

**Submission From:**

Englefield Residents Association Inc.  
P.O.Box 13486  
Christchurch

**To:**

Christchurch City Council

**Re:** Draft Annual Plan 2007/08

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the democratic process with the C.C.C.

Our comments are as follows:

**1. Page 26 City Development**

We are heartened to see there is a budget for Heritage of the City. However more needs to be done to encourage and assist private owners to retain the unique combination of architecture and gardens that make this city so special that it got the award a few years ago for best Garden City in the World.

Unfortunately as we speak we are losing our beautiful houses and gardens which will ultimately result in a very different looking Christchurch if we do not act now.

It is within your power to design rules, regulations and incentives to stop the losses of heritage and gardens of this city.

The City should be developed but not at the cost of the losses of Heritage. We believe Heritage and Beauty are assets to be retained that will continue to impress the largest industry in this city being the tourism industry. Christchurch has a reputation for beauty and character. We do not want to build a city of concrete cubby holes that looks like any other city.

**We have a point of difference that needs to be retained which we believe will be good for City Development in the future.**

## **2. Page 29 Democracy and Governance**

In our submission to the Long Term Community Plan 2006 - 16

We submitted the **Out of Court Agreement** and paper trail that the Englefield Resident's Association have with City Streets. Mayor Gary Moore requested a copy of this agreement which we duly submitted to him. We have not heard back from him on this matter.

**We request an update of the status of this agreement which is relevant to expenditure in this field.**

## **3. Page 30 Economic Development**

It is encouraging to see that the C.C.C. is very aware of the importance and value of the Tourism Industry. Again we wish to emphasise the value of preserving the heritage and garden city image of this city. In particular we wish to draw your attention to our neck of the woods - The Historic Englefield Area for which we are passionate to save intact as much as possible the little worker cottages and narrow streets as well as some of the larger villas from almost every period from the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century by the river.

We already have garden tours that are fully booked and coming in on the buses to our area as well as many walking tours. It is just perfectly accessible.

We also need to make more of our river - the Jewel in the Crown.

## **4. Streets and Transport**

Bringing us to our next point which is to take traffic away from the river at Avonside Drive. The original intention of Avonside Drive is for access to the river, not as a motorway past the river.

We have concerns that there is not a comprehensive traffic plan and that a lot of the work is piecemeal without comprehension of future impact eg closure of Worcester Street at Latimer Square contributing to the gridlock everyone is complaining about increasing pollution and cost to the motorist going against City Plan Rules.

Now there is a plan to open Cashel Street contributing to the disruption to business. Some businesses will never recover or come back.

**We recommend more consultation on the design of business and traffic access to and from the city. This is a complex issue and vitally important to the future viability and survival of the City centre. It is easy to waste money here.**

## **5. Financial Policies - Rate Setting and rating policies.**

We draw your attention to consideration for the poor who are on fixed incomes and are unable to sustain any increases.

We recommend the CCC look at cutting back in other areas  
Eg Stop getting into so much litigation with the people and be prepared to use more mediation for the complex problems of the CCC would save a lot of money.  
The bureaucracy and red tape will end up strangling your system if you don't make some strategic cuts.

Yours faithfully

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