

6. BRIDGE 2000 PROJECT

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Anne Greenup, DDI 371-1701
Corporate Plan Output: Turning Point 2000	

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request from Turning Point 2000 to transfer the Bridge 2000 project (Millennium Bridge) to the Art and Industry Biennial Trust.

BACKGROUND

Bridge 2000 is one of a number projects managed by Turning Point 2000, a group funded by the Council and charged with implementing a number of events and projects to mark the Year 2000 and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Canterbury province. This project comes under the Art Advisory Group, whose projects celebrated the visual arts with such initiatives as Tapestry 2000 and Sculpture 2000 (the Chalice). The Bridge 2000 project has, however, remained unfinished owing to difficulties in gaining a resource consent to construct the bridge on its chosen site.

BRIDGE 2000 - DETAILS

- The design was chosen from a large number of entries submitted in response to a design competition.
- The design for the pedestrian bridge had to be an art form in its own right as well as meeting stringent practical requirements.
- The winning contestant was Andrew Drummond.
- The site, chosen in conjunction with the Parks Unit, is on Park Terrace spanning the Avon River across to Hagley Park opposite where Dorset Street meets Park Terrace.
- The opening was scheduled for October/November 2000.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Approximately \$70,000 worth of work has been undertaken to date, including the costs of the competition, project management, resource consents and engineers' reports. This money is now unrecoverable.
- The design has been approved and costed.
- The site has been chosen.
- Andrew Drummond has been paid for his input to date.
- The funds for completing the project are committed, comprising \$200,000 from the Community Trust and \$85,000 of funds from the Parks and Waterways Unit which have now been held over to the 2001-2002 budget.
- A Resource Consent has been sought by Turning Point 2000 but has met with strong opposition from the Christchurch Civic Trust, Merivale Precinct Society, and Bruce William Bellis.
- It is estimated that another \$78,000 will be required over and above the \$285,000 currently allocated to this project (this figure will depend on costs at the appeals hearings).

THE WAY FORWARD

Turning Point 2000 approached the Art and Industry Biennial Trust to see if they were willing to take over all the assets and commitments relating to the Bridge 2000 project, seeing Turning Point 2000 was nearing the completion of its activities and closing down its Trust. Art and Industry Biennial Trust would continue the development and management of the bridge project, including managing the funds, raising additional funding, completing the consent process, continuing on-going liaison with the Parks and Waterways Unit and Andrew Drummond, and ensuring the final implementation of the bridge.

The Art and Industry Biennial Trust responded positively to this request. They are a responsible body which commission artists to undertake works of art in public places. Their projects are primarily site-specific and installation-based, so the bridge is consistent with this area of expertise. They are used to raising and managing funds through partnerships with both the public and private sector.

Turning Point 2000 have now written to the Council seeking the Council's approval to transfer the project to the Art and Industry Biennial Trust. Once approval is obtained, Turning Point 2000 will then seek a similar approval from The Community Trust.

A legal opinion from the Legal Services Manager is attached.

Recommendation:

1. That the Council not grant consent to the transfer of the resource consent application from Turning Point 2000 to the Art and Industry Biennial Trust.
2. That the Council rescind its resolution of 22 March 2001 giving permission to site the Millennium Bridge at the Dorset Street site.
3. That a subcommittee comprising the Chairman, Councillors Austin and Stonhill enter into discussions with the Art and Industry Biennial Trust with regard to the future of the project.
4. That the Council investigate the placement of the bridge at the Armagh Street car park entrance to the Botanic Gardens, in place of the bridge for which budgetary provision has been made in the capital works programme.