

6 Other Comments

Would you like to comment on any other aspect of this draft 10 Year Plan?

BACKGROUND The various groups represented in this submission are currently using QLDC facilities located at the former Lakeview Holiday Park. The theatre groups use the former St John Ambulance facility in Isle Street. The Wakatipu Toy library uses the former shop at Lakeview and the Japanese Society uses another building within the Lakeview grounds. As the QLDC progresses its plans for the Lakeview site, these groups will need to relocate to new premises. Up until 2002 these groups were housed in the old classroom block at the former Queenstown District High School site on Ballarat Street. The groups were displaced when the council demolished this building and the associated Centennial Hall to provide car parking. The current facilities in Isle Street and the Lakeview site have served the various groups well, however they were not fit for purpose and the opportunity to invest money making them suit the individual groups needs more fully has now been lost – with the QLDC plans to redevelop the site. **WHERE TO NEXT?** It is the intention of the various groups represented here to fundraise and build a purpose built facility. Land has been identified on Ballarat Street, on the carpark, between the Queenstown Arts Centre and the QPACT Rooms. Utilising this land fits with the council's Transport Strategy, which aims to reduce long term parking in the CBD. It is also the user groups belief that this land should be used for community purposes, rather than carparking. The facility would house the various groups and provide space for other community groups for meetings and other activities. However the primary users represented here would hold precedence over the space. The cost of building this venue is around \$600,000 + GST. This does not include any site works, or preparation. **FUNDRAISING** The groups are committed to raising the money to build the facility. As well as approaching the community trusts, each group intends to contribute to the cause. For the purposes of fundraising and getting the project established a representative from each of the organisations will come together and form a trust. We expect to start building in late 2015, in order to vacate the Lakeview site in 2016, to allow the council to progress its plans there. **WHAT ARE WE ASKING THE COUNCIL TO DO?** We are asking the QLDC to set aside \$100,000 in the Ten Year Plan, to contribute to this project. In addition we would like the council to landscape the area around the facility, through its parks and recreation division. We would look to draw down this money towards the end of 2015. This would only occur if the community trusts are prepared to back the project. Following the completion of the project the intention is to pass the building into QLDC ownership, with a memorandum of understanding that the user groups will have rights to use the building in perpetuity. **WHY SHOULD THE COUNCIL SUPPORT THIS PROJECT?** The various user groups contribute to the social fabric of the Wakatipu community and are an important part of the community. On their own they would have no way of making the financial commitment to build a venue – and it makes sense that the facility supports as many groups as possible. The trust would work closely with the council, to make sure the plans are desirable and meet the councils requirements. This submission was made by Steve Wilde, on behalf of the user groups.