

submission form

Your Submission


You may use this form for your submission if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please follow the guidelines for preparing submissions on the previous page.

Name MERVYN COX

Address 204 LYTTLETON ST CHRISTCHURCH

Contact Telephone 338 9871

Email (if applicable) begonia@begonia.CO.NZ

Signature 

Please tick which applies:



I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.



I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 1 June and Friday 11 June 2004.

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN VOLUMES

I have found this years Draft Plans in its several volumes very time consuming to find information compared to last years Draft plan which was in one volume. Why all the mass of wordiness and less of the detailed expenditure that has normally been shown in the past? Could not find the Grants to Community Organisations that was clearly listed last year with a Budget of 3.5 million \$

CENTRAL CITY GARDEN CITY IMAGE

Christchurch is falling behind in its Garden City Image as other cities throughout New Zealand having realised the importance Gardens and colour provide for visitor attraction and are outdoing Christchurch

We should be improving our image with much better colour displays of annuals throughout the central city in particular. It needs much better planning and flexibility as well as some beds being planted three times a year instead of two. We need to plant more advanced plants grown in small pots or cell packs that are almost in flower or in flower so that we have colour most of the year instead of at present with 4 or 5 months of the year with little or no colour. The extra cost of a larger grade would be minimal compared to the advantage. A cost of aprox 90c for pot grown plants for some varieties such as Polyanthus and others in cells for about 50c, with 212000 plants the extra cost compared to tray grown would about double existing plant costs. Some quick growing varieties could still be tray grown.

About mid February during the Floral Festival we visited the Botanic Gardens and the floral beds along the Rolleston Avenue frontage were looking very beautiful but about mid March when we visited again everything had been taken out and replanted with young plants many of these such as Polyanthus will not show colour until spring.

Two of these beds had been planted in spring with Flamboyant Begonias, one red and one orange, and these would still have flowered and looked great until the end of April, but they were dug out while in their prime. With better planning these two beds could have been left and planted later using more advanced plants.

COLOUR IS IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES as can be seen by the visitors with their cameras taking shots of wherever they find colour.

REPLACING EXISTING TREES AND PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

It is very important that we do not replace existing plants with natives but retain our mix of exotic plants. The existing exotic trees help make our Garden City with the beautiful autumn colourings and tones that herald autumn. The deciduous varieties also help provide shade in summer and yet allow light through in winter. Although leaves to some may be a nuisance they look attractive lying on the grass in our parks and planted areas in autumn. Spring is heralded with the different delicate green hues as the new leaves develop and the spring blossoms appearing.

NEW ZEALAND NATIVES MOSTLY DO NOT SHOW THE CHANGING SEASONS OR THE VIBRANT COLOURINGS.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE RETAIN THIS CHANGING SCENERY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SO THAT WE ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO SEE OUR GARDENS AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

Natives while good in certain locations must not be overdone.

FINANCES

We should be KEEPING our annual INCREASES IN RATES close to the annual INFLATION RATE

If all businesses and organisations throughout the country increased their charges similar to the proposed increase by the Council then we would soon have huge inflation and quickly lose our economic viability.

The COUNCIL SHOULD LOOK AGAIN AT SOME OF THE HUGE INCREASES IN BUDGETS ON SOME ACTIVITIES.

p40 vol 1 ART GALLERY, MUSEUM INCREASE 3 MILLION \$ (28%)

Should reduce the purchasing of new collections

Have some user charges to help offset some costs

p42 vol 1 CITY DEVELOPMENT INCREASE 1.5 MILLION \$ (14%)

Urban Renewal plans

p44 vol 1 COMMUNITY SERVICES INCREASE 1.6 MILLION \$ (6%)

Grants for Community Projects and activities (No detailed information)

Pools and leisure centres (Have User charges been looked at)

Grants to the CLEARWATER GOLF. This sport is capable of providing its own funding and the Council should NOT be granting 3 Million to this of ratepayers money.

p 46 vol 1 DEMOCRACY & GOVERN) INCREASE 1 MILLION (12%)

p50 vol 1 LIBRARY SERVICES INCREASE 1 MILLION \$ (5%)

Recoveries for recreational fiction lending should be looked at.

Libraries with a budget of 23 Million \$ is a huge cost each year without counting any capital costs and some user pays should be looked at.

p52 vol 1 PARKS & OPEN SPACES INCREASE 3/4 MILLION \$ (5%)

While this is an important aspect of our City we still need to keep within reasonable limits.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

With large capital expenditure on the Waste water ocean outlet in the near future we need to carefully consider other Capital projects such as Flat Water Park suggested 15 Million cost and look at other avenues before committing such a huge sum of money. Other Capital expenditure could be spread over a longer time frame to reduce the high peaks and help keep rates at a lower increase.

FUTURE LONG TERM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Pleased the Council has started planning. I feel it is extremely important to plan now for future increase in traffic for our Citys economic benefit. The idea of some who believe people are going to bus or cycle or walk to destinations will not happen. Our modern enviroment with time constraints, families with both partners working, children needing to be taken to school and collected after, children to be taken to different venues for sport, business people more on the move, all these will not reduce but increase as our population increases. While improved bus services will help a little, time constraints and convenience means people will increasingly use vehicles.

We need to plan for future traffic corridors to move vehicles easily from one side of the city to the other. An example is the Clarence road Riccarton road intersection where traffic moves from the north of the city to the southeast. It will not be very long before this becomes a bottleneck at peak times. Papanui road is another example.