

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?

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15 April 2009

Your Submission:

We oppose the proposal to play test match cricket at Hagley oval.

It is a shame that rugby was allowed to capture Lancaster Park for its exclusive use, thus ending a long test match history. That is no reason, however, to compound the error by ruining what is arguably the city's prime physical and environmental asset.

"We have chosen to sponsor cricket because the ground is aesthetically pleasing"--Yeah right!

Hagley oval is attractive and aesthetically pleasing for the very reason that it has not been commercially exploited. It should retain its present scale and remain the home of club cricket in Christchurch.

Pressure from sponsors at a test match venue would soon lead to a conglomeration of corporate boxes, catering facilities, vehicle accessways and intrusive advertising. If test matches came, would one-day games not surely follow? Would lighting towers enhance the attractiveness of the park?

Comparisons with other major world test match venues are misleading, because they were not built on parkland which formed part of their citizens' heritage. The claimed social and economic benefits of the proposal are not proven and need to be weighed against the permanent loss of part of Hagley park for future generations.

A central location is not necessarily guaranteed to promote greater interest in cricket or easier access to grounds. Most of the Christchurch population

lives well outside the CBD. Other sports (eg. hockey) appear to be thriving despite their main venues being some kilometres from the city centre.

No serious consideration appears to have been given to traffic management in this proposal. Where would hundreds or thousands of cars be parked for the five days of a test match? Tar-sealing South Hagley park is not an option. (See problems with netball parking for only short periods). Cricketers are not renowned for their use of public transport. Why would spectators be different?

This proposal appears to be a knee-jerk response to a difficult problem. Despoiling Hagley park is not the solution. Drop-in pitches offer possibilities for creative thinking along with other land owners to find a suitable test match venue.