

Minutes of the CWB Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 5.00pm
Council Chambers, 175 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu

Present:	Bruce Henderson (Chair)	Recreational Open Space Representative (Deputy)
	Cr Shelly Warwick	
	Steve Lewis	Off Road Cycling Representative
	Ruth Halliday	Equestrian Representative
	Adrian McKenzie	On Road Cycling Representative
	John Taylor	On Road Cycling Representative (Deputy)
	Jenny Glen	Older Persons' Council Representative
	Allison Basire	Walking Representative (Deputy)
	Joanne Dacombe	Accessibility Representative
	Kelly Smith	Equestrian Representative (Deputy)
	Asher Wilson-Goldman	Walking Representative
	Max Lutz	Environmental Care Groups Representative
	Jan Nisbet	Recreational Open Space Representative

Kapiti Coast District Council officers:

Cat Wylde	Advisor Recreational Tracks and Trails
Fraser Miller	Transport Lead - Walking & Cycling

1. Welcome / Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Apologies from Cr Rob Kofoed were noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOVED (John Taylor / Asher Wilson-Goldman)

That the minutes of the Cycleways Walkways Bridleways Advisory Group dated 17 September 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3. Interest Group updates:

Small Wheels

As there was no representative present, there was no update

Older Persons

Members of the OPC attended the *Age on the Go* event in Levin, it was interesting to note they seem to run their meetings in much the same way. They have also had a speaker talk to them about what to do in an earthquake.

Youth Council

As there was no representative present, there was no update

Environmental Care Groups (Max)

The annual walkover of the Ōtaki River (part of GWRC's consent requirement), was held on 23 October. The river is considered to be in good shape. Graeme Campbell, GWRC's Flood Protection Manager, has secured funding for flood mitigation works on the Ōtaki River. This is a \$4m project.

They have also been speaking with Cr Kofoed re a comprehensive flood evacuation plan, should there be a large event. Cr Kofoed is working on that.

Regarding the new clip-on on the Ōtaki Bridge – the way the structure is attached on the eastern side of the bridge has raised concerns that during a flood, debris will be caught up in it. The structure currently belongs to NZTA but will ultimately become the property of KCDC. GWRC are saying there needs to be a plan to clear the debris should it build up.

Accessibility (Joanne)

Bruce commended Joanne on her presentation to Parliament re the VizAble Programme on 24 October. Joanne explained this was a new community advocacy group working on the prevention of family violence, with a focus on the disabled community. Many mainstream services may not be aware or accessible for disabled people.

She advised that MSD were relocating to the building which used to house the restaurant Breakers, located on old SH1. This was of concern because access to the building is very difficult and unsafe for disabled people. MSD had been contacted but said the responsibility was not theirs as they were only the tenant. The next step will be to contact Coastlands who are the owners of the property.

The disability group will be holding a workshop as part of their review.

They have written to Tim Costley MP about the funding cuts to disability support services, and the impact that is having in Kāpiti.

Recreational Open Space (Jan)

Jan attended a Wainui Whenua meeting – a group of Paekākāriki people looking at potential uses of land which will be available to the public after Transmission Gully is finished. Further hydrology testing is required before the land will be made available, but it could provide linkages with paths already in existence as well as the potential for new tracks.

They are working on the opening up of tracks at Whareroa Farm, including cutting gorse and thistles and putting up seats and gates.

Off Road Cycling (Steve)

The Trails Trust deed has been drafted and should be registered today or tomorrow. This will enable other activities e.g. setting up bank accounts.

Confirmed they are also talking about trails along the escarpment, including Battle Hill. The "pipeline route" has been deemed unworkable so they are looking at the Mt Wainui option to get that connection from Kāpiti to Battle Hill.

On the farm – ongoing work has been affected by the winter weather. They have begun scouting for a third (beginners) track, which would expand what is being offered at the farm.

Regarding the southern recreation area and how it might be handled in the future – if the Wainui track goes through then that whole southern area would become an attraction, but due to the differing land managers coordination would be required. Cat noted that as well as operational, there is also a tourism aspect to this. Options are currently being considered.

