

DRAFT Summary of Discussion following Elders' Council Launch

29th April 2016

15 Service Organisations Represented

In all 20 Organisations have expressed interest in the function of an Elders' Council but could not attend on the day.

This is not a submission on the Council's Plans but a summary of the discussion that took place at the launch of the Elders' Council

Issues that fall within the core business of a Council:

- **Age friendly facilities already existing and working well for the benefit of all:-** over 75 free parking, more disability parking; subsidized gym programmes, improved pedestrian access in front of Fergberger.
- **A modern purpose built library complex in Frankton that also housed the Council rooms and offices for Council Staff would address many of the issues raised at the meeting:-**

It would better serve the communities of Arrowtown , Lake Hayes and Shotover communities, Frankton, Kelvin Heights, Jacks Point, and Kingston and be more accessible to the majority of people living in Queenstown;

Library Break out rooms would provide meeting spaces for a number of organizations from all sections of the community such as specific groups for any age or ethnicity; meeting spaces for service providers for all ages where support is needed such as Age Concern, Alzheimers, and Enliven Presbyterian Support.

Too often social services are working in isolation without the support or appreciation of the community. A breakout room could be used by different providers to plan strategically and coordinate their programmes. It would also provide support for a service that has only one staff member. If not we do not attend to these issues we are in danger of losing these social services.

Our message to council is that social services must be valued.

A modern library can function as a base for social services in the community.

A library sited at Frankton would assist in cutting down the traffic flow on the Frankton/Queenstown road. This would assist with the tourist flow into Queenstown where the majority of accommodation is.

- ***Recommendation: That a modern purpose built library for the Queenstown community be brought forward in the LDC's 10 Year plan to better meet the needs of all ages.***

The provision of infra structure

- A plea to Council to investigate with Central Government the implementation of a tourist/bed tax to lighten the cost of infra-structure and therefore rates for all ratepayers but those in particular on low, fixed or diminishing incomes.

Other issues arising but not part of the Council's core business.

1. On behalf of the elderly would the Council in discussion with the new owner of the bus company serving the area raise the following points:
 - Rationalisation of bus routes eg:

Currently Kelvin Heights residents who travel by bus and want to go to Remarkables Park have to pass by the turn off to Remarkables Park, dismount at the Franton roundabout and catch another bus to the shopping centre.

A similar situation faces Arthurs Point residents wanting to go to Remarkables Park in that they have to change buses at either Arrowtown or Queenstown.

- Improving the frequency of bus runs. Currently they serve the needs of the workers well but not retired citizens living in some areas.
 - More bus shelters with seating would be appreciated by all ages particularly during the winter months.
2. On behalf of the elderly who need support to remain in their homes would the Council in discussion with the SDHB raise the following concern:
 - Although strongly supporting Central Government's policy to keep people in their own homes, service organisations such as Access, Your Saving Grace, have difficulty in finding staff because of the high cost of living here. The point was made that in Invercargill district nurses visit people in their homes as a matter of course not so in Queenstown where district nursing is on a part-time basis.

Issues outside the Council's parameters:

One of the difficulties of keeping older citizens in their homes is that of social isolation.

Many of the organizations set up to provide social activities are themselves disappearing because members are reluctant to take office as secretary or treasurer eg Probus. We have to be more creative and seeking help as to how we fill these positions. Perhaps the QLC's Community Events Coordinator may be able to assist in solving this issue.

Queenstown Grey Power is planning to co-ordinate the funding of a community van to be used by organizations such as Age Concern and Enliven Presbyterian Support. Again The Community Events Coordinator could assist with this.