

LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 5 May 2006

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.

I am completing this submission:
For yourself

Number of people you represent:

My submission refers to:
Summary Version of the LTCCP

Page Number:
8

I also want to respond to: Aquatic Facilities and **(2)** Development Contributions

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CHRISTCHURCH

Your Submission: **Do you have any comments on the major projects in our Draft Community Plan?**

Last summer, for the first time both my sons'13 and 11 enjoyed meeting their friends at the Edgware Outdoor swimming pool after school. As a single working parent, money and time is a never ending concern when attempting to provide healthy positive activities in a socially appropriate environment for my children. However, when taking my sons'to Edgware Pool for the first time to meet their friends, I immediately noticed the safe, clean, well fenced, grass and tree environment around the pool and was equally pleased to meet and talk with a young and responsible male life saver overseeing the childrens' activities in the pool. After that, during the weeks that followed I was happy for both my son's to bus to the venue while I was still at work, and then pick them up at 5.00pm - both of them refreshed in spirit, relaxed and even better, in a good mood. What was also pleasing to see, were the number of families with differing ages of children, enjoying the outdoors either relaxing by the poolside under the shade of the trees, or playing with their children in a clean clear pool, under the inviting blue sky. Being brought up in the seventies, the huge complexes such as QEII, while suitable for swimming athletes and the like, have never contributed to simple, outdoor, fun and enjoyable family exercise for me, such as it has in an outdoor swimming pool like Edgware Pool. I used to attend the Woolston Swimming pool as a child and yet as a parent, used to drive some distance taking my (then) toddlers to venues such as QEII or Pioneer stadium, believing them to be safer and in the 'most popular' swimming haunt for that time. If anything, it was stressful, particularly during holiday times to find a car space, haul/lug my toddlers' and their belongings a nice kilometre or so to the venue, wait in line with other frazzled parent/s and crying impatient children, then try to find a dressing space, and afterwards, lo and behold - attempt to oversee/overhear my little toddlers amongst the many seafaring bodies either pushing, splashing or yelling under an enclosed, expensive reverberating sounding dome. Last year, I was reminded about the fun I had had in an outdoor pool when a child and how less expensive the simple but beautiful truer things in life really are such as the summer fun at Edgware Pool my sons' friends introduced to them last summer. It is simply disappointing to read that the Christchurch City Council will be closing four suburban pools, such as Edgware and Woolston.

<p>Your Submission (Cont'd):</p>	<p>Again, time and money are issues that single AND two parent families have to deal with today, while trying to work as well as provide a socially healthy focus for our young children and youths outside of their school hours or weekends during holidays. After seeing how much my two son's enjoyed a simple outing with friends at Edgeware Swimming pool for only \$1.00 for 3 to 4 days a week, it will be a great shame (not only for myself, but for other parents who regularly go there) for the community Edgeware, Belfast, Templeton and Woolston to lose a facility that not only promotes healthy exercise, outdoor fun and community networking/get togethers, but is also affordable and accessible for the youth and young families of today. Surely, in the scheme of promoting a healthy city such as Christchurch with its beautiful gardens, landscape and beaches, the local council should be enhancing this natural aspect of our city by supporting and maintaining upkeep for our outdoor facilities and its access for all members in Christchurch, instead of trying to squeeze a majority of our poor young children and youths into huge, enclosed cold facilities such as an indoor pool. From personal experience these huge complexes while usefully, really only serves those who wish to become swimming competitors, and not your average Cantabrian, who undoubtedly during a summer holiday, would prefer to relax by the poolside, and let his/her/their children enjoy swimming within a natural environment with fresh air, views of greenery and sounds able to disappear into the void of a clear blue sky.</p>
<p>Your Submission (2):</p>	<p>Again, our community facilities in Christchurch are brought to bear the brunt of being reduced in an effort to support cost effective, sustainable projects. I disagree wholeheartedly with the closing of any community library within Christchurch. Although I support the keyword for today and its meaning (ie;'sustainable'), I am struggling with the concept of closing down community facilities in which any member in Christchurch can access regardless of age, ethnicity or income in relation to a new "fit-out" for new Civic Offices to the tune of \$4.3 million that really - serves who?....</p>
	<p>Do you have any comments on groups of activities (The activities and services the Council provides?)</p>
<p>Your Submission (2):</p>	<p>I have enjoyed utilising the New Brighton library with my children - free of charge, and a friendly environment to relax in, while living in the community. The availability of free facilities actually reflects back to me how much the Council is endeavouring to support the people and families in Christchurch with maintaining public venues such as libraries and pools. I'm always proud to live in Christchurch when I visit such places.</p>
	<p>Do you have any other comments or suggestions you want to make?</p>
	<p>As a contributing working, single parent of two sons' entering their adolescent phase, I would like to see all outdoor swimming pools made available for the community it serves. Woolston demographically has a higher proportion of lower socio-economic families who would suffer most should the council choose to close down their community swimming pool. Although Edgeware has a lesser proportion of high deprived families, I still believe that accessibility, affordability and appropriate community swimming facilities need to be advertised on a regular basis to increase awareness for these pools. Maintaining the community pools that are outdoor is an essential key to highlighting our garden city ethos - natural, green and family orientated. I am certain that I am not alone in advocating keeping the community outdoor pools open. Today, it is important to ensure that such healthy outdoor facilities are maintained particularly for our young children and youth of today.</p>
<p>Your Submission (2):</p>	<p>Yes, although I have not seen the full report of the strategic plan, I believe the Council needs to refocus on the needs of the people WITHIN the community for any sustainable project to take place (ie: withdraw the \$4.3million 'fit-out' for new civic offices).</p>