

St Helens Township Plan

2022 – 2025



Version 1 – December, 2022



Introduction

Township Plans are developed with community and provide Council with an understanding of the needs of each community, as well as how community and Council can work together to achieve them.

The idea to develop township plans came from conversations Council staff had with communities when we consulted on the development of the Strategic Plan in 2017.

The first Township Plan was developed in March, 2019.

This second edition of the St Helens Township Plan will guide activities over the next three years, from 2022 – 2025.

To develop this plan we consulted the St Helens community through a “drop in session” and an online survey process. Further detail on the information from the community engagement process forms Appendix 1 to this Plan.

This Township Plan will replace the 2020-2022 St Helens Township Plan, you can find a copy of this plan and a report of how we went achieving these activities on our website under My Community /Township Plans.

The themes from the previous plan compared to this plan have not changed a great deal with the community still focusing on community infrastructure and tourism

Some notable achievements from the previous plan include:

- Footpath works completed – south of the Golden Fleece Bridge
- Community infrastructure – Section completed - Golden Fleece Bridge to Beauty Bay
- Upgrade carpark – Cnr Cecilia and Quail Streets completed

St Helens – Our Town

An important part in developing the Township Plan is to understanding what residents love about their community and how they would like their community to look in 10 years’ time.

Based on residents answers to these survey questions we developed the below statements.

Community Vision: *The St Helens community most values their connection to the natural environment as well as their strong sense of community.*

Community Legacy: *The community of St Helens understands that the town is growing and would like to ensure it has the community facilities, tourism infrastructure, general infrastructure and business to support this growth and retain people in the community.*

You can find a full report of all community consultation including how these statements were developed, on our website under **My Community / Community Consultation**.

Community Engagement and Plan Focus

A common theme of the St Helens community engagement activities was the need for maintenance works to be done on street infrastructure.

Themes include:

- Additional footpaths and walking tracks;
- Infrastructure to support community needs ; and
- Affordable housing

Some other matters raised were considered by Council as ‘business as usual’ and will be dealt with through existing Council activities.

To ensure all feedback was recorded and not lost we have included a copy of this in Appendix 2 along with items considered outside the scope of the Township Plan.

The 2022-2025 St Helens Township Plan will focus on:

- Community infrastructure upgrades and maintenance; and
- Feasibility analysis of an Aquatic Facility

Action List

Action	Who
1. Community Infrastructure	
1.1. Council to undertake a Feasibility analysis of an Aquatic Facility	Community/Council
1.2. Install seats and signage in line with the Georges Bay Activation Strategy- Wharf to O’Connors Beach	Community/Council



2. Walking Trails	
2.1. Continue to work on refining the scope for the Binalong Bay to St Helens Trail	Council/Community, /PWS
3. Community	
3.1. Work with community groups to share stories and recruit new volunteers	Community/ Council
3.2. Council staff work for community members to volunteer to remove rubbish dumped in our community	Community/ Council
4. Housing	
4.1 Council to work with State Government to look at options available for affordable and emergency housing	Council/State Government

Reporting back to the Community:

Council will provide a quarterly newsletter and arrange community meetings which will advise of progress of actions listed above and any additional items that have been listed for comment/action.

Any correspondence to Council in relation to these plans to be forwarded to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

The St Helens Township Plan has a term of three (3) years – after this period, the action list will be reviewed.

Adopted by Council 26 June, 2023.



Appendix 1

Community Engagement

On Monday, 28 March, 2022 we held a “drop in session” at St Helens where Council officers met with community members seeking their feedback on the following issues:

- Infrastructure;
- Environment; and
- Other issues

Eighteen community members attended this session.

During the Drop-in session period (11 March – 2 June 2022) a survey was available for community members unable to attend the Drop-in session. The survey received 244 responses from the Break O’Day Municipality – 81 of these were from St Helens.

Council heard from a total of 99 St Helens residents.

According to the 2021 Census, St Helens, Akaroa and Stieglitz has a population of 2,298.

While developing township plans we also asked residents to share with us what they loved about their community and how they would like their community to look in 10 years’ time.

The answers to these questions were used to develop a vision and legacy statement for each township and we would appreciate your feedback on these as well as the plan itself.

These statements will help Council to make decisions about your township based on whether they fit with the vision and legacy of each community.

The Community Vision and Legacy Statements for St Helens are:

Community Vision: *The St Helens community most values their connection to the natural environment as well as their strong sense of community.*

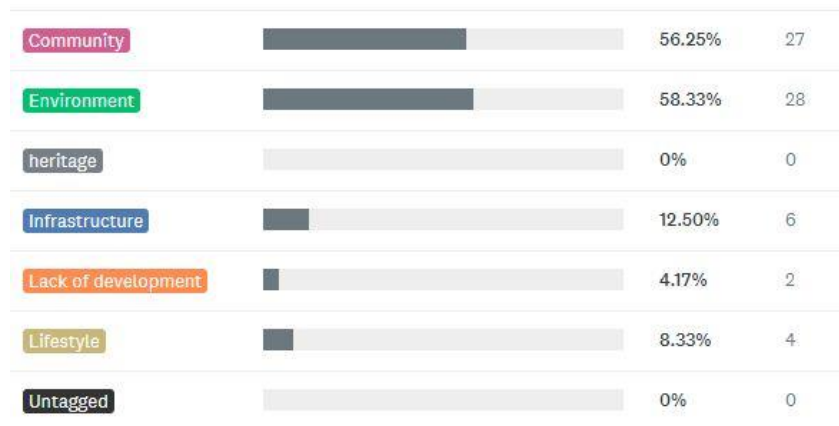
Community Legacy: *The community of St Helens understands that the town is growing and would like to ensure it has the community facilities, tourism infrastructure, general infrastructure and business to support this growth and retain people in the community.*

