

Waitai
Coastal-Burwood Community Board Submissions
Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Tuesday 16 June 2020
Time: 3.30pm
Venue: Boardroom, Corner Beresford and Union Streets,
New Brighton

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SUBMISSION TO: Christchurch City Council

ON: Draft Annual Plan 2020-2021

BY: Waitai/Coastal-Burwood Community Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Waitai/Coastal-Burwood Community Board appreciates the opportunity to make an additional submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Draft 2020/21 Annual Plan.

The Board wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

2. SUBMISSION

The Waitai/Coastal-Burwood Community Board would like to highlight our gratitude to the Mayor, City Councillors, the Chief Executive, the Christchurch City Council staff and all the contractors who have contributed in the delivery of the wonderful array of recently completed assets in our area.

The renewal of New Brighton in particular has taken a number of giant leaps forward with the completion of the revamped Children's playground, the fantastic new He Puna Taimoana saltwater hot pools and the restoration of the New Brighton Clock Tower. With the New Brighton street scaping almost completed, the rebuild of two local surf clubs underway, and the Red Zone Regeneration Team about to launch into life there is a lot to be grateful for and excited about in the days ahead.

We would particularly like to thank the Mayor for, during the election campaign, highlighting her desire to see a renewed emphasis on fixing Christchurch's eastern suburbs. We feel this has started in earnest, but it is important that the COVID recovery plan doesn't overtake our long-awaited Earthquake recovery.

However, we acknowledge the current financial situation that the Council finds itself in with the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that this has on the Annual Plan. As a result, we have made adjustments to our submission that reflect the need for financial prudence in the coming financial year.

Maintenance – Levels of Service

The Community Board wants the community to feel a real sense of pride in the area that they live. The Board will encourage the tidying up of the gateway roads to New Brighton in the Coastal-Burwood area generally and will work with the community to encourage personal responsibility to tidy up the area, possibly through clean-up events.

The Community Board has consistently heard that the community feels the Council has forgotten about the east side of Christchurch and that the current maintenance levels are

not sufficient for the area. The Community Board has received regular complaints and is concerned that basic maintenance is not being completed in areas such as street cleaning, weeding and mowing, creating a negative perception of the area. Acknowledging how important this aspect is to psyche of the communities within the Coastal-Burwood ward area.

We would like to see an increase in the general maintenance budget for our Wards but accept that the current situation makes this unlikely. However, the Board believes that efficiencies can be made so that the quality of the work being done can be improved – for example ensuring that units within Council work more closely together when undertaking maintenance.

Original Recommendation

- The Board would like to see an increase in the budget for general maintenance in the area (street cleaning, road side maintenance, weeding and mowing, and beach accesses) to improve the perception of the Coastal-Burwood Wards.

Amended recommendation

- The Board would like to see an increase in the quality of maintenance in the area (street cleaning, road side maintenance, weeding and mowing, and beach accesses) to improve the perception of the Coastal-Burwood Wards.

Roading and transportation links

The Council has made a significant investment in the New Brighton area with the completion of the Clock Tower restoration, New Brighton Playground, Whale Pool and He Puna Taimoana.

However, there is still a real sense of concern in the community that the current journey into the area is unappealing and off-putting to those making the trip and the Community Board would like to see this rectified, to make the drive reflect the incredible assets on offer.

The Community Board regularly receives complaints from residents about the gateway bridges and connecting roads to New Brighton and have heard that there is a desire for the planned works to be completed sooner than currently programmed.

Recommendation

- The Board would like funding for project 27273, Pages Road Bridge and the entrance to the New Brighton Area brought forward in the Annual and Long Term plans.

Amended recommendation

- The Board would like funding for project 27273, Pages Road Bridge and the entrance to the New Brighton Area be now brought forward to early in the Long Term plan for this urgently needed replacement.
- The Board would also like the Council to consider during the Long Term Plan process, a new project to move New Brighton Road onto nearby Red Zone land, to see it fully repaired and away from the current risk of flooding.

Taiora QEII

This is the single most visited facility in our two wards, and regular users from as far away as Belfast, Kaiapoi and Papanui continue to swim and socialise at our facility.

While the facility is under pressure in a general sense, the late addition of the hydrotherapy pool to the build project has proved to be a positive asset to a much wider community than just the Coastal-Burwood Wards. The daily usage of the hydrotherapy pool starts from opening time of 5.30am and is a constant day-long use.

Accessible Changing Rooms and Toilets

The Community Board's Annual Plan Submission 2019 included a key concern relating to Taiora QEII Sport and Recreation Facility.

Since the facility opened, feedback relating to the lack of accessible change rooms and the distance those pool users need to walk to access toilet facilities have also been constant. At present, the walking distance is 55 metres. While this is not a challenge for physically able people, for those with a wide range of disability, this distance is a real challenge to their personal dignity. This user group are a more vulnerable sector of the community that needs to be better supported with accessible facilities, as this is a health and safety concern.

This recommendation is supported by concerns about the number of water quality incidents shared equally between the hydrotherapy and family pools which are occurring daily.

Recommendation

- The Board would like the Council to allocate funds for retrofitting new accessible changing rooms and toilets as a matter of urgency early in the Long Term Plan.

