



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Pollard Park

**Information Update
Assets & Services, Property and Community Facilities
Department
14 November 2023**

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Local Road Asset Management Report – November 2023

(Information prepared by Amanda Smith)

R800-007-02

General

The sealing season is beginning in Marlborough, with a lot of work being done on pre-reseal repairs across the entire network. Details of where these sites are, across the state highway and local roads are provided in the “Projects” section of this report. Several sites on the local roads have already been completed. This work will continue until April 2024.

Four budget options were presented to Councillors for the 2024-27 Activity Management Plan during a briefing on Monday 9 October;

- Existing budget
- Minimum (0.4% rates increase)
- Conservative (0.75% rates increase)
- Best Practice (1.65% rates increase)

The Activity Management Plan (AMP) is being developed to be submitted to Waka Kotahi by the 8 December 2023. This will then be in a draft format to be reviewed and adopted as part of Council's Long Term Plan process.

Work continues on the Regional Land Transport Plan as an update and to separate Marlborough from the existing Top of the South RLTP. Laura Skilton will present an update on this work to the Regional Transport Committee in November.

Coathanger Car Park in Picton has been resealed and is back open to the public.

Financial Commentary

Achievement of September's programme was 44%. The goal is for 80% achievement. The 20% allowance is for reactive works that come up during the month which cannot be programmed. For September, 86% of dispatches completed were reactive works e.g., potholes, detritus, blocked sumps, replace edgemarkers posts etc. These reactive works are generally covered within the lump sum maintenance costs.

The following graphs show the forecast budgets against the completed works for the Maintenance, Capital and Unsubsidised work for the financial year to date.

NOC Monthly Activities

Summary from Contract Manager

We have made a great start with the renewals season getting some early chip seal sites delivered. The pre-seal repairs continue with the pavement crews working in well with the traffic control and sealing teams, completing valuable square meterage to get ahead of the programme. If the fine weather continues all pre-seal works will be complete by the end of December, which will allow appropriate cure time prior to reseals circa two months.

The asphalt sites are underway with a great start on the Weld Pass, one of the critical delivery sites for this season. The team worked well in this challenging environment and produced a good finish on time. The continued asphalt works are going well and we are on track to deliver the full asphalt programme by the end of the year.

The New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM) continues to gather momentum with several working groups forming, and some good actions and timelines agreed. We have started to adopt some of this thinking and practice into the workspace with some good results. A continued focus is on roles and responsibilities along with achievable expectations and alignment with the trial parties. Further specific working groups are being arranged and set up.

Cyclic maintenance continues to cover the network. As we come out of the winter months there is a focus on pavement defects like potholes and edge breaks. Find and fix remains a large portion of the works each month.

The inspection team have completed some work around unsealed roads and drainage needs on the network. This has highlighted some areas of focus both in network need and budget constraints.

Footpath renewals and maintenance continues and it's great to see the collaborative approach show good results.

With the cruise ship season here increased focus has been put on the Picton area, so that works have been completed prior to the increase in people, with some ships carrying the same number of passengers as the population of Picton. Effectively doubling the population in one hour.

Operations Report

Summary from Operations Manager

Monthly Summary

In September, we received some periods of high winds, which resulted in some trees and branches falling onto the road and signs being blown over across the network.

The team continues to work together to ensure the score reflects the work that is being completed, however the achievement has dropped this month. This is due to works being programmed for September which should have been for October and November which account for 35% of the State Highway.

The monthly lessons learnt achievement review has been undertaken to consider opportunities and what worked well for achieving in September. Key items identified are better coordination of planning and having the renewal programmes approved further ahead than 30 days, to improve planning for the upcoming month. The later would also allow for resources to be secured to meet the budgets and priorities.

The focus this month is to confirm the programme and have lump sum and renewal activities approved in RAMM, to the end of June 2024.

The Q2 (October-December) focus is on;

- Footpath renewals
- Crack and first coat sealing
- Drainage inspections in French Pass and Port Underwood
- Pre reseal repairs (stabilising and digouts) and completing these before the second establishment of the reseal season in December
- Low cost low risk works
- Area wide pavement treatments/rehabilitation of roads
- Reseals
- Finishing French Pass unsealed wearing course where weather allows. Damp conditions are needed to ensure the material packs down.
- TAC programme

Overview of Lump Sum Maintenance

In September there was a high number of pothole works completed, below are areas showing above normal defects;

- Waihopai Valley Road
- Ronga Road
- Wairau Bar Road
- Cloudy Bay Road

Maintenance on signage has increased as a focus area, with straightening and cleaning of signs.

Heavy Maintenance, in one week approximately 2500m² were undertaken of stabilising patches on pre-reseal sites in preparation for the second establishment of the reseal team in December.

Renewal/Measure and Value/Achievement Length Summary

Summary from Renewals Manager

- Work has begun for the 23-24 season. Reseal crews have their plans, and data has been collected. Treatment selections have been submitted and approved for both state highways and local roads.
- The first TAC site on Sheffield St is programmed for 5 October, with another seven sites scheduled for October. Weather permitting, it will be finished by Labour weekend.
- REHAB designs for LR and SH have been approved and sent out for pricing.
- The First REHAB of the season is Weld Pass, programmed for 2 to 4 October.
- The slurry team are on the network with their first site on Havelock St, Renwick scheduled for 5 October. They are set to complete their first establishment by Labour Weekend.
- With another large season to deliver there has been plenty of work going into a robust master renewals programme, which each contractor is contributing their programme into. We are also running meetings to track progress against the last planner meeting held earlier in the year.
- With the wet conditions in the last two weeks of September, the first sealing site was pushed to 28 September. The crew are set to finish almost 25,385 Sqm by the first week of October, before moving to the Nelson Tasman Region. The crew will return early next year to complete our programme.

Asset and Renewals Monthly Progress

Summary from Asset & Renewals Manager

Monthly Summary

The Asset Management Team's focus has moved from 2023/24 renewal designs to FWP development for the 2024-27 NLTP. We have completed pavement deterioration modelling for both SH and LR networks and are supporting MDC as required with information for the 2024-27 AMP and business case submission.

The asset management programme and achievement for the period was:

State Highways:

1. Update 10-year renewal FWPs: Ongoing. Progressing as and when asset condition inspection data is available.
2. Pavement modelling for 2024-27 NLTP development. Complete. Modelling and field verification is complete. RAPT drive over with WK Investment Advisor was carried out in the last week of August.
3. 2021/22 PCDAR inspections & reporting. On Hold. Analysis module in the Waka Kotahi Juno account will now not be available this year, so we will revert to the old process. Late notification of this means that it will need to be reprioritised amongst other workloads. Timing to be advised.
4. 2023/24 Renewal Designs. Complete. TAC, seal and RHAB designs have been completed and approved. NPVs have been prepared.
5. 2023 Maintenance Activity Cost Model update. Complete.

Local Roads:

1. Update 10-year renewal FWPs: Ongoing. Progressing as and when asset condition inspection data is available. Drainage programme report has been prepared and submitted.
2. Pavement modelling for 2024-27 NLTP development. Complete. Field drive overs are scheduled to start in October.

3. 2023/24 Renewal Designs. Complete. TAC, seal and RHAB designs have been completed and approved. NPVs have been prepared.
4. 2023 Maintenance Activity Cost Model update. Complete.

Items of Importance:

Items of importance for discussion by the CMT are as follows:

1. Risk review for deferred renewal sites in Kenepuru Sound due to storm recovery and Picton due to iReX.

Future Month Focus:

Local Road focus for the coming month is to:

1. Continue preparation of draft 2024/27 NLTP programmes
2. Continue to provide support required by Marlborough Roads for 2024/27 Programme Business Case and align FWP development
3. Commence 3 yearly footpath rating

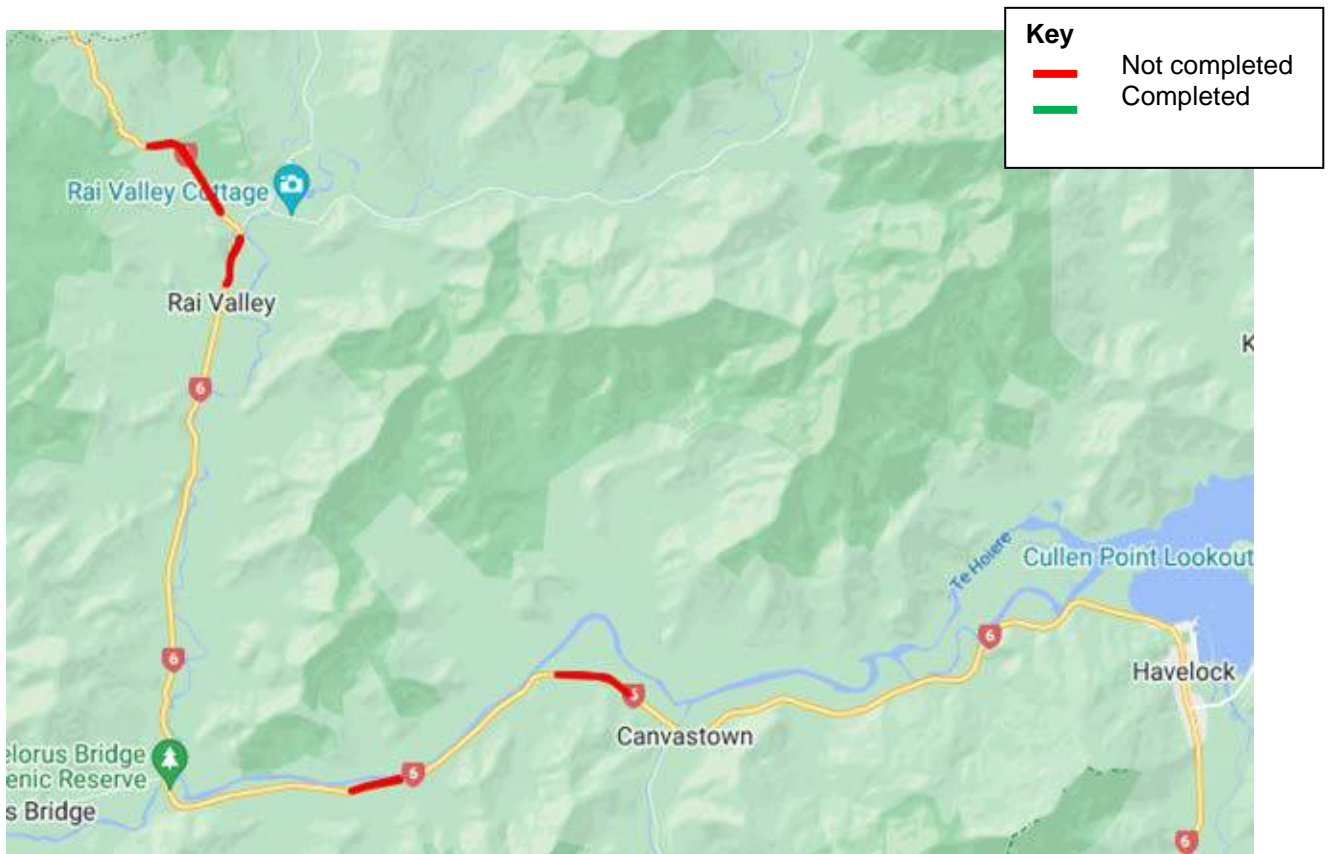
Projects

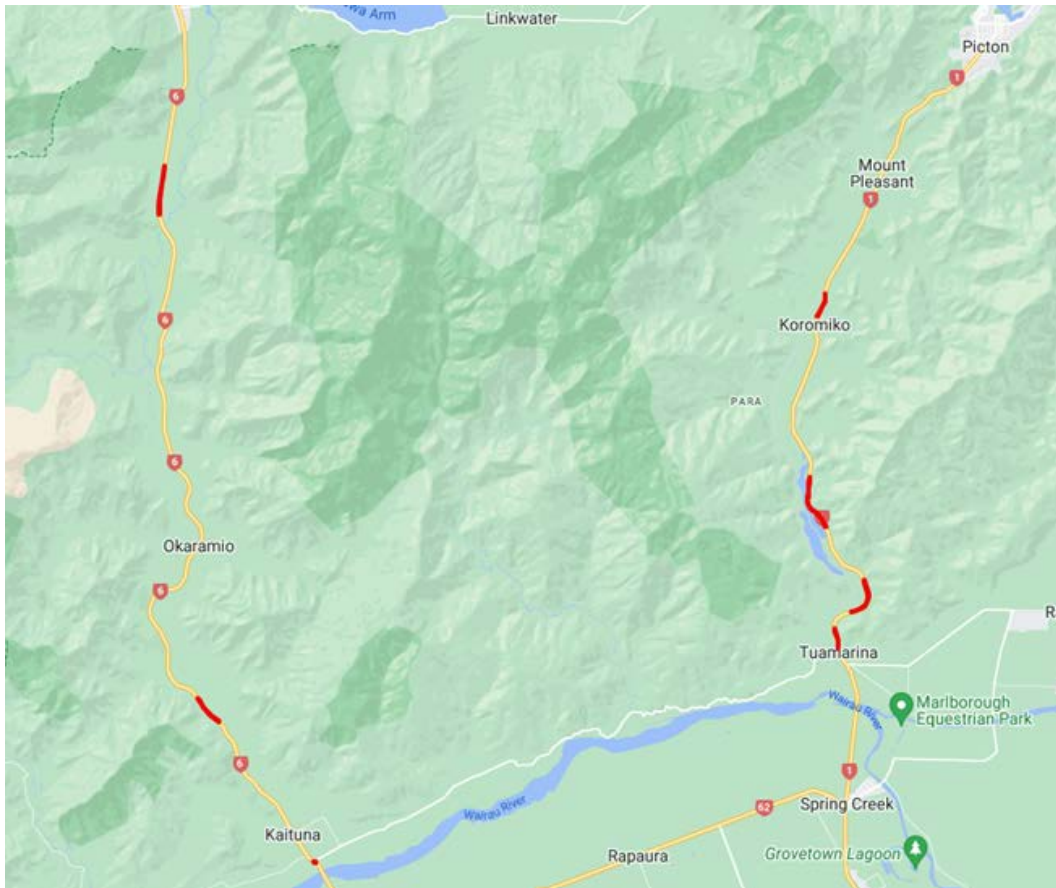
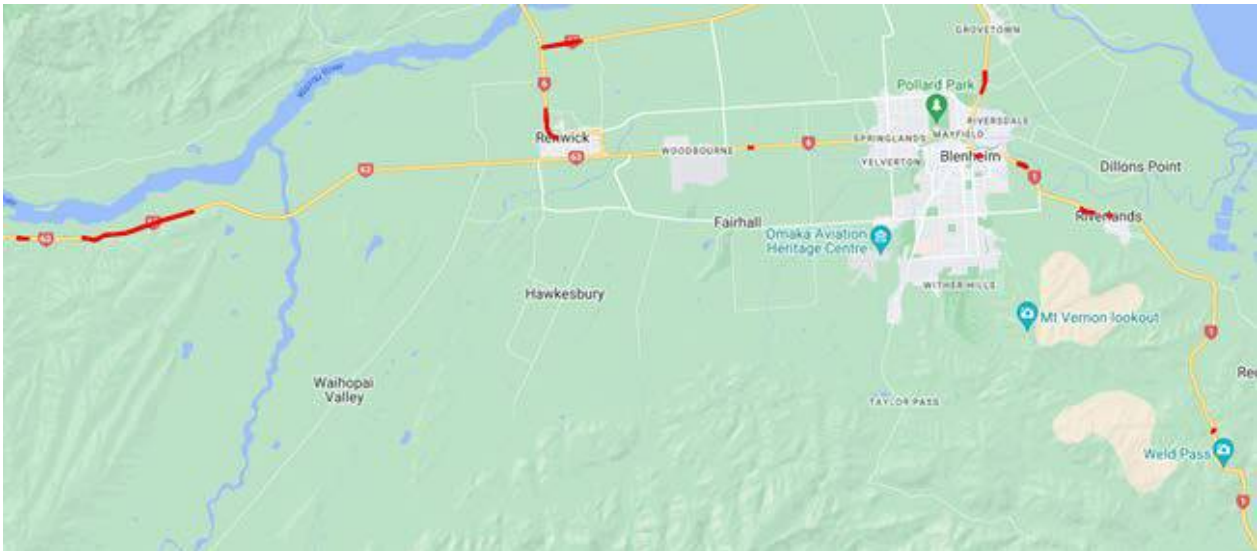
State Highways

