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Submission to the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2009-19

I wish to discuss the main the main points of my submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

~~I do not wish to discuss the main the main points of my submission at the hearings~~

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Date 16 April 2009.

Pedestrian Access over The Heathcote River

The Heathcote Valley Community Association inc. request that the LTCCP include provision for either a pedestrian crossing over the Heathcote River at Tunnel Road, or that the walkway on the South bank of the Heathcote River be extended beyond Tunnel Road to Long Street via the weir/control structure at the Eastern junction of the Woolston Cut and the Woolston Loop.

For several years there has been a walkway, known as the Towpath, along the North bank of the Heathcote River from the Ferrymead Bridge (1)¹ to the Tunnel Road Bridge (2) at the Ferry Road roundabout. From the west side of Tunnel Road it continues to the pedestrian bridge at Gould Crescent (3) giving access to the walkway on the South bank of the Woolston Cut and the path along the North bank of the Woolston Loop.

The completion recently of the Golf Course beside the Ferrymead Historic Park has seen the development, to proper walkway standard, of what was an informal track along the South bank of the river from the Golf Club entrance (4) to the Tunnel Road (5). A new box culvert (6), alongside the Ferrymead branch Rail line, has just been completed for the walkway which will ultimately connect from the Golf Club carpark (4) to Bridle Path Road (7).

Each side of the river provides great opportunities to enjoy the special ecological values of the area and the many important heritage sites. Both paths have much usage and are widely enjoyed by both cyclists and walkers but, because of the lack of a crossing at Tunnel Road or access to the Gould Crescent Bridge from the South bank of the river, they must be separate 'out and back' walks on each bank of the river. Thus a superb loop walk around the lower Heathcote River goes begging for want of a crossing in the vicinity of Tunnel Road.

There are two options

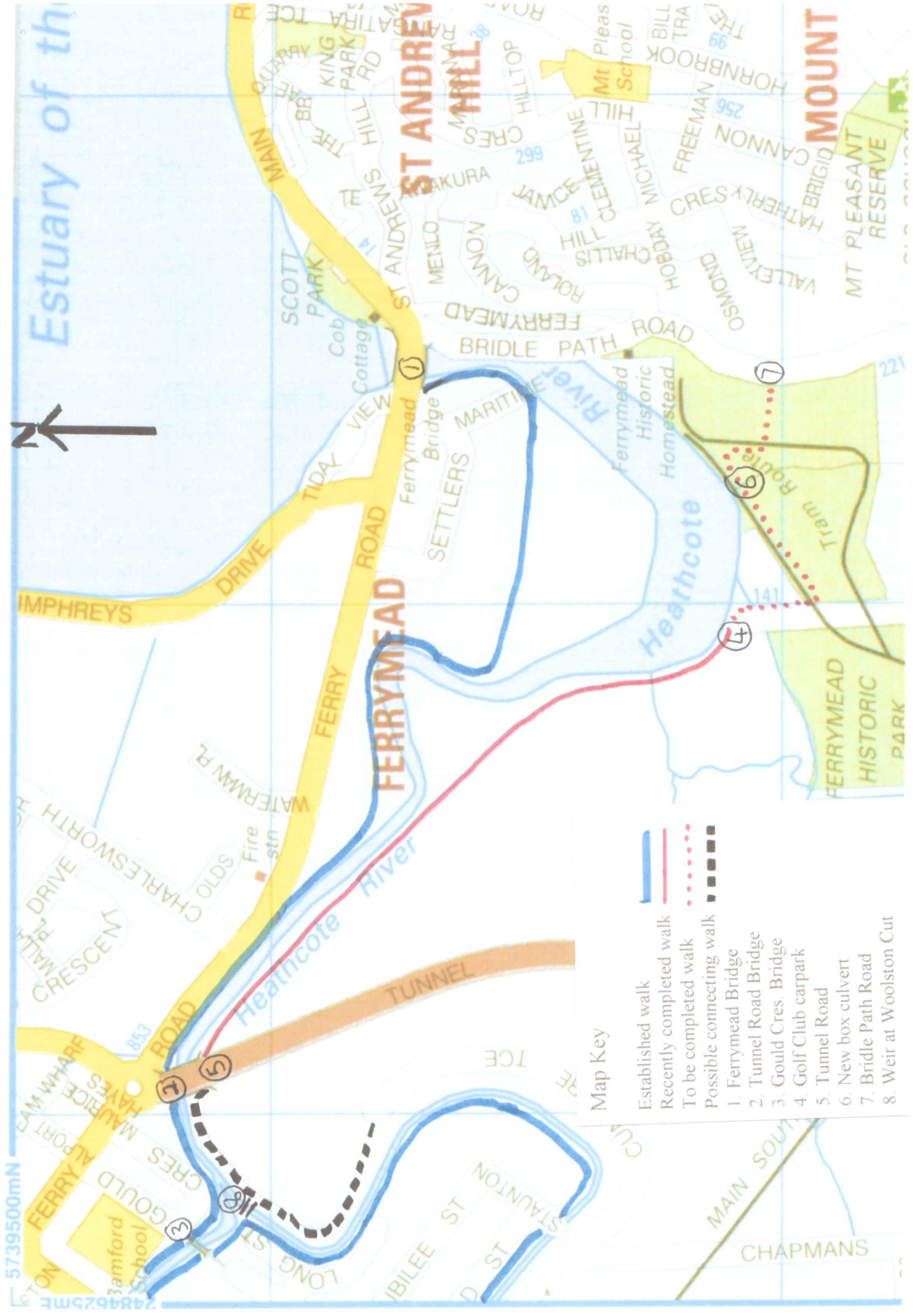
1. Persuade the NZ Transport Agency to design and construct a 'clip-on' to the Tunnel Road bridge for pedestrians.

¹ See attached map

2. Provide a crossing of some form over, or under, Tunnel Road and enable the existing walkway to be connected up to Long Street and the Gould Crescent pedestrian bridge via the weir/control structure (8) at the Eastern junction of the Woolston Cut and the Woolston Loop.

The 2nd option is probably the more viable. The Riparian strip on the South bank is council land and there is a private plan change (Plan Change 28) relating to the Kennaway Farm area that has recently been publicly notified. At the hearing for that plan change, I believe that Council will be seeking to preserve a wide (possibly 50 metre) reserve for public access and enjoyment where a walkway could be incorporated from Tunnel Road to Cumnor Terrace. It would need only a formal provision for pedestrians to cross the weir/control structure (there is already informal use of this weir) to make the loop walk possible around the lower Heathcote River.

Besides Heathcote Valley Community Association inc. there is support and encouragement from, among others, the Ihutai Trust, The Mt Pleasant Community, Graeme Stanley, who organises and conducts 'Active Christchurch' walks for the Council, and many other individuals already using the paths.



Estuary of the

ST ANDREW'S HILL

FERRYPEAD

Heathcote

MOUNT

Map Key

- Established walk
 - Recently completed walk
 - To be completed walk
 - Possible connecting walk
1. Ferrymead Bridge
 2. Tunnel Road Bridge
 3. Gould Cres. Bridge
 4. Golf Club carpark
 5. Tunnel Road
 6. New box culvert
 7. Bridle Path Road
 8. Weir at Woolston Cut