Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board Submissions Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 29 June 2020
Time: 10am
Venue: Horoeka Room, Rārākau: Riccarton Centre, 199 Clarence Street, Christchurch

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Waipuna/Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board (the Board) appreciates the opportunity to make its submission on the Council’s Draft Annual Plan 2020-21.

This submission was compiled by the Board’s Submission Committee under the delegated authority granted by the Board and was completed prior to the commencement of the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 restrictions on 25 March 2020.

Since 25 March 2020 however, the Board acknowledges the fact that this global pandemic is unprecedented in our collective lifetimes and it fully understands the magnitude and complexities of the economic and social impacts that lie ahead for Christchurch and for the country as a whole.

In this regard, the Board stands fully behind the Council in its difficult task of navigating the city forward in these challenging and extremely demanding circumstances.

The Board would be supportive of any projects being brought forward for delivery in our wards should the Council see fit to do so as part of its post COVID-19 recovery plan.

While the contents of this submission were formulated prior to 25 March 2020, had the situation not subsequently changed so dramatically, the Board still wishes to offer its feedback on the Draft Annual Plan as was proposed and consulted on.

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

2. SUBMISSION (compiled pre 25 March 2020 COVID-19 Alert Level 4 Restrictions)

2.1 Capital Programme

The Board is pleased to again convey its appreciation to the Council for the ongoing levels of capital investment proposed to support the growing new communities in the Halswell, Hornby and Riccarton wards.

The Board supports the budget provision and scheduling of the wide range of local capital projects included in the programme.

Specifically, the successful delivery in 2022 of the new Hornby Library, Customer Services and South West Leisure Facility is a particular focus and priority for the Board.
2.2.1 Bradshaw Terrace

The Board does though wish to again convey its disappointment over the Council’s unwillingness to have Bradshaw Terrace, a short cul-de-sac in Riccarton, added back in to the street renewals programme.

Over the past few years, the Board has tracked the street’s initial inclusion, its rescheduling and now its exclusion from the forward programme.

For context, this then on-budget renewal project saw the completion of consultation just before the 2010 earthquakes.

Subsequently, the Council rejigged its capital programme and Bradshaw Terrace was deferred.

While those were exceptional times, the Board notes that it was most unusual for an included project to be removed entirely in the first three years of a Plan especially without the residents or the Board being informed at the time.

The Board therefore believes that the Council has a moral obligation to fix-up this very minor road.

Further efforts were made by the Board in subsequent years to have the project reinstated into the renewals programme.

In the 2013-16 Council term, street residents met with elected members and were assured the project would occur during that period. The timing of the project was subsequently moved out to 2017-18 which the local residents accepted at the time.

In the adopted Annual Plan of 2017-18, the project was rescheduled for completion in 2018-19.

During the Draft Long Term Plan 2018-28 considerations however, street residents were being told that the project was now no longer in the first three years of the intended Plan.

Bradshaw Terrace is the sole remaining street in the cluster of local renewal projects completed before the earthquakes.

Given the above circumstances, the Board strongly submits that the Council should accept the reinstatement of Bradshaw Terrace back into the renewals programme thereby enabling its now long overdue completion.

Affirmation of its own commitment to this local project has seen the Board look to include Bradshaw Terrace as a Riccarton Ward priority in its forthcoming Community Board Plan for 2020-22.

2.2.2 Major Cycle Routes

The Board is aware that concept designs have been completed and approved by the Council for some of these as yet to start significant projects.
Through this submission however, the Board does emphasise that some localised opposition remains in relation to aspects of the design for the South Express MCR. The specific areas concerned are Gilberthorpes Road/Waterloo Road/Hei Hei Road in Hei Hei/Islington, and the Lochee Road/Elizabeth Street route sections through Riccarton.

The Board would therefore request that these residual issues get considered and addressed by the Council so that what is eventually built, is acceptable to the impacted areas and fit for purpose for all travel modes and road users.

2.3 Rates

The Board is generally accepting of the average proposed rate increase of 2.74 per cent for a typical residential household.

2.3.1 Uniform Annual General Charge

In relation to the proposed increase in the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC), a majority of the Committee members through this submission, are requesting that the Council actually remove the UAGC completely and for the equivalent revenue offset to be apportioned across all ratepayers.

A majority of Board members were of the view that for those homeowners on low and fixed incomes, they were being disproportionately disadvantaged by having the UAGC applied every year on their homes when compared to property owners with higher incomes.

2.4 Halswell Summer Pool

The Council will recall that the Board self-funded a trial to extend the pool’s operating hours over the 2019-20 summer season.

While the results of this trial have yet to be formally reported on, the Board is open to considering a similar approach for the 2020-21 summer period but thereafter would be looking to the Council to support ongoing operational funding being provided in its next Long Term Plan.

2.5 Former Sockburn Service Centre Site

The Board is frustrated that yet another year has passed and these derelict buildings remain.

A budget shortfall that has been preventing the demolition works from being completed has been clearly apparent for a number of years. This funding gap is exceedingly disappointing to the Board and to the wider community.

_The Board are aware that demolition costs are not always as high as estimated, noting the demolition of Lancaster Park came in significantly under budget ($2.9M)._

Site rehabilitation and decisions on the future of this important site have still to be determined.

The Board flags this fact now in anticipation of the next Long Term Plan as corresponding funding provision needs to be considered for these next steps.

2.6 Upper Riccarton War Memorial Library

The Board is especially keen for a decision to be made on this property. The earthquake-prone building requires demolition but there is no identified funding on budget to complete this work.
Looking ahead, assessing the future options for the site will be required and funding appropriated to enable implementation of any agreed plan.

The Board mentions these points now as the inclusion of funding will need to be considered by the Council as part of its next Long Term Plan.

2.7 Fees and Charges

2.7.1 Central City Parking Charges

The Board is opposed to the intended increase in parking charges in the central city.

The Board considers that such action will prove to be a real disincentive for shoppers/visitors and therefore adversely impact on the viability of affected current and also new businesses.

2.7.2 Library Charges

The Board expresses its opposition to the increase proposed of 20 per cent per item ($10 to $12) for the inter loan fee notwithstanding the explanation provided that this fee has not changed since 2015-16.

It is the amount of that increase the Board finds unacceptable and that the unintended consequence of the fee increase, may add to rather than help reduce our city’s carbon footprint.

2.7.3 Swimming Pool Fees

In its review of the fees proposed for Council swimming pools, the Board notes that there appears to be no provision in the fees and charges schedule for membership and/or seasonal passes for the outdoor summer pools such as at Halswell.

If this interpretation is correct, the Board asks that favourable consideration be given to rectifying this anomaly.

Mike Mora
CHAIRPERSON

29 June 2020