

Mt Cook Mobilised – Submission to Wellington City Council on the Draft 2010 Community Facilities Policy and Implementation Plan

About you

1. If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?

Our mailing list exceeds 120 Mt Cook residents, many of whom express support for our goals, but do not necessarily attend our regular meetings or other activities.

2. If you would like to make an oral submission to the Hearings Subcommittee, please tick this box.

Yes

3. Tell us what you think about the overall approach we are planning to take in the draft Community Facilities Policy.

Mt Cook Mobilised agrees that it is appropriate for Mt Cook to be included in the Facilities Review as a Neighbourhood Centre. This will become even more relevant as we experience increased residential growth in the Adelaide Road area. As at today, Mt Cook does not have a community centre to fulfil the wider social and networking benefits that a community centre provides. The first step towards developing community programmes will be to identify funding for a part-time Community Development Coordinator for Mt Cook. Community programmes can be developed using a variety of spaces located throughout Mt Cook. We recognise that Council is very unlikely to build a purpose-built community centre in Mt Cook, but that Council is committed to assisting communities like Mt Cook, particularly where this can be done in partnership with local businesses, schools or churches. To date Mt Cook Mobilised has begun to build a sense of community through our community newsletter, email-newsletter, community events and web page. These activities provide a kick-start, but essentially strong ties and resilience within the community are only created when people from across the community get to know each other better when they meet regularly at community-based activities. There are many community groups in Mt Cook who are not well served locally – the elderly, migrants, younger people, special interest groups. We look forward to discussing with Council options for partnering to create a Mt Cook Neighbourhood Centre, a network of community activities based in various facilities. In the future, one possible community centre venue may be Mother Aubert's original Infant School building in Buckle Street, which was identified as a possible community hub on the first set of Memorial Park drawings. Mt Cook Mobilised believes it is appropriate for Council to fund a part-time Community Development Coordinator for Mt Cook in addition to providing assistance with lease costs for rooms located in existing facilities. This assistance will be particularly important in the early years of establishing a community development programme.

4. What do you think about the areas of focus in our strategic priorities? Are these the right ones?

Yes, these are reasonable targets. Libraries and swimming pools are must-haves for the city.

5. Do you agree with the investment proposals we have identified in our plan? Are there any others you think we should consider?

As above, some allowance should be made for a Community Development Coordinator for Mt Cook.

6. What do you think of the timing of these investment proposals?
7. Tell us what you think about limiting public access to some parts of our pools at peak times so we can provide more learn-to-swim classes until the new learners' pools are built.

This seems unfair on adult swimmers who swim for fitness.

8. Do you have any other comments?