

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:

For yourself

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

Name:

Steve Smith

Organisation Name:

Sydenham Hockey Club

Organisation Role:

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Date:

6 April 2009

Your Submission:

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 can not 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