Submissions
Community Rates Support Policy
# Submissions on Community Rates Support Policy

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Janine Hawthorn,
Community Development Officer,
Manawatu District Council,
Private Bag 10 001,
Feilding 4743

Dear Madam,

**Review of Community Rates Support Policy - Proposal**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Community Rates Support Policy.

We note that the current policy contains certain definitions including Religion. There are no such definitions in the proposed policy, although rates support is available to a “Charitable Organisation.” We assume that this would provide the opportunity for the Parish to seek rates support.

If that is not the case and it is intended to exclude a religious organisation from applying for rates support under the proposed policy then we respectfully request that you extend your proposal to include religious organisations.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Allan Fenwick
Treasurer
15th February 2016

Members of the Community Funding Subcommittee
Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10001
FEILDING 4743

Dear Sirs / Madams

Review of Community Rates Support Policy – Proposal

"The Council’s vision: Connected, vibrant, thriving Manawatu – the best rural lifestyle in New Zealand
Regional Development strategy aim: the best place to raise a family."

Feilding Baptist Church along with the other churches represented by the Feilding Christian Leaders Network collectively support the aims of Manawatu District Council as set out above.

Not only do we agree with your aims but the programmes we run through our churches help to bring this about. Life skills, responsibility, honesty, respect for one another and those in authority along with their elders, are taught and help to make our district a safer and best place to raise a family.

Community involvement for Feilding Baptist Church:

- Girls 5 – 18 enjoy a fun-filled, disciplined uniformed programme each week in school terms. Life skills and healthy attitudes are taught. A buzz of activity and they can work to earn the Duke of Edinburgh award and others. 1st Feilding Girls Brigade.

- Boys 8 to 16 and over, many with no male father figures in their lives, have male role models where they are encouraged in good kiwi skills - woodwork, outdoor activities, cooking, rough and tumble. ICONZ – “Building Kiwi Boys into Kiwi Icons (Boys Brigade)

- Mothers and Carers, Fathers and Partners enjoy actively participating with their preschoolers. Friendships are formed over morning tea and often concerns are expressed with help given. Mainly Music

We estimate that to run the above programmes involves at least 21 volunteers each 2 hour plus session besides preparation at home and by far the great majority of attendees do not attend our church or in many cases any church.
• "Under the wire activity"
   We would also like to express comment on the regular behind the scenes work done by our church (which will be similar to most other churches of various denominations.)
   - Supplying a monthly food basket to the Salvation Army to help with their distribution to those in need in the community.
   - Individual help by members to contacts in the community done voluntarily, for example taking people to appointments, helping fund prescriptions, accompanying folk to doctors and specialists, an advocacy role is also often required.
   - Helping in times of crisis – the distressed man or woman who suddenly appears on the scene.

Our churches are not inwardly focused but exist to better the community. We also get involved with the Christmas Parade and the new Family Christmas Evening which was so successful this last year.

Of course, as is expected of churches, we have our services to worship our God and officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals but people too easily forget that the standards of "do unto others as you would have them do to you, love your enemies, stop stealing and work and many more maxims" are all founded on Christ's teachings and have become foundations of our society.

We appreciate the work Manawatu District Councillors do but would also ask that you appreciate the work we do to make our community a safer and 'best place to bring up a family'. Please acknowledge this by looking kindly on our rates charges.

Yours faithfully

Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Admin
Feilding Baptist Church
MDC Community Funding Subcommittee
Submission

Received
19 FEB 2016
Manawatu District Council

Feilding Bible Chapel
P.O.Box 457 Feilding 4740

18/02/2016
IN DOC No: 129879
FILE No: 12180

To the MDC Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to give our views on the review of the “Community Rates Support Policy”.

When I first came to Feilding as the community pastor of Feilding Bible Chapel in 2012, I was pleased to see that churches in Feilding who involve themselves in the community outside their membership, were recognised in by the MDC as community partners who were here to play their part in making the Manawatu the "connected, vibrant, thriving" community where we all want to live.

How were and are these churches involved in the community?

We know of many different ways, but for the sake of this submission, we will mention only a snapshot of how our church is seeking to make a difference in our Manawatu community.

Youth programmes: Youth group, young adults groups, mainly music preschool programme. Every Boys & Girls Rally (Life skills events fortnightly), Camps for youth, practical support for kindergartens, and schools who use our facility for free.

The more mature! Regular events for the retired (Called triple 20s) also rest home pastoral support, help with "meals on wheels" etc

Facility sharing: Our building is used by a large number of regular & one off community groups to run their programmes, and hold their events. This is paid for on a donation basis.

