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Submission Form

PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR SUBMISSION

The public consultation period is from Tuesday 10 March 2009 to Thursday 16 April 2009.

It will help us if you clearly:

- state the issue you want the Council to consider;
- state what specific action you think the Council should take, and
- state why that should be done.
- type or use black ink for your submission.

Please note: We are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to the public and to Councillors, including the name and address of the submitter. In making submissions available to the public, the submissions will be posted electronically on the Council's website. Information will be available to the public subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. If you consider there to be compelling reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, you should contact the Council Support Team, telephone 941 8999.

You may send us your submission:

On the internet:

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's website at www.ccc.govt.nz/ltccp

By email:

ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz

Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

By mail:

(no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Draft LTCCP
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Whether you use this form or not, you must provide your full name, address and telephone number. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation please state this and your role within that organisation.

Submissions must be received (NOT postmarked) at the Tuam Street Civic Offices no later than 5pm on Thursday 16 April 2009. To ensure receipt, hand deliver last-minute submissions to the Civic Offices, 163-173 Tuam Street.

Your submission

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. If that is the case, please tick the appropriate box below. The hearings will be held from 11 May 2009 to 18 May 2009. Five to ten minutes will be allocated for speaking to your submission, including time for questions from the Councillors. The Council will confirm the date and time of your hearing in writing, by email or by telephone call.

Tick one I do NOT wish to discuss my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR I wish to discuss 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: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?

Contact Name TONY GEMMILL

Organisation name (if applicable) NA

Organisation role (if applicable) NA

Contact Address 57 WOODSIDE COMMON,
WESTMORLAND, CHRISTCHURCH Postcode 8025

Phone No. (day) 338-1472 Phone No. (evening) DITTO

Email (if applicable) _____

Signature [Signature] Date 16.4.2009

Submission Form

①

Please be as specific as possible to help us understand your views.

What do you want the Council to consider? What specific action you think the Council should take?

Why should this be done?

① RATES - ON THE SURFACE THE LEVEL OF RATE INCREASES APPEAR TO BE ACCEPTABLE? GIVEN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND THE PAIN EXPERIENCED WITH THE PREVIOUS 3 YEAR RATES PROGRAMME (OVER 30% ON A CUMULATIVE BASIS FOR MANY RATEPAYERS!!), THE COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED A ZERO INCREASE FOR THE FIRST (2009/10) YEAR AT LEAST.

② ENGAGING WITH THE RATEPAYERS - IN MY VIEW THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE EXPLORING MORE WAYS IN WHICH THE RATEPAYERS CAN HAVE THEIR INPUT. THE PRESENT "INFORMATION" STYLE SESSIONS DO NOT REALLY "ENGAGE", AND DO NOT SERVE AS SUITABLE FEEDBACK MECHANISMS.

THE HOSTING OF RATEPAYER MEETINGS BY THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITY BOARDS, WITH COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR STAFF PROVIDING OVERVIEW/EXPLANATION PRESENTATIONS IS SEEN AS A FAR MORE EFFECTIVE "ENGAGEMENT" PROCESS.

③ OPERATING EXPENDITURE - AS THE MAIN DRIVER FOR THE RATES NEED, IT IS USEFUL TO LOOK AT HOW THIS HAS INCREASED OVER THE YEARS? IT IS NOTED THAT THERE IS A PROJECTED INCREASE OF

SOME 7% BETWEEN 2009/10 AND 2010/11, AND (FROM OLDER INFORMATION AVAILABLE) IT LOOKS AS IF THE 2009/10 OP. EXP. IS SOME 9% HIGHER THAN THAT FOR 2008/09.

IN DAYS WHEN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE IS FACED WITH ALL SORTS OF PRESSURE ON ITS DISCRETIONARY EXPENDITURE, IT IS RATHER IRONIC THAT THE COUNCIL IS ABLE TO IMPOSE/ENDORSE SUCH EXTREME INCREASES ON ITS OWN OPERATIONS !!

④ EARLY LEARNING CENTRES - THE PROPOSAL TO GET OUT OF THIS BUSINESS IS DEFINITELY SUPPORTED. THE FACT REMAINS THAT THIS ACTIVITY (EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION) IS A CORE RESPONSIBILITY OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND THEY PROVIDE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAMMES.

THE COUNCIL HAS NO NEED TO "TOP-UP THE WINE ~~GLASS~~ GLASSES" WITH ITS OWN SUPPORT OF THIS ACTIVITY.

