

# **PEDESTRIAN ACCESSWAY POLICY**

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## **PEDESTRIAN ACCESSWAY POLICY (PAW)**

### **1. The importance of Pedestrian Access Ways**

The importance of an access way is related to the importance of walking. Walking is the glue that binds our urban transport systems together. It is not only an essential transport mode for those with limited access to a motor vehicle, and an integral component of most public transport trips, but also an important part of many motor vehicle trips. There are suburbs in Christchurch which have one of the lowest vehicle ownership rates per household in New Zealand. Coincidentally, these suburbs feature as having pedestrian access ways that neighbours are requesting to have closed.

Pedestrian accessways can provide all, or some of the following :

- ❖ Provision of an important access route to community facilities such as schools, shops, public open spaces ( reserves), Churches, Libraries and public Transport Connections.
- ❖ Forming part of a cycle network, safe route to school, or recreational walking route.
- ❖ Facilitating utility easements through a public area i.e. power, water supply.

The New Zealand Travel Survey reveals that most walking trips (70%), are under one kilometre in length. Pedestrian access ways commonly facilitate shorter distances to walk.

Up to 28% of all fatalities in urban areas are pedestrians on public roadways. Pedestrian accessways can reduce the time spent on roadways when walking.

Maintaining and enhancing the “walkability” of our communities is at the heart of ensuring a healthy future for walking as a transport mode.

### **2. Reasons for this Policy**

The Council is receiving increasing requests to close PAW’s, from residents directly adjoining, or living close by, to these access ways. There is a need to have a process in place, which will be outlined in this policy, so that an unbiased assessment can be undertaken, based on an agreed assessment criteria. The assessment criteria can look objectively at the benefits and disbenefits of PAW’s in regard to their effect on the immediate and wider community.

### **3. Who should use the Policy?**

- i. Parties requesting Closure (procedures are outlined for making an application)
- ii. Council Officers (procedures are outlined for investigating applications for closure)
- iii. Elected Members (Guidelines and general principles are provided for making decisions)

#### **4. Objectives**

The objectives of this policy are to:

- i. Provide guidance to Council on the evaluation of applications for closure of pedestrian access ways (PAW's)
- ii. Guide applicants on the matters Council will take into consideration when evaluating applications for closure of PAW's.

#### **5. General Principles**

In considering applications for closure of PAW's, Council shall have regard to the following **general principles**

##### ***i. Access to Community Facilities and Services***

*Where a PAW is considered to provide an important access route to community facilities and services, closure shall generally **not** be supported.*

##### ***ii. Alternative Routes***

*Closure shall only be supported where a viable alternative route is available. This means a route that does not result in substantially longer walking distance to community facilities and services.*

##### ***iii. Network Effects to other Transport Modes***

*Where a PAW forms part of a pedestrian network (eg Safe Routes to School) and closure would result in the discontinuation of the pedestrian network, closure shall generally **not** be supported.*

*Where a PAW forms part of the Christchurch cycling plan (and updates of this) and where no viable alternative exists, closure shall generally **not** be supported.*

#### **6. Other Matters to Consider**

In considering applications for closure of PAW's, Council shall have regard to the following additional matters:

##### ***i. Anti-Social Behaviour Consideration Related to the PAW***

Where closure requests involve consideration of the extent to which PAW's may serve to facilitate anti-social behaviour (eg graffiti, vandalism, burglary and litter) supporting evidence by way of photos, police case reports or case numbers should be provided.

***ii. Access for those with Special Needs***

Special consideration should be given to a PAW in close proximity to housing for the elderly and providing access to community facilities and services and any disadvantages to people with disabilities that a closure would create.

***iii. Remedial Action***

Trialing remedial action that may result in an improvement to safety, design and appearance should be considered.

***iv. Comments/Views of Adjoining Neighbours, Users, Service Providers***

Comments from neighbours and users should be gathered and considered on their merits. Comments from service providers should also be gathered and considered.

