

16. FUNDING APPLICATION FROM THE FENDALTON PARK CROQUET CLUB TO THE FENDALTON WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD'S 2005-06 DISCRETIONARY FUND

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Acting Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information in relation to an application for funding from the Fendalton Park Croquet Club from the Fendalton Waimairi Community Board's 2005/06 Discretionary funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Fendalton Park Croquet Club is requesting financial support from the Board to have their croquet greens re-sown and to have a new irrigation system installed.
3. Christchurch has won the bid to host the 2008 Croquet World Championships and the Fendalton Park grounds will be one of the main venues for the competition. At present the lawns are considered by professional assessors to be seriously substandard as they have never been re-sown and have not had any major work done on them for fifty-five years.
4. There is a certain amount of urgency in relation to this project as the work will need to begin at the end of March to allow for the required 'grow-in' period.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The organisation has applied for funding that can be sourced from the Board's 2005/06 Discretionary funds.
6. The total cost of the project is \$42,131. They have submitted the following applications:

Funding Organisation	Amount	Outcome
Lion Foundation	\$5,000	Approved
Southern Trust	\$5,000	Approved
Eureka Trust	\$10,000	Declined
Pub Charity	\$5,600	Declined
Canterbury Community Trust	\$11,850	Awaiting decision
Scottwood Trust	\$5,000	Awaiting decision

The Fendalton Park Croquet Club is also contributing \$5,000 towards the project.

7. This organisation has not received any previous funding from the Board.
8. There are no legal implications for the Board in relation to this application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the application for funding from the Fendalton Park Croquet Club and allocate \$10,000 from 2005/06 discretionary funds towards the costs involved in re-sowing the lawns and upgrading the irrigation system.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

BACKGROUND

9. Fendalton Park Croquet Club is a community resource that has provided recreational opportunities to the local community for the last fifty five years. Croquet is a game that is accessible to a wide range of people. The club's current membership, of approximately 70 people, includes parents with young babies and individuals suffering from Parkinson's disease and the aftermath of strokes.
10. The Canterbury Croquet Association is currently promoting croquet in schools as an alternative non-contact sport for children with limited physical and/or social ability.
11. In February 2008, Christchurch is hosting the World Croquet Championships and as the club with the second largest number of playing lawns in Christchurch, Fendalton Park will play a key role in the success of these championships.
12. The lawns are currently mowed weekly with a triplex lawnmower and weeds are controlled by dedicated club members who vigilantly spray any emerging weed. Despite the best efforts of the club, the greens are in poor condition. Deep-seated thatching, accumulated over many years, has created a combination of a spongy, uneven surface combined with blackened bare patches.
13. The condition of the lawns has been evaluated by an agronomist, David Howard, from the NZ Sports Turf Institute. The advice given by Mr Howard was to remove the turf and laser level before replanting. At the same time, the irrigation system, which is not providing an even distribution, needs to be upgraded.
14. The club has drawn up specifications on the basis of this advice and has publicly advertised for tenders for the work.

OPTIONS

15. In relation to this application the Community Board could choose to:
 - (a) Grant the Fendalton Park Croquet Club the full amount requested
 - (b) Grant a portion of the amount requested
 - (c) Decline the application.