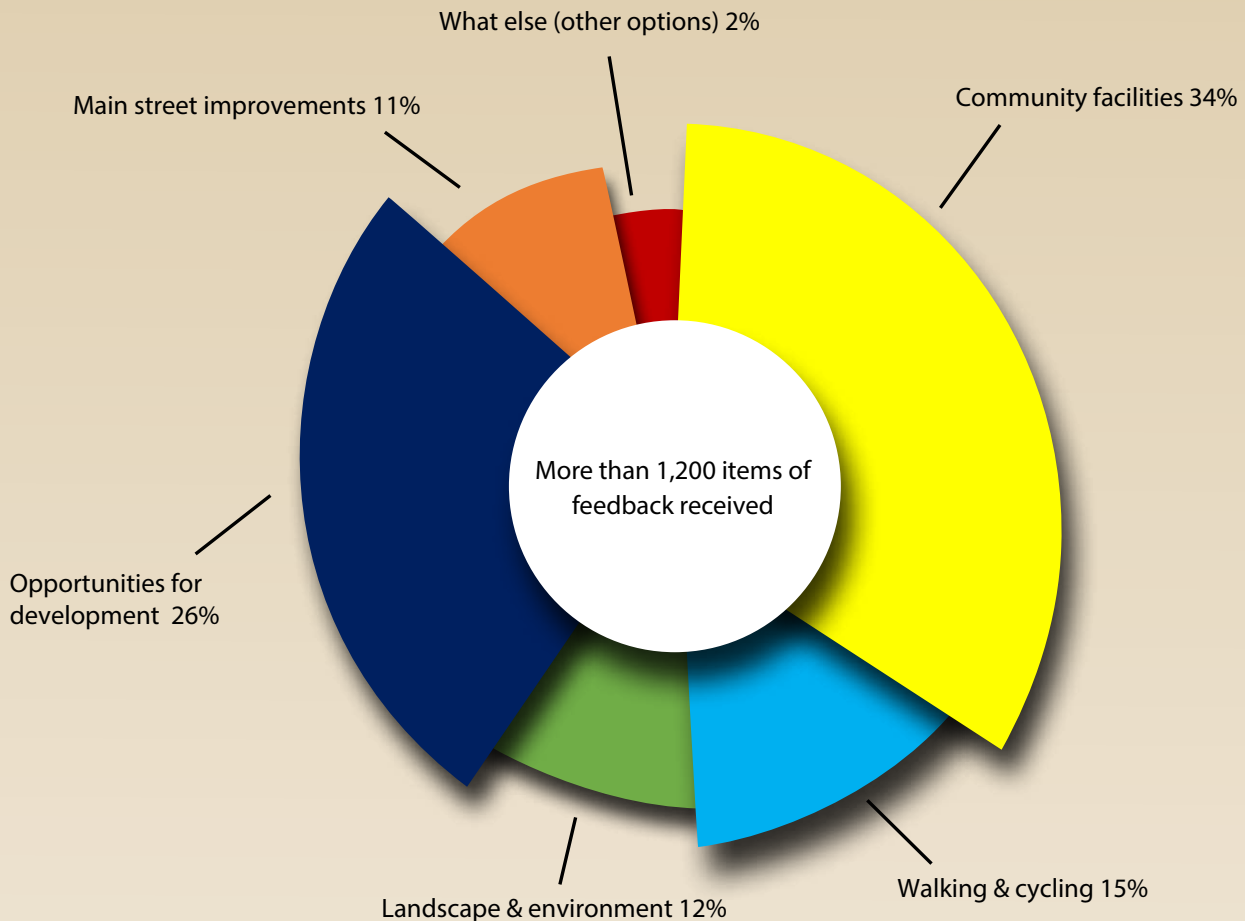
Council's elected members provided input and leadership, as well as approving consultation material and assisting with consultation activities. Public consultation took place from late January to March 2022. Council staff and councillors attended drop-in sessions at Tapanui, Heriot, Waikoikoi and Waipahi, local businesses. We attended consultation sessions at local hotels and cafes, as well as with local groups and schools.

A consultation document was developed to help prompt ideas and discussion. It was delivered to all mailboxes in West Otago and was also available from West Otago Service Centre and Council's website.

