



# S.A.R.A.

## ST ALBANS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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## Submission on the 2006 – 2016 CCC LTCCP

### Community

- Fully endorse and support retention of \$8.3 Million fund for communities – supports social cohesion and well-being, being important factors to counteract social isolation, marginalization and create strong communities. P 98. Increase in poor and mental health citizens needs to be addressed by this important strategy – support and welcome council's method of involving community in the community development and facilities review and that funds have been rolled over to allow review first. Important to retain total fund even if review does cut some services as costs, expenses and increased need to conform to bureaucracy has meant expense increase while grants are reduced, so fund will always be needed for organizations and facilities. It's easier to retain this amount than to lose it and then regain it. Suggestion to reduce funds as an incentive for community groups to become more effective and efficient - most community organisations have pretty lean targeted spending as it is and reducing council funding may be the last nail in the coffin for some of these organisations.
- Malls – erode communities and social cohesion
- Endorse reviews - things can always improve as the change from St Albans Public Library (Edgware Library) to that of St Albans Community Resource Centre has shown – dramatic increase of usage.
- As society becomes more complex, there's increased poverty and isolation. Increased consultation and bureaucracy required from Council due to LGA etc has required more costs for Council. Council needs to lobby Govt to receive more govt funding to address these issues.
- When reviewing community facilities, consider offering non performing ones to community as a trust as has been done in the UK with great success. Initial slight revenue loss for council as property transferred but long-term gain in reduced operating costs.
- CCC has strong history of caring for people with a strong social conscious. Residents were proud of reputation, but there is a perceived reduction in pride and social consciousness of CCC. Failure of communication in the democratic system? P 111.

### Environment

- Support Developments Contributions Fund to address the issue that increased infrastructure puts increased stress on resources without consequences for developer Pg 4
- Support Discretionary Project of doing a feasibility study on grey water recycling. Water will become increasingly short over the years and this needs to be addressed as costs will just escalate.
- Support and endorse zero waste strategy. Pg 72/73 Costs of rubbish bags for citizens is a minimal cost compared with long-term un-sustainability of too much creation of waste.
- Support and endorse CCC working together with Ecan to protect aquifers of contamination – be it nitrates, chemicals or other pollutants. Red zones identified by Ecan as having a thin layer above the aquifer need to be protected from potential development pollution.
- More thought needs to be given to making developments energy efficient – an energy star rating system would make buyers become more energy aware.
- Support and endorse opening of waterways and planting of streams – they look great. P121
- Important to retain as many historical buildings as possible as loss of those creates loss of unique identity for Chch which means less attraction for tourists.

- In Seattle, a free bus shuttle has been introduced in a 2 km radius from central city. Within 2 years the loss of revenue from busses had been regained in increased business revenue. Extension of free yellow shuttle bus route could be a beginning for implementing such a policy. P 150. Increases use of public transport, reduces emissions, increase healthy lifestyle by encouraging more walking etc.
- Fast track “bus lanes only traffic” along busy arterials. One side each mornings and evenings to mitigate effect on business parking. P 150.
- Possible suggestion is to subsidise rain water tanks as a measure to conserve water?

### **Governance**

- Governance only model for Councilors does not appear to work at local government level as consultation is part of being elected as representatives.
- Important to retain Community Board model as this has worked well in Chch by engaging the local communities in decision making. P 111
- There are 168 different ethnic communities in Chch, how is language barrier addressed for things like LTCCP?
- Need increased publicity and education of process at time of elections to engage more citizens into voting.
- 6 week timeframe for submissions is often too short for community groups as meetings are monthly and may have just missed the presentation of issues.

### **Admin**

- Cost of summary of LTCCP. Newsprint version of ECAN LTCCP seems more cost efficient. Can summary of Annual Plans – annual, three yearly or ten yearly be sent as a city scene version – this way its distribution is wider and increased engagement from residents is possible.
- Access of information from summary to long version, needs to be clarified with page linkages.
- 10 % in roading savings would equate a lot of proposed community savings. People’s welfare is more important than excellent roading, maybe increase lifespan of roads before redoing them.
- Interesting to note that Council trains and resources voluntary mgmt committees of facilities – support and endorse that initiative P 99.

### **Prosperity**

- Strong correlation between poverty and crime so endorse and support initiatives to reduce poverty and increase social engagement.
- Research has shown that quality of life has been consistently shown as more important than prosperity, so don’t support the business community at the expense of the residents’ community.