Support for the vulnerable: through food parcels, meals, appointment transport and accompaniment to Court appearances etc, counseling, Youth board participation, and other advocacy.

We have noticed in the time after 2012, MDC has opted to remove the 'up to 100% rates remission' for churches in general, and gone with a remission scale that has gone from a high for sporting & art groups of 75% with others, including churches at 50% and others 25%. The following round of remissions saw the scale at 60% - 40% - 20%.
With a proposed 50% remission rate for all groups, we would like the council to be aware of that all these additional infrastructure costs we incur (including increased insurance, and compliance costs) eat into our churches ability to channel funds into these community programmes we are passionate about!

The only funding we get, apart from the occasional grant for a joint community project, is through the generosity of our church members. Out of their donations, we maintain, infrastructure, staff our organisation, and fund community programmes and initiatives.

We would therefore ask the "Community Funding Subcommittee" to consider how they can best assist our organisation and other charitable organisations like us, to continue, and in fact increase, its effectiveness in our community by recognising in the rate remission our role in making Feilding and the Manawatu "The best place to raise a family".

**Attached Appendix -Feilding Bible Chapel Community Involvement.**

Yours sincerely

Kevin Barron
Community Pastor
Administrator
(06) 3237462
0224570079

Find us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
[www.feildingbiblechapel.org.nz](http://www.feildingbiblechapel.org.nz)
Feilding Bible Chapel Community involvement:

**Youth group** high school age youth 4 leaders' fortnightly 10-20 + youth and a mixture of church and community youth.

**mainly music** weekly for preschool children and mums 8-10 volunteers 30-40 children. Mostly Manawatu community parents.

**Rally: Girls and boys** on separate nights. 6 volunteers 10-20 youth per night run fortnightly life skills and interactive fun. High percentages of non-church youth attend.

**Triple 20s:** retired support group from the church and wider community. 10-20 average attendance. Activities and outings. 4-6 volunteers.

**Facility available:** the church facility is regularly used by a number of community groups/clubs etc including Manchester street school, Manchester Street Kindergarten, Paua Child care, The Plunket Society, Rose society etc. The facility is regularly used for one off events for the Feilding community.

**Civil Defence:** The Feilding Bible Chapel facility has been made available for use by the MCD in the case of the council buildings being unable in a crisis.

**Community meals:** Church volunteers cook and freeze meals in our church freezer for families in need and crisis situations. Funded by the church.

**Food Parcels:** The church funds and delivers grocery parcels to Manawatu community people who are in need and brought to the attention of the community pastor.

**Community Pastor:** The church employs and funds a community pastor to coordinate the care of individuals in the church and those bought to his attention in the wider community in regard to welfare and social support.
**Care Link Trust**: (an FBC associated Trust). This is a long standing charitable trust, comprising mostly of volunteers from Feilding Bible Chapel. Its primary purpose is to assist, support and encourage those in need in our Manawatu community physically, mentally, socially and financially.

**Meals on wheels**: Church volunteers are involved in helping in the distribution of meals on wheels.

**Manchester house**: Church members have been supportive of this agency with the making and selling of crafts to fund M H work.

**Community projects**: in 2014 FBC raised money for a joint project with Manchester Street School and constructed a fenced in orchard for use by the school. FBC has also; with the help of the M.D.C creative community's scheme, we've taught craft classes for classes for some of the local primary schools, with the help of church volunteers.

**Church Services**: These are open to the community with without restriction.

Kevin Barron
Community Pastor
Administrator
(06) 3237462
0224570079
Find us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
[www.feildingbiblechapel.org.nz](http://www.feildingbiblechapel.org.nz)
Hi Janine,

This is a submission on behalf of Feilding Brass.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal. We wish to make the following comments;

1. We are not sure of the impact to Feilding Brass rates with the proposal to remove the three separate categories and replace it with one. We understand that currently we receive the 50% reduction so I am assuming that this proposal will have not effect on the rates we are due. IF that is the case then we are comfortable with the proposal. However it has an adverse effect then we do not support it. As you know Council reduced the annual grant to Feilding Brass from $6,000 per annum done to $3,000 per annum last year. This would then mean a further reduction in the support for Feilding Brass. We realise that the fiscal situation is tight but we think community organisations such as Feilding Brass should be considered with greater priority than perhaps some other activities Council supports.

2. At this stage we are reasonably comfortable with applying every 3 years rather than annually. The only downside is that if we fail to obtain the funding do we have to wait three years before we can apply again. IF that was the case then we would not support this. IF however we can still apply every year and then once granted it is fixed for 3 years then that would be fine with us.

