

Our Community Plan Submission Form

Instructions

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.

You may send us your submission:

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 our draft 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 Errol Paynter

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Contact Address _____

Phone No. (day) 0272796099 Phone No. (evening) 3588774

Email (if applicable) trapper122@yahoo.co.nz

Signature _____ Date _____

(1)

SUBMISSION BY CHRISTCHURCH INDEPENDENT CITIZENS ASSN INC.

Christchurch Independent Citizens is an association of independents, committed to providing positive and effective local government for Christchurch. The Independent Citizens group places strong emphasis on prudent financial management and fiscal responsibility. We therefore support the stronger planning process required of all Councils under the Local Government Act 2002 and offer the following comments to Christchurch's LTCCP.

Stronger financial management must be exerted by the Council to hold rate increases to affordable levels. Our group has historically argued for rates increasing no more than the level of inflation, indicatively the CPI currently at 3.2%. However due to escalation of costs in the construction sector, we accept the argument that the construction price index may be the more appropriate benchmark, currently between 5 to 6% for the 2005/2006 year. {Note that Beca Carter in their report to Council predicted only a 3 % increase in the construction sector for 2007/2008.}

The Council has a responsibility to "cut its cloth according to its cap" and must bear in mind the capacity of households and businesses to absorb a rate rise at the projected level of 9.68% for the average residential home. This is not a high rate rise for only one year; over a three year period households and businesses will experience a 28% rate increase. It needs to be remembered that a number of households faced high rate increases in 2005/6 due to revaluation.

Businesses faced with escalating external costs attempt to absorb costs and only raise prices where there is no other option. We suggest the Council needs to exert similar financial discipline and strongly suggest Councillors need to examine in detail the capital and operational budgets.

Operational expenditure shows an increase of 4.8% over the previous year's budget projections. However the capital budget for 2006/2016 shows a 44% from the 2004/2014 budget. It is the capital budget that requires most attention to bring the rate level down.

There needs to be prioritisation of Council expenditure to ensure the core services of Council are well maintained and provide a sound basis for the city to move forward. It is important that essential infrastructure receives higher priority; by essential infrastructure we mean the roading network, water reticulation, sewerage and storm water treatment.

In addition other ways of creating revenue need exploration. If additional funding is required beyond a 5 to 6% level, we advocate that this is funded by increasing revenue streams. We will advance ideas for revenue creation in our oral submission.

We also argue for further examination of debt funding to ensure intergenerational equity on major infrastructure projects. While debt funding has moved from a 20 to 30 year term, we consider that a longer period may be appropriate on major civic projects. We also suggest that there should be further effort to smooth the rate increases over the ten year timeframe.

Independent Citizens ask that Councillors go through the detail of the capital and operational budgets to find the necessary savings. It is incumbent on all Councillors to be fiscally responsible, acting not only in the interests of Christchurch but in the interests of the majority of its constituency - often the silent majority.

Independent Citizens suggests there is a fundamental dilemma in funding local services from rating, as the rating funding base will be increasingly problematic. Local services need to be funded from a much broader base, as occurs in some other countries. As this requires legislative change at central government level, we are aware such an adjustment will not occur in the short term. However we request the City Council to investigate options for revenue reform, with an approach at an appropriate point to central government.

We are aware local government is bearing the administrative costs of implementing and monitoring legislation introduced by central government eg the Gambling Act, the Dog Control Act and most recently the Rates Rebate Scheme. We fully support the Council addressing these additional costs with central government.

We would like to present our submission before the Council.

Errold Paynter
Chairperson
Independent Citizens

30 Hanover Place
Christchurch

Ph 3588774