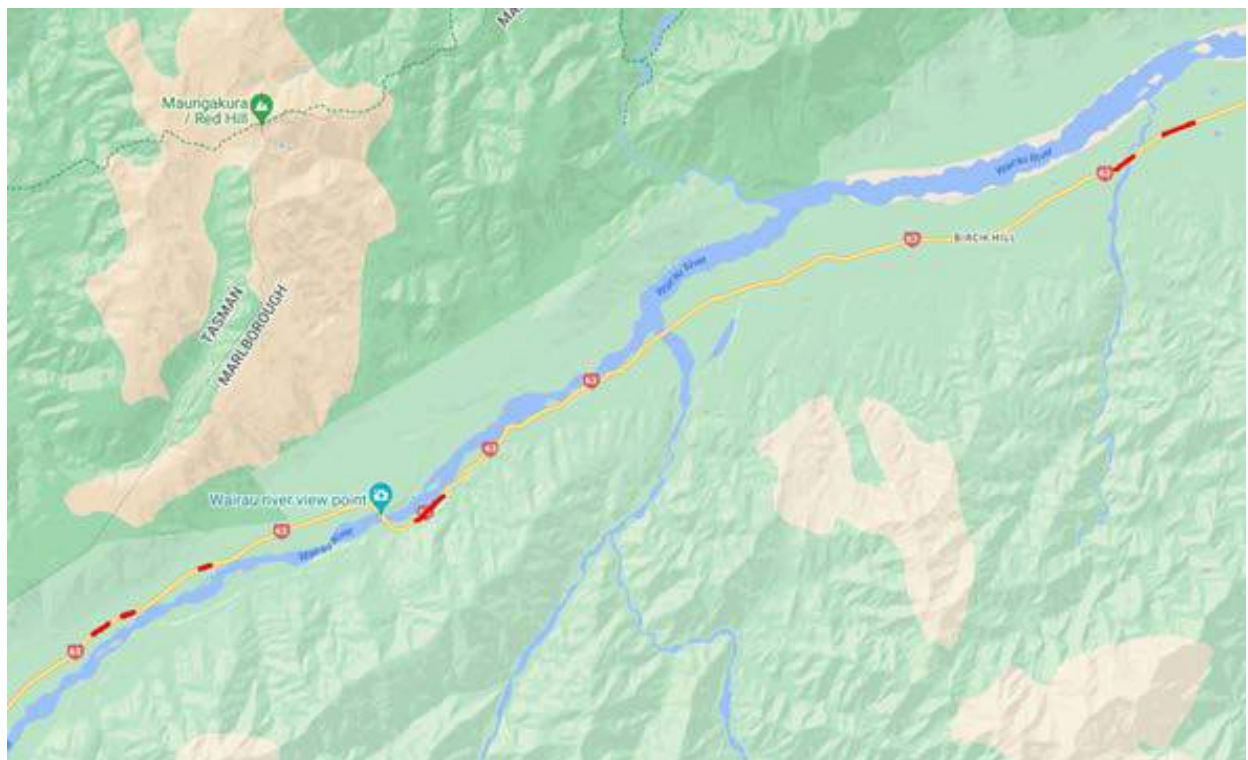
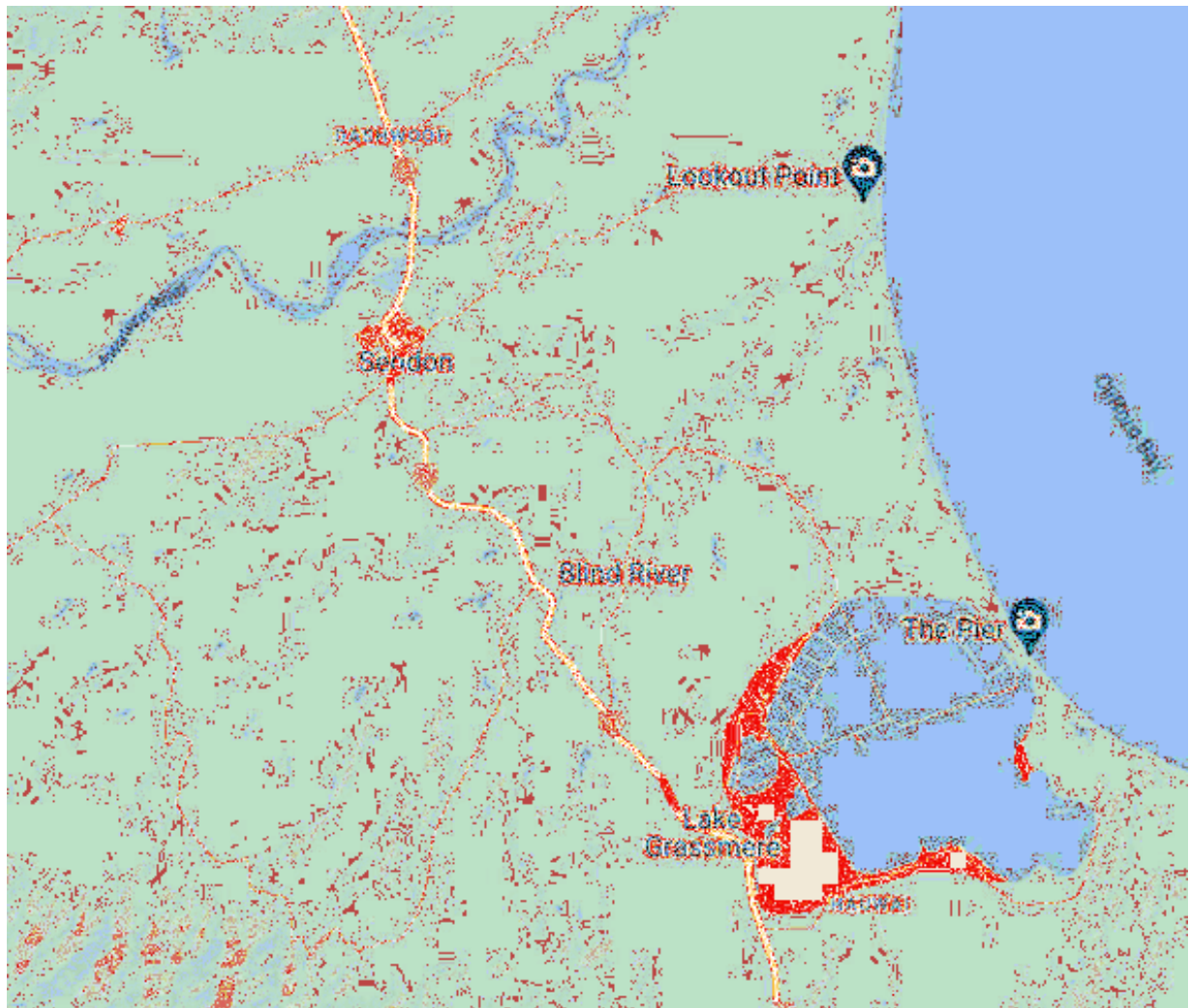
Renewals

Site inspections are being carried out by the team to assess sites for their maintenance requirements prior to the site being accepted for resealing. Pre-reseal maintenance work will be a main focus of October's programme. Sites that require maintenance then have a two month curing period before reseal work can be undertaken. Out of town crews from both Fulton Hogan and HEBs will be undertaking the resealing work.

The following plans show the State Highway Renewal Sites for the 2023/24 year. At the time of writing this report no sites have been completed.







iReX – across both State Highway and Local Roads

Work is continuing on Dublin Street enabling works. Regular meetings continue between on-site contractors, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi, Marlborough District Council and Marlborough Roads Staff.

Temporary traffic management for the first cruise ship of the season did highlight some bus stop parking issues. This should be resolved in time for the arrival of the next ship on Sunday 5 November.

Picton Elevation Resilience Project

The initial design for culvert replacement has been presented for review and an initial price has been supplied by the NOC to complete these works. Further design information for the location and installation of drainage to remove ground water is being presented on Thursday 2 November for review.

Following agreement of the final design, price and methodology the physical works will be able to be carried out. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by March 2024 but further updates will be provided as soon as they are available.

The site is continuing to be monitored for movement and ground water levels. Communications around this have been provided to the media at the end of October 2023.

Full Network Remark

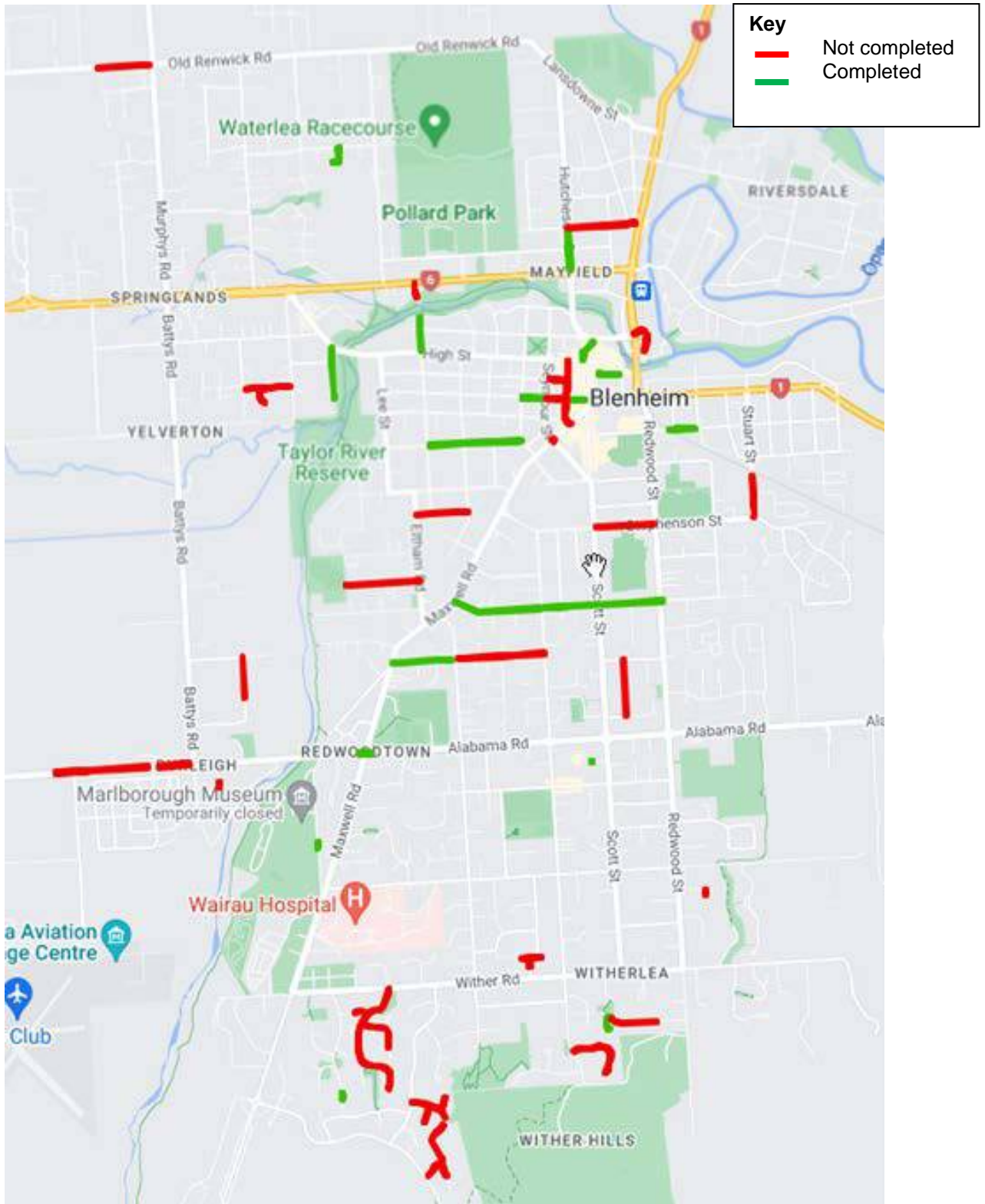
The only remaining line marking to be completed is at the Main Street Roundabout. This work remains delayed due to requirements of working within the railway corridor but is programmed to be completed this month.

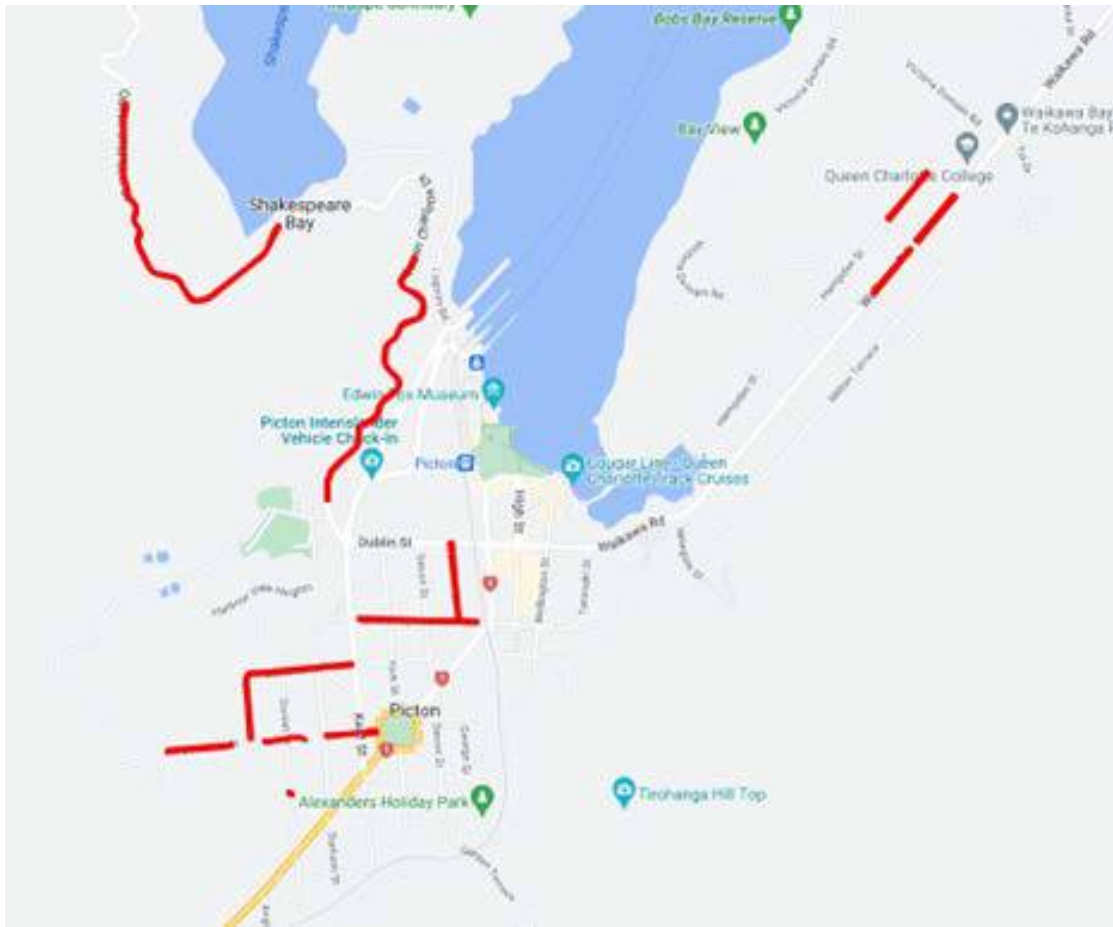
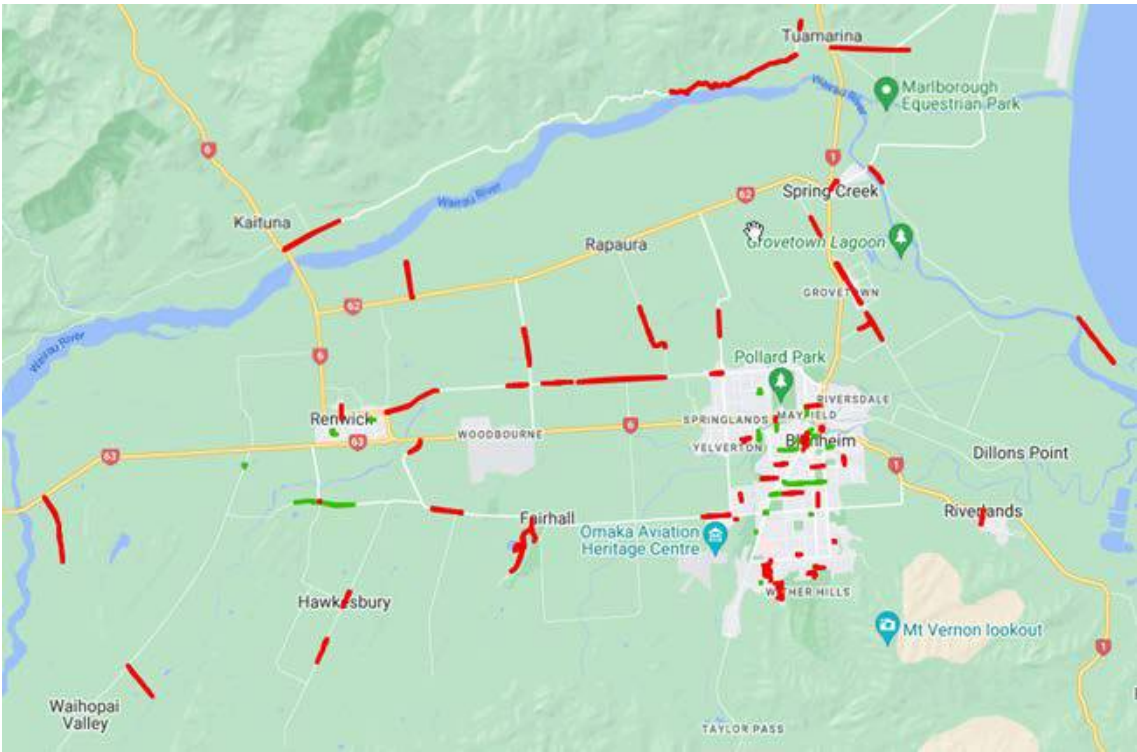
Local Roads

