

**FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD
SUBMISSION ON THE DRAFT OUR COMMUNITY PLAN 2006-16**

The Board appreciates the opportunity to present a submission to the Council's draft Our Community Plan for 2006-16 and wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

1. UNDERGROUND WIRING CONVERSION (Page 74)

The Board again notes with disappointment that the underground policy has been included under non-priority projects.

Given that the cost of achieving this integration, seems beyond the present means, the Board would again suggest that the Council consider the option of slowing the renewal programme to better accommodate, the total upgrading of affected streets.

The Board submits that there are a number of advantages in taking this city wide approach. These are:

- a) reduced construction costs as all work would be done at the one time,
- b) improved safety for the public as visibility would be improved through the removal of poles,
- c) enhanced environmental and visual amenities. Streetscapes in suburbs are consistent throughout the city.
- d) reduced maintenance requirements on the asset owners would also be lessened.

There would be no extra funds expected from the ratepayers to fund this option.

The Board would also invite the Council to consider any future capital dividends overseen by Christchurch City Holdings Ltd to be tagged and used for future undergrounding upgrades, as part of the Council's street renewal programme. This funding when it did come in could accelerate the renewal programme and help achieve the goal the Council set itself in its meeting of 14 December 1993 that all services would be undergrounded within the next forty years.

2. DECENTRALISATION (Page 82)

The Board has submitted on previous occasions the importance and desirability of providing Council services to the residents in the local community.

The Board commends the Council for seeking alternative avenues for funding/building its new Civic offices.

One option the Board asks the Council to consider is the corporatising of some its current activities undertaken by business units. If implemented, this should result in fewer employees needing to be accommodated thereby reducing the scale and cost of the building required.

A second option is for better utilisation of existing Council decentralised facilities, as another means of reducing the overall capital cost requirement in providing the existing Civic Offices building.

Another option in order to revitalise the central city area would be to either buy through utilising the alternative avenues for funding or leasing current existing empty office buildings in Hereford street.

3. BISHOPDALE SHOPPING CENTRE AND BISHOPDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Board were pleased to learn that the Facility Assets Unit would during 2005/06, be undertaking interior improvements to the Bishopdale Community Centre including in particular, an upgrade of the hevac system. This upgrade is particularly crucial and not dependent on the review of user groups.

User groups have been raising this particular issue for several years. The Board is disappointed that this upgrade has not happened as this centre is very well patronised. The Board would like this upgrade to be dealt with as soon as possible.

With regard to the Council's wider ownership interests in relation to the pedestrian areas and carparks, the Board is aware that the previous Council did undertake to carry out a strategic review of its involvement in the Bishopdale Shopping Centre. This has still to occur and the Board would ask that this be expedited and reported on so that the Board can have input into what opportunities there are for future developments. The Board would appreciate receiving this report within the next six months.

4. LOCAL PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Board recently identified a number of issues it wishes to address during this current term. These include such matters as roading and road safety improvements, new footpaths, remedying localised flooding problems, city plan related issues, eg Memorial Avenue landscape enhancement.

The Board appreciates that it can make a contribution to resolving some of these issues in the form of allocating its own project funding. However they would prefer to work in partnership with business units through the implementation and consultation phases of their work programmes. The Board is concerned with the delays that have occurred and would encourage business units to be more proactive and timely in their processes.

The Board is especially keen to be involved in assisting in the prioritising of specific local projects including any ongoing funding support that may assist.

5. CLEANLINESS OF STREETS/LITTER

The Board would like to reiterate its concerns about the lowering of standards in respect to the cleanliness of city streets and open space areas.

Targeted initiatives for the central city along with anti litter education programmes are endorsed. However the Board submits that more attention now needs to be given to suburban locations to ensure that the community's expectations over the cleanliness of streets and litter collection measures are realised.

The Board supports the work undertaken by the Keep Christchurch Beautiful Society. As a Board we would encourage the promotion of Christchurch as a garden city image.

The Board also seeks a higher level of enforcement of the Litter Act provisions and any associated Council by-laws. The Board also supports partnerships with other agencies such as the Police, schools and local businesses.

6. HERITAGE BUILDINGS

The Board supports any measures being taken by the Council to ensure that a workable planning approach together with appropriate levels of funding assistance are available to safeguard the retention of heritage buildings. Partnerships with external agencies and business interests aimed at preserving historical aspects of the city's built environment are endorsed.

The Board is concerned with the cost of meeting the new earthquake requirements on heritage, as well as our own Council buildings. Care should be taken not to impose heritage orders on buildings that businesses operate from and which may make them uneconomic to operate from.

7. COUNCIL'S PROPOSED SAVINGS (Page 86 – 87)

7.1 Rationalisation of Community Libraries and Exiting Mobile Library service

The Board is strongly against the closure of Bishopdale Library.

If it closes the nearest library for Bishopdale residents will either be Papanui or the Fendalton libraries. The Board's main concern is how do residents access these libraries, when there is no bus service going directly to these libraries. The Board strongly supports our community in their submissions to retain this service.

