

5. SPECIAL FUNDS

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The purpose of this report is twofold. Firstly, to identify a project which the Town Hall Education Fund special fund monies could fund. Secondly, to give consideration to dividing the Waimairi Community Awards Fund amongst the community boards whose area fall within the former Waimairi District Council area. Both are requests arising from the Council meeting of Tuesday 25 March 2003.

THE TOWN HALL EDUCATION FUND

BACKGROUND

The Town Hall Education Fund has a current balance of \$35,957.

This fund was established prior to amalgamation. It was funded from profits from New Zealand Army Band concerts and other similar concerts.

It is unclear what the purposes of the fund are but it has been suggested by staff originally involved with the Town Hall that it was set up to help fund any children's activities/concerts that may use the Town Hall.

At the Annual Plan Subcommittee meeting in February 2003, it was suggested that staff within the Leisure Unit be asked to put forward some projects for utilising this fund. Alan Bywater, the Team Leader of the Planning and Policy Team, co-ordinated the following response:

OPTION 1 – KIDSFEST

The Kidsfest Trust would welcome a donation to the festival, which could be set up to pay a grant out of interest earned each year for a community event.

Policy Links

Recreation and Sport Policy

Christchurch City Council is committed to making a significant and sustainable contribution to the quality of life of its residents, particularly its children and youth, by supporting a broad range of recreation and sport services, facilities and programmes.

Children's Policy

Christchurch City Council is committed to promoting the healthy, happy development of children to their full potential, both as children now and for the future well-being of our community.

Advantages

- Existing organisation and event so limited additional call on staff time.
- Capital could remain in tact and the trust could use interest to fund events on an ongoing basis.
- Successful and popular festival.

Disadvantages

- The interest earned would not be sufficient to maintain the capital intact and to help fund the festival.

OPTION 2 – PRIMARY SCHOOLS CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The fund could contribute towards the costs of holding this annual event at the Christchurch Town Hall. There are over 44 local schools participating. The festival is held over four days with six shows. This year the festival is being held from Monday 25 August to Thursday 28 August.

The Council has funded this festival to the level of \$10,000 per annum in recent years.

Annually, the festival pays around \$32,000 for hire of the Town Hall.

Policy Links

Festivals and Events Policy

Christchurch City Council is committed to a lively and dynamic city which is enhanced by a range of events and festivals that:

- increase the well-being of residents
- attract economic benefits through growth in the number and length of stay of visitors
- promote the establishment of industry-related business activity and employment opportunities for residents
- maintain Christchurch's position as a leader in events

Children's Policy:

Christchurch City Council is committed to promoting the healthy, happy development of children to their full potential, both as children now and for the future well-being of our community.

Arts Policy:

Christchurch City Council is committed to achieving an enlivened and creative city in which the arts are widely recognised as being essential.

Arts Strategy – Goal 3:

The arts of the many different cultures in Christchurch are supported and promoted.

The Council's objectives include to:

Support events and arts activity that celebrate the diversity and meaning of Christchurch communities, cultures and lifestyles

Advantages

- Existing organisation and event so limited additional call on staff time
- Successful and popular festival
- Close linkage to use of the Town Hall by children.

Disadvantages

- The fund is not sufficiently large enough to utilise only the interest to fund this festival
- Once the fund has been exhausted there is likely to be an expectation that the Council will continue to fund this festival utilising general funds

There are other similar festivals (i.e. school/education based that take place or could take place in the Town Hall) in a similar position e.g. Primary Schools Dance Festival, Secondary Schools Dance Festival, Waiaha Cultural Festival. The funds could be shared across a number of these.

OPTION 3 – CHILDREN'S FILM MAKING COMPETITION

The Council could look at purchasing a couple of video cameras that could be lent to schools for children to have a go at making their own video productions, writing the scripts and shooting the videos, acting etc. The current emphasis on NZ movies means there should be some momentum for an initiative of this kind. Children could have their videos evaluated and the best 10 or so could be screened and receive awards for different age levels at primary and secondary like a mini academy awards at the Town Hall. It would be a good way of getting children on screen rather than in front of it just watching.

Policy Links

Children's Policy

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Arts Policy

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Arts Strategy – Goal 1

Everyone has opportunities to participate in a variety of arts activities and have access to performances, concerts and exhibitions.

The Council's objectives include to:

Initiate and promote arts outreach programmes to take the arts to non-arts venues and situations.

Advantages

- New initiative and would not happen without the funds.
- Taps in to a current area of interest i.e. NZ films.

Disadvantages

- Will require ongoing staff time or funding a suitable organization to host the cameras and the event.
- Ongoing maintenance and replacement costs.
- Currently no research done on the level of schools' interest

CONCLUSION – TOWN HALL EDUCATION FUND

The staff view is that Option 2, the Primary Schools Cultural Festival, is the preferred option as it has the closest links with the Town Hall. The limited size of the fund means that the interest earned is not going to be sufficient to maintain the balance intact and provide a worthwhile annual interest figure. It is suggested that the Council pay the organisers a one-off grant which would be spread over three years.

WAIMAIRI DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARD FUND

BACKGROUND

The Waimairi District Community Award Fund has a current balance of \$68,701.