The above statements were developed from Community feedback as shown over:



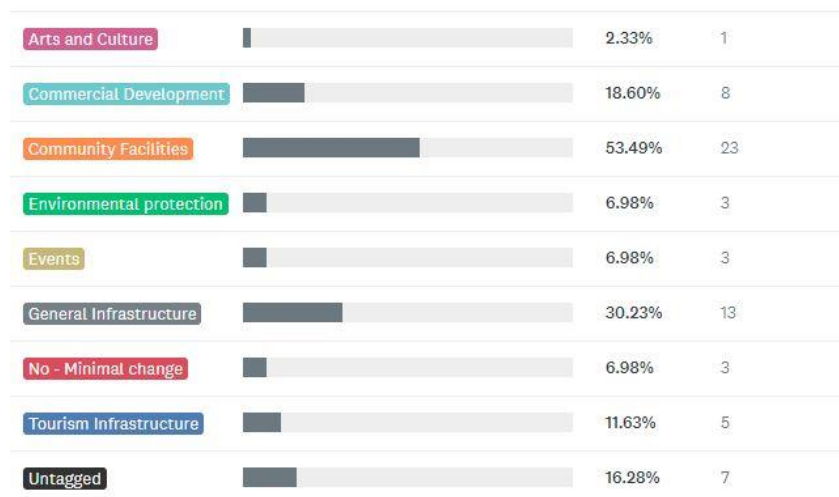
Grouped answers to Question 5.

What do you most love about your community?



Grouped answers from Question 7.

How would you like your community to look in 10 years' time?



Comment direct from community member.

“All gravel roads sealed drain work to be completed the top end of the town maintained”

You can find a full report of all community consultation on our website under **My Community / Community Consultation**.



Appendix 2

Business as Usual Activities

Comment	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath early part of Medeas Cove Esplanade – Neighbourhood House end and around the corner 	The project is included in the 2022-2023 Capital Budget and does rely on grant funding becoming available to Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets/amenities for croquet club in respect of membership demographics, health and mobility 	This forms part of the St Helens Sports Complex master plan and the practical location of facilities to all users will be considered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boats outside Bayside to be planted with seasonal fruits eg., strawberries Planting fruit trees around town for people to access 	Council to consider this as part of the seasonal planting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend free green waste disposal and green bin collection if only monthly 	The extension of the free green waste period (Nov to Feb) can be considered by the Council based on a cost benefit analysis being prepared.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog management on beaches needs to improve 	Council has a Dog Management Policy and Council staff work in collaboration with PWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More weed management (agapanthus, blackberries) pittosporum 	<p>Council manages weeds on its land and can cooperate with other landholders, who are responsible for their weeds, to strategically control gorse and other weeds. Weed species priorities and limits to resources govern where, what and how fast this can occur.</p> <p>Private landowners and other government authorities have responsibilities to act to manage weeds.</p>

Activities Outside Township Plan Scope

Comment	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath/trail to Stonyford 	Suggestion noted for future consideration by the Council.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath from Penelope Street to Falmouth Street 	Suggestion noted for future consideration by the Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath/bike track right around Georges Bay 	Council's has advised its longer term intent to ultimately connect O'Conner's Beach and Stieglitz Beach with a pathway. Council continues to seek State and Australian Government funding opportunity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared pedestrian/cycle way from St Helens to Burns Bay 	This project is noted and may be considered for future strategic planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar lighting on Georges Bay Walkway on old section of trail 	Project has been costed and is a potential candidate project for external funding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 painted zebra crossings – post office area, central and Hillys IGA on main road in town specifically targeting elderly with walkers so that they can walk along by the water – after all that is why they retired in your area 	State Growth have undertaken a traffic assessment of Cecilia Street and Council is awaiting release of that report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot mix seal bike track access to bike trail off main highway at bridge 	This is noted and may be considered by Council as a future project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety issues – Medeas Cove Road (Esp)/Tasman Highway 	This has been raised with State Growth Traffic Officers – awaiting outcome of assessment by department officers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road safety – Cunningham Street & Talbot Street (Parkside) both need mirrors so hidden traffic is visible for those exiting those streets and “hidden entering traffic signs on St Helens Point Road for these 2 intersections 	<p>The installation of mirrors are not supported by State Growth – there is the option of reducing the speed limit and subject to approval by Transport Commissioner and with support of the broader community.</p> <p>Concealed entry signage can be considered and assessed according to road signage standards.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More bins at beaches (Perons & Beer Barrell) and signage to encourage people to use toilets at boat ramp (or doggy bag supply with sign to remove all waste & paper) 	Advise PWS of this request
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green garbage collection 	FOGO collection and local composting is not financially viable.