

27/3/06

U 3 MAY 2006

28 Cumner Terrace
Christchurch, Z

Dear Mr Moore,

I wish to add my voice of protest to some of the proposals in the 10 year city plan.

In particular I object strongly to the proposed closing of some suburban libraries - Redwood, + Spreydon; also the closure of Waltham + Edgewater pools. All these amenities are, as far as I am aware, well used + necessary. They represent some of the basic services that we as rate payers are all entitled to. Many people would be severely inconvenienced if they had to go elsewhere, especially those without their own transport: the very young + the elderly. I understand that a promise was made to keep these libraries open for another 10 years.

I also strongly object to the spending of ten million dollars on a visitors' centre in the Botanic Gardens. There is already one there now! And it is functioning perfectly adequately - why build another? Besides the shop in the museum - directed towards tourists - is already serving that purpose. Just think; this 10 million could be spent on a host of other things that would benefit the citizens of Christchurch.

The current programme of reducing many suburban streets into obstacle courses by narrowing the roads and adding islands, + reducing intersections entrances into bottle necks seems fundamentally flawed, not to mention excessively costly. Some already narrow streets have been narrowed still further for some unfathomable reason. In particular the Hawford Rd area in Opawa is a classic example, + there are others. Here you have an area with two schools, a kindergarten + a major park/sportsfield contained within it - surely a reason for easy access; but no, it has been reduced severely in two places; and another part the whole road was narrowed (it was already narrow), + now there is congestion if say there is parking on one side of the road + traffic coming from two directions. Complaints about speeding apparently sparked all this off, but surely if that was the issue, then ^{some} carefully positioned speed humps would have solved the problem at a fraction of the cost. The whole operation must have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars; ratepayers' money.

On the subject of transport - why does this city need another bus exchange when the one we now have has been in place such a relatively short time? Fifty million dollars seems an exorbitant sum to outlay for it, but if you spent the money you seemingly have in your coffers on providing a state of the art bus service - more buses - that would be a much better use of it, than 'beautifying' our roads.

On the subject of recycling now: I would like to see recycling for plastic objects, numbers 3-7 to further reduce our rubbish to landfills. I know 'zero waste' is your aim.

I believe that if you use the money entrusted to you wisely for the right purposes + stop wasting it, there should be no need to increase our rates. If you continue in profligate spending, and close essential amenities, then a good number of us will feel justified in withholding a percentage of our rates in consequence.

I hope it will not come to this.

I await your reply,

Yours faithfully
Juliette Bryant (Mrs)