

Summary submission form

Instructions

You may send us your submission...

Please read before completing your submission

It will help us process your submission if you clearly state the issue you want the Council to consider, what specific action you think the Council should take, and why that should be done.

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. (If that is the case, please tick the box). The hearings will be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006. Generally, 10 minutes are allocated for hearing each submission, including time for questions.

It will help us if your submission also refers to the page of either the full version or the summary version.

Please note: we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to Councillors and to the public. This includes the name and address of the submitter. All submissions will be published on the Council's website from 10 May 2006.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8003

By email

Please email your submission to:

ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz

Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

On the internet

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's web site at:

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

Please follow all the instructions on the web site.

Please remember to indicate if you wish to present your submission in person at one of the hearings.

Please ensure your submission arrives no later than Friday 5 May 2006.

Your submission

You may use this form for your submission on the draft Our Community Plan if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please include your name, address and contact telephone number with your submission.

Tick one ☒ I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR
☐ I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006

Are you completing this submission: ☒ For yourself ☐ On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?

My submission refers to: ☐ Full version ☐ Page No. ☒ Summary version ☐ Page No.

Do you also want to respond to: ☐ Development Contributions ☐ Aquatic Facilities ☐ Other

Contact Name LESLIE DEW.

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Contact Address 48 WINGATE STREET
REDWOOD CHRISTCHURCH 8005.

Phone No. (day) 3527.201 Phone No. (evening) _____

Email (if applicable) _____

Signature [Signature] Date 17/4/06.

GENERAL COMMENTS

I find it difficult to believe that a group of people we elected to run the city to our satisfaction has produced a plan to deliberately destroy many of the amenities we enjoy while, at the same time, wasting vast sums of money erecting monuments to indulge bloated egos. It also disturbs me to read that the council intends dabbling in activities, such as sporting events, economic development, education etc, which it knows nothing about.

As an old age pensioner, whose only income is the Government superannuation, I find it increasingly difficult to maintain a home for my wife and myself. The council seems to overlook the fact that, while I stay in my own home, I am not seeking assistance, such as a council pensioners cottage.

I have read the summary version and my first impression was: if this is the best you can do, the next election can not come soon enough. I have made the following submissions in the hope that the council will take some notice of them.

MAJOR PROJECTS (page 4)

ESSENTIAL PROJECTS

The bus exchange and the Art gallery are brand new facilities and should not need such great expenditure. If you got it wrong the first time, what guarantee is there that it will be right next time?

Civic Offices--we would all like a new home. I can not afford it, nor can you! Civil defence building--just duplicating the work of Environment Canterbury

DISCRETIONARY PRIORITY PROJECTS

Most of these items are far too vague to comment on. However I doubt the necessity of spending so much on the Avon River, the Botanical Gardens and the City Mall.

FINANCIAL (page 5)

I object to the sale of assets, especially the Port. Profit from these undertakings must surely reduce our rates.

MONEY SAVING PROPOSALS (page 8)

I could accept the closure of the Redwood library if no one used it. As it is always busy when I make use of its services I object to its closure.

If the suburban libraries are to close, the mobile library will provide an even more vital service.

Increasing parking fees will only make the city centre a less desirable place to visit.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (page 10)

Early learning centres are surely the responsibility of the education authorities.

Civil defence involvement is only a duplication of the activities of Environment Canterbury.

Funding for community groups needs more explanation. We may find that many can help themselves.

CULTURAL AND LEARNING SERVICES (page 11)

The museum and art gallery should seek sponsorship to help reduce council involvement.

Too much of the funding to the museum is being wasted by legal costs and hearings. Future funding for the museum should be restricted to purchase of exhibits.

What use are extra library books when the two libraries nearest to my home are to close.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (page 12)

I can not accept that Christchurch is governed along democratic lines. It appears to be a dictatorship run by the mayor and chief executive with staff and councillors either gagged or frightened to express their views.

In 1989 the Waimairi County was abolished and we were forced to join the city. At the time we fought this but, as usual, nobody listened. Since amalgamation our worst fears have been confirmed. Our rates have risen dramatically while services have declined and are now almost non-existent.

Some years ago the citizens of Christchurch voted overwhelmingly to prevent the amalgamation of Banks Peninsula with the city. Again no one listened!

On many occasions the council has asked citizens for their views on various topics but fails to act on results.

Don't mention democracy--the council does not know the meaning of the word.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (page 13)

Surely this is not a council activity and should be left to bodies, such as the Chamber of Commerce which understand the needs of manufacturers and consumers.

PARKS etc. (page 14)

As a person who enjoys walking I must congratulate the council on the provision of walkways, open spaces and wetlands. However I would question the need to spend so much money in the Botanical Gardens which are superb and, beyond necessary maintenance, should be left alone. In addition, the Avon river is the jewel in the crown of the central city and should not be interfered with.

