

10. RALLY OF NEW ZEALAND

Officer responsible Leisure Manager Alistair Graham	Author Peter Walls
Corporate Plan Output: Special Events	

The purpose of this report is to provide details in respect to the bid process carried out by the Council to try to get the Rally of New Zealand to move to Canterbury. This information has been requested by the Chairman of the Rally of NZ Subcommittee.

PROCESS

The Council, along with other local authorities in Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Dunedin and Queenstown, was approached by Major Events New Zealand on behalf of Rally of New Zealand to tender for this event. This initial approach happened in late October early November 1999.

A report was presented to the 15 November Strategy and Resources Committee meeting by the Leisure Manager outlining the opportunity to bid for the Rally. This report recommended that a subcommittee be formed, which included the Chairman of Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing, to research the proposal and prepare documentation to tender for the event.

The Strategy and Resources Committee recommended to the Council:

“That a subcommittee, comprising Councillors Condon, Sheriff, Stewart and Wright and including the Chairman of Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing, be set up to research this proposal.”

At the November Council meeting this recommendation was adopted subject to Councillors Erin Baker and Ishwar Ganda being added to the subcommittee and the Chairman of Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing or his nominee being confirmed as members.

The Rally of New Zealand Subcommittee met on 30 November, appointed Councillor Ganda as Chairman, discussed a plan of action and agreed to meet with Mr McKee, Mr Carswell and Mr Langhams as local experts, at the next meeting.

The subcommittee met again on 9 December with Messrs McKee, Carswell and Langhams and many of the issues were aired including the possibility that we, like the other Councils, were being used to encourage Auckland to increase its sponsorship contribution to the event. Rally of New Zealand had on several occasions confirmed that there would be a level playing field for the tenders. It was agreed that Council staff would work with Messrs Langhams, McKee and Carswell to put together a bid and Councillors agreed to contact the other Canterbury Councils to obtain their support.

The subcommittee met again on 20 December at which proposed routes were discussed further and the role of other local authorities in road maintenance and other support were discussed. Support from Central Government was also discussed although the subcommittee was not optimistic on this front. Alistair Graham also confirmed that the preparation of the bid document was well under way.

The subcommittee met finally on 15 February to look at the material prepared for presentation to the Council.

The Council meeting of 24 February 2000 resolved:

1. That the Council support the proposal to host the Rally of New Zealand subject to \$500,000 per annum being committed from non-Christchurch City Council rates sources.
2. That representatives of Rally of New Zealand be invited to Christchurch for the Council to present its bid.
3. That a subcommittee consisting of the Mayor, Councillors David Close, Dennis O'Rourke, Ian Howell, Ron Wright and Erin Baker be formed to confirm the identification of funding from non Christchurch City Council rates sources as per recommendation 1.

This subcommittee met on several occasions and had significant sponsorship commitments from a range of companies and businesses in the Canterbury area. When the proposal was presented this amounted to \$270,000 from the City Council and \$210,000 from other sources with several other negotiations on hold until a decision on the location of the Rally was made.

The proposal was presented to Rally of New Zealand on 6 March.

On 31 March 2000 we received a letter from Rally of New Zealand requesting additional information and on 12 April this information was forwarded.

On 31 May 2000 we were formally notified that the Council was not successful in its bid.

Following the receipt of this decision all those sponsors and others who were involved were thanked for their effort in preparing the bid and helping with sponsorship.

Recommendation: That the Council write to the Rally of New Zealand expressing its disappointment about the manner in which the bid process was conducted.