

### 3. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – REWI ALLEY CHINESE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Community Services, DDI: 941-8534
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Catherine McDonald, Community Support Unit Manager
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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval of an application for funding by the Rewi Alley Chinese School Trust of \$5,000 towards additional expenses related to their building extension project.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Rewi Alley Chinese School/Education and Cultural Centre was established in February 1998. The purpose of the centre is to respond to the needs of the Asian Chinese community by providing education, cultural and social activities and language classes. The Centre has rapidly expanded to become a drop-in centre, offering a wide range of resources including catering to the needs of other ethnic groups and the wider Canterbury region.
3. The Rewi Alley Centre is based at Wharenui Primary School in lower Riccarton. It began operating from a spare classroom as well as the school hall. In 2000, the Trust purchased a building from the Christchurch City Council (Fendalton Service Centre) in order to address the growing demands for their services and resources. The Centre continued to expand at a rapid rate and the Trust decided that there was a need for a major building extension. Building commenced in December 2005 and was completed in June 2006. The extensions provided an additional three classrooms (upstairs) as well as a hall which can be also divided into classrooms. However, the costs associated with the extension have increased from the original amount the Trust was quoted and there is now a shortfall of \$32,153 related to the building project.
4. The Board has had a strong partnership with the Rewi Alley Chinese Education and Cultural Centre since its conception. At least a third of the clients who use the Trust's services and programmes live in the Riccarton/Wigram ward. The Rewi Alley Centre is an integral part of Wharenui school. The children use the Centre's classrooms free of charge and the Trust pays approx \$10,000 a year to the school for using the grounds. These funds are directly used for resources for the children. The former Principal of the school, Annette Hill, also stated that the Rewi Alley Centre provides the school with security as there are always people around, in the evenings as well as the weekends.

#### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The original cost of the building was \$255,829.30 (including GST). The Trust applied to the Council for a loan towards this amount under the Metropolitan Loan Scheme. The Council granted the Trust \$200,000 from the Metropolitan Loan Scheme, which they are to pay back over ten years, with a 2% annual interest charge. The Trust agreed to make up the additional monies from funding raised by the Rewi Alley School (\$55,829).
6. Additional (unbudgeted) costs were identified in April 2006 (see attachment). These come to a total of \$72,152.71. The Trust sought funding support from the Council's Metropolitan Funds. However, no funds were available. The Trust then applied to the Canterbury Community Trust for emergency funds and recently received a grant (30 June 2006) of \$40,000. This still left a shortfall of \$32,153. The Trust is also seeking funding assistance from the Fendalton/Waimari Community Board, as a third of their clients live in the Fendalton/Waimari ward area.
7. This group is considered a Metropolitan Group as clients come from all over the city. Council Metropolitan funding for 2005/06 was as follows;
  - \$30,000 Annual Grants for Centre salaries and overhead costs as last year of a three funding commitment.
  - \$14,000 Annual Grant (last payment) for paying off a 1999/2000 CCC Community Organisation Loan of \$65,000 for the Centre building.

- New \$200,000 Community Organisation Loan over five years at 2% interest for Centre extensions and refurbishing costs.
  - \$10,000 Metropolitan community Discretionary Fund for the Centre's new computers in the Community project.
8. The Board has granted the Rewi Alley Trust \$5,000 from its 2006/07 Project funds towards a recreation programme for the elderly Chinese.
  9. Metropolitan funding for 2006/07 – an application for \$42,000 was received from the Trust to the Metropolitan Annual Grants for the Centre's annual salary and operating costs on a total Centre/Trust operating budget of \$387,000. The Trust also applied to Metropolitan Annual Grants to meet the shortfall in Centre extension and refurbishing costs. The Committee met on July 28th 2006.
  10. In relation to this request the audited accounts for the year ended 30 March 2005 have been sighted. The Trust is still waiting to receive current audited accounts for the period up to March 2006.

