

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?

300 approx.

Name:

Pamela Thompson

Organisation Name:

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Date:

16 April 2009

Your Submission:

A)The Council should consider funding the building of another 2 artificial hockey turfs in Christchurch within the next 2 years.

B)A piece Council land should be identified as being an appropriate venue for a new hockey turf and funding should be sourced and made available so that development can go ahead in 2009 to have the surface finished and available for use in the 2010 hockey season.

C)Reasons:

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

â?¢ 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. Teams are having to train on tennis courts and other unsuitable surfaces where skills cannot be developed properly

â?¢ The sport is at capacity and our club has had to turn keen players away because they simply cannot be accommodated in teams. This means we are stagnating and cannot grow.

â?¢ 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

â?¢ 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 times allocated for training break into the times set aside for midweek competition, which upsets those players whose games are relegated to the later times that necessitate them finishing at 10.00 p.m.

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

â?¢ 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

â?¢ 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

â?¢ 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)

â?¢ 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. Our club used to have access to hockey fields at Barnett Park where we could train our juniors on a Saturday morning but now that Barnett has been allocated to soccer teams to accommodate the growth of that sport, with Porritt Park so heavily strained, there is nowhere for our minis to go.

â?¢ 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

â?¢ 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.

The desired outcome for hockey is a financial contribution towards two fields required immediately and further contributions every four to five years towards subsequent fields to cater for ongoing participation growth. Therefore, it is not just about having support for now, it is also critical that Council include in their plan the ongoing needs of the sport into the future.

On a personal note: I am a volunteer and I have spent many frustrating hours of my time at the beginning of this hockey season trying to find appropriate venues at appropriate times for all our club teams to train for the season. I need more hockey turfs!