



ASSOCIATION OF BLIND CITIZENS OF NEW ZEALAND INC
FOUNDED 1945
CANTERBURY BRANCH

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

On behalf of the Association of Blind Citizens of NZ Inc -Canterbury Branch

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? ABC has 300 members, and we also share our information with the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind viz a newsletter that goes to 1600 people.

Our submission refers to: Aspects of the entire plan in all formats

***Contact Name: Gloria Weeks**

Organisation Name (if applicable): Assoc. Blind Citizens Nz Inc.

***Phone (Day): 3 893 881**

Phone (Evening): 3 893 881

Email (if applicable): weeksie@xtra.co.nz

***Contact Address: ABC, Box 24-251 Eastgate Christchurch**

As I am unable to access the form we trust that this submission will be acceptable in the form we are sending.

Gloria Weeks

Canterbury Branch Secretary

Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views

1) Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan? Yes

Your Comments:

Consultation with us and like minded organizations regarding the new extension to the Bus Exchange, under the Capitol Works Programme we consider that as a matter of course provision for accessible transport structures, accessible buses, bus stops and shelters with large signage for vision impaired people.

All new housing built by the Council should meet legal standards for disability access. As well as increasing the housing options for people with disabilities, this also enables them to visit friends and stay with family members.

Public amenities such as all toilets, buildings and recreational facilities need to be fully accessible, Council to realize that with an aging community there is a significant rise in the number of people using mobility frame walkers.

We urge Christchurch City Council NOT to cut the funding to Community Groups. If anything the funding should be increased. Community Groups provide untold hours of service, usually on a voluntary basis, to people in Christchurch, often those who are most vulnerable and under resourced. One in four people in Christchurch have some form of disability, and many are reliant on services, information and support provided by Community Groups.

The Plan states that three suburban libraries are to close at Redwood, Bishopdale and Spreydon saving \$450,000.00 and the mobile library is to be withdrawn saving a further \$80,000.00

Council advise that the numbers using it and the number of stops it makes have been decreasing. The people who use the services are primarily elderly and/or disabled, and usually do not have access to private transport. Even assuming they were able to use public transport, they would be unable to walk any distance, carrying books. Therefore our most disadvantaged citizens are being penalised further. Rather than ceasing the service, we would prefer that some research is done into why the numbers and stops have decreased, and whether or not the service is being located in the most appropriate areas. \$80,000 seems a small amount to save, if it is going to be to the detriment of the above mentioned people. The improvements to the Botanic Gardens are proposed at \$10.8m...so shaving \$80,000 of that large amount would cover the cost for the Mobile Library to continue.

Mobility parking spaces are seldom monitored to ensure that only cars displaying a Mobility Parking card are using them. We suggest that this task be added to the duties of parking wardens, and that an appropriate fine be given to unauthorised people using these parking spaces.

Surfaces in all outdoor areas, (including walkways) need hard surfaces to enable wheelchair users and people with walking difficulties to use them. Pea shingle surfaces are dangerous for people with balance problems and impossible for people using canes, and mobility walkers.

As ABC have representation on the Disability Reference Group at Council we were able to have large print summary documents and CD copies of the Councils Plan available at the Foundation reception and a notice on the TIS line, had there been more time available we would have liked to have had cassette formats available for our blind and vision impaired people in this regard we ask that Council take this on board for future reference.