June 2023

To Hamilton City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Hayes Paddock Neighbourhood Changes

For any further inquiries, please contact:

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**Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

**We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people**

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People’s Organisation run by and for disabled people.

**We recognise:**

* Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](https://www.archives.govt.nz/discover-our-stories/the-treaty-of-waitangi) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
* disabled people as experts on their own lives;
* the [Social Model of Disability](https://www.odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/guidance-for-policy-makes/) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
* the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html) as the basis for disabled people’s relationship with the State;
* the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/) as Government agencies’ guide on disability issues; and
* the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](https://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-2018-2022-maori-disability-action-plan), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](https://www.moh.govt.nz/notebook/nbbooks.nsf/0/5E544A3A23BEAECDCC2580FE007F7518/%24file/faiva-ora-2016-2021-national-pasifika-disability-plan-feb17.pdf) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

**We drive systemic change through:**

* **Leadership:** reflecting the collective voice of disabled people, locally, nationally and internationally.
* **Information and advice:** informing and advising on policies impacting on the lives of disabled people.
* **Advocacy:** supporting disabled people to have a voice, including a collective voice, in society.
* **Monitoring:** monitoring and giving feedback on existing laws, policies and practices about and relevant to disabled people.

# The Submission

DPA welcomes this opportunity to engage on the Hayes Paddock Neighbourhood changes being proposed by the Hamilton City Council.

DPA supports any improvements to the Hayes Paddock neighbourhood space which makes it more accessible and inclusive for everyone, including disabled people.

We note that Hayes Paddock is one of Hamilton’s most walkable destinations and is highly favoured for the many recreational opportunities it provides for city residents.

Hamilton-based DPA members contributed to this submission.

**DPA supports proposals**

DPA members welcome the creation of a new community space outside Hayes Common Café and other proposed changes.

DPA believes that there are several actions which can be taken to make the larger community space accessible and usable by everyone.

One of the issues raised by DPA members concerns the fact that the road becomes narrower, especially when the car park by the river is full. When this happens, parking on the road becomes the only viable option and creates a safety issue for both vehicle drivers and passengers.

For disabled people travelling by car or other vehicle, these hazards should be particularly avoided.

One of the best ways to tackle this problem is to create sufficient mobility parking spaces on both sides of the road near the river.

DPA believes that there are currently no mobility parking spaces in the area and the proposed changes to the road layouts and other infrastructure present the ideal opportunity for this to happen.

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| **Recommendation 1:** that the HCC creates sufficient mobility parking spaces at Hayes Paddock. |

DPA supports the proposal to create safe connections between the street, the beach, river path and playground.

DPA believes that these safe connections should be accessible to all pedestrians, whether they mobilise by foot or mobility device (i.e., wheelchairs, walking frames, crutches, etc).

DPA believes that if cycleways are going to be added to the mix that these be set out separately but parallel to any footpaths to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.

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| **Recommendation 2:** that the HCC place any cycle ways planned for Hayes Paddock separately but parallel to any footpaths. |

DPA acknowledges the HCC’s recognition that there are issues with traffic performing u-turns on the Y-intersection of Plunket Terrace and Jellicoe Drive and the high entry speeds into Plunket Terrace. We believe that there are easy fixes to those problems in terms of installing traffic calming measures like speed humps and lowering the traffic speed along Plunket Terrace.

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| **Recommendation 3:** that the HCC installs speed humps as a traffic calming measure around the Hayes Paddock area. |

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| **Recommendation 4:** that the HCC lowers the traffic speed along Plunket Terrace. |

DPA supports the creation of safe bike parking facilities, and the HCC should ensure that these are accessible to disabled people, especially for those who use adapted bicycles (i.e., three or four wheeled bicycles) to mobilise.

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| **Recommendation 5:** that the HCC makes any bike stands fully accessible, including for disabled cyclists. |

DPA welcomes plans to insert new raised pedestrian crossings and road markings in the area. These will ensure the safety of pedestrians who use them, including disabled people.

DPA believes that the new community space outside Hayes Common Cafe should be fully accessible and inclusive of everyone, including disabled people. This means having clear, accessible spaces and seating options.

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| **Recommendation 6:** that the HCC fully involves disabled people in the design and planning of the new community space outside Hayes Common Cafe.  |

DPA welcomes the proposal to create new toilet/changing facilities at Wellington Beach by 2024.

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| **Recommendation 7:** that the HCC install a Changing Places facility at the new toilet/changing area at Wellington Beach. |