Note: The previous Board signalled that the Spa is an issue. The current Board is investigating possible solutions to the issues that have been raised.

Brooklands

The Community Board has received strong feedback from the Brooklands community that they feel they have been abandoned following the Canterbury Earthquakes. The Council has recently held a workshop with the community with the goal of discussing the community's concerns and to hear their aspirations and expectations for the future.

The Community Board will support the community with their Community Led Action Plan, which is currently under development. Since the recent public meeting held by Regenerate Christchurch, the Council has actioned a number of urgent remedial works including signage, repairing of potholes and street lighting replacement.

Recommendation

- The Community Board kindly requests that the Council allocate a specific budget of \$200,000 from this Annual Plan. This will enable the items detailed in the Community Led Action Plan to be completed without the need to compete with the priorities for the whole city (e.g. each time a road or street light needs repair). This in turn will give confidence to the community that the Council have listened to and addressed their concerns dating back to the Canterbury Earthquakes.

Amended Recommendation

- The Community Board kindly requests that the Council allocate a specific budget of \$200,000 in the Long Term Plan. This will enable the items detailed in the Community Led Action Plan to be completed without the need to compete with the priorities for the whole city (e.g. each time a road or street light needs repair). This in turn will give confidence to the community that the Council have listened to and addressed their concerns dating back to the Canterbury Earthquakes.

Community Led Facility for the Burwood Ward

The Board has included in its Community Board Plan the ongoing investigation into the requirements for a community-led facility in the Burwood ward. While the Board does not require any support for this in the 2020-2021 Annual Plan, it is signalling an intent to ask for support for this in the Long Term Plan in the future.

Burwood/Mairehau Intersection Improvements

The Board would like to thank the Council for the allocation of funding to project 2034 in the Proposed 2020-21 Annual Plan for financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

On 4 June 2019, the previous Waitai/Coastal-Burwood Community Board received a request for intersection improvements from the New Zealand Spinal Trust, the Board requested a site visit with staff and the Trust to discuss wheelchair user safety at the Burwood/Mairehau intersection.

The Board subsequently made a recommendation to the Council requesting advice on the possibility of bringing funding forward for the Burwood/Mairehau Road Intersection Safety Improvements. At its meeting on 12 September 2019, the Council supported this request.

Recommendation

- The Board would like to highlight to the Council for the next Long Term Plan that funding be allocated for a signalised crossing at the Burwood/Mairehau Intersection, once the impact of the Christchurch Northern Corridor has been assessed.

Development Contributions

The Board ask that the Council look into consideration for Development Contribution relief for suburban commercial centres that currently have a masterplan. The Development Contribution relief programme has been a successful vehicle for regeneration within the four avenues, and the Board would like to see this extended to areas that have been slow to regenerate, for example the New Brighton commercial core.

Regeneration Planning and the Residential Red Zone

The Board is happy to note that the Ōtākaro-Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan was approved by Minister Woods in August 2019 and that funding has been allocated by the Council that enables the vision of the Regeneration Plan to be realised. The Board looks forward to seeing on-the-ground work beginning soon.

Excess water use charge for households

The Community Board accepts the need for excess water user charge for households in order to highlight the need to conserve water in our city. However, we have concerns that a change in the political climate in Christchurch could see future reductions in water allocations and increase the number of households charged for excess water use. This would have a significant financial impact on households in our Wards. Water user charges are of particular concern to Burwood and Coastal as they are sand-base areas which are more porous and do not retain watering.

One-off boost to the Strengthening Communities Fund

The Board supports the proposed one-off boost to the Strengthening Communities Fund and would like to see the increase applied to the local level rather than the metropolitan level.

Changes to the Capital Programme

QEII Masterplan

The Community Board is disappointed to see the funding allocated to the QEII Masterplan has been moved out of the 2020/21 budget. This is work that should have been completed already, and further delays will not be well-received by the communities that have been waiting a long time to see this work finished. The full fund should be made available so that this long-overdue project is completed as soon as possible.

30588 – Estuary Edge Project

The Board considers this to be a non-urgent project that could be undertaken at a later date - there is more urgent Estuary edge work that is needed. We acknowledge that this project is shared by an adjoining Community Board.

Southshore and South New Brighton Earthquake Legacy Project

These Coastal communities have been waiting too long for this high-priority work to begin. While the rest of the city has been able to move on from the Earthquakes, these communities are still waiting for remedial work to be done. The Board acknowledges that the Council has recently taken over the project from Regenerate Christchurch and that project work is now underway. It is critical that funding is allocated in the Long Term Plan for the project so that work can continue without delay.

For reference, the Earthquake Legacy Project includes investigation and recommendations for estuary edge protection and restoration, flood protection, stopbank condition assessment; and the development of a continuous walkway adjacent to the estuary edge.

Rates

The Board supports the proposed 3.5% rates increase (Option 1) in light of the impact of COVID-19 on the Council's financial position.

Bebe Frayle
Chairperson, Submissions Committee
WAITAI/COASTAL-BURWOOD COMMUNITY BOARD

16 June 2020