

**Date:** Wednesday 19 June 2024  
**Time:** 10:00AM  
**Venue:** Rodney Local Board Office  
3 Elizabeth Street, Warkworth

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## Rodney Local Board

# OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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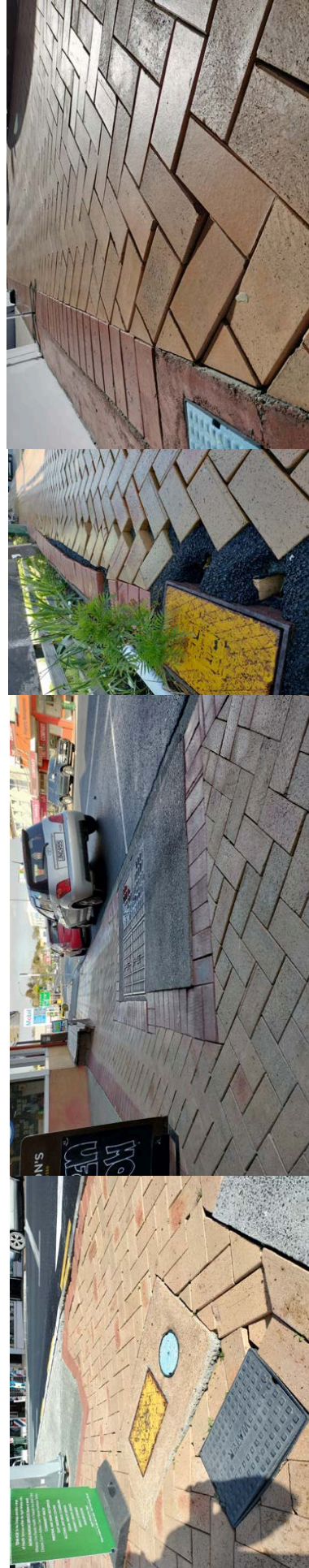


# Wellsford Footpath Pavers

Wellsford Plus Business Association

Mitch Martin

19 June 2024



## What's the Problem with Wellsford Footpath Pavers

Simply put .... The pavers are not fit for purpose to use as a footpath medium

- They are slippery when wet
- Over time, due to movement in the subsoils, the pavers are all over the place
- They have and are causing slips, trips and falls on a regular basis .... And to date we may consider ourselves lucky that someone has not seriously been hurt

We had recorded 15 slips, trips and falls, which we have logged in the Auckland Council maintenance database. These Logged recorded injuries are just the injuries that have occurred in the between July 2021 and June 2023 and there are numerous injuries that have gone unrecorded by the local community and visitors to Wellsford.

I created a job ticket with council 2 weeks ago requesting an update on that information and haven't heard back as of yet.

And remember, most times when someone trips, slips or falls they are not recorded

## The latest fall – Owen Treadwell (Mahurangi Matters)



*Owen Treadwell hasn't been able to leave the house since his fall six weeks ago.*

### Fall knocks pensioner's confidence

Wellsford businesses and residents have been trying to get the pavers that line Rodney Street replaced with something more level and less slippery for years, but to no avail. *Mahurangi Matters* spoke to one of the latest victims, 85-year-old Owen Treadwell, whose recent fall has prompted a doubling down in local efforts to get something done.

However, on February 21, as he approached Caffé Cozy for lunch, he tripped on uneven pavers and fell heavily onto a seat outside, injuring his thigh, arm and hand.

Although no bones were broken, there was heavy bruising and swelling, which intensified and spread over the following days to the point where he couldn't use his leg at all.

"I couldn't even lift my leg or get out of the chair. My son has had to lift me in and out of the chair, my bed and the toilet," he said. "The worst thing is the pain – it feels like a knife stabbing my leg."

Wife Trish said if someone sitting on the seat hadn't partially broken his fall, things could have been much worse.

"He could have gone through the window and he's lucky he didn't hit his head – that would have been it," she said. "His age is a worry. Some people can fall at that age and a few days later, they die from shock."

Four weeks after the fall, Owen still hadn't been able to leave the house and, according to daughter Lisa Crisp, was a changed man.

"He's gone from being an able man who drives and walks and ventures into town on his mobility scooter to needing help getting out of bed, getting into bed, getting off and on his recliner and to and from the bathroom," she said.

## What have we done to date

July 2021 - Jolene McGillveray presented a petition from the town to RLB requesting the council/AT to take action and get the pavers replaced

July 2023 – Mitch Martin met with AT Engineers and walked the town to look at the pavers and to get their direction where we take this. They were generally shocked to see the condition of the footpaths

August 2023 – Mitch Martin emailed Dean Kimpton (Chief ExecutiveAT) and sent him photos expressing concerns on the state of the footpath pavers and risks associated with doing nothing. Mitch received a response back from one of their **Business Partner Customer Care** persons with a response later the same month

Melissa Wallace has also been lobbying council and AT to get something done. She recently submitted a file of 35 photos of pavers that need attention to AT

From: CustomerLiaison (AT) <CustomerLiaison@at.govt.nz>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 9:05 AM  
To: Wellsford Hammer Hardware <wellsford@hammerhardware.co.nz>  
Cc: chief.executive (AT) <chief.executive@at.govt.nz>  
Subject: Wellsford Town Pavers - Case Reference: CAS-771018-NOK5X5 CRM:015480001242

Kia ora Mitchell,

I am getting in touch with you regarding your email our Auckland Transport Chief Executive regarding the pavers in the Wellsford Town Centre.

