

Our Community Plan Submission Form

Instructions

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.

You may send us your submission:

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freeport 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 our draft 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 Lillian Glasson

Organisation name (if applicable) _____

Contact Address 49 Dunster St
Burnside

Phone No. (day) 3584977 Phone No. (evening) 3584977

Email (if applicable) _____

Signature [Signature] Date 24-4-06

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Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views

See list of major projects in the summary document

Questions

① Do you have any comments on the major projects in our draft Community Plan? page number **4**

Apply cost-cutting measures to some major projects eg. discretionary projects such as \$10m for visitor centre for Gardens and \$10m for City Mall. ie make savings where there's minimal impact on ratepayers lives. Penny-pinching from community services (eg libraries) has huge impact.

② Do you have any comments on groups of activities (the activities and services that Council provides)? page number **8** and 6-12

My concern is the gap between the rhetoric (of The Plan) and the reality (of the proposals). Cost-cutting proposals to reduce community services (specifically north-west libraries) directly contradict the rhetoric of the proposals eg: provide a broad range of learning opportunities, provide opportunities to meet + socialize, create strong + inclusive communities, increase involvement in lifelong learning, encourage healthy + active lifestyles (limiting access to libraries prohibits walkers and adds to traffic congestion).

③ Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make? page number

Suggestions for other ways to increase funds:

- charge tourists for museum/art gallery (like overseas)
- get tougher on unpaid parking + library fines
- use smaller bus at off-peak times
- cut back firetrucks to ONE display
- curtail spending on festivals/events
- Stop giving away money for short-term projects. eg \$2m for Anglican celebrations + lighting the Cathedral!

You may add more pages if you wish. Thank you for your submission.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| For office use only | |
| Submission #: | <input type="text"/> |
| Referred to: | <input type="text"/> |
| Date referred: | <input type="text"/> |
| Date required: | <input type="text"/> |
| Heard: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Submission from Lillian Glasson re :Summary of Draft of Long Term Plan
(pages : 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12)

Issue : Page 8 Closure of two North-West Libraries, Spreydon and Mobile Library
Action : Keep all libraries off the agenda and secure them for future generations, at any cost and under any circumstance. Libraries are sacrosanct and untouchable!

Reasons Why :

Limiting access to libraries discriminates against the elderly, the disabled, families on limited incomes, people without transport, people who choose to walk or bike, local school children and their teachers. It is against the law to discriminate.

Also, reducing local services will make only paltry savings compared to large-scale spending on major projects. Penny-pinching from local services has a major impact on local ratepayers, whereas cost-cutting applied to multi-million dollar major projects has less impact on ratepayers' lives. Make cost cuts to major projects such as \$10m each for the City Mall and The Gardens' visitor centre and over \$50m for the new central bus terminus.

Issue : The gap between the rhetoric (of The Plan) and the reality (of the proposals). Proposals to reduce community services (ie, the north-west and mobile libraries), directly contradict the rhetoric throughout the plan. Strategic directions such as:

- provide a broad range of learning opportunities
- provide opportunities to meet and socialise
- increase involvement in lifelong learning
- create strong and inclusive communities
- encourage healthy and active lifestyles, are contradicted by the following:

Closing suburban libraries would create barriers to these admirable ideals by excluding the elderly, young, disabled and poorer members of our community. It discourages physical activity and enforces people to drive to other libraries which adds to traffic congestion.

Action : Take proposed closures out of The Plan...and...

I suggest councillors should be pro-active in conforming to their ideals on page 12: Democracy and governance, ie: "find the best ways to inform people and generate feedback, so that the community is involved in decision-making processes."

According to the Plan this would be achieved ...by arranging and providing support for meetings, panels and deputations and petitions. They did meet the first three targets but they failed to organise, promote or allow petitions in the very place where they would have the most impact, ie, libraries. A strange code of silence hung over Bishopdale library. In civilised societies, local and government agencies should not be excluded from the democratic process, regardless of the formal and constitutional processes.

