

7. MILLENNIUM BRIDGE PROJECT

Officer responsible Senior Professional Building & Utilities	Authors Stuart Smith, DDI 371-1731 and Simon Markham, DDI 371-1593
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The purpose of this report is to seek direction from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee regarding the future of this project.

CONTEXT

Turning Point 2000 was initiated and core funded by the Christchurch City Council to facilitate, lead and co-ordinate the celebrations for the year 2000. Art 2000, an advisory group within Turning Point 2000, was tasked with developing four key projects, one being a unique footbridge over the Avon, opposite Dorset Street into Hagley Park.

Design selection involved a two-stage competition, which attracted 47 entrants, the winner being Andrew Drummond Sculpture.

Following the failure of Turning Point 2000 to secure a resource consent at the chosen site, the City Council, through the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Millennium Bridge Subcommittee and the Parks and Waterways Unit, took over the project, with a view to erecting Andrew Drummond's competition-winning bridge at the "kiosk" site, adjacent to the Hagley Park car park off Armagh Street.

The Subcommittee brought the Art and Industry Biennial Trust into the project to take advantage of its expertise in the artwork field.

After doubts were expressed about the suitability of the proposed Armagh Street site, another site across the Avon, between the Botanic Gardens and the adjacent daffodil woodland area of Hagley Park, was proposed.

At 25 metres, the length of the bridge at the new site would be the same as at the original Dorset Street site.

At the Council meeting of 23 August 2001, the latest new site was approved in principle and the project authorised to proceed, subject to funding. At the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting of 12 September 2001, the siting was confirmed and funding of \$334,000 was approved. This recommendation was also accepted at the full Council meeting held on Thursday 27 September 2001.

The makeup of the \$334,000 budget was as follows:

		Origin of Budget Figure
Site modification	\$13,100	City Solutions estimate
Art and Industry Trust fees	\$28,825	Art and Industry Trust estimate
Andrew Drummond Sculpture Ltd	\$280,000	Andrew Drummond Sculpture Ltd estimate, via Art and Industry, 23 July 2001
CCC input	<u>\$12,000</u>	City Solutions estimate
	Total	\$333,925
	Rounded up Total	\$334,000

City Solutions have been engaged by the Parks and Waterways Unit to set up and administer the Council's intended contract with the Art and Industry Biennial Trust.

It was intended that the Art and Industry Biennial Trust would be engaged as the main contractor to manage the project and arrange for the associated site modification (landscaping). They in turn would engage Andrew Drummond Sculpture Ltd as the subcontractor for the design and construction of the bridge.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

On the basis of the above situation, contract negotiations were commenced with the Art and Industry Trust and Andrew Drummond Sculpture Ltd late in 2001, as detailed in the report on these in the public excluded portion of this agenda. In the course of these negotiations a revised price for the bridge design and construction was submitted, together with a price for site modifications. Collectively these total \$463,571.36. Together with the other costs associated with this project the total cost would be \$504,396, being \$170,471 above budget.

These new costings were subject to Quantity Surveyor check and found to be “about right”, suggesting the original price was a significant underestimate of the likely cost. Further discussions with Mr Drummond have been unable to close this gap, and contract negotiations are at an impasse, pending direction from the Council.

Basically the options open to the Council are:

1. To secure additional funding for this project and proceed with it, or
2. Formally terminate contract negotiations and abandon the project.

As regards Option 1, in view of the Council’s tight budget situation, staff are not recommending seeking additional Council funding for the project. Initial enquiries have been made in recent weeks with regard to potential sponsorship funding from both philanthropic and commercial organisations, but this experience has shown that closing a funding gap of this magnitude from these sources in a reasonable timeframe is not considered realistic. Option 2 is therefore recommended.

The prospect of Option 2 has been raised with the Community Trust, which contributed \$200,000 towards this millennium project. Initial indications are that the Trust could favourably consider the reallocation of available funding to other millennium projects requiring funding, but the Trust would need to be formally approached to do so, indicating which project(s) would be substituted for the bridge project.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council formally terminate contract negotiations for the Millennium Bridge and abandon the project.
 2. That the Artworks in Public Places Subcommittee identify and advise alternative projects for the Community Trust to consider reallocating its available funding to.

Chairman’s Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.