

To: The Mayor and Councillors
Christchurch City Council
CHRISTCHURCH.

LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

Submission from CAROLE ANDERTON and ALISTER JAMES

We make the following submission and wish to have the opportunity to speak to this written submission during the period of hearings into the draft LTCCP.

Page references where used refer to the fuller version of the LTCCP.

BOTANIC GARDENS/GARDEN CITY

We support the capital funding being provided during years 2007 to 2010, \$11.1 million total. We further support the proposed additional increase in operating expenditure of \$450,000 from year 2010 to match the capital expenditure.

The vision of the Christchurch City Council at page 9 includes Christchurch "being the most attractive city in New Zealand" and "our garden city is second to none". A vision of our city is also to attract more visitors to the city, tourism both domestic and international being important to the local economy.

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens are the jewel in the crown of our garden city. We regret that as a city we have not maintained our garden city image and that even the maintenance at both the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale have slipped in recent years. There has been an increasing emphasis on native planting within Christchurch at the expense of 'english' garden planting. Some of our central city garden plots have generally been well maintained such as the Scott Memorial Reserve and Friendship Corner but overall we can do much better and must if we want to promote Christchurch as the garden city, as indeed we should. Having travelled to other New Zealand cities we consider that there are now much better examples of garden cities than Christchurch, such as Hastings. We have slipped behind and we should now put more emphasis into being a garden city, and maintaining better standards of maintenance and quality of planting.

The proposed city mall upgrade provides an opportunity to assert the garden city image in this prime central city space. The central city looked very good during the Festival of Flowers but we need to maintain this image all through the year, not just a couple of weeks.

The better development of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens is essential if we are serious about promoting our city as the garden city "second to none". It is the

most visited facility in Canterbury for tourists. It is unique in that it's location is within walking distance of the heart of our city, Cathedral Square. Not many world cities can boast a botanic gardens so close to their city centre.

Many years ago, Royal status was promoted for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Enquiries made, established that it would not be successful, it is understood because we lacked the facilities for research and teaching. An expectation with the appointment of Dr David Given as the Curator was that the status of the gardens would be elevated. We regret his sad and untimely death. We support any objective of pursuing "Royal" status. Hobart a smaller Tasmanian city effectively maintains its Royal Hobart Botanic Gardens. Christchurch should also be the "Royal Christchurch Botanic Gardens". The new facilities and developments proposed would assist in pursuing this objective, particularly with the 150th anniversary in 2013. We submit that such status should be further investigated and reported to Council for further consideration.

We look forward to the Hagley Park - Botanic Gardens Master Plan later this year and the opportunity for public consultation.

LAKE ISAAC WATER SPORTS PARK

We are concerned about the deletion from the LTCCP of the funding of \$11.0 million previously provided for a flat water facility. We are surprised that such a facility has now received a low priority of (1) and service gap ranking of only (1) in the current draft LTCCP. Previous council reports in relation to aquatic facilities gave the need for such a facility a high priority as regards needs and funding. The low ranking now given is inconsistent with previously adopted council reports.

A water sports park will ensure that provision is made for the growing sports of rowing, triathlon, kayaking, waka ama all of which enjoy active participation from high schools. A facility within metropolitan Christchurch is required and we reject as nonsensical, suggestions that a water sports park could be provided with the potential development of the central plains irrigation scheme and possible lake creation. A water sports park must be within reasonable cycling distance from the central city to cater for school students as well as other local residents who would utilise such a facility.

Such funding provision supports the healthy and active people outcome sought in the LTCCP of "our people have ready access to sporting facilities and are encouraged to engage in physical activities".

The Christchurch City Council would be foolish to effectively reject the generous gift of Diana, Lady Isaac in providing the land for such a facility. There has been considerable compromise in the re siting of the proposed lake some 4 Km from the airport. We regret that the CIAL has been intransigent in its opposition to the

water sports park. The Christchurch City Council should take firmer leadership in resolving the issues of bird strike and location, utilising its own independent and international expert in assessing risk factors, including the cities own waterways and open spaces which contribute to the potential for such strike. We seek more open and transparent debate on these matters.

