

# Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I do not wish to make a personal submission at the hearings.

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**Your Submission:**

I am concerned at the reduction in rubbish services provided by the Council in some local parks (e.g. Spencer Park). While I understand that the Council may be seeking to provide an incentive on visitors to take rubbish home with them, I believe the consequences of this have not been thought through. In particular, dog owners have in recent years become very aware of the need to clean up after their animals in public spaces. However, the removal of rubbish bins in parks undermines this achievement.

Secondly, I pay a significant amount of money each year to the Council expecting that basic services will be provided. Rubbish bins in parks is one such basic service. Statues of corgis are not, yet the Council sees fit to use my rates to fund the latter and not the former.

I realise that the removal of bins has saved the Council money in a direct sense, but I believe the true cost has been hidden. I have noticed a deterioration in other services in the same parks where bins have been removed. The regular removal of waste appears to also allow regular inspections of the general condition of services at the same time. Spencer Park is a particular example where built-in gas barbecues had not been maintained leading to problems for large numbers of lunchtime visitors on a busy weekend last year. At the same time, large amounts of litter was present at the Park.

I therefore request the return of rubbish bins in parks where they have been removed as part of a sustainable approach to maintaining our parks and the provision of a core Council service.