

SOMERFIELD NEEDS A BUS SERVICE ROUTE REINSTATED - PLEASE!

To whom it may concern,

Our Somerfield Residents request for an adequate bus service route to be reinstated down Somerfield Street and Selwyn Street. Prior to the bus services being removed -many residents made submissions & appeals to save our bus service with no effect or response at all. The lack of an adequate, local bus service is affecting our residents more than ever with our City being rebuilt and with many of The Princess Margaret Hospital services being moved to Christchurch and Burwood Hospitals. We acknowledge that a prior route No: 114 was not well utilised by our local residents but many residents felt that this route was too limited & did not suit for their purposes to travel to the City / Hospital etc.

On behalf of our local Residents, Somerfield Residents Association will be supportive of any further action / request to the appropriate authorities to try to reinstate an adequate bus service in Somerfield and Selwyn Streets. This may be achieved by a petition process. We also wonder if the use of a New red mini bus may assist our request for our area?

We would like to recommend 2 proposed options which would benefit our less able residents and families in either options:

Option 1) To amend existing bus service route No: 60 to include Barrington, Somerfield, and Selwyn Streets. (by turning right into Milton St instead of turning left into Milton Street.) - Minimal intervention / change may be required, especially as it would mainly include left hand turns to complete the block /detour.

Option 2) To create a New Hospital Based Bus Service Route -including Somerfield & Selwyn Streets, and the 3 City public hospitals (The Princess Margaret Hospital, CHCH Hospital & Burwood Hospital). This proposed new route through Somerfield may include useful new stops for our residents city wide-although some area stops may wish to be negotiated. (see proposed maps for more details).

Both options will improve accessibility for our residents (particularly for our growing elderly population & young families) & will reduce walking distances to our nearest bus stop. This will enable our community greater opportunities to commute & enjoy our City areas & new health care facilities.

In many instances our elderly residents, families & Cashmere High School Students are required to walk at least 1.5km to reach their nearest bus stop in order to get to the City or CHCH Hospital. Many residents feel isolated in their homes especially if they are unable to drive.

An adequate bus service is essential for our community to feel connected with these services & other areas of our growing city. Somerfield area includes at least 3 local public schools, 4 pre-schools, 2 Rest homes, 2 churches & many businesses, shops & restaurants - requiring an improved transport system please.

Thank you for considering these options & hopefully any further petition processes will no longer be necessary to confirm our residents' strong support for reinstatement of bus services in Somerfield area.

We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Julie Tobbell

Kind Regards

Julie Tobbell.

(Somerfield Residents Association Chairperson)

Phone 03 332 4092 / 027 2721063.

Please Find Attached:

{ 424 Signatures written
{ 56 signatures / names on-line (change.org)