



10. ENTRANCE BARRIERS TO GENERAL PARKS AND ACCESSWAYS

The Board was in receipt of a report from the Council's (Cyclist) Transport Planner, in which he sought the view of the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board towards the opening up of general park and accessway entrances to improve access for cyclists, wheelchair and push chair users within the Riccarton/Wigram wards.

Many of the parks and accessways throughout Christchurch have barriers across them. Most of these barriers were constructed to prevent motorcyclists and other vehicles from entering.

This proposal essentially suggests changing from a philosophy that primarily focuses on exclusion of undesirable users to a philosophy of primarily focussing on admittance of all desirable users. The result of having these barriers has meant that many intended users have had restricted or no access to these pathways. The reduction or removal of many of the barriers will improve access for cyclists, wheelchair and pushchair users and other members of the community.

A number of recent parks entrances and accessways have been developed and 'opened up' with little or no evidence of undesirable usage.

The proposed removal of many of the entrance barriers – particularly the overlapping “staples” will significantly improve cycling in Christchurch and give effect towards meeting the Christchurch City Council's vision – “To be the most cycle friendly city”.

The proposal will also work to the benefit of others as it is working toward bringing the paths up to the New Zealand minimum standard for access for disabled people. Currently many of the barriers particularly the double “staple” treatments don't meet these standards.

The Council's City Streets Unit is identifying the location of barriers at general park and accessways (with sealed paths) throughout Christchurch. Once identified each barrier treatment will be assessed for potential improvements. This assessment will take into account safety factors, current minimum standards of access, available resources and local knowledge. It is estimated that approximately 300 sites throughout Christchurch will be assessed within this proposal.

Entrances that can be improved through simple removal of barriers will make up the majority of this proposal's implementation. It is intended to progress these works by commitment within this financial year.

Entrances that may require more detailed design and development work will be noted towards prioritising for future resourcing.

Due to the large number of entrances being assessed for improvements it is proposed that the overall intentions of the project be publicised through the local newspapers only. It is not proposed that individual neighbours around the sites be contacted as there are simply too many.

In **receiving** the report the Board endorsed the project's intention of improving general park and accessway entrances within the Riccarton/Wigram wards.