Central Link

He karere tā te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi
News from the Stratford District Council

24 Hour Phone 06 765 6099 | StratfordDC@stratford.govt.nz | **Stratford.govt.nz**

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Heads up, the library will be closed 23 & 24 March while it gets a spruce up

The interior of the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre is due a fresh coat of paint.

In order to do this safely and efficiently, we need to close the facility for 2 days, this includes the AA Service Desk.

Work will begin on Sunday 22 March, and be complete in time to reopen on Wednesday 25 March.

We appreciate your patience while this work happens, and encourage you to plan ahead for the closure.

Don't forget, you can access our Library services online at Stratford.govt.nz/Library

Taranaki Anniversary opening hours

It's our turn! The public holiday for Taranaki Anniversary weekend falls on Monday 9 March, and we hope you have a wonderful long weekend.

Some of our facilities will be closed on the day or have reduced hours. To everyone working during the long weekend, thank you for your mahi!

- **Service Centre:** Closed
- **Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre:** Open 10am - 5pm
- **Stratford Library & Visitor Information Centre:** Closed
- **Stratford Transfer Station:** Open 12pm - 5pm
- **Rubbish & recycling collection:** Normal Monday collection

Remember, you can always call 06 765 6099 day or night for urgent issues, even on public holidays.

Community Conversations

Join us for a presentation from a local speaker followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Upcoming session

20 March, 11am Taranaki Central Family and Local History Group

Every third Friday in the Stratford Library

Latest news on Prospero Place upgrade project

We're getting closer to finalising the Prospero Place upgrades and starting work on beautifying our town centre.

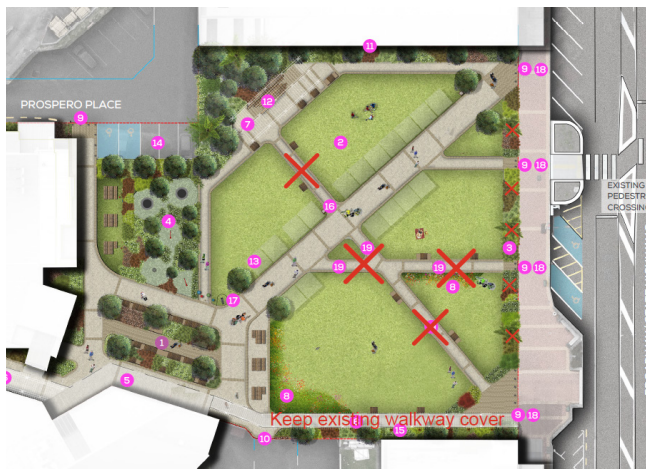
As a recap, last year we asked for feedback on draft designs and over 120 people shared their views. A revised plan was developed in response to the feedback received, however, more time was needed to further scope some of the design elements and explore the approach to construction and budget allocation. We also wanted to give the incoming Council the opportunity to contribute to the project's final direction.

This opportunity came at last week's Policy & Services Committee meeting. While reviewing the updated design, some Elected Members identified areas of the plan that they felt could be removed, including buffer planting alongside the Broadway footpath, and secondary paved footpaths connecting Broadway with the main diagonal path through the green space.

Key reasons behind these alterations included a desire to simplify the design and reduce implementation costs where possible.

At the meeting they also discussed funding and delivery options, approving loan funding of $785,000 to complete the works within a single year. This has been made possible due to capital expenditure savings across other activity areas this financial year.

Alongside successful grant funding already allocated to the project, the loan funding helps make up the total estimated cost of $1.2 million, subject to final tender pricing.



Council staff are also investigating other opportunities for local organisations to provide donations and in-kind support towards the project.

These decisions still need to be adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Next steps

We'll share the final design once adopted and then go out to tender for the work involved in mid-April.

The tender process will be in two stages, with site preparation work due to start by mid-June 2026.

Project news and updates will continue to be shared on YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz, through our free Antenno App and here in our Central Link newsletter.

King Edward Park pathway improvements start soon

On Monday 16 March, council contractors will begin work to improve the accessibility of two pathways in Stratford's King Edward Park.

Concreting paths for easy travel

We've already replaced some lime chip sections of Carrington Walkway with concrete. Now we're completing the mahi by **concreting the remaining sections from the Netball Courts to the Rhododendron Dell** to make the walk, stroller push, and mobility scooter travel a lot smoother.

While the work is underway, that stretch of the path will be closed. Access will be available around the construction site, but please follow any signage you see and respect the grounds of Stratford Primary School nearby.

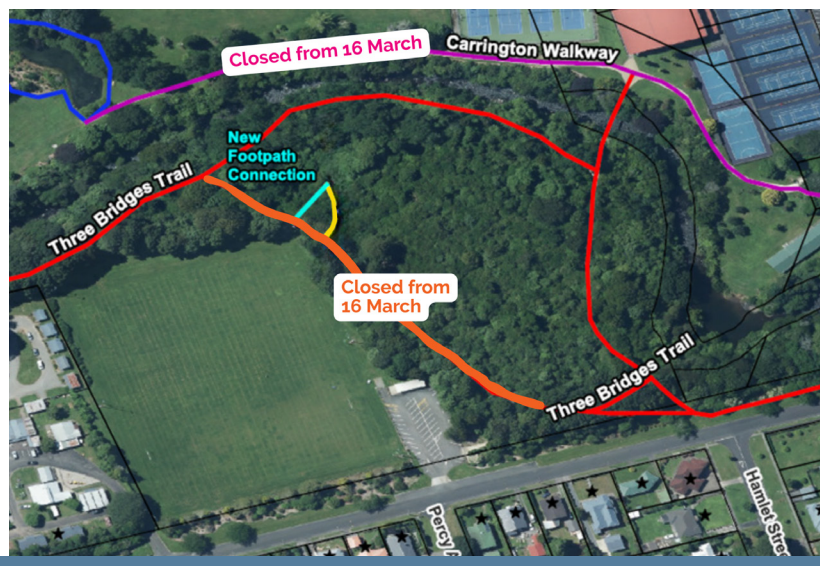
Creating a small, scenic loop

The lime chip will be repurposed to **develop a small, looped walk off Carrington Walkway near the Page Street sportsground entrance**, which will celebrate some of our trees of significance.

During construction of the loop, part of the Three Bridges Trail will be closed, and you may need to take a longer route or detour through the sportsgrounds, making sure to keep clear of any sports activities taking place.

Both projects are expected to be complete by **Saturday 18 April**, weather permitting.

Watch this space for after pics!



Library & Visitor Information Centre
Phone 06 765 5403
Monday – Friday: 8.30am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 1pm
Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed

Stratford Transfer Station
Phone 06 765 8500
Monday: 12pm - 5pm
Thursday: 10am - 1pm
Friday - Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
Phone 06 765 6275
Monday – Friday: 6am – 6.30pm
Saturday: 7am – 5pm
Sunday & Public Holidays: 10am – 5pm

Glockenspiel
Performs daily at 10am, 1pm, 3pm, and 7pm