### **Health**

- Endorse and support increased housing quota for low socio-economic residents due to increased aging population. P 97
- Keep facilities local as increased elderly population will rely more on local services and community facilities, especially with ongoing petrol price increases predicted.

### **Safety**

- Narrowing of roads – unnecessary cost, stops left turning traffic and creates impatience and roadrage
- Strong correlation between poverty and crime. If Council can address social cohesion and wellbeing, thereby minimize isolation it may reduce crime.

### **Recreation**

- Pools and community facilities should be seen as a service to residents just like parks and roads without necessarily expecting a financial return. Including long term health benefits like physical exercise and social interaction should be included in the cost benefit ratio calculations.
- Endorse and support the creation of more green space.

- Question whether there are not too many festivals nowadays, maybe four per year, one per season, as people become blasé about them. Kidsfest is excellent, but need to look at cost of events. Charges and ticketek type booking system has meant this is no longer accessible to low socio-economic families.
- Important to retain outdoor swimming pools as an alternative to indoor pools despite cost. P 134. \$130,000 cost for outdoor pools does not appear huge while keeping activities local for kids, increased activity and social interaction is all very important. Besides, research has shown that chlorine of indoor pools affects asthmatic children. Busfares to other venues may again exclude low socio-economic residents. Also the number of schools that have been forced to close their pools because of cost and OSH reasons, means less “learn to swim pools” are available, cutting into swimming lesson and practice times.
- Introducing cafés into libraries as into Beckenham is essentially a good idea, but look at acoustic levels as feedback suggests that that library has become too noisy for some residents to enjoy study or quiet reading time.
- Funding for youth based programmes and activities very important as socializing factor in an age when youth are increasingly drawn to passive entertainment and exercise - cost benefit ratio as preventative health and crime prevention.

### **Knowledge**

- Support and endorse strategy and funding for retaining cultural and learning services. P104. Seems contradictory to suggest closing 3 libraries because there are new buildings in other parts of the city. Keeping things local for strong communities and elderly should take precedence over minimal cost cutting measures.
- Same goes for the mobile library – support and endorse continuation of this excellent facility. As petrol prices increase, this may become more important – perhaps increased publicity would increase patrons.

### **City Development**

- Support and endorse direction towards light rail development. Public transport will become increasingly important, lowers emissions, reduces traffic congestion and need for carparking etc.
- Support and endorse city centre revitalization under discretionary projects – low speed traffic and increased pedestrian access will enhance ambience of city centre, making it more attractive for residents and tourists. Again – long-term petrol price increase will see this becoming more important.
- Desired increased inner city attendance will be counteracted by increase in parking fee costs. P 87
- Question increase in size or implementation of grass verges under road amenities. With increased city and suburban infill housing and busier lifestyles residents have less time for garden maintenance and courtyard sections often preclude the need for mowers. Look at alternative low maintenance ways of amenities improvement along roadsides. Some European countries encourage wild flower growing on verges.
- Continue funding local Neighbourhood Improvement Plans.

### **Capital Projects – Essential, discretionary and non-priority**

- Bus Exchange – Pg 71 - expansion into where? Look at options with government of bringing rail back to city centre and linking bus exchange with that for ease of connections. At present – railway station at Addington is not convenient for tourists or locals.
- Endorse Central City Transport concept (discretionary), combined with bus exchange due to rising petrol costs etc.
- Support and endorse Avon River Devt under Central City Strategy
- Support and endorse Strategic Land purchases for increased green space such as Port Hills purchases.
- Support and endorse preservation of heritage buildings to retain unique Christchurch character.
- Support and endorse feasibility study into reuse of grey water
- Support and endorse walkways development Pg 74.
- Support and endorse Implementation of Biodiversity Strategy.
- Support and endorse water supply strategy. Look at more rigid user pays water charges to reduce use of this resource

## **Strategic assets**

- Red Bus Company – pg 294 - competitive business model has not reduced prices in electricity, housing and communications model. Although document states no plans to sell or relinquish control of Red Bus Company that doesn't ensure full ownership. Retain as 100% company to retain influence on pricing as public transport becomes increasingly important as petrol prices increase.
- Same goes for Strategic asset like Lyttelton Port.
- We note the increase in threshold of "Significant activity" from \$500,000 to \$1 million and rely on Council abiding by the criteria rules regarding consultation to take place about these activities.

**We would like to talk to the main points at a hearing.**

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On behalf of SARA