

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	<input type="checkbox"/> I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For yourself <input type="checkbox"/> On behalf of a group or organisation	
If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? <input type="text"/>	
My submission refers to: <input type="checkbox"/> Full version <input type="checkbox"/> Page No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary version <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page No. 15	
Do you also want to respond to: <input type="checkbox"/> Development Contributions <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	

Contact Name Jim Grubb

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

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Signature Jim Grubb Date 29/4/2006

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Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views

Questions

See list of major projects in the summary document

- ① Do you have any comments on the major projects in our draft Community Plan? page number

Yes.

See attached sheet P.182 r Retention of Libraries

- ② Do you have any comments on groups of activities (the activities and services that Council provides)? page number

Yes - see second attached sheet

"Submission for off-peak discounted bus fares for pensioners"

- ③ Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make? page number

For office use only

Submission #:

Referred to:

Date referred:

Date required:

Heard: ☐ Yes ☐ No

You may add more pages if you wish. Thank you for your submission.

Submission for retention of the Bishopdale, Redwood, Spreydon and Mobile Library

It may be assumed that the closing of the above libraries is not for the welfare or safety of residents. The proposed closures are to save money, stated in the Press of March 22 to be estimated at \$530,000 per annum.

There would appear to be three solutions to the above.

- 1) Increase income, which presumably would mean a rise in rates, and which has been estimated to be \$1.52 per annum per resident --- The Press `22/3/06
- 2) Cut expenditure elsewhere in the Council's budget
- 3) Defer expenditure of some of the Council's other spending.

My submission is based on a composite of all three proposals above. A further rate rise of, say, 30c per citizen, but spread over annual rates, would be almost unnoticeable to ratepayers.

The main finance should be acquired by re-prioritising expenditure. It may be desirable to greatly upgrade the Botanic Gardens, but essential work should nowhere near need to reach \$11.1m (p.4). I understand that the Visitors' Centre is to be upgraded. There is already a very good one there. On enquiring from a volunteer helper resident in London about Kew Gardens, she writes, "*Kew doesn't have a visitor centre as such. A leaflet is given to visitors (at the admission turnstile) which includes a map of the gardens and special areas of interest throughout the year. There is one house in the gardens which is used for small exhibitions, temporary and permanent and also for events such as lectures. I don't know much about it but it is more specialist and not integral to a visit to the gardens. Basically I think the gardens speak for themselves. Also --- another facility I have never used, is that some plants have a number attached to them which can be accessed through your mobile phone for information.*" To a Council employee's suggestion that the staff need more room, this could doubtless be added for less than \$200,000. It appears there is no detailed information, even in the full proposed spending version book, on just what the \$11.1M (p.4) is to be spent on in the Botanic Gardens.

On P.15 of the summary Draft there are suggestions on how Christchurch may achieve a healthy and active life style. The last three items viz supporting sporting events and festivals, hosting sporting events, supporting sports bidding and hosting; are all desirable, but need not displace libraries and the Sockburn swimming pool.

The present bus exchange was a hurried and, semi secret, decision. An enlarged and single bus exchange may be desirable, but should not be considered as an "Essential Project" (p.4). Many cities in EU countries operate with nothing more than bus shelters in a central location. Christchurch already has this for services not located in the present exchange. It may be cold and drafty sometimes, for those waiting outside the exchange, but is the need of those passengers really more important than those of citizens (including children) using their libraries? Many towns in Britain are "Twinned" with only one or two overseas towns or cities. These are usually relatively close, such as in northern France, or Belgium. Christchurch has about five, and despite claims of their value to our city, the actual economic value is quite marginal. I believe that their principal purpose is to give the mayor, and others, opportunities for travel and socialising. Some of it could be curtailed, and reducing the time spent by at least two council employees on administering the system, should be implemented.

In The Star Northern Community paper of March 13, Mayor Garry Moore is quoted as saying, The proposed closure of Redwood and Bishopdale [libraries] came after the construction of three new libraries in South Christchurch, Parklands and Upper Riccarton. *"It is fundamental that as we add new services, that we remove old services which the new ones are supposed to replace."* That would be true if one is referring to, say, buses. If the mayor is suggesting that any of the three new libraries, in Parklands, South Christchurch and Upper Riccarton, are alternatives for residents of Redwood and Bishopdale, the proposal is ludicrous. If this is the quality of Council reasoning, it is certainly time the council took a new direction. The Bishopdale library building is relatively young, and should not require large capital expenditure to maintain it. Records will doubtless show that a large number of local people use it. I have never used the Mobile Library, but its value to those who do, is surely greater than an enhanced Visitors' Centre in the Botanic, or flood lighting of the cathedral. If the unit is being under used, then perhaps public consultation would indicate more convenient locations for the mobile library to be parked at.

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Submission for off-peak discounted bus fares for pensioners

Under "Strategic Directions" P.7 (Summary booklet) "Provide safe, efficient and affordable transport systems" I wish to submit a scheme for discounted off-peak bus fares for local pensioners.

My submission would allow local pensioners to purchase an I.D. photo card about twice the size of a credit card. A smaller card might be too difficult for some elderly pensioners to keep and handle. The cards would be obtainable through Council Service Centres, who would take a digital photo for the card.

The card would be ready for collection five to ten working days later. Cards could be posted out to the person named on the card for a small additional fee (say \$2). The cost would be about \$7 per card, and definitely not more than \$10. The card would be valid for a period of, say, five years. To obtain a card, the applicant would need to apply personally at a service centre, and have some I.D. to prove that they resided in the greater Christchurch local bus area. A higher fee might apply to those residing in such outer areas as Rangiora.

The card would entitle the holder to a discounted bus fare under the following conditions:

- 1) The discounted ticket would be valid at any time, subject to clause 3 below for the day of issue only
- 2) The first journey may not commence before 0915 (or 0930)
- 3) The ticket holder must commence his/her final bus journey, or part thereof, no later than (say) 1600, or a further normal bus fare for the journey will apply.
- 4) Clause 3 above shall not apply at weekends, or public holidays.
- 5) The cost of each discounted bus fare shall be \$1 (or \$1.50, but not more than \$2)

Argument

Christchurch has an excellent bus service, but out of rush hours, the normal loading of city buses appears to be less than ten passengers.

Some revenue is better than none. No residents should travel free, as is the practice in such countries as The Irish Republic.

Many pensioners would be able to travel more than at present, because of the substantially discounted fare, and because a return trip before 1600 requires no further payment if undertaken on the same day as the day of ticket issue.

The Ecan staff who claim that it would be "Too cumbersome to administer" should remember that the proposed system works well in much larger cities than Christchurch e.g. London, Edinburgh and Dublin. The key to the system is the I.D. photo card, which must be paid for by the recipient and not the ratepayers.

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