



We have listened



We have listened



We have listened

It was a privilege to receive feedback from residents on our draft 2006-16 Long-Term Council Community Plan. In the more than three weeks we spent listening to and deliberating on the excellent range of submissions, we considered all the issues raised.

When you read this document you will see that we have been able to incorporate much of what was raised into our final 2006-16 plan. For example, your feedback reinforced our decision to keep our suburban libraries open, and to continue the mobile library service.

While we made significant changes from the draft to the final plan, we could not meet everyone's wish list at this time.

However, some issues that are not in the plan are still on the agenda for further discussion and investigation. We regard these issues as important. Every matter raised by our residents has been documented, with some already referred back to portfolio or special working groups.

The Garden City

What came through very strongly in the submissions was the love Christchurch residents have for their parks and gardens. As a city we're rightfully proud of our Garden City and the Council has provided \$500,000 a year over the next three years to enhance this.

One of the major projects in the years ahead is the work that will be undertaken following the release of our Hagley Park-Botanic Gardens draft masterplan. This should be out for consultation later this year and, given the interest already, we're expecting a passionate response from residents to our consultation. We've allocated funds for a new visitors' centre and operational facilities. We want this to be ready in time for the 150th anniversary of the Botanic Gardens in 2013.

Many of the city's trees are aged and to ensure that Christchurch retains its environmental heritage, we have planned an extensive tree renewal programme over the next 10 years. A suggestion was to instigate a sponsorship programme for new trees and we're looking into this.

Water

As councillors we want to make a strong statement in this Community Plan about the value we place on our water resources. The high quality of water that Christchurch residents enjoy is non-negotiable. Some of the submissions raised the possibility of charging for this resource which is often taken for granted.

Water is such a valuable resource in Canterbury – and so much of this high-quality product is wasted. We want to look at the possibility of reusing water, such as grey water (from roads and gutters) and waste water. There is no need to use our superb drinking-quality water for the likes of irrigation and industrial cooling.

We're committed to enhancing our streams, rivers, Lake Forsyth, our unique estuary and other waterways. The Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust identified a number of excellent projects to restore and beautify the estuary, the environment of which will be enhanced greatly when treated waste water is moved to our Ocean Outfall discharge in 2009. The Council has a long-term commitment to the future management of the Styx River catchment through its Styx River Vision.

Sports and Recreation

The large response we received from sports organisations to the draft plan indicates the strong role the Council plays in providing facilities for and fostering sport and recreation.

We recognise the passion among some of our water and multisport enthusiasts for a new flat-water facility. However, funds have not been set aside in this plan for such a facility at Lake Isaac. Given its proximity to Christchurch International Airport, the location is not appropriate and we urge those wanting this sporting facility to investigate other possible sites.

The Council has delivered a plan for providing aquatic facilities over the next 30 years after consultation with the public. Given the interest in this consultation, it's appropriate to insert the summarised changes in the table below. The Aquatic Facilities Plan is available at Council offices, on the Council's website, or by post upon request by phoning 941 8999.



Changes planned for assets

Level of Service for Aquatic Facilities				
North-west	Major Actions	Major Actions/ Timing	Closures	Date
North-west	Complete the Jellie Park redevelopment	2005/6 to 2007/8	Sockburn Pool and Recreation Centre	2006
North	Negotiate a land deal and support Papanui partnership (with Papanui High School and Northlands Mall) for an aquatic facility and school gym at Papanui High.	2006/7 to 2008/9	Papanui Pool Belfast Pool Edgeware Pool	2006 2009 2006
South	Add a children's shallow pool to the existing Pioneer Facility	2008/9 to 2009/10		
West	Develop new facility in the Hornby or Halswell area	2015/16 to 2017/18		
East	Develop new area facility in Linwood or Woolston areas, or retention of aquagym	2017/18 to 2019/2020		

Note:

- The Templeton Pool will be reviewed in 2011
- Woolston Pool will continue to operate as a schools-only pool

Council will continue a review of all its sporting facilities which includes the possibility of relocating netball from Hagley Park, using the Hagley Netball Courts in summer for tennis (a growth sport in Canterbury), and upgrading Cowles Stadium for multiple sports use.

