



*The Voice of Heritage*

**Historic Places Canterbury Submission:  
Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2016-2017.**

**Mayor and Councillors,**

Thank you for granting us the opportunity to make this Submission to the Council.

Historic Places Canterbury (HPC) wishes to acknowledge and "Thank" the efforts, the professionalism and dedication of the Christchurch City Council Heritage Team and requests the Mayor and Councillors, communicate to the Staff our appreciation of their efforts and endeavors.

Historic Places Canterbury (HPC) wishes to take this opportunity acknowledge the work and "Thank" Richie Moyle and the work of his team in the ongoing restoration/repair of the CCC Heritage Buildings.

As Chair I wish to personally acknowledge the efforts of Megan Pearce in providing advice, which was clear and prompt, on an Annual Plan process that has had to be quickly adapted to our new COVID-19 reality.

**General Comment:**

HPC considers that it is important to make any Submission meaningful and this depends on the quality of the information available.

The information and layout in the smaller "Updated-Draft-Annual-2020-21-Consultation-document-WEB"

HPC considers it is well laid out and will act as incentive for residents to have their say and make a Submission.

In reference to the larger more detailed document "Update-Draft-Annual-Plan-2020-202-Financial Document"

HPC considers the information contained in the "Proposed Capital Programme" is an improvement and the Councillors / CCC Staff are to be commended as it is a real aid when preparing a Submission.

The only caveat is that HPC would like more information on the Operational Activities and Grants.

**HPC requests in future draft Annual Plans documentation provide more details of the CCC Operational Activities.**

**HPC further requests that Heritage funding be separated from Parks & Coastal Environment in the "Where will our funding go" pie chart.**

Heritage is a distinct activity and the Council's recently adopted Heritage Strategy has widened the definition of Heritage and it no longer uses built heritage as its sole criteria.

**Christchurch City Council Funding:**

**HPC does not usually comment on the rates, however in these COVID-19 times, we consider the Staff recommended rate increase and accompanying increase in borrowing is prudent.**

HPC understands this Annual Plan is a direct response to our immediate current circumstances and hopefully the next years Long Term Annual Plan we will have a clearer understanding of our circumstances and can plan accordingly.

HPC wishes to remind the Councillors that the Christchurch City Council is a significant purchaser of goods and services in the Christchurch Business Community. Any cut in spending will have an effect on the local economy. The Council's business spend in the current and post COVID-19 environment will be more important to our commercial Heritage and business community than ever before.

**Robert McDougall Art Gallery and the Old Municipal Chambers:**

**HPC agrees to substantial work on Robert McDougall and the Old Municipal Chambers and being deferred as proposed in this revised Annual Plan.**

**In return HPC seeks assurance from the Council that it will be rigorous in ensuring the buildings are weathertight and ensure they are not subject to any further deterioration.**

HPC would like to remind the Councillors the Robert McDougall Art Gallery has been closed since the new Art Gallery opened in 2003. The Gallery was a bequest made to Christchurch by Robert McDougall and the Council is obliged to honour the spirit behind this gift.

### **Special Heritage (Cathedral) Targeted Rate.**

#### **HPC submits the CCC should continue to support this targeted rate.**

The Christ Church Cathedral is one of our iconic buildings and its repair is a key contributor to the regeneration of Cathedral Square. In our COVID-19 business environment, having a such a significant building project and its workforce and suppliers is an economic benefit for the CBD businesses and the city at large. HPC notes the targeted levy is the CCC's part of the an agreement with Central Government and the Church Property Trust

### **CCC Heritage Grants for Heritage Buildings and Heritage Projects and Group Projects:**

HPC wishes to remind the Councillors they have adopted a Heritage Strategy that recognises the importance of Heritage to Christchurch as a City and its Residents. The CCC has formally recognised that our heritage is an integral part of who we are. The Heritage Strategy commits the Council to supporting our heritage. HPC notes the Heritage Strategy was widely supported by the Community. The Heritage Strategy envisions that the CCC is a part of and a partner with the Community in supporting Heritage. HPC argues it is beholden for the CCC to support the retention of our Heritage and the efforts of community groups.

### **The HPC request for heritage grants to be retained at their current levels and consideration be given to having them increased if needed.**

This is based on the following:

Heritage Buildings are "shovel ready" by the time an application is made for a Heritage Grant. As such they are often ready to proceed to construction much faster than a new building. The economic benefits of building activity in the CBD as we emerge from COVID-19 are important.

HPC is aware of a street where the two restored Heritage Buildings are nearly fully tenanted the remaining heritage buildings are being tenanted comparatively quickly compared to the rest of the CBD.

One shop was recently sold so we can conclude Commercial Heritage Buildings is sought after.

## **Heritage Community Groups Applying for Grants**

**Many grant applications to Foundations etc, groups must show they have fundraised 1/3 of the cost of the project.**

The CCC grant is an important part of the project process providing the necessary seed capital. Many of these groups provide free labour, time and materials and their voluntary efforts are crucially important. HPC notes the CCC gave a grant to Lyttelton Tug. Effectively the CCC grants provide seed capital upon which the community groups leverage to accomplish their projects. Many of these groups heritage projects and buildings have enabled commercial operations to leverage off them.

HPC notes the CCC was actively seeking Community Groups to partner in the use and restoration of its Heritage Buildings.

