

5th May 2006

2006 Plan Submission,
Christchurch City Council,
Tuam Street,
PO Box 237,
Christchurch.
pm)

Evan Watson,
49, Wyon Street,
Linwood,
Christchurch.
Tel: 3891000 (post 1300

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our submission is both a personal one and on behalf of some 100 people here in Wyon St., and staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Regarding the submission, I would like to speak to it on behalf of the above and my wife and myself; the submission comes in two parts – general and detailed comments.

General comments:

Most people think that this booklet could best be described as obfuscation, long on meaningless words and short on detail. The city council(lers) seem to be somewhat out of touch with the reality of life in NZ; costs are rising and believe it or not, most of the working population cannot create their own wage rises – it is a matter of concern that each time a council is elected the first thing they do is grant themselves a salary increase. So much for democracy! Would it not be more democratic if the public decided whether your performances are worth salary increases? That Lesley McTurk earns \$400,000+ per year managing a declining service, and demands bonuses, is deplorable – Ch'ch is not an advancing city (town would be a better description) and we wonder why she is deserving of any pay at all. After all no ratepayers voted for her. Similar comments can be directed at most of the CCC employees, particularly the roading department employees.

Re the last comment, the roading department have shown that they have no idea what they are doing – chch roads are becoming increasingly congested, humps, bumps, 'calming' obstructions are just the opposite, visitors comment about that when they hire cars, and the central city/town is clogged with buses (another council fiasco for building a bus centre in the centre of a very small city centre) and creating the utterly ludicrous 2way bus venture down a 1way street. No wonder that tourists are amazed and go elsewhere in search of 'adventure'!, does anyone in Tuam ST., realise how the tourists view this nonsense?

Most of the public have indicated very clearly (see Star and Press articles) that they do not want to pay for the upcoming rugby world cup (a minor event by any international standard) yet you want to support it? In like mode the ambition to host another commonwealth games venture. We think you need to (in modern terminology) 'get real'. Ch'ch has neither the infrastructure or financial ability to 1) provide basic services to the ratepayer , nor 2) the capability to fund such an international venture.

Detailed comments.

Page 6

The mayor suggests that Chch is a safe city with superb urban design – so far off the mark in NZ never mind the real world! As for being a safe city very few people would agree – thugs, rapists and prostitutes roam the streets at will with all the accompanying problems. The centre of the city is cluttered with rubbish from fast food outlets and (in the early mornings), vomit, urine etc. and the pavements are covered with discarded chewing gum.

Page 7

Suburban pools may have to close – once again a loss of service and the comment that the suggestion that the regeneration of the botanic gardens will be world class is quite clearly 'cloud cuckoo land'. Similarly 'world class urban planning and water availability' clearly utter nonsense.

Page 9

The most attractive city in NZ? You need to walk about more Moore. Garden city 2nd to none? Where are you living? This is Chch – not Paris.

Page 11

The first time for an audit? (Lesley)

'Escalating costs far beyond the CPI etc' How does she think those costs don't affect the ratepayer who pays her wage?

Page 19

Very patronising – no govt scheme assists ratepayers as far as we can see, and it is patronising to suggest that the increase proposed is 'merely another \$2.11 a week'. There is a real world outside Tuam St!

Page 23

Central Mall development. Why should all ratepayers fund this? Who are the beneficiaries? Why 70% business and 30% householders? We get nothing from central city development.

Page 27

Under economic strength (incorrect spelling in the report) is mentioned Jade stadium, but the council does not own that? So funding that will reduce the 'return to the ratepayer' - please explain.

Page 39

The unemployment rate in Chch and NZ is false. Please get the facts right. The average income is calculated by including salaries such as Judy Bailey's, yours. CDHB Ceo, and Lesley McTurk. The reality is that NZ has one of the lowest wage rates in the OECD and the reportedly lowest unemployment rate (a statistic which is highly debatable since NZ has different measures on unemployment), for example anyone over 55yrs is removed from those unemployed stats. Likewise any beneficiaries, sickness beneficiaries, DPB recipients and so on. This country/City is not progressing.

yours sincerely

Evan and Janis Watson