Renewals

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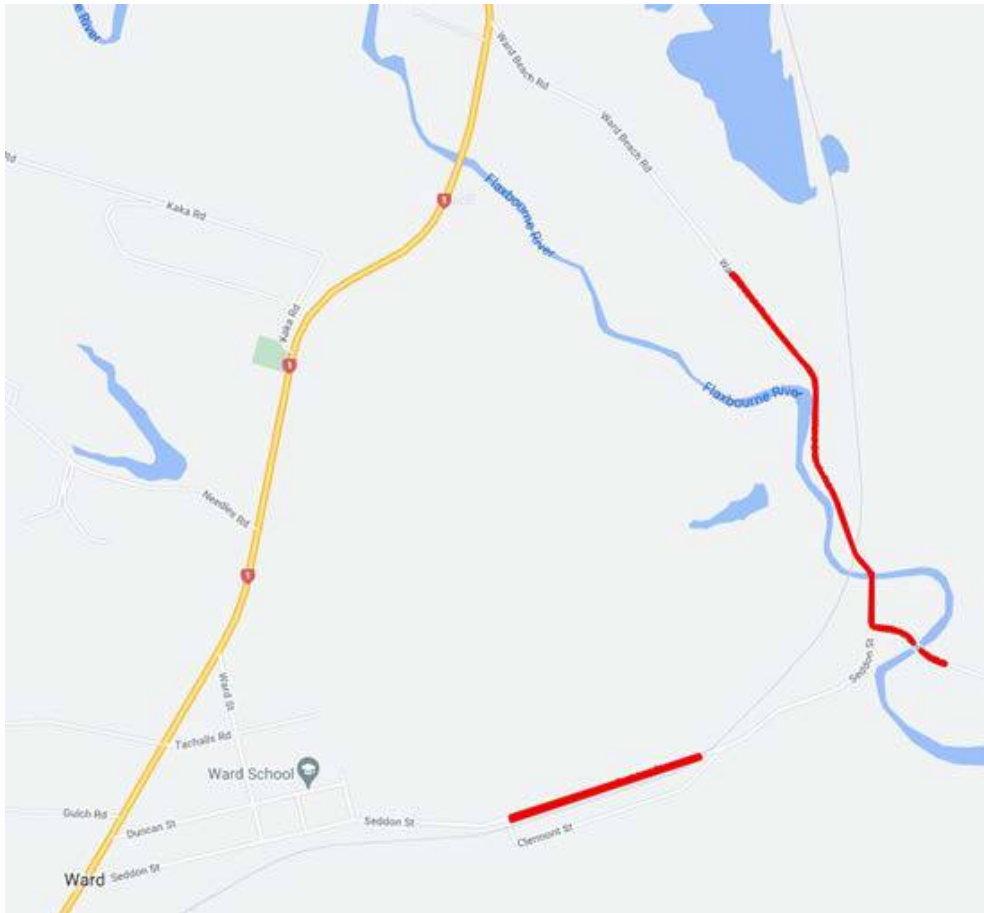
The following plans show the Local Road Renewal Sites for the 2023/24 year.











Footpaths

Work on the full network assessment and condition rating of the Marlborough District's footpaths continues.

The rating will capture the current condition of the footpaths and will give each footpath and overall ranking. The footpaths have also been given a level of priority dependant on their location e.g. schools, hospitals, CBD, elderly housing etc.

This information will give us the ability to be able to prioritise each footpath into a forward works programme that can be planned multiple years in advance. This will also give utility operators the opportunity to be able to plan their works prior to footpath renewals being completed.

The intention is to have a 3-year FWP in place by the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year.

Marlborough Road Activities

Activity Management Plan (AMP) 2024-2027

The 2024-27 Budget options were presented to Council on Monday 9 October. The AMP is moving forward with these options with the proposal for the "Conservative" budget option to be adopted.

A draft plan will be shared with Waka Kotahi by 8 December 2023. This draft will then be reviewed by Council as part of the Long Term Plan.

Whale Trail

Work continues with Waka Kotahi on the design of the section from Elevation to Picton. This section is going to cost considerably more than initially budgeted so approval for these additional costs is being sought.

Walking and Cycling Strategy

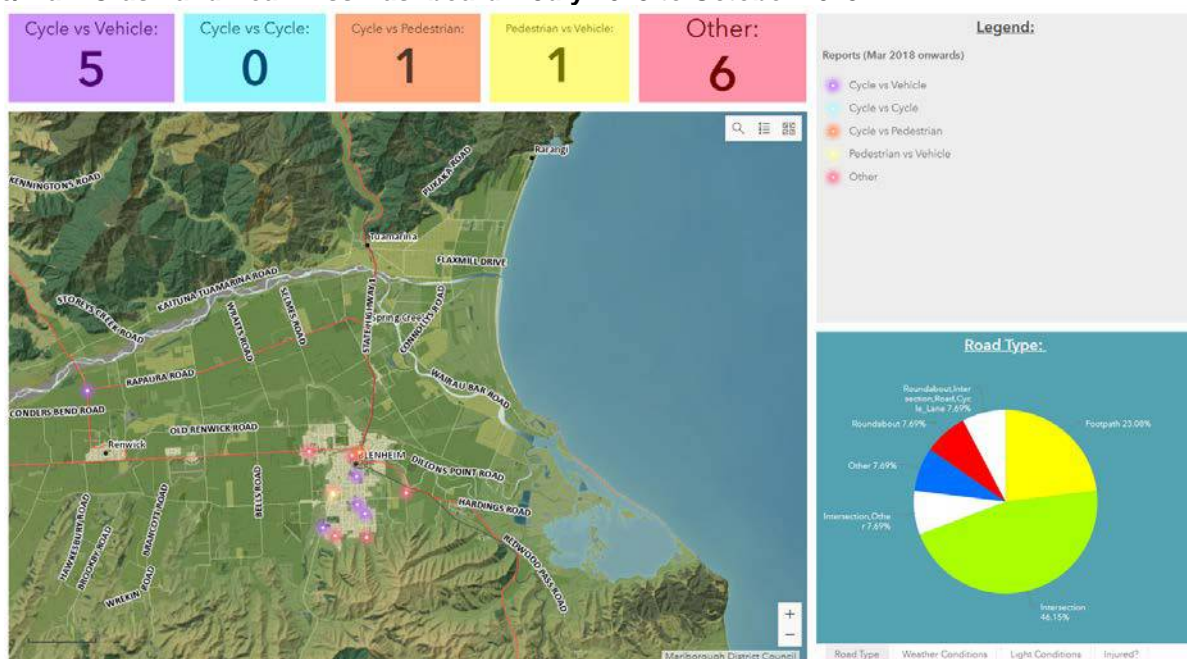
A workshop will be arranged for Councillors to ensure the strategy meets the direction Councillors want to take and that we are prepared for future funding options, should they arise.

The Strategy provides Waka Kotahi with the surety the MDC is committed to Improving Walking and Cycling facilities in the Region and our Urban Environment in particular, as highlighted in the latest Capability Session run by Waka Kotahi.

Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)

Work continues on the RLTP as an update and to separate Marlborough from the existing Top of the South RLTP. Laura Skelton will present an update on this work to the Regional Transport Committee in November.

Bike/Walk Crash and Near Miss Dashboard – July 2023 to October 2023



Stakeholder and Communications

Summary from Communications Manager

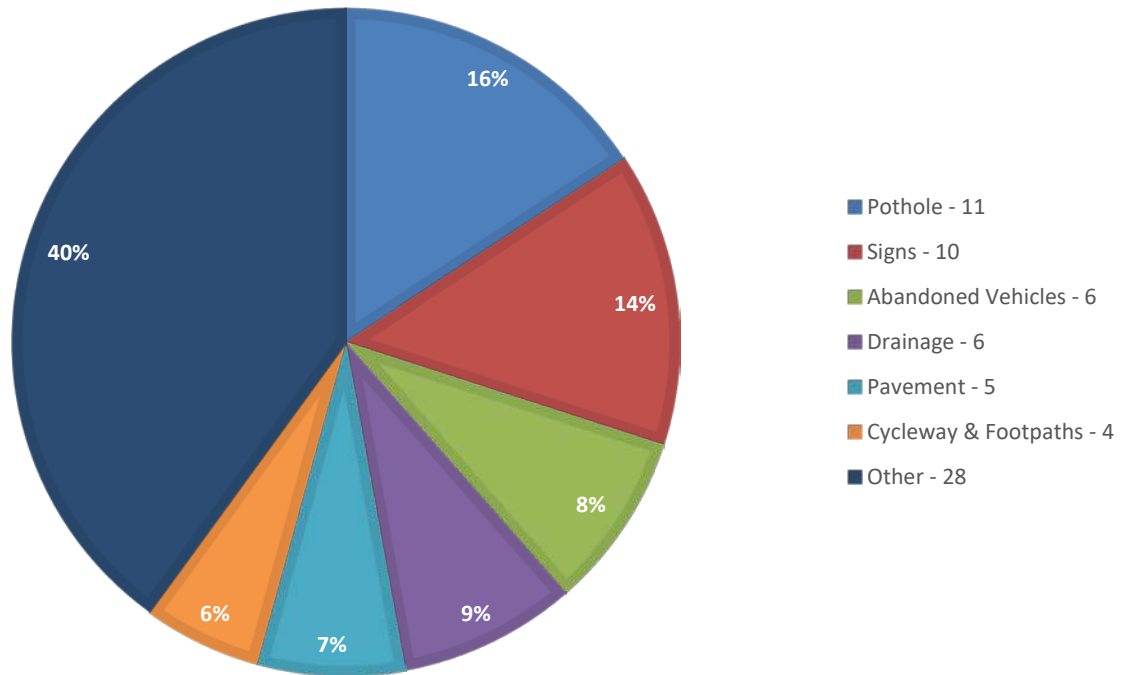
Summary for September:

The total number of customer enquiries in September was 70 on par with 73 CRMS in August. Enquiries were down when compared with September 2022 with 262 CRMS. This decrease on last year can be attributed to the weather events of August 2022 which were entered into September and contributed 184 CRMS. If weather event enquiries are removed from September 2022 CRMS, 78 CRMS remain which is marginally higher than September 2023. Of the 70 CRMs, 90% were for local roads and 10% for State Highways, with 100% resolved.

The highest number of enquiries were for potholes with 11 CRMS in September 2023. This can partially be attributed to national media coverage raising the public's awareness of potholes in recent months. The second highest category was signs with 10, this category also received 10 enquires in the previous month. Along with high winds during the month, this trend in signage enquiries, can be attributed to signs across the network being vandalised by someone removing/dumping them or changing their direction.

Please note, descriptions are as per CRMS categories.

CRM ENQUIRY TYPES SEPTEMBER 2023



There was one compliment received in September regarding the traffic management support provided to the Queen Charlotte Relay.

Ten customer call backs were completed in September. The average score was 4.8 (with one being very poor and 5 being very good) for the level of service received by the MRJV Team. Seven of the 10 calls gave five out of five regarding the level of customer service received, with the lowest score received being 4. Any items of concern have been forwarded to the relevant parties. The full register can be found on [Contract Workspace](#).

There were nine pieces of media published relating to the MRJV NOC in September 2023, five stories relating to renewals season with Stuff, Blenheim Sun and Marlborough Midweek including pieces on the busy season and Weld Pass closures. There were also two stories in the MDC paid pages concerning the Coathanger Carpark works, a text talk on a pothole on Grove Road and a story on the coroners findings of the SH1 multiple fatality crash in June 2022.

There were 13 letterbox drops to a total of 630 residents and five Antenna and Alerts sent in September to notify residents of upcoming chip seal renewals in their area. Letters were also sent to leaseholders and businesses affected by the closure of the Coathanger Carpark in October for it to be resurfaced.

Multiple communication and engagement planning meetings for the iRex project were attended in September along with the quarterly Utilities meeting. Notification of the October Coathanger Carpark works was also sent to the Picton Business Group, Freedom Camping Association and Yacht Club to share with their members.

Future Month Focus:

- Renewals season notification
- Significant impact works communication
- Internal communication process for incident response
- Communication plan for NZGTTM in Marlborough

Operational Performance Measures

Local Roads

NTC 0144 issued on 26 July advised a new threshold for Local Road OPMs. At a meeting held 16 August it was agreed the thresholds for Local Roads would be set at Lower - 50 and Upper - 80. This is for a 12-month trial period, effective from 01 July 2023.

Month	Score	At-Risk Payment
July	50	\$ -
August	39	\$ -
September	68	\$14,314.70

October Monthly score - yet to be assessed

- Field OPMs – potholes, culvert markers, regulatory sign not visible, corrugations isolated blockage



Road Safety

Monthly Summary from Network and Road Safety Manager. Details and trend information is included in the Quarterly reporting.

Local Road Crash summary

The Contract has had 0 DSI crashes on the Local Road network recorded in CAS for September 2023.

Five minor and non-injury crashes on State Highways and Local Roads reported for August.

Marlborough Roads Recovery Team Update – August 2023

Overall a good month for the Marlborough Roads Recovery Team. The upwards trend of the amount of physical works happening on site is continuing. There has been a large push from the construction team to complete the minor work packages ahead of the many IFC designs of the complex sites going out for construction. The team is aiming to complete the bulk of the minor works by the end of October which unlocks the final handover of these sites to BAU including pavement reviews. The handover process to BAU is being finetuned through our fortnightly interface meetings.

The design hub has been able to convert a large amount of design packages to IFC status. We are in the process of reviewing the design complexity of upcoming phase 3 design packages. These reviews and site drive overs have proven to be very beneficial, multiple sites in our current scope have had their complexity changed from Complex to simple or minor generating savings on the construction forecast.

Another milestone hit was finalising the generic railway iron wall IFC package which was a long process to complete but already proving successful through good programme gains (design duration of site significantly reduce). Some of these walls are now out for procurement and its expected so see some gains on construction forecast as well.