A petition on the safety concerns of members of the Wellsford community was presented to the Rodney Local Board (RLB) on the 21 July 2021 (refer attached resolution from the Rodney Local Board meeting).

At a 22 February 2023 workshop with the RLB, the local board added the project to a list of candidate projects to be scoped for feasibility of delivery in the next Local Board Transport Capital Fund programme (LBTCP). The LBTCP team produced a scope of work and some preliminary cost estimates of \$3m. The proposal to replace the pavers was put forward as a candidate project for funding from the Local Board Transport Capital Fund. However, it was not selected as a priority project due to the high cost involved. The cost of replacing the pavers would have been too high and that single project would have used most of the fund which the local board tries to share equitably across all four subdivisions.

Additionally, the University of Auckland and AT's Environment Programme team were consulted regarding the possibility of utilising a low carbon concrete trial funded by Waka Kotahi to finance the concrete needed for the project. Unfortunately, this approach did not yield the desired outcome.

There are no Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate Programme funds available for the Wellsford Town Centre footpaths, the Wellsford subdivision funds under the targeted rate have been exhausted. Therefore, the local board have not approved any funding for the Town Centre footpaths through the programme.

Footpaths in the Wellsford Town Centre are maintained by Auckland Transport. The brick pavers are designed to be maintained by re-sanding from time to time. Where the pavers have been depressed they can be lifted and re-laid in new sand. For us to swiftly address any health and safety concerns concerning the pavers/footpaths, we strongly encourage individuals to get in touch with us via the Auckland Transport website's [Contact Us](#) page. This will enable us to document the concerns and take necessary steps to address them promptly.

We understand this may not be the outcome desired, but hope this explanation clarifies why we currently unable to replace the pavers. Unless funding is secured to replace them with a concrete solution, it is unlikely that this issue will be resolved in the near future.

Ngā mihi | Kind regards  
Sandie | Business Partner Customer Care



## What do we want as an outcome?

We want and need the pavers replaced

To date, all we have received from Auckland Transport is nothing

- No acknowledgment that the pavers are a problem
- No acknowledgment that people are getting hurt and will continue to get hurt – ask Owen Treadwell what support he received from AT when he had his fall
- No funding, no date, no plans on when they would be replaced

Here's the thing, if we received a message to tell us, they are in the plans to be replaced in 2 years or 3 years time .... We could work with that



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## How do we get there

So how do we get this across the line, what do we need to do.

Can the Board consider an allocation from the Capital Transport Fund to complete a Design phase for the project?

Would this get us part of the way?

What are our other options?

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Prepared for: The Rodney Local Board Business Meeting  
In relation to: The continued use of the open green space at Diamond Jubilee Park  
Prepared by: The Matakana Branch Pony Club  
Date: 19th June 2024

### **Matakana Branch Pony Club & Our Valued Community**

The MBPC (Matakana Branch Pony Club) is part of The New Zealand Pony Clubs Association (NZPCA) Operating under the Global umbrella of the Pony Club Association founded in 1929.

We are a not for profit, youth voluntary organisation for young people interested in learning about horses, their welfare and qualifying as riders at various levels for local, national, and international events.

We are a community focused club with a growing membership, holding various local events and welcoming everyone to be part of the Matakana Pony Club family.

Our programs include the following:

**'Riders Without Horses'** a programme for children and their families who are interested to be involved in Pony Club, but do not yet have their own horse or pony. The teaching content focuses on animal welfare and management aiming to provide families with a good grounding and deeper understanding of the commitment and care involved. The programme has proven to be extremely popular and is a wonderful 'big brother/sister' community engagement.

**'Junior riders'** follow a structured learning certificate system recognized Globally and gives them the opportunity to be selected to ride their schools, district, area, and Nation in teams advancing their way through various disciplines, experiences, and qualifications through the NZPCA curriculum.

**'Adult Riders'** are a growing membership base across the district who attend a weekly adult ride lessons and a wide range of specialist clinics through the season held at Diamond Jubilee Park Matakana by the MBPC. They can also engage and ride with various other NZPCA Area events.

Making all this possible are our volunteers who are the backbone of the pony club and integral to the success of the NZPCA. Our voluntary committee and coaches work tirelessly within the NZPCA framework and principles to ensure a standard of excellence and the expected health and safety protocols are maintained. The voluntary committee at the MBPC rotate annually and ensure that equal and every opportunity to succeed is given to our kids, no matter what their interest in horse ownership is.

### **MBPC Membership**

The Matakana Branch Pony Club is one of 17 branches of the Waitemata Rodney Area Pony Club (WRAPC) and although geographically small, the WRAPC is the biggest area - rider wise in New Zealand and overall membership continues to grow year on year.

Established at Jubilee Park in 1977, the MBPC is a thriving club with over 46 new members (October 23-April 24) aged as young as 4 years to 60+ years old. We provide quality industry standard coaching to children and parents with or without horses and cater to all (including special needs and neurodiversity requirements) with tight governance to the NZPCA approved curriculum, organisational framework, code of conduct and health & safety standards.

According to Nominate (NZPCA official membership database) the MBPC has had 193 new members in the last 3 seasons, increasing in size year on year. As the MBPC club is small in comparison, the data accessed is only scratching the surface, it is clear the equestrian community in the area is fast growing

**The Season:** The pony club season runs from August through to May. Rallies which include a Riders Without Horses and Adult Ride groups are run twice weekly on the grounds (conditions pending) by NZPCA qualified coaches. However, all equestrians are welcome to ride and use the equipment at Jubilee Park, they do not have to be members of the club to do so.













