

c/- 69 Houldsworth Street
Blenheim 7201

Marlborough District Council

re: Proposed George Street units

Marlborough Stroke Club committee is hugely concerned that the proposed double storey 12 unit complex to be built at George Street will not have a lift included at the time of the build. We consider this short sighted in the extreme. True, some people MIGHT be fit enough to access their unit via the stairs on a daily basis, however that should not be the sole reason for not including a lift. The safety of all residents and their visitors must be taken into account. Fire and ambulance services would be severely hampered accessing the units in the event of emergencies, and rest assured there will be emergencies – stroke, falls, heart attacks to name a few. You need to consider not only the occupant but any visitors they may have and many will not be able to access their friend's home if it is on an upper level with no lift access.

Most, if not all residents of Council units have health as well as wealth issues in one form or another. They may not have had health issues when first taking up residence but as they age or as a result of accidents these have happened over time. In most instances they quite rightly expect to live there for the rest of their lives. This gives them a sense of reassurance without the fear of losing their home.

It seems very ironic that on the one hand, as part of the current 10 year long term plan, Council is canvassing people who will turn 65 in the next 10 years to find out what they see as improving their lives, and yet ignores such a basic thing as including lifts in their double storey residential units which would certainly improve the lives of any residents who might occupy said units. If the Council is so forward thinking as to what future 'older persons' might like, then please continue to be forward thinking by including lifts in this proposed build and all future two storey residential units. If fitted in the original build it will be much cheaper than to install later, costs will have gone up (that is a 100% certainty), and there are bound to be problems arise with something not being done correctly earlier.

It is noted that the Council's current building code states:

- People who use buildings can do so safely and without endangering their health;
- Buildings have attributes which contribute appropriately to the health, physical independence and wellbeing of the people who use them;
- People who use a building can escape from the building if it is on fire; and
- Buildings are designed, constructed and able to be used in ways which promote sustainable development.

Clearly, the care and welfare of your tenants does not appear to have been taken fully into consideration.

