

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CROMWELL COMMUNITY BOARD
HELD IN THE CROMWELL SERVICE CENTRE, 42 THE MALL, CROMWELL
AND LIVE STREAMED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025
COMMENCING AT 12 NOON**

PRESENT: Ms A Harrison (Chair), Mr B Scott, Cr S Browne, Cr N Gillespie, Cr C Laws, Mr W Sanford

IN ATTENDANCE: T Alley (Mayor), L Fleck (Acting Group Manager - People and Culture, Acting Group Manager - Community Vision), S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services), D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), G Bailey (Parks and Recreation Manager), M Burnett (Parks and Projects), W McEnteer (Governance Manager), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Scott
Seconded: Laws

That apologies from Cr S Browne and Ms M McConnell be received and accepted.

CARRIED

2 PUBLIC FORUM

THERE WAS NO PUBLIC FORUM.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligations in respect of declaring any interests. There were no further declarations of interest.

4 REPORTS

25.6.2 DRAFT CROMWELL RACECOURSE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

To hear Cromwell Racecourse Reserve Management Plan 2025 submitters that wish to be heard.

Each submitter that wished to be heard spoke in support of their Cromwell Racecourse Reserve Management Plan 2025 submission.

Caitlin Crack

Ms Crack highlighted safety concerns for horses using areas that we open for multi-purpose use, and stressed the significant loss caused by removing grazing paddocks. She stated that the facility is currently well used throughout the year and that the current proposal is not suitable for future equestrian needs or existing users.

Ms Crack responded to questions.

Jo Fyfe

Ms Fyfe, a planner at Wanaka's ROA investment company, asked that the potential of the site in the future for healthcare, education and affordable housing also be considered as part of this management plan review process.

Ms Fyfe then responded to questions.

Grant Harris

Mr Harris spoke to the wider need in Cromwell for multi-purpose sports facilities and presented a map showing a revised layout of Anderson Park, specifically noting the need for additional parking in this area.

Mr Harris then responded to questions.

John McDonald

Mr McDonald stated that he had been a user of the racecourse reserve as he has paid to run his sheep on the reserve, and he acknowledged the need to accommodate the growth of the town, but asked that these developments are not planned at the expense of the existing users.

Laura Shallcross

Ms Shallcross noted her use of the reserve dating back to 2004, detailing the decline in appropriate spaces for equestrian activities during this period. She emphasised the significance of this distinctive resource for riders and stated that she didn't believe there was a shortage in sports fields at this stage.

Ms Shallcross responded to questions.

Kirsty Green

Ms Green spoke on behalf of the Wakatipu pony club, emphasising the demand for the facility by all equestrian groups and the high calibre of its competitors. As both a rider and coach, she also highlighted the sport's inclusivity and the reach of the reserve to attract riders from all over the country.

Robin Dicey

Mr Dicey spoke to the growth in the district and the need for further development at Anderson Park. He noted the potential for proceeds from endowment land to go towards funding an indoor sports facility on this site and stated that he believed this would be the most appropriate use of this money for the betterment of the whole community.

Paula Clark

Ms Clarke, representing the Cromwell Sports Club, discussed that a potential reduction in sports fields at Anderson Park would impact their group, and noted her concern around the safety of young people travelling to the Racecourse Reserve, even with the provision of an underpass, and the lack of suitable flood lit fields in the draft plans.

Ms Clark then responded to questions.

Anna Lisa White

Ms White highlighted that the Racecourse Reserve is a hub for pony club users throughout the south island and noted how important this facility is for all their users. She asked who would cover the cost of the proposed relocation of the cross country club, and whilst she acknowledged the scale of the site and the potential for it to be used for different sporting codes, she had reservations about the current proposed layout.

Ms White then responded to questions.

Brenda Reading

Ms Reading joined the meeting on the telephone and spoke to the marginalisation of equestrian users and the importance of retaining this facility for its current purpose. She stated that the Racecourse Reserve site was fully utilised by equestrian users and that she believed there were more suitable areas within the town for the provision of additional sports fields.

Ms Reading then responded to questions.

Gemma Smith

Ms Smith, a Wakatipu resident and regular user of the Racecourse Reserve, expressed support for the discussions on the proposed development but raised concerns about certain aspects of the plan that she believed would reduce the facility's training capacity, potentially impacting opportunities for youth riders to achieve a high competitive standard.

Olivia Kerr

Ms Kerr stated that she was a resident of Omakau but that she travelled regularly to use the facilities at the Racecourse Reserve. She outlined the possible risks to humans and horses associated with increased site usage, particularly wandering dogs and higher traffic volumes. She highlighted the site's advantages for beginner riders and horses, noting that there were very few suitable areas for novices in the south island.

Dave George

Mr George spoke as a former user of the pony club and noted that he is very familiar with the site. He suggested that there were more suitable open spaces for the expansion of field sports in the town.

