

**Long Term Council Community Plan 2006 to 16 - Submission  
From Christchurch Combined Residents Association Incorporated  
1 - B Spurway Place, Shirley, Christchurch  
We wish to speak to our Submission**

**Introduction**

We have put in our submissions as a series of entries from the interested groups who wished to comment and have their submission accepted and entered under the umbrella of the Christchurch Combined Resident's Association.

Discussions were had by the sub committee for LTCCP Submissions, as to the best procedure for collating the various entries. As the turnaround time from 28 March to 5 May is only five and a half weeks, it is difficult for community groups to have those extra meetings required to present and agree to joint submissions.

We think for such an important and major submission as a ten year community plan, more time should be given such as a two month period, so as more care can be given.

All submitters complain they have not had enough time for digestion and discussion to be able to give quality comment on all they wished to.

We would like to take this opportunity to request that in the next round of discussions/comments at the 3 year review that more time be given to enable time for wider democratic consultation time for comment from the community.

**In answer to your questions:**

1 - Comments on the major projects in the draft Community Plan

**The Councils Budget - Do rates need to increase? We Say No to Increases.**

a) We see one of the reasons cited for rates increase is the construction industry that require using non- renewable resources.

We question why are we continuing to use non renewable resources when we know there are now alternatives out there. The Council's responsibility is to save the ratepayers money by looking at renewable alternatives: the only way forward. For Ch Ch.

b) We question how are people on low fixed incomes going to deal with this increase? We request the council tells it's citizens how they will afford the extra money if their wages do not go up to manage this increase?

c) The Council should learn to live within it's budget like everybody else and discard any unnecessary expensive projects such as closure of Worcester St at Latimer Square. Especially in light of the business people in the CBD needing as much access and parking for traffic, it they are to thrive. There have been many reports quoting how they are financially suffering. Closure of Worcester Street at Latimer Square will aggravate it.

### **Our Environment Today**

a) We agree the city deserves its reputation as “ the Garden City”

We have concerns that if everybody developed their sections to the current allowable structures, we would soon loose our famous award winning Garden City Image.

b) We recommend rules be put in place that will protect the Garden City Image that was the vision of the founding fathers of this city, so that future generations will be able to enjoy the benefits of growing up in a “Garden City.”

c) Christchurch should be leading the way for environmentally friendly solutions.

### **Our Economy Today**

a) Tourism is mentioned as a ‘significant component of the city’s economy.

The tourists rely on buses, shuttles, taxis and rental for their transport needs.

Latimer Square services access to several backpackers and motel/hotel accommodation around the perimeter.

b) Limiting access to the CBD increases the burden of travel costs and decreases the margin of profitability to our citizens, therefore limiting the Community Outcome of “a prosperous city.”

c) This is another reason why the council should abandon the expensive closure of Worcester Street at Latimer Square as well as any other non essential projects that will have any adverse economic effect on our citizens.

d) The Council must address the issue of poverty in our city, for the proposed “Community Outcomes” to be realized.

### **Strategic Directions**

#### **Strong Communities**

a) We congratulate the council in its efforts to interact with the citizens of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

b) More needs to be done so citizens feel empowered by the democratic process.

People need confirmation their participation is effective so as to be encouraged into further participation.

c) If the council wishes to help communities meet their needs by ‘targeting those who are most disadvantaged’, the Council needs to tackle the issue of how do people on low fixed incomes cope with any cost increases for their survival.

#### **Healthy Environment**

a) We applaud The Council adopting the ‘Natural Step’ to improve the sustainability of Christchurch.

b) We would like to see solutions for the increasing ‘toxic battery mountain’ which should be collected and dealt with and not continue to be thrown out with the household rubbish adding poison into the future land fill.

c) There appears to be a strategy by the transport management of the Council to crowd

and herd vehicles onto 'main' routes to save neighbourhood streets from traffic.

