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Submission From The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board on the Draft LTCCP

The Board makes the following submissions on the Draft Christchurch City Council LTCCP 2009 – 2019.

The Board would like to be heard in support of its submission.

1. Mid-Heathcote Opāwaho Linear Park Master Plan

The Board is very pleased to see that the Master Plan is funded within the LTCCP because the Board's number one priority is the environment. The Board wants to see the continued development and maintenance of the Heathcote River in relation to heritage, ecology and recreational values. The Board wish to thank the staff for the quality of the plan and congratulate the Councillors of the Ward who have worked to ensure that this plan is funded.

2. Community Value of Council Services and Rejection of Public Calls for the Reduction in the Role of Councils in Relation to Liveability of Residents' "Quality of Life".

The Board would like to emphasise that the present level of provision of services to the community is greatly valued by the community and by all sectors of the diverse groups of people that identify with the City.

The Board considers that the Council should be providing for the lifelong learning of our citizens.

In particular the Board commends the great value to the community in the area of community support.

The Board commends the provision of early learning centres, libraries, the South Learning Centre, sports centres, playing fields, swimming pools, and local community projects such as the recent Cashmere Visioning Project and the development of Pioneer pool.

The Board strongly rejects arguments from some sectors that Councils should be constrained to providing only essential services (water, road and sewerage systems). The Board considers that the Council should continue to provide for the public good, with the provision of community service which work in everyone's best interest.

The use of the South Christchurch Library by all groups of citizens is a wonderful example of the value the Council has placed on providing community public spaces. It is a reflection of the passion for reading and library environments of the citizens of Christchurch which has the highest level of library active membership in New Zealand at 72 per cent, compared to Wellington and Auckland which have on average of 51 per cent.

The library also provides one of the few free public spaces for people to meet and spend part of their day in peaceful and comfortable surroundings. This is a trend which is developing and research shows will become more important in the future. At Beckenham the use of the library by young people is a great development with much of the attraction for the young coming from their learning experiences provided by the South Learning Centre which is an integral part of the library experience.

2 Cont'd.

We look forward to City Libraries developing a Strategy of Life-Long Learning for adults, children grandchildren and future generations in Christchurch.

In a city which has current youth problems the Board considers that the Council should continue to develop facilities for young people to meet such as new libraries. This would fit in with strategies to provide safe experiences in the city for young people and would be a continuation of the Council working towards making the city more liveable for all citizens. At the other end of the scale research by Jane Parrett (2004) supported by Age Concern shows that the main problem for older people is that they have no one to talk to and are lonely. We urge the Council to form active partnerships with other organisations such as that developed with Info-Tap to make services more available to citizens. The Council should also ensure that free public cultural activity continues to increase.

3. Consultation:

Council has undertaken some excellent consultation projects such as the Mid-Heathcote Opāwaho River Plan. However overall the Board considers that a more extensive and flexible consultation strategy should be regularly undertaken. The level of consultation needs to be undertaken on the basis of a partnership between the Council and the citizens to ensure that informed decisions are made.

4 Policy of Significance - reference page 219 LTCCP Vol 2 and page 14 Vol 1.

The Board does not have confidence that the draft policy on significance will ensure that a matter of significance will be required to be put to a special consultative process.

The wording of the proposed policy could leave it open to abuse by a Council with less scruples. An example of this could be a substantial drop in the money available for Strengthening Communities funding. The Board considers that the removal of a money amount from this policy is a retrograde step. The policy must include a monetary figure so that a decision can be clearly made as to what is significant and what is not significant. A monetary figure as a measurement is the clearest way for a decision to be made.

5. Implications of the Current Economic Situation

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board considers that given the current economic situation the Council should be drawing on its long term plans to build facilities to enhance the quality of life and liveability of the City. The Board considers that this is a time to start developing visions and building for the future; infrastructure such as new swimming pools, bridges, library expansions and large landscape development projects which might have been on hold during more economic boom times. These types of developments could be funded through increasing the level of the Council's borrowing and in co-operation with Central Government. The projects would be labour intensive and provide jobs for the future. It is against this background that the Board presents our arguments in this submission.

6. Safety Matters in Relation to Upper Centaurus Road, Centaurus Road/Rapaki Road Intersection and Recreational Parking in this Area

The Board considers that a solution to this traffic black spot and the black spot at the top of Centaurus Road should be included in the LTCCP in the interests of public safety. The safety solution should include consideration of the new cycle way plans, metropolitan parking in the area and all other road safety matters. An indicative cost shows that suitable alterations could be made to the traffic black spot at the intersection for \$108,000. Further solutions to traffic problems further along the road, over the rise past the intersection need to be developed and budgeted for inclusion in the LTCCP.

The entire matter of metropolitan recreational parking in the vicinity of this area should be included in the LTCCP for future work.

7. Montgomery Spur Plan – Recreational and Leisure and Parks and Open Spaces - reference page 110 and page 120 of Vol 1.

The Board considers that the Council should develop the Montgomery Spur for public access as soon as is feasible. Given that much was made of the ‘gifting’ of this land to the Council following the Environment Court decision to protect the area of land from development the Board considers that it needs to be made more visibly available to the public for their use. A walking track should be marked out as suggested following the issues gathering exercise and planting needs to take place. This would make an excellent employment project with planting in the gullies and on the eastern slopes. It fits in well with taking an intergenerational approach. The Board suggests \$500,000 should be allocated to Montgomery Spur development in the LTCCP plan for 2010.

