

Submitter: Jac Sparks

19/04/21

I represent the Walkers in conjunction with the Ashburton Hakatere River Trail Committee, and have been a volunteer member of that committee since its inauguration.

We absolutely support the renewal of the progression and development of the track following the course of the Ashburton/ Hakatere River. Like the other members of the different disciplines on this committee, we are puzzled by the withdrawal of support from the Council.

I use the trail several times weekly, and notice that an enthusiastic and diverse group of the various disciplines enjoy its use also. There is a real sense of community within this group, and care is taken amongst the users with the differing speeds and physical needs of other users.

The differences in the physical environment of the riverside is made possible by the amount of volunteer workers keen to present a clear trail area, as well as replanting the native species of trees and shrubs which were once common in this area of the plains.

We believe the preceding combined efforts of Council and volunteer groups should be preserved and further enhanced by way of a restored partnership and maintenance programme.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide this submission and trust that the ADC will understand the importance of our request for the community.

Sincerely,

Jac Sparks