

LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I wish to talk to the main points in my submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006.

I am completing this submission:
For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:
Full Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:
1034; 6 & 7

I also want to respond to: Other

Name:	Barbara Ford
Organisation:	
Daytime Phone:	03 3598 712
Evening Phone:	as above
Email:	fordjackandbarb@ihug.co
Address:	8 Ron Place Harewood CHRISTCHURCH 5
Your Submission:	<p>Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?</p> <p>P.4 Summary. Discretionary Priority Projects Botanic Gardens Project I object to the proposal to spend \$11.1million on this project. When the Council is looking to cut spending on large projects this project cannot be considered as essential. It may be nice to have, but is not essential to the future development, enjoyment, or maintaining, of the Botanic Gardens.</p> <p>Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)</p> <p>Suburban Libraries: COMMUNITY OUTCOMES: (pages 6 and 7 Summary & 103 Full Version) Community: - A city of inclusive and diverse communities. Everybody is able to participate, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Recreation: - A city for recreation, fun and creativity. Knowledge: - A city of lifelong learning STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS: Strong Communities: - Increase involvement in lifelong learning.</p> <p>My submission relates to the proposal to close three of the suburban libraries - Bishopdale, Redwood and Spreydon.</p> <p>Access to community libraries is essential towards meeting achievement of the above mentioned outcomes.</p>

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

Provision of Libraries, accessible to the whole community, is an essential service. No other organisation, public or private provides public libraries. While schools, universities and other institutions provide libraries these are not open to the general public. It is the provision of essential services which are a local authority's prime responsibility. Suburban libraries are part of a local community, they are generally located where people go to carry out their regular grocery shopping; chemist, doctor, etc visits. In an age where people are encouraged to reduce cars trips, and walk where possible, it makes sense to retain the local libraries. My observations of my own local library is that it is always busy, people go there to obtain information on all manner of things, use computers, use the reference material. It is difficult to gauge the exact number of people who use our libraries as not all visits result in taking out books, or using the computers. Many visits are to obtain information through the reference material. These visits are not counted in the statistics.

The suburban libraries are used by the elderly, school children, and those who rely on public transport to get about. These residents/ ratepayers will be the hardest hit by closing the three suburban libraries. Many of the elderly people who use the local libraries are the very ratepayers who paid initially to have these libraries built.

At Bishopdale the shopping centre is growing and expanding. There are many new shops and businesses, the community centre is thriving, and the new YMCA building is due to open shortly. For the council to close the library is a very backward step. Why pull out one of the essential services from a community which is growing and expanding.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?

Re the comments above - I realise that we (the residents and ratepayers) cannot afford to have everything, so services have to be prioritised. The Council must therefore look at its prime purpose - to provide essential services. Where services and activities are provided by other private or central government providers, the Council needs to look at what it should leave these organisations to provide. Some of these include:- Early Childhood Education; creches; after school programmes; holiday programmes. These are in the category of non essential local government services and activities. These services are able to be provided by private providers and through central government funding.

Secondly, I do support the proposed closure of the suburban pools. If we could afford everything we would retain the pools and upgrade them, but the reality is that our outdoor suburban swimming pools are in a poor state of repair, very expensive to run, open and used for a very short time each year. Libraries are used all year. Christchurch summers to not encourage the use of outdoor pools. The major indoor pools are there to provide teaching swimming, water skills, water safety. Schools tell us that children are much better going to the major pools to learn swimming where they are taught by professionals, and the swimming classes can be held at the programmed time, not put off because of the weather. These major pools also provide training for the serious swimmers as well as fun for the recreational swimmers.

I also support the proposed closure, or review of many of the city's community centres. These have long been underutilised, they don't meet the needs of local communities. Many have been landed on the Council because they were past their original use, and have not necessarily filled a community need, but rather the community has tried to find a need for the facility. Again, other institutions and organisations provide community facilities - churches, schools, sports clubs.

CONCLUSION:

It does not seem fair to say 'keep this but get rid of that.' But the reality is that we cannot have everything, so I have tried to separate out those services which if the Council does not provide, they will not be provided at all.