## ***Appendix A- PROCEDURES FOR THE PUBLIC***

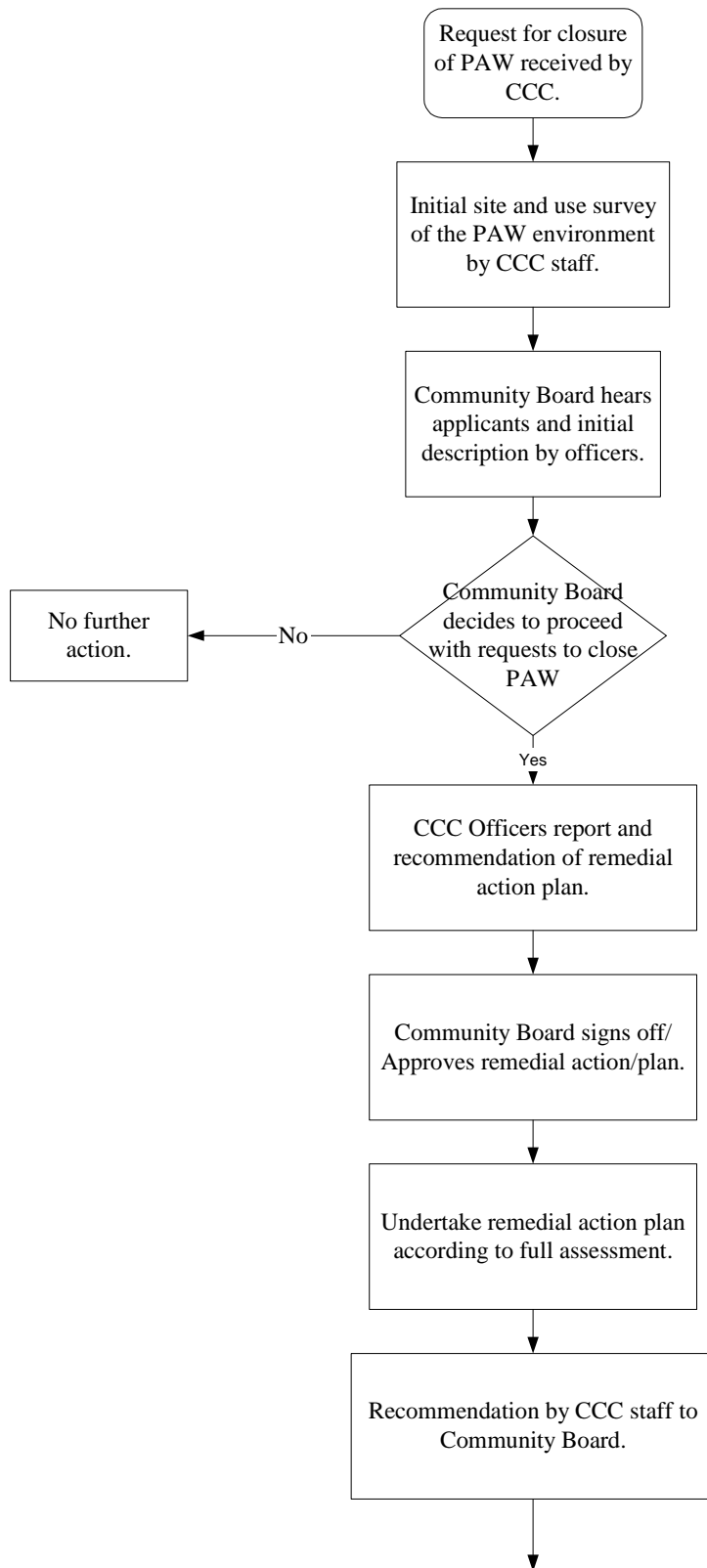
### *Procedures for the Public*

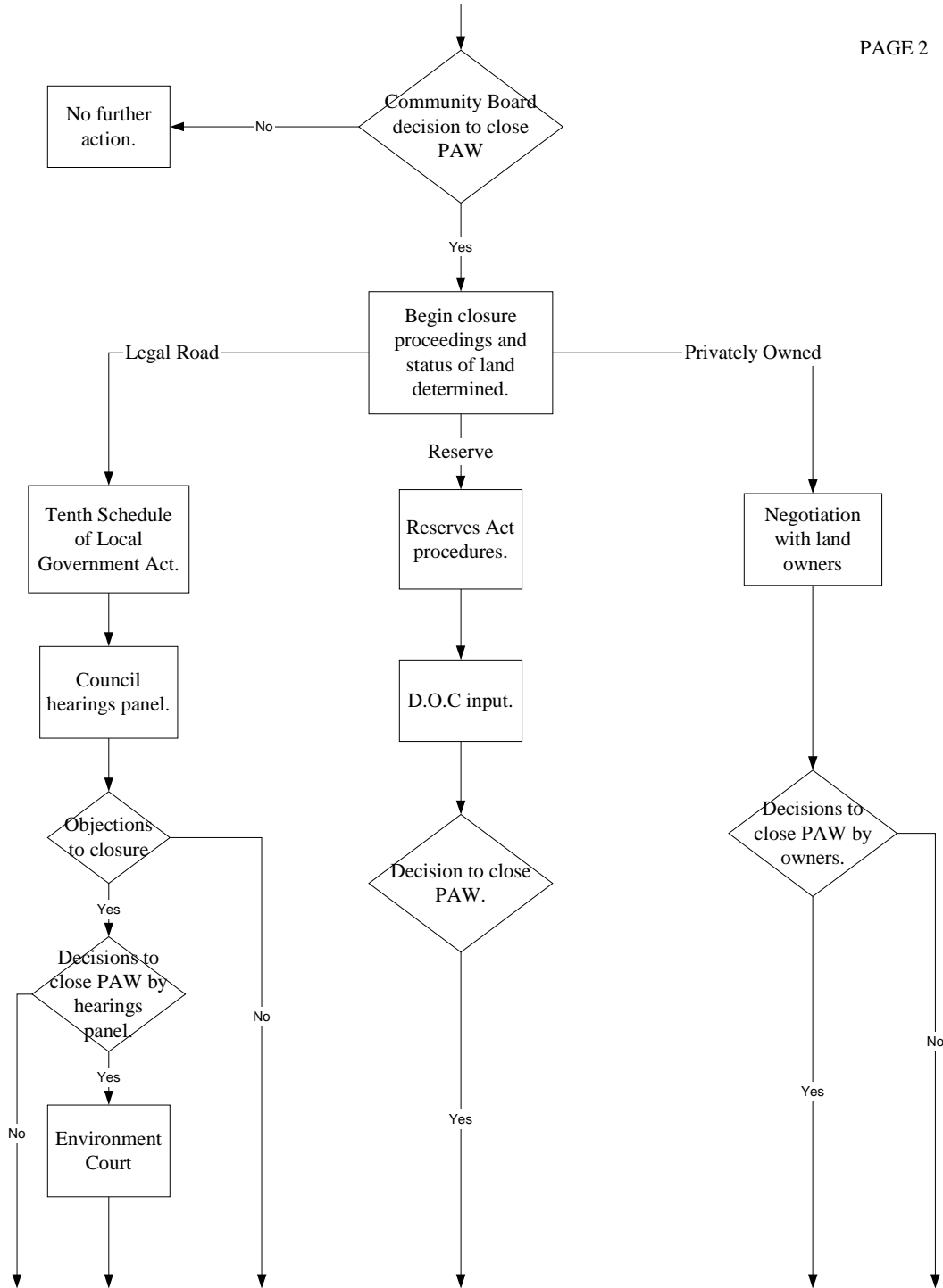