→ **New action item** – Cat and Steve to continue the discussion offline re the southern recreation area

Equestrian (Ruth)

There were four ‘Pass Wide and Slow’ campaign rides in the district, which were generally well attended; nationally the campaign has been a great success.

The Greater Wellington Equestrian Group has met twice since the last CWB meeting. At one meeting Janice Hill spoke about the trails project; there has also been renewed emphasis on gathering information on trails for the GWRC website.

They are looking at grazing at Belmont, and starting to talk about camping at some of the parks. There will be a new entry at Poplar Ave, about halfway between Te Ra School and the highway, which will provide parking for floats, trucks etc. (Ruth queries the suitability of this location). There are ongoing conversations about park access – keys, fobs etc.

For the first time in many years there was a competitive trail ride in QE Park, which was well attended despite the bad weather.

A Kāpiti Equestrian Advocacy Group has met, they now have a website up, membership is open and lots of people are joining.

Re O2NL, there will be no bridleway but Ruth is hoping the Pass Wide and Slow campaign might help in some way.

Horizons Regional Council were not supportive of the Pass Wide and Slow campaign, however the Mayors within Horizons have asked that it be revisited.

As mentioned by Jan, there have been working bees at Whareroa, getting rid of gorse, developing signs etc. They are looking at having an opening ride but unsure of permissions needed from DOC.

Attended the Wainui Whenua meeting with Jan; it was agreed a business plan needs to be developed before there can be any progress.

Shelly noted that the national group had worked with the Outdoor Access Commission, who have declared on their website that all access they look at must have a starting point for walking, cycling and horseriding. If horses are not to be included they will have to prove why not. This is a great step forward, it can flow on to DOC and Councils.

Shelly advised they had delivered a petition to Parliament to ask for vulnerable road user status – NZTA have installed “shared paths” which do not include horse riders. It is hoped the petition will develop traction. The next stage is the Select Committee. Shelly noted that access for horse riders can also provide access for disabled people.

On road cycling (John)

Circulated a flyer about the Bike Bus:

**FORGET THE CAR,
... CATCH THE BIKE BUS !**

What's a Bike Bus?

They are supervised cycle rides along quiet roads and paths. They are safe and fun ways to get to Raumati Beach and Raumati South Schools.

Contact:
Richard 027 839 1961,
BikeBusRaumati@gmail.com
or join the Raumati Bike Bus Facebook Group

Start your Bike Bus

- Grab some friends and neighbours and tell us you want a Bike Bus on your street.
- Register students, parents and volunteers.
- We will help you get it running and provide training, hi-vis and bells.
- If needed we will even help you with bikes and helmets.
- We'll plan a safe route and be there to get you started.
- We assist with marshals whilst you get confident, and after a few weeks you'll be rolling along.

Kāpiti Cycle Action runs the Kāpiti Bike Bus scheme and is working with Raumati Beach and Raumati South Schools.

Watch the video or Register here

The Bike Bus is doing quite well and there has been a request from schools for a similar initiative in Waikanae.

John also advised that the Paekākāriki bike library has moved back into St Peter's Hall after 18 months based in someone's garage.

Walking (Asher / Allison)

Is hopeful that a solution for the toilets at Whareroa Farm is in sight.

Has a visit planned with the Conservation Board and DOC management to the Paraparamu Scenic Reserve (next to Nikau Reserve). They are not opposed to work being done in the area, the question is by whom. Asher is hoping to have an update for the December CWB meeting.

He has been working with DOC re their planning for the next five years, a workshop was held looking at priorities for the Wellington region. They will come back with their medium-term thinking on that; Asher will share with the CWB group when it comes through. DOC is currently focused on what they are currently doing that they can offload to others (volunteers, Councils etc), what they can stop doing entirely, and what they absolutely have to keep doing. They are expecting further funding cuts in next year's budget and are starting to plan for that. The international visitor fee has been increased but only part of that income goes to DOC. On a positive note, DOC are also working on simplifying their processes so rangers can get out of the office and into the bush, which is a good thing.

