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Corporate Plan Output: City Design and Heritage Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to provide a monthly update on issues relating to heritage. Where applicable, information from previous reports is repeated in italics.

STAR/LYTTTELTON TIMES BUILDINGS, CATHEDRAL SQUARE/GLOUCESTER STREET, GROUP 1, GROUP 2; WARNERS HOTEL, CATHEDRAL SQUARE, GROUP 2

As previously reported the Court heard evidence from 17 to 25 August 1998 and issued an Interim decision on 1 April 1999. The decision provided for the retention of the Star façade on Gloucester Street and the demolition of the Lyttelton Times and Warners Hotel buildings. The consent to demolish was given with a condition proposing that the term of the consent be extended to five years from the date of the final decision.

The Court indicated a number of other conditions which it thought would be appropriate; that no demolition be allowed to occur without prior land-use and building consents for a new building and construction on site to immediately follow demolition. The Court also requested conditions relating to the conservation of the Star façade which it stated was to be retained and returned to its “former glory”. The nature of the Interim decision allowed for a six month period for the applicant and Council to formulate and agree on appropriate conditions relating to the decision.

The Council and the applicant however did not agree on conditions; these were then re-considered by the Court at a hearing on 21 September 1999. After further direction by the Court on the 21 September the Council and the applicant have separately submitted alternative conditions by Memorandum. The Court will then issue the Final Decision including the conditions of consent.

The Interim and Final Decisions will provide for the retention of the Star façade, but not for the Lyttelton Times or Warners buildings. The Court in its Interim Decision stated that it considered that the Lyttelton Times façade warranted retention but suggested that this should be through public action not through the decision of the Court. Such public action would include public acquisition either directly or through the Heritage Order provisions of the Resource Management Act. A requirement for retention of the Lyttelton Times façade could ultimately include the requirement to apply to the whole building not just the façade. Retention of either or both the Lyttelton Times and the Warners Hotel could be the subject of such public action until the buildings are demolished or the proposed five year term of the demolition consents expires.

3 HEATHFIELD AVENUE, GROUP 4

An application to demolish this domestic dwelling was received by Council on 7 September 1999. Notification of the application has been placed in the Press and notices are on the fence of the property on both the Heathfield Avenue and Fendalton Road boundaries. The three month notification period expires on 7 December 1999.

FORMER SADDLERY BUILDING, 355C RICCARTON ROAD, GROUP 3

The Council has received an application for the demolition of this building. Over a period of time staff have been involved in negotiations with the applicant as to alternative uses for this building including the preparation of a structural report and costings to bring the building up to code.

Despite having investigated a considerable number of options for the retention of this building the application to demolish this building is now going to continue. The loss of this building is a sad one; it remains the last of a group of Victorian and Edwardian commercial and retail buildings that once occupied this corner.

SAMOAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CNR COLOMBO AND BROUGHAM STREETS

This church, built in 1878 to a design by Crouch and Wilson was recently sold. Informal discussions would suggest that Council could expect an application to demolish this building in the near future. The owner has suggested that Council consider acquisition of this building in order to retain it.

FORMER WESLEY LODGE/ MCKELLAR HOUSE AND FLEMING HOUSE, PARK TERRACE, GROUP 3

The future of these buildings has been at risk for some time. However Council has now recently received an application which proposes to develop apartments on this site and conserve the two listed buildings within the development.

ADDINGTON GOAL, LINCOLN ROAD, GROUP 2

The prison has now been decommissioned and discussions are being held as to the future of the goal, its site and related buildings on Lincoln Road. Cr Crighton is chairing a public meeting to discuss options for the future of the prison and its site on Wednesday 24 November at 6pm.

HERITAGE WEEK

All reports to date suggest that this year's Heritage Week, with the Carter Group as principal, has been our most successful to date. We also received sponsorship from the Community Trust and the Christchurch Star. Attendance figures were much higher than other years and the media coverage of events this year was greater than other years. We had a number of events, such as the archaeological dig at the Arts Centre, on the National TV news and TV1 televised a special segment on the Bridges walk. There was considerable local TV radio and newspaper coverage. This coverage assisted greatly in our advocacy aim for a wider understanding of heritage issues in Christchurch.

The Council are the core funders of the event; this funding has not been increased over the past five years. The event has increased considerably over this period of time and equally so have the associated costs. Consideration to increase the core funding for Heritage Week 2000 needs to be given. A full report with respect to Heritage Week 1999 and associated budget matters will be presented to Committee early next year when the feedback from all the event organisers is received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.