



7349
**Mainland
Football**

A: English Park, Cranford St
PO Box 21122, Christchurch
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www.mainlandfootball.co.nz

15 April 2009

RE: Submission to the LTCCCP Draft Plan 2009 - 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

Please find enclosed a submission from Mainland Football regarding the introduction of an artificial surface at English Park, together with letters of community support for the project being moved forward into Year 1 (2009/2010) of the Long Term City plan.

I look forward to showing further community support when schools and tertiary institutes come back from holidays.

On behalf of Mainland Football I thank the Christchurch City Council for the opportunity to make this submission and I look forward to being able to speak to our need in May.
Thank you.

Yours sincerely
Mainland Football

Michael Coggan
Chief Executive Officer





An Artificial Pitch

Social Legacy & Resolution of Urgent Need

A LTCCCP Submission to Christchurch City Council

April 2009

Christchurch City Council

Can Change Lives Today



KEY POINTS OF SUBMISSION

1. By re-prioritising introduction of an Artificial Pitch at English Park to

Year 1 of LTC CCP, the Christchurch City Council will:

1. Increase participation of important Council asset by 15 to 30 times current usage
 1. 3,000 current users versus 20,000 – 30,000 pa
 2. 122 hours pa versus 2,000 hours pa
 3. Solve current ground shortages (1 artificial = 3 - 5 grass surfaces)
 4. Retain players through non cancellation of activity (reduced ground closures)
 5. An additional 70,000 to 90,000 users will benefit through the 4 year period that CCC would otherwise continue to maintain grass pitch (12,000 users)

Christchurch City Council

Can Change Lives Today



KEY POINTS OF SUBMISSION

1. Reduce high annual maintenance costs in economically challenged times – currently \$75,000 spent pa on English Park and player programmes not housed at the Park
 1. \$300,000 spend over next 4 years with little to no return
 2. Artificial = \$80,000 spend over next 4 years with substantial income return potential
 3. Carpet replacement guarantee through income generation
2. Significantly increased income from English Park asset.
3. Artificial Pitch has a low annual cost and useful life of between 10 and 15 years

CCC Commendation



1. Mainland Football is excited that CCC has included an Artificial Pitch and improved staff housing at English Park in its draft Long Term Plan
2. Mainland Football reiterates its desire to forge a long term partnership with CCC through its use and maintenance of English Park
3. Sincere thank you to CCC for recognition in the LTCCP of this important and “new age” community asset
4. LTA’s world wide receive deserved commendation for seeing essential benefit and opportunities of such asset installation

The Request



Mainland Football requests that the Christchurch City Council brings the introduction of the English Park renovations forward to become a Year 1 2009/2010 priority in the LTCCP

An artificial pitch has a life expectancy of between 10 and 15 years before “carpet” replacement is required.

CCC can positively affect health, well being, participation rates and enjoyment by installing a pitch TODAY

LEAVE A HUGE SOCIAL LEGACY

Why?



1. This project is ready to go now
2. The work on a “new age” pitch won’t be compromised by resource consent issues
3. A genuine and immediate need exists
4. The community opportunity cost of not carrying out work in Year 1 is high
5. Increased health & well being through much larger community involvement
6. The current surface is of poor quality and limited in usefulness
7. One robust artificial surface = 3 – 5 natural surfaces

Why?



8. Christchurch has a genuine football ground shortage through winter (April – early Sept)
9. Fewer games get cancelled because of poor weather (4 – 6 weeks lost in 2008 dependent on whether junior or senior competition)
10. More people stay involved in football (evidence suggests a large % of social players not returning in 2009 is due to discontentment with 2008 season experience
11. Significantly improved playing surface leads to greater enjoyment and retention of players
12. Over time better quality pitch will lead to significantly improved playing skill

Who Benefits?



Mainland Football is committed to minimizing downtime and maximizing opportunities for wider community groups through non football use time – e.g. day time usage, weekend summer usage

1. The entire local Football community, over time through usage opportunities – games, training, tournaments, spectatorship
2. Districts of Mainland Football – Nelson Bays, Marlborough, West Coast, Mid Canterbury through tournament and representative training opportunities

Who Benefits?



