

From: "corru.gate@xtra.co.nz" <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>
To: "mike.kininmonth@tasman.govt.nz" <mike.kininmonth@tasman.govt.nz>
Cc: "mapuacycleandwalkways@gmail.com" <mapuacycleandwalkways@gmail.com>, "pmcintosh64@yahoo.com" <pmcintosh64@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thu, 2 Oct 2025 at 12:04 pm
Subject: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway/shared path. Smith and Waddell property boundary
Hi Mike

I have become frustrated trying to get Council to address the Health and Safety and maintenance concerns of the Seaton Valley Rd cycleway so I thought it best to approach you as our local ward Councillor. Please see my emails to Steve Elkington below.

Are you able to investigate and action this please Mike?

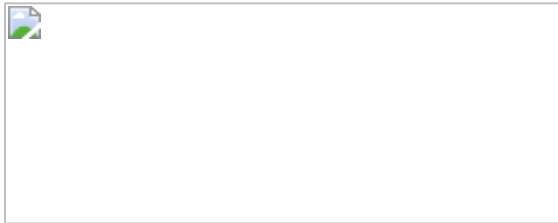
I have cced into this email: Brigid Ryan, a key instigator of the cycleway, and Paul McIntosh, Chairperson of the MDCA.

For many years I was a committee member of the Māpua and Districts Business Association.

Much appreciated.

Roger Waddell.

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Roger Waddell and Adele Smith  
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From: corru.gate@xtra.co.nz <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:50 am
To: 'Steve Elkington' <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway/shared path. Smith and Waddell property boundary

Hi Steve

A promise was made by you in 2017 that the Seaton Valley Rd cycleway "will be maintained by the Council." This has not happened, despite much correspondence over the last few years. The cycleway outside our place, and other residences, is overgrown, deeply rutted, and dangerous. There was a promise by Council that the cycleway would be at "standard specifications for a cycleway." This has not happened.

Please see our correspondence thread below.

Here are examples of the lack of maintenance and pressing Health and Safety dangers:



Pine trees on Council land are perilously close to the power lines. This one is less than 500mm and will likely touch the lines within the next 1-2 months



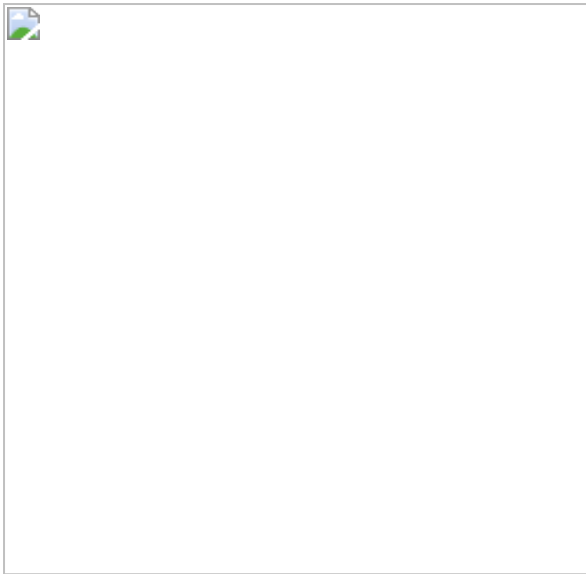
Gorse grows over the cycleway. Note also the deeply rutted "path"



Tree lucernes encroach upon the road and the cycleway. I have pruned two of these when it was impossible for pedestrians or cyclists to pass.



The "path" is now a deeply rutted drain in places, up to 20cm deep. This is not a cycleway up to "standard specifications for a cycleway."



Cyclists use the road rather than the cycleway. The fence on the right could easily be removed, allowing maintenance by the Council contractor's mower.

Issues in summary:

Fire risk: With goodwill, a neighbour occasionally mows 750mm either side of the 'track' but the grass beyond that is not mown by the Council, despite a promise being made that it would be. With summer approaching, this rampant unmown grass is a fire danger. As mentioned previously, the Māpua Fire Brigade ran a training scenario session at our property last year and presented us with a fire risk assessment. One of the significant risks was the hip-high grass and vegetation of the cycleway. I have suggested that the roadside fence be removed so that the Council contractor's mower arm can reach over and mow. This has not happened.

Power line encroachment: The photos above show how perilously close some trees are to the power lines.

