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5 May 2006

Submission: Christchurch City Council, Our Community Plan 2006 to 2016

The Akaroa Civic Trust wishes to be **heard**, in Akaroa, in support of this submission.

This submission is general in nature because of the lack of information relevant to Banks Peninsula in the Community Plan. We have now been informed that there are a number of documents relevant to the Peninsula, including information which only became publicly available on the 26th of April. We therefore wish to provide more detail at the hearings and request an extended time slot of 20 minutes.

1. For many years the Akaroa community has been asking for a comprehensive Strategic Town Plan. There is increasing development pressure in Akaroa, including regular proposals to use publicly owned areas for commercial operations. It is difficult for the Council and community to respond appropriately to these pressures without a strategic direction which encompasses community requirements.

The BPDC 2005-06 Annual Plan provides for the development of traffic and parking plans, and also \$20,000 for scoping for a Greater Akaroa Plan. We note that \$150,000 has now been allocated, under Non-subsidised Roothing, for an 'Akaroa Greater Plan'.

The town plan which the community has been requesting encompasses more than just roading issues. The Civic Trust requests assurance that provision is made for a comprehensive Town Plan for Akaroa as a matter of urgency.

2. Until a strategic Town Plan for Akaroa is developed, there is a need to retain all Council owned land and to provide for the possible acquisition of strategic property should it become available. In particular the land known as 'BP Meats' must be retained.

3. Both the BPDC LTTCP (p197) and last Annual Plan budgeted for the further development of the Akaroa Foreshore Redevelopment and \$900,000 plus \$50,000 planning expenses were proposed for this on going project. Again, such projects need to be considered in the light of a strategic plan. Before any further planning is undertaken the community should be given a clear list of capital projects which includes all major expenditures. Given the tightening economic situation, expenditure for essential core infrastructure should remain the focus at present.

4. We are very pleased that the Banks Peninsula District Council passed a resolution to gazette the land at Green's Point as a reserve, and seek assurance that the CCC is following through on this matter.

5. The section on economic development needs to recognise that development must be environmentally sustainable. There is a need to effectively monitor the impact of increased population, tourism and economic development on the natural environment and on community well-being.

6. Property Management. The Council owns a number of registered historic buildings and other buildings within the registered Akaroa Historic Area. The management of these buildings needs to recognise their heritage values. A heritage inventory and a comprehensive conservation management plan needs to be formulated by qualified professionals. This request has been made for many years yet nothing has happened.

7. We are aware of community concern about being referred to as 'The City' or 'Greater Christchurch'. Urgent consideration should be given to the need for the Council's name to reflect its new make-up. We suggest that in the meantime, The City and Peninsula be used when discussing or referring to the new Council area.

8. The Akaroa Civic Trust is a long-standing (36 years) and respected community group dedicated to the protection of the beauty and history of Akaroa and its surrounding area. It is a voluntary organisation which relies almost totally on members subscription, \$15 individual and \$20 family, for funding. The Trust's role is for many ways similar to that of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust to which the Council contributes \$20,000 per year.

The Akaroa Civic Trust assists the Council in its statutory duties in many ways including

- the registration of the Akaroa Historic Area
- the formulation of the Historic Area Database
- raising public awareness of heritage
- extensive input into the District Plan process
- membership of the Akaroa Design and Appearance Advisory Committee

The work of the Trust is increasingly complex and time consuming and administration costs, in particular printing, have become unsustainable. We request funding of \$5,000 to enable the Trust's work to continue.

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Chairman

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