

Interviewee: Myfanwy Hill

Title: Environmental Operations Manager

Interview Date: 01/18/24.

Interview Time: 9:30 – 10:50 AM

What is your official role at the GWRC?

- Environmental operations manager
 - Has 6 team leaders that all manage around 120 people in total
 - Pest animals and pest plants
 - Park maintenance team
 - Flood protection team

Can you tell us about your project on exploring the Hutt River Trail as a commuter cyclist route?

- What are the goals of this project and how do you plan to accomplish them?
- Would it be as extreme as being exclusive?
 - This project came about right after starting her role at the council
 - Representatives from the cyclist community presented at a council meeting to look into the Hutt River Corridor as a commuter route
 - Myfanwy has investigated hiring a consultant for this project to gain a holistic view of the trail from Upper to Lower Hutt so there is a consistent experience for users
 - Wants to look at the route as a whole vs different sections which have different paved paths
 - Some gravel, some dirt, some paved
 - Some are narrow and some are wide
 - Scope of the project: map the current and future state of the Hutt River Corridor and make recommendations for a commuter route
 - The user survey we are conducting is something that can guide this
 - Wants to be able to find space for all activities
 - Need to gauge how to fit in a cyclist route without negative impacts on other users
 - This may include widening the trail or exploring separate paths for cyclists (i.e. paved stop banks for cyclists and gravel for pedestrians)

How can our work aid you in your project?

- Wants to use our project and pay a consultant

- The idea is it is a shared path still
 - Maybe widen the path in certain areas
 - Maybe use stop banks as a path for commuters and the lower path for recreational use
- The survey is the most useful piece that could impact her project

And how can your work aid in our project?

- Hasn't really done much with the project yet, most of it is dependent on how fast she can hire a consultant
- Approach this as all our work is feeding into “the project”

These are the questions we added to the survey we are conducting, what are your opinions?

- Do you think these questions capture what you are trying to research in your report?
 - Take out question 14b- exclusive question
 - Ask people not on the corridor
 - Ex. of places to go
 - Queens gate or main street
 - This is important for us to figure out if people aren't using the trail for a certain reason
 - This would involve making a new survey
 - Could gain opinion of non-regular user on commuter cyclists using the trail
 - People may not be using the trail for a specific reason
 - Question 14a
 - Take out the word “how” and replace with “do”
 - Follow up question for 14a if there is an issue
 - Can you think of any ways to mitigate those issues/impacts
 - Add dog walking to list of activities
- We can work with Myfanwy to develop an additional list of questions for people we plan to ask about the trail in different locations

Other documents we can look at that can be helpful

- 2018 and 2022
 - These have been sent to us already

Ross:

- It could be interesting to compare what was done before in the previous survey
- Additionally, our upcoming meetings with the flood protection engineers would be useful (i.e. Graeme, Tracey, and Kent)

Joby:

- Is having a meeting this upcoming Tuesday with various stakeholders in the RiverLink project (i.e. cyclists, horseback riders, walkers)
 - Equestrian lady
 - Beth
- With Myfanwy, he is planning to compose a list of user group representatives for us to potentially interview
 - This is important as there could be consequences of not engaging with them