

11. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

FUTURE USE OF LAND OCCUPIED BY FORMER WORKS DEPOT

Mrs Kate Kearns of the Spreydon Ratepayers' and Residents' Association addressed the Committee in support of the petition presented to the June meeting of the Council requesting the Council to develop the remainder of the former Lyttelton Street works depot as part of Centennial Park. Ms Kearns expressed concern that all relevant information was not before the Council when the decision to sell the land was made, particularly the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board's views on the issue and its recommendation that the area be retained for recreation purposes. Concern was also expressed regarding the lack of consultation with the local community regarding the proposal, especially in light of earlier requests from the residents' association for the land to be retained as public open space. It was advised that the residents' association had made a submission on the draft City Plan, seeking the designation of the site as Recreation.

Ms Kearns confirmed that the association was seeking an undertaking from the Council to consider retaining the land for recreation purposes in the event of the sale to the Ministry of Education not proceeding.

Mr Hector Mathews, Chairperson of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Whanau Tahī, spoke in support of the proposal and pointed out that the merits of the project will be addressed through the resource consent process at the end of the month.

Mr Mathews advised that buildings will occupy less than 3% of the site. Apart from car parking, the balance of the site will be used for a playground, sports fields and landscaped recreational space. Landscaping of the site has been tentatively discussed with Council staff with a view to integrating planting to ensure it merges with the rest of the park. Mr Mathews also confirmed that the school board proposes to encourage community use of school facilities and, as a consequence, a significant area will be available for recreational use by the Christchurch community at no cost to the Council.

Finally, Mr Mathews confirmed that, as a result of consultation on the project, a number of modifications had been made to the original plan to accommodate concerns relating to such matters as off-street parking, vehicle turn-arounds and the siting of the playground.