

LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

Name: Robyn Williams (C/- Bruce Williams [BRJR.WILLIAMS@xtra.co.nz])

CC:

Sent: Fri 5/05/2006 13:21

Your Submission:

RE proposed closure of Bishopdale/Redwood Libraries

While I do not wish to speak on this proposal, I feel strongly enough about it to write to you about it.

I have read the proposals, specifically on P8 where you "rationalise community libraries (closing Redwood, Bishopdale and Spreydon): Saving up to \$450,000 "

I love Christchurch having been a resident here for the last 32 years and am proud to call myself a Cantabrian. For nearly all those years I have used these libraries (specifically the Bishopdale one) for my children and now their children are arriving it will be there for them I TRUST!! I have an elderly mother (moved from Auckland to be near us) who while she can walk to the Bishopdale library would find it extremely difficult now having to consider getting a bus to another one. I personally visit one of these libraries with our special needs 8 year old every week (often more than once). The library is often our life line.

When I visit them I always notice the number of elderly people sitting reading the newspaper (perhaps they can't afford to buy one each day) or the men reading while their elderly wife buys her groceries. I see the children selecting their books, playing on the computer, with the toys. I hear the librarians reading to a group of spellbound children as they enter that imaginary world of wonder. I watch our wonderful librarians who often have come to know a person, passing that encouraging comment or listening with a sympathetic ear to the trials of the elderly - very real to them- and often they are alone I suspect, and the library has become their "home away from home" I hear the student asking on how to research a project. These are all LOCAL people using their LOCAL library

CAN YOU PUT A PRICE ON ALL OF THIS?

Yes maybe you would save money, but sometimes we can win a battle and lose a war.

Please instead of considering closing these Libraries we should be thinking of ways to upgrade them, Perhaps an area with access to "a cup of tea or coffee" so people who wish to read while there can do so in comfort. We are fast becoming a nation that measure "success" by the amount of money we can "save"

Your comment on P6 "Community outcomes "

We will know we are succeeding when

Our diversity is seen, heard, valued and celebrated. All people feel a sense of belonging and participate in the community. and on another statement ".....particularly those who are most vulnerable' Good words!

and on page 10

What do we want?

Strong and inclusive communities and opportunities to meet and socialise. Does not our local library do this?

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

May I conclude with a statement made in the local paper by our Mayor. I hope he was misquoted but it reads as follows: and I quote

Mayor Garry Moore said the proposed closure of Redwood and Bishopdale came after the construction of three new libraries in South Christchurch, Parklands and Upper Riccarton, :It is fundamental that as we add new services, that we remove old services which the new ones are supposed to replace," he said.

Excuse me Mr Moore but can you please explain to me how a library in South Christchurch, Parklands and Upper Riccarton services people living in the North West, namely Bishopdale and Redwood.

PLEASE leave us with our libraries which we love, use and need.

Sincerely
Robyn Williams
1 Cintra Place
Casebrook