3. The wider Christchurch community
 1. Social sport – 5 aside Football, Touch, Marching, Brass Band and other recreational organisations
 2. Polytechnics and Universities e.g. Aoraki, CPIT, Lincoln University Sports Scholarship programmes
 3. Primary/Intermediate and Secondary School community usage
 4. Other training based organizations through indoor and outdoor facilities at English Park

Social Legacy



Similar to other world wide LTA's, the Christchurch City Council will leave a social legacy with the installation of a necessary new age sports surface

1. Community wide participation of community sport will increase significantly
2. Skill development opportunities in sport will become available to the local community
3. Health & well being will be promoted through consistent ground usage by a wider community base
4. The South island will have the first state of the art artificial football pitch compliant with FIFA requirements and will undoubtedly set the standard for further growth in such resources

Current Participation Limitations?



1. Community participation will increase between 15 and 30 times (English Shire Council findings) the current usage of English Park
 1. Current usage = 112 hours (34 hrs games, 48 hrs 5 aside, 20 – 30 hrs training), only 3,000 unit users (participants) and 3,000 spectators per annum
 2. Non football community usage = 10 hours per week

Opportunity Cost of not installing Pitch in 2009/2010



1. Potentially 8,000 lost hours of community benefit (over next 4 years)
 - I. between 1,600 and 2,000 hours of usage per annum
 1. 750 hours of programme based training (12,000 unit users)
 2. 450 hours organised games (6,700 unit users)
 3. At least 400 hours (25%) community usage (6,000+ unit users)
 4. Equates to between 20,000 and 30,000 unit users per annum

Opportunity Cost of not installing Pitch in 2009/2010



1. Mainland Football continues to under utilise natural surface pitch at high cost (\$75,000 per year in direct contract fees and associated costs)
2. Current and expensive ongoing reparation work needed to ensure English Park able to sustain even minimum annual usage
3. 500 hours of total usage over next 4 years versus 8,000 hours
4. Continued discontentment towards closure of City Council grounds through poor weather (midweek trainings and weekend games), and lost patronage and ultimately lost participation (both short and long term)

Actual Cost

Natural Turf v Artificial Pitch



1. Without artificial Mainland Football will continue to;
 1. Spend over \$75,000 pa. Over 4 years this is \$300,000
 1. At 3,000 unit users pa (12,000 per 4 years) maintenance of English Park natural surface equates to \$25 per user per year
 2. 2/3 of this is generally not recovered through user pays
 2. With artificial installation
 1. Annual maintenance costs closer to \$20,000 pa.
 1. At 20,000 unit users pa (80,000 per 4 years) maintenance of English Park artificial surface equates to \$0.25c per user pa
 2. Income is generated by Mainland Football through increased usage and payable to CCC to offset cost of eventual carpet replacement

Mainland Football Commitment



1. Mainland Football is committed to partnering CCC to ensure installation of artificial surface in Year 1 (2009/2010) of LTCCCP
2. Mainland Football is committed to supporting CCC to increase community wide sport and recreation participation
3. Mainland Football is committed to supporting CCC with improved individual health & well being goals by providing greater participation opportunities
4. The introduction of an artificial surface at English Park in the 2009/10 CCC financial year would have significant community participation benefits as well as costs savings to Mainland Football (in uncertain economic times)



**NEW ZEALAND
FOOTBALL**

9th April 2009

Mike Coggan
CEO
Mainland Football
PO Box 21122
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Mike

New Zealand Football are excited to hear that Christchurch City Council has recognized the need for an artificial surface at English Park. We see 2010 as the ideal time period to achieve this project as the usage by 100,000 participants over a three year period would far outstrip the limited number of visits to the current pitch of just 3000 per annum.

In 2007, FIFA supported New Zealand Football with the installation of an artificial pitch here at North Harbour Stadium, and since the inauguration the level of usage has enabled not only our national training squads but also clubs, schools and Federation teams to have access to an all year round facility. We have also seen an increase in use by community groups and it has benefited a number of other sporting codes, not strictly football.

We are excited to hear the Christchurch City Council Long Term Council Community Plan has identified a need for this project and wholeheartedly congratulate them on moving this forward to a mutually beneficial conclusion for the whole Christchurch community.

All the very best and we look forward to receiving any updates on this venture as they come to hand.

If there are any questions either yourselves or the Council would like to address to us please feel free to contact me at (09) 414-0177 or 021 745 040.

