

submission form

1.

Your Submission

You may use this form for your submission if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please follow the guidelines for preparing submissions on the previous page.

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Contact Telephone 338-1472

Email (if applicable) _____

Signature 

Please tick which applies:

I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 7 June and Friday 10 June 2005.

AS A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNCIL, AND ONE WHO HAS HAD A HUGE AMOUNT OF DIRECT ~~COMMUNITY~~ CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY IN MY FORMER ROLE, I FEEL THAT I CAN REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY WELL, AND PORTRAY WHAT THE MAJOR ISSUES HAVE BEEN, AND STILL ARE.

I HAVE CHOSEN TO COMMENT IN GENERAL TERMS ON A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY ISSUES.

RATES. I NOTE THAT THE RESOLUTIONS ON THE DRAFT PLAN SUPPORTED (BY ONLY A SLIM MAJORITY) THE STATUS QUO REGARDING INCREASES FOR THE 2005/06 YEAR. I MUST TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO

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Submissions close on Friday 13 May 2005

COMPLIMENT THOSE WHO SOUGHT A REDUCED INCREASE.
THIS IS CERTAINLY WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS
SAYING!

WHILE THERE WILL, NO DOUBT, BE FURTHER DEBATE
ON THIS ISSUE LEADING UP TO THE FINAL PLAN
ADOPTION, I BELIEVE THAT COUNCIL NOW NEEDS
TO SIGNAL ITS INTENTION TO PLAN FOR A
SMALL^{ER} ANNUAL INCREASE THROUGH EACH YEAR OF
THE NEW LTCCP (IF THERE IS NOT A NOTICEABLE
REDUCTION IN THE INCREASE FOR 05/06!)

IF COUNCIL CHOOSES TO ADOPT AN INCREASE OF
THAT PROPOSED THROUGH THE DRAFT PLAN (ie. 3.49%),
OR SOMETHING CLOSE TO THAT, THEN IT IS
IMPERATIVE THAT COUNCIL CLEARLY ANNOUNCES
AN INTENTION TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL INROADS
INTO THE FURTHER PROJECTED INCREASES BEYOND
05/06 ie. FOR THOSE YEARS BEYOND 05/06, WHERE
LARGE ANNUAL INCREASES HAVE BEEN SIGNALED
THROUGH THE CURRENT 10 YEAR PLAN.

WHILE THERE WILL BE MUCH EFFORT SHORTLY
BEING PUT IN TO THE NEXT LTCCP, I BELIEVE
THAT COUNCIL NEEDS TO SIGNAL TO MANAGEMENT
AND THE BUSINESS UNITS NOW (BY RESOLUTION)
THAT PLANNING SHOULD COMMENCE BASED ON
RATE INCREASES WHICH WILL BE MUCH CLOSER
TO THE ANNUAL INFLATION PROJECTED FOR
FUTURE YEARS.

SAVINGS. QUITE CLEARLY, IN THE EVENT OF RESOLVING TO PLAN FOR REDUCED INCREASES, THERE WILL NEED TO BE MUCH SEARCHING FOR POTENTIAL AREAS WHERE SAVINGS CAN BE MADE.

OVERALL FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS INDICATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COUNCIL PERFORMING THE CORE SERVICES WELL AS A FIRST PRIORITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO HUGE SUPPORT AT ALL FOR THE COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL FUNDING.

FOR THIS REASON I BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL MUST STRENUOUSLY REVIEW ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL SPENDING. IN MY VIEW THERE IS AMPLE SCOPE FOR THIS. FOR EXAMPLE I WOULD SUGGEST THAT COUNCIL HAS NO ROLE TO PERFORM AS FAR AS "OUT OF SCHOOL CARE" OR "EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION" ARE CONCERNED. THESE ARE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES ALONE (AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ALREADY CONTRIBUTES MUCH IN LINE WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY !!)

IN MY VIEW THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR THE COUNCIL (INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY BOARDS) TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS OF OVER \$1 MILLION DOLLARS IN THESE TWO AREAS.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT IS TIME THAT COUNCIL SERIOUSLY REVIEWS ITS ANNUAL ALLOCATION TOWARD "SOCIAL INITIATIVES", AGAIN MANY GROUPS RECEIVING SUCH FUNDING ALSO EXIST WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, AND "DOUBLE DIPPING" IS NOT REALLY ~~WHAT~~ ^{WHAT} THE COMMUNITY (TAXPAYERS AND RATEPAYERS) ARE REALLY SUPPORTIVE OF.

