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Corporate Plan Output: Events and Festivals	

The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the relative merits of alternative venues for the annual Guy Fawkes Fireworks Extravaganza, currently held at the New Brighton Pier during Showtime Canterbury.

INTRODUCTION

The Guy Fawkes Fireworks Extravaganza is held on an annual basis in order to provide the public of Christchurch with a free, safe opportunity to enjoy this traditional fireworks celebration.

Following last year's successful event at New Brighton the Parks and Recreation Committee requested that an assessment of the prospective venue for this event be presented for consideration in 1999.

A number of potential venues exist within the city. All have factors for and against their suitability for a major fireworks display.

This report aims to highlight the key aspects that should be considered in an evaluation of the venue for the 1999 Guy Fawkes Fireworks Extravaganza.

FIREWORKS VENUES CONSIDERED

Halswell Quarry

- Currently zoned C2 (Conservation Zone).
- Difficult for parking.
- Capacity is far too limited for this type of event (approximately 5,000)
- Has the lowest noise standard rating.
- Major fire hazard
- Residents unlikely to be receptive to an event of this nature

Jade Stadium

- Limited to the venue capacity (40,000)
- Necessary to provide a focal point like a stage and entertainment for the crowd prior to any display taking place
- Likely to be significant venue costs associated with using this facility
- The proximity of residential housing and businesses precludes large aerial fireworks
- Zoned a mixture of L3 (living) and B3 (business)

Port Hills

- Currently zoned C2 (Conservation Zone).
- In a North-west wind it becomes an aircraft approach so air traffic control clearance will be needed.
- Major fire hazard.
- Parking will be difficult.
- Not possible to secure the area for complete safety in the firing zone

Addington Park

- Limited to the capacity of the venue (10 – 15,000)
- Necessary to provide a focal point like a stage and entertainment for the crowd prior to any display taking place
- No zoning issues.
- Parking is not ideal. In the past it has been extremely difficult to manage show week with parking staff required on site from 4.30am.
- The proximity of residential housing precludes large aerial fireworks

QEII

- Limited to the capacity of the venue (30,000)
- Necessary to provide a focal point like a stage and entertainment for the crowd prior to any display taking place
- The Parking unit commented that venue is very difficult for parking. Estimated cost to the Parking Unit would be approximately \$2,000.
- The proximity of residential housing precludes large aerial fireworks

Estuary

- No parking available (there will be traffic flow issues as the display would block the major route out of the South-eastern suburbs.
- There will be additional costs associated with firing pyrotechnics on water (e.g. barges etc.)

North Hagley Park

- Necessary to provide a focal point like a stage and entertainment for the crowd prior to any display taking place
- Previous displays in North Hagley Park have seen the public provided with a concert or some other entertainment before the fireworks show. The cost of staging such an event is estimated to be double the budget of \$41,000 currently allocated to the fireworks event.

New Brighton

New Brighton Pier Association/Retail Association

- Very keen for the event to happen at New Brighton
- There is already an expectation from New Brighton retailers and residents that the event will take place there again in 1999
- Association already has templates to provide existing entertainment and activities in support of this event.

Low tides for the next two years

1999	6.40pm	(ideal for fireworks firing zone)
2000	2.30pm	(may be suitable)

- The Pier is a safe firing zone for large scale aerial fireworks displays
- Does have traffic management issue, but these have been reduced in recent years

Wigram

- Rural Zoning means less stringent noise regulations.
- Necessary to provide a focal point like a stage and entertainment for the crowd prior to any display taking place. The cost of staging such an event is estimated to be double the budget of \$41,000 currently allowed to the fireworks event.
- Will require additional funding for entertainment other than fireworks
- Sockburn Fire station is now on the base so there will have to be clear vehicle access for the engines.
- Traffic plan is already available from past Wings and Wheels events.
- There are eight access points on to the airbase.
- Estimates from the Parking Unit have the costs of organising parking for this event at \$1000.00 approx. Organisation required is much easier because of the area and the number of entry points for vehicles
- Has a safe firing zone in the form of the ex-airforce bomb disposal site.
- Much easier to guarantee spectator safety because of the absence of any obvious health & safety hazards.

CONCLUSION

The fireworks at New Brighton has been very successful and importantly has profiled a venue as an alternative to the Central City. Taking all factors into account we support the continuation of New Brighton as a venue for this event.

Recommendation: That the Guy Fawkes Fireworks extravaganza continue to be held at New Brighton.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.