Allison has had a look at the new development north-west of Charles Fleming. There is a whole new roading system, and the potential for linking walking/cycling routes could be amazing. Fraser noted that Council is currently in negotiations with Waka Kotahi to acquire land that will link Nga Manu through to Waikanae north. This will provide an east-west connection through to Ngarara.

4. Review of Action Items

- *M2PP Safety Audit*

By way of background, John advised that a group of people had approached Council a few years ago seeking input into some of the revocation work that had been done. A report has finally been produced, which is 90 pages long. There were 26 items raised by the auditors that were either serious or significant – most of them applied to cyclists. Of those 26, 17 were either not going to be actioned or were passed on to KDCD to do the work. A group of people have gone through the report and have identified three things that could potentially be followed up by the CWBAG:

- i) Cycle lane markings are poor all across the District; if cars see cycle lanes they tend to respect it so it would be good to progress this one
- ii) The entrance to Nikau Valley from Lindale Farm – it would be great to get some more green paint to indicate to traffic that cyclists go straight through
- iii) A bunch of issues around the Te Moana entrance – this issue has been raised by cyclists many times

Bruce elaborated on points made by John, and agreed that the CWBAG needs to look at how they might address the issues. He noted that some of the work has been done according to the recommendations, other work has been done but not what was recommended. What is required is to go through the report item by item, to see what has/has not been done, were the recommendations followed etc. It will take some time to gather this information.

Another issue is cyclists travelling south towards the Waikanae Bridge, there is no safe way for them to cross the road to get onto the clip-on – this should be relatively easy to fix. Bruce noted that he had looked on the Strava app about three days ago, and there is no discernible mark to show that anybody is using that crossing.

- *Blue Bluffs*

Cr Kofoed was not present at the meeting but had emailed the following update:

I have no further advice from Council officers regarding the due diligence work intended for the Blue Bluff alternative swing bridge project. However I understand the slips are to be cleared during the drier months of summer.

Thanks to Council for their input into the toilet complex near Crystals Bend (Water polo lake) Otaki which should be commissioned by now.

- *Public toilets at Clifden Cottage*

Shelly has received a response to her Information Request for all documents referencing Clifden Cottage, which she has circulated to a number of Council staff. Her interpretation is that they are basically going to make the cottage weathertight and hope that someone wants to buy it. She noted that NZTA's only obligation was to make the cottage weathertight, although it is noted that KCDC has requested a public toilet be installed. The Ōtaki Community Board has asked what the next steps are, and have this item on their 'Matters Under Action' register.

As ex Chair of the Community Liaison Group, Max noted that it was always the plan to move the cottage off and then move it back, there was talk of installing toilets at different locations and then the project seemed to fall into disrepair.

There was general consensus that the cottage should be removed, however as a heritage site this could be problematic. It was agreed there was no action required from the CWBAG, and Shelly would provide an update after the next Ōtaki Community Board meeting.

- *Trails Trust*

As noted by Steve earlier in the meeting, the Trails Trust deed has been drafted and should be registered today or tomorrow. Tracey confirmed she had booked the Poppy Room at the Waikanae Memorial Hall from 3pm – 5pm on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding January).

- *Raise with GWRC the issue of unhelpful bus drivers/difficult equipment*

Bruce had received a response from GWRC as follows:

“As noted by Bruce Henderson in his email request below, information is available on the website at [...] Metlink drivers and onboard staff are not required to assist passengers with their bikes. This is for a variety of reasons not limited to health and safety of our staff who may have physical limitations of their own, potential to set a precedent for all people with bikes as it would be difficult to distinguish someone with a genuine need for assistance. This was raised during a recent consultation with our operators where operators supported the current policy and emphasised the weight of the e-bikes was a concern for them, drivers and unions. We therefore deem it necessary for passengers to make their own arrangements for safe travel with their bikes, this may mean travelling with others who would be able to lift or dismantle their bike for them. With regard to the eBikes, as the bike bus racks have weight restrictions we require, if the battery is removable then we require the passenger to remove and carry it to bring the bike under this weight limit, if the battery is not removable then this requirement does not apply but if

the bike weight is over 25kg they are unable to use the bike rack and may be unable to travel with their bike on the bus. Their other option would be Bike and Ride, utilising our bus racks, stands and lockers at train stations around the region. We appreciate that this may not be the answer that is being sought, but we are not looking to make any changes to our policies at this time”.