Large effort has gone into the construction cost forecasting now the phase 2 scope has been finalised. The cost at completion in construction only is looking positive, meaning that sites currently not considered for construction could be pulled forward. Forecasting of design budgets and P&G are being worked through now.

The programme has been updated to reflect the agreed scope of works and has been baselined for ongoing reporting.

People and Culture

Work on the ground has significantly increased over the last month with new sites starting up and some of the first phase 2 complex sites nearing completion. Overall morale within the team the subcontractors is positive, which was acknowledged by both the client and Governance board members.

The resource levels within the team are at a good level right now, although the staff levels within the Strategic Engagement team has to be monitored over the next few months with the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study being presented and rolled out to the public. It is also expected that temporary assistance is required in the finance space to update reporting deliverables to the level expected.

The fortnightly photo competition has started again and a good amount of good photos have come through from the wider team. The purpose of this competition is for the Engagement team to get a good collection of site photos that can be used for community communication. The winner of the September mid-month photo competition was Adam Hale with the photo on the right, showing the kerb and fill concrete infill being competed at one of the Queen Charlotte retreat sites.



Living Safely

Subcontractors

In the month of September, we completed two inspections which maintained our subcontractor inspection schedule for Marlborough Roads Recovery. The inspection showed a high level of risk management with suitable controls implemented to manage relevant risks. We completed plant inspections on subcontractor's plant and provided inductions to new workers as required. We also reviewed the level of risk control and worker competency was appropriate for the works being undertaken.

Injuries

There were no injuries recorded in the month of September for the Recovery project.

Leadership Safety Actions

In September, we had 53 leadership safety actions logged, with a target of 45. Leadership Actions are a good way of demonstrating the dedication and commitment our team has towards the Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental considerations for workers in the field. This is a positive reflection of a good safety culture within the Marlborough Roads Recovery team.

The **Blue** line indicates our target minimum LSA requirement for the month and fluctuates depending on the number of supervisors working in any given month. The **Orange** line indicates the achieved number of Leadership Safety Actions completed in each month.



Environmental

Resource Consent Application Progress

During the past month, the draft conditions for the Zonal Consents were reviewed and further correspondence with MDC was undertaken to get to a position of finalisation. Agreement was reached on 28th September on the wording and content of the consent with the final issuing of the first Zonal Consent (Kenepuru) likely to be received in the first week of October. This will then form the blueprint for the other six Zonal Consents that have been applied for.

- Fish Bay Barge Ramp Consent application is still in progress. One final submitter who wished to be heard (even though they were generally in support of the ramp) is currently trying to be contacted to see if the submission can be withdrawn so we can move towards the issuing of draft conditions.
- The variation for completing the Titirangi Clean Fill expansion, and the retrospective consent package for the Limestone Slip and the
- The Waitata Bay rock / gravel extraction retrospective consent application is now underway by WSP.

- Wilkes Resource Management are working on the retrospective consent application for the clean fill on Croisilles-French Pass Road at RP 29.6 alongside an approved volume from the farm operator for future filling should it be required, and a new application for clean filling at RP 13.3.

Environmental Highlights / Low Lights

- Highlights:
 - Civil Defence transition period extended for the Marlborough Sounds Ward ONLY until 20 October 2023, unclear how long this will remain in place.
 - The fault repairs along Queen Charlotte Drive that kicked off in August are progressing well with RJ Civil implementing excellent erosion and sediment control measures and clean water diversion as part of the works at QCD-716-00514.
 - The anchor drilling and installation at Duncan Bay is progressing well with no environmental incidents or concerns arising with them operating directly above the marine environment
 - Other site reviews of Edridge Contracting on French Pass Road, Taylors Contracting at Mahikapawa Hill, and RMF Contracting on Northbank Road have shown well managed sites.
 - Bushey's clean fill is again receiving large amounts of material from the repairs underway on Queen Charlotte Drive, with Leslie Bros. updating and improving the drainage at the new tip head, again utilising the mussel shell for sediment control.
- Lowlights:
 - Civil Defence Transition Period has now ended for other Marlborough Wards. Crews must now work to our resource consent application commitments in lieu of MDC processing our zonal applications.
 - The ongoing delay in receiving resource consent conditions through September.



Repairs underway on Croisilles-French Pass Road at Fault FRP-518-11050 by Edridge Contracting



Hydroseeding on the completed retreat and drainage works on Queen Charlotte Drive Fault QCD-716-01156

Design Summary

Progress Update

Business as usual this month progressing the designs through decision gateways.

The team are working to shift from email to M-files as much as possible. Design consultants have been asked to return proposals and design comment review sheets via notice. Design Hub have a notice for correspondence. We would like to shift to a situation where all information for each site is managed through M- files, and this will be a continued focus. The mandatory use of Work Package meta data ensures there is a quick view for all correspondence and design outputs.

It has been agreed that Design Hub meetings (progress and decision prevue), which have been 2+ hours twice weekly, be cut back to once a week to provide more time for Design Hub to compile design briefs, review design proposals, drawings and reports. The meetings are approximately \$1,600 an hour so there will also be a savings benefit. Notices can capture commentary to date to help with recall when reviewing for approvals. It was decided to keep two governance decision making meetings.

Design Issues and Challenges

Three items have been addressed this month in the design process, surveying, services and land acquisition.

A survey request register is now on M-files, being managed by MRRT Survey Manager Dave Wright. Council's Consents & Compliance Group Manager and Systems Engineer have identified sites that required survey to get this underway while designers respond to design briefs.

Service relocations, if required, can take six months. Some designers look up and request B4uDig outputs. However, few engage with service providers, identifying the need for contractors to do this on IFC drawings, which in the case of a relocation is too late in the process. It is important to be identified early and as such is seen as a designer responsibility, no later than preferred option stage. A review of current design sites has been requested in case more can be picked up by MRRT. Going forward, this will be clearly articulated in design briefs. Over the next proposed drive over of potential sites it is

proposed that services be a point to note at the site and CAT Scans could be carried out on the spot to better inform subsequent design briefs.

Land acquisition is taking an average 170 days to resolve, however it isn't always addressed early enough. Whilst not fully resolved, the current thinking is value in immediate consultative contact with land owners at all sites identified on the drive over that could require a change in alignment or temporary work via private property.

Construction Summary

Progress Update

Overall outstanding Priority 1 faults down to 110 = $110 / 312 = 35\%$ remaining to complete. These completed sites are mostly minor works of which a large portion has been inspected by BAU inspectors for satisfactory close out. Once full road sections and zones are completed towards the end of the month, formal sign-off and handover process will commence.

Construction Issues and Challenges

To date no issues with the procurement to include traffic management but no sites like this physically started but no concerns raised during the procurement phase.

Material lead times as previously discussed ie box culverts advancing slowly. Rock supply could become a risk for river sites to be completed before Christmas break but procurement is getting well advanced for sites outside of the Awatere. Consent and rock plucking option being investigated for the Ure Road sites.

Risk around programming works and the bow wave of designs coming up ensuring subcontractors are not delaying each other or there is an increase in safety concerns. The large wave of IFC design coming through in September has caused some programme challenges of procurement completion. The team has been selective in prioritising procurement packages to ensure minimal impact on over completion dates.

The temporary works designs at the Cullen Point MSE wall turned out to be very extensive causing a risk of a large budget overspend. This was reviewed in conjunction with the client and decided to undertake additional geotechnical investigations with the aim to reduce the temporary works design. These investigations were completed at the end of the month with results being reviewed now. The procurement methodology for the temporary works of this site is to be reviewed for lessons learned on future sites.

Subcontractor Performance

No current urgent issues or concerns with our current subcontractors. Subcontractors being added to the supplier panel as they present or are requested by the client for inclusion. Some tenders going out to 10 – 14 tenderers.

Financial

September sees another uplift in the claim value as works start ramping up over the network due to more work packages being procured across the network.

With the Phase 2 funding approved the team is planning ahead, we will have a busy construction season ahead. During September procurement continued for various sites where IFC drawings have been provided.

Design spend continues to run at a high level with many sites or packages underway currently.

We are currently working together with the assurance team to review and update our financial reporting and put a focus on out cost to complete. The claim schedule has now been updated to reflect more detailed cost analysis per zone and fault category.

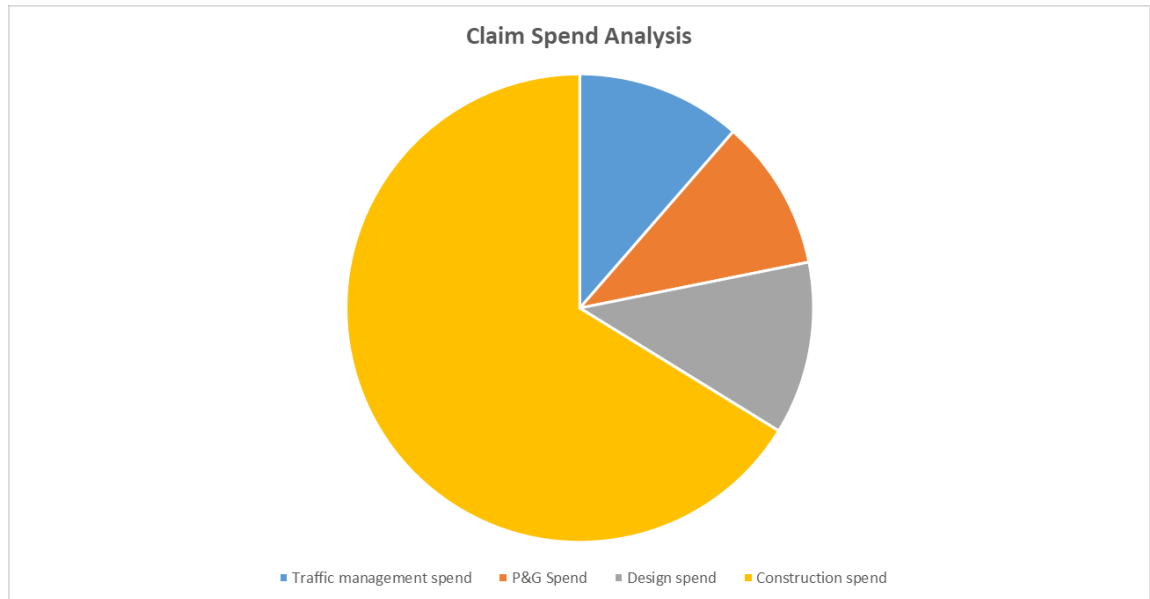
Cost Summary

This month's claim was \$2.073M reflecting the ramp up of works.

Areas of spend can be seen in the pie chart below. In the month there was constructional spend of \$1.373mil. Works undertaken this month include,

QCD 1 Package \$435k, QCD 2 Package \$172k, Northbank \$77k, Tumbledown Rd \$50k, Handover lists \$71k, and Duncan Bay \$152k.

The high-level analysis of the September claim is below:



Remaining Budget

With the phase 2 funding now confirmed the programme in total has approximately \$61.2M of budget remaining to cover both physical repairs, design, client-side costs etc.

NOTE this total does include client-side cost spend up to August only so the actual value will be slightly less. The cost to complete process is being revised and updated to reflect the new scope of works and forecast estimates for sites still under design.

A change management system is being worked through to ensure that remaining budgets and cost to complete is being considered when prioritising sites currently not included in the works.



Financial Forecast

Forecasting of physical works has been completed through the month of September with a summary of original budget and forecast per zone below, the detailed forecast is included in appendix 11.4. Most packages are being procured under original budget estimates, many due to the site drive overs and adjusting of design complexity prior to the design phase. This is showing in a current forecast of \$1.2M below funding budget.

The P&G spend over the last months has been between \$200-300k. A detailed P&G forecast is to be completed in October now the programme has been baselined, although early indication is that there is a risk of overspend in this space. Remaining budget as of 01/09/23 was \$3.1M with a programme completion in September 2024. An average P&G spend of \$250k /month means a cost at completion of \$3.25M, variance of \$150k. This forecast is to be detailed out to confirm, although is a risk to be monitored.

There is an expected opportunity in the traffic management budget. Traffic management cost is now included in subcontractor pricing and is included in the current physical works forecast, and therefore it is expected that the monthly self-performed TM cost (static sites) will decrease. Remaining TM budget as of 01/09/23 is \$3M and the October month TM cost will be used as a guideline for TM forecasting.

Client-side cost is tracking well in line with the budget. Forecast of client-side cost from Andrew Adams showed a remaining spend from Sep '23 up to Jul '24 of \$2.55M against a remaining budget of \$3.15M. With final projects being completed towards September '24, it is likely that the cost at completion will be higher than the current forecast, but monthly spend will be significantly reduce. Therefore, current expectation is for this to come under budget.

Procurement

Nine physical works procurement notices were accepted, some of which include grouped procurement packages of complex, simple and minor faults. Several other packages are currently out for procurement. The delivery team has managed to find opportunities with combining packages to reduce on TM cost.

Assurance has undertaken audit on our procurement methodologies to verify if they are in line with agreed procurement strategies. Overall audit was positive, and the procurement methods do follow the agreed strategy and processes apart from the 'approval to procure physical works' step has been missed recently. This will be included combined with current processes to not delay the overall approval process. This is a minor issue for packages already completed.

Main points of improvements identified:

- Consider 'backlogging' procurement of some IFC design to allow packaging (if the programme allows to).

This is a cost opportunity and creates more interest from subcontractors.

- Social procurement and performance monitoring to be considered for use in future tenders
- Include 'approval to procure' step as above
- Review and set-up lessons learned for the Design & Build procurement of Duncan Bay slope stabilisation works
- Stock tracking methods of MRRT procured steel and timber at Linkwater Yard to be reviewed

Subcontractor spend over the last three months:

Programme

Last months focus on the programme was around incorporating the final agreed scope in the programme and ensuring that all agreed processes are covered the baseline programme for phase 2 can be generated. This baseline programme is now completed as of 29/09/2023 and progress updates from now will be measured against the programme attached as appendix 11.1.

We've had our first progress update meeting last month in which we discussed the mid-month programme update with the wider team and assurance. These meetings are beneficial to share and discuss slippages and risk on the programme, although there is a lot to cover. We'll keep on trailing this progress meeting and implement learners to ensure these meetings are to the point and beneficial.

Progress Update

Below summary table of milestones based the zones, both design and construction, based on the baseline programme dated 29/09/2023. No slippages are shown against these milestones during this update because of the baselining, reporting against these milestones will commence in October.

We have recorded any programme slips on individual activities over the last month with below a summary of slippage trends:

- Multiple 'admin' slips due to design process in the programme not aligned with the actual process. This is now resolved in the new baseline programme
- Few slips of one consultant in particular due to CAD resources, this is to be monitored. It has been identified by consultants that their timing and priorities are easier to managed when larger design packages are assigned to a consultant at once. With all design now underway, this could be explored for Phase 3 works.
- Few delays in IFC close out and construction procurement due the large amount of IFC coming available last month, this caused a slight back log in these activities although should be reduced through October
- Delays on continuation of some design packages until contractual terms have been agreed upon. A thorough review of consultant agreement was undertaken to ensure every organisation works under the same T+C's. This caused some negotiations which is now completed and closed out.
- Increased resource consent application durations for the Ure Road sites due to the specific consent likely iwi consultation requirements.

Forward Programme

The programme as of 29/09/23 identifies a critical path through the Awatere Valley zone, site AWA-856-02169 called Awatere Scour in particular. Aimed design completion for this site is 14 June 2024, with a construction completion on 23 September 2024 currently driving the overall phase 2 project completion date. This path is purely driven by the current agreed design process and estimated construction period for this project.

The completion of this site is one month after the completion of the second to last site, meaning that there is a big opportunity for the overall project completion date to be pulled forward significantly if gains or efficiencies can be found on this site. The team has been challenged to review opportunities here.

Critical paths that drive the milestone of each of the zones have now been created, allowing the team to put their focus on these sites.

Programme Risk

There is a high risk programme risk around land acquisition. A review of recent land acquisitions shows that the average duration of this process took 170 days on average, rather than the 80 days originally allowed for in the programme. These durations have now been updated in the baseline programme to reflect the actual data, although with a large portion of these works being out of our control, there is still a right of delay. Detailed land acquisition negotiations cannot start until the design is at a certain stage, restricting the possibility of an earlier start.

