

**FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION
ON THE
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (LTCCP) 2009-19**

The Board appreciates the opportunity to present a submission to the Council's draft LTCCP for 2009-19 and wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

1. Introduction

The Board commends the Council and in particular the Council staff for the huge amount of work that has gone into the preparation of the draft document and the long term budgets. The Board is cognisant of the difficult economic climate and the greater need than usual to keep expenditure under control and to present to the community a sustainable and reasonable financial programme over the next 10 years.

This submission raises a number of items and projects for Council consideration but the Board is aware that the Council could only achieve them all through increased expenditure or increasing rates, which is not necessarily the Board's wish. However, the Board in its role as an advocate for its community is compelled to raise the items below in order to at least engage the Council in discussion about them and with perhaps an eye to the future.

2. Capital Programme

The Board wishes to highlight the following items with respect to the capital programme specifically as it relates to the Fendalton/Waimairi ward.

2.1 Footpath around Burnside Park – the Board would like to see the inclusion of funding for a footpath around Burnside Park. The Board notes that the draft Management Plan for Burnside Park will be consulted on in May/June 2009 and the Board will advocate for the path through that process as well. However, it is important that funding is set aside for this purpose at this stage of the long term planning.

2.2 Nunweek Park Footpath – in 2008 the Board received a request from local residents for a footpath across Nunweek Park to allow all-weather pedestrian access across the park, in particular for a walking school bus

operating in the area. The Board acknowledges that this may not be a funding priority but wishes to put it forward for consideration, with a view to receiving funding in future years.

2.3 Harewood/Breens/Gardiners Intersection Safety Improvements – the Board supports the inclusion of funding for this important safety project. (This project is currently in the unfunded list.)

2.4 Harewood/Gardiners/Sawyers Arms Intersection Safety Improvements – the Board supports the inclusion of this important safety project. This project is shared with the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and there has been preliminary discussions on this matter at a joint seminar.

2.5 Makora Street – Kerb & Channel Renewal – the Board supports the inclusion of Makora Street in the renewal programme for the 2010/11 year.

2.6 Otara Street (North of Memorial Ave) - Kerb & Channel Renewal – the Board wishes to put this street forward for funding in future renewal programmes. The Board has been advised that this is currently outside the existing priorities for renewals but it is due for upgrading when funding permits.

3. Undergrounding of Overhead Services

The Board notes with disappointment that funding for undergrounding has been removed. The Board has for a long time advocated for undergrounding of local streets and would again suggest that the Council consider the option of slowing the renewal programme to better accommodate the total upgrading of affected streets. Given the asset lifecycle of street assets, up to 80 years, it makes sense for the Council to do a proper and complete job when moving through its renewal programme. The Board submits that there are a number of advantages in taking this city-wide approach. These are:

- reduced long-term construction costs as all work would be done at the one time;

- improved safety for the public as visibility would be improved through the removal of poles and there would be more useable space on roads and footpaths;
- enhanced environmental and visual amenity and streetscapes in suburbs would be consistent throughout the city, thereby supporting the Garden City image;
- reduced maintenance requirements on the services assets owners; and
- cost savings in maintenance to the city's street tree asset in that less pruning work around wires would be required and there would be less risk of inadvertent permanent damage to trees through inappropriate pruning work.

There would be no extra funds expected from the ratepayers to fund this option, simply stretching out the upgrade programme. The Board would also invite the Council to consider encouraging a more proactive approach from its relevant companies on this issue.

4. Bishopdale Shopping Centre and Bishopdale Community Centre

The Board eagerly awaits the outcome of the Community Facilities Review and the Board expresses its continued support for the Bishopdale Community Centre, noting that it is very well patronised. The Board would like to see necessary improvements to the building carried out or alternatively a new venue be found for the Community Centre and library. The Board notes that a possible site is available close by, being the old New World Supermarket building and the Board requests that Council staff give this some consideration.

With regard to the Council's wider ownership interests in relation to the pedestrian areas and carparks at the Bishopdale Shopping Centre, the Board is aware that a previous Council did undertake to carry out a strategic review of its involvement in the Bishopdale Shopping Centre. This has still to occur and the Board would ask that this be undertaken so that the Board can have input into what opportunities there are for future developments. The Board recently conducted a site visit of the Bishopdale shopping centre area and discussed issues of concern with representatives of the Business Association. There are a number of areas of concern and some improvements that can be made to

improve safety and the functionality of the centre. This work is currently not funded in the draft LTCCP.

5. Local Projects/Improvements

The Board would like to discuss the following local projects/improvements that it contends are important to the Fendalton/Waimairi community and worthy of consideration in developing the Council's work programme for the next 10 years.

5.1 Memorial Avenue Landscape Enhancement

The Board has for some years pursued landscape enhancement of Memorial Avenue, from the airport to Fendalton Road. The Board views this as a very important gateway to the city and over the years there has been considerable commitment of time and resources by past and present Board members, as well as Council staff, into finding the best way to beautify this area. Although this is promoted as a local project, the benefits would be city-wide.

In 2003 the Board actively promoted this project through a working group, seminars and joint meetings with Council committees and a staff report is quoted as identifying Memorial Avenue landscape enhancement and a cohesive design as one particular way of enhancing "the very important gateway function the avenue has for visitors going to and from the airport. It is a road that gives visitors their first and last impression of 'The Garden City'."

The Board is disappointed that this project remains incomplete. Recently Fendalton Road landscaping from Clyde Road to the railway line has been upgraded with City Care doing a fantastic job of this part of the 'gateway'. However, this serves as a reminder to the Board that Memorial Avenue is in need and is worthy of similar attention.

The Board requests that the Council give consideration to providing funding to this important project.

5.2 Right or Left Turn Arrows

The Board wishes to advocate for the installation of left or right turn arrows at a number of key intersections in the Fendalton/Waimairi ward.

These are:

- Left-turn into St Albans St, for cars travelling southbound on Papanui Road
- Right-turn into Bealey Ave, for cars travelling southbound on Papanui Road
- Right-turn into Straven Road/Idris Road from Fendalton Road (both directions)
- Right-turn into Greers Road, cars travelling both ways along Memorial Ave
- Right-turn into Grahams Road, for cars travelling both ways along Memorial Ave.

5.3 Notable or Heritage Trees

The Board wishes to see funding allocated to the City Plan programme to achieve the inclusion of notable and heritage trees for protection in the City Plan. The Fendalton/Waimairi Board has previously commissioned work preparing a list of trees in the area that may be worthy of protection and advocates for this to happen city-wide.

5.4 Signalised Controls Outside Westburn and Bishopdale Schools

Over several years both the Westburn and Bishopdale School communities have raised concerns about the safety implications for their students crossing busy arterial roads. In 2007/08 the Board funded a study into the feasibility of installing a signalised pedestrian crossing facility outside each of the schools. The results of the study were reported to the Board in June 2008 and the Board recommended that Council resolve:

- (a) "That funding be increased to upgrade school crossing facilities in the 2009–19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)
- (b) That the signalised crossing for Bishopdale and Westburn Schools, as recommended in the ViaStrada report prepared for the Board, be included in the LTCCP to be implemented as quickly as possible, with first priority being given to Westburn Primary School and second priority to Bishopdale Primary School."

At the Council Meeting on 14 August 2008 the Council resolved:

- (a) "That funding be considered to upgrade school crossing facilities citywide in the 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).
- (b) That the signalised crossings for Bishopdale and Westburn Schools, as recommended in the ViaStrada report prepared for the Board be considered in the LTCCP to be implemented as quickly as possible, with first priority given to Westburn Primary School and second priority to Bishopdale Primary School."

This item has not been included in the draft LTCCP and the Board therefore requests:

- (a) That funding be considered to upgrade school crossing facilities citywide in the 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).**
- (b) That the signalised crossings for Bishopdale and Westburn Schools, as recommended in the ViaStrada report prepared for the Board be included in the LTCCP to be implemented as quickly as possible, with first priority given to Westburn Primary School and second priority to Bishopdale Primary School.**

6. Cleanliness of Streets/Litter

The Board would like to reiterate its concerns made in previous submissions about the lowering of standards in respect to the cleanliness of city streets and open space areas. Targeted initiatives for the central city, for example the innovative basketball hoop initiative developed by Jamie Gough, along with anti-litter education programmes are endorsed and encouraged. However the Board submits that more attention needs to be given to suburban locations to ensure that the community's expectations over the cleanliness of streets and litter collection measures are realised. The Board seeks to encourage the promotion of Christchurch as a garden city and this is a key contributor.

7. Heritage Buildings

The Board reiterates its 2006-16 LTCCP submission and supports any measures being taken by the Council to ensure that a workable planning approach together with appropriate levels of funding assistance are available to safeguard the retention of heritage buildings. Partnerships with external agencies and business interests aimed at preserving historical aspects of the city's built environment are endorsed.

8. Early Learning Centres

The Board supports the Council's proposal to sell its Council-owned early learning centres.

9. Cultural Services/Ethnic Diversity

The Board notes with pride the ethnically diverse population in its ward and encourages the Council to support initiatives and events that promote an acknowledgement and a celebration of this diversity. The Board advocates for efforts to be focused also on integrating the many diverse cultures into the mainstream, if desired by those communities.

10. Orana Wildlife Park

The Board continues to support this facility as a significant educational and leisure asset to the city, as well as a major tourist attraction. The park is unique in that it is not a Council owned facility like the Wellington and Auckland Zoos but it relies upon the continued support of the Council.

11. Safer Christchurch

The Board commends the Council for its leadership in the area of safety in the city. The Board supports the Council funding for the city safety officers and suggests that the officers be made more visible to increase their effectiveness. The Board supports the use of alcohol bans and security cameras to address security and safety issues where appropriate.

12. Jellie Park

The Board congratulates the Council on the recent upgrade of Jellie Park. However, further work is still required to allow this superb recreation asset to reach its full potential. The Board supports current funding levels in the draft LTCCP and in particular advocates for outdoor pool improvements, including a toddlers pool, and other possible improvements, for example an additional spa pool.

13. Rates/UAGC

The Board commends the Council for keeping rates at a sustainable level for the next 10 years, in the draft plan. The Board is pleased to see rates increases of no more than about 4% per year for this period.

The Board continues to support the use of the Uniform Annual General Charge and suggests that it could be increased from its current level of \$115.

14. User Charges

The Board recommends that the Council gives consideration to investigating user charges for facilities like the museum, art gallery and botanic gardens.

15. Community Funding

The Board strongly opposes any cuts to the level of community grants funding at the local level, including the Strengthening Communities Funds, Small Grants Funds and the Boards' Discretionary Response Funds.

16. Role of Community Boards

The Board believes in the crucial role that community boards play across the city in Christchurch. The Board advocates for the Council to give its boards more delegation, responsibility and resourcing which enhances local democracy and allows the Council to focus more on bigger picture and strategic matters. This would create a more effective and efficient Council organisation and provide greater opportunities for residents to participate in decision making that affects their daily lives.

The Board thanks the Council for giving its careful consideration to the matters raised in this submission.



Val Carter
Chairperson
14 April 2009