Jenny noted that she had been looking at travel scooters which could be folded up, they also weigh around 23kg so it was an interesting comparison.

Bruce then referred to the second part of the action item was the man in Ōtaki who was manhandled off the bus. John said the man was alleging assault but nothing had happened. There had been CCTV footage but by the time Police got around to looking into it the footage had been wiped. It was not a matter of him not being helped with his bike onto the bike rack, it was a case of the bike being thrown off at him, and he being pushed off the bus. It was agreed this was a matter for the Police, and John will send Bruce the latest update that he had.

Referring to the first issue, Bruce sought direction from the group re where to from here. John noted that if the bike racks were unable to support the weight of e-bikes then it was a design issue. Asher advised that NZTA have just issued new guidance that in Christchurch, buses have stopped taking bikes after dark because the bikes on the bike racks obscure the bus’s headlights. He thought it was likely that Auckland and Wellington would follow suit. Metlink are going to work on a solution but it’s unclear what this might be. Bruce noted another issue, which is that some of the wider mountain-bike’s handles interfere with bus’s windscreen wipers.

Bruce would keep an eye on the issue.

- *CWB submitting on resource consent applications*

Bruce advised he was building up a fluent conversation with the Resource Consent staff and he is now getting access to any application he needs or wants to see, which is working quite well. The complication is that some of the bigger applications are often fast-tracked, which means we have little input. He is gaining confidence that new subdivisions have sightlines and CWB links included in their design, including equestrians 😊

Asher noted a current draft of the Fast Track Bill has amended the list of organisations who are allowed to provide feedback on fast tracked applications, so as to include Conservation Boards around the country. This means the Wellington Conservation Board will be able to provide feedback on any of the fast tracked applications that come through for Kāpiti. They still need to work out the best way to ensure community consultation and provide feedback within a 20 day timeframe.

- *Rough piece of footpath on Elizabeth Street, Waikanae*

Max advised the footpath has been repaired.

- *Campbells Mill Road*

Cat advised that KCDC’s Property Manager has had an amiable conversation with the landowner, who is currently recovering from an accident. The lease has been sorted, the next step is to work on the relationship/arrangement with the owner.

- *Organise a visit to the Gasline track*

Still waiting for drier weather.

- *Send to Bruce details of the incident where a person was physically moved off the bus by the driver*

Already discussed. Will keep a watching brief open.

- *Send Bruce details of the open day being held at Paekākāriki on 15 October*

Done, although Bruce was unable to attend.

- *Look on the PP20 website at plans for upgrading Waerenga Road, and provide feedback to Bruce*

Joanne needs to have another look at the website. She advised she also wants to send a formal letter regarding the curb crossing outside Ōtaki New World. Fraser confirmed the intersection would be included in revocation works, hopefully in the next few months.

→ **New action item** – Shelly to find the map which outlines what work is being done on Waerenga Road and around the New World supermarket, and forward to Joanne

Bruce noted there was a lot of road works being done at Ōtaki. He suggested waiting until those major projects had been completed, and the group can then look at what needs to be done. He also encouraged group members to advise of pot holes or other problems via Service Requests or the Antenno app.

Bruce then noted that the Minister had instructed NZTA (and partners) to look at cost cutting on both O2NL and Te Ahu a Turanga (the Manawatū Tararua Highway). He also noted there had been conflicting messaging regarding whether there would be a shared path on O2NL, but an OIA request had been made to NZTA and to the Partners. Further action would be dependent on the results of the OIA request.