Yours sincerely

Michael Glading
Chief Executive Officer

NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL

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**Canterbury
West Coast
Sports Trust**

A Charitable Trust



14 April 2009

To whom it may concern

Re: Artificial Surfaces - An immediate need

Sport Canterbury is pleased that the Christchurch City Council has recognised the need for artificial surfaces within the city, with English Park being identified as the top priority.

With the increasing disruption to winter sport due to rain affected grounds, the development of more all weather/artificial surfaces is a real need, to ensure both children and adults have the chance to play their chosen sport during the winter.

An artificial surface will enable the capacity of the ground to increase, meaning more fixtures can be played (across a variety of sporting codes and community organisations) and cost savings should emerge with the reduced need and impact on the natural surfaces currently in use.

The need for these surfaces is immediate and should be prioritised within the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

Sport Canterbury fully supports Mainland Football's submission (and other codes) to encourage the Christchurch City Council to re-prioritise the development of artificial surfaces within the LTCCP.

Yours faithfully

Martin Mongan
Chief Executive

QEII Sports House
QEII Park
Travis Rd
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www.sportcanterbury.org.nz



School Sport Canterbury

Regional Sports Director: *Bill Grogan*

Assistant Regional Sports Director: *Angelina King*

Proudly supported by:



Canterbury
School Sport

14 April 2009

Mike Coggan,
CEO Mainland Football
PO Box 21 122
Christchurch 8143

Dear Mike,

On behalf of School Sport Canterbury and the fifty secondary schools that our organisation represents I am happy to write in support of your proposal to advance the timing of the up-grade of the English Park playing surface to 2010.

Football is one of the largest participant sports played as part of the weekly sports programme offered by School Sport Canterbury, with more than one thousand students representing their school each week.

The prospect of a quality artificial surface that could be used by secondary school players has significant appeal and would greatly assist in maintaining competitions which currently are often significantly disrupted by poor weather or ground conditions.

I wish you every success in your application to the council regarding this proposal

Yours sincerely

Bill Grogan
Sports Director
School Sport Canterbury



**Coastal Spirit Football Club
P.O. Box 24142
East Linwood
Christchurch 8642
New Zealand**

Mike Coggan

CEO Mainland Football

14th May 2009

Dear Mike,

I am writing in support of your initiative to promote the installation of an artificial pitch for the use of the football playing members of the Christchurch community.

It is the belief of both myself and the Executive Board of Coastal Spirit Football Club that this initiative is long overdue and should be implemented at the earliest possible time.

Given the consistent rapid growth in participant numbers over the past few years that the code has experienced and the pressure this has placed on council owned facilities it makes enormous sense to provide a facility that will allow multiple games in all weather conditions to be played.

The current arrangement of one dedicated premier pitch in Christchurch (at English Park) that has restricted winter use due to the necessity to preserve it as a quality venue for the summer National Football Championship is severely hampering the development of the code as it restricts top level club games to generally sub standard suburban pitches once the winter weather arrives in May/June.

This arrangement also presents problems for the organising body in completing meaningful competitions where grounds are often unavailable for use once the weather deteriorates. This situation has led to a drop off in numbers in our own club as players who pay a full subscription find the season cut short with uncompleted games due to insufficient pitch availability.

Given that the predicted weather pattern for Christchurch this winter would appear to be similar to last winter we feel that the installation of an artificial pitch is of the utmost importance to the sport and must be given urgency by the council.

The number of players who would pay to play on this surface (ala Hockey at Porritt Park) would surely take care of the financial cost in developing such a facility. As it is there is no end of teams who would pay to play at English Park, but due to the current situation they will never get the opportunity. Costs could also be defrayed by the increased exposure sponsors would receive through increased patronage, as well as paying spectators frequenting the increased number of games.

As a major sport in Christchurch this initiative deserves the full support of the Council. The benefit to the Council would come through an appreciation from a major sports code (Football) of what the council has done for them and the lower costs associated with less repair work required for sports grounds that do not suffer from overuse during the wet weather months of winter.

It seems to me quite incongruous that there are millions of dollars tied up in floodlights, changing rooms etc currently in place at English Park yet they are in use for less than 100 hours a year. These facilities are seriously in danger of deteriorating through lack of use rather than overuse. The solution is quite obvious – put in an artificial pitch.

Yours truly,

Wayne McTague,

Executive Chairman,

Coastal Spirit Football Club.



Cashmere Wanderers AFC

www.cashmere-soccer.co.nz

14th April 2009

The CEO,
Mainland Football,
P.O. Box 21122,
Christchurch.