Reasons why this should have been done: The CCC could have consulted BEFORE the draft to save wasted time and money. If they had put their own submission into those libraries as a first step, they would have received instant feedback about ratepayers' wishes to retain their local libraries.

Issue: Withdrawal of the mobile library.

Action: Promote the mobile library service and increase the number of stops. Another solution, find a sponsor for it.

Reasons why: Lack of profit, is not a valid reason to stop the service. Many people, both young and old use it and it has a place in our community.

Issue : The consultation process over the last two months.

In promoting the Long Term Plan, there have been statements such as : "we are confident that the council has the bulk of the plan right...this is not a glossy budget...over the last few months we have *grappled* with costs and services... councillors have *struggled* to keep rates down...this city must not go backwards...this budget is about maintaining services."

Action : Please don't underestimate our ability to recognise persuasive language.

Reasons why I have reacted to these comments:

In my opinion it *is* a glossy budget with the proposed multi-million dollar projects. Council should grapple and struggle over big spending rather than cut local services. Closing libraries is *not* maintaining public services and would certainly be a backward step in a civilised and progressive society.

Issue: Early media statements such as:

"It is fundamental that as we add new services, that we remove old services which the new ones were supposed to replace."

Reason for comment: This information was never released when the Christchurch South Library was proposed, so please don't create excuses to cover up past mistakes.

Action: Hopefully, this statement along with various others will have alerted Christchurch ratepayers to keep a closer watch on future developments across the different wards. The whole process has been a salutary lesson for future elections. It is worth noting that only north-west councillors voted to retain the libraries in their wards whilst councillors in the south and east voted for closure of those libraries out of their wards. Councillors should represent and support the whole city instead of voting in such a divisive manner.

Issue: News release of developments leading up to The Plan:

Action: It has been mainly the local suburban newspapers which have kept us informed of developments and council comments. People who rely solely on the morning newspaper would hardly have known about the libraries' planned closures.

Except for an excellent editorial which raised several issues about the performance of the council, a potential crisis affecting thousands of library users has virtually been ignored. My display panel shows the difference between numbers of news items between local papers and the most widely distributed morning paper. However, other issues directly connected to the council's cost-cutting have been reported (next item).

Future action: Council has a role to ensure that local issues become city-wide news. Reasons why this should be done: Many people read only the main paper and not the local newspapers because they are classified as 'junk mail'. Consequently, they are uninformed.

Other issues related to The Plan and ideas for action:

1. The forecast of \$700m tourist dollars for the city over the next five years will hopefully get the council thinking of simple ways to tax the visitors to help solve the funding problems. As Lincoln University's tourism professor states, "It is vital Christchurch provides for tourist growth without alienating locals." Why should we lose a library to help fund a visitor centre in The Gardens? We are the ratepayers!

2. The CCC faces waiving \$1m in parking and library fines. If the system worked and was rigorously implemented then here is a useful source of funds for the council. Why not just get tougher on all fines? Surely, in this high-tech society, systems can be set up to stop people abusing the system. Is this a case of bad bookkeeping? (a rhetorical question)

3. News of the Mayor's "excellent relationship of trust and respect" with Wuhan, a major knowledge capital of China, serves only to further rankle many citizens here. There is little hope for trust and respect for a council who would even consider closing one library, let alone two, in the same area.

4. The allocation of \$500,000 to the Anglican centennial celebrations has added further insult. This is a similar amount to the revenue to be gained from library closures. This is another example of short-term thinking. When making important decisions councillors would do well to ask the question "Who does this benefit?"

5. News that The Mayor is *likely* to do a U-turn is unconvincing and adds little consolation after all the stress, time and money that's gone into the response process.

Action: The Mayor could take a stand and state his position clearly. His comment that the councillors will still be voting on library closures simply reinforces his refusal to take a stand and be a leader. It also makes a farce of the whole document if council has the final say, by voting, in spite of all the submissions.