

Summary submission form

Instructions

You may send us your submission...

Please read before completing your submission

It will help us process your submission if you clearly state the issue you want the Council to consider, what specific action you think the Council should take, and why that should be done.

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. (If that is the case, please tick the box). The hearings will be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006. Generally, 10 minutes are allocated for hearing each submission, including time for questions.

It will help us if your submission also refers to the page of either the full version or the summary version.

Please note: we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to Councillors and to the public. This includes the name and address of the submitter. All submissions will be published on the Council's website from 10 May 2006.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8003

By email

Please email your submission to:
ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

On the internet

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's web site at:
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>
Please follow all the instructions on the web site.

Please remember to indicate if you wish to present your submission in person at one of the hearings.

Please ensure your submission arrives no later than Friday 5 May 2006.

Your submission

You may use this form for your submission on the draft Our Community Plan if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please include your name, address and contact telephone number with your submission.

Tick one I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered
OR
 I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent? 50+ members 20 staff

My submission refers to: Full version Page No. Summary version 12 Page No.

Do you also want to respond to: Development Contributions Aquatic Facilities Other

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Signature M. Arnold Date 14th May 2006

**Submission to the Christchurch City Council Long Term Community Planning Process from
YWCA Christchurch Inc., P.O. Box 22-051, Christchurch. 4th May 2006**

1. Strategic Planning - Review of Community Grants – Democracy and Governance

We note that it is through this LTCCP process in May 2006 that submissions are to be received and considered for the "Review of Community Grants", 4 months BEFORE there is a public consultation, in August/September 2006, to establish the Community Development Strategy.

Although we are pleased that there is such a Community Development Strategy we would have expected the Community Grants Review to have been more grounded, effective and appropriate AFTER the strategy was in place and available to inform the inevitable choices such a review would need to make about the direction, size and nature of community grants by linking them to a coherent considered development strategy.

We use this as an example (there are others we could have used) of a perceived lack of logical "Strategic Planning" which must inevitably distort public perceptions of the Council's transparency and responsiveness within its community.

It appears to us that the planning document reads like a list of unrelated projects where strategic planning is weak (i.e. lacking "joined up thinking") and lacks coherent vision.

(We can understand that there are projects, processes and facilities which exist around which it is easy for planning to coalesce as you are not starting from a zero base and it is often easier to respond to narrower community responses once set pieces have been committed to and you must start somewhere within these cyclical processes.... BUT this is a 10 year PLAN

2. Democracy and Governance - Community Perception of the Council's methodology, responsiveness and maturity.

Consultation and research are powerful tools when the learnings are absorbed and more than theory informs policy and practice. They are also time consuming and expensive tools which the council is using to advantage or is it to excess? We wish to point out that these tools may be experienced as a management tactic for "delaying and distancing". Being consulted and then ignored or having submissions grossly distorted is a form of disempowerment and provokes unnecessary anger when people find no real dialogue emerges and personal bickering and vested interest point scoring is evident between Councillors, Staff, Consultants, Community groups and individuals. We regret that such a community perception has emerged and the behaviours are continuing to be in evidence.

3. Community Outcomes - Safety and Well Being of Women – An Aging Population.

The YWCA Christchurch Inc. Board members were present at the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce meeting within which City Council staff made a presentation on the development of the inner city. Issues around the proposed rates surcharge, the perceived lack of foresight re bus exchange, Art Gallery and the burgeoning tourism possibilities were mentioned. Matters of the well being and safety of people weren't high on their agenda. All this added to our anxiety and experience as an action oriented provider of

services contributing to the personal safety, positive motivation and well-being of women, especially of young women within the central city.

The most alarming comment made by the City Council staff was in relation to the review of Community Grants. The impression we gained was that key staff considered that the little bits and pieces of grant monies to community groups could be reduced if not dispensed with "as the community groups would continue anyway with or without such monies" and nothing much would change or be lost. This alerted us again to the danger of proceeding without an holistic community development strategy which encompassed the safety of citizens, residents and visitors as well as service providers who contribute to the well-being of those for whom the inner city community agencies are a resource.

There are three specific areas of city life to which the YWCA has been committed for many years and about which we wish to reflect positively as a contribution to the development of CCC planning by attending hearings later in the month.

1. **The experience of being a "partner" of the city council** for 9 of the 20 years we have been associated with the provision of emergency accommodation services for women on low incomes who are alone or who have children. We would refer the readers of this submission to Chapter 6 – Summary of Learning - page 16 – Establishing Partnerships; Monitoring Partnerships; Measuring Partnerships and resultant recommendations to Council. The research document is dated September 2004 and its title is "Review of the process for establishing/monitoring/measuring Christchurch City Council Social Housing Partnerships". Its author is Rob Dally. (A photocopy of this page is attached).
2. **As a provider of education and training for a very vulnerable sector of young women, placing their safety and well being high on our agenda**, we become bothered by funding choices of the CCC as evidenced by a press release from the city council promoting a combat style course which includes lessons from a karate teacher for young women to allow them to be safe on the streets. The YWCA "Positive Action programme", supported by the Police and ChCh Safety Council is a specially designed programme for women and girls and is available. It doesn't use combat or scare tactics. The CCC could have considered programmes for the men in the area to develop attitudes which don't require women to have to go on the defensive in this manner. Unhappily there is ample evidence that already there are some very dangerous and violent women, including young women on the streets. Most assaults on women and young women are by people they know – not street strangers. Our contribution would be to suggest the city have a "reference group around the safety of women and especially of young women". Such a group could include the YWCA Self Defence tutor Lynda Maindonald and those with other Youth Social Work experience on the streets to advise them. To whom is the CCC accountable for such funding?
3. **The YWCA provides a "mobile meals service" for elderly, convalescent and lonely members of the older aged community of Christchurch.** Where is the planning to "keep people in their homes and familiar surroundings"? Is it still the assumption that the well being of an increasing percentage of citizens must rely on the good will of an aging and diminishing voluntary sector on fixed incomes?

Chapter 6 – Summary of Learning

Establishing Partnerships

- Important to “Partners” to have one point of contact with Council.
- Important to have agreed and documented levels of service with regard to the expectations/responsibilities of both partners.

Monitoring Partnerships

- Important for a Council staff person to have regular/proactive contact with partners.
- Important for Council to receive regular monitoring reports from partners.
- Important for partners to have structured access to elected Council representatives to discuss social trend around housing.
- Important for partners of various housing partnerships to share/learn on a regular basis.

Measuring Partnerships

- Important for Council to measure trends from regular monitoring reports so as to ensure achievement of Council vision.
- Important to benchmark/measure trends of “Quality of Life” Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in terms of:
 - Financial outcomes
 - Health outcomes
 - Relationship outcomes

As a result of these findings, it is recommended that the Council take the following actions:

- Appoint one Council Officer to be responsible for the development/ownership of all Council Housing partnerships.
- Take a proactive approach to managing Council Housing partnerships.
- Assist housing partners to refine/redevelop their respective vision/mission.
- Develop with partners, a generic outcome based reporting framework so that all partners report annually in a measured/ meaningful and comparative manner and that the annual reporting process include information for checking trends in terms of tenancy duration.
- Advocate for more sustainable third party funding of third sector housing.