

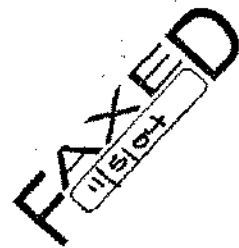
ST MARTINS SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Albert Terrace, Christchurch 8002. Telephone 332-6121

May 7, 2004

Elaine Greaves
Community Secretary
Christchurch city council
Submission in response to LTCCP 2004-14



Dear Elaine,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the LTCCP. We note the deadline for submission is 6-May, yet the notice inviting such a submission was posted on 21-April. To quote your letter "This plan is covered in three rather large volumes...". The letter was received by the school on 26-April, leaving us one week to uplift a copy and digest the information. We feel that the plan deserves more consideration in future.

We have two concerns that we wish to raise. Our apologies in advance, that we are not able to give you much in the way of constructive alternative suggestions. Given the time available, this is the best we can do.

1. Traffic flows:

We remain extremely concerned about traffic flows around the school. These flows affect the safety of pupils at our primary school.

There are two school crossing points for St Martins School. Both have traffic patrols from 8:30am until 8:50am and again 3:00 until 3:20pm each school day. The problems we get are as follows:

- a. Drivers failing to stop as requested by the patrol. This is particularly bad at the Centaurus road crossing, but also occurs in Albert Terrace. The problems seem to have different root causes (apart from inattention!). The Albert Terrace crossing is adjacent to a 'T' junction and drivers exiting right into Albert Terrace are immediately onto the crossing, giving little time for reaction. The Centaurus road crossing often has large numbers of cars parked on both sides of the road and this limits visibility coming off the round-about. We already take the number plates of any cars that go through the crossing in this way, but such action is "after-the-event" and in reality would do very little to prevent an accident.
- b. The crossing points no longer have highly visible white stripes. At times outside the normal school patrol (especially morning), pupils cross the same points (as they are trained to do). Primary school age pupils don't all have the same degree of road skills and some will misjudge the situation. This is compounded when

a driver travelling in one direction stops, encouraging the pupil to cross, yet drivers in the opposite direction simply don't see the developing problem and fail to also stop. This problem may be helped by restoring a conventional painted crossing in each location. This is a serious and almost daily issue.

- c. Adjacent to the school gates on Albert Terrace is a large and inviting area of pavement. Despite the painted yellow lines, there is a constant problem with parents stopping to let their children out. This area is beside the crossing and not only obscures the crossing from other traffic, but creates confusion. The school goes to great lengths to try to educate its parents, but this problem continues. Our suggestion is to make the dashed yellow lines solid and to raise the curb height to prevent cars from driving off the road onto the pavement. Finally some warning signs may assist.

2. Road works

Road works are currently occurring at the intersection of Albert Terrace and Centaurus Road. The intention seems to be to improve the pedestrian safety and provided this occurs, we are in full agreement.

Our school was given one weeks notice of the pending works by the contractor, and during the works the contractors have been cooperative. This intersection is the main access for students and pupils and greatly affects the safety of our pupils. Because of this being a main access for our pupils we are concerned there was no prior consultation with the school on the proposed change.

The vehicle traffic generated by the school adds to the congestion at the beginning and the end of school. The non checane type exit from Albert Tce is now very narrow for large vehicles negotiating the existing roundabout.

We would appreciate your response to the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Bridges
Principal
For the St Martins School Board of Trustees