Child safety: Originally, residents of Seaton Valley Rd worked with Council to establish this cycleway so that primary school children could safely ride it and be away from what is a narrow, unsafe road. Now, few cyclists use the "path."

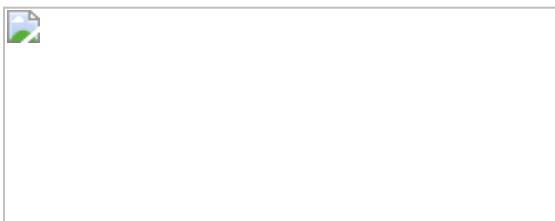
Cycleway standard: As mentioned above, there was a promise by Council that the cycleway would be at "standard specifications for a cycleway."

Visual impact: Apart from the dangers related to power lines, grass fire, and children, this area is now an eyesore. At our accommodation business we are embarrassed by our boundary - which used to be in a beautiful condition.

When will you be addressing these issues above please? The statement from your 29 November 2024 email: "at Council, we have had to tighten our spending so unfortunately, this work is now on hold" is not acceptable. This is normal maintenance.

Yours sincerely.

Roger Waddell.



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**From:** [corru.gate@xtra.co.nz](mailto:corru.gate@xtra.co.nz) <[corru.gate@xtra.co.nz](mailto:corru.gate@xtra.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 2:07 pm  
**To:** 'Steve Elkington' <[Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway/shared path. Smith and Waddell property boundary

Hi Steve

Thanks for your reply.

Whilst I respect the TDC faces budgetary restraints, this work cannot "be on hold until further notice." The need to remove the fence and keep the long grass contained is not actually a project but part of your normal ongoing roadside maintenance – your contractor's tractor mower was doing just that the other day on either side of the section outside our property.

This long grass is a serious fire/Health and Safety risk. It is the only part of the shared pathway on the 3.5km section from the bottom to the top of Seaton Valley Rd that is not maintained and has a fence that prevents a Council/contractor mower from accessing it.

When we originally discussed the establishment of this section outside our property May 2018 you assured us that Council would maintain this section. Now, there is a tree that is across the pathway which users have to avoid and there is gorse which encroaches upon the pathway. And, to repeat and for the record, there is a serious fire risk there now. As I mentioned in my emails to you below, the Māpua Fire Brigade ran a training scenario session at our property 4 months ago and presented us with a fire risk assessment. One of the significant risks was the hip-high grass and vegetation of the cycleway.

So, I look forward to your removal of the fence (a 1 hour job with correct equipment?) and mowing of this section as you do elsewhere on the shared pathway.

Thanks.

Roger.



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From: Steve Elkington <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 29 November 2024 11:59 am
To: corru.gate@xtra.co.nz
Subject: RE: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway/shared path. Smith and Waddell property boundary

Hi Roger,

Thank you for your e-mail and sorry for the delay in responding. Here at Council, we have had to tighten our spending so unfortunately, this work is now on hold until further notice.

Kind regards

Steve Elkington

Senior Road Engineer

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From: corru.gate@xtra.co.nz <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 13 November 2024 1:31 pm

To: Steve Elkington <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway/shared path. Smith and Waddell property boundary

Hi Steve

Thanks for your 26 July email (below). As summer approaches, we are getting anxious about the grass growth on the cycleway. Your email suggested that you would be looking at the situation before proceeding to remove the fence. How is progress on that please?

I understood that TDC would be maintaining the path but that has not happened – our neighbour has occasionally mowed it with his sit-on mower but that is just the 750mm either side of the path, leaving uncut grass beyond that. There is also gorse and a tree lucerne growing; the latter is encroaching on the path and getting closer and closer to the power lines.

I noticed that a TDC mowing contractor with a tractor and mowing arm mowed the rest of the path a couple of weeks ago but of course it couldn't reach over the fence to mow the pathway outside our property.

Also, the pathway is not really suitable for its intended purpose. This photo below, taken this morning, shows a cyclist on the road versus the path, which is what most cyclists do now that the path is in such poor condition. This includes children not using the path and yet they were the intended safety recipients for this initiative.

We'd really appreciate if you removed the roadside fence asap so that it can be mowed by TDC's contractor. Do you know when that will be?

Cheers.

Roger.



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From: Steve Elkington <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 26 July 2024 8:35 am

To: Adele & Roger <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway: Smith and Waddell property boundary

Thank you for you e-mail. I will view before proceeding to have removed. If there are reasons not to remove, I will contact you but I can see your point of view.

