

EVIDENCE 36

TOPIC PC85A-D, 86A-B, 87, 102, 114

SUB# Rural Plan changes

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Northland Regional Council

Water Street, Whangarei.

Submission re: Shared Indoor Sports Facility for all, including disabled and elderly, for local and national users. I wish to speak on this submission.

I have been playing Indoor Bowls for over fifty years, since visiting my Grandmother. I went to watch her play Bowls, the Club members insisted I play, and have been playing ever since. I joined the Ruatangata Indoor Bowling Club in their old hall shortly before they built the new hall, when our membership went from about twenty-five to just over seventy. This is why I have confidence that a new facility will be well used by the community, including the handicapped and the elderly.

I see that, as in the story of the Little Red Hen, few people want to help but everybody wants the benefit.

The Indoor Bowling Association has been trying to get a new building for Indoor Bowls without much success until 2006 when the Association had agreed to share with the Gymnasts and Athletics Clubs at Kensington. That failed due to the Rugby Stadium at Okara Park being set up for the World Cup, as some of you know.

Since, I have tried to get the Councils to use the old Mitre Ten building in the Regent, which failed, as Countdown bought it; so more recently I have been trying to get the building previously used by Countdown in Kensington (owned by the Northland Regional Council) as a shared indoor

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sports facility, as per my previous submissions and approaches to both you at Northland Regional and Whangarei District Councils.

My ideas have improved recently from using a one storied to a three storied facility, with the ground floor being used for floor sports such as Indoor Bowls, Boccia et.c.; the second floor for Indoor Bowls elevated on tables (for easy access for wheelchair users and people who find it difficult to bend down anymore) as well as other table sports such as pool and darts for those who don't like to go to pubs or clubs; the third floor, offices for disabled groups, with covered car parks on each level for safe and easy access during hot or wet weather.

The good points about this location is convenience of road or footpath access from all directions, locally or further afield due to being close to the main road through town, the residential areas, the central business district and State Highway One. Handy are Pharmacy, Doctors, Ambulance, Motels and bus routes or taxi services available.

The taxi and bus services are convenient for non-drivers, sometimes the disabled or elderly, or by choice, or those not allowed to drive due to medical conditions such as epilepsy or heart conditions. Having grown up with a handicap I have learned that there are accessibility problems. I have learned a lot particularly from the elderly of their problems. It is important for all people to have something such as social activities to look forward to in life, for me it is to get out and take a break from work on the farm and to make new friends.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Agnew.