

LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

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CC:

Sent: Fri 5/05/2006 09:10

Your Submission:

Submission on the proposed closure of Bishopdale library

Thursday, 4th May 2006

Submission regarding the proposed closure of Bishopdale library.

I wish to object strongly to the proposed closure of the Redwood and Bishopdale libraries. Although this submission mainly focuses on reasons not to close the Bishopdale library, many of the arguments would also apply to the Redwood library.

The library at Bishopdale acts as a focal point of the community. People do their shopping at the Bishopdale mall and use the library facilities during the same visit. For many people, the convenience of having a library within their local shopping centre means that they are able, in one short journey, to complete their shopping and use the library. If the library is closed the extra inconvenience of a separate journey, either to the Papanui or Fendalton libraries, could well mean that they will use the library service less frequently, or for some people such as the elderly and young, not at all. These extra journeys would also add to the congestion on our roads.

As a frequent customer at the Bishopdale library, I have not been aware of any research that has been done - in terms of questionnaires - to ascertain what the effect of the library closure will be on its users. If such a survey has been carried out where are the results of your survey that support your proposal to close the library? If the proposal has not been based on information obtained from library users, how does the Council know the community effects of such a proposal? Relying on public submissions to ascertain the strength of feeling on such a move, is a very poor surrogate for well planned research.. The Council should have carried out proper research before announcing their proposal. Submissions are usually made by the more educated and literate members of the community. Many people would not present a submission because such a concept is outside of their experience. Submissions also require people to express themselves in writing, which many people shy away from, especially if English is not your first language. Submissions, therefore, are a biased in terms of the respondents and are an ineffective method of gaining information from a community on which to base decisions.

If the proposal to close the Bishopdale library is simply being made on a cost-cutting basis, it suggests that the City Council is failing in its responsibility to make careful and considered decisions. If the proposal is based on cost cutting, as the newspapers suggest, then there is a very glaring error in such a proposal. Along with the suggestion of library closure, was the proposal to build a tourist centre in the botanic gardens for a similar sum of money that the closure of the libraries would save. Rate-payers can understand the need to pay for library facilities in their rates, but to increase the rates, close a facility which the greater majority of people would support, and then use rate payer's money to build a facility mainly aimed at tourists who do not pay Christchurch rates, adds insult to injury. If you have the need to cut costs then your priority should focus on leaving alone the facilities that are used and enjoyed by the rate payers, and to cut out the facilities aimed at no-rate payers.

Sender: Rosemary Donaldson 289a Greers Road Bishopdale Chch 5.