Submission of a petition or letter requesting closure

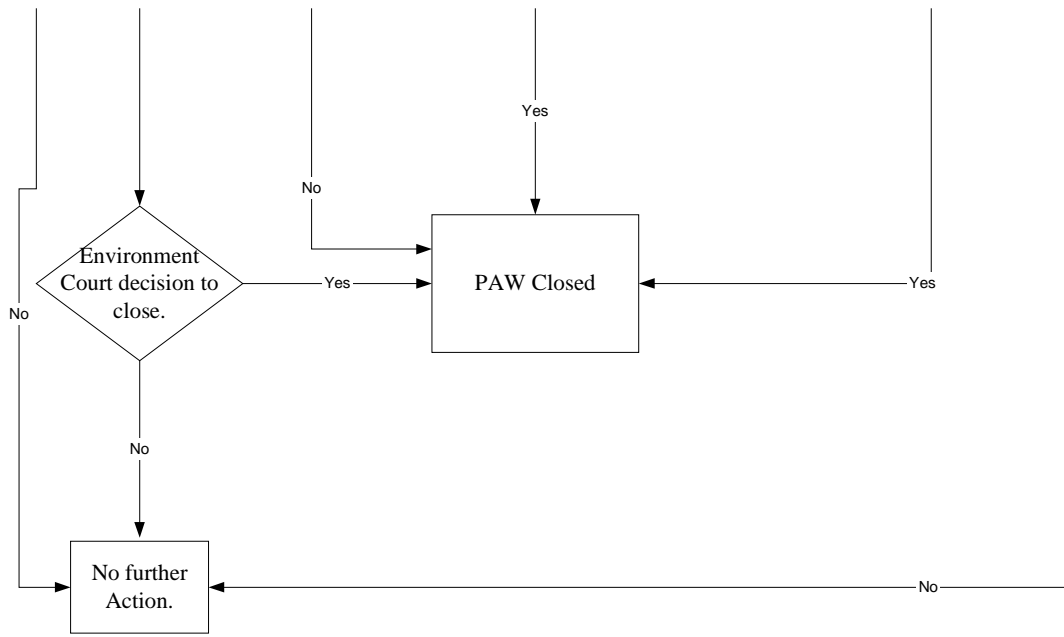
Details to be included with the petition or letter should follow a standard form and include:

- a) Legal Description and location map
- b) Names and addresses of all adjoining property owners
- c) Petition signed by 51% of all the adjoining property owners
- d) Description of the issues of concern and reasons for closure (this should be supported by photographic and/or police report evidence wherever possible and appropriate)
- e) Proposed new use of the PAW if closed

# Pedestrian Accessway (PAW) Process









*APPENDIX C: Examples of Christchurch Accessways*



Typical examples of accessway treatment in Christchurch.

- ❖ High Fences
- ❖ Limited visibility at one end



Excellent examples of open space treatment of accessways

- ❖ Clear, open sightlines
- ❖ Planting
- ❖ Easy for informal surveillance
- ❖ Pleasant environment

However, a lot of land is required for this type of treatment





Examples of where graffiti, litter, poor visibility and destruction of the fence is apparent



***Appendix B- PROCESS FLOWCHART***

***APPENDIX D: Facts to be collected***

***Base Information Template***

<b><i>Information</i></b>	<b><i>Specific Aspect</i></b>
Public usage (daytime)	User profiles- age, sex, time of day
Proximity to Community/Recreation facilities	
Practicality of alternative routes and distances	
Links to cycle routes & pedestrian networks & public transport routes	
Criminal Activity in the accessways	Frequency/Type
Criminal Activity in the Area	Frequency/Type
Ownership details/Legal status of accessway	
Graffiti in the accessway	Frequency/extent
Graffiti in the neighbourhood	Frequency/extent
Cleaning arrangements	Frequency
Level of funding in the area for accessways	Past and future planned
Site Survey and environment description	Quality of fencing Level of planting Surface of accessway Visibility/sightlines Lighting Access eg staples Infrastructure
Access to utilities	

**APPENDIX E: Remedial Action for Nuisance Matters**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Remedial Action</b>	<b>Group Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe for action</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Litter in Accessways</b>	Community ownership (commitment) of accessway to keep it free from litter				Survey of accessway every 2 months for 1 year  Survey community after 6 months and 1 year
<b>Dangerous Litter (glass, needles)</b>	Level of incidence directly related to dangerous litter in the accessway is reduced to an insignificant level	Install litter bins	Council	Promptly/Immediately	Litter in bins – not accessway
<b>Unsightly (eg paper, newspaper/advertising)</b>	No longer a conspicuous issue (eg paper rubbish not obvious) in or out of accessway)	Increased regularity of accessway cleaning	Council	Immediately	Monthly inspections for first 6 months then review
<b>Antisocial litter (offensive nature) Alcohol bottles, condoms, etc)</b>	Stop anti-social behaviour leading to litter being left	Liaison with enforcement authorities to monitor	Council/Police	Immediate-short term	Feedback positive from community
		Keep NZ beautiful signs	Council/Keep NZ Beautiful	Immediate	Amount of litter found in accessway significantly reduced
		Improving aesthetics (eg planting, painting, design features) to discourage	Council/Community	Within 12 months- budget for Annual Plan	

<b><i>Issue</i></b>	<b><i>Desired Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Remedial Action</i></b>	<b><i>Group Responsible</i></b>	<b><i>Timeframe for action</i></b>	<b><i>Measure</i></b>
<b><i>Fencing (materials, design) Damaged (eg Palings broken, missing)</i></b>	Durable (resistant to damage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Repair fencing if appropriate</li> <li>❖ Replace fencing with style that is durable and coated in graffiti resistant paint)</li> </ul>	Joint responsibility of owners and Council	1-3 months	Fence repaired and incidental damage
<b><i>Design (max height 1.8m before resource consent)</i></b>	Fence height satisfactory to adjoining owner and users	Building /modifying fences as appropriate	Residents Council	3-6 months	Minimal complaints- incorporate into 12 month survey
<b><i>Crime/Antisocial behaviour Noise Nuisance</i></b>	Amount of nuisance/noise removed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ If a regular event report to police and Community watch groups to be involved with monitoring</li> </ul>	Police/Council/Community Watch groups	Immediate	Survey after 3 months after notifying the police etc contact complainant and see if situation has improved
<b><i>Graffiti on fences along accessway</i></b>	No graffiti on fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To remove graffiti by paint or other means</li> <li>❖ If it continues to be a problem investigate public art</li> </ul>	Anti Graffiti Group	<p>Reports of graffiti are acted on and removed immediately</p> <p>3 month fortnightly monitoring</p>	No more graffiti found on fences in the 3 months

