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Macfarlane Park Neighbourhood
Centre
17 Acheson Ave
Shirley
Christchurch 8013,

26 March 2009,

TO the Christchurch City Council.

I am writing with regard to some changes that I would like to see in the Shirley area.

I work as a community worker in the Shirley area for the Shirley Community Trust. Most of my work is based around Macfarlane Park (the part that is bordered by Emmett Street, Skipton Street, Acheson Ave).

The park and surrounding area of shops is not entirely safe for people. Especially children to use for the following reasons:

- Buried broken glass in the playground (banked area) and also in the park itself.
- This part of the park is for

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the most part not visual from the road. which for people in the park by themselves is not always the best or safest idea.

Before I tend to run an activity in the park I usually walk round, and check that the area is safe to run my activities in. This can be a pain when there is a lot to do. But it is necessary to ensure safety for the children or people involved.

Another concern is the back of the end shop especially and its surrounding outside area. This shop is located on the corner of Emmett St and Acteson Ave. It is unused and unoccupied, but it keeps getting broken into. The grass area outside this building is long and unkempt. The land area is getting used as a dumping ground for all sorts of rubbish etc. To me it is just a matter of time before somebody gets hurt.

Another need in the local community is for a large multi purpose room for use

by the community. This could be used for community youth to have an evening in for community related meetings and so on. Also as a venue to hold events if the weather is not the best.

As part of my work I had a group of young mums with preschoolers share their concerns with me.

These are as follows:

- remove bark from playground and replace it with a soft mat. (As glass, needles and so on get buried in the bark)
- dog owners to control their dogs and have them on a leash.
- concerned with drinking fountains - as to if it is hygienic.
- Public toilets - safety factor, they look dirty and the graffiti is not attractive.
- Shop block - sometimes undesirable types hang around in groups for some it is the state of the buildings.

Thanks for all you have done for the Shirley area. But as was stated in the Shirley Charter. We recognise that if we do nothing, nothing