## **BACKGROUND ON REWI ALLEY CHINESE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

11. The Rewi Alley Chinese Educational and Cultural Centre has been operating from Wharenui Primary School since 1998. It was originally established in response to the needs of the Asian Chinese Community in Christchurch, for education, cultural and social activities as well as language classes. It has, however, due to demand expanded to become a drop-in centre offering a wide range of resources. In addition to catering to the needs of Asians living in Christchurch, the Centre caters for other ethnic groups and the wider Canterbury region. There are five paid full time staff and thirty paid part-time staff at the Centre. In addition there are fifty volunteers who do at least 1,000 volunteer hours per year. The Centre has contact with three thousand people/clients within a typical year.
12. There is a strong association with the school as Rewi Alley's father was the first Principal and founder of Wharenui School. The Trust was originally housed in a spare classroom, as well as the school hall. However, these facilities were inadequate in meeting a growing demand for the Trust's services. In 2000 the Trust was able to secure a loan from the Council to acquire the old Fendalton Service Centre building which was then relocated to Wharenui Primary School grounds. These premises enabled the Trust to continue to grow its services to the Asian Chinese community. However with the increasing population of new migrants the latter building became inadequate to meet the demand and there was an obvious need to extend the building so that more class rooms would be available as well as a hall for large meetings. The original cost for the new extension was quoted as \$255,829. However the Trust was then confronted with additional costs amounting to a total of \$72,151.71. The additional costs that the Trust is now faced with were not of their own making. Building materials and labour costs increased between the time of the contract being signed and the work being completed. The Trust was also informed at the last minute that additional expenditure was required on fire alarms and security, before the extensions could be used by the community. The Trust had no option but to provide these particular safety measures. The Canterbury Community Trust has recently granted the Trust \$40,000 towards the shortfall leaving a total of \$32,151.71. The Trust is also applying to the Metropolitan Community Grant Scheme for assistance. The meeting was held on 28 July 2006.
13. According to the Trust, the building extension will have the following social capital investment: increased participation, relationships developed, communities strengthened, partnerships developed, volunteerism promoted, increased empowerment of clients and the breakdown of social isolation.
14. The Trust provides a wide range of community education, community information and social support services. The following is a list of activities that are open to all ages and ethnic groups:
  - Chinese language classes
  - Maths
  - Homework Centre
  - Soccer and ball skills
  - Martial arts classes
  - Dance – Chinese and ballet
  - Fitness classes for girls and women
  - Cultural Events eg. Dragon Dance
  - Workshops for new migrants
  - Intercultural exchanges
  - Youth and holiday programmes
  - Publication of Rewi Alley newsletter
  - Lending library facility
  - Translation and interpretation
  - Immigration help
  - Employment assistance
  - Computer training
  - General information for migrants
  - Social get together
  - Parental support
  - Film showings
  - Chinese language resource centre
  - Chinese culture and information resource centre.

15. In 2002 the Trust received a 2002 Council Civic Award in recognition for its community services over the past five years. The Co-ordinator, Qiangfu Jin, received a Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2004, and in 2005 the Trust attained NZQA registration.

#### **OPTIONS**

16. The Board agrees to allocate a grant of \$5,000 towards the funding shortfall for the Rewi Alley School building extension project. This grant would be greatly appreciated by the Trust and would assist them in meeting their financial obligations.
17. The Board declines the Rewi Alley School's Trust application for funding assistance towards the building shortfall. This would continue to put pressure on the Trust to make up the shortfall by cutting down in other areas related to their overall operations.

#### **PREFERRED OPTION**

18. The preferred option is to grant the Rewi Alley School Trust \$5,000 towards the shortfall for the building extension at the Centre. The extensions will, according to the Trust, enable them to deliver more programmes and provide the community with a large room for workshops and meetings. The Riccarton ward has a growing Chinese and new immigrant population and this appears to be a trend that will continue in the future. The programme and services that the Centre provides meets several of the Council's Community Outcomes of A City of Lifelong Learning, A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities, A City of Recreation, Fun and Creativity.
19. The Rewi Alley School is also in line with the Board's Objectives for 2006-09, objective 13 "Diversity in cultural needs is acknowledged". The Board activity associated with this objective is to "Support initiatives that support the needs of different cultural groups through project and discretionary funding allocation".

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Because of the contribution to Wharenui school and the fact that the Riccarton ward has a growing Asian population, it is recommended that the Board agrees to grant \$5,000 to the Rewi Alley Chinese School Trust for its building extension shortfall.