Attention Mike Coggan

Dear Sir,

Re: Artificial Pitch, English Park – an Immediate Need

Cashmere Wanderers AFC is one of the largest Football Clubs in the Christchurch area with around 1000 members.


We understand that the Christchurch City Council has recognised the need for an artificial surface at English Park, the home of Football in Christchurch. As a Club we see tremendous benefits in this, not only for our Club but for football in general in Christchurch.

As a code, football suffers from a lack of suitable year round playing surfaces as demonstrated by the disruptions caused by the weather and ground conditions last winter.

Development of an artificial surface at English Park will enable more efficient utilisation of this asset as games will be able to be played year round. It will provide a base where player development programmes can be carried out in a much more central location. At present most of these programmes are held at QEII which is a long way for our Club members to travel. It will also provide a much needed focus for the development of the game in Christchurch.

We support Mainland Football's efforts in the redevelopment of English Park and feel that bringing forward the introduction of the artificial pitch to 2010 would provide the sport of football with a venue which will be well utilised by clubs, schools and community groups.

Yours faithfully,

 Chris Selbie,
President,
Cashmere Wanderers AFC



**Marlborough
Football**

A District Branch of Mainland Football

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www.marlboroughfootball.co.nz

9 April 2009

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in relation to the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCCP) in which the Christchurch City Council has recognised the need for the installation of an artificial surface at English Park.

While commending the Council on their foresight in doing so, it is imperative that the Council give consideration to the timeframe in which this is to occur as the need for an artificial ground is immediate.

The installation of a new age artificial pitch would result in increased usage (in terms of both all year round competition and numbers of participants) as well as an increase in the type of events able to be hosted at what is essentially a central city facility.

Marlborough Football is a District Branch of Mainland Football and as such we have players attending regional camps and development programmes in Christchurch which often sees them having to find their way around the city to various locations. In addition, our District sends teams around various South Island centres to attend the annual age-group tournaments. There is not currently an age group tournament hosted in Christchurch. The development of the facilities at English Park would provide a central base for these activities to be held.

I urge the Council to give consideration to this project by re-prioritising project timeframes and working with Mainland Football to have English Park enhanced as an asset by installing an artificial pitch as early as 2010.

Yours faithfully

Lynette Sutherland
General Manager



April 2009

Artificial Surface, English Park

Dear Michael

I note with interest Mainland Football's push to have the introduction of an artificial pitch at English Park. I have been a regular visitor to English Park over many years, both as a devoted football fan and as former Coach of Canterbury senior men. For a number of years now English Park has been criticized for its inconsistent surface and quality throughout the summer national league and local winter competitions. During the winter the pitch gets very little use because of the grounds inability to cope with wet weather. This certainly hampers development and also renders a central city facility mainly redundant throughout the winter months.

An artificial surface put down at English Park would be a significant asset and would provide outstanding opportunities to house increased skill sessions for both players and coaches and any other organizations with similar requirements. It would also give us a surface that would provide all year round benefits and could only enhance the development of our game and other codes in Christchurch.

Having noted that Mainland Football have pushed for the installation of such a surface in 2010 I totally support this Council initiative and know many of my former playing mates and colleagues also think likewise.

I wish you well with your endeavors and encourage the Christchurch City Council to support your request to see an artificial pitch laid at English Park next year. Thank you.

Yours in sport
Corporate Consumables Ltd



George Morris
General Manager S.I.



The CEO
Mainland Football
P.O. Box 21-122
Edgeware
Christchurch

12 April 2009

Dear Mike

Artificial Pitch for English Park

This letter is in support of your submission to the Council to have the laying of an artificial pitch at English Park brought forward in their long term plan to the 2010 year.

Western is one of the oldest clubs in Canterbury having been established in 1913 and being based in the Shirley/Mairehau/St Albans since the early 1960's. This season we have 10 senior men's and 4 senior women's team along with 26 junior teams a total of approximately 500 members without taking into account parents. It is difficult to provide all of the teams practice space at our training venue being Westminster Park, Westminster St.

English Park has been the home of Canterbury Football for a very long time. We feel that the installation of an artificial surface at English Park will provide a space that will see a massive increase in usage by the football community in different ways some of which are listed.