3. Feilding Brass is not supportive of the delegated authority proposal changing from the Community Funding Subcommittee to Council Officers. One of the big pluses with local government is that elected members have a better understanding of the nuances and feelings within a community – far more so than most Council Officers. Community organisations by their very nature are very focused on the ‘touchy feely’ aspects within their area of activity in meeting the needs of their community. Creating policies, however flexible they may be, and writing them on a piece of paper to be used to assess these community nuances we believe is inappropriate. As good as Council Officers may be, we believe this aspect of deciding on community funding priorities needs to stay within the governance arm of local government.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on this. I would like to talk to this submission on Tuesday 1st March if possible.

Kind regards

Richard Kirby
President
FEILDING BRASS
Phone +64 (6) 323 7327
Mobile +64 (27) 441 3282
richard@rkcl.co.nz
Dear Janine Hawthorn,

The Feilding Christian Leaders Network would like the opportunity to speak to our submission at the March 1st 2016 meeting, as stated in the letter sent out regarding submissions on January 19th.

Please let us know if this is possible and the process.

Kind Regards,

Pastor Kevin Barron

Co-Chairperson Pastor Ian Thompson

Feilding Christian Leaders Network

Email contact. feildingbiblechapel@xtra.co.nz
MDC Community Funding Subcommittee  Feilding Christian Leaders Network
Submission  C/O P.O.BOX 457 Feilding 4740

15/02/2016

To the MDC Subcommittee,

This submission is written on behalf of the Feilding Christian Leaders Network, who are a committee made up of pastors and leaders from fifteen of the main Christian denominations in Feilding. We meet on a monthly basis to share ideas and support each other in the work we are involved in in Feilding and the surrounding areas.

We see the church in general terms, as a unique body of people who come together because of a mutual belief in God, and His desire to see us thrive in all areas of life. We see the church (i.e." a body of people") as an entity gathered not for the benefit of itself (like a business), but specifically for the benefit of those outside of itself; the wider Manawatu community.

To demonstrate what has just been stated; we have recently surveyed many of the churches in our network to get a good idea of the different areas in which we are involved, that benefit our Manawatu community as a whole.

Sample of 100% Family Focused/Community Building activities. (See attached Appendix)

- Community based - Children and youth programmes
- Life skills - Budgeting, counselling, practical help.
- Advocacy - Assistance to the vulnerable.
- Food Distribution - Meals, groceries, food parcels.
- Crisis Support - Personal and "Civil Defence" emergencies.
- Voluntary help - Pool of willing volunteers for a "thriving community".
- Financial and practical support - For established social agencies.

There has been an assumption from some quarters, that the church in general, funds community work through a series of grants from various organisations; but this is not the case! As churches, we can usually apply for grants for only specific "one off" projects that are based on defined criteria, and involve an impact on the Manawatu community. This rules out a lot of what we do, as much of our work is ongoing; and not "one off, time defined projects".

Generally churches fund all infrastructure; staff costs and community work out of funds given regularly by members who attend our churches. People give to our organisations because they believe in, and are very often involved voluntarily in that work. It's worth stating that a large
percentage of these donors are Manawatu rate payers, so are not only funding their own personal rates, but also the rates and insurance etc of churches to which they belong!

Some of our churches up until recent times have received a 100% rates remission! This was awarded based on the fact that they are charitable organisations who offer their facilities, programmes, staff and volunteers to the wider community!

As organisations; we in principle don’t have a problem with “paying for services rendered” but we perceive that in the last few years, we have not communicated with Council the important role churches play in making our district the “connected, vibrant, thriving, & best place to raise a family”.

With rising rates remission scales, and other infrastructural costs such as insurance and maintenance of our facilities, we are finding more and more, that our received donations are reluctantly being channelled into these areas, rather than into the areas of community service, our donors are passionate about and to which they contribute.

We would therefore ask you to consider how you could help our organisations save in the area of rates, so we can maximise the effectiveness of our joint role with MDC in making this “the best place to raise a family”

Kind Regards

Pastor Kevin Barron
Chairperson
Christian Leaders Network Feilding

Attached Appendix - Summary of Involvement Activities by Churches of Feilding

Members...