Note that there is a land acquisition risk on the Awatere Scour site currently driving our longest path. Land purchase may be required here depending on optioneering outcomes, the duration of the land acquisition for this site has been set to 80 days still pending design optioneering outcomes. Programme impacts for determining a design solution must be considered.

Communications & Engagement

The weekly roading recovery e-newsletters continue to form the base of the regular MRRT communications, supported by roading alerts on the Council's website, and Antenno.

In September, the e-newsletters included information regarding the Kenepuru Road restrictions and resident definition, upcoming works and closure information for the sites at Duncan Bay and on Croisilles-French Pass Road, in the French Pass zone. Information on the progress being made on the multiple sites on Queen Charlotte Drive as well as updates on works in Northbank, Port Underwood, Seddon, Ward, Awatere Valley, Waihopai Valley and Wairau Valley.

Customer interactions increased this month with 28 enquiries in September, compared with 15 in August. These customer interactions have been recorded and shared with MDC for their record.

Of the 28 enquiries, the majority were regarding the Kenepuru Zone with 18 or 64% of enquiries. Eleven of these enquiries in the Kenepuru Zone were regarding access for themselves or an essential service provider. The categories of Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study, faults and reports of vehicles outside of the restrictions, received two enquiries each.

There were four enquiries regarding French Pass relating to the location of closures on Duncan Bay and Croisilles- French Pass roads. There were three enquiries regarding concern over logging trucks on recovery roads in the Kenepuru, QCD and Port Underwood zones.

This month there were no media stories directly relating to the MRRT Project. There were two stories on the results of the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study and another story on government funding \$12m for 10 projects to help the Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman regions recover from recent weather related damage. Five of the 10 projects are in the Marlborough region.

Iwi engagement this month has included confirmation to Ngāti Kuia of works starting on Croisilles-French Pass, following the site visit in August. Ngāti Kuia and Te Ātiawa have also been advised of the possibility of bore hole testing on Tepuia Heights. As an area of cultural significance iwi monitors will be present for these works.

Progress Photos





Rivers and Drainage Section – Activity Report

(Information prepared by Geoff Dick, Andy White, Steve Bezar, Jan Dimmendaal, Duc Nguyen, Gregor Punzel, Frank Westergard) R700-014-01

Wairau River

Flood Damage

Additional emergency repairs were required near Giffords Road following some recent freshes in the river. Final completion of July 2021 flood damage repairs is awaiting on rock supply which should become available early in the New Year.



Wairau River stop banks

Repair work was necessary near Renwick after a 4WD vehicle damaged the grass cover on the main stop bank. Fencing was installed to prevent further damage on that site.



Capital Works

Wairau River Protection Works – Groyne 20 Conders Bend

Earthworks are complete. Works are momentarily paused waiting for additional quarry rock to complete the armouring of the groyne head.



Wairau Floodplain and Tributaries

Upper Ōpaoa River

A section of the Upper Ōpaoa River stop bank had settled, prompting our contractor to transport materials to restore it to its proper level. Following a final trim, the repaired section was resown to grass to help with stabilisation.



Taylor River

The amphitheatre in front of Raupo Cafe was hand-cleared in early October. Weed and algae growth had reached a level where it was appropriate to clear.

As of 1 November, the first of the planned cuts of the Taylor/Lower Ōpaoa with the weed boat is now underway.



In the meantime, representative sediment samples were collected from the Taylor River and Lower Ōpaoa marking the initial steps for dredging to restore water depth and flow capacity.

Wakamarina and Kaituna

Significant tree blockages have been removed from the Wakamarina as well as the Kaituna River near Norths Road to release pressure from the vulnerable river edges.

Ruakanakana Creek (just downstream of Waihopai intake)

The berms along Ruakanakana Creek above Renwick were mowed and cleared of woody vegetation. This revealed several erosion bays which will be addressed promptly.

Waihopai and Wairau SVIS intakes were cleared and readjusted following minor freshes in the wairau.



Stump Creek

After a weekend of strong winds, numerous fallen trees required clearing, including one in Stump Creek that had blocked the twin culverts beneath Rapaura Road.



An arborist's report has been requested on the condition of the remaining poplars that line Spring Creek along Stump Creek Road.

Wither Hills streams

Several erosion protection projects were successfully completed in Sutherland Stream and Rifle Range Creek.



Drainage

Ōpaoa Loop

A new gate is being installed at the north end of Lane Street where we have installed an access for boat launching into the Ōpaoa Loop. This new gate will restrict unwanted vehicles from the access but not pedestrian access. There was a recent incident of a freedom camper vehicle at this site.

Drainage Maintenance

A long section of Gundy's Drain Tuamarina completed prior to the mechanical excavation as shown below.



Inspections of various drains and weeds with Downers Supervisor to assist them in identifying various weed species.

A large fallen pine tree in Marris Creek, Wratts Road was recently removed as it was blocking stream flows.

A debris blockage was removed from Spring Creek at the control gates. The debris could have interfered with the operation of these control culverts and gates had the blockage flowed further into the culvert.

Floodway Reserves

- A large fallen poplar tree on the Hamish Young reserve Lower Ōpaoa was removed as it had fallen across the access track and stopbank. There are a number of mature poplar trees on this site and the recent winds would have caused this fall.
- Meetings have taken place the Whale Trail Manager and an adjacent property owner at Tuamarina as to sites for cattle stops enabling more easy cycling at this part of the Trail,
- Discussions were held with Matua Winery regarding their wastewater discharge onto Council land. These discussions are ongoing for vegetation management among this area where Council has replanted pine trees in this flood protection zone.
- GNS Science is requesting the use of a Council Floodway Reserve in February 2024 to conduct an earth magnetic field monitoring experiment in this subduction zone between the Alpine fault and the North Island.
- The exotic tree woodlot at the Waihopai Bridge has been pruned to allow easier access for mowing machinery to control this vegetation.
- Gibsons Road Floodway cypress woodlot is currently getting a first lift prune.

Picton, Sounds and Awatere

Waikawa and Waitohi Rivers

The laying of the enabling works (services including a sewer main) at the Waitohi Domain/Dublin Street is nearing completion and construction of the new Dublin Street overbridge foundations is underway.

Ongoing site visits are being made to ensure the integrity of the Waitohi Domain retention basin stopbank through the project.

Investigation and Miscellaneous

A report assessing the Stump Creek tributary flood flow and necessary capacity for any replacement culvert/bridge under Stump Creek Road is nearly complete. The draft report clearly shows why an emergency overcut over the existing culvert was required last winter to reduce the flood risk to two upstream properties.

Gravel Extraction

Demand for gravel remains high and contractors are looking for supplementary permits or resource consents to supplement existing allocations. This includes resource consents for extraction from several sites in the vicinity of Wairau Valley township.

Quarries

Pukaka

There has been minimal sales activity at the quarry with small quantities of face rubble being loaded out.

A wetter period of weather through October has restricted access to the upper quarry and slowed development activity. However, the Contractor has readied the back boundary area for fencing. The wet weather put the new stormwater settlement pond into action resulting in no sediment-laden water spilled into Quarry Drain.

Work is ongoing extracting the West Knob blast and preparing the main quarry face for production.



Figure 1 – very wet quarry floor, new settlement pond in the far corner



Figure 2 – back boundary topsoiled ready for grassing and fencing



Figure 3 – benching main face

Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report

(Information prepared by Jane Tito, Brad Molony, Carolyn Jones, Grahame Smail, Kiri Whiteman, Linda Craighead, Mike Lawson, Murray Morgan, Rachel Hutchinson, Regan Russell, Robert Hutchinson, Ross Laybourn) R510-009-000-01, R510-006-02, R510-005-04-02, R800-005-03

Blenheim Parks

Pollard Park

The staff have been kept busy over the last few weeks with tidy-up after the high winds. At the start of October a big tree branch blew out of the last old willow tree in Pollard Park. Generally, the Park has fared reasonably well in the high winds with the willow branch being the biggest to come down. There have been a lot of smaller branches come down and other wind related damage for staff to deal with.



Staff are currently very busy keeping up with the weeds and lawns, as everything is in a peak growth phase at the moment. Weeding and maintaining the gardens will help keep the flowers looking good for the upcoming events in the park including Garden Marlborough which is only a couple of weeks away.

One of the staff is currently working on improving the lawn areas of both Pollard Park and Seymour Square. There has been a lot of prickly weed in the lawns as well as other weeds. Spraying of some of Pollard's lawn areas has occurred and by removing the weeds it will be much nicer for the public to walk on and sit on and will also reduce mowing over summer months. After the lawns are sprayed they will be de-thatched and fertilised to encourage them to thicken up.

The image on the next page shows the after picture of an area that has been sprayed to remove the weed. The lawn is already starting to look much more inviting for the public to use. This particular area is well used by public at the Garden Marlborough Fete day.



Over the Saturday night of Labour Weekend a lot of vandalism occurred around Pollard Park. Staff had to clean up large amounts of broken glass around the playground and throughout the rest of the Park. As well as broken glass there were a few dozen empty bottles, lots of rubbish and broken play equipment to deal with. In the image below glass can be seen strewn across the pathway beside the playground, staff have collected a lot of rubbish and a drum in the music set has been broken off at ground level.



Seymour Square

Staff have worked their way through all of the gardens at Seymour Square over the last couple of weeks, with rose gardens and borders having been mulched with bio-blend after they were weeded. The annual beds have just been weeded and hoed and are looking great with everything in full flower.

A&P Park

It has been a busy month for football at A&P Park with a number of tournaments being played.



- South Island Master Games
- Annual Gavin Roberts 12th Grade, Boys and Girls
- Tasman 13/14 Grade Rep Tournament
- Matt Neal Memorial Tournament
- MBC v MBC Old Boys.

It is the 150th year of the Marlborough A&P Association and contractors have been busy tidying up the Park for the event. The pedestrian entranceway to the Park on Maxwell Road is getting a refresh, with the gates being repainted and entry roof repaired. Richardson Contracting is on site repairing the roof and guttering on the sheep pavilion at the same time.



Two differing concepts for the A&P Park Master Plan were presented to Councillors at a workshop lead by consultants and staff. The discussion on the plans was robust and constructive and the plans were well received. Further feedback from Councillors, both present and absent, was asked for. An agenda item will be presented to Council for a final decision.

Rata Park

Following a lovely email from a keen football fan living near Rata Park, an old obsolete football goal post was installed in the park for the locals to use.



New safety matting has also been installed under the play equipment at the Park.



Sheps Park

Due to recent vandalism with vehicles driving over gardens and onto the grassed park, a new security gate and bollards are being installed along the driveway and in the carpark.

Parker/Nelson Street Walkway.

The Parks and Open Spaces team is assisting the Safer Communities group with the painting of a new mural on the fences that border the walkway between Parker Street and Nelson Street.



Lansdowne Park

Work on levelling the gravel carpark between the Hub and old grandstand has begun in preparation for sealing this carparking area.



At the end of the playing season Lansdowne No. 1 field underwent heavy renovation. The surface was vigorously scarified to lift and remove the organic matter that had built up since installation of the turf. This was followed by multi-pass deep hollow core tining, bringing up sand and silt from below the surface, which was also removed.

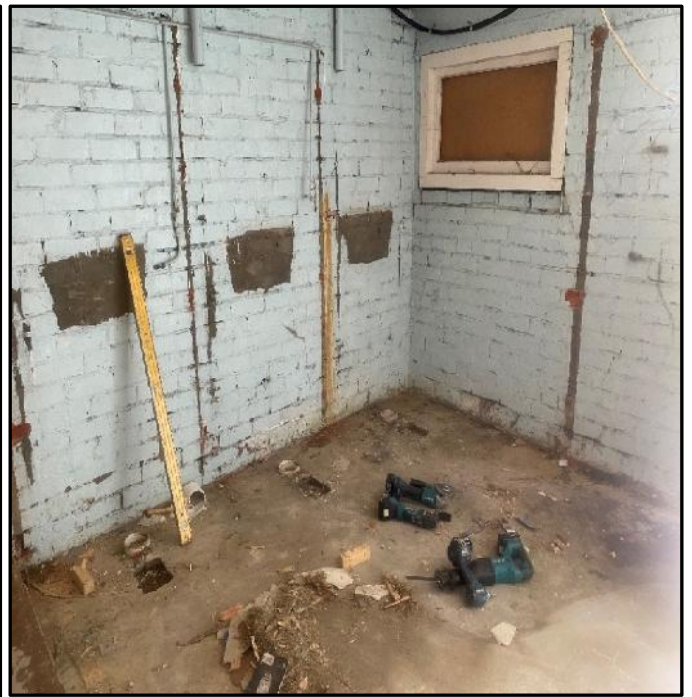


The hollow tines created holes which should encourage grass roots to grow deeper into the surface, providing a stronger playing surface. The holes were then filled with 80 cubic metres of sand, 1200 kg of seaweed pelletised fertiliser, 400 kg of Colesumn grass seed and 280 kg of DAP fertiliser on top of the finished sand layer. The spread sand equated to about a sand depth of 7mm on top of the existing surface. A further 5mm of sand will be applied in March next year.





Renovations of the old women's toilet at the northern end of the old grandstand are also underway. Once completed, four pans will be available at this end of the field.



Lansdowne Hub - South Island Masters Games

The Lansdowne Hub was the registration and merchandise area for the South Island Masters Games from 12 – 23 October. With over 2000 competitors needing to register, the Hub was a hive of activity over the eleven days of the event. This ranged from people collecting their registration packs to the various sports meetings, with Games staff and sports groups using the hub as their home base. It was an immensely busy time for the Hub and we look forward to seeing them back in 2025.



Taylor River - Pony Club Building

An agenda item to the Asset and Services Committee meeting on 3 October 2023 sought consent to dispose of the old Pony Club Building on the Taylor River. The decision of the meeting was for staff to *“further attempt to find a new owner”*.

Following the reporting of the agenda item by the local paper, Council received 10 enquiries about the building. Five of those enquiries were from private people wanting the building for housing, another person wanted specific parts of the building when demolished and the remaining four were community groups interested in the building. However, only two of those groups have sites to where the building can be moved.

The plan from here is to gather more information from the two groups that have a site and get confirmation that, as an organisation, they can meet all relocation costs.

Wither Hills Farm Park

Wither Hills Farm Park Working Group

Several sections within the Council hold responsibility for various parts of Farm Park activity, both physically and in terms of management processes. These sections have been operating alongside each other but not in a formally coordinated way. The sections that have been involved to date have been Rivers, Parks and Open Spaces and Environmental Science (Land and Water).

Previously, cross-section staff meetings have been held to discuss the farm's progress and discuss challenges. However, with the ongoing soil conservation issues, the growth in recreational activity within the Farm Park, changes to the residential surrounds of the Farm Park, heightened awareness of fire risk and Council's obligations with regards to Health and Safety legislation, staff considered that it was timely to commence a more regular cross-Council Staff Working Group. This will also include Assets and Services staff who have responsibility for the landfill and other Council infrastructure within the Park and Civil Defence staff. External representation on the Working Group includes the current lease holder, the Farm Park manager and FENZ staff.

This Group is seen as a way of better coordinating the major activities within the Farm Park, forming a central point of contact for Farm Park matters and better coordinating funding to help manage the Farm Park. It is expected that this Working Group would develop applications to the LTP (and other funding sources) to cover both operating and Capex expenses.

A report on the matters discussed at the latest Working Group meeting can be found after the Access and Mobility meeting minutes.

Management Plan Review

Work is progressing well with the drafting of the management plan. A draft framework for the strategic direction around which the plan is being prepared has been developed along with the structure of the various policies required.