1. Clubs could have a club day where they could promote their club with matches for juniors starting at 9.00am and then various other games throughout the day with the main match starting at say 3.00pm.
2. We would have the ability to set up training programmes for promising youngsters.
3. Mainland Football has had to hire alternate venues to run school holiday programmes. The money for this could be better spent on the development of our young talent.
4. There would be opportunities for Mainland Football to diversify in the off season maybe touch might like to run a module there. Thus producing an additional income stream.
5. The ground would be available all year around no matter what the weather gods may throw at us.
6. Clubs could use it for training when other council grounds are closed.
7. Referees would have a base for their training.

With the shortening of each season to allow for the summer sports multi use of grounds it has become very difficult for our code to complete competitions each year this would alleviate that problem.

We urge the Christchurch City Council to bring forward the upgrade of English Park from the proposed 2012/2013 to the 2010 year to allow users to enjoy the benefits sooner.

Yours Sincerely

Ray Parks
Secretary



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14th April 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Christchurch City Council Long Term Council Community Plan

Given the Smith family's long association with Football and English Park it was great news that the Christchurch City Council has recognized the need for an artificial surface at English Park.

It was, however, disappointing to see this given a low priority of the years 2012/13.

Obviously Mainland Football would like to see this become a 2010 priority in the Long Term Council Community Plan, especially with the growth in the game of football and the weather affected grass pitch which every winter sits idle and not used because of the vagaries of the weather.

A new artificial surface, as Hockey have found, will increase patronage by upwards of 15 times and would offer a much broader range of users – particularly schools, club competitions, player coaching programmes, and a wider range of community use.

Introducing an artificial surface at English Park with a 2010 priority could ensure between 30,000 – 50,000 participants would use English Park annually (100,000 over 3 years). In the same period, weather affected, its likely that the current grass usage will be limited to around 3,000 per year (9,000 over 3 years).

Given these statistics the need for a reliable artificial surface ground is immediate, and a necessity, which would lead to year round competition and useage without wet weather cancellations.

This type of surface would allow quality school competitions within a tight time frame, wider representative programmes, extended coaching programmes and outdoor options for many community groups, free from constant cancellation as happens now.

It would also be able to be used during the day by schools / community groups.

English Park would then become a genuine Community value park with all year round useage, something the Christchurch City Council set out to do when it redeveloped English Park.

The Christchurch City Council can make a huge contribution to sport and recreation by prioritizing the installation of an artificial pitch as early as 2010, and by working with Mainland Football to have English Park enhanced as a major city asset.

It's our opinion that the City Council should back one of the most progressive sporting associations the city has, and show that positively by bringing forward the planning of what would be a fantastic city facility to 2010.

Regards,
CANTERBURY SPORTS WHOLESALE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Smith'.

Murray Smith
Managing Director



Robbie's Bar & Bistro Franchising Ltd
P.O. Box 5244, PAPANUI, CHRISTCHURCH. PHONE: 021 354 644 FAX: 03 354 9116

e-mail: robbiesfranchising@actrix.co.nz website: www.Robbiesbar-bistro.co.nz

8 April 2009

Mr M Coggan
CEO, Mainland Football
PO Box 21 122
CHRISTCHURCH

RE: Artificial Pitch, English Park - an Immediate Need

Dear Mike,

I am writing to you to express our full support for the urgent resurfacing of English Park.

As the franchisor for 15 local businesses I am very keen to support Mainland Football and local soccer clubs as much as possible. However in these difficult economic times our Robbie's outlets rely on the support and custom of your members to help us through the very challenging trading environment we are in.

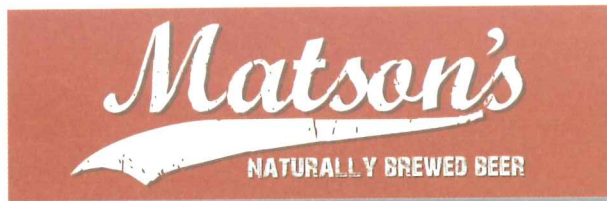
Any way you can increase the amount of people who use English Park will have a huge affect on our local restaurants which will in turn enable us to continue sponsoring Mainland Football and hopefully even allow us to increase our support.

Increased turnover through our restaurants will also help our Robbie's owners retain their current staffing levels and may even help us employ more people. I am current receiving CV's every day from people looking for employment but the reality is without an increase in sales we are unable to hire more staff.

Having personally viewed the fantastic facilities you have at English Park I believe it is very important to our business to have the ground used as much as possible as the flow on effect for the business community of Christchurch cannot be underestimated.