5. Update from KCDC Officers

Fraser (Transport Lead, Walking & Cycling)

- The Walking Cycling Network Plan is reaching its final draft. The next steps will be to review the plan in-house and consider how it will be sent to the key stakeholders for feedback.
- They have put in a draft name change to 'Pathways Network Plan'
- Funding has been significantly cut for local road improvements, and walking and cycling. That means that for our Speed Management Plan and this Network Plan, there is zero funding for any projects that would have come out of those plans. We are working to reprioritise our programme and budgets to see what we can do with the funds we have
- In the cycleways funding category, our maintenance and renewal budgets have been cut by 64% - so not only improvement work funds have been cut but also the core maintenance and renewal activities as well
- Regarding the road safety audit, Fraser is keen to see feedback from CWB members, so he encouraged them to continue their work in this regard
- There was discussion about changed speed limits, their timing, funding, priorities etc

Cat Wylde (Advisor Recreational Tracks and Trails)

- Busy on operational matters, looking at budgets etc
- Getting ready for summer; there will be work done on the Mataihuka after Christmas
- Went on the Waikanae river trail walk last week with GWRC, it was interesting to hear their plans for the future of the awa
- The Mataihuka track will be tidied up after Christmas

6. Other Business

- Planning for the election of a new Deputy Chair, given that Asher is leaving at the end of the year. The person must be one of the community representatives listed in 3.2 and 3.3 of the Terms of Reference.

→ **New action items:**

- Give some thought before our next meeting as to who you would like to step forward as your Deputy Chair and/or whether one of you would like to step forward
- Regarding the Walkways representative role, either Allison (currently Deputy) steps up as Principal, or we find someone else to do it. Asher and Allison will discuss offsite.

7. Next meeting date

10 December 2024, in Council Chambers.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.



Chairperson

10 December 2024

Date

** See overleaf for updated Action Items register*

Action items register:

Item	Date raised	Assigned to	Progress @ 29/10/24
M2PP safety audit	23/0 /23	Bruce	<p>The safety audit report has been provided, what is required now is to go through the list item by item to see what was/was not done, were the recommendations follows etc.</p> <p>The intent is to draft a list/action plan to take back to NZTA.</p>
Blue Bluffs	23/05/23	Rob	The slips are to be cleared once the drier weather arrives.
Public toilets at Clifden Cottage	14/11/23	Shelly	No action currently required from CWBAG, Shelly to provide update after the next Ōtaki Community Board meeting.
Trails Trust	13/02/24	Gareth	The Trust Deed should be registered in the next few days. Meetings for the Trust have been booked up to the end of June 2024.
Raise with GWRC the issue of unhelpful bus drivers/difficult equipment	15/05/24	Bruce	<p>GWRC have indicated they are not making any changes to their policies at this time.</p> <p>Bruce would keep an eye on the issue.</p>
How the CWB might submit on resource consent applications	15/05/24	Bruce	Bruce confirms there is now a system in place where he can get access to any application he needs or wants to see – noting that some applications are fast-tracked, meaning there is little opportunity for anyone to provide feedback.
Rough piece of footpath on Elizabeth Street, Waikanae	15/05/24	Max	Max confirmed the footpath has been repaired.
Campbells Mill Road	26/06/24		Access to this area is an issue for ongoing monitoring.
Organise a visit to the gasline track	06/08/24	Cat and Jan	Waiting for drier weather.

Send to Bruce details of the incident where one of the cycling action network members got physically moved off the bus by the driver and their bike was thrown to the ground	17/09/24	John	Will keep a watching brief open on this item.
Look on the PP2O website at plans for upgrading Waerenga Road, and provide feedback to Bruce	17/09/24	Joanne	Shelly to send link to Joanne.

New action items			
Cat and Steve to continue the discussion (offline) re the southern recreation area.	29/10/24	Cat and Steve	
Give some thought before our next meeting as to who you would like to step forward as your Deputy Chair and/or whether one of you would like to step forward	29/10/24	Everyone	
Regarding the Walkways representative role, either Allison (currently Deputy) steps up as Principal, or we find someone else to do it.	29/10/24	Asher and Allison will discuss offline	