The framework is fairly much the same as that which has been used for the Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan. However, given the complexities around soil conservation issues

and the multiple uses currently occurring within the Farm Park, there is a slightly different approach to the development of policies as can be seen in the following diagram:

Strategic Direction Components

Vision	• A high-level aspirational description of the desired future state or outcome that a plan, project, or organization aims to achieve.
Principles	• A set of core values or standards that inform how the plan is formulated, implemented, and evaluated
Management Framework	• Key elements where policies and actions will be required to ensure effective management
Outcomes	• Long term effects that are hoped for from the management policies and actions taken
Objectives	• Specific measurable timebound statements about what is hoped to be achieved
Policies	• Guidelines or rules that direct management decisionmaking
Actions	• Tasks that need to be taken to fulfil policies and meet objectives/outcomes

Summary of Policy Areas

Input Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kawanatanga / Governance 2. Kaitiakitanga/Guardianship 3. Te Whakaaro Tahi/Partnerships 4. Mahi hoahoa/Planning 5. Mahi tahi / Coordination
Outcome Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Puripuri whenua /Soil conservation 6. Tūrarū Ahi /Fire risk management 7. Ngā Tākaro Pūgāngi / Recreation opportunities 8. Whakaora te Taiao /Restoration of native habitats 9. Riha rāwaho/ Invasive species control 10. Whakatōto / Vegetation management 11. Haumarū te horanuku/ Landscape protection 12. Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho/Cultural heritage protection
Other Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Ohaoha take te whenua /Economic land uses 14. Kotahi takunetanga /Special events 15. Rato tautoko /Infrastructure 16. Rohenga takiwā /Park boundaries 17. Rāhui mahi /Prohibited activities

Councillor Workshops

Two Councillor workshops have been held as part of providing information in support of the review process. The first workshop on 13 September was a 'setting the scene' workshop where the history of the Farm Park, soil conservation issues, Boxing Day fires, water issues, management plans, recreation activity, biosecurity and the covenant area were all discussed.

The second workshop on 28 September had a focus on fire risk and managing fire risk. Staff were supported in the workshop with an external consultant who has undertaken an analysis of fire risk for the Wither Hills.

As we progress through the development of the management plan there will be more workshops planned with Councillors.

Summer Season Planning

Staff with management responsibilities for the Farm Park have met with FENZ staff to discuss the upcoming summer and the dry and windy weather conditions expected for Marlborough. Although this is a return to the more 'normal' weather Marlborough generally experiences, following several relatively cool and less windy summers there is a need to ensure there are appropriate processes in place if access to the Farm Park should need to be restricted or prevented.

Restrictions could include messaging to 'stay low, go early' when fire risk is increasing and may ultimately mean the closure of the Farm Park in extreme conditions. Liaison with the Council's Comms team and that of FENZ is an important part of the process in getting the messages out to Farm Park users, as well as to those landowners whose properties border the Farm Park.

Processes are currently being updated with the assistance of FENZ. One aspect noted by FENZ is that signage with restrictions or closure should be made larger, especially at the major entry points.

Renwick Parks

Following on from playground and other groundwork renewals within the suite of the small neighbourhood parks and open space areas in the Renwick Township, recent planting and other final improvement work is showing good results.

Over the past few years, this work has focused on helping create greater amenity, civic quality and user benefit whilst looking to reduce or remove 'ground hog day' type work requirements. It has also been a drive for improvement so that the best value proposition for Council's everyday routine contract maintenance work is achieved across such areas.

Picton Parks

Port Marlborough Pavilion

Marlborough Mount Everest Challenge

We are three weeks into the seven-week challenge and this year registration numbers have increased from 331 in 2022 to 377 participants in 2023. As of 27 October, 323 participants have logged at least one climb, up 78 on this time last year. This has meant that the number of climbs and height gained at this stage of the challenge has been impressive – over 2997 climbs and 922,186.6 metres in height. These have mainly been completed on the Tirohanga Track in Picton and the Mt Vernon Track on the Wither Hills.

Like the previous three years, participants have a wide range of fitness levels and motivations, with some people trying to complete the challenge in the quickest time possible while others collaborate to try and complete the challenge as part of a team in the seven weeks. So far, nine individuals and 21 out of 64 teams have completed the challenge. With four more weeks to go we have plenty more climbs to come and, fingers crossed, a lot more people will complete the challenge.



Softball Tournament

Waitohi Softball held their first annual softball tournament over Labour Weekend. Nine teams were involved, with teams coming from Christchurch, Ashburton, Hutt Valley and Nelson for this inaugural event. Lawrance Allen, President of the Marlborough Softball association, said *“the tournament was a huge success with the grounds looking fantastic, giving a great impression to visiting teams”*.



Auckland Street Reserve – Picton Skate Park/Youth Space

Work is progressing well to improve use and enjoyment of the Auckland Street Reserve - Picton Skate Park/ Youth Space area. This work follows more than a year of largely informal consultative work with Picton schools, some Sport Tasman facilitated youth events and other Council staff/Sports Tasman information gathering meetings with student leaders at Queen Charlotte College.

The key items for development and improvement that came out of this work, and were prioritised, include the ever popular three-on-three basketball court, spectator seating, more colourful aspects, shaded social areas, a grassed area for social volleyball games, new signage and a drinking fountain.

The work is progressing well, with the intention to have all work largely completed prior to Christmas. The establishment of a concrete path section and new entry point has been planned to allow better access for families and small children, along with a short gravel path section that can be used by the Whale Trial as a link through the Auckland Street Reserve. New parameter and beautification plantings will be progressed as seasonal conditions allow.

Picton Community Garden

Envirohub Picton have been driving the development of a community garden in Picton on land at the end of Huia Street that forms part of Victoria Domain Reserve. The Council has, through a previous Annual Plan process, given Envirohub funding of \$15,500 towards establishment costs for Stage 1 of the Community Garden. Agreement has been reached with Envirohub over the terms of a licence agreement for the land and water connections are being processed. The Envirohub team are very excited to be able to get the project underway.

Northern Marlborough/Sounds

Anakiwa / Tirimoana

Anakiwa and Tirimoana visitors and residents can now enjoy a new pathway within the Tirimoana Reserve.

The Tirimoana and Anakiwa Residents' Association first approached Council with the idea in 2018 however, it wasn't progressed at the time. The Association raised it again with Parks and Open Spaces earlier this year and, due to budget constraints, the Small Townships Programme funded and delivered the project. Installation of new picnic tables under the kowhai grove (shown on the photos below) is planned. The addition of the path opens up the space and makes it feel more like a neighbourhood park, and a small playground budgeted for in 24/25 will complement this nicely. Discussions on location within the reserve and the type of playground equipment will be held with the wider community.



District Public Conveniences

Picton Foreshore Reserve

Improvement and renewal of the highly used Picton Foreshore Reserve toilets (under the Picton Museum) is progressing well. This has included a repaint of both the interior and exterior of the building, replacement of pans and in-wall cistern flush systems and improved lighting and ventilation. Two external handwashing basins are being installed on the exterior wall to provide for general or passerby use.

Powerhouse Reserve/Auckland Street Reserve

Improvement to the access pathway and the removal of possible trip hazards has been completed in the recently.

District Cemeteries

Improvement work across several of the Council's eight administered cemeteries has continued over the past period in line with Cemetery Plan actions and driving continuous improvement within the cemetery activity.

Omaka Cemetery

New Seating:

The remainder of the new seating arrived from the supplier and was installed by the carpark next to Omaka Cemetery No 2 Lawn. Some seats have been placed under cover, and some out in the sunshine, giving a convenient spot for visitors to sit, rest or assemble when attending a cemetery service. The area is also a useful spot for school groups to use when visiting the cemetery for a school project.



Heritage Feature:

Near the shelter, there is an interesting heritage feature as a leftover from the time when the Sexton's house stood at this area. Block 1A of the 'New Cemetery' has corrugations in the concrete running along the back of the new plots – these were created when concrete from the grave structure was originally poured against the metal corrugated fence adjacent to the Sexton's house.



Picton Cemetery

New Handrail:

A new handrail has recently been installed along the path adjacent to the Services Area at Picton Cemetery. The handrail is a big improvement for those with a concern on the slightly inclined pathway and the path has also been extended to connect the entrance area, allowing level access from the roadway. Two repurposed and refurbished bench seats have been installed to give visitors a pleasant place to rest and remember.



Planting Improvement:

In most of the cemeteries there are boundary margins, steep banks or other such areas that are routinely quite difficult to maintain. By way of driving continuous improvement over recent years, and on an ongoing basis, such areas are being progressively planted up.

This has the dual benefit of improving the amenity value (look and feel) whilst helping to eliminate generally wasteful tasks such as spraying or weed eating, therefore reducing the ongoing contracted maintenance cost of such areas.

The photo below of a steep bank site at Picton Cemetery is typical of such plantings and shows the progression of plant coverage over the past few years.



Ward Cemetery

New Plantings:

Recent planting has taken place along the southern boundary margin at the Ward Cemetery where once there were old and very gnarly pine trees. A combination of upright Cyprus and smaller native shrubs and grasses have been planted to create a layered look and to fill in an area that was previously controlled by spraying and weed eating.

Over time, this area will provide the backdrop to an ashes burial area making good use of the boundary margin space and the planting shelter as it establishes.



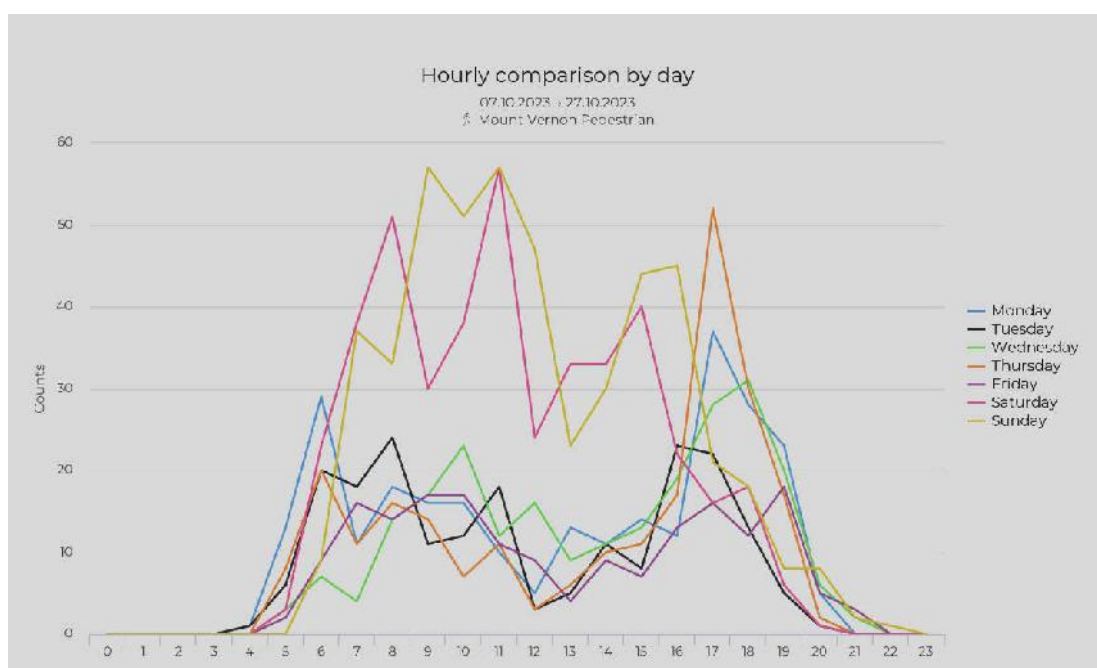
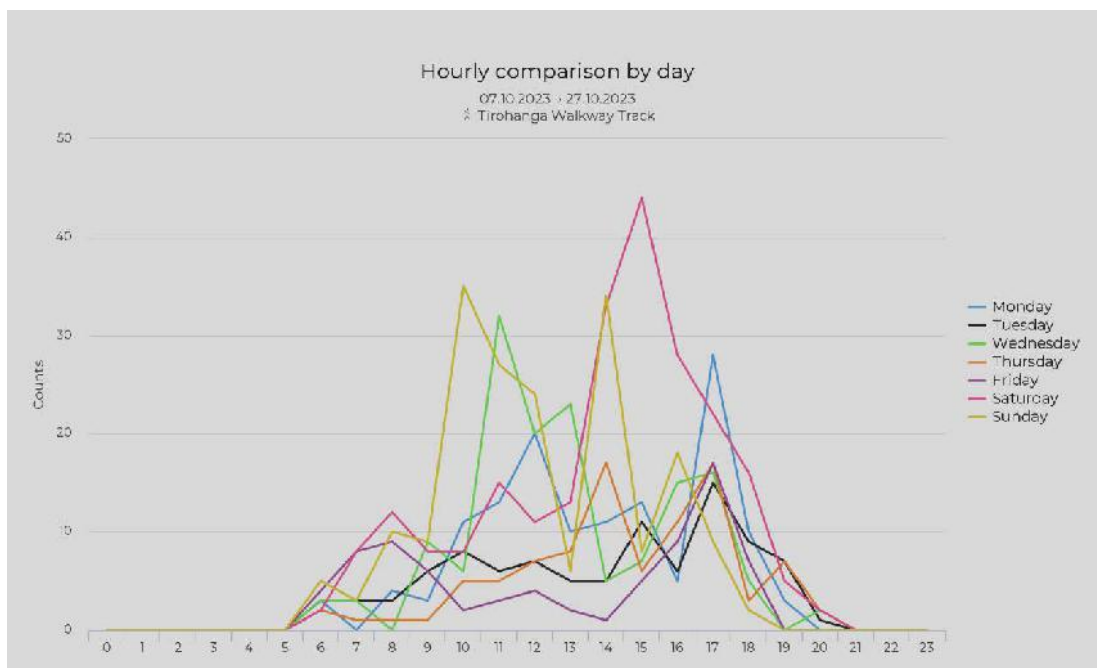
District Memorials

Work on the development of a master planning document for the management and care of the district memorials assets (mostly the war memorials) is progressing well.

The benefit of such documents is that it collates and places key information in one place and helps ensure budgetary requirements and priorities for the ongoing care and protection of such assets is provided for within Council's long term planning process.

Walking and cycling

The track counters at the Tirohanga and Mount Vernon tracks are getting a big workout with the Mt Everest Challenge, with the numbers so far plotted below:



Trees

Staff have dealt with a number of heritage (notable) tree maintenance enquiries this month, ranging from repairs to wind damaged trees, removal of dead trees and how to access the heritage tree fund.

Playgrounds

Wairau Valley Hall

Final plans for the replacement playground to be built at the Wairau Valley Hall have been approved by the hall committee and it is hoped that this playground will be constructed at the same time as the Havelock playground, which is by the same installer, Playco. The playground has been funded through the Land Subdivision account.



2023/24 Annual Plan Submissions

During this year's Annual Plan decision-making process, the proposals of some submitters were required to be referred to the Assets and Services Committee for further consideration. A number of the submissions are currently being addressed and the following provides an update on these.

Community Halls Audit

In response to several hall committees requesting assistance with funding for maintenance, the Council referred the requests to the Assets and Services Committee with an overall look at all community hall facilities to occur.

A review of the Council's halls and pavilions stock is underway. A look at the list of actions required on some of the halls e.g. leaky roof, shifting foundations, old kitchen and toilet replacement and funding identified through the Annual Plan submissions, identified there was a priority list of halls that should be looked at first.

Work has begun on capturing information about the history of these hall facilities from Council files and interviews with hall committees is being undertaken.

Awatere Valley Trust – Seddon Domain and Township Improvements

The Awatere Valley Trust submission to the Annual Plan sought a range of improvements to the Seddon township including on Seddon Domain. Some of these can be considered through the reserve management process currently underway for the Domain including use of the swimming pool, the presence of the campground and a range of specific wants for the Domain. In the July Information Pack we reported that a recent follow-up consultation process had occurred with the community on the management plan process. The intention had been to workshop a draft plan with Councillors in the second half of 2023 however, other work has taken priority of advancing the draft plan. A workshop is now intended for the first quarter of 2024.

Small Townships and Parks and Open Spaces staff have met with representatives of the Trust recently who have set out in more detail some of their proposals for other areas of Seddon. Implementing these would likely result in a levels of service increase and further work to determine this and the practicality of some proposals is needed.

Flaxbourne Settlers Association (FSA)

The FSA had requested additional funding for their maintenance activities through the Annual Plan process. Staff are working with the executive of the FSA to review the current community contract costings and levels of service for the contract that encompasses greenspace ground maintenance (Domain, Flaxbourne War Memorial site, Cemetery and other miscellaneous Ward Township areas), Domain toilets cleaning, Ward Hall use and cleaning services and limited building and facilities maintenance.

The community are also working on the drafting of a long-term development and improvement plan for Ward Domain.