I WAS AMUSED TO READ RECENTLY THAT COUNCILLORS WERE TOLD THAT THEY SHOULD BE SAYING WHICH "PROJECTS" THEY WERE PREPARED ^{TO} SHELVE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SAVINGS THAT WERE (THEN) BEING

CALLED FOR. THE IRONY IN THIS IS, OF COURSE, THAT SHELIVING OF "PROJECTS" (ie. CAPITAL) DOES NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTE TO SAVINGS IN RATES.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I AM SUGGESTING THAT THERE BE A SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF THE PRESENT "OPERATIONAL" EXPENDITURE.

IT IS RELEVANT THAT A SAVING OF, SAY, \$1.5 MILLION COULD REPRESENT SOMETHING LIKE 1% IN RATES! THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE PALATABLE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

IT IS RELEVANT ALSO THAT IF COUNCIL DOES SERIOUSLY CURTAIL ITS SOCIAL SPENDING ~~THEN~~ ^{THEN} THE 1% (OR WHATEVER) SAVING IS SUSTAINED YEAR AFTER YEAR!

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES. I NOTE THAT THERE IS TO BE A SEARCHING REVIEW OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY OUTCOMES (OR "DESIRED COMMUNITY OUTCOMES" AS ORIGINALLY DEFINED).

IN MY VIEW THE CURRENT OUTCOMES ARE FAR TOO VAGUE, AND THE KEY INDICATORS ARE RATHER MEANINGLESS.

AS A RESIDENT I KNOW THAT A PRIME REQUIREMENT IS "QUALITY OF LIFE". IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW THAT THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING MORE AKIN TO THIS AMONG THE DESIRED OUTCOMES.

OVER RECENT YEARS "QUALITY OF LIFE" IN MOST AREAS OF THE CITY HAS BEEN IMPACTED UPON BY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF, GENERALLY, YOUNGER PERSONS. THE ~~CAR~~ CURRENT "BOY RACER" ACTIVITIES, AND SUBURBAN BOORISH YOUTH PARTIES ARE THE MOST NOTED OF THESE.

WHILE THESE MAY BE MAINLY MATTERS FOR LAW AND ORDER AUTHORITIES (ie. THE POLICE) TO ADDRESS, IN TERMS OF THE NEW LOCAL

GOVERNMENT ACT IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO WORK WITH THESE AUTHORITIES TO ACHIEVE A RESTORED "QUALITY OF LIFE" FOR THE CITY'S RESIDENTS

I WOULD URGE THE COUNCIL TO BE MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN THIS AREA (THAT DOES NOT MEAN THROWING MONEY AT "IT").

ON THE "BOY RACER" ISSUE IT AMAZES ME THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE A "PERMITTED" ACTIVITY, WHEREAS CRUSADER VICTORY PARADES, CHARTER PARADES, AND OTHER MARCHES, ALL SEEM TO REQUIRE TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES (OFFICIAL) AND EVEN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS! SURELY THIS IS NEEDING SOME SERIOUS REVIEW?

AS FAR AS THE DRUNKEN NOCTURNAL YOUTH PARTIES ARE CONCERNED I BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO SERIOUSLY LOBBY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE DRINKING AGE INCREASED.

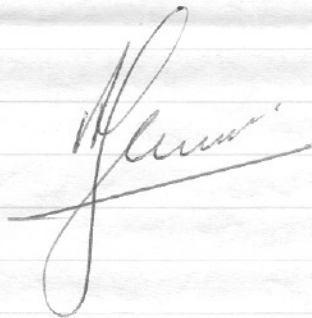
RUBBISH BAGS, AND LITTER. I BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY IS NOT ACCEPTING OF THE REDUCTION IN RUBBISH BAGS. THE ADDED POINT HERE IS THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A MARKED INCREASE IN RUBBISH (INCLUDING RUBBISH BAGS) BEING LEFT AROUND THE CITY'S STREETS.

I KNOW THAT A RETURN TO 52 BAGS WILL IMPOSE A REASONABLE INCREASE IN COST TO THE RATEPAYER, HOWEVER I AM SURE THAT A DEDICATED EFFORT IN IDENTIFYING SAVINGS WITHIN THE OPERATING BUDGETS WILL PROVIDE FUNDING TO OFFSET.

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE REAL EVIDENCE, IT IS MY FEELING THAT THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF WHEELIE BINS IN THE CITY. ALTHOUGH THIS IS GOOD FOR THE BUSINESSES IT IS DOING NOTHING AT ALL TOWARD A REDUCTION IN THE

WASTE STREAM?

CONCLUSION. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO "HAVE MY SAY". IN CONCLUSION I WOULD URGE THE COUNCIL TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR REDUCED RATE INCREASES, AND THIS BE FLAGGED NOW SO THAT OFFICERS CAN CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE SAVINGS REQUIRED. AS I HAVE INDICATED THE COUNCIL'S SOCIAL SPENDING AREAS APPEAR QUITE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE SAVINGS NEEDED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Green", written over a horizontal line.