IN SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL'S DIS-ENGAGEMENT I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE COMMUNITY BOARDS BE DIRECTED TO CURTAIL THEIR LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

THERE IS AN APPRECIABLE SAVING IN RATEPAYER FUNDING IF THE COUNCIL, AS A WHOLE, GETS OUT OF THIS BUSINESS.

⑤ AFTER-SCHOOL (OUT OF SCHOOL?) CARE - AS WITH THE ISSUE IN ④ ABOVE, THIS ACTIVITY IS A CORE RESPONSIBILITY OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IT IS COMPLETELY WRONG TO UTILISE RATEPAYER FUNDING TO PROVIDE "BABYSITTING SERVICES" ACROSS THE CITY. AGAIN THERE IS AN APPRECIABLE SAVING IF SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTIVITY IS TERMINATED.

⑥ COMMUNITY FACILITIES - IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS COUNCIL IS PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF NEW COMMUNITY CENTRES IN HALSWELL, BELFAST AND HORNBY WHEN A CURRENT EXERCISE IN REVIEWING "NEEDS" CITY-WIDE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN COMPLETED!! THE SUPPORT FOR THIS EXPENDITURE IN THE FORWARD CAPITAL PROGRAMME SHOULD THEREFORE BE LOOKED AT AGAIN.

IN FACT IT IS RELEVANT THAT THE "COMMUNITY" ITSELF (THROUGH CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SPORTS CLUBS, ETC. ETC.) ALREADY PROVIDES OVER 500 FACILITIES IN THE CITY, AND MORE EFFORT SHOULD THEREFORE BE MADE TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY TOWARD A BETTER, MORE COST EFFECTIVE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES, RATHER THAN CREATING MORE COUNCIL SITES, WITH THE ADDED COST TO THE ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE.

⑦ EDGEWARE POOL - QUITE CLEARLY THE NEED FOR A SMALL FACILITY SUCH AS THIS HAS PASSED. FOR BETTER, OR FOR WORSE, THE COUNCIL HAS EMBARKED ON AN EXERCISE OF PROVIDING A SERIES OF MEGA-POOLS ACROSS THE CITY (WITH THE NEW PAPANUI FACILITY IN THE WRONG PLACE !!), AND THERE JUST IS NO CASE FOR A LOCAL POOL.

ALTHOUGH I AND MY FAMILY ALSO ONCE USED THIS BOUTIQUE FACILITY, I DO NOT SUPPORT A CASE FOR A FURTHER POOL ON THIS SITE.

(4)

(8) MISCELLANEOUS - ON AT LEAST 2 PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (THROUGH SUBMISSIONS) I HAVE REFERRED TO A COUPLE OF MISCELLANEOUS IRRITATIONS, AND I HAD BEEN EXPECTING SOME RESPONSE AS TO ACTION, IF ANY, THAT MAY BE PROPOSED TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS

(a) CIGARETTE BUTTS ON RIVER/ROAD SERVICE OPPOSITE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

OVER THE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PRACTICE OF CDHB EMPLOYEES SMOKING IN THIS AREA, AND LEAVING AN ACCUMULATION OF CIGARETTE BUTTS AROUND THE SEATING AREAS. MY VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD BE A USEFUL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXERCISE BY HAVING COUNCIL STAFF POINT OUT THE UNSIGHTLY APPEARANCE TO THE CDHB MANAGEMENT AND TO SEEK SOME SOLUTION TO THIS ONGOING DEGRADATION OF THIS AREA.

IN SEEKING SOME SOLUTION I AM NOT ASKING FOR THE CREATION OF A "NO SMOKING" ZONE !! I AM QUITE HAPPY FOR PEOPLE TO SMOKE THERE AS LONG AS THEY REMOVE THEIR WASTE.

(b) "LICHEN" BUILD-UP ON FOOTPATHS/STREETS. ONCE UPON A TIME ~~THE~~ SUCH BUILD-UP WAS ADDRESSED BY COUNCIL MAINTENANCE PEOPLE. WITH CERTAIN LOCATIONS BECOMING MORE DANGEROUS (ie. SLIPPERY WHEN WET!) BY THE YEAR I AM SEEKING SOME COMMITMENT BY THE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SOME RESPONSE TO THESE ISSUES IN THIS YEAR'S FORMAL REPLY TO MY SUBMISSION.

TONY GEMMILL (16.4.2009)