

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:

For yourself

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

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16 April 2009

Your Submission:

I oppose the sale of the Edgeware Pool site for residential purposes for the following reasons:

1. The land has been a valued focus for families, Schools, and the wider community since it was originally gifted to be used by the residents.
2. The Christchurch Council should be learning lessons from mistakes made in cities elsewhere, where valuable inner city green pockets have been reclaimed for other uses, leaving the community poorer and less cohesive as a social entity. Recent history has shown that where these areas have been previously destroyed, they are now being reinstated in attempts to re-build communities that are socially and environmentally sustainable, as well as economically.
3. Along similar lines, cities elsewhere in the world with a temperate climate seem to have been through this process of destroying outdoor swimming facilities, when it was deemed that "the thing to do" was to provide large indoors swimming facilities for a wider catchment area. In many places the loss of the outdoors swimming facilities were greatly mourned by local communities, and after years of campaigning these are now having public finance reinvested and are being refurbished and reopened to the communities. Large decentralised impersonal swimming facilities can never fulfil the same role as a local outdoors swimming pool within a green space.
4. It is morally reprehensible that the Council destroyed facilities that had been developed and paid for by local people and businesses, and for this to

lead only to financial benefit for the Council and/or developers, whilst the Community only suffered loss would indeed be a miscarriage of justice.

5. Setting aside the way at which we have arrived at this situation, one subject which seems not to have been considered at all by the Council is the historic value of the land, and the importance of conserving local history for future generations. The site is an exceptionally special place, steeped in local history, as anyone who has lived in the community or read the publications St Albans community newsletter will be able to appreciate.

Growing up in the area it was a wonderful place to learn to swim, to take part in School competitions, to have a family outing, and to meet up with friends. The space, as a community facility catered for people of ALL ages and from all demographics. It is difficult to think of any other facility that could perform a similar role, and that is why the community as a whole has built up such a rich shared history on this wonderful piece of land which should be treasured for future generations by a forward thinking Council.

Many thanks for the opportunity to put forward my views.