

SUBMISSIONS TO: CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

ON: LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

BY: NEW BRIGHTON TASKFORCE

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1. INTRODUCTION

The New Brighton Taskforce was put together by the Christchurch City Council to put a community stamp on what was a run-down suburb in need of some T.L.C. Debate had raged for some years over revitalising the central commercial area. The Taskforce was given the job of putting together a master plan for the central New Brighton area.

This was completed in 2003 and presented to the Council and residents of New Brighton and the wider Christchurch area. This has been well received and indeed has been the catalyst for an awakening of interest in New Brighton, particularly the residential area where prices, particularly on the beachfront areas, have nearly doubled in the last 12 months. Some redevelopment has commenced and more will follow as word spreads of the success of early development. The Council provided funding of \$1.5 million for the revitalisation of the commercial area. However, with the formation of the Taskforce this amount has spread over a number of priorities including foreshore enhancement and roading.

A number of the Taskforce priorities are being worked on at present including the foreshore expressions of interest. Part of the revitalising plan is the introduction of a slow road through part of the existing mall. Whilst a small part of the plan, the Mall is central to the New Brighton area and a focal point for the community.

Unfortunately, the uplifting of the Mall designation has been delayed by Environment Court action. This has caused a problem with funding, \$740,000.00 was allocated in 2003 for the slow road. Due to the delays which are beyond our control, costs have gone up approximately 20% adding another \$150,000.00 to the cost. We have the choice of cutting back on our work, however the budgeted cost was for a cost competitive job.

Commercial ratepayers are putting \$600,000.00 into the revitalisation in the commercial area which is unprecedented in Christchurch and we appreciate Council support in ensuring that we can finish the job.

2. **BERESFORD STREET**

With the introduction of traffic through the Mall, an upgrade of Beresford Street was deemed appropriate to slow traffic and provide better parking and calmed traffic. A budget of \$200,000.00 was set aside for this. This money came from the sale of car-park land on Beresford Street, which was purchased from reserve contributions by New Brighton commercial ratepayers. The original Council plans were for kerb and channel work only and narrowing the road. A new plan which would be a complete upgrade from Union Street to Marine Parade has been developed by City Transport involving substantial improvement to safety, parking, access to the Mall from Beresford Street parking, provision of parking at rear of shops, treatment of the Oram Avenue/Beresford Street and Union Street/Beresford Street intersections.

This has been costed at \$940,000.00 leaving a \$740,000.00 shortfall.

3. **SEAVIEW/HARDY STREET INTERSECTION AND GATEWAY STRUCTURE**

This was allowed for and funded in 2003 at \$230,000.00, again we are facing a 20% cost increase and accordingly request an extra \$45,000.00.

4. **CONNECTION OF THE BEACH AREA TO THE MALL**

The master plan raised as one of its priorities as improving the connection between the beach area and the commercial area, so they would not be seen as separate entities. One feeding off the other: It has been identified that there is a need for wider crossing points and a removal of vegetation so that prams and strollers can easily access the beach along Marine Parade. Presently this access is discouraged by median strip planting and a wall on the eastern side of Marine Parade. While no specific plan has been completed, it is estimated that an amount of approximately \$140,000.00 would allow us to increase crossing points and improve median planting.

5. **ENTRY TO NEW BRIGHTON**

The Taskforce has identified the Pages Road roundabout as an important entry point to New Brighton. We believe a statement of arrival needs to be made. An avenue of trees from the roundabout down Seaview Road to the commercial area would lead people in to the central area of New Brighton and to the beach. An estimated costing of this would be approximately \$10,000.00.

6. **SUMMATION**

New Brighton is an important part of Christchurch and with a 17km sand beach, views north to the Kaikoura and south to Banks Peninsula, it is a city icon. The community has come together to formulate a plan to kick-start the revitalisation of the area.

A lot of work has gone into this project with input from Planners, Traffic Engineers, Retail Designers, members of the public and business interests. Interest has been building in New Brighton, but it is important that the momentum keeps going. Whilst there has been a lot of property changing hands, minimal redevelopment has taken place as people wait to see other positive changes occurring. Funding has been allocated, some of which has been carried over for a number of years, not having been spent for reasons outside our control.

Due to the Environment Court case we have been unable to commence the Mall upgrade. This has led to increased costs through price escalation. We are therefore asking for an increase to cover these costs, being:

Slow road	\$150,000.00
Seaview/Hardy Street intersection	\$45,000.00

We are also requesting extra funds to allow us to complete the Beresford Street roadworks as per City Traffic's design, improving the connection to the Beach and the avenue of trees from the Pages Road intersection.

Beresford Street	\$740,000.00
Beach Connection	\$140,000.00
Avenue of trees	\$10,000.00

I wish to speak on this submission.

MARK MUNRO
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