Yours truly,

Paul Kofoed
Robbie's Bar & Bistro Franchising Ltd



7 April 2009

Mr Mike Coggan,
Sports Administrator,
P.O. Box 21122,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Mike,

As a main sponsor to Mainland Football it is great to hear you are putting submissions to the Christchurch Council seeking support for an artificial playing surface for English park. I have thought for sometime the current surface does little for soccer and the ground in general.

English park in any case is well under utilized. The change would be a good asset to Christchurch and the surrounding area.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Roberts', written over a blue scribble.

Alan Roberts





7 April 2009

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Artificial Pitch, English Park – an Immediate Need

Hello,

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate the Christchurch City Council for recognizing the need for an artificial surface at English Park. I understand from the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCCP) that this artificial surface is planned in the 2012/13 year.

On behalf of the Burwood Association Football Club I would like to encourage the installation of the English Park artificial pitch sooner than the 2012/13 year, if possible in the 2010 year. Our clubs recent Management Committee meeting (6 April 2009) passed a unanimous resolution in support of bringing the installation of the English Park artificial pitch forward into the 2010 year.

Our club believes an artificial pitch at English Park is important to the future development of football in Christchurch and to the many different community groups who may benefit from increased use of the park:

- There would be all year round competition at the park with no cancellations due to bad weather (particularly highlighted by last season's wet weather that caused the cancellation of numerous football games). The need for a reliable football ground is immediate.
- During the winter season there is a limit to the number of games that can currently be held at English Park. Over use rendering it unplayable for weeks ahead.
- English Park could increase its patronage by a considerable amount with a new artificial pitch and would offer benefits to a much broader range of user – particularly schools, club competitions, player development programmes, representative tournaments and a wide range of other community groups.
- Increased use of English Park will free up the over use of QEII Park, which is currently used by Canterbury United for training and for Player Development programmes.
- Day activity at English Park will increase – particularly benefiting schools and community groups.
- English Park is a central city facility that could then provide outdoor options for many different user groups and community organizations. It could be a genuine community value park with all year round usage.
- An example of the success of artificial pitches can easily found with Canterbury Hockey's use of their artificial pitches.

The Christchurch City Council could make a huge contribution to sport and recreation by re-prioritising and working with Mainland Football to have English Park enhanced as an asset by installing a new age artificial pitch as early as 2010.

Thank you for support.

Yours faithfully

Murray Ralfs
President / Treasurer
Burwood AFC

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Home 383-3284
Email murray.ralfs@hp.com



Burnside Association Football Club

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The CEO
Mainland Football
P.O. Box 21-122
Edgware
Christchurch 8143

Dear Mike

RE: Artificial Pitch, English Park – An Immediate Need

Our club services about 1,200 members in the north west of Christchurch. We have concerns regarding the state of the fields at both Burnside and English Parks. Each winter a large number of games and team trainings are cancelled because of poor ground conditions. Burnside Park and English Park are both poorly drained and once waterlogged they take weeks to recover before they are able to be used. English Park is available for only a handful of games from July through August.

We are keen to see an artificial pitch installed at English Park as early as possible to service football in the city. English Park has great base facilities, covered seating and car parking, however currently it is underused because it is not possible to keep the grass surface playable unless it is used infrequently. An artificial pitch would be used 7 days a week irrespective of the weather and this would allow catch-up games to be played.

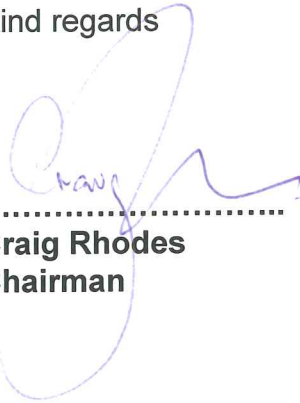
Last season a significant number of trainings were cancelled because the grounds were closed by the Christchurch City Council. This is the last thing coaches and players need when preparing for football and continues to be a burden with winters in Christchurch. English Park is in an ideal location to service all local football, and currently has excellent facilities such as changing rooms and meeting rooms for blackboard sessions etc.

The introduction of artificial pitches for hockey has changed the game for the better with the skill level lifted considerably. We see similar opportunities for football and an artificial pitch at English Park is the development football urgently needs.

