

# HORNBY HOCKEY CLUB

**Incorporated.**



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13 April 2009..

LTCCP Submission.  
Christchurch City Council.  
P.O. Box 237.  
Christchurch Mail Centre.  
Christchurch 8140.

## Long Term Community Council Plan.

Dear peoples.

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the draft LTCCP released recently. I write on behalf of some 350 members of the Hornby Hockey Club based in the southern extremities of Christchurch who are most concerned that there appears to be little if any provision in this plan for the progression and growth of our sport especially in the South / South East city area.

The three current artificial turf fields in Christchurch are used to maximum capacity at present and competition games in various grades are played from Friday afternoons through to Tuesday evenings. This leaves precious little time to accommodate all the other activity that these surfaces are used for. Club team practices, representative trainings, inter school games, tournaments and the like. There is in our opinion an immediate need for an additional field just to cope with what we have on the go at present let alone looking a year or two into the future. At present our sport is stymied as far as growth is concerned as there are no facilities available for it to expand and progress.

For our club in particular we are fortunate that we had the foresight, with the support of council, to construct a small artificial turf practice facility on some disused tennis / netball courts at Wycola Park. At the time of construction we had approximately 20 teams in the club and all the practice turf time that could be allocated to us was 1 hour on one field once a week. This to accommodate the practice requirements of some 14 teams. It was a nightmare to say the least.

Today some seven years later after commissioning our facility we have 32 teams and there is not enough time available to accommodate them all for their weekly one hour practice at Wycola. Currently we are also hiring the half field at St Margaret's College for our premier teams to practice on. We also try and make provision for other parties to have access to this facility and last year it was made available to three High Schools for practice for their tournament teams, Lincoln University on occasions for their high performance program, the NZ Army for their forces hockey team and even the Canty Assoc Junior hockey representative teams who were unable to gain enough time on their own facility for practice. I guess the point I'm trying to make here is that increased facilities will generate more opportunities and growth for the hockey community. If you use our club as an example, a 50% membership increase in seven years due primarily to the construction of this practice facility.

In 2007 residents in our district received a brochure from the council introducing the South West Area Plan for managing the growth in the area Hornby to Halswell. It states "The greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy [UDS] confirmed the southwest area as a major urban growth area and projects that some 10.000 plus new households will be established in the area over the next 30 plus years" If just 2% of the children living in these 10.000 plus households decide to take up hockey as their winter sport some simple arithmetic will tell us that looking forward our club could conceivably have a membership in excess of 1000 players in this time.

This figure ignores the rapid growth in the surrounding Selwyn areas [Lincoln, Rolleston, Prebbleton etc] where we currently generate a good percentage of our membership. We need to upgrade our facilities in the Hornby area to cope with this demand. From our point of view another turf on this side of town is a priority and looking forward for Canterbury Hockey up to five other turfs elsewhere in the city over the next 25 years.

This year our club wished to enter an additional two or three teams in Canterbury Hockey competitions, such has been the interest in playing. We have due to limited competition spaces available only been able to field one additional club team. All of our other 14 open grade teams have had their numbers bolstered to 16 or 17 players in each in an effort to accommodate our new players, hardly fair as this means 5 to 7 players on the sideline each game. Giving everyone a reasonable amount of game time in a lot of instances is a nightmare for team management.

Failure to provide appropriate facilities for the Canterbury hockey playing fraternity will surely see our game decline in popularity as we will have to start turning potential players away.

I trust council will be able to make some alteration to it's plan and allow our sport to grow and progress.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Turner.  
Secretary Hornby Hockey, on behalf of club membership.