The former Waimairi District Council resolved in September 1989 *“that, pursuant to Section 208 of the Local Government Act 1974, an amount of \$50,000 be set aside as a Special Fund for the purpose of providing an annual income for assisting in the study, research, or skills development of residents of the former Waimairi District (within criteria related to the Award)”*. Each year since applications have been called for within the following categories:

- Academic (including Science, Health and Education)
- Arts (including Fine Arts, Music and Performing Arts)
- Sport and Recreation

This award is open to all citizens residing within the area of the former Waimairi District between the ages of 15 and 30 years old, inclusive. Applicants may be temporarily out of the district for study or competition at the time of lodging the application.

The present scheme is administered by officers from the Fendalton Service Centre, with a joint Committee comprising Community Board members from the four communities now covering the former district council's area. This joint Committee is responsible for the adjudication process.

Several years ago a review was carried out. This review was prompted by the view that the awards had become increasingly irrelevant and boundaries of the former Council were rather meaningless in the new city. Community Boards were asked if they would be interested in expanding the awards into a city-wide series of awards, and if they would be happy to provide a top-up to enable a better availability of funds. In general terms there seemed to be approval although there was not total agreement to provide top-up money.

The idea was also considered by the old Community Services Committee with the possibility of tying it in with Youth Awards. The outcome was to cease holding annual awards pending further review. In the meantime the fund balance has grown a little and is now almost \$69,000.

The general feeling amongst staff is that the current scheme is outdated. It excludes some city residents because they do not reside within the old Waimairi area. It also unintentionally promotes the old local authorities even although they are no longer relevant.

Although the fund balance is now nearly \$69,000, the fund is not large enough to be sustainable in the long term.

The recommendation at the Council meeting on 25 March 2003 was that consideration be given to sharing the fund amongst those Community Boards whose areas fall within the former Waimairi District Council area. This recommendation is evaluated below along with two alternatives which have been put forward by the Leisure Unit staff.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION – ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY BOARD

The Council recommendation to divide the funds amongst those Community Boards whose areas fall within the former Waimairi District Council areas means that five of the Community Boards would receive a share. Because there are no capital value or population statistics available from 1989 on which to base the allocation, the recommended approach would be to divide the fund balance equally among the five Community Boards. The five Community Boards effected and the amount which would be allocated are noted below:

- Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board	\$13,740 ⁽¹⁾
- Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board	\$13,740
- Burwood/Pegasus Community Board	\$13,740
- Riccarton/Wigram Community Board	\$13,740
- Shirley/Papanui Community Board	<u>\$13,740</u>
	<u>\$68,700</u>

⁽¹⁾ The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board area has been included as the old Waimairi District Council boundaries included a small proportion of the Addington area which is now within the Spreydon Ward.

This allocation could be added to the 2003/04 Community Board Discretionary Funding which is held by Community Boards for allocation during the year.

ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the options for the Town Hall Education Fund the Leisure Unit staff have also put forward some alternative uses for the Waimairi District Community Award Fund. The alternatives are:

Alternative 1: Jellie Park Aqualand Upgrade

An upgrade of Jellie Park Aqualand is planned by the Council in 2005/6 year. These funds could be used to add some 'icing on the cake' type features. Possibilities include children's water park/play area or improved play area plus enhanced landscaping as part of the redevelopment.

Policy Links:

Recreation and Sport Policy

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Children's Policy

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Advantages:

- Easily incorporated in to an existing Council capital project
- Benefits a significant facility in the Waimairi area where the funds originated

Disadvantages:

- Ongoing operational and asset management costs for Council as part of Jellie Park Aqualand
- Children's water park/play area likely to be used only during summer months.

Alternative 2: Canterbury Sports Foundation

Grant to the Canterbury Sports Foundation for assistance in their work. This would benefit many people Canterbury-wide. This is one of the few organisations which is able to make grants to individual sport and recreation people and focuses on young people, coaching and other sport development activities. The other benefit would be that this group is set up already with the administrative systems already in place, they have the criteria and they are endorsed by many sports associations already.

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Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy – Goal 5

Promising and talented participants who are nurtured and given the opportunity to maximise their potential

One of the objectives is:

Support is provided to assist athletes with potential and those performing at a higher level.

Advantages:

- Existing organisation already established with accepted criteria and systems.
- Very limited call on staff time
- No ongoing costs for Council
- Former Waimairi Fund was believed to have been used to fund individuals
- Funds could be invested with existing funds with interest used to fund grants so capital would not be eroded.

Disadvantages

Funds only individuals associated with sports and recreation.

CONCLUSION – WAIMAIRI DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARD FUND

The staff view is that rather than allocate to the Community Boards within the old Waimairi District Council the balance be used to fund some additional features as part of the Jellie Park Aqualand Upgrade. The Jellie Park Aqualand is in the old Waimairi District Council area and is also a metropolitan facility available to all citizens of Christchurch.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council utilise all of the Town Hall Education Fund to make a one-off grant spread over three years to the Primary Schools Cultural Festival.
 2. That the Council utilise all of the Waimairi District Community Award Fund balance to fund additional features as part of the Jellie Park Aqualand upgrade.

Chair's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.