3

However in their zeal to achieve the roading hierarchy plan, we believe the council have now over achieved this objective as now traffic is crowded onto busy roads. The result is to slow the pace of traffic down which has the direct effect of increasing pollution and reducing the objective of improving air quality and energy efficiency, as vehicles moving slow and stuck in traffic increase fuel consumption and costs to the motorist and business.

They in turn must pass this cost onto our Christchurch citizens reducing the prosperity of the city.

d) We recommend the Council rethinks the way some of the traffic is channeled and looks at new strategies to achieve improved air quality and energy efficiency.

### **Livable City**

a) More needs to be done to protect Christchurch's valuable heritage buildings and neighbourhood character.

b) More needs to be done to ensure Christchurch people live in homes that meet their social, health and economic needs.

c) The Council has nothing to be proud of while people are going cold and hungry and can't afford to go to the doctor when they are ill in Christchurch.

We are only as rich as our poorest citizen.

d) We would like to see more fruit and nut trees as well as more community gardens planted in public places and parks.

### **Financial Overview**

We have concerns about debt increases and would like to see the Council aim at profit increases for the citizens of Christchurch.

(refer pg xx)?

### **Major Projects and Proposals**

#### **Essential Capital Projects**

##### ***Tree Renewal***

We recommend some cost cutting measures here. In the past the Council has been viewed as extreme in its unnecessary removal of some trees e.g. Thompson Park for safety. This prompted an expensive replanting program which we now see has grown up to create the same stranger danger safety hazards that the trees were pulled down for in the first place.

The same applies to Broad Park and South Brighton Domain. The Council should be applying the Light Foot philosophy here also. Pulling down trees and replanting is an expensive operation. We recommend the Council slow down on their replanting operations and only do what is absolutely necessary. E.g. Latimer Square is just fine as it is. A lot of revamping around the place is unnecessary expenditure. Regularly we see perfectly fine plants being pulled out in our parks and replaced with other specimens almost like a changing fashion statement whim. Management planning for maintenance

and new plantings should be better to stop any trees etc coming out because of neglect.

### **Discretionary Projects**

There have been some concerns on the necessity for expenditure on the Civil Defense Building

#### ***Strategic Land Purchases***

We have difficulty understanding why the Council would borrow \$60 million to invest in what? and would it be enough to offset the interest and repayments of this loan?

Would it not be more prudent to borrow on a case by case basis?

#### ***Central City Transport Strategy projects***

a) We see a conflict of philosophy and practicality. The council is obliged to increase access to the CBD for the CBD to thrive, yet there is a plan to reduce traffic in the CBD to make it an enjoyable place to live, work and play. However to fulfill the last three criteria you need to have thriving businesses which need easy access to vehicular traffic.

b) **New Bus Exchange.** Our group has reservations about the necessity of this project. We also have concerns that if they could not get it right for this last bus exchange what are the guarantees they will get it right for the next one? Our observations are that for 90% of the time it is completely adequate. It is only in the morning and evening rush hours that there is any problem. Bus congestion on Lichfield Street could be overcome with a little advanced traffic engineering. Also the use of the existing bus parking area on Moorhouse Avenue would be more gainfully employed.

#### ***School Safety Zone Infrastructure***

We recommend all schools in Christchurch should have this safety initiative.

#### ***Avon River***

It is a show piece and icon of our city. We support the Green Corridor from the city to the sea for a walkway/ cycle way from the city to the sea.

#### ***Botanic Gardens Project***

We should only do what we can afford. We see unnecessary expenditure here. It should be cut back to half of what is proposed. Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Botanic Gardens in 2013 does not have to go hand in hand with big expenditure. Half of 11.1 million what is proposed will give us some titivating and a great party.

### **Non Priority Projects**

Please keep the non priority projects on the back burner until the poorest people of this city can afford them.

