

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:

For yourself

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

Name:

Glen Stapley

Organisation Name:

Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited

Organisation Role:

Director

Contact Address:

C/- P O Box 2056
Christchurch

Postcode:

8140

Daytime Phone:

021 347 540

Evening Phone:

03 351 1383

Email:

glen@duns.co.nz

Email Address for copy of submission:

glen@duns.co.nz

Date:

8 April 2009

Your Submission:

This is a submission by Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited which owns the Linwood Crematorium and Memorial Gardens and Harewood Crematorium and Memorial Gardens in relation to the draft LTCCP 2009-2019.

Cremation Society of Canterbury manages and operates two very important facilities used by the ratepayers of Christchurch.

This submission is to request the Council to consider a reduction in rates on the land used for memorials and land held in reserve for future memorials.

The Memorial Gardens are used solely for ash burial. The Memorial Gardens are well maintained and have taken pressure off the Council to reserve a large amount of land for ash burial in the future. We accept however the Council needs to allow for burial ash as a service to its ratepayers.

The issue is that the land is a cemetery and has no use once it has been used for ash burial. The plots are in perpetuity. The land is zoned Conservation 4 and can be accessed by the public 365 days of the year.

In addition to this, Cremation Society of Canterbury needs to keep sufficient land for future burial requirements.

At present both Memorial Gardens have land in reserve for 150 years of ash burial requirements.

We ask that both Memorial Gardens and associated land have an exemption

from paying rates or if Council feel fit, pay a portion of rates.

At present the Council does not pay rates on their cemeteries.

Churches do not pay rates on their facilities.

If a plot is sold for \$2,500 in perpetuity then the revenue to Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited is \$25 per year (using 100 years). The land needs to be maintained for the 100 years.

The rates paid on the land will continue to grow and in 100 years the rates will be paid on the inflated value however the revenue was received in today's dollars.

From a long term point of view the Memorial Gardens will be choked by rates as it will need to cater for the increased rates.

In addition to this, the land in reserve will be rated for many years however the land has been landbanked purely to cater for future requirements of Christchurch's needs.

At present there are approximately 100,000 plots and at present this grows by about 750 per year which represents about 23% of the deaths in Christchurch each year.

The land in question is not considered non-ratable land as it is land greater than 2 hectares and Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited and Harewood Memorial Gardens & Crematorium Limited is privately owned (Local Government Rating Act 2002).

We assume the Council has the power to have specific land exempt from rates or apply a special rate. We seek the Council to consider this on the grounds that the facilities are extremely important facilities to Christchurch. They are available to ratepayers 365 days a year and take away the need for the Council to provide a greater level of these facilities like other Councils.

In addition to this, on economic grounds where plots are sold today in perpetuity but rates continue to rise in perpetuity.

Both Crematoriums are extremely important to Christchurch where Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited has been in existence since 1937 and acknowledges it has an important role to play in Christchurch and has a social responsibility.

Please advise if you require further information.