

9. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

(a) WHARENUI SWIMMING CLUB

Anne-Marie Robinson, General Manager, Wharenui Sports Centre and the Wharenui Swimming Club addressed the Committee in support of their request for funding for extensions to the Wharenui Sports Centre in Elizabeth Street, Riccarton.

The renovations that the Wharenui Sports Centre argue are required are to the learn to swim office, reception area and shop, gym mezzanine floor extension, a staff room, secure storage for records and disabled lift access to the mezzanine floor. The reasons why the extensions are needed are:

- to allow disabled access to the mezzanine floor;
- to alleviate congestion and a bottleneck at reception;
- to allow more customers to be served at once;
- to provide service and access for bill payments, learn to swim bookings and customer enquiries;
- to provide staff with an area in which to securely store belongings and tea/coffee making facilities; and
- to allow more room for gym equipment and gym users to access equipment safely.

The Committee's recommendation is contained in clause 4 of this report.

(b) HAGLEY FERRYMEAD AQUATIC LEISURE FACILITY

Members of the Hagley Ferrymead Aquatic Leisure Facility Working Party addressed the Committee on the perceived need for more than one aquatic facility to be provided in the city before 2011, and requested that priority for such a facility be given to the Linwood area.

Councillor Denis O'Rourke, Linda Rutland and Diana Saxton presented their vision of a Linwood Sport and Recreation Hub. Recent research suggests that an all year round aquatic facility is highly desired, and that such a facility could also serve as a major youth recreation area, a fitness gym out of school recreation space, a combined sports club hub and a cultural centre/community venue. A possible site has been identified on land owned by the Council adjacent to the Linwood Service Centre. The proposed site would be located in the heart of the community, close to Eastgate and Linwood Park, accessible to public transport, in close proximity to local schools and located close to major arterial roads. Much of the proposed site is currently vacant.

Currently, the Ferrymead Ward does not fit the Council's 4km radius policy. There are no direct routes or bus services providing easy access to QEII for residents of the Hagley Ferrymead community, this situation being aggravated by the absence of weekend bus services to Bromley, Woolston or Brookhaven. The time and cost involved in travelling to the available facilities is prohibitive for schools and for many families.

It was argued that the provision of a leisure facility of this type in Linwood was the single most urgent recreation need in Christchurch. At least two additional pools were needed in the city. The submitters advised that while they were aware that two other Community Boards were requesting the provision of similar facilities in their communities, they considered that Linwood had the strongest case, bearing in mind that suitable Council owned land was available.