**APPENDIX E: Remedial Action for Urban Design Matters**

<b>Accessibility</b>	Safe and convenient access for all users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Width</li> <li>❖ Gradient</li> <li>❖ Obstructions (eg entrance staples)</li> <li>❖ Unnecessary steps</li> <li>❖ Surfacing of path</li> <li>❖ Overhanging foliage</li> </ul>	Council	1-3 months	12 month survey- enquire of complainant after change to ensure issue has been resolved
<b>Visibility (lighting-artificial and natural)</b>	Accessway users have clear sightlines and entrance/exit clearly visible when in accessway (entrapment removed- can escape)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Installation of mirrors at blind bends</li> <li>❖ Infrastructure/foilage does not hide objects/people- fairly transparent</li> <li>❖ Consider upgrading lighting in accessway or on street frontages</li> </ul>	Council	<p>1-3 months</p> <p>3-6 months</p>	Survey and revisit after 6 12 months



## ***APPENDIX F: Assessment Criteria***

***In considering applications for closure of PAWs, the following assessments should be conducted and scaled on a ranking of high, medium or low:***

### ***1. Urban Design Assessment***

- ❖ Access to Community Facilities***
- ❖ Availability of Alternative Access Routes***
- ❖ Relationship to Pedestrian network, Cycle Routes, Public Transport Routes and ‘Safe Routes to Schools’***
- ❖ Level of Access (increased walking distances)***

### ***2. Nuisance Assessment***

- ❖ Frequency of Occurrences***
- ❖ Number of Offences***
- ❖ Nature of Offences***

### ***3. Community Impact Assessment***

- ❖ Interviews and observations with local residents***

Urban Design Assessment	Nuisance Assessment	Community Impact Assessment
<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PAW provides a direct route to community facilities</li> <li>❖ Safe, alternative route does not exist</li> <li>❖ PAW part of a continuous PAW link- ie a chain of two or three PAWs and is linked to streets with existing path systems</li> <li>❖ PAW is designated 'safe route to school', "cycle route'</li> </ul>	<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ There is a high and consistent frequency in the occurrence of criminal activity and/or antisocial behaviour compared to elsewhere in suburb</li> <li>❖ The number of difference types of occurrences is high and is directly related to the PAW</li> <li>❖ The severity of criminal activity and/or antisocial behaviour is considered higher than elsewhere in the suburb</li> <li>❖ Occurrences substantiated by questionnaire respondents</li> </ul>	<p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Significant portion of respondents not in favour of closures (50%)</li> <li>❖ High portion of households use the PAW regularly</li> <li>❖ High portion of users inconvenienced by closure (over 50%)</li> </ul>
<p>Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PAW provides a route to community facilities but not direct</li> <li>❖ An alternative route exists but some inconvenience</li> <li>❖ PAW not designated as a 'safe route to school' or cycleway</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Frequent occurrence of criminal activity and antisocial behaviour compared to elsewhere in the suburb</li> <li>❖ There are several different types of occurrences that are directly related to the PAW</li> <li>❖ The severity of criminal activity and/or antisocial behaviour is considered higher than elsewhere in the suburb</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Medium portion of respondents not in favour of closure (over 30%)</li> <li>❖ Moderate level of households using the PAW</li> <li>❖ Moderate portion of users inconvenienced by closure of the PAW (30-50%)</li> </ul>
<p>Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PAW not linked to any community facility</li> <li>❖ A safe, reasonable alternative walkway exists</li> <li>❖ PAW is not part of a continuous link to community facilities</li> <li>❖ PAW is not designated as a 'safe route to school' or cycleway</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Occurrence of criminal activity or antisocial behaviour similar to elsewhere in the suburb</li> <li>❖ Types of offences are limited to antisocial behaviour</li> <li>❖ The severity of antisocial behaviour is similar to elsewhere in the suburb</li> </ul>	<p>Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ High number of residents in favour of closure (over 75%)</li> <li>❖ Low number of household using the PAW</li> <li>❖ Few users inconvenienced by closure (less than 30%)</li> </ul>