

09/04/2020
Hularii Mckenzie
4 Wadsworth Cres
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Blenheim 7201

Dear Council,

I am writing to ask that in the proposed New Library Build that a Changing Places Facility is incorporated into the build as has been discussed and proposed for the last few years.

Given the current and expected climate after the devastating effects of COVID-19 it is my understanding that the proposed build will go ahead to secure an economic grounding to help us recover from our current situation in the future, and with this there is limitations to funding certain 'lollies' in this years annual plan, given that the library is still going ahead I would ask that the incorporation of a Changing Places Facility still be given the go ahead as this would also help our community moving forward and have all those with disabilities out and about in our CBD to help boost our economy back up, the library build as it stands will be utilized by abled and disabled alike and having this included in the build will mean those with additional needs have a central changing point also including this from the design stage will mean that this facility fits with the proposed Library but also makes access to the facility 24/7.

Changing Places NZ <http://www.changingplaces.org.nz/Home.htm> is ready and willing to help us be the first Town in the South Island to have a fully accessible changing facility, we don't need to break the wheel because it has already been done, with expert lived in advice. This is something that we have discussed and has been mentioned both in correspondence etc. I would ask council to get in contact with Changing Places NZ and we follow through on this. Incorporating the facility in the design phase from the beginning would help with the cost of building one from scratch by itself, it would also make Blenheim a destination spot for all travelling Differently Abled peoples and our local community as well. We have been trying so hard to make this a possibility for our CBD and our community since 2017, while Te Huri @ Liz Davidson mitigated a need by some of our disabled community, we missed the mark on space, room for a toilet, privacy screens etc. all of which limit the amount of other users in need of a place to change which in turn reduces traffic through a specialized room but a full Changing Places facility would encompass ALL our people with profound needs. The changing facility at Liz Davidson could then be repurposed or kept as it is to continue to supply additional need to our younger disabled community. As stated in other submissions to the council, the need to have a facility at Pollard Park, this is important especially if we take into account the accessible playground equipment that the group Differently Abled Children of Marlborough helped provide to the community, however reprioritising to have a Changing Places Facility in our CBD first given this awesome opportunity and our current economy is possibly the best thing for our entire region with the thought to facilitate a changing place at the park at a later date (within the next two years). Utilizing the \$100,000 earmarked for that project and adding it to additional funds (with Changing Places NZ guidance) would mean this could be done. Let's do this for our whole community.

Thankyou for the time to read and hope this is something we can continue to work towards together.

Kindest Regards

Hularii Mckenzie