

Submission on the retention of Bishopdale Library

23.3.2006

Other than saving such a small amount of annual expenditure, I have not seen any other justification to close the Bishopdale Library. Customers appear to be steady in numbers and in general it is a centre vital to the community. I was hoping for expanded library service in the light of new constructions nearby.

- 1 City population projected to increase.
- 2 Bishopdale expanding - Wairakei Rd subdivision, Condell Ave village and other developments.
- 3 Conversely what other usage of the library site would attract ?
- 4 and of the cost for residents to travel elsewhere, some of whom decided to live nearby a library.

Unfortunately weak central government has not enforced local government adhering to CPI trends. I believe council has a responsibility to provide services it could afford at annual rate increments fixed by CPI, especially when income is not adjusted by the same for those on fixed incomes.

Naturally any long term plan requires capital expenditure sooner or later. For such projects I suggest you obtain capital from sources other than taxing ratepayers and motorists.

- 1 Sell capital assets to finance ' new' assets.
- 2 Issue shares in business ventures such as Jade Stadium, Airport, Harbour, Convention Centre, Bus transport and other income earners.
- 3 Issue debentures or bonds for institutional and ratepayer/public participation. It might encourage saving. Even a well planned/budgeted new council complex could be self sufficient.

If council ambitions exceed commercial viability expansion should be limited accordingly.

Your 10 yr plan reflects the irresponsible lifestyle trends expected by urban New Zealanders most of whom are living in a dream world beyond their means. The greed of a few (too many) spoiling for the majority (too few).

The Mayor's reference to the cost of ingredients making a cake would be easier balanced if bread was on the menu instead. Local government being bread and butter stuff !

Yours etc.



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