## **Landmark and HIG Funding to be Combined**

**HPC is concerned as the focus of each is different and this is reflected in the respective policies. HPC requests for clarity the Councillors reconsider this proposal and keep them separate.**

## **HPC Request the Repair of Tombstones Funding be reinstated.**

A number of Community groups have adopted their local cemeteries and this funding encourages their efforts. We understand some groups have partnered with CCC on the repairs. This is a case where a little money goes a long way.

*HPC understands that Selwyn District Council has repaired its tombstones and HPC notes the CCC as a Territorial Authority has more resources.*

## **HPC Requests the full funding for Heritage Week be reinstated.**

This is another instance where the Council funding enables Community Groups to leverage upon and run their own events. Many groups use the Heritage Week promotion and booklet to promote their fundraising initiatives. Heritage Week is a major Community event! There is another instance where the Council is in partnership with the Community.

## **3353 Edmonds Band Rotunda**

### **HPC endorses the proposal to reinstate the Edmonds Band Rotunda.**

This project has been already delayed on numerous occasions and we are pleased the Council will complete the repair of this unprecedented bequest by Thomas Edmonds.

**HPC endorses the following proposed work for the following Council Heritage Buildings:**

Holding Renewals 1

3349 Chokebore Lodge

3353 Edmonds Band Rotunda

3378 Rose Historic Chapel

42139 Delivery Package Heritage Realised Reactive Buildings Renewals

42147 Delivery Package Monuments and Artworks Renewals

**HPC requests the Council reinstate the full funding for the following:**

**3368 Mona Vale Bathhouse**

The Council has spent substantial resources on Mona Vale's restoration with a commercial tenant and many thousands of residents visiting this iconic site. We request that funding be reinstated in this revised Annual Plan.

**42146 Peacock Fountain Renewal**

This is a much visited and is part of a major entrances to our beloved Botanical Gardens.

We are projecting to the world and our residents that the Christchurch Regeneration is a reality. This will be negated by having the predominant Peacock fountain needing renewal work to carried out on it.

**3366 Little River Coronation Library**

Little River is a growing and rapidly developing area. The Little River Coronation Library will be a community asset to this vibrant community.

**42139 Delivery Package Heritage Realised Reactive Buildings Renewals**

**50797 Coronation Hall**

Our concern is that it is fire damaged and any delay will cause additional material damage to the Hall fabric. (HPC understands it has been awaiting funding for repair restoration since 2015.)

**16130 Citizens' War Memorial Earthquake**

HPC reminds the Council, has the strongly held view the Citizens' War Memorial should stay where it is placed as it was specifically designed for its current location.

## **"Proposed Levels of Service".**

The CCC as an organisation communicates in a large variety of formats and styles with its residents, community groups, businesses, business organisations, media etc through Public Forums, Surveys, Deputations, Consultations, Call Centre enquiries, Resource and Building Consents, direct communication with the Staff etc.

### **HPC Requests the measuring of the Levels of Service "Activity- Citizens and Customers Services" be developed to reflect the complexity of the Councils communications and interactions.**

HPC's interactions are mainly through the relevant Committee Advisers (including full Council meeting Advisers) and the Heritage Team. Whilst we may not be completely satisfied with the decisions, our experience in dealing with the Staff is predominately positive. HPC does not consider the Resident Surveys as an adequate measure unless we are individually surveyed as Residents.

HPC as you will aware has in the past and will continue to inform the Staff and Councillors if their processes and levels of service are worthy of commendation.

Proposed Levels of Service:

1.4.2.2 N Develop intangible heritage policy and guidelines to support grant funding allocation

**HPC supports this and the funds set aside for the Intangible Heritage.**

1.4.2.3 N Develop policy and guidelines to support community event funding for Heritage Week

**HPC supports this however we have a caveat that the resulting policy and guidelines needs to be flexible as our collective heritage, and the various Community Groups who promote it.**

Current levels of Service:

1.4.2L Heritage Grants/ Policy Guidelines

**HPC commends the performance of the Heritage Team.**

### **Proposed Fees and Charges:**

**HPC requests the Councillors be mindful when setting the charges that for many groups it is a stretch financially to hire Council venues.**

In addition many groups for their public events will be facing the prospect of needing additional resources to fund Public Liability Insurance and for someone to attend with First Aid certification.

## **Provincial Council Buildings (PCB)**

At the last Annual Plan submission HPC requested the CCC start formal talks aimed at exploring the formation of a partnership with Central Government to repair/restore this internationally significant building.

**HPC requests the CCC initiate a discussion with Central Government to form a partnership to repair the Provincial Council Buildings.**

HPC considers the repair / restoration of the PCB is an ideal COVID-19 building stimulation project.

## **CCC Response to the HPC Annual Plan Submission:**

**HPC request the Council in its response to our submission, formally respond / address the requests contained in this submission.**

It has been recent CCC practice, to respond to Annual Plan submissions with a general letter that does not address the issues contained in our submissions. HPC does not consider a general letter is an adequate response for what is a full Consultation where specific issues have been submitted upon.

In the more distant past it was the CCC practice to send copies of the Staff reports written in response to the submissions.

Historic Places Canterbury would like to talk to its Submission.

Mark Gerrard  
Chair Historic Places Canterbury