

CHARLTON COMMUNITY PLAN 2024-2027


The Charlton Community Plan 2024 - 20XX has been developed by the Charlton Forum Inc with the aim to strengthen community connections, protect community assets and celebrate community pride. It is based on feedback received from the local community and is designed to be a live document that continues to reflect the progress of the action priorities as they develop.

Through the development of the Charlton Community Plan 2024 - 20XX a number of priorities were identified that have been considered beyond the responsibility of the Charlton Forum Inc. These priorities are included as advocacy priorities with the aim of highlighting their importance to the Charlton community and encourage action by other organisations, government agencies and service providers.



Our Built and Natural Environment: Safe, accessible and well-maintained community infrastructure

			Responsibility/Partners	Action	Advocacy
1.	Flood Mitigation	Advocate to government for adequate funding for flood mitigation measures.	Buloke Shire Council		
2.	Civic Centre	Advocate to Council to support the concept and funding for plans for a purpose-built Civic Centre to replace the current Shire Office and Senior Citizens' buildings with a two-storey building with view of the river and Rotary Park. Centre to include the library; visitor information centre, neighbourhood house, shire offices, senior citizens, business hub, meeting space, Vic Roads, Centrelink - sustainable and environmentally friendly building preferred.	Charlton Forum Inc Charlton Neighbourhood House Buloke Shire Council		
3.	Rex Theatre	a. Explore ways to increase battery and/or solar capacity and support when operating the theatre b. Seek funding to support the replacement of cinema equipment, automated door opener for wheelchair access in the Candy Bar, updated sound and lighting equipment, stage curtains, and backdrop operation. c. Identify funding opportunities to assist with business and event support such as live entertainment and events	Rex Theatre Museum Ltd Charlton Forum Inc Charlton Neighbourhood House Buloke Shire Council		
4.	Charlton Traffic Safety Education Centre (CharTSEC)	Advocate for funding for plans and costings to replace classroom and toilets at CharTSEC with all access capabilities to support potential expansion with Gopher training, bike education, tourism- go karts, model cars	CharTSEC		
5.	Fire Station	Advocate to State Government for funds to erect a new Fire Station and Group Headquarters to accommodate the new truck - <i>land has been purchased</i> .	Charlton Urban Fire Brigade D18 CFA Charlton Group Buloke Shire Council		
6.	Charlton Community 2024 Access & Equity Strategy and the BSC 2023 Footpath Strategy	a. Use plans in the Charlton Community 2024 Access & Equity Strategy and the Buloke Shire Council 2023 Footpath Strategy to seek funds to implement recommendations, focussing on: a) Improving town lighting to ensure adequate lighting at night. b) Improving access to all buildings c) Pedestrian safety on James Paterson Bridge d) Construct crossway under bridge b. Seek funding from appropriate bodies including TAC, RoadSafe, State Govt, Calder Highway Alliance.	Buloke Shire Council		
7.	Community infrastructure assets	Advocate for and assist with seeking funding for other community infrastructure assets including but not limited to: Town Hall, Cemetery, Museum, Swimming Pool, Charlton Park Toilets, Safer Road Network Heritage Buildings, and all access facilities.	Charlton Forum Inc Buloke Shire Council Other key stakeholders		
8.	VNI West Transmission Towers	Development of renewables, electricity infrastructure and mining projects.	Charlton Forum Inc Buloke Shire Council		
9.	Streetscape and green spaces	a. Explore ways to enhance the streetscape and green spaces of the Charlton community including but not limited to: Main Street, natural assets of Wooroonook Lakes & Community Forest, River Walk and all greenspaces. b. Seek funding to have a professionally designed holistic green space overlay for the Charlton community that is functional and sustainable and considers all access.	Charlton Forum Inc Charlton Neighbourhood House Buloke Shire Council Other key stakeholders		
10.	Housing	a. Seek opportunities to address the current housing shortage crisis, which is impacting on employment. b. Explore opportunities to create a gated community or assisted living to assist with freeing up housing stock. c. Look at decommissioning Watson and Mary Street parks.	Buloke Shire Council		
11.	Hard Rubbish	Develop an annual Hard Rubbish service – a paid service, if feasible.	Buloke Shire Council		

