

Interviewee: Beth Reille

Title: Horse Rider Advocate

Interview Date: 02/08/24.

Interview Time: 10:45-11:30 AM

Can you please tell us about your experience as a walker and your role within the walking?

Follow up: As a walker do you ever work with the GWRC?

- National access officer for NZ equestrian advocacy network
 - o Formed for issues with government agencies for access
- Horses have never been that active
- Starting to get together and have had first court case for access to trails and roads on Kapiti coast
- “Grew up on the Hutt, Hutt River with my ponies”
- Got involved 15 years ago
 - o Always been involved in horse clubs but now I just like to advocate
- Seems to be no sharing going on
- Looked through data for Hutt River and when I looked up the word horse there were none
- “we’ve been cut out of all these places and given no alternative
- People try to come here but can’t get through
- “We are not allowed on the trail, on the stopbanks, this is online, but we aren’t allowed on the grass”
- They don’t use the trail anymore cause its dangerous cause of dogs they don’t know what to do especially when they are off lead
- On gw team for equestrian group grazing and access

Can you explain how your experience as a walker relates to the Hutt River Corridor?

- “I’ve only quite recently realized what has happened on the trail”
- They should all be able to link between parks and trails
- “Its not considered in any of the planning. We are over here shouting look at us, look at us”
 - o “We are having more trouble in the North than in the South with this”

Do you believe recreational use of the River Corridor is important, why or why not?

- Best mix is walker and horses
- “Etiquette is the biggest problem, we can share with anyone”
- “Internationally horses have right away. Horses first, walkers second, cyclists third”
- Nothing standard in GW- they are working on it

Do you believe the Corridor, in its current condition, is well-adapted for walkers?

- “Perfect as it is except, they put barriers up and need more signage”
- People need to know they need to share
- “We are getting much stronger, but we need the councils to help us out”

What is your ideal situation for walkers within the River Corridor?

- Safe parking, some of the parks are not safe, need cameras at certain points
- “Just want to get through for a start”
- “They made it so we can’t cross the motorway now”

Follow up: what would it take to accomplish this?

- Correct all their argis mapping
- Include connections
 - o “Connections were there when I was young but they’ve been destroyed, like RiverLink, horses haven’t been mentioned once”

Are you a user of the Hutt River Corridor?

Follow up if yes: What activities do you use the corridor for?

- I put up traps
- I do water science got on e-bike, I ride the trail on my e-bike

Do you believe there is conflict between the users of the Hutt River Corridor?

- “Oof yes, my experience being a walker being run off the trail by a biker”

- “I saw an old lady come flying through down the trail, it was about 1.2m wide, I think. When I went to step to the side, I almost fell off the train into a ditch and the lady kept flying through”

Follow up if yes: What do you believe could be a solution for the conflicts between users without excluding any user?

- Signage
- Education about etiquette + fb pages, get the word out signs at entry to parks
- “We got to be included as much as everyone else”

What is your opinion of dogs being on or off lead in the River Corridor which is a shared space?

Follow up: how does this affect your use of the trail?

- “I don’t mind as long as they have recall”
- Its all got to do with the control of the dog
 - o Dogs will attack horses

What is your opinion on cyclists using bells while passing other users?

Follow up: how does this affect your use of the trail?

- “Fine, good, do it”
- “Horses need to hear them coming as well, if your horse isn’t up to it they shouldn’t be brought out here”
- “Voice is the best thing but bell is fine as well”

What is your opinion on visitors using headphones in a shared space like the River Corridor?

Follow up: how does this affect your use of the trail?

- As long as everyone knows where everyone is, hearing things is really important
- No it hasn’t affected my use of the trail

Do you believe the trails along the corridor should be expanded? If so, why?

- “Don’t need a track, we will ride on the grass, ride on the road, we’ll ride wherever”
- Doesn't matter for horses
- Horses don’t need a special trail

What are your thoughts on adapting the River Corridor for increased commuter cyclists use?

- Already doing that, trying to get them off the motorway to trail, trying to straighten stream to speed things up

Follow up: Would this affect you, if so, how?

- “Yah if they are speeding up, especially if they are not ringing their bells or giving way”

Do you believe providing more transport opportunities for commuter cyclists is important?

- It is but they can go on the road if they like
- “We don’t need anything special and thats what we are trying to push nationally”
- “Over the past 15 years we have basically been kicked off of every one (mountain bike paths)”

What do you believe is the best way to go about adding a commuter route in the Hutt Valley, and is the River Corridor the space that should be used?

- It is ideal, have to get perimeter correct to not cut out any users
- “Would be best place for bikes but it might be they have be separate, not we would have to be separate”