RECREATION AND LEISURE (page 15)

It is not the responsibility of the council to bid for, host or deliver sporting events. This is the responsibility of the various sporting codes. I am far from convinced that large sporting activities and festivals create wealth for the city, with the exception of motelliers and those in fast food outlets.

Whilst the council should continue to provide open spaces and basic facilities for sports, large stadia should be paid for by the wealthy sports codes which claim to need them. For instance, it should not be beyond the rugby union to pay for future extensions to that chinese outfit we once proudly called Lancaster Park.

In view of the increasing number of drownings each year it is essential to provide swimming pools. Therefore the council must keep its swimming pools open and, when new pools are needed, they should be "no frills" basic pools where children are taught to swim. Too much money is being wasted on fanciful disney-style pools. What is required is a basic pool in every suburb.

RUBBISH DISPOSAL (page 16)

Rather than educating people in the disposal of waste, the council should tackle the people who create the waste in the first place. (eg. junk mail, including your own "city scene"; unnecessary packaging; disposable napkins etc.)

Although I compost most of my green waste there are several items which are unsuitable in my compost heaps. If I take this to a rubbish station I am charged. I consider this unfair because it is raw material which will be turned into compost and sold, hopefully at a profit. I should be paid for supplying the council with this raw material or, at least, be able to dump it free of charge.

The Waimairi County Council had an annual rubbish collection when it would pick up anything, regardless of size. This resulted in tidier properties and less roadside and river bank dumping. Just another of the services we lost when we were forced to join the city.

REGULATORY SERVICES (page 17)

Certainly a council responsibility but does the council have sufficient competent staff to carry out its responsibilities. I doubt it! To make matters worse, staff members who ran the council successfully for many years, appear to have been disposed of and this shows in both the drastic reduction in services and the monumental waste of money on unnecessary projects.

STREETS AND TRANSPORT (page 18)

With roading funds so restricted it is essential that this is spent wisely by considering the major works necessary to ensure an unimpeded flow of traffic.

At present the council seems to be content to waste precious roading funds adding to traffic conjestion by making it impossible to gain access to many streets. Intersections are made more dangerous by restricting the width of the carriageway and round-abouts are a potential death-trap because the amount of planting which makes it impossible to see approaching traffic.

Public transport could help relieve traffic chaos and the Christchurch bus service very good thanks to Environment Canterbury rather than the city council.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Councillors seem to be obsessed with the city centre and continue to waste money on it. The trouble is that the more they tinker with it the worse it becomes. The future of the city centre will be determined by the law of supply and demand. This will determine which shops will go and which survive.

Stop spending money on old buildings. Private developers are restoring and reusing historic buildings. The council does not need to be involved.

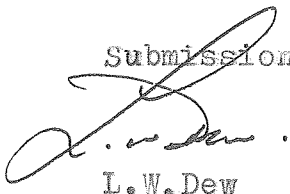
Cease publication of the "City Scene" actions speak louder than words and this paper is unnecessary.

I suggest that the councillors get out into the community and see how it works. If they took the time to do so they would not come up with daft decisions such as closing busy libraries.

I remember when councillors were not paid. They carried out their duties with a sense of civic pride. I have to say that these unpaid councillors were of a much higher calibre than the overpaid outfit we are saddled with at present.

As a superannuitant I receive a small increase in my pension at this time of the year. Will it allow me some small luxury? Never! I am always amazed at the speed with which various authorities such as the city council, telecom and the power companies work out ways to help themselves to this, and a bit more if they can get their hands on it.

Submissions from



L.W. Dew

48 Wingate Street
Redwood
Christchurch 8005
25th April 2006

The Committee Secretary,

Dear Miss MacIntosh,

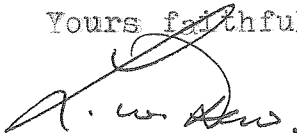
After attending a public meeting in support of retaining the Redwood and Bishopdale libraries, I would like to add to my previous submissions to the Long Term Council Community Plan. This additional submission concerns the democratic process of dealing with issues or, in this case, the apparent lack of democratic process.

The local councillors who attended the meeting made it quite clear that they were totally opposed to closing the libraries. Whilst I am sure that I can rely on those councillors to support the wishes of our community, I am appalled to learn that they may be out-voted by councillors from other wards. It is understandable that councillors will push for amenities in the wards they represent but it seems most unfair that they can also vote to destroy amenities in neighbouring wards.

I need hardly point out that, under our present electoral system, we did not vote for these councillors and thus we can not hold them to account at the next election. This is undemocratic.

I would, therefore, appeal to the councillors from other wards to put parochial thoughts aside and help the residents of the northern suburbs to retain the few amenities they possess--namely their libraries.

Yours faithfully



Leslie Dew