QEII is one facility that has benefited from a large Council investment in recent years. It was the official home of the 1974 Commonwealth Games, is an international standard sport and recreation facility and a hub for the local community.

Traffic and Public Transport

Traffic congestion is a problem in cities around the world and is already being experienced in Auckland. We're planning now to avoid similar problems in the future. Feedback from the public to the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy is also shaping our thinking about the region's future development, which includes transport issues.

Rising fuel prices is another reason why the use of public transport is expected to increase. We're working with Environment Canterbury on the issues raised around the buses, including routes and dedicated bus lanes. We have set aside funding for a new bus exchange, given that the present exchange has reached capacity.

New projects associated with the Southern Motorway are not in this plan and details will be known for the 2009/19 plan.

Schools have given a clear signal that they favour 40 km/h speed restrictions outside their gates as a safety precaution. The Council wants to meet all needs and is seeking a report back from staff on cheaper options for setting up these safety zones.

Christchurch has many icons and one is the ChristChurch Cathedral. The Cathedral Foundation applied for funding and we are considering whether the application for a grant can be considered outside the long-term community plan process. The city makes great use of the cathedral, both as a building and as the centrepiece of the city's logo and image. We are also looking at a relationship with the cathedral that acknowledges this contribution to our civic life.

Banks Peninsula

One of the exciting aspects of this document is that for the first time Banks Peninsula is now part of the wider Christchurch City Council. Its inclusion brings a new perspective to our plan for the next 10 years. Christchurch City is now a good mix of urban and rural communities whose residents have the benefit of a stunning natural environment area.

We've given the green light to such projects as the Lyttelton Marina, the Akaroa Water Upgrade, Lyttelton Harbour Basin Effluent Disposal, the Lyttelton Inner Harbour Road and an alternative access road to the Lyttelton Port. We'll also be reviewing the state of the jetties on Banks Peninsula and have recognised the need for a new landing at the Akaroa Wharf.

We have listened



We have also reinstated the funding for the Akaroa Museum storage facility to the 2008/09 year – about half of the \$500,000 required is expected to come from external funding sources. The Council will also support the Lyttelton Harbour Basin Green Waste Programme to the tune of \$5000 a year for waste minimisation. And from a cultural perspective, we're looking to include the Akaroa French Festival and Banks Peninsula's Agricultural and Pastoral shows into our festivals strategy.

We have a wonderful community in Christchurch, in part due to the contribution of voluntary groups in the city whose supporters help so much in enabling us to achieve our Community Outcomes. Their efforts show we are a compassionate city, committed to our older people and our youth and families. We have strong and growing links with our migrant communities and welcome their contributions to the city's vibrancy and cultural diversity.

Consultation with Maori

The Council enjoys a strong working relationship with local Maori and continues to work at developing processes to provide for Maori to contribute to its decision-making processes. A review is being undertaken in consultation with Maori to ensure that the new arrangements will meet the best interests of all parties.

We want residents in all parts of the city to have access to our learning facilities and all councillors have recognised the merit of the proposed Aranui Learning Centre. We will support the Burwood Pegasus Community Board in its application to the Government for funding. While the proposed centre is not in our capital works programme, it will be included in the Libraries 2025 Plan.

Christchurch has some exciting things happening in the future, including the 2011 Rugby World Cup. We have started planning for this already.

The Council values the role you've all played in putting this plan together. We consulted with you and you told us clearly the sort of city you want. We are committed to ensuring that our city continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

The Christchurch City Council:

Garry Moore, Carole Evans, Helen Broughton, Sally Buck, Graham Condon, Barry Corbett, David Cox, Anna Crighton, Pat Harrow, Bob Parker, Bob Shearing, Gail Sheriff, Sue Wells and Norm Withers