Marlborough Mountain Bike Club – Track Maintenance

The Marlborough Mountain Bike Club raised some issues concerning maintenance of the Mountain Bike Park. At the time of submission, there had been a period where the contractor did not have staff who had the skills required to perform the technical aspects of the track maintenance. This has now been remedied. Prior to the XC event in October, a track specialist performed significant upgrades within the park. An audit of the grades and conditions of the tracks has been undertaken by a consultant and this is currently being reviewed by staff.

Spring Creek Hall – Replacement Windows

Spring Creek Hall requested assistance to replace the rotting windows on the east side of the building. Cantwell Engineering have been engaged to construct and install the replacement windows at the hall.

Farmers Market Improvements

The Marlborough Farmers Market had sought support for a number of improvements for their activities. A number of meetings have been held with the Farmers Market about the new direction that they wish to head. The growth of the Market, the orientation of the Market and most activities within the Market can happen comfortably in their existing leased area. The days they operate and the number of stalls they wish to have will require a change to their resource consent. The only sticking point is the formalisation of a carpark area.

The Parks and Open Space team, supported by the draft A&P Park master plan, do not support a formalised carpark in this area. Discussions are ongoing.

Redwood Street toilet

A request was received to establish a small public toilet facility at the end of Redwood Street at this entrance to the Wither Hills Farm Park. A budget paper is being prepared for the 2024/34 Long Term Plan that sets out provision for the requested Redwood Street toilet along with proposals for other toilet facilities.

Renwick Dog Park – Highway Toilet Signage

A request was received to provide SH6 signage for the small Renwick Dog Park toilet facility. Roadside highway signage in both directions and signage at the park entrance would require up to four signs estimated at \$1500-\$2000 for the signs and installation. This facility is a low-key site focused on users of the wine trail and dog park therefore highway signage is felt to be unwarranted. There is currently no budget provision.

Havelock Memorial Park Playground

An upgraded playground for Havelock Memorial Park has been budgeted for this financial year with funding from the Land Subdivision account. Designs were sought from four companies and children from the Havelock School voted on their favourite concept. Playco has been awarded the contract and the playground is due to be installed in February. Here is a sneak peek of what we can expect in February. The final product will have minor differences, such as colours and one entry point.

The new playground was supported through the Annual Plan submission of the Havelock Community Association.



Taylor River Disc Golf

With development of the Taylor River Disc Golf, a submitter had requested that more regular mowing occur of the area. The mowing of the disc golf course has been included in the Blenheim open spaces maintenance contract. The submitter has thanked Council for keeping the course mown so we will continue to monitor the frequency going forward but at this stage no service level increase is considered necessary.

Pelorus Rugby Football Club

The submitter sought upgrading of some facilities at Havelock Domain for carparking and an additional toilet.

Discussions with Port Marlborough have resulted in supporters being able to use the marina carpark free of charge during home games for the 2024 season.

Modifications can be made to the Havelock Pavilion to accommodate an additional public toilet. Construction estimates need to be obtained so that budget provision can be made.

Shelly Beach Reserve

The Picton Business Group's submission sought provision of shade-sail type shade, a barbeque and a wash down shower for beach users.

Staff have been working for some time with the Picton Lions who have generously funded a new, large 6m diameter shade umbrella (~\$8K) as per the Picton Foreshore Reserve and this will be fully installed before Christmas.

Additional shade could potentially be provided but, since the establishment of the rock revetment shoreline protection, the existing Pohutukawa trees are thriving and doing much better and starting to provide good natural shade for users. The install of fixed shade sails needs to be carefully considered so as not to negatively impact on other uses.

The provision of an electric BBQ and shelter is likely to be \$25-35k and will have an ongoing annual operational cost of approximately \$10k. There is no current approved level of service increase or budgetary provision for this and, while possibly a 'nice to have' item, staff do not believe there is any present demonstrated demand/need.

Shelly Beach Reserve does not currently have a dedicated beach wash-down shower like Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve or the Picton Foreshore Reserve. This would be a good addition to the visitor facilities at this site. Staff will investigate further as this could be established at or adjacent to the toilet facility.

Picton Foreshore Reserve

A request to provide additional shade and wet weather shelter for cruise passengers waiting to board shuttle buses is being investigated.

Two large 6m diameter colourful shade umbrellas were installed last year and the three large heritage trees at this site provide shade cover over the summer period.

Providing shade or wet weather shelter for the hundreds of passengers who assemble or line up at the shuttle bus waiting area is not really feasible but staff are investigating an option to provide some additional fixed shade sail/s at this site. There is no current budget provision for this which is estimated to be around \$15-20k.

Port Marlborough Pavilion Stage 2

Councillors referred a submission from the Endeavour Park Pavilion Society on the development of Stage 2 to the existing pavilion facility to the Long-Term Plan Working Group for further consideration. Subsequently the submission was referred to the Assets and Services Committee.

A workshop was held with Councillors in May 2023 at which the Society presented a feasibility study on the proposed Stage 2 development. The workshop outlined the performance of Port Marlborough Pavilion, set out the need for additional facility components at the Pavilion and summarised the feasibility and viability of potential Stage 2 development.

Staff have met with the Society on several occasions since to clarify detail about the proposal, particularly as it relates to user numbers, funding sources and the need for squash courts. Information on these matters has been requested ahead of presenting a paper to the Long-Term Plan.

Policy and planning

Grovetown Lagoon Reserve Management Plan

A final draft of the Grovetown Lagoon Reserve Management Plan is currently being considered by the Grovetown Lagoon Executive Committee. A workshop with Councillors on the draft documents will be arranged for the New Year before approval is sought to notify the draft plan for public submissions.

Resource Consents

Resource consents to enable freedom camping at two of the sites identified in the Responsible Camping Control Bylaw 2022 have now been lodged. The consents are for the Wash Bridge Recreation Reserve, in the west of the District towards St Arnau, and for the Renwick Dog Park site. Two further consents (for Alfred Stream Reserve and Opouri Road – Carluke Domain) are to be lodged shortly.

One other consent is required and that is for the Wairau Diversion site which is the largest of the Council's freedom camping sites. A consent had previously been lodged but there were some submitters whose concerns staff could not satisfy. A new consent is being prepared to try and address these concerns in a fresh application. The application will also seek consent for an ablution facility and related water requirements which have previously been budgeted for by Council.

Freedom Camping Transition Fund

Staff made application to MBIE for funding to support initiatives to assist with the transition from the existing freedom camping system to new rules and regulations over the 2023/24 summer in the Marlborough area. Specifically, the funding was to support the following:

- Ambassador at Wairau Diversion - to support camping activities, guidance and educational advice.
- Signage and Literature - informational signage on freedom camping in the area and printed information for campers.
- General Monitoring and Information.

Advice has just been received from MBIE that the application was successful and funding of \$80,000 has been made available.

Road Safety Coordinator Update

(Information prepared by Robyn Blackburn)

R800-005-03

Driver Licencing

While Marlborough continues to offer support to our community to help people at risk through the Graduated Driver Licensing System using MDC Road Safety funding, MSD and Waka Kotahi have also increased the mahi they are doing in this space.

Supporting Families, who manage the MDC programme, are also registered with MSD to deliver driver licence support to MSD clients. We currently find having both programmes in place is working well, especially for struggling whanau who may not qualify for MSD funding, and the MSD funding to Supporting Families is extremely limited.

Having said that, MSD have recently almost doubled the number that Supporting Families can support (through Restricted/Full Driver licencing) from 10 people to 18 because Supporting Families already have robust delivery systems in place and are delivering quickly and successfully. There is no support from MSD for Supporting Families to deliver the Learner Licence programme that has operated successfully in Marlborough for the past 12 years or more.



There are other organisations in Marlborough who are contracted to deliver MSD Learner Driver and Restricted/Full licencing. However, MDC Road Safety is struggling to gain access to organisational information so that Marlborough can form a collaborative team that might have potential to work more effectively and efficiently in our region. This is especially in relation to Police AWHI referrals and referring our tāngata to the best 'place' for support.

Waka Kotahi is also working with regions to ensure more resources (driving instructors, testing officers) are in place to support the increased number of MSD clients seeking to be licensed correctly.



Motorcycle Safety

The Marlborough Motorcycle Safety Group is keen to hold a motorcycle friendly event over summer. Initial planning will start in December 2023, to have a minor event in February 2024, once we can secure a venue (Kart Track have been approached and we are currently waiting for a response) and the services of the bike suspension guru Dave Moss from the USA.

Dave normally comes to NZ each summer and delivers successful workshops in Marlborough. Riders have already shown interest in attending workshops in 2024.



Completing MAM (Motorcycle Awareness Month), Marlborough riders were invited to a low-key Bikers' Brunch at Dodson's, where MAM winners were presented with their prizes.

The purpose of the Brunch was for riders be able to meet in a familiar place for them so that the Riding Instructor from Nelson could 'mingle' with the riders in their own 'environment' and encourage training.

Fifty riders turned up for the brunch and we are still waiting for evaluation information from Tasman Motorcycle Training to see if this type of approach is more successful than other programmes/activities we have delivered in the past.

Access & Mobility Forum

(Information prepared by Jane Tito)

C230-001-A01

Attached are the latest minutes.

Access and Mobility Forum Meeting held at Lansdowne Park, Blenheim on Monday 25 September 2023 at 2.00pm

Present: Cllr Deborah Dalliessi (Chair)
Paul Southey (NOC)
Fern McGaw (Marlborough Roads)
Sue van Velzen (Age Concern)
Sharlene Eden (Maata Waka)
Brenda Green (MS)
Nigel Perry (apology for lateness)

MDC Staff: Linda Craighead
Robyn Blackburn
Bill East
Jodie Griffiths

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies Received

Cllr Flight, Jill Scoble, Louise Richards, Diane Gibb, Jane Tito, Charlotte Cambell-Lamerton and Gillian Dixon

3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 26 June meeting were approved by Fern McCaw and seconded by Bill East.

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

1	Disability car parking spaces at Bay Audiology Cllr Flight to email the Manager. <i>Cllr Dalliessi will follow up with Cllr Flight.</i>	Cllr Dalliessi
2	Fern will investigate further the parking outside Wadco. <i>Parking wardens have on their list to check regularly. One parking infringement has already been issued.</i>	
3	Availability of wheelchairs for public use at the Library. <i>A wheelchair is available at the Library to be used and one of our members has already used it.</i>	
4	No right turn sign on Seymour Street near the Ambulance Station obscured by overgrown hedge. <i>Foliage on Seymour Street road sign has been cut back.</i>	
5	Timing of locked doors in disability toilets. <i>Current Exeloo facilities have a 10 minute time limit, after which time the door will automatically open. Members of our group say this time is not long enough on some occasions. Cllr Dalliessi will discuss with Dianne Gibb and Linda will discuss with Grahame Smail if it is possible to extend the time to 20 minutes.</i>	Cllr Dalliessi and Linda

6	<p>Trip hazard outside the Haven Café. Details of the owners to be provided and passed on.</p> <p>Contact details of Haven property ownership was forwarded to the people made the enquiry to Council.</p>	
7	<p>Trip hazards outside the WINZ offices. Details of the owners to provided and passed on.</p> <p>The uneven pavers outside the WINZ office to be investigated.</p> <p>Trip hazards outside the local MSD office between Alfred Street and the Quays in Blenheim are the result of aging and a recent event has affected pavers moving, according to Bill. This is on private land and is not a building compliance issue so Council cannot ask for any compliance. It was agreed that a letter/email with photos taken by Bill to be sent to the property owner would be one way this group might address the issue. The ramp into the office is also antiquated. Gillian will send correspondence from the group with support from Robyn and Linda to Riverview House Limited.</p>	
8	<p>Enquiry from Hularii regarding swipe card access to the Library toilet and baby change table.</p> <p>The new specialist changing/multi-purpose room at the new Library will be open to the public and will not require a fob/swipe card to use.</p>	

5. General Business Including updates from:

Fern McGaw – Network Technician, Marlborough Roads

- Rudd Crescent, Riley Crescent, Morrington Terrace, Hutcheson Street and McLauchlan Street footpaths to be resurfaced or renewed.
- Wellington Street kerb ramp crossings to be updated.
- Paul asked others if they were aware of any other trip hazards on footpath network. Paul distributed cards with contact details if we want to report tripping hazards.
- Sharlene spoke about the camber on Queen Street making it difficult for manual wheelchair users. There are also issues like that on Francis Street. Fern and Paul will use a Smart Level to check the camber is compliant accepting that ground does move.

6. Building Control Update – Brendon Robertson/Bill East

- Te Kahu O Waipuna (new library) has passed its final building inspection and code of compliance will be issued when all the paperwork has come back.
- There is a lot of building activity in the commercial sector with the new schools' work having started, the Port Marlborough developments underway and Summerset Villas nearing completion. While industry is slowing there is word that several building consents will be coming in soon. Vineyard accommodation issues are on-going in Marlborough with more level of compliance needed than for homes.
- Sharlene raised the issue about the compliance process for the new Kāinga Ora homes either built or to be built as there is a concern about the homes having health and safety issues for residents. Bill responded that they would comply with building standards or they would have/will fail their final inspection.
- Jodie advised that Kāinga Ora are having two open days which are open to the public so Sharlene could go along and ask them the health and safety questions that are of concern. Sharlene had a list of health and safety issues that she had identified and will share the list with Bill and Cllr Dalliesi. Jodie will send out the invite information to Gillian for her to distribute to the group.

7. Parks and Open Spaces Update – Linda Craighead

- The Specialist Change Facilities Policy is being reviewed so that Council has clear direction when planning for new facilities of this type.
- Currently Liz Davidson Place has a facility that is accessible by fob/swipe card entry only. Approximately 9 to 15 families/schools have been issued with an access fob. Gillian will send the link for community submissions on the policy when this is available.
- The title gifted to the new library was discussed by the group and is not a translation for 'Library'. Wayfinding signs and writing on the doors will be bi-lingual.

