

15 April 2009

LTCCP Submission
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch Mail Centre
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION – CHRISTCHURCH LTCCP 2009-19 ON BEHALF OF M
PARISH, 7 MERLEWOOD AVENUE, CASHMERE, CHRISTCHURCH**

My husband and I live at 7 Merlewood Avenue. Merlewood Avenue is located between Centaurus Road and Cracroft Terrace, Cashmere. Merlewood Avenue is a very narrow Avenue and is approximately one car width wide, with no footpath or grass berm. It has a very steep gradient, is often slippery in the wet and services the 19 established residential dwellings that have legal access to the Avenue.

Merlewood Avenue is popular for locals exercising from the early hours of the morning and for school children, as it is steep and provides a short-cut access up to Cracroft Terrace, without having to utilise the often busy and noisy Dyers Pass Road. Often primary school children walk from Cracroft Terrace down the Avenue to Thorrington Primary School.

Merlewood Avenue looks like a private right-of-way, and is of similar width to a private right-of-way servicing private residents. Merlewood Avenue was built and designed to only carry traffic from the houses located on the Avenue. It is significantly under-width and does not have a footpath. It was designed for its 19 residents, not as a collector road. It is not even wide enough to contain a grass berm or street trees typical to most suburban Christchurch streets, and typical of even most hill local roads.

Our neighbourhood is lovely, but living on Merlewood Avenue is dangerous, and we are extremely afraid that there will be a serious accident on this Avenue unless the Council take immediate and responsive action to ensure that the Avenue is not used as a thoroughfare from people who live up on Cracroft Terrace and higher up the hill "rat-running" through Merlewood Avenue in the morning (am peak period) to avoid the often congested Dyers Pass Road/Centaurus Road round-a-bout intersection.

Our quiet neighbourhood street has been ruined by speeding motorists diverting their traffic movement and racing down our lane. Nearly every

morning there are potential accidents as residents try to reverse onto the lane and are conflicted with speeding rat-runners. This overuse and abuse of our Avenue by these rat-runners also compromises our kerb and channels (due to the narrow nature of our street, often you have to drive over them), stormwater, road surface and general street amenity.

My concerns express those of all of our neighbours, who are concerned with the danger to pedestrians, young children, pets, as well as ourselves as residents.

I believe that the Council has no alternative but to bring the introduction of traffic lights to the Dyers Pass Road/ Centaurus Road to the 2010 budget year, and create traffic calming / speed deterrent measures in Merlewood Avenue to ensure it ceases its desirability as a dangerous short-cut.

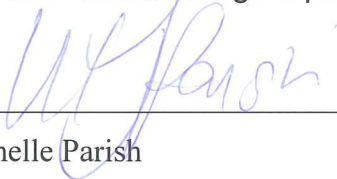
Action Sought through the LTCCP

- I seek that traffic lights be installed at the intersection of Centaurus Road and Dyer Pass Road to reduce the desirability of Hill residents using Merlewood Avenue, an undersized residential lane as a short cut to waiting at the existing round-about.
- I seek that the Council immediately install signs at either end of Merlewood Avenue which state "NO THROUGHFARE – RESIDENTS VEHICLES ONLY" , or similar wording. I understand that Merlewood Avenue is a public road, but its design does not now match its use, and current 'rat runners' have turned our local street into a dangerous environment.
- I seek that traffic calming measures be installed in the Avenue (at the high hill end) to deter Cashmere hill residents from finding the Avenue a desirable "rat-run".

I urge Council to undertake these measures as soon as possible to avoid a serious accident, and to ensure that the residents of Merlewood Avenue can retain their amenity values which are currently significantly eroded.

If this is not addressed I fear not only for my safety, as we manoeuvre out of our property, but also of that of my surrounding neighbours and all of our children.

This is a matter of urgent priority.



Michelle Parish

7 Merlewood Avenue

Cashmere

Christchurch

Date: 18/4/09

Address for Service:

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