

SUBMISSION to CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL LTCCP 2009-19

From

CANTERBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT INC.

P.O. Box 2109  
Christchurch

Level 2 NZ I House  
96 Hereford Street  
Christchurch

Contact:	Mr. Mike Mora	Mr. Pat Creasey
	Chair	Co-ordinator
	Phone: 980 9438	Phone: 378 0437
	Email canterburyns@paradise.net.nz	

Canterbury Neighbourhood Support Inc. (CNS) appreciates this opportunity to make a submission to the Long Term Council and Community Plan. CNS wishes to speak at the hearing of the submissions.

CNS supports the Community outcomes and believes that through its programmes it is able to work towards and is also able to assist the community and Council in attaining the identified outcomes.

Included in the key issues that the Council has identified are Urban Growth and central city revitalization, population changes, the provision of community facilities and city infrastructure. Significant priority has been given to improving transport networks and the construction of new facilities to meet the needs of the changing population within Christchurch. However CNS strongly believes that alongside these initiatives it should also be acknowledged that the creation of successful neighbourhoods does not simply come about by the provision of good facilities. Neighbourhoods where the residents know one another, regularly keep in touch and support one another – the concept promoted by neighbourhood support – are generally strong communities where residents feel that they belong and have “ownership” of their neighbourhood. Residents who feel that they truly belong to their local neighbourhood are more likely to take an interest and participate in decisions that affect their community and the City.

CNS believes that it is essential that the Council include provision for funding to continue to assist communities to get to know their neighbours and thereby build strong communities. CNS provides neighbours with the opportunity and the ability to work together to help reduce the incidence of crime in their neighbourhood, to become aware of the strengths and weaknesses in their neighbourhood and thereby be better prepared and self-reliant in the event of a civil defence emergency or pandemic.

CNS believes that it is able to make a significant contribution to the following Community Outcomes

### A Safe City

The aims of Canterbury Neighbourhood Support include

- Creating safer and more caring communities through the establishment of neighbourhood support groups;
- Reducing the incidence and effect of criminal offending
- Strengthening community networks
- Improving the quality of life

By working with our partners New Zealand Police, New Zealand Fire Service and Civil Defence CNS ensure that members of neighbourhood support groups are well informed and are able to contribute to making a city that is safer for all.

### A City of inclusive and diverse communities

CNS aims include:

- Respecting people of all cultures in New Zealand and encouraging their involvement in neighbourhood support groups.

Encouraging people to know their neighbours and to be inclusive of all families in their neighbourhood assists in building communities where people know each other

### A City of people who value and protect the natural environment

Where people feel that they are involved and part of the community they are more likely to take an interest and value their environment

### A well-governed city

Neighbourhood Support Groups provide the vehicle for neighbours to come together to discuss issues affecting their community.

### A healthy city

Every three months all Neighbourhood Support Groups within the City are mailed 2 copies of the Eye on Communities magazine. This magazine contains a number of articles that provide relevant information about pandemic and civil defence planning for individual households, plus tips on keeping our homes, our families and ourselves safe.

### A city for recreation, fun and creativity

Neighbourhood Support Groups are encouraged to meet regularly whether it is for a social occasion such as Neighbourhood Week, a trip to the movies or a walk in the local park. The provision of funding by the City Council for Neighbourhood Week activities is particularly well supported and accepted within the community.

### A City of Life Long Learning

Through the publication and distribution of various programmes and publications CNS ensures that members of neighbourhood support groups are well informed and up to date with the latest information on personal safety, civil defence and pandemic planning for the City.

These include

- EWatch – information on burglary and car crime that is distributed on a weekly basis to members of neighbourhood support group by email
- Fact Sheets – there are over 50 fact sheets that provide information on topics which include how to deal with
  - Family Violence
  - EFTPOS, credit card and cheque fraud
  - Reducing the opportunities for burglary
  - Identity theft
  - Protecting your vehicle
  - Elder abuse
  - Domestic Violence
- Eye on Communities, the Official magazine for Neighbourhood Support, distributed 3 times per year to all groups
- Participation in Home and Personal Safety Seminars for Older Persons that are organised by Age Concern Canterbury.
- Junior Neighbourhood Support is a programme currently being offered in 9 primary schools throughout Christchurch. The aim of this programme is “to promote a sense of pride, safety and community spirit in children and their wider school community”. Children are encouraged to recognise these achievements in their peers by submitting a nomination form in which they must outline how they feel the nominee has contributed responsibly to their community. To qualify to receive a nomination children must have achieved one of the award criteria that include
  - Carrying out an act of community safety
  - An act of community spirit and pride and/or
  - An act of assistance rendered.
 The award guidelines for the school community include
  - Safe play
  - Fair play
  - Bike safety
  - Respect and support to staff and fellow students
  - Preventing/stopping/reporting bullying
  - Pride in the school grounds.
 The guideline for the home include
  - Fire awareness and safety
  - Earthquake safety
  - Preparation of survival items.
 The community guidelines include the reporting of
  - Graffiti
  - Damage to school or local bus stops
  - Showing pride/ownership of local bus stops and community facilities
  - Voluntary work within the community.

The successful nominees are recognised by receiving a certificate and bag of “treats” at their school assembly. Each nominee is then entered into the draw for the Junior Neighbourhood Support Achiever of the Year.

An attractive and well-designed city.

Residents who belong to a neighbourhood support group feel that they have “ownership” of the local area are more likely to participate in the planning of improvements to the City and neighbourhood.

Research carried out by Neighbourhood Support New Zealand shows that over

- 70% of those who joined a Neighbourhood Support reported feeling safer, feeling they have an improved quality of life through and an increased sense of community and comradeship with their neighbours since joining a group
- 80% had increased contact with their neighbours
- 68% noted that neighbours friendlier to each other

With over 2200 neighbourhood support groups, with an average of 10 households per group, in the wider Christchurch area and the inclusion of Junior Neighbourhood Support in 9 local primary schools Canterbury Neighbourhood Support continues to work with many of the residents of the City and to assist them to work together to build a strong community. While good infrastructure and facilities are essential in the City the need to have communities where people know their neighbours and are encouraged to work together is also deserving of inclusion in the Long Term Council and Community Plan.