

2. SYDENHAM HERITAGE CHURCH

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Max Robertson, Council Secretary, DDI 371 1533
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At its last meeting on 29 January 2002 the Board discussed the possibility of providing funding towards the upkeep of the Sydenham Heritage Church, as part of the Sydenham Mainstreet concept. At that meeting the Board resolved that if, in the opinion of the Legal Services Manager, the Council's resolution of 24 May 2001 relating to the purchase of the church by the Council restricted the Board from providing funds towards its upkeep, then steps be taken to have that resolution amended.

The Legal Services Manager has now advised as follows:

"I refer to your memorandum of 18 February 2002 and Resolution No. 5 of the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board meeting of 29 January 2002. That resolution was passed in the context of a discussion concerning the Sydenham Heritage Church. The resolution stated:

"That if, in the opinion of the Legal Services Manager, the Council resolution of 24 May 2001 restricts the Board from providing funds toward the upkeep of the Church, then steps be taken to have the resolution amended."

The background to the Board's resolution is that at its meeting on 24 May 2001, the Council had before it a report from the Sydenham Methodist Church Subcommittee. That report discussed the Council making a loan to the Sydenham Heritage Trust Incorporated to enable the Trust to purchase the Sydenham Methodist Church on the corner of Brougham and Colombo Streets. At its May 2001 meeting the Council considered a report from the Subcommittee updating the Council as to the acquisition negotiations, the form of the loan agreement, a conservation covenant and the Trust's Business Plan. The Council resolved that Council officers be delegated authority to finalise the documentation and arrangements as outlined in the Subcommittee's report, and the Council clearly approved entering into a loan to enable the Trust to purchase the church.

The Council also resolved, in relation to the Subcommittee's report, as follows:

"To record the oral assurance given by Councillor Crighton at the meeting that the costs of restoration, strengthening and maintenance would be found by the Trust from other than Council sources, and that the Council's contribution to the project would be limited to the loan required for the purchase of the property."

I understand that the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board may now be minded to provide funds for the maintenance of the church.

Clearly, from the resolution quoted above, it was the Council's intention that Council funds not be used for the restoration, strengthening and maintenance of the church. That such funds would be found from "...other than Council sources..."

In my opinion, the phrase "Council sources" would include grants made by a community board. Community boards are part of the entity known as the Christchurch City Council, and would fall within the phrase "Council sources".

As the Board's Resolution No. 5 of 29 January 2002 anticipates, if the Board now wishes to grant funds towards the upkeep of the church, then it should take steps to have the Council's May 2001 resolution amended."

The Board would like to have the ability to determine whether or not it can make grants to the Sydenham Heritage Church, and therefore submits the recommendation which follows:

Recommendation: That the Council amend its resolution of 24 May 2001 so that such resolution does not bind the Community Board in respect of any future grants it may wish to make towards the upkeep of the Sydenham Heritage Church.