Six focus topics were identified (see graph below), representing key feedback areas. There were over 1,200 feedback items received in total. These items were from one-on-one conversations with locals, notes from meetings and written submissions.

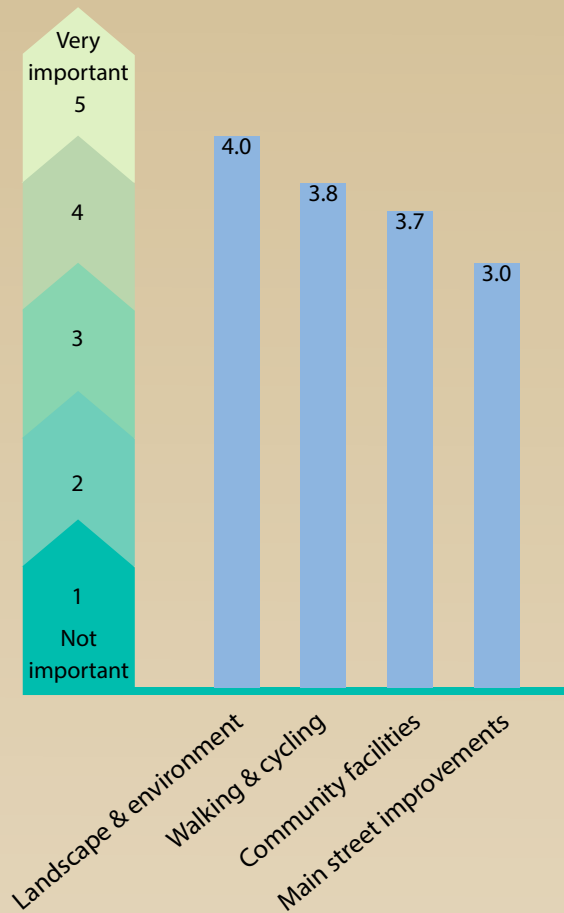
We received great feedback from West Otago residents. A big thanks to all that got involved!

Topics people talked about the most



SURVEY RESULTS

What people indicated was important

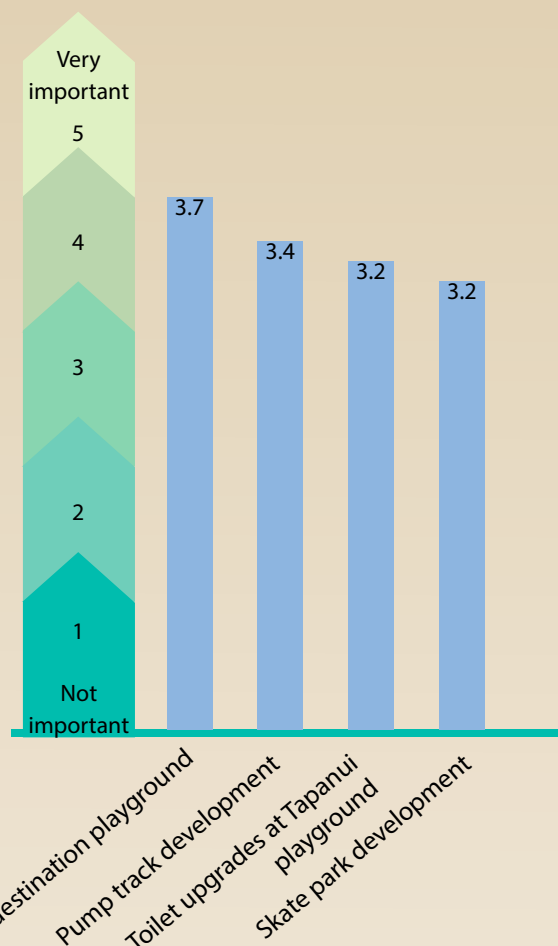


Part of the consultation included a structured survey for respondents to rank the importance (or priority) of existing facilities within West Otago, as well as possible projects and ideas. The survey asked respondents to rank various items, on a scale between 1 (not important) to 5 (very important) for five of the focus areas we asked about. There were 94 survey forms returned and the average rank for each focus area is shown in the graph on the left. Residents placed the highest importance on West Otago’s landscape and environment. This was followed by walking and cycling trails in West Otago, supporting community facilities and then main street improvements.

