

18/09/2026

0358002609

Richard Murcott

Thorndon Residents' Association

By email

CC: Cr Geordie Rogers, Cr Afnan Al-Rubayee, Cr Nicola Young

Dear Richard

Thank you for your email dated 27 August 2026.

You will recall we discussed the issues you have raised during my site visit alongside your local ward councillors on 10 August 2026.

You will further recall I explained there has been no change to the position I took during the election campaign. That position is cycleways are an important part of our transport infrastructure, and those who want to cycle should be able to do so safely and accessibly, however I acknowledge there have been some frustrations from the community around some cycleway designs. I know lower Molesworth Street and about 178m of the Glenmore Street cycleway near the Soundshell are examples of this – and I am particularly concerned to ensure elderly and disabled people can access parking at the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and Begonia House.

If anything, the site visit reinforced my existing view. But the reality is I am only one vote around the council table.

During negotiation of council's Triennium Plan for the three years until the next election, I put all the policies I had campaigned for on the table. Regrettably, there was not agreement by council to add revisiting the design or operation of the Glenmore Street cycleway near the Soundshell. That will not stop me from efforts to win greater support.

Even if there was sufficient support around the council table for changes, and if there were adequate funding, I am aware officers consider variable use would present safety and practicality challenges. The alternative of cutting into the garden to widen the road would present other significant challenges. Under any scenario the Local Government Act would require public consultation. Again, I do not see this as a reason to cease my efforts to secure a change.

You will recall that at the site visit I asked officers to work with your local ward councillors on what options might be evidenced-based and collectively palatable for inclusion for consideration in council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) formulation. Formation of the upcoming LTP is set to be very challenging given the likelihood of a rates capping environment. I have received assurance that officers are working on my request. Councillor Rogers has also indicated he will assist by providing information about previous council decision making and traffic/parking data to inform the debate. I expect Councillor Rogers would be willing to share that information with your association too.

To reiterate, my personal view remains that I would like to see change to some of the cycleway designs at the Botanical Garden and on Molesworth Street, and sooner rather than later. But I will not give assurance I can deliver change without agreement from council to do so.

This is why I continue to encourage your association to work on this issue with your local ward councillors. An agreed position among your local ward councillors, supported by the local community, will give maximum weight as council heads into what will likely be a challenging LTP process from December.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Little". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HW Hon Andrew Little
Mayor of Wellington
Email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz