

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

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Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered

Are you completing this submission:

On behalf of a group or organisation

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

5 Trustees

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

The Organic Garden City Trust (OGCT) would like to applaud the Christchurch City Council for the work it does in supporting urban agriculture around the city. In particular, we are aware of funding being directed to various community gardens, and we continue to support this.

We are also aware of a proposal to increase the amount of urban food production within the city limits, for example by planting fruit trees in parks and reserves, by supporting 'Green Gyms' (community gardens with gym instructors - especially good for the elderly), and planting the fringes of parks with edible plants. We also believe there is room for a new class of park, namely a 'permaculture park', which could demonstrate both how much food can be grown in a small space and how it can be done sustainably.

In particular we believe that such a demonstration garden could be created in the property still known as 4 Riccarton Ave, beside the old Nurses Home in the Botanic Gardens. The OGCT has promoted a vision of demonstration home gardens and orchards there for almost a decade, and we believe that while the heritage fruit trees and vegetable beds are still in place there our vision is still exciting and relevant.

Expanded assistance for community gardens and community composting schemes is an area we think needs particular attention. There are many kinds of projects that can fall under the umbrella of 'urban agriculture', and we submit that the creation of an 'urban agriculture unit' to coordinate these within Council would be an excellent use of Council resources.

The OGCT is also submitting in support of a new Christchurch Environment Centre. Our Trust is of the opinion that the old Environment Centre provided

an important service to environmental organisations, interested individuals and school groups, and that the loss of this Centre has been keenly felt by many in the community. We see this as a great potential partnership with other agencies (especially, but not limited to Ecan), and we would like the CCC to consider options for supporting this initiative.

We thank the Christchurch City Council for considering our submission. We are very aware that in the current economic climate many more people than normal are eager to find out how to produce more of their own food. We see this as a great opportunity to build on our Garden City image and to put our city on a more sustainable footing.

Regards
Dr. Matt Morris
for the Organic Garden City Trust