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# CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

## Draft LTCCP 2009-19

**- Received via Web**

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

**I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.**

**Are you completing this submission:**

On behalf of a group or organisation

**If you are representing, how many people do you represent?**

**Name:**

Stephen L Taylor

**Organisation Name:**

Tramway Historical Society Incorporated

**Organisation Role:**

Preservation and restorer of urban public transport and history, and operates Ferrymead Tramway.

**Contact Address:**

PO Box 1126  
Christchurch

**Postcode:**

8140

**Daytime Phone:**

027 4368510

**Evening Phone:**

027 4368510

**Email:**

treasurer@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

**Email Address for copy of submission:**

treasurer@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

**Date:**

15 April 2009

**Your Submission:**

INTRODUCTION

The Tramway Historical Society Inc thanks the Christchurch City Council for this opportunity to make submissions on the Council's Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009-19.

THIS SUBMISSION

a) The purpose of this submission is to commend the Council's stated intention (page 175 in Volume 1 of the Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 under the heading Community Grants) that the Council provides funding to community groups for projects that benefit wider Christchurch or local communities and to urge the Council to continue its commitment to this intention.

On page 180 of the Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan under the heading Community Grants the Council states its intention to operate Community Grants schemes that contribute to achieving various goals, "as well as heritage and environment outcomes" and that these "are accessible to community groups of all sizes."

The stated measures by which the Council would know its strategies were successful were that:

"Grants schemes are properly administered. (Council does not have the necessary resources to meet the needs and expectations of all not-for-profit and voluntary groups. Therefore, it focuses assistance towards those key

activities and initiatives that contribute to and align with the community outcomes in the Long-Term Council and Community Plan (LTCCP) and with other Council strategies.)"

b) The Society understands that funding resources may not meet the needs and expectations of all not-for-profit and voluntary groups, as stated in the LTCCP, and accepts this constraint upon funding.

However, in the recent past the Society has been penalised in its quest for Council funding by a change in the Council's guidelines for community funding. The Society, which has a track record of 48 years' commitment to heritage activities, particularly in the field of the conservation of tramway heritage, was particularly disappointed that a recent funding application had been declined, not, it seems, for reasons of lack of funding, but because the guidelines for funding eligibility had changed under the "Strengthening Communities Grants" Scheme in the 2008/2009 funding round.

c) The Society would urge upon the Council a reinstatement of funding provision for heritage and for capital projects as foreshadowed in the Draft LTCCP.

d) It appears that the Council's funding criteria had changed with the introduction of the new "Strengthening Communities Grants" in that capital projects were no longer funded nor, it would seem, were capital elements of heritage projects. It is understood that this policy has been slightly re-worded for the 2009/2010 year and that some aspects of capital funding of heritage projects may again be eligible for funding.

The Council has been very generously providing towards a number of the Society's project in the past and it was a great disappointment to the Society to discover that its heritage activities no longer qualified for Council support. In the past, Council support has been provided towards the cost of materials for use in the restoration of Double Decker Electric Tramcar No. 26 of 1905 and the former Ferry Road Lift Bridge, now under reconstruction over Munnings Drain at Ferrymead, dating from 1907. Both items are of considerable historical significance and were colourful features of Edwardian Christchurch.

e) Media speculation (The Star Friday 6 March 2009) has suggested that "Community organisations face savage cuts in funding..." and that "the Council proposed to cut grants towards strengthening communities' activities, heritage and event funding..."

The Society submits that Council funding for community and heritage projects is important and should be continued. It is the community as a whole which benefits from such funding.

#### WHY SHOULD THE COUNCIL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE FUNDING?

a) The Council has an obligation under recent Resource Management Act Amendments to help protect the city's heritage.

b) To a considerable extent tourists are attracted to visit Christchurch because of its iconic tourist attractions and some of the most significant of these are supported by the Council, such as the Botanic Gardens, the Canterbury Museum and the proposed City Tramway extension. Tourism statistics suggest that tourists are increasingly seeking genuine heritage and to see this done well as part of their holiday experience.

c) There are a number of community organisations which are committed to the protection of the city's heritage image. The Tramway Historical Society is but one of these. As the recession in the commercial world continues and commercial sponsorship becomes more difficult to find, the Council's support becomes even more important to provide encouragement and a motivating incentive to community organisations, and especially to those who commit

their efforts to conserving the city's history, without seeking any gain for themselves, except that of knowing that a worthwhile job is being done.

d) Although it is acknowledged that the Council is already doing an excellent job in protecting the heritage of the city, the Council cannot do it all and community involvement is also important â?" and the Council's support for the community organisations that commit themselves to heritage projects. Thus the Council's funding is important to help heritage organisations to achieve their objectives and in providing encouragement and motivation â?" indeed a form of de facto community recognition â?" in what is often a daunting and discouraging task.

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CONSERVATION?

We can do no better than to quote the Council's own Heritage Information brochure No. 3 entitled "Heritage Conservation Principles":

"The purpose of conservation is to:

- Appreciate lasting values in their own right
- Teach us about the past
- Reinforce community identity
- Provide visible evidence of continuity between the past, present and future."

It is for these reasons that the Society would urge the Council to continue to make provision for funding for heritage projects.

#### CONCLUSION

The Society seeks the continuation of Council funding for community groups and, in particular, funding for heritage and conservation oriented projects requiring an element of capital funding.

The Society thanks the Council most sincerely for its attention to this submission and for the opportunity to convey the Society's concerns to the Council.

For the Tramway Historical Society Inc

Stephen L Taylor  
Treasurer  
15 April 2009

#### DRAFT LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-19

The Tramway Historical Society Inc thanks the Christchurch City Council for this opportunity to make submissions on the Council's Draft Long-Term Council Community Plan 2009-19.

The purpose of this submission is to support the extension of the City Tramway as documented in the LTCCP. In addition, the Society would like to see the continued use of New Zealand heritage tramway vehicles on the City Tramway.

To a considerable extent tourists are attracted to visit Christchurch because of its iconic tourist attractions - and some of the most significant of these are supported by the Council, such as the Botanic Gardens, the Canterbury Museum and the City Tramway.

The Society feels that the extension to the City Tramway will expand the areas of the city visited by tourists to areas south of Cathedral Square, and thus increase the attraction of this visitor experience as a must-do activity within the city.

	<p>In addition, the extension of the City Tramway will also make the City Tramway more popular with Citizens of Christchurch itself as a practical mechanism to move people around the central city rather than just as a tourist attraction. Currently statistics show that the Tramway is not heavily used by Christchurch Citizens. With the new route offering more coverage of the central city there should be growth in local use as well as by visitors.</p>
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