

17 December 2015

Freepost Wellington City Council  
New Johnsonville Library Team  
Wellington City Council  
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**Re: WCC New Johnsonville Library**

This submission is from the Architectural Centre, an incorporated society dating from 1946, which represents both professionals and non-professionals interested in the promotion of good design.

**Option A or B**

This submission does not promote one option over the other. Instead we have framed this in order to raise specific issues to help in the further development of either option. We encourage the council to ensure that the final design is publicly notified and we look forward to an opportunity to give detailed feedback at that stage of the process.

**Option A**

The building appears to be better proportioned than Option B, and retains an existing building for the kindergarten. This has advantages of being more sustainable, in terms of the re-use of an existing building, and so preserving embodied energy, and providing kindergarten outdoor playspace.

**Option B**

The legibility of public space is clearer in Option B, because of the removal of the kindergarten building. We do however note that combining car parking and pedestrian movements on the same level is not ideal, and we encourage all parking to be restricted to under the building, if there is a need for this. We are concerned regarding the apparent lack of outdoor space adjacent to the kindergarten - this could be provided on the rooftop, public access to which we encourage.

**Both options**

**Rooftop access.** The flyover depictions of Option A and B both include people on the roof of the building. While we are not sure this is intentional, we do support rooftop access, especially if the kindergarten is incorporated in the new building, in order to provide children outdoor play area - which appears to be missing in Option B. Regardless access from the library and any kindergarten would be an asset.

**Green roof.** In addition to roof access, we strongly recommend that this roof be planted. This would provide an engaging public space and positively contribute to the environment. We also encourage **water collection and other sustainable building strategies** to be incorporated into the design.

**Car parking & other transport modes.** We assume parking is needed to support activities in nearby facilities such as Keith Spry Pools in addition to the library. Regardless, we would encourage the development to be designed to **encourage use of sustainable and active modes of transport**. We note that the building is adjacent to the train station, and presumably bus routes also traverse this area. We also encourage the council to ensure **good provision of cycle parks, and cycle routes through the precinct**. The sets of stairs at the back of the library



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leading to Memorial Park and tennis courts are not helpful in this respect, nor for disabled access. We also note that Moorfield Rd is a very busy bypass route for traffic avoiding the main street. This will only get worse if the big mall is ever built so careful consideration is needed now regarding how the public is encouraged safely across the road.

**Inactive edges and street frontages.** The Wanaka St/Moorefield Rd corner of the building is difficult to read, but appears to be an inactive and selfish edge. We would encourage this to be designed in order to promote public engagement with the building.

We support an integrated hub, both in terms of what functions are incorporated into the library building, but also any opportunities to extend these into the surrounding public open spaces. We are thinking in particular of the potential (with free wifi) for library services to be engaged with by the public outside of the building, but imagine there is potential for numerous ways for the ethos of the library, as a facilitator of learning, thinking and engaging with the world, to extend beyond its physical walls.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the New Johnsonville Library proposal. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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