

5. CORRESPONDENCE

SHORTLAND STREET RESERVE

The following letter was received from Paula Evans regarding the land swap arrangement involving Shortland Street Reserve:

"I am a resident that backs onto the Shortland Street Reserve. I very strongly oppose the land swap deal that the Christchurch City Council currently has under development.

The reasons for this are many, the main reason being that we have lived in this house for 16 years and it has always been empty land behind us. We have no guarantees that there will be no two-storey houses built right behind us. We also have a gate on our back fence that goes into the reserve, so my children can go through to play in there.

In 1998 there was a land developer ready to subdivide the land and resource consent was sent out to residents. Many of the residents in the Shortland Street area agreed with the plan and gave their consent. That plan was great, the houses were to be built on the Timber Company site, and extra land was donated to extend the Reserve.

I find it absolutely abhorrent that the Council's current plan is to build the park for our children on the most contaminated site. They are quite happy to let children play there, but no houses can go there.

If this new plan goes ahead I will have a back gate into someone's property and will also have to take my children half way around the block to play in the park. I will also have to stay there to watch them, when at the moment I can stay on my own property and can hear the children at all times.

I am very keen to put a stop to this proposed land swap before it gets to resource consent stage, as I feel that when it is that far gone our opinions will not mean a thing.

Many of my neighbours are not very happy with houses possibly being built in the reserve behind us.

Another thing that really bothers me is that the Council is paying \$500,000 to have the contaminated land removed. As a ratepayer I am not happy that my rates could be going towards a land deal that will benefit us in no way whatsoever.

I realise that it is partly the Council's responsibility, because they would have given consent for the timber company to process timber there, but some responsibility has to fall back on to the descendants of Reg Murchison as they will be making an awful lot of money on the sale of the sections.

I question what this development will do to the land value of our houses as I and my neighbours specifically purchased our properties, knowing there was a reserve protected by the laws of the land, never knowing that 16 years down the track the Council would decide to build houses there."

The following letter was received from Shannon Evans (aged 11) regarding the land swap arrangement involving Shortland Street Reserve:

"I disagree with the swap of land in Shortland Street. They say that the Reserve does not get used, well that is a load of rubbish. My friends and I use that reserve a lot. Also, if the land swap goes through my family will have a gate right into somebody's yard. So instead of land swapping maybe you could build a park for us young ones. It needs a lot of work done. If you decide on a park, could you please put a skateboard park in there (because we all like skateboarding) or maybe some cricket nets. I would rather have a gate out to a park, not into someone's house.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter."

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Board request a report updating it on the Shortland Street development and what consultation has been undertaken in the community, particularly with the neighbours.