

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received via Web

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?

Name:

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Date:

6 April 2009

Your Submission:

Given the Christchurch City Council states a commitment to;

encouraging participation in sport and recreation as it has a positive benefit on the community,
ensure communities have access to community facilities that meet their needs
increase participation in sport programmes
then it clearly is not fulfilling its commitment in terms of Hockey.

There aren't enough hockey turfs in Christchurch

• Players are turned away because clubs are unable to accommodate them as there is not enough turf space for more teams" let alone training.

• Weekend hockey starts 7.55am Saturday morning and doesn't finish till as late as 9.30 Sunday night

• It isn't safe having kids as young as 13 and 14 out training at 9.00pm on school nights

• We have the highest ratio of players to turf of all the main centres" and most of the minor ones too!

Â· The sport is a great family sport â?" one of the few ones where parents can play against or with their siblings

Â· We have gone from being a leading centre for hockey facilities to one of the poorest equipped.

Â· The council is supposed to be supporting sports and recreation facilities that encourage participation â?" hockey canâ?Tt even support existing players let alone continue to grow.

Â· The council did in fact have money earmarked for a new turf in 2007 â?" that money has not been forthcoming.

Â· The money required when compared to flower shows and developer bailouts is minimal â?" Hockey isnâ?Tt greedy \$1.5mill would increase our capacity by 33% and we arenâ?Tt even looking for the full amount.

Â· The existing fields are unable to accommodate existing members effectively with teams playing and practicing at times that are considered unsocial, undesirable and unsafe

The existing fields cannot accommodate all requests for use of the existing fields, with over one-third of training time requests turned down in both 2008 and again this year

The sport is at capacity and many clubs are turning players away because they simply can not be accommodated in teams

Some local competitions actually are forced to roster teams off each week because there is insufficient field availability to allow every team to play each week

The existing fields are used to such an extent that it is not possible to accommodate national team requirements for local players in national squads to train on a regular basis

The ratio of registered players to each field in Christchurch is the highest of any metropolitan centre in New Zealand

Council policy identifies a commitment to encouraging participation in sport and recreation as it has a positive benefit on the community, so should support the development of additional hockey facilities that will be well used and result in increased participation

Council policy states that it is a priority to ensure communities have access to community facilities that meet their needs and this is not the case presently for hockey

Council policy states that it is a priority to increase participation in sport programmes and hockey is a sport capable of significant increase (30% increase achieved in only four years after the last field was established in 2002)

Developing artificial fields decreases increasing demand on already limited grass fields required by other sports and is more cost effective for Council with the annual cost of maintaining an artificial field less than that of maintaining 15 grass fields required to handle the same number of practices and matches

Unlike so many other sport projects that have been included in the Plan, the case for additional hockey fields is based on meeting the needs of the sport. Other projects are about improving existing facilities or upgrading them, with no realistic likelihood of increased use of the facilities

There were funds in the Council budget for development of another field in 2007, so it was recognised at that time as an appropriate project. Now the time has come for funding to be utilised, those funds need to be made available.