8. Any Other Business

- Nigel advised the group after a recent medical event his eyesight has been affected and he can no longer drive. He asked Marlborough Roads about the John Street/Seymour Street T-intersection road markings and Fern advised this work has been passed to the contractor.
- Nigel also requested turning bays to be considered on roads such as Scott Street and Redwood Street that handle large traffic numbers. A list was given to Marlborough Roads staff for their response and recommendations at the next meeting.
- Sue asked about pedestrian/mobility scooter access from the Taylor River shared pathway to the hospital. Her client would like to see kerb ramp crossings on Taylor Pass Road so that they can stay out of live lanes trying to cross the road and link with paths. Robyn will raise the issue at the RSAP meeting as one of Te Whatu Ora's actions is to "Support active travel mode shift for Te Whatu Ora users and staff". Fern and Paul will also look at installing ramp crossings at the two points.
- Jodie has an enquiry through Mayor Taylor from a wheelchair user who would like to contribute to this group. Linda will talk to Jane about the process for inviting new people on to the group.
- Jodie also suggested the group invite a representative from MSD to join the group to discuss what is available to our community members living with mobility issues. It was decided in the first instance to invite MSD to present at our next meeting. Jodie will extend that invite to them.
- Nigel asked if there was still the intention to raise all pedestrian crossings in Marlborough. Fern explained they are currently waiting for the raised crossing on Weld Street to be audited and will check if the Alabama/Weld Street raised crossing/roundabout has been audited and the results. While Fern is not aware of any funding set aside for any further work it might be that Charlotte could be doing some work in this space.
- Grey Power were keen to know if there was any decision relating to mobility parking at the airport as the plans had not been finalised last time we met. Cllr Dalliessi will follow up with Dean.
- Grey Power would like to know what action Council is taking in making places more accessible for members who want to travel by bike or use pedestrian connections. Fern responded that the draft Marlborough Walking and Biking Strategy is almost ready for sharing and consultation. Charlotte will present that to the group when she is back from leave. There is a re-focus on road design to cater for people who want to use walking and cycling for their local trips.
- Grey Power talked again about the number of cyclists using footpaths. Fern suggested this might be addressed in the new strategy.
- A query has come to Council about the road safety issues with having several large trucks parked on roadsides around Picton School. The person advised that vision is being affected and making intersection travel difficult for several road users. Cllr Dalliessi advised that Mayor Taylor is working with iRex on this issue to find suitable parking solutions for the larger trucks waiting for their inter-island travel. Cllr Dalliessi will discuss with Richard Conningham at Council and ask if he is aware of any progress made.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm

Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 5 December 2023 – Committee Room, Marlborough District Council
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Actions from the Meeting

1	Disability car parking spaces at Bay Audiology Clr Flight to email the Manager. Clr Dalliessi will follow up with Clr Flight	Clr Dalliessi
2	Timing of locked doors in disability toilets. Clr Dalliessi will discuss with Dianne Gibb and Linda will discuss with Grahame Smail if it is possible to extend the time to 20 minutes.	Clr Dalliessi Linda Craighead
3	Problems with camber for manual wheelchair users on Queen Street and Francis Street. Fern and Paul will use a Smart Level to check the camber is compliant accepting that ground does move	Fern McGaw and Paul Southey
3	Compliance process for the new Kāinga Ora homes Sharlene to share the list of health and safety issues with Bill and Clr Dalliessi Jodie will send out the information on the Kāinga Ora open day to Gillian for her to distribute to the group. DONE	Sharlene Eden Jodie and Gillian
4	Specialised Change Facilities Policy link for community submissions Gillian will send the link for community submissions on the policy when this is available. DONE	Gillian Dixon
5	Pedestrian/mobility scooter access from the Taylor River shared pathway to the hospital. Robyn will raise the issue at the October RSAP meeting. Fern and Paul will also look at installing ramp crossings at the two points.	Robyn Blackburn Fern McGaw and Paul Southey
6	Inviting new members to the group. As this is an informal committee, anyone who wishes to contribute to the group would be welcome where seen fit.	Linda Craighead
7	What is available from MSD to our community members living with mobility issue? Jodie will extend an invitation to MSD to present at our next meeting.	Jodie Griffiths
8	Raising of all pedestrian crossings in Marlborough. Fern explained they are currently waiting for the raised crossing on Weld Street to be audited and will check if the Alabama/Weld Street raised crossing/roundabout has been audited and the results.	Fern McGaw
9	Decision relating to mobility parking at the airport. Clr Dalliessi will follow up with Dean.	Clr Dalliessi
10	Marlborough Walking and Biking Strategy Charlotte will present that to the group when she is back from leave.	Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton
11	Large trucks parked on roadsides around Picton School. Clr Dalliessi will discuss with Richard Conningham at Council and ask if he is aware of any progress made.	Clr Dallessi

Meetings for 2024 –Committee Room, Marlborough District Council – 2.00pm-4.00pm

Tuesday 12 March

Tuesday 11 June

Tuesday 24 September

Tuesday 10 December

Notes from Wither Hills Working Group – Meeting of 17 October 2023 –

Update on the Farm Management (Lyll and Coco Barriball)

Structure and management of the Farm Park - Discussion on the weather and its effects on the Wither Hills, in relation to farming, led to an outline on the constraints upon the farm, recreational activities, seasonality, capital, potential losses and livestock rotation that impact the ability to control grass in terms of fire management. The farm management model (lease holders and Council) was looked at and agreed that this is a good model and does not change the above factors. It was also noted that a single owner would not be able to “survive” financially on what can be made from the Farm Park.

Public Education - It was noted that it could be of importance to educate the public on all the things that are taken into consideration when managing the Farm Park. It was agreed that the Farm Park is quite healthy but lots of work must go into it to keep it this way, including making the right decisions. Further discussion on constraints, goals, management of the animals and the reason why there are areas with long grass.

Costly Assumptions - constraints and management all need to be thought through when carrying out anything there. An example of this was provided by Lyll – posts underlying flood gates structures were (almost) incorrectly removed by river contactors, luckily Lyll was able to report the importance of the posts before they were taken. This led into a conversation of the purpose of the posts in that they contain the animals and other possible solutions that need to be raised at future meetings.

Cattle - currently there are 120 cattle on the farm. The areas of the farm to be utilised are being thought through, James is involved in looking into rotation, grazing, fencing, water etc.

Tree Planting - on the upper ridges, on the side of the Quail Stream. There were slips and erosion after last August.

Soil Testing - especially around pH levels, this will need to be done soon. James and Matt are looking into this.

Lyll asked if all of the MTB cattle grids can be sprayed to stop cattle breaking their legs. Kiri will follow this up.

Update from Parks and Open Spaces

Confirmation emails for park bookings - Coco and Lyll were not receiving advice of when events are occurring. This is important so that livestock can be managed appropriately etc. Kiri will ensure that Coco and Lyll are added to our circulation list for events. James and FENZ also asked Kiri if they could please receive these emails also.

Discussion around the other emergency services. It was agreed that an ambulance is usually on the ready for specific events and the Police can receive a fourteen-figure grid reference of co-ordinations from mobile phones. It was noted that marker points have grid references.

Report on Mountain Bike Track - Kiri engaged a consultant to look at the mountain bike park and how it is graded, and its condition too, with regard to safety. This final draft report has very recently been received and will be reported to Council. The Mountain Bike Club will need to be approached regarding the findings.

Unconsented Tracks - James brought to the Group's attention that there seems to be unconsented tracks on the hills. The group noted that it may be a good idea to approach the Mountain Bike Club to ask them to keep a look-out for anything like that. Increased communication with the MTB club is required to help deal with this and increase awareness of the issue.

Wither Hills Farm Park Management Plan update – Paul McArthur

A framework for the management plan was presented to the group by Paul McArthur (external consultant).

Long Term Plan

Budget papers need to be organised asap in order to get this process started. The meeting is in February, therefore, a Group draft paper (by Christmas) is required. Matt will organise staff meetings to address these issues for LTP and what needs to be urgently put together.

Health and Safety/Fire Management Plan for the Upcoming Fire Season

Weather - it is looking likely that it will be particularly hot this coming summer which will obviously affect the fire hazard ratings. There were concerns raised around potential public incautiousness due to the previous mild summers. The high winds are also of importance and restrictions may come in earlier.

Chris raised the groups awareness of the importance of monitoring how dry the undergrowth is getting and that this is not often factored in. Chris informed the group that this is particularly important for grassy areas.

Possible Fire Conditions - Tony made recommendations in his report regarding access to the Farm Park. Chris added that restricted areas would be hard to police and when fire conditions reach extreme, FENZ recommend that Council close the Farm Park. In the past, there have been restrictions in the way of people staying low on the hill. FENZ can close the Farm Park under their legislation but they would rather work with landowners to deal with upcoming situations amicably.

Further work is needed on considering access controls in Tony's report, so discussion was had around the need for a process for the upcoming summer. It was also acknowledged that, with several new staff in place, a meeting to clarify the existing process and lines of communication was urgently required. A meeting was subsequently scheduled for 25/10/23.

Local Fire Information - Discussion around loss of inter-regional fire campaigns - they are more national now. FENZ is hoping to move back to reporting that is specific to local areas again.

Communication - in the interim, if FENZ raise the indicator, this will be communicated to Linda (as Jane is away). Discussion around if someone else should be informed too. James asked to also be informed in case there are contractors there. Daily forecasts can be sent through and Linda will send a list to FENZ as to who needs to be made aware.

Container of Water – discussion around having a container at Taylor Pass carpark. The residents asked for the previous one to be removed for aesthetic reasons. There is a possibility of using space at the landfill. Further discussion around local water sources that could potentially be used. Consideration was taken that a nor-wester wind can render the down-wind dams unusable. This issue to be included in fire management planning as the management plan develops. FENZ have temporary 'pumpkin' dams available and may wish to install one this season. Chris to contact James or Kiri to arrange. James is considering other locations for a water source with a consultant.

Sprinklers - Chris suggested that big sprinklers can be set up, maybe around the topside of the landfill.

Fire Breaks and Thermal cameras - Mark added that the landfill is now going to be equipped with fire breaks all around the edge of the landfill and thermal cameras to show hot spots (with an alarm system). This is possibly an idea for the Farm Park too. Landfill fire breaks may be put in place within the next two weeks.

Clearing Under Power Lines – James arranged for vegetation under power lines to be cleared. Chris explained how the power lines function when there is a fault, in that they automatically attempt to re-connect the power. FENZ have arranged for this automatic reconnection to be disabled during peak fire season. Matt asked the team if this could be documented for the group's records. James - to contact Marlborough Lines to confirm and document this safety mechanism is in place.

There are a lot of recommendations (163) in Tony Teeling's report that need to be prioritised and budgeted.

Public awareness - FENZ have found that signs around the Farm Park seem to be an effective way to communicate to the public.

Alarms and training - FENZ have confirmed that any alert regarding the Wither Hills comes through as a higher alarm level as a bigger response is required given the history. Ideas were suggested around FENZ doing a much larger scale of practice on the Wither Hills.

Work Plans Going Forward

Priorities for work plans going forward are a fencing plan and a water reticulation plan as these can be done ahead of, and separately to, the management plan.

Mapping Assets - A discussion then began around assets, where this data is stored (GIS on S drive) and how it could possibly be shared (link people). The water reticulation system is being looked at in this way. Attributes and condition assessments will eventually be included. Anne and James agreed to work on what is around, with the help of the Biosecurity team. Matt to initiate a GIS project to collate all existing GIS mapping and commence attribute collection which will be followed by ground truthing.

Pest and Weed control – plan to be put in place under management plan process.

Health and Safety Plans – concessionaires and contractors need to have updated health and safety plans. These are managed on 'Site Wise' and are provided to Council. Site specific plans may need to be obtained and APL are responsible for managing this, but this is being confirmed. Given issues around fire information is to be provided to concessionaires about health and safety and work that shouldn't be carried out in high-risk times. Anne and James will check contractor and concessionaire H&S plans are complete and address fire risk.

Data Storage

Separate filing areas within CM – Each section of Council has different areas where information is stored. It was proposed that one central location would be identified.

General Items

Graffiti - Lyall reported vandalism on Solway Drive reservoir. This was noted to be reported to Stephen Rooney.

Ranger - A discussion around the idea of a Ranger role based within the Farm Park was discussed. The group noted there is a lot of money spent on contractors and varying results are obtained and so there could potentially be savings and other advantages if there was a ranger operating 3-5 days a week that is present throughout the year. Ad hoc maintenance and Chilean Needle Grass monitoring and monitoring of Park users could also be done. It was agreed that the workload is definitely there.

The working group agreed to think on this and provide a full list for the next meeting and added this role to the agenda for the discussion on the budget. It was thought that it would ultimately not only result in a cost reduction but also a significant improvement in the way in which the Farm Park is managed in terms of having better control.

Biosecurity, Chilean Needle Grass, Rules and Requirements - diggers need to be cleaned down – information is on Smart Maps about infected areas. The herbicide the team have been using to control Chilean Needle Grass is no longer available as the manufacturer has stopped making it. The Biosecurity team are now looking at alternatives which aren't as effective and so have asked everyone to try not to move it around too much in the meantime. Biosecurity happy to do inspections and assist with removal before mowing etc. The Biosecurity team will require a week's notification before this kind of work takes place.

Grazing - Recent reseeding has occurred from the Mountain Bike Park carpark to Rifle Range from the fence line to the foothills. This will help maintain a productive green belt which contributes to farm productivity and enables more stock for grazing management over a longer period. The animals will keep grass lower across the rest of the Farm Park. Lower Harling flats will also be done - the plan is to keep fertility up and get more mouths on the farm. The team noted of utmost importance to keep the local people and houses safe.

Property and Community Facilities Project Report

(Information prepared by Maighan Watson)

Marlborough Hockey Turf and Pavilion – Marlborough Girls’ College, Nelson Street

Contractors Findlater Construction and Robinson Construction are both progressing well at the new home of Marlborough Hockey off Nelson Street. Findlaters are tasked with both the construction of the hockey turf and the associated car park, whilst Robinson’s are undertaking the construction of the new, 2-storey hockey pavilion.

In the past few weeks Findlaters have completed the Megaflo drainage and geofabric installations to the turf, and commenced the construction of the goal infills (Fig 3) and surrounding concrete nib (Fig 4). Basecourse preparation, and underground services to the new pavilion and surrounding turf fixtures are ongoing. Over at the pavilion, the blocklayer has started onsite with the ground floor now near completion (Fig 7). The assembling of the modular pods/framing for the first floor will get underway onsite in mid-November.



Figure 1 – Hockey Turf, Nelson Street



Figure 2 – Hockey Turf, Nelson Street



Figure 3 – Hockey Turf goal infills, Nelson



Figure 4 – Hockey Turf concrete nib, Nelson



Figure 5 – Hockey Pavilion, Nelson Street



Figure 6 – Hockey Pavilion, Nelson Street



Figure 7 – Hockey Pavilion, Nelson Street

Car Parking Projects

Over the last few weeks several car park projects in the Blenheim and Picton CBD's have been completed. In Picton, the long-awaited resurfacing of the Coathanger car park was undertaken through the Marlborough Roads NOC JV crew (Fig 8). This project took just over one week and the car park was re-opened to the public prior to Labour weekend.

In Blenheim, the High Street (Farmer's) car park had a much-needed make-over (Fig 9 & 10). Fulton Hogan improved drainage to remove ponding issues, removed several tree root hazards, and resurfaced and line-marked the car park. Disability car parks were also relocated within the property to enable level access to the footpath, and Marlborough Lines oversaw the upgrade to the car park lighting.

Over on Park Terrace in Blenheim, Marlborough Lines have been working on their new EV Fast-Charging car park (Fig 11). Council partnered with Marlborough Lines to give the adjacent Council-owned car park a refresh. This included pot-hole repairs, extending the new pathway through to Riverside Park, line-marking and signage.



Figure 8 – Coathanger car park scope



Figure 9 – High Street car park, Blenheim



Figure 10 – High Street car park, Blenheim



Figure 11 – Marlborough Lines EV charging development

CBD Demolitions

Recently Council approved the demolition of two commercial buildings in the Blenheim CBD. 6 Russell Terrace and the Millennium Art Gallery. In the past few weeks the asbestos removal commenced, and planning for both demolitions got underway. Both sites will be converted to car parks for the immediate future.



Figure 12 – 6 Russell Terrace site



Figure 13 – Millennium Art Gallery site

Senior Housing development - 85 George Street, Blenheim

Construction of the 2-storey, 12-unit Senior Housing development is making steady progress. On Stage 1 of the development (southern end), T & D Construction have now installed 80% of the glazing and completed the first fix for electrical and plumbing. The installation of the gutters, downpipes and soffit framing is ongoing, and block work has commenced. Over on Stage 2, foundation preparation for the remaining six units has started, with the concrete floor pour programmed for early November.



Figure 14 – Senior Housing development



Figure 15 – Senior Housing development

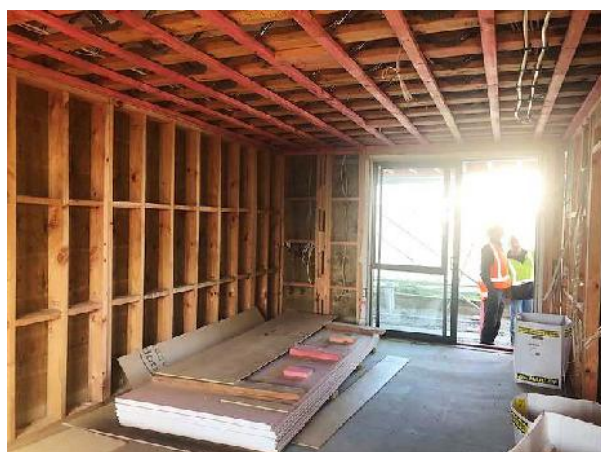


Figure 16 – Senior Housing development



Figure 17 – Senior Housing development

London Quay Precinct Upgrade, Picton

Detailed design is ongoing for the London Quay rejuvenation project in Picton. Three themes for the redevelopment were identified; Improved connections from the ferry terminal and from the foreshore to the town centre, creating attractive places to eat and walk, and improving the pedestrian and vehicle experience in a shared road space. Over the next month staff and the RMMLA design team will review consenting requirements, lighting design and connections with the Town Wharf Basin. Following a review with local stakeholders, all parties were supportive of the pedestrian focused design, with soft landscaping, traffic calming as priorities.

Record No: 23230784