With a reliable playing surface English Park would be buzzing with activity. It would create a hub and focus for football and because of this sponsors would get greater value and be easier to sign-up.

The Christchurch City Council can make a huge contribution to sport and recreation by re-prioritising and working with Mainland Football to have English Park enhanced as an asset by installing a new age artificial pitch as early as 2010.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is stylized and extends above and below the line.

Craig Rhodes
Chairman



Burnside Association Football Club

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Facsimilie: (03) 377 8914
www.burnsidesoccer.co.nz

Mainland Football
P.O. Box 21-122
St Albans
Christchurch

Dear Mike Coggan

RE: Artificial Pitch, English Park – an Immediate Need

I am on the Junior Committee of the Burnside AFC and look after the junior fields at Burnside Park. Each winter a large number of games and team trainings are cancelled because of poor ground conditions. Burnside Park and English Park are both poorly drained and once waterlogged they take weeks to recover before they are able to be used. English Park is available for only a handful of games from July through August.

I am very keen to see an artificial pitch installed at English Park as early as possible, next season would be great. English Park has great base facilities, covered seating and car parking, however currently it is underused because its not possible to keep the grass surface playable unless it is used very infrequently. An artificial pitch would be used 7 days a week irrespective of the weather and this would allow catch-up games to be played.

Both my boys play football for Canterbury in age group representative teams. Last season a significant number of trainings were cancelled because the grounds were closed by the Christchurch City Council. This is the last thing coaches and players need when preparing for representative tournaments. We live in West Melton and it is a long way across town to QE2 for Canterbury and Federation trainings (currently 4 times each week), English Park is more accessible and also has better facilities such as changing rooms and meeting rooms for blackboard sessions etc.

When I was at school I played field hockey and often we used the muddy fields of Polo Grounds (South Hagley Park) and Barrington Park. The introduction of artificial pitches for hockey changed the game for the better and the skill level

lifted considerably. I see similar opportunities for football and an artificial pitch at English Park is the development football urgently needs.

With a reliable playing surface English Park would be buzzing with activity. It would create a hub and focus for football and because of this sponsors would get greater value and be easier to sign-up.

The Christchurch City Council can make a huge contribution to sport and recreation by re-prioritising and working with Mainland Football to have English Park enhanced as an asset by installing a new age artificial pitch as early as 2010.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Wayne Smith
Junior Committee - Grounds

CEO
Mainland Football
PO Box 21122
Christchurch

RE: Artificial Pitch, English Pitch – an Immediate Need

Dear Mike Coggan,

It's wonderful that Christchurch City Council has recognized the need for an artificial surface at English Park.

I'm quite sure they realize the importance of this, that's why I like to tell you a little bit about the situation in the German village we lived in before we arrived in New Zealand last December.

We lived in a village in the Black Forest in Germany (a hilly and cold area in the south east). We had in general over 4 Months of snow in winter, and a pretty wet and cold spring and autumn. This makes clear why the city council decided 17 years ago, that the old football pitch had to be replaced by an artificial surface.

The overall satisfaction was not obvious at the start. First off investment was huge, and people were quite skeptical if one can actually play soccer on artificial grass. The surface lasted over 17 years without any investment what so ever, which is very good seen the rough climate (much rougher than the Canterbury climate!). The German football association (DFB) is today even very much in favor of artificial, because they can plan much more games and trainings compared to normal lawn. The degree of capacity utilization was incredible (from school sport sessions in the morning till late evening senior sessions).

Modern surfaces offer a near lawn feeling, no risk of injuries and low maintenance.

Even professional European clubs (Spartak Moskau, Red Bull Salzburg) play on artificial lawn, and the Dutch national team has chosen an artificial surface pitch as the main pitch for the preparation of the World Championship in 2006 in Germany.

Hope this will help you making the decision to install a new artificial surface in English Park in 2010.

Kind Regards



Hubert Bakx
15 Hawkswood Place
Avonhead
Christchurch

12 April 2009

Dear Mainland Football

I would like to express my support for your lobby of CCC to install an artificial pitch at English Park. The current pitch cannot sustain more than a couple of games on it before significant repair work is required. The pitch cuts up quickly, leaving sometimes substantial holes which creates a safety hazard for players. I recently refereed a game there where a player twisted his ankle in such a hole, causing him to hobble around for the next couple of minutes.

