

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission:

For some time now the preschool has been looking for a new site on which to build a new purpose built building as our old one is at the end of its useful life and is no longer practical to be used as a preschool. Trying to achieve this end is something that the council is committed to as it is trying to fulfil its obligations under its early childhood education policy which it adopted in 1998.

Finding a site in St Albans is particularly difficult as the council does not have much land to use and the recent property boom means buying existing privately owned land is largely prohibitive.

Of late the council's facility assets unit, the Shirley Papanui community board and the preschool have identified potential land on the corner of Courtney/Westminster Streets beside St Albans School. This site is ideal for all concerned but will require the council to agree to purchasing a site that is privately owned there, or by completing a land swap with that owner. The project would also be much more viable if the council agreed to allow the property at 3 Thames St (the preschool's existing site) to be sold when the new preschool is completed with the net proceeds being used to offset the extra costs involved in building the preschool.

Recent increases in building costs and land costs mean that the \$350,000 currently carried in the budget are not adequate to complete this project. By allowing 3 Thames St to be sold and the proceeds of that used in addition to the \$350,000, then the project becomes quite manageable.

We note that the Property and Major Projects committee of the council is to meet on 14 May to discuss this project. We would like to reserve the right to discuss any issue that arises out of that meeting also.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Sherry