<div>  Our Community Wellbeing: Create opportunities that encourage community wellbeing, lifelong learning and social connectedness </div>			Responsibility/Partners	Action	Advocacy
1.	Recreational Spaces	a. Advocate for improvements to Charlton Park, Lions Park, Rotary Park, Gordon Park, Wooroonook Lakes, Community Forest, River Walk, Travellers Rest Playground. Mount Dooboobetic and Wildlife Reserve. b. Seek funding to improve bike/walking paths along the river. c. Explore the creation of a Pump Track or revamp the BMX track.	Charlton Forum Inc Buloke Shire Council Other key stakeholders	●	●
2.	Library Services	Create longer library hours and user-friendly facilities including wi-fi installation, computers and comfortable furnishings.	Buloke Shire Council	●	
3.	Hydrotherapy Pool	Explore the feasibility of a hydrotherapy pool in Charlton that could cater for the needs of all residents of the Buloke Shire.	Buloke Shire Council Other key stakeholders	●	
4.	Health Services	Advocate for more visiting health professionals including more mental health services and outreach.	Buloke Shire Council Other key stakeholders		●

<div>  Our Economy: Enhancing economic opportunities </div>			Responsibility/Partners	Action	Advocacy
1.	Professional Assistance	a. Advocate for the employment of a tourism officer or a marketing and economic development officer. b. Seek funding for professional assistance to create a marketing plan to promote Charlton as a location for conferences, an ideal location to stay for silo art day trips.	Charlton Forum Inc Charlton Neighbourhood House Buloke Shire Council	●	●
2.	Buloke Tourism Board	Continue to partner with Buloke Tourism Board through local representation.	Charlton Forum Inc	●	
3.	Events and infrastructure improvements	Continue to explore events and infrastructure improvements that could draw visitors to Charlton and district (e.g. triathlon, archery, campdraft, festival, fishing, rodeo, musical performances, events along river and at Charlton Park) or the development of Railway Precinct. (e.g. history, sculpture, murals, picnic table), Silo Art: pursue night activation for silos on Donald Road; extension of Nyernila; Cultural activities).	Charlton Forum Inc Charlton Neighbourhood House Other key stakeholders	●	●
4.	Living Local	Broadly promote the benefits of living in Charlton.	Charlton Forum Inc Buloke Shire Council	●	
5.	New Business and Industry	a. Explore and develop incentives to attract industry and new business to Charlton. b. Increase the availability of industrial land to encourage new industry and business. c. Identify shortfalls of services and attract tradespeople, industry to fill gaps.	Buloke Shire Council	●	●
6.	Shop Local	Promote local businesses and encourage residents to shop-local.	Buloke Shire Council	●	
7.	Leadership	Actively connect with Council representatives for Charlton to ensure leadership and support from Council with identified community projects.	Charlton Forum Inc Buloke Shire Council	●	



“Lack of accommodation is a blocker in attracting people to our community”

“I think it’s important to look at the existing strengths and talents of the people who live in Charlton, work out what we offer that is unique/ attractive/marketable”

“More retail outlets and incentives for small businesses”

“A circuit to cross the river on the river walk – up to weir, over and back”

“Need to consider condensing the number of groups, work better without exhausting everyone”

“Thanks for doing this – it’s important we are heard”

Charlton Forum Inc will assist with the facilitation of the Charlton Community Plan 2024 - 20XX and the delegation of its advocacy and action priorities to ensure its implementation are a whole of community responsibility. The implementation of advocacy and action priorities will be monitored on an ongoing basis, with regular updates provided to Council and the community through a formal annual review presented at the Charlton Forum Inc Annual General Meeting.

For more information about any of the advocacy and action priorities, or how you can be involved, contact the Charlton Forum Inc at charltonforum@gmail.com