

LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

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| Name: | Robin Creed [robin.creed@xtra.co.nz] |
| CC: | |
| Sent: | Fri 5/05/2006 16:26 |
| Your Submission: | <p>library closing</p> <p>Submission on LTCCP to close libraries. P. 86 Full Plan.</p> <p>As a ratepayer and citizen of Christchurch I vehemently oppose the plan to close public libraries.</p> <p>These are a resource of enormous importance to any population centre. Increasingly suburban libraries are needed for their accessibility in our traffic-choked city. Young mothers can bring their children to draw on the numerous books I see them borrowing as a start to a life-long love affair with print. The young have their values formed, their intellect developed and their skills enhanced by books. They become citizens; books forestall hours of boredom, and as children grow older provide an outlet for leisure which, if it did not exist, would result in leisure being spent in less socially acceptable ways.</p> <p>If the suburb does not have a library those mothers and children cannot journey to one that has.</p> <p>Teachers rely on public libraries to buttress what is taught in schools. Such closures will diminish culture and education.</p> <p>Electronic experiences are not a substitute for reading.</p> <p>The above is not opinion. It is what I have observed over many years as a teacher.</p> <p>Adults of all ages rely on the local library. Most particularly do the elderly, who cannot easily get to another suburb. Their lives could be greatly diminished by closures.</p> <p>All of the above should be obvious. That it not to city decision-makers suggests a peculiar attitude. The city spends huge amounts on unnecessary things; illumination, puffery such as foolish slogans, fireworks, street ornamentation, warding off anti-social behaviour, yet can't see that the civilizing effects of libraries is a necessity.</p> <p>Closing libraries to save money indicates an attitude that libraries are a luxury. What a philistine attitude! It hints of the book-burning of other times and barbarian ideologies.</p> <p>When Carnegie spread money around the world in the late nineteenth century to finance public libraries, and New Zealand cities were beneficiaries, he sent effectively, a wave of civilizing culture. Now shabby minds in our city are trying to undo that influence.-----A.R.</p> <p>Creed</p> <p>This is an individual submission. A.R Creed. 156 Hackthorne Rd Cashmere. Christchurch 2. 'phone 3324613.</p> <p>Yes, I will submit in person.</p> |