Further the Board considers that the metropolitan recreational parking matters on Rapaki Road should be addressed at the time of the development of the Montgomery Spur Recreational Plan.

8. Additional Provision for Heritage Protection - Ngaio Marsh House –reference page 164 – cultural and learning - museums

The Board considers that provision should be made in the LTCCP for restoration of Ngaio Marsh House. The House needs urgent restoration work to preserve this excellent collection and unique living place for future generations. \$200,000 should be allocated towards restoration building work on the property in the 2010 year.

The Board also considers that this property would be an excellent location for a “Writer in Residence” project and request provision for inclusion of this in the LTCCP.

9. Underground Wiring

The Board considers that provision should be included for underground wiring. The budget should be extended so that when overhead wires require replacing they are replaced with underground cables with top up money provided for under the LTCCP.

9 Cont'd.

Under no circumstance should the Council be replacing overhead wires with more overhead wires. The programme could be fitted in with footpath replacement and the wiring put in at the same time. (see page 88 for street renewal).

The research shows that underground wiring has a longer life span. Further traffic safety is greatly enhanced by the placement of underground wires. The street light poles can be located closer to the house fence lines which greatly increases safety. From an Orion NZ Ltd point of view the underground wires need much less maintenance work and cause less outage.

The Board asks whether in 30 years time when the current underground wiring needs replacing is the Council going to stipulate that it become overhead again. The Board considers that wires that are currently underground should remain underground.

The Council should consider underground wiring together with renewal projects in the older residential areas which would fit in with the higher density development and the new streetscape proposals. The Board is aware of young people who consider that underground wiring should be included when street renewal is taking place such as the work being undertaken in relation to the Addington Cluster streets.

Underground wires increase the asset values overall. The Board considers that the Council should pay the top up money to ensure that Orion NZ Ltd can replace with underground wires in order to improve street safety and overall streetscapes.

Further consideration should be given by the Council to placing underground wiring in any trench work which will be undertaken during the roll out of the optic fibre cable to all houses, which has recently been announced by the Government.

The Board considers that this would make an excellent capital works project and should be included in the LTCCP with an appropriate allocation.

10. Pruning Street Trees

The Board considers that there is insufficient allocation for street tree pruning. This should be increased to ensure an effective programme of tree pruning.

11. Waltham Park Memorial Gates – reference page 128 Vol 1

With regard to the **Waltham War Memorial Gates and Wall**, the Board would like an allocation of financial resources made to ensure that appropriate restoration work is able to be undertaken as the gate is showing signs of movement in the pillars. It is currently subject to a regular monitoring programme. The estimate of cost for restoration is \$150,000.

12. Early Learning Centres

The Board considers that the Council should continue to provide Early Learning Centres for community use in the same manner as they are currently managed. The Board opposes the idea of out sourcing the provision of these services.

The Centres provide for disadvantaged community members and this service should continue to be provided, any out-sourcing would likely give rise to an increase in the current level of fees. At present the Centres are required to provide causal care because it is stipulated as one of the operational conditions. The Centre at Pioneer Stadium means that parents can access short term care while they use the stadium facilities. The Pioneer Centre is rates neutral.

13. Christchurch City/Banks Peninsula Costs

The Board is concerned that these costs cannot be seen separately in the LTCCP. This has implications for transparency for citizens.

14. Bike and Climbing Park – Network Planning - Greenspace

The Board recommends to the Council a design proposal received from Aliam Crozier, a 17 year old student from Cashmere High School for a Bike and Climbing Park to be built near Pioneer Stadium. Liam has developed a design which was highly praised and considered appropriate by Council staff.

Aliam undertook the design project as part of his scholarship programme for NCEA studies during 2008, during which he was supervised by Council staff. He asked students in the area for input and travelled to Wellington to study similar parks. He presented his design to Board members who were impressed by his efficient and professional manner of working to create a potential attraction for youth within the Spreydon/Heathcote community.

15. Social Housing Provision – reference page 35 Vol 1

The Board commends the Councils' provision of social housing. However the Board considers that given that social housing was paid for by Government grants at the time of its development from the 1930's and not from rates and that outgoings are met by rents, it should not be included in the graph on page 35. The inclusion in this graph serves to swell the level of services actually provided for out of rates. The Board wants social housing to remain and to be enhanced but points out that it should not be a drain on rates.

The Board considers that social housing should be removed from inclusion in the pie graph showing rates being spent on community support at eight percent on page 38 of Volume 1.

16 Refuse Minimisation and Disposal – reference page 100 Vol 1

The Board considers that the withdrawal of refuse collection and recycling services from community organisations such as churches and clubs should be considered as significant by the Council. Alternatively it should at least be subject to a requirement which means that it will be given special consideration because of the significant change in the level of service provision to these volunteer organisations.

16 Cont'd.

The Board urges the Council to consult on this matter as soon as possible with the groups concerned. Residents were told that their "current level of service" would not be changed under the new system, but in this case, this has not eventuated as these organisations have been subject to a reduction in their level of service.

Further the Council already pays to collect rubbish left in parks and other public places by residents who pay rates elsewhere yet now volunteer associations on whose premises people leave rubbish are being required to pay to have the rubbish removed.

It should be remembered that it was organisations like the St Martins' Scouts who invented recycling on a practical level when they started the first collections with containers being placed at places like the Beckenham Service Centre. These same organisations of volunteers should not be asked to pay for their recycling and rubbish disposal.

Signed



Phil Clearwater
Chairperson
Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

16 April 2009