### **The Councils Proposed Savings**

***We oppose the following proposed service cuts:***

a) Closure of Community Libraries.

b) Withdrawal of Mobile Library

We feel it would be a retrograde step to close any public libraries including the mobile

service. Many of our elderly residents rely on the libraries for obtaining books for their leisure time. To this end, especially for the ill and not so mobile members of our

5

increasing aging population, the mobile service is extremely valuable as some do not have transport and cannot walk long distances.

- c) Out sourcing of Council payments from service centers to NZ Post - limits access.
- d) Reduction of Community Halls - suggest joint responsibility with the community.
- e) Closure of swimming pools - Lower socio economic families need local access .

### **We support retraining the Community Boards within the service centres**

#### **Areas considered for raising fees**

We do not agree to any increases in parking for the motorist. This will have a further deterrent effect for people coming into the CBD especially with fuel increases.

**The Riccarton Residents say specific to their area** that the proposed closure of the Riccarton sub agency would prove to be a severe handicap to the residents of our area, because many of them are elderly and do not have transport. They would find it difficult to travel to Sockburn or into the city to conduct their business.

If the Sockburn Leisure Center is losing too much money, we would favour it being leased, but would oppose closure, because the city as a whole has a shortage of such facilities. The only other facility of this type in our area is the Wharenui Leisure Center and this is over utilized.

The proposal to introduce bus lanes is fraught with problems. The Central Riccarton Residents Association Inc. was formed when a group of concerned residents opposed the idea of placing these lanes on Riccarton Road. Eventually the Council realized they were wrong in advancing this proposal and instead they engaged Traffic Design Group to come up with an alternative. This resulted in the Riccarton Road Traffic management Plan which if implemented would solve most of the Riccarton Road problems. However in its wisdom, the council have evidently decided to do nothing. It seems a waste of our money as the proposal included many innovative ideas including the fitting of transponders on to buses and emergency vehicles so that traffic lights would turn green as they approached.

#### **The Specific concerns for the South Brighton Residents Association are**

The building regulations on the height of new dwellings. The cost of rebuilding in our area will be prohibitive. We have concerns the area long term would become a slum of old rentals. We believe the Council should be acting on better flood protection to eliminate the need for high foundations of new dwellings. We feel the council needs to own this problem and also the property developer who passes it on to the buyers. The CCC needs a policy to address flood protection in areas of Christchurch.

#### **Some final Points**

##### **1 - Dog Registration and Micro chipping of Dogs**

- a) We have strong reservations about this technology being good for the health of the dog

- some chips going missing and moving around the dog's body have been cited
- b) We do not believe micro chipping a dog will stop it being violent.

6

- c) We recommend the Council follows some of the other Councils examples and do not enforce these draconian style laws.
- d) Micro chipping of dogs should be a voluntary activity for those who want it.

## **2 - Air, Ecosystems ,Water Quality and Recycling**

- a) It is the responsibility of the CCC to continue policies that will ensure clean air, water and earth for future generations.
- b) More rigorous recycling is to be encouraged.
- c) We support the concept of 'free markets' where people are able to bring their surpluses and other people can take what they need away. A group called Food Not Bombs are encouraging this style of "Free Market" concept.

## **3 - Projects for the Council to Consider**

Reinstatement of "Mid Heathcote Vision" project  
Inclusion of Avon-Heathcote Ihutai trust development  
Implementation of Biodiversity Strategy  
Inclusion of Cashmere Stream Living Streams Development  
River Guardians Project

## **4 - We oppose the following aspects of the "policy on Significance" section**

- a) Re - classification of the Big Red Bus Company as non-strategic assets.
- b) Raising of cost limits used to determine what is or is not significant.
- c) The general scope inherent in the significance criteria such as to enable action to be taken without consultation either with the people of Christchurch or their elected representatives, and for those criteria to be used (especially by the bureaucracy) to fend off objections to action being taken without consultation.

Thank you for reading our submission.

**We wish to speak to our submission.**

Yours faithfully on behalf of the Christchurch Combined Residents Association Inc.

Ralph Ross  
Chairperson Ph 3855110  
1 - B Spurway Place  
Shirley  
Christchurch