St Johns Anglican Church
St Brigids Catholic Church
Feilding Baptist Church
Feilding Bible Chapel
Activate Church
Feilding Oroua Presbyterian Church
Rongotea Uniting Parish
The Salvation Army

Methodist Church
St Pauls Feilding
The Hub Church
Feilding Life Point Church
Feilding New Life Church
Lutheran Trinity Church
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Exhaustive List of Activities by Churches of Feilding

Preschool programmes for the community (Mainly music etc)

Youth programmes: Y Group, ICONZ, G brigade, rally.

Children's holiday programmes for all ages

Light party; safe alternative to Halloween put on by churches.

Support for schools and kindergartens for kids without resources, food etc.

Volunteer help for the elderly and sick transportation etc

Budgeting and meal budget events for the public.

Counselling services.

Chaplaincy work. Police, intellectually disabled, hospitals, hospice.

C.A.P debt centre. Helping families get themselves out of financial trouble.

Pastoral care for the sick and the lonely in our town.

Advocacy initiatives for the vulnerable in our society.

Recovery programmes for addictions

Suppling food to the Salvation Army food bank. (Church Cooperation)

Free community breakfasts, including clothes giveaway, haircuts etc.

Provides 'Meals on Wheels' volunteers.

Men's & women's breakfasts: specifically designed to encourage both sexes.

Community meals for immediate distribution to the community.

Community gardens teaching skills in supplying food to families.

Civil defence back up and support. Meals and places of shelter etc.

Employment and education programmes. (Salvation Army)

Community projects to aid groups and individuals to get ahead in life.

Manchester house support; through donations and resourcing.
Venues for weddings and funerals and people to officiate these events.

Women's social and pampering events for the community.

One off fun community involvement events. Family fun days, galas.

Our facilities are made available for special interest groups in our community.

Easter and Christmas events for the community.

Anzac day support for the annual remembrance day. Breakfasts etc

*Information supplied by the Feilding Christian Leaders Network Churches.*
Himatangi Beach Bowling Club Inc.
(EST 1988)
Muapoko Street, Himatangi Beach

Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10001
Fielding 4743

IN DOC No 129735
FILE No. 172180

RECEIVED
29 JAN 2016
Manawatu District Council

Subject: Review Community Rates Proposal.

Dear Janine,

As per our conversation of this week, as requested shown is my written submission pertaining to the bowling club.

Our bowling club was established in 1988 & in November 2015, we received our first annual rates tax invoice for 2015/16. Prior to receiving this we were granted a 60% subsidy by the council, which we are extremely grateful to receive.

I am still somewhat perplexed on how the annual rates figure was derived i.e. land value, pan or water rates. To endorse this comment I refer to my numerous telephone conversations and emails to Beth Harker mostly during February & May 2015. At that stage knowing we were going to be charged rates it was either going to be pan or water tax, & to establish the lesser charge of the two a water metre was going to be installed by the council soonest. To date this hasn’t happened.

To conclude we are the only sports club at Himatangi Beach, although a moderate membership our open fixtures attract bowlers through the Manawatu, not to mention the local residents enjoying our facilities. Our club house is also used as Civil Defence Headquarters for the beach & we are also fortunate that it is used both for private & local organisation functions.

A further rates increase would result in us having an additional sub increase which requires approval at our AGM, or which I am reluctant to do membership debentures.

Our motto “Is The Club with Heart” we are a non-profit organisation, however we provide an excellent recreational facility for the community. As in most rural organisation we are struggling financially.

On behalf of the membership I thank you for your time in considering this submission, but I do hope what I have written you will consider on its merits, and individual circumstances.
Yours sincerely,
Steve Welsh

CONTACT PERSON - Club President - Steve Welsh - Phone (06) 329 9714
28th January 2016

Community Development Adviser
Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10-001
Feilding 4743.

For the attention of Janine Hawthorne.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for forwarding the proposed Community Rates Support Policy for our consideration and comment.

This Club supports the proposed changes which simplify the policy and by approving any grant for a 3 year term gives a club certainty of funding.

I understand that if approved the new policy will come into effect this year for the rating year 2016/2017 and that to achieve this applications under the new policy will be requires in April / May 2016.

We do not intend speaking to our comments at the meeting on 1st March 2016.

Should you wish to contact me regarding the above I can be reached at (04) 2329108.

Regards,

Ken Marsh
Treasurer
18 January 2016

Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10 001
Feilding

Dear Janine

Review of Community Rates Support Policy - Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed changes to the Community Rates Support Policy.

Manfeild Park Trust fully supports the proposed inclusion of the Community Rates Support Policy within the existing Council's Rate Remission and Postponement Policies. This is a proactive move by Council for community and charitable organisations.

