

To: Christchurch City Council

Re: Closure of libraries

It is with great concern and much anger that I, as a Bishopdale resident, learn of the proposed closure of the Bishopdale and other suburban libraries.

I have had many opportunities to experience the value of the library for myself as well as for other Bishopdale residents.

This library is an integral part of our community and surely 'community' is a concept which we should all be fostering.

Libraries add greatly to our quality of life and we need easy access to them. This we have at Bishopdale for both young and old---those with small children, the MANY people who walk to our mall including the elderly, some of whom use motorised chairs and the young and not so young, who bike.

Transport is becoming more expensive all the time and we need more local libraries not less.

Bishopdale is an expanding community and it makes no sense whatsoever to close one of its finest assets. How does lighting up of the cathedral, fine though it is, equate with the closing of such vital services within our local communities? Surely the monies involved would serve the needs of our local children, and society in general, in a much more worthwhile way were our library to continue functioning.

There is little that is 'free' in our society today and this is one warm, friendly, educative place which is easily accessible to all no matter what their financial status.

Having been a teacher at a local school for many years I am well aware of the service the Bishopdale library affords the families of the surrounding areas and it would indeed be a retrograde step for all concerned if the closing of such an asset were allowed to happen. It is utter madness.

I earnestly request that you revisit your intention to save money in this way and that you look again at the values we need to promote i.e. the building of 'community' not the dismantling of it.

Signed:



Deidre J Prince

15 Tivoli Place
Bishopdale
Christchurch 8005

cc Clayton Cosgrove MP Waimakiriri