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CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

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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:

Graeme Mitchell

Organisation Name:

SHIRLEY COMMUNITY TRUST

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

The Shirley Community Trust (SCT) works in one of the lowest socio economic areas of Christchurch. SCT works chiefly out of the Macfarlane Park Neighbourhood Centre (MPNC) in Acheson Avenue.

The shops in Acheson Avenue have very shabby frontages, several do not have any business running from them and most of them are almost derelict at the back. The back of these shops faces Macfarlane Park and they present a most unattractive vista. The overall effect of this shabbiness and neglect is making it seem that the area, and people who live there, do not deserve anything better. This then leads on to vandalism and the kind of antisocial behaviour from local youths, that spirals down into more and more problems.

In the last few years Housing New Zealand (HNZ) have built some fabulous homes for older people just across the roads from the shops. This is a wonderful example of how this area could be lifted up and SCT would like to see considerably more of this kind of development.

SCT believe that it has the vision, will and personnel to work with the local community, the CCC and other funders to develop this area. SCT asks the CCC to take a proactive role and intervene in sorting out these derelict shops and require all owners to radically upgrade and improve the back of the shops. SCT suggest that the shops be purchased and then gifted to the community for community development.

SCT has a vision for pre-employment projects, expanding its current projects and helping the local community to find their own vision, for what they think

would help their local area to rise up from the sad state it is in at the present.

Since 1992 when the Friday Night Meal started at St Stephens church (the forerunner for SCT) it has become apparent that the people living in this area can rise to a challenge. They just need to be given a fair go with resources, better facilities, financial, environmental, and personnel.

SCT urges the CCC to use this LTCCP to begin to set this area onto the road to a better future. We are sure that this is well within the capability of CCC because we have seen projects in other areas of Christchurch that have achieved great things for other communities.