It is clear that the objective of the policy is to reduce rating obligations on community organisations that benefit the community and Manfeild Park is certainly one of those entities. Manfeild Park is a significant contributor to the community and to the local economy.

Council’s vision being connected, vibrant and thriving is supported by Manfeild in many ways. We contribute to the vibrancy of the town, city and region by providing a facility to host events for people to spectate at, participate in and develop economic growth opportunities from.

Manfeild Park currently enjoys a 20% rate remission under the existing system and the potential to increase this to 50% would assist the Trust significantly. In addition, a three yearly application process will also reduce administrative time spent on preparing annual submissions.

We thank Council for their forward thinking approach and for their consideration of organisations that will benefit from this policy change.

Yours faithfully

Julie Keane
CEO
17th February 2015

To Manawatu District Council
Community Funding Subcommittee
135 Manchester St,
Feilding 4702

RE: Community Funding Subcommittee Submission.

This submission is written on behalf of The Salvation Army, Feilding Corps

"The Salvation Army is a world-wide evangelical Christian church and human service provider. It is committed to caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society – all through the love of God shown in Jesus."

We believe The Salvation Army in Feilding has many areas of work that impact our community for the good of the community, for maintaining healthy families, working with some of the most vulnerable of our community.

A number of the human services that we provide are 100% community in their focus and the cost of these is covered by moneys that are given and/or raised by our own people who have volunteered in the vicinity of 1350 hours from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. We are not presently, and have not been for some time, in receipt of any money from outside of The Salvation Army, or from our National Organisation to help offset these costs.

Below is a list of some of the services that we offer, the top five being the ones that are called upon most often and which use large amount of resources to meet need.

- The Salvation Army has assisted in excess of 173 families since the beginning of July 2015, through to end of January 2016, from our Community Ministries House. Food, Counselling, other help.
- We also run a community garden, which supplies food for the food parcels; however this is a garden that is run for the purpose of helping people who need to learn some life skills.
- We also run a gold coin Community Play and Music morning for mums of young children who can not necessarily pay to go to other groups and this is attended by upwards of 40 people a week.
- We also support the North Street Play Centre through the year as many of the children who attend are from lower socioeconomic background. We supply some food for children who go with-out. We see this as important if our youngest and most vulnerable are to thrive. We also supply school bags with appropriate equipment for the age of the children.
- We also run our Family Store which sells good second hand clothing at good prices to help struggling families, but from which we also give clothing to people who are in need. The income from the shop raises funding for the service we provide. From the store we have also been able to provide bedding and clothing to those displaced in flooding and other
emergencies, as well as using funds raised to cater for the meals of those who have been displaced through events beyond their control.

- We provide chaplaincy type services to 6 Eventide Homes in the town on a monthly basis. This involves more volunteers, giving a total of 30+ hours a month.
- In addition to this, we provide drivers for the Meals on Wheels service, Approx 30 volunteers a week giving an hour to an hour and a half of their time, five times a year.
- We help people through the Community Ministries with Petrol Vouchers when they get stranded in Feilding or are left with no petrol but medical appointments to get to etc.
- At Christmas time we give Christmas hampers (38) to clients of the food bank and to the families of North St Play Centre as they are needed.
- We also help a number of families at the beginning of the year with Stationery and with quipped school bags, (Pencils, lunch boxes etc)
- We are also able to help with people getting Glasses should they need them.
- We have English Language Partners working out of our facilities, and work in with them to give help and support where it is needed.
- We have supported the volunteer fire service by providing and serving food and drink at fires where requested. (Eg the fire at the mill.) This is funded from the Family Store. Again this service is given largely by volunteers.
- We work alongside Civil Defence in times of emergency providing food, bedding and other requirements to displaced people, and are on call out 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We have worked alongside the Beautiful Families trust, Options, C.A.P. Debt Centre, (An Activate Church budgeting service) to add value to what we are doing with foodbank clients etc, Te Runanga O Raukawa who refer clients to us for further help, and to whom we refer people who need ongoing support etc. We have also assisted Rotary clubs when they have found a need in the community. We see this continuing and important if we are going to be connected and provide a holistic service.

In the past the MDC has been very gracious is the way they have allowed us a rate's reduction, and we would respectfully ask that as they consider their funding once again, that they look favourably upon continuing such, in light of the amount of work that we do to enrich our community and families, to help some of the poorest in our community, and in doing so to build stronger community and families, and in so doing contribute to making our community a connected, vibrant, and thriving place to live and to raise a family.

Many thanks for considering this submission

Yours in service

Wayne Jelliman
Major
Commanding Officer