



The Voice of Heritage

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

Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you for granting us the opportunity to submit our Submission to the Council.

Historic Places Canterbury wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent passing of Neil Carrie. Neil Carrie as a long time member of the Christchurch City Council's Heritage Team (and its previous incarnations) made significant contributions to preservation and restoration of our City's Built Heritage. Neil Carrie's expertise as an Architect was not confined to Heritage as he was additionally involved in the Council's Urban Design initiatives.

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

We request the Councillors and CEO review the workload and adjust Heritage Team's funding upwards as HPC, and we are sure other groups, have practised self restraint as we are aware the Council's Heritage Team are "flat out".

HPC is mindful the Council Heritage Team is involved with the District Plan Review as well the ongoing work resulting from the aftermath of the earthquakes and aftershocks, the administration of grants, extensive Council repair and restoration of it heritage buildings, and unexpected work such as New Regent Street. The rationale for the above request is taken from numerous private conversations where HPC committee members have reported that the Heritage Team appear to be very busy and thus the use of the phrase "flat out".

Christchurch City Council Heritage Funding Provides A Great Return.

HPC requests the Councillors consider the significance of the CCC Heritage contributions to the saving of Heritage and the significance to the City's identity and branding and cultural well being.

Heritage Christchurch (the old government buildings in Cathedral Square, The Town Hall, former Trinity Church, Shand's Emporium, the Christ Church Cathedral, New Regent Street, the Christchurch and Canterbury Clubs, Duncan's Buildings, Mona Vale buildings the Edmonds Clock Tower, Sign of the Takahe, Sign of the Kiwi, Victoria Clock Tower, Gaiety Theatre, Isaac Theatre Royal (a Council loan) are but a few of the buildings the Council has had a hand in saving.

HPC is sure the Councillors will agree that it is a very great return the CCC and Christchurch gets from its 60c in the \$100.00 (28cents a week for the average rates bill).

HPC requests the Councillors raise the funding set aside for Heritage as it provides a great return.

The Christchurch City Councils Restoration and Repair of its Heritage Buildings.

HPC commends the Council for the number of heritage buildings it is proposing to restore and repair.

HPC requests that the Councillors ensure more publicity be accorded to the return of these Heritage treasures to their communities. As evidenced by the return of The Bridge of Remembrance, these heritage buildings and objects are not just text and images in Histories and the District Plan but living objects loved and cherished by the Community.

Parks and Open Spaces: (gardens parks, heritage parks, heritage gardens statues etc)

The word "Heritage" is used extensively in describing the funding within this group of activities and the historical significance of our Parks and Open Space (including heritage objects e.g. statues) is often overlooked in our concentration on our City's built heritage.

In the HPC Deputation to Council Committee on the CCDU proposed changes to the iconic space that is Victoria Square, I asked if Victoria Square had been assessed for its significance to Christchurch and the history of the urban design/ landscape architect professions. I have received no answer stating a heritage assessment had been done.

We request the Council ensure proper heritage assessments are made to the Council's parks and Spaces and objects contained within, to ascertain their importance as heritage and ensure any work carried out is sympathetic to the original designs.

Christchurch has the reputation as the “garden city” and we need to ensure those spaces that gave us this reputation are preserved so everyone and subsequent generations can understand why. The Victoria Square debate has reminded us that successful innovative designs of the past are still very relevant today!

Latimer and Cranmer Square were designed as passive squares to be enjoyed.

We request the Council ensure Latimer and Cranmer Squares be maintained in their present form and purpose as they were originally intended.

Canterbury Museum Redevelopment: Capital Grants

<i>Capital Grants</i>										
2,545	Transitional Incentive Grants	2,798	2,434	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
-	Canterbury Museum Redevelopment	6,286	6,412	6,546	-	-	-	-	-	-
73	Riccarton Bush Trust	43	33	111	113	23	24	24	25	25
2,618	Total Capital Grants	9,127	8,879	7,157	613	523	524	524	525	525

(Page 105 Proposed Amendments to the Long Term Plan 2015 - 2025)

The Council according to the “Proposed Amendments to Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025” will this year start providing a Capital Grant for the Canterbury Museum Redevelopment for this year and the following two. (This years grant is \$6,286,00.)

