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20 MAR 2006

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

ATTENTION : WELLS, CORBETT, MCTURK & MOORE

SUBJECT : SPREYDON BRANCH OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Council's proposal to close this branch is quite unacceptable and contrary to Council assurances given when it proposed to include a library feature into the Service and Entertainment Centre that was to be constructed at 66 Colombo St.

The South Chch branch of the library is not as well sited as the Spreydon branch, is not as user friendly and is not easily accessible for most people in the South West of the City. Agreement by many ratepayers to the construction of the South Branch was only given on the basis of the Council's assurance that the opening of such a branch would not affect the position of the Spreydon branch.

The provision of a good accessible system of public libraries is one of the marks of a civilized community which Christchurch used to claim to be. As a priority this must rate considerably higher than projects such as the provision of an expensive new visitors centre in the Botanic Gardens which already has an adequate facility and the continual waste of money in narrowing streets, covering them with cobblestones and the building of road humps which simply encourage people to buy 4WD vehicles with high ground clearances. It would be easy to find many other examples of expenditure which are far less important to the well being of this City than a good library system.

It is presumably no coincidence that such a proposal is being put forward as far away as possible from the next Council elections.

Sur Young

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