Community facility upgrades

We asked how important were potential upgrades of community facilities. The graph (right) shows these results.

For more details about community feedback the Our Place West Otago Feedback Report is available at www.cluthadc.govt.nz or by getting in touch on 0800 801 350.



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Implementing Our Place West Otago

The priority projects on pages 6-8 summarise 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.cluthadc.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 processes.

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

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).



PRIORITY PROJECTS COUNCIL IS BACKING

Project 1: Residential development

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
Residential development in Tapanui and West Otago has been enabled.	<p>This will be a Council-led project, with regular input from the community.</p> <p>Privately-led housing initiatives may still occur, which may be outside the scope of this project.</p>	<p>This project may include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in infrastructure to encourage development in urban areas. Assisting landowners to navigate Council processes. Development of an urban planning guide, showing innovation in streetscape design (e.g. plantings, traffic-calming, signage, lighting). Investigating other options which could be used in the future (e.g. increasing rates on bare land, Council-funded interest free loans, discussions with landowners outside the urban boundary).



Project 2: Community facilities

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
Community facilities in West Otago are fit for purpose and well used by residents and visitors.	<p>This project will generally be community-led, especially where the assets are community-owned or managed.</p> <p>Community leaders who want to advance specific projects have been identified and there is support for these projects.</p>	<p>This project includes the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bushyhill Street playground: Create additional play equipment and/or improve existing equipment. Investigate new recreational facilities: The more popular options include a skate park, bike or pump track or a basketball court. Halls and community centres: Renewal work to ensure they are well maintained or refurbished and meet community requirements and aspirations. In particular, Council will consider requests to support renewal and maintenance work on the West Otago Community Centre. West Otago Health: This is a key community-owned and operated facility. It has been supported by Council previously and we will continue to support opportunities led by the West Otago Health Trust. Freedom camping: Improve existing or create additional sites which provide for overnight camping in self-contained vehicles. Waste management: This may involve administrative and technical support from Council for waste management and minimisation projects.



Project 3: Whiskey Gully and Black Gully reserves

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>Provide for improvements and maintenance at the Whiskey and Black Gully Reserves.</p>	<p>This project will be a partnership between Council, Department of Conservation and the community. Existing community-led reserve committees already play a key role in the management of these reserves.</p>	<p>This project will aim to provide for amenity improvements, maintenance and pest eradication at Whiskey Gully and Black Gully reserves to enhance their environmental and amenity value. Suggestions from the community for these two reserves included trail improvements, signage, seating, picnic tables, viewpoints and additional playground facilities.</p>



Project 4: Walking and cycling

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
<p>This project is intended to create connections to local destinations and to existing trail networks. A further objective is to improve trails and linkages in and around Tapanui.</p>	<p>This project will be community-led, with Council playing a key part, especially in the early stages.</p>	<p>Council will work with community leaders to initiate the first part of this project. This will involve investigating trail options and creating project plans, with the aim of developing walking and cycling trails in West Otago. The second part of the project involves accessing funding, gaining access to land and trail construction. This part will be led by the community.</p>



Project 5: Tapanui and Heriot main street improvements

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
The concept behind this project is that, over time, the main street areas of Tapanui and Heriot will become more attractive, and a more appealing place to stop and spend time.	This project will be a partnership between Council and the community, due to the mix of Council and privately-owned assets, and the importance of these areas to the community.	<p>This project will involve working with building owners and community leaders to improve the main street appeal in Tapanui and Heriot. Work will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Providing guidance and information to building owners. General street improvements such as planters and screening. Enhancing town entrances. Safety improvements. Investigate/create seating areas or shelters. Development of the triangle reserve at the corner of Northumberland and Maple streets.



Project 6: Opportunities to work and train

Outcome	Who's leading it?	Description
This project is about creating opportunities for people to work and train in West Otago.	Council provides resources to help people into employment through a range of programmes. Other organisations which may contribute to this project include Ministry of Social Development, Clutha Development, Blue Mountain College and local employers.	This project requires an ongoing commitment by various agencies to assist people looking to work and train in West Otago. A range of activities are already underway undertaken by Council and Clutha Development. This project will help to ensure that there is ongoing support for these, or similar initiatives.