Kind regards

Steve Elkington

Senior Road Engineer

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From: Adele & Roger <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 4:37 PM

To: Steve Elkington <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>

Subject: Seaton Valley Road 'cycleway'/walkway: Smith and Waddell property boundary

Hello Steve

In 2018 a 'cycleway'/walkway was partially established up Seaton Valley, Māpua. At our property at 197 Seaton Valley Rd it utilized the Council land that we had formerly grazed to the road boundary. We actually lobbied for this 'cycleway'/walkway to be established in order to promote cycling and walking and we spent a very positive and productive time with you on the plan.

We would like to request that the fence on the road side of the 'cycleway'/walkway be removed please. The reasons are as follows:

1. - The 'cycleway'/walkway is not maintained by TDC resulting in an unsightly and unsafe growth of grass and gorse and tree Lucerne.
 - The tree Lucerne is very close to the power lines now and encroaches upon the road and the 'cycleway'/walkway, making transit challenging in places.
 - This presents a significant Health and Safety risk. I see that recently a mower trimmed the road side only of the tree.
2. - The hip-high grass is a significant fire hazard, and this last summer was stressful for us as a tossed cigarette would ignite the grass easily and the fire would then easily travel to our neighbour's property to the west where there are the remnants of a pine forest.
 - This presents a significant Health and Safety risk.
 - The Māpua Fire Brigade ran a training scenario session at our property 4 months ago and presented us with a fire risk assessment. One of the significant risks was the hip-high grass and vegetation of the cycleway.
3. - The presence of the roadside fence means that, unlike other properties on Seaton Valley Rd, TDC cannot access the 'cycleway'/walkway with a boom mower.
 - Once last summer we saw a contractor had mowed the 'cycleway'/walkway but this was only a 600mm wide mow, leaving the high grass, gorse etc continuing to grow either side of that.
 - Removal of the roadside fence would make it very easy for the boom of a tractor mower to reach across and trim both sides of the 'cycleway'/walkway.

Please note that the roadside fence serves no protective function for walkers and cyclists as there is a >1200mm space between the 'cycleway'/walkway and the water table. We would also like the stockyard ramp to remain as it has historical value (as discussed with you) and we are happy to continue to maintain any weed and grass growth immediately around it.

Would you be able to remove the fence and maintain this 'cycleway'/walkway by late Spring please?

Thank you.

Roger Waddell.

PS I put the grammar mark around 'cycleway' because it is not officially up to cycleway specifications, despite TDC assuring that it would be. That's another communication that we would like TDC to deal with sometime please.

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~~~~~

From: Steve Elkington [<mailto:Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 31 May 2018 3:19 pm
To: Adele and Roger
Subject: RE: Seaton Valley Road shared pathway: Roger Waddell's property boundary marker

Hi Adele and John,

I met with the contractor on site today to discuss the earthworks and had a look at your entrance at same time. I came up to the house around 2:30pm but no one appeared to be at home. I have marked in the driveway approximate path route and indicated posts which I believe could stay. However, the two post locations taking into account the height of the steel panels, will create a visibility issue particularly for drivers heading down the drive towards the road and observing pedestrians on the path. If you are keen to have the exact boundary located on the corner there will be cost involved engaging a surveyor which I haven't budgeted for. Happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

Steve Elkington

Senior Road Engineer

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From: Adele and Roger <corru.gate@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 May 2018 6:21 p.m.
To: Steve Elkington <Steve.Elkington@tasman.govt.nz>
Subject: Seaton Valley Road shared pathway: Roger Waddell's property boundary marker

Hi Steve

We have a plan for the Seaton Valley Road shared pathway as it passes our property. However, we can't progress that until we have TDC mark where the boundary is at our eastern (down valley) end. The boundary has been clearly marked at our western end where we border John Smith's.

We wish to erect a fence right on the boundary. Would you please survey a marker post - we imagine the corner boundary would be about 3m to the left of the red star:

 Boundary position for TDC for cycleway.jpg

...which means the fence would need to start from approximately where the 'The' is of the 'The Gates' in the photo and head right through the stockyards. However, we must be sure where that boundary is before we start construction. When would you be able to survey the marker please?

Cheers.

Roger.

~~~~~  
 LogoTinier

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