

4. STREET PHOTOGRAPHY – “HOTSHOTS”

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The purpose of this report is to comment on a proposal to undertake a business of trading in the street selling photographs and frames to tourists and other persons.

THE PROPOSAL

Eric and Paulette McPherson, Managing Directors of “Hotshots” have requested information as to whether they require Council permission to undertake trading in the Christchurch Central Business District. They propose to photograph people using a Polaroid camera to produce instant images and sell these to the persons in specially designed frames. The letter states their market will be predominantly tourist and they intend to seek these clients by being mobile rather than operating from a fixed spot. They do, however, say that they may be intending to use as a prop a lifesize cutout of a prominent Kiwi, such as an All Black if permission could be obtained from such a person.

They have stated that their preferred areas for soliciting business are Victoria Square, Worcester Boulevard, Cashel Mall or Rolleston Avenue outside the Canterbury Museum.

They also have other questions such as whether fees will be required, whether area restrictions will be placed on them and will an area become exclusive to them.

COMMENTS

The activity is one that falls under the provisions of the *Christchurch City Public Places and Signs Bylaw 1992; clause 6 Trading in Public Places* which states.

..., no person shall sell or hire, or expose for sale or hire, any goods, wares, merchandise or service, or sell or expose for sale any food, on any road or public place without a licence issued by the Council and only in compliance with the conditions imposed by that licence.

The Council may also prohibit any hawker from carrying on business in specified public places under clause 22 of the bylaw.

The policy of the Council is clear on the areas in which any street trading is prohibited. These include Victoria Square, Worcester Boulevard, and along the Avon riverbanks, (Council, 16 December 1999). There is a restriction on the operation of hawkers in the area bounded by, and including Moorhouse Avenue, Madras Street, Oxford Terrace, part Kilmore Street to Durham Street, Durham Street to Moorhouse, Worcester Boulevard, and Rolleston Avenue from Cashel to Armagh Streets.

CONCLUSIONS

Under the current policy of the Council approval could not be granted for such hawking in the Central Business District of Christchurch City. Any change to the policies to permit such trading could lead to significant future difficulties such as were experienced at the time of the opening of the Worcester Boulevard.

Recommendation: That the application be declined in accordance with the adopted Council policies.

Chairman’s Recommendation: For discussion.