

The Central Riccarton Residents' Association Inc asks for the following proposals to be incorporated in the Annual Plan 2016. This is the result of a written survey conducted among its members in which members had to sign their name to their views alongside their residential address. This was no shonky survey but a survey of real people who live in our area where the population is increasing markedly because of intensification and where the population is becoming ethnically very diverse. We think that since the census of 2013 over 50% of the population is now of what might broadly be described as Asian ethnicity. Also importantly, more than 50% of the population is under 24.

There is urgent need for library facilities to be placed in central Riccarton – not open all hours but at a time late in the afternoon and early evening on *some* days a week when people who work, and particularly parents and young people, can easily access the collection which should include books suitable for children and books written in languages used by the people of the area, e.g. Mandarin. The collection should also include books for the visually-impaired. There needs to be two desktop computers available also. The library facilities need to be above all *functional*, not grand and extravagant. They would be best placed in the Riccarton Community Centre along with the Riccarton Service Centre.

The council has determined that central Riccarton is to be a key **hub** in Christchurch. A hub should surely have a library and such a library needs to be in the midst of where the people actually live and work and that is in central Riccarton, preferably in a room in the Riccarton Community Centre.

The footpaths in the Riccarton commercial precinct, especially the footpaths along the Riccarton Road commercial strip between Clarence Street and Matipo Street, need to be cleaned regularly. It is nonsense to suggest as council staff said that it would be inconvenient to clean the footpaths. Cleaning can be done at night as it is done in cities and towns which respect their citizens. Central Riccarton is the biggest business hub in Christchurch and includes the city's biggest ratepayer. Residents and the many visitors to the area deserve to be able to walk on footpaths free of urine, shakes and spilled fast food and drinks.

Our Association has for years been asking for a simple slide and a simple swing - both suitable for children under the age of ten - to be placed in the Picton Avenue Reserve. The play equipment currently there is suitable only for teenagers. There are a lot of young children living in the area and parents should be able to walk with them to the park and use such basic facilities.

For years our Association has been trying to have installed right-hand turning traffic signals from Riccarton Road into Clarence Street and from Riccarton Road into Straven Road and from Matipo Street into Blenheim Road. It makes so much sense yet the Traffic Engineering Department refuses to listen and instead resorts to quoting some textbook theory about planning for the years ahead before installing such lights. There is urgent need for these signals to improve the flow of traffic in the area.

Every year our Association has asked that people who own multiple properties that they rent out should be paying business rates. Why? Because they are running a business. Why are such people discriminated in favour of by this council? Many of these people are taking in many thousands of dollars a week in income from their portfolio of rental properties. Christchurch residents need an equitable rating policy and Christchurch City needs the rates to pay for facilities.