



14 February 2013

Councillor Yani Johanson
Chair
Community, Recreation and Culture Committee
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 73016
CHRISTCHURCH 8154

Dear Yani

Thank you very much for the time that you and your colleagues made available to the Hon Lianne Dalziel and me at the Committee meeting last Tuesday, 5 February. We were very pleased that the Committee agreed to receive us and to hear from us about our concerns over the pace of heritage building demolition post-earthquake.

As you requested, we have prepared a written summary of the matters that we addressed to the Committee. We have included a summary of our principal recommendation which is that the Council should, using as a basis the work already done by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, consult over the content of a heritage building recovery plan to apply to Christchurch.

This document, once consulted and adopted by the Council, could then be presented to the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery with a request that he adopt it under the Recovery legislation. As you know, this would then give it a formal legal status and it would allow decisions about the retention or demolition of heritage buildings to be made according to a better and more transparent legal framework than currently exists.

We know that you and your Committee have been absolutely committed to the cause of the retention of Christchurch's heritage buildings. As we said when we appeared before you last week, we share that commitment, and we seek to find ways in which we can work in partnership with you on this issue. One obvious way for this could happen would be for you to spearhead the Council's adoption of a Heritage Building Recovery Plan and for us to work with the Minister to ensure that its adoption, in appropriate form, is a front-of-mind issue for him.

Thank you again for your attention to this matter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles'.

Charles Chauvel MP
Shadow Attorney-General
Labour Spokesperson for Justice
Labour Spokesperson for Arts, Culture & Heritage

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