Kerrs Reach is clearly inadequate and there is the continuing risk to public safety with competing uses on this part of the Avon River. No amount of upgrading this part or any part of the river will address the matter long term.

We seek the reinstatement of the funding provided in the previous LTCCP.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

We support retention of the current funding provided at page 101 including the modest increases forecast in subsequent years. The reasons for supporting the Christchurch City Council involvement in community support and social initiatives is adequately explained at page 97 of the LTCCP. This is also consistent with the requirements expected of local government and as set out in the Local Government Act 2002.

If the outcome is to build strong and inclusive communities and to support non profit organisations whose activities are seen to benefit the community (the social well being of communities being a purpose of local government), then you must not cut the level of expenditure in this area. Almost all non for profit community organisations rely upon the goodwill of volunteers. It is increasingly difficult to attract new and more volunteers. If Council withdraws its support of community organisations through lack of funding then this will be a disincentive as regards maintaining and encouraging our valuable volunteers. Many of the organisations supported by council funding are involved in difficult and challenging work and rely upon the support of the Christchurch City Council to continue this necessary work. Other alternative sources of funding are not readily available and these community organisations which provide valuable and cost effective community services would not be able to continue without such support.

STRATEGIC ASSETS

Page 291 of the LTCCP, deletion of City Care Limited and Red Bus Ltd from the list of strategic assets because they are not considered to be irreplaceable pieces of the city's infrastructure. This is a matter of concern, particularly if there are any intentions to sell or sell down these important assets. Can the Christchurch City Council give an assurance that they are not for sale.

The Red Bus Ltd derived its assets in large part from the former Christchurch Transport Board (of which Deputy Mayor Evans was a member) and which became part of the amalgamated city. Our 'red buses' have been with us it

seems for many decades and are used by a large part of our city population. We submit that it is an important part of our city infrastructure.

There are important reasons to maintain our red bus service and had we not upon amalgamation, we would have been left with a "Bombay" bus service that would have had significant transport implications for the city. The rationale to maintain this strategic asset remains. The need to maintain competition and quality standards also apply to City Care Ltd, which similarly now contains assets once part of the Christchurch City Council.

It is our submission that Red Bus Limited and City Care Limited should remain in the register as strategic assets such that the policy on significance applies to these assets. In terms of the provisions of the Local Government Act, strategic assets are not required to be simply assets of an infrastructural nature, irreplaceable or otherwise.

HOUSING

Our land and buildings owned by the Christchurch City Council for the purposes of social housing as part of the social policy are strategic assets.

We note the recent increase in housing rentals. Regular rent reviews are necessary but we consider that any rent increases should be modest and consistent with cost of living increases.

The Christchurch City Council has a proud history of providing social housing and is the largest provider of housing after Housing New Zealand. We were the first local authority to begin the construction of elderly persons housing, Barnett Avenue in Sydenham being completed in the 1930's and followed thereafter by an active programme of providing other such housing. It was always a core function of the Christchurch City Council enjoying the support of successive mayors: Macfarlane, Andrews, Manning, Guthrey, Pickering, Hay, Buck and we believe Moore.

We are uncertain about the 'action plan' (if it exists) for new construction and more particularly rebuilding and renewal of our older stock of housing. We do not believe that the Christchurch City Council is taking full advantage of government funding for social housing.

We would like the Christchurch City Council to reassert its commitment to social housing and to demonstrate a plan of action as regards our existing stock of housing requiring renewal as well as new initiatives in housing.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, encouraged by Cr

Graham Condon in a recent suburban newspaper column encouraging readers to get off their backsides and make a submission to the LTCCP. We look forward to the opportunity to visit you soon to make a further presentation

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