The Board is also concerned that a lot of elderly residents in the Merivale and Avonhead areas who rely solely on the mobile library would be severely disadvantaged if the mobile library service was discontinued.

7.2 Use New Zealand Post for all Council Payments

The Board does not support the outsourcing of payment transactions, such as rates and dog registrations. The Board strongly supports the face to face customer focused delivery provided by the Council customer service desks.

The Board believes that outsourcing of payment transactions to New Zealand Post will lead to time delays in processing transactions. Customers will also have to wait in long queues.

On the other hand it could be extremely beneficial for customers and an economic opportunity if the Council service centres, instead took over other functions run by other agencies.

The Board notes that customers using the customer service desk at the Fendalton Library not only ask about dog registrations and rates but report other things like graffiti, street litter, etc.

7.3 City Scene – The Council’s Regular Newsletter (page 86)

The Board recommends that the number of City Scene issues be reduced to five per year instead of ten issues to create some savings of \$110,000.

8. CITY DEVELOPMENT (Page 91)

The Board supports the Council’s move to revitalise the central city.

The Board suggests that one way of encouraging people into the city is to provide free parking during weekends.

The Board suggests that the Council also look at options through Christchurch City Holdings Ltd to lease or buy office space in the empty buildings in Hereford Street.

9. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

9.1 Housing (Page 97)

The Board is pleased to learn that the Council will be reviewing housing next year. The Board supports partnerships with other organisations (eg. Housing New Zealand) to continue meeting the needs of the Christchurch housing market.

9.2 Early Learning Centres (Page 97)

The Board notes that the three early learning centres operated by the Council will be reviewed over the next year. As a cost recovery mechanism the Board supports the privatisation of these early learning centres.

10. CULTURAL AND LEARNING SERVICES (Page 103)

10.1 Funding for Facilities and Infrastructure (Pages 103 - 107)

The Board notes the ongoing cost requirements in relation to the operation of both the Christchurch Art Gallery and Canterbury Museum.

As was stated to the Council last year, the Board continues to support the proposition of entry charges being levied on visitors using these facilities in a similar manner to those for other recreation, arts and cultural facilities in the city. While there may be difficulties in differentiating between different types of visitors, the Board considers that a charging system should be implemented thereby reducing the overall imposition on local ratepayers.

In a wider context, the Board would also invite the Council to consider other funding options such as the introduction of a 'hotel bed tax' or targeted rate covering the city's accommodation providers. Such an approach would, in the Board's opinion, contribute to meeting the operational costs of the Council's infrastructural facilities and services.

The Board recommends to the Council that city wide festivals and events should be rationalised.

11. ORANA WILDLIFE PARK

The Board continues to support this facility as a significant educational and leisure asset to the city, as well as a major tourist attraction. The park is unique in that it is not a Council owned facility like the Wellington and Auckland Zoos which receive Council operational funding grants of \$1.12 and \$1.5 million respectively.

In 2003/2004 the Park received a grant of \$175,000 from the Council. A Deloitte's review in 2002 recommended that this level of funding be increased to \$225,000 per year and in 2004/2005 the Council increased their contribution to \$200,000. The Board would submit that this level of funding be increased to the level recommended by Deloitte's in 2002 and sourced from the social initiatives budget.

12. ROAD SAFETY (Page 72 & 85)

The Board supports the 40km/h speed limit.

The Board would also like to see a by-law passed to include large 40km/h signage outside all schools during school hours. This will ensure that motorists are legally required to slow down. The Board does not believe that electronic signs are necessary or any more effective than the standard warning signs. The Board would also like to see a partnership developed with the Police, schools and the Council to closely monitor driver behaviour at all schools during term times.

13. SAFER CANTERBURY

The Board commends the Council in its leadership of the development of this strategy in partnership with other agencies.

Alongside the principles outlined in the policy of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, the Board would wholeheartedly support the inclusion of these principles in all planning, development, renewal of parks, public amenities, roadways, and cycleways projects.

The Board would also submit that the Council allocate funding to have crime prevention safety audit undertaken for all the Councils' parks and open space areas.

14. DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

The Board supports this concept. The Board supports the maintenance of the Banks Peninsula infrastructure.

15. STREET TREES

Throughout the Fendalton/Waimairi ward there are many streets with the flowering cherry as the dominant street tree.

The Board is aware of recurring issues associated with the suitability or otherwise of this particular species and would ask that the Council ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to allow a planned and ongoing replacement programme to occur.

16. WASTE MINIMISATION (page 71)

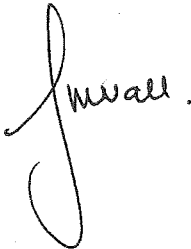
The Board would encourage the Council to minimise waste and maximise recycling.

17. GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

The Board would encourage Council to make a submission to Government on behalf of the community to fund the implementation of legislation that impacts on local government.

18. JELLIE PARK

The Board congratulates the Council on its decision to upgrade Jellie Park.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Wall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'M'.

Mike Wall
CHAIRMAN

27 April 2006