HPC Submits that before any CCC Capital Grant Fundings are released to the Canterbury Museum, the proposed redevelopment should have been through a meaningful consultation which should be signed off by the Council. HPC would like to remind the Council that according to the Environment Court decision in Canterbury Museum Trust Board v. Christchurch City Council, the Museum is bound to consult with the parties to the decision , including the The Christchurch Civic Trust.

“Historic Buildings Fund”- “To provide for the purchase by Council of listed heritage buildings threatened with demolition, with the intention of reselling the building with a heritage covenant attached.”

RESERVES and TRUST FUNDS			FORECAST	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	FORECAST
			OPENING			CLOSING
			BALANCE			BALANCE
			1 July 2016			30 June 2025
			(\$000)			
Housing Development Fund	Social housing	Separately funded Council activity (Social Housing)	24,053	153,580	(182,382)	(4,749)
Burwood Landfill Capping Fund	Refuse minimisation	Contributions set aside to fund the future capping of Cell A at Burwood Landfill	216	415	(332)	299
Historic Buildings Fund	Heritage protection	To provide for the purchase by Council of listed heritage buildings threatened with demolition, with the intention of reselling the building with a heritage covenant attached.	1,216	310	-	1,526
Community Loans Fund	Community support	To lend funds to community organisations to carry out capital projects	2,865	-	-	2,865
Dog Control Account	Animal control	Statutory requirement to set aside the surplus from all Dog Control Accounts	391	21,824	(20,675)	1,540

(Page 185 Proposed Amendments to the Long Term Plan 2015 - 2025)

HPC request that the Council increase its contributions to Historic Buildings Fund.

HPC deems the amount set aside in the Annual Plan is too small and needs to be adjusted to suit the environment/situation it is expected to deal with. Councillors, this is a bookmark figure set aside for a "just in case" scenario. HPC notes the Council funded Landmark Funding has ceased and the fund needs to be able to secure the survival of commercial heritage buildings that may be at risk.

The Old Municipal Chambers known as "Our City".

We request the CCC reconsider the timing of the repair and take in consideration the role of the Old Municipal Building, known as Our City, for its contribution to the revitalisation of the C.B.D. as well as its importance as a heritage building and advance the proposed restoration and repair of this much loved building. HPC requests that Our City continue its role as a venue and exhibition space for community groups.

Our City sits within the the Avon River Precinct Anchor Project and is part of the Cultural Precinct and HPC considers that the Council is beholden to ensure it is restored and repaired as soon as possible so as to complete these projects.

I was reminded of the importance of Our City by an HPC Member who is a member of an embroiders' group who regularly exhibited at what is known to them as Our City. There is currently no appropriate venue in the CBD and they are now existing in the suburbs. The Museum and other institutions cannot always accommodate their needs and those of other groups due to scheduling and cost.

Aside from the WEA there is no affordable venue for Community Groups to exhibit or hold meetings in the CBD.

Councillors, I can personally testify these community groups generate large attendances of individuals who will be drawn back to the CBD when this building is reopened. The Council should make sure that these community groups are part of the revitalisation of the CBD and advancing the return of Our City will ensure that these community groups' activities, exhibitions will make a contribution to our post-quake future. The huge success of "Our City" (pre Quake and aftershocks) is a testament to its importance to community groups.

These community groups are diverse and bring life, variety and vitality in their use of Our City for our residents and tourists who visit the CBD.

The Annual Plan Submission Process.

Historic Places Canterbury requests that the Council reinstate the Annual Plan Hearings and allow the residents and community groups to speak to their Annual Plan Submission.

HPC considers that holding Hearings (which are a long standing tradition) is valuable as it allows groups such as ours, to formally speak to the Councillors and Mayor, so they can hear our concerns and compliments at first hand and for them to ask questions.

As Chair of HPC I informally encourage residents and community groups to submit and make Deputations to the Council. I consider it important the Councillors (and senior Council Staff) hear in a formal setting the passions and concerns of their residents. The formal hearings are a rare time constrained opportunity for Christchurch Residents to formally address their Councillors. (The C.C.C. Staff are not as nearly time restrained when dealing with the Councillors.) The current process of concentrating on informal “conversations”, without the opportunity to address the Mayor and Councillors as a group, encourages the public excluded “off the table” one-on-one lobbying of Councillors.

HPC commends the Councillors for attempting new ways to engage with their Residents however we request these new community engagements be conducted alongside the traditional hearing process. It should be both and not be an either or.

If the Council chooses to hold Hearings on the Annual Plan, Historic Places Canterbury would like to talk to its Submission.

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