



Thursday, 4 September 2008

Ann Campbell
Christchurch City Council
P O Box 237
Christchurch

**SUBMISSION FROM SPOKES ON THE MID-HEATHCOTE RIVER/
OPAWAHO LINEAR PARK MASTERPLAN**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. Spokes Canterbury is a local cycling advocacy group with approximately 900 members that is affiliated with the national Cycling Advocate's Network (CAN). Spokes is dedicated to including cycling as an everyday form of transport in the greater Christchurch area.

General submissions

1. The Heathcote river corridor forms a significant part of the overall cycling network for Christchurch, and provides a unique cycling opportunity for families and less confident riders.
2. We support the overall approach and enhancements proposed in the master plan, but consider that the lower Heathcote is a higher priority for cycling improvements.
3. The linear park enhancements need to recognise, and be integrated with, the new Heathcote River cycling route (Route 12 on the cycle map). It should also take into account a possible future Hagley Park-Heathcote River-Estuary- Avon River cycling route.
4. There are a number of busy road crossings along the river, and some of these roads have relatively fast traffic and blind corners. Improving these crossings for cyclists and pedestrians travelling along the river should be an absolute priority for enhancements associated with the linear park.

Specific issues

- If bridge underpasses under busy roads crossing the Heathcote are feasible and practicable for pedestrians they should also be available for cyclists to use, unless there are height limitations that make this impossible.

- The master plan talks about numerous existing footbridges across the Heathcote. In fact all those bridges are open to cyclists, and this should be explicitly stated and provided for in the final master plan. The approaches to many of these bridges are awkward for cyclists, and these limitations should be corrected as part of the planned enhancements.
- We support the proposed road closure shown on Plan 5 (Eastern Tce), as long as riverside remains for cyclists along this section - this is also an important route to Beckenham School. We support the proposed road closure and proposed combined cycle/ pedestrian path in the vicinity of the Beckenham Ponds as shown on Plan 6.
- In relation to Plan 6: we don't agree with the concept of diverting the pathway across the road so that it runs between the road and the houses. If necessary, the road along this section should be narrowed to allow for the continuation of the riverside pathway.
- In relation to Plan 9, there are traffic calming chicane structures that are unpleasant and awkward for cyclists along Fifeild Terrace. We would like to see these replaced with alternative cycle friendly traffic calming provisions.

Thanks again for the opportunity to make this submission. If there are matters requiring clarification, please contact our Submissions Co-ordinator Robin Delamore in the first instance. His contact details are:

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