Dear Taupo residents

Council was elected to make decisions "for and on behalf of the community". The Taupo Residents Group is not a formally mandated representative group but we accept that some community views are promoted by its establishment.

Following workshops and discussions in 2011 and 2012, Council decided to sell the 11 Gascoigne St site for two main reasons:

The sale will help achieve property sales targets as signalled in the Long Term Plan.

The Gascoigne St site was becoming financially unviable. The operators no longer pay rent at Gascoigne St. We have worked with stakeholders including InterCity, Nakedbus, the i-Site and Taupo Taxis. InterCity favour the new location. "We believe the i-Site location is the best" Sam Peate – Intercity, General Manager Coaching. It is not council business to own and subsidise bus depots especially when they do not cater for all buses.

We responded to Mr Plummer's information requests and met with him at the site on March 1. Mr Plummer suggested alternate sites in Story Pl or Boat Harbour. This is not what InterCity want.

The facts:

• We are NOT building a depot on the Domain
• We considered other options and locations
• Other bus companies drop off and pick up from the location without issue
• Other towns have similar arrangements
• The consolidation of bus services is consistent with the Taupo Urban Commercial and Industrial Structural Plan

The benefits to load and unload in front of the i-Site:

• Deliver visitors to the heart of the CBD
• Tickets will continue to be sold at the i-Site
• Staff can further promote tourism
• Public toilets are nearby
• The Tongariro St pedestrian crossing is controlled by traffic lights, making it the safest in town!

Mr Plummer says the bus shelter is both too much and not enough. Council worked with InterCity to ensure the needs of our community are catered for.

For Mr Plummer to imply that elderly will be left in the cold is uninformed. Nakedbus has operated successfully from the site since 2007. We are building shelter from the weather based on feedback from both Nakedbus and Intercity.

This has been more than 18 months in the making. We would like to get on with it, not become known for taking 10 years to assemble wet weather shelter!

For the full version of this response, visit www.taupo.govt.nz.