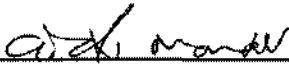


Long Term Council Community Plan

Submission from

Organisation **Golf Links Residents' Association Inc.** (discussed at their public meeting on 26 April)
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Hearing Yes, Janet Begg has been nominated to speak on the Association's behalf at the hearing (correspondence to the above address).

Signed



Date

5 May 2004

Submission

Introduction

The Association first wishes to congratulate the councillors and staff on the high quality of planning and presentation of the LTCCP. We are in general agreement with the Community Outcomes and with the plans of how these will be achieved.

We have several suggestions:

- 1 **Sustainability** is an increasingly urgent goal. Energy efficiency is largely absent from the LTCCP community outcomes for "A sustainable natural environment" and related governance outcomes (vol. 1, p.24, 26). Energy efficient housing will be an important element in attaining this goal.

Although energy consumption is mentioned in vol. 2, p.5, and again in vol. 2, p.15 ("advocate for energy efficient housing") and even "Promote adoption of sustainable design principles for all local construction" (vol. 2, p.21), there is little detail on exactly what will be done to minimise energy use or to encourage energy-efficient and sustainable housing.

We suggest that the city change its building regulations to make double-glazing and solar-assisted water heating compulsory in all new houses.

Reasons: These measures would reduce energy (e.g. electricity) consumption for little additional cost (the pay-back period is only a few years, especially as once people realise the benefits and these houses are likely to increase and/or retain value better than those without, effectively reducing the pay-back period), improve the internal environment resulting in better health of the occupants, support local industry (window manufacture, solar panel manufacture), and reduce reliance on overseas resources (e.g. for oil-fired generation). For most people, housing is their largest and costliest investment. Regulations could also be developed to ensure energy efficiency buildings for business, which would give greater economic benefits.

- 2 **Residents' groups** are an important element in community representation and in consultation. In vol. 2, p.11 "supporting the formation of local residents' groups" is mentioned. However, there is a need for new groups in only a small proportion of the city.

We suggest that "supporting the formation of and participation in local residents' groups" may be more appropriate.

Reasons: Residents groups survive on the generosity of those who donate their time to organise and to run them. With the reduction in councillor numbers it will be crucial to ensure that there is adequate representation. Our experience is that residents' groups play an important role in representing their communities on various issues, especially in ensuring that informed discussion occurs through newsletters and public meetings. We have valued the support from our Community Board and wish to see that level of support continue and a consequent increase in participation in residents' groups as one of the community outcomes.

Vol. 2, p.12 mentions "encourage better consultation". We would prefer to preface that with "develop better models of consultation, and encourage ...".

Reasons: Our experience is that the consultation model of "plan, consult, defend" is still prevalent in council operations and we would prefer to have a "propose, consult, plan, consult, implement" model instead. Our Association has used this model with local business developments and found it to be efficient and effective. It does require that the council be prepared to notify intentions earlier than it does at present and to make greater efforts to share the reasoning behind its proposed projects to ensure informed debate. We believe that the benefits of community input and increased ownership are worth it, and that formal (and expensive) consultation methods are not always required, especially where residents' groups are involved.

- 3 Proposed **Christchurch Botanic Gardens** upgrade. We fully support this. The Gardens have had little attention beyond general maintenance in the last few years. The Gardens are an important asset and require ongoing development. The proposed amount is little more than catching-up on previous low expenditure and could be more generous.

Suggestion: Consider increasing the scope of the proposed improvements, including ensuring that the Gardens has adequate support from other council areas.

Reasons: Today there are relatively few people living in rural areas. Those in urban areas seem increasingly to think that food comes only from a supermarket – increasingly unaware of the link between their food, plants especially, and their environment. People need to rediscover this link for the long-term benefit of themselves and of the environment, and new programmes and planting at the Gardens could show how dependent we are on our environment.

- 4 **Shirley Library hours.** We support extending the present hours of opening (vol. 1, p. 48, 49) as recommended in the recent report on the library network.