

# 2008/09 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 21 April 2008

**I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 12 May 2008 and Wednesday 14 May 2008.**

**Are you completing this submission:**

On behalf of a group or organisation

**If you are representing, how many people do you represent?**

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**Name:**

David Lindstrom

**Organisation Name:**

St Bede's Rowing

**Organisation Role:**

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**Date:**

14 April 2008

**Your Submission:**

I believe that a 'flat water sports facility' should be listed as a 'high priority' in the current plan. Equally important is the improvement in water facilities at Kerrs Reach. The Health and safety of our athletes are being severely compromised at present.

1. Considers what - Kerrs Reach is grossly overcrowded, not only with rowing boats but other crafts such as dragon boats, outriggers, surf boats and kayaks. The number of crashes and close calls is hair raising! It is particularly dangerous when users do not follow the rules of the river either through ignorance or just being inconsiderate. The situation is aggravated at low tide when there is even less room. We are currently turning away schools who wish to offer rowing as there is no room for expansion!

1a. Specific Action - Put an alternative flat water facility on the Plan as a very high priority. The Council should continue to investigate a new facility at Halswell or some other handy location.

1a. Why? - This will reduce congestion on Kerrs Reach, will open up the opportunity for other people to become involved in rowing, not least other schools who find it very difficult if rowing is limited to Kerrs Reach. The Hendersons Bay proposal is a win win situation as it favours the land owners, rowers and CCC in regard drainage!

1b. - Specific action - The Council should investigate the introduction of gates or a weir on the avon river between the Pages road bridge and the estuary, that would keep the level of water in the river at a more useable level during the day.

1b. Why? - The level of the water in the river, every second week due to the tide, is low which reduces space on the river and consequently increases the risk of having an accident significantly.

1c. Specific action - The Council should remove all 'egaria plants' from the river sides as it is rapidly chocking the river as it narrows the pathway which subsequently increases the possibility of crashes! This is especially so between the Avondale and Wainoni road bridges.

2. Consider what - The water quality at Kerrs Reach is very poor as has been confirmed by Ecan in recently published Press. The pollution frequently exceeds World Health recreational standards.

2a. Specific Action - There should be an effort to significantly reduce the number of birds in the area. Especially the Canadian geese!

Why? - The number of athletes that have become infected from splashes and falling out of their boats is very high. The pontoons have certainly helped as

the rowers do not need to enter the water as before.  
Unfortunately the birds prefer to perch on the pontoons at night with a subsequent increase in bird droppings which reduces the effectiveness of the pontoons.

2b. Specific action-The Council should look at purchasing another weed cutter to better manage the weed in the river especially during the months of January to March. The current situation of one cutter for three rivers is not able to keep on top of things. An alternative would be to spray the river!

2b.-Why? - There have been several occasions when rowers and kayakers have fallen out of their boats amongst the weed and have struggled to get to shore. Sometimes it has been the weed that causes the rowers to fall out by catching the oars in the water.

Yours sincerely

David Lindstrom