Natasha Lake

Ms Lake emphasised the need for an indoor netball facility in Cromwell that could accommodate the sport's and the town's projected growth. She noted Wanaka's indoor facility is oversubscribed and wanted to ensure Cromwell's future facility would allow for expansion.

Ms Lake then responded to questions.

Peter MacDougall

Mr MacDougall spoke to his proposal to relocate the 'Wheels at Wanaka' event to the Racecourse Reserve site and that he believed the site would be ideal for the event in 2027 and beyond. He addressed concerns about temporarily relocating parts of the cross country course and event noise.

Note: the meeting adjourned at 2.06 pm and reopened at 2.16 pm

Kieran Parsons

Mr Parsons attended via Microsoft Teams and emphasised the need for an indoor climbing centre in Cromwell. He noted the growth of the club and that whilst they are currently using a site at

Cromwell College the group would soon outgrow this space and he asked for climbing to be included in plans for a new indoor centre.

Jake Woodward

Spoke on behalf of NZ Cherry Corp who neighbour the Racecourse Reserve site and asked that concerns around traffic management along Ripponvale Road were taking into account as the plan progresses, so the business can ensure the health and safety of their staff and the continued success of their operations.

Sandra Aitchison

Ms Aitchison spoke to her submission and noted the potential reduction of equestrian facilities, and how continued operations of riders could be affected from a safety and financial perspective. She noted the lease given to Central Lakes Equestrian Club had enabled the organisation to invest in the site to ensure their long-term success. She also asked that the Race NZ we considered and that the racing events were not affected by the proposals.

Ms Aitchison then responded to questions.

Lisa Fridd

Ms Fridd noted that she was an equestrian coach and described the reach of the sport to encourage youth into riding and discussed the usage at the reserve throughout different periods of the year.

Ms Fridd then responded to questions.

Janice Jones

Ms Jones gave an overview of her involvement with the equestrian community and described the importance of the sport in the town and the wider district. She detailed the busy programme of events at the reserve and said the facilities were often currently booked up with existing users, and that she believed there wasn't much potential for the site to be used by other sporting codes.

Ms Jones there responded to questions.

Nick Rhodes

Mr Rhodes provided an overview of his paintball business and the activities currently available. He mentioned that they are seeking a new location and expressed interest in possibly developing the business at the Racecourse Reserve, in addition to the other planned sports facilities.

Helen Foot

Ms Foot, joined the meeting via telephone, representing the Otago Central Lakes Health Trust Project. She outlined the group's assessment of potential sites in Central Otago for a publicly funded health facility to address districts growth. She requested that, despite the potential need for rezoning, the option for a hospital on the site remain open while future uses are evaluated.

Margaret Hay

Ms Hay stated that she was a daily user of the reserve, and was concerned about the future of the reserve and riders due to the proposed diminished equestrian facilities. She noted that there was need for a water management plan and that they future use of the plan be flexible so that it considered all users, especially the existing users.

Jessie Sutherland

Ms Sutherland presented a plan for a multipurpose sports hub in Anderson Park which she believed responded to the growth projections, fulfilled requirements in the Cromwell Masterplan and retained the green space in the centre of town.

Liana Harrison

Ms Harrison spoke representing Cromwell Youth Trust and noted that the organisation had recently increased in numbers and had outgrown their current premises in the centre of town. She asked that they could be considered as potential lessees for any vacant buildings in Anderson Park as she believed this location would be ideal for the growth of the trust.

Note: the meeting was adjourned at 3.39 pm.

Note: the meeting resumed on Tuesday 26 August 2025 at 3.00 pm at the Cromwell Service Centre, 42 The Mall, Cromwell.

PRESENT: Ms A Harrison (Chair), Mr B Scott, Cr S Browne, Cr C Laws, Mr W Sanford

IN ATTENDANCE: S Righarts (Group Manager - Governance and Business Services),
D Scoones (Group Manager - Community Experience), G Bailey (Parks and Recreation Manager), M Burnett (Parks and Projects), S Reynolds (Governance Support Officer)

5 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Harrison
Seconded: Browne

That apologies from Ms M McConnell be received and accepted and that an apology for lateness from Cr Gillespie be received and accepted.

CARRIED

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COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Browne
Seconded: Scott

That the Cromwell Community Board

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Receives and considers submissions to the draft Cromwell Racecourse Reserve Management Plan 2025, and recommend amendments based on community input and staff advice for inclusion into final Draft Reserve Management Plan which will be presented at the Board's September meeting.
- C. Recommend Anderson Park and Alpha Street Reserve layouts remain the same, noting the submissions on the demand on these two locations and requests a future report come to the board.

CARRIED

3 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 16 September 2025.

The meeting closed at 4.02 pm

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CHAIR / /