

Submission on 2009-2019 LTCCP (Christchurch City Council)

My full name: David John Hawke

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Who I represent: I have prepared this submission as an individual ratepayer

Hearing of submission requested: Yes

What I want the Council to consider:

Increasing the priority of recreational facilities for youth across the city, and the Halswell area in particular.

What specific action I want the Council to take:

Bring forward planning (from 2011/2012) & construction (from 2012/2013) of a skate park in Halswell, to 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 respectively.

Why I think this should be done:

1. Halswell has had extensive residential development in recent decades
2. The residential development in Halswell has not been accompanied by corresponding community building
3. Large numbers of young people live in Halswell, as evidenced by the rolls at the two local primary schools
4. Extensions to Halswell Domain, and the excellent swimming pool facility, still leave approximately 12% of Halswell youth un-catered for by Council facilities (survey of Yr 7 & 8 students at Halswell School, November 2007)

5. The community swimming pool is (by nature) a summer activity; a skate park is year-round
6. Halswell Domain caters primarily for people interested in team sports in a club environment; many young people do not want to participate in team sports
7. Nearly all teenagers think skate boarding is 'cool' (survey of Yr 7 & 8 students at Halswell School, November 2007), and so facilitates socialising (including boy-meets-girl) that is not as easy in a club sport environment
8. Skate boarding is a healthy outdoor activity
9. There are ongoing issues of skateboarders using places such as schools
10. There are no skateboarding facilities nearby, and the excellent facility at Washington Way in the central city is overcrowded
11. Providing for youth activities in their communities may help limit perceived problems with youth behaviour across the city, by providing them with more activities in the areas where they live. In Reefton, I have observed that sub-teens use their community skate park during the day. Teenagers use the facility during the evening, and move to the skate park once the community pool closes for the day. I observed no evidence of vandalism, and no litter problems in Reefton.
12. There is strong community support for a skate park in Halswell. Halswell Residents' Association has supported the idea, and the local Community Board has also been very supportive. The idea has been publicised in community newspapers, and I have had only positive comments from my social contacts in Halswell
13. Community development is now a Council priority