

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?

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

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

Contact Name Doreen Tulloch

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Contact Address 11 Trafford St.
Christchurch 8005

Phone No. (day) 359-9625 Phone No. (evening) _____

Email (if applicable) _____

Signature D. Tulloch Date 4/5/06

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT LTCCP - LIBRARY CLOSURES

I wish to request the deletion of the proposal on Page 86 of the LTCCP to cut library services in Christchurch.

Five Councillors voted against removal of libraries. Seven, plus the Mayor, favoured cuts. The Council therefore officially promoted closures. This proposal appears to have been pushed through without much thought of the consequences, either for the public or for the Council. Users value their libraries very highly and threats to remove them or make access more difficult have brought a powerful emotional reaction.

Why do we value our libraries so much? Those who use them do so seeking information and entertainment. They include students of all ages, children, parents, the elderly, the disabled and those with limited incomes or access to other resources. Immigrants to New Zealand use the libraries to learn about this country's culture and values while locals have a window into the world beyond our immediate neighbourhood.

Library users are able to obtain factual information on technical matters, hobbies, sports, history, nature, science, on other places and societies, on arts, crafts, cultural subjects and all the areas of knowledge which enrich our lives. Fiction is available to stimulate the mind or provide relaxation or escape. Specialised magazines and newspapers from other places keep us up with developments elsewhere. In addition CDs, videos, DVDs and talking books expand the resources beyond the written word.

Books are vital for children, for encouraging them to read, to develop the comprehension and communication skills essential as they grow. TV and the internet are no substitute. Children also need a big range of books to stretch their imagination and open their eyes to life's possibilities. If we starve our libraries we stunt our people, our present and future population.

Education and learning are absolutely essential if we hope to cope in a world changing at great speed. Schools, universities and other institutions are fundamental but self-education is very important. Libraries are probably the most widely used resource for individuals to expand their knowledge and skills. Access is the key. Those who cannot get to them lose out.

Being able to shop, get books and do other things in the same area is very convenient. We need to avoid unnecessary car use and transport costs and other constraints will make local self-sufficiency more and more important in the years ahead. For parents of young children, the elderly and those with limited mobility or income the ability to combine a visit to the library with shopping, going to kindergarten or other local tasks is a huge advantage. For those in areas where a full library is impractical the mobile library is a lifeline.

The social benefits of being able to do things in a familiar comfortable environment are considerable, using locations where friends and neighbours are around and individuals are recognised. This is a far less stressful situation than being among the crowds, noise and distraction of hectic malls or central city streets. Pressure and strain are part of the price we pay for living in cities, but for healthy individuals and communities we need to minimise this as far as possible.

Strong neighbourhood communities will help buffer us against economic and other stresses. If we lose libraries and other facilities we stand very little chance of getting them back, we must look ahead and plan for a sustainable future. Transport costs are going to become much more influential, economic pressures fiercer and the need for citizens to find a worthwhile lifestyle within their immediate vicinity will be much greater.

For all these reasons those councillors who thought library closures were a good way to save money need to re-think. Library use is an everyday matter, well over 3,000,000 visits per year are being made here and the rate is rising at more than twice the percentage increase in population growth. People use libraries regularly, the pleasure is constant and continuous. The estimated saving is insignificant in comparison to the community benefit it would eliminate.

Removing libraries or reducing funding by other means would be highly damaging to Christchurch. If Council slogans such as A CITY OF LIFELONG LEARNING and the themes in the COUNCIL VISION in the LTCCP are not just public-relations platitudes the proposal must be withdrawn.