The other aspect with which I'm familiar is the track created by assistant referees at the side of the pitch. It must be very difficult for the ground staff to keep this in good order and, under adverse weather conditions, it quickly becomes a bog.

Hope this report helps with your appeal to Council staff.

Kind regards,
Stephen Roach
Referee/Assistant Referee
Mainland Football
ph 355-4185 (res); 353-9874 (bus).

7 April 2009

Dear Mike

I strongly support the construction of an artificial pitch.

The increased availability of a quality playing surface is essential if we are to develop the game in the region. The future of our sport lies in the players we are developing now, and while Mainland has put in place sound coaching structures, without decent facilities, the benefits will not be fully realised. Having played football for many years I know the importance of the playing surface in our sport, and am sure that the utilisation rate of such a facility would fully justify its construction.

Any delay to the construction will disadvantage our most promising young players and mean some will not be able to realise their full potential and some will be lost to our sport.

Regards

Bede.Kearney

Coastal Spirit

Spikes – Masters 45+

8 April 2009

Dear Mike

I believe an artificial pitch at English Park would be an absolutely fantastic addition to the sporting fields of Christchurch. I was a parent who recently travelled to Auckland to support the under 15 Nomads Nike Cup football team. They played all of their fixtures on an artificial pitch. What struck me (and all of the other Christchurch supporters) was what a brilliant facility they had there at the North Harbour Stadium. The artificial pitch was in constant use while we were there. Parents of opposing teams said it was basically used 10 hours a day 7 days a week. I could see why. The footballers received a ball at a constant speed and bounce and the skills on display (from the Aucklanders who trained regularly on the pitch) were simply out of this world. Our boys were not far behind and I recall Danny Halligan (coach of the Nomads under 15 side) saying "to train the boys on such a pitch would take the weather and uneven bounce out of the equation". "You could really teach them on a pitch like this", he said. It rained during our visit to Auckland but that made no difference. The artificial pitch stood up to the rain extremely well and on the tournament went.

I truly believe that an artificial football pitch in Christchurch would be a huge success, a no brainer. In fact the biggest problem would be where to put the second one as I have no doubt the first one would have an excess demand for its use. It would be a brilliant addition to football in our region.

All the best Mike in your endeavours to get this initiative a green light. I am 100% behind the idea. The sooner the artificial pitch becomes a reality the better for football in the Mainland.

Regards

Warren & Amanda Johnstone
90 Regents Park Drive, Styx
CHRISTCHURCH

5 April 2009

Dear Mike,

I totally endorse Mainland's attempts to get an artificial pitch installed at English Park as soon as possible.

This can only be all positive for footy (as well as other organisations looking to use an outdoor facility that has been curtailed by wet grounds). One only needs to look back at last season and the number of games cancelled because, not necessarily bad weather, but more so the state of the grounds.

Such a facility would enable more games to take place during the winter season, and potentially even more competitions across all age groups - one only needs to look at the use hockey gets from their facilities during week nights and the whole weekend.

The council has obviously already spent a sum of money redeveloping the park with its new facilities. By installing an all weather pitch, this would allow for greater use of these facilities, getting greater returns for the money already spent.

If the council are keen to encourage residents to make better use more often of facilities, I see this as a no "brainer" - the sooner an artificial pitch is installed the better.

Regards
Paul Clarke
Avon United

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

Draft LTCCP 2009-19

- Received via Web

Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I wish to talk to 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:	On behalf of a group or organisation
If you are representing, how many people do you represent?	16,000 members
Name:	mike coggan
Organisation Name:	mainland football
Organisation Role:	Chief Executive Officer
Contact Address:	PO Box 21122 Christchurch
Postcode:	
Daytime Phone:	03 3754074
Evening Phone:	021 998192
Email:	mike.coggan@mainlandfootball.co.nz
Email Address for copy of submission:	mike.coggan@mainlandfootball.co.nz
Date:	12 March 2009
Your Submission:	<p>We will put a case forward to have the implementation of an artificial surface at English Park (football specific needs) and an administration facility built at English Park which specifically houses the needs of both Mainland Football and Canterbury Rugby brought forward to a date much sooner than the current proposed 2012/13 date</p> <p>We have for a number of years now described the pitch at English park as substandard and all senior CCC staff understand and agree and a number of Councillors are also aware of the nature of the pitch which is in need of urgent address and very much limits community value annually. The needs of the sport cant wait a further 4 years to have action implemented.</p>