

## 16. OURUHIA HALL – GUTHRIES ROAD

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The purpose of this report is to seek a decision from the Board on the possible future of the Ouruhia Hall, Guthries Road.

The Board will recall that at its meeting on 1 November 2000 Rob van Keulan, a member of the Ouruhia Hall Committee and then Hall Caretaker, spoke to the Board regarding the Hall's current financial difficulties and options for its future use. It was suggested by the Hall Committee, through Rob, that a possible option could be that the Hall could be relocated to the Ouruhia Model School, Turners Road. The Board requested that Staff report back on the issues related to the relocation proposal.

At the Board's Meeting of 4 April 2001 a report was tabled along with an attachment from the Property Unit on the proposal. (These and other previously tabled items have been circulated to Board Members separately).

Following on from this report, meetings have been held with the residents and users of the hall, the Hall Committee and the Ouruhia Model School Board of Trustees.

A survey of those attending the public meeting on 20 August 2001 showed no clear direction on whether the Hall remain at its current location or relocate to the School.

A further public meeting was held at the Hall on 26 of February 2002 to discuss the outcomes of the survey and gauge current opinions about the hall's future (see attached). As there was no representation from the School at the public meeting a meeting was held with the School's Board of Trustees (see attached minutes).

In summary:

- From the public meeting of 26 February - there is still strong support for the Hall to stay in existence with a definite majority from those attending for it to remain at its present location.
- From the meeting with the BOT on 11 March – there is still an interest in the relocation of the Hall to the School, however the School cannot afford the costs of the relocation at this time. The BOT suggested that Council could fund the relocation as a "Community Project". An estimate of \$40,000 - \$45,000 for relocation has been proposed.

The Property Unit has allowed for an allocation of up to \$20,000 in its 2002/03 maintenance programme for upkeep of the Hall. They advise however that they will not release any expenditure of this money until a long-term future and viability study of the building is carried out. This study will need to cover items such as usage, management, promotion of use and alternative means for providing the service. The Hall needs to be reviewed in how it meets the users needs, the 'short comings', toilets, access, fire safety, conditions, alternative options etc. The Property Unit accept that work currently being undertaken by the Board and staff will suffice.

The Property Unit also advises that at this stage it can assist with possible help with coordination of design, fire reports, estimates etc. It is recommended that the budgeted \$20,000 be used in the first instance to develop a priority list of work. Further funding from both the Property Unit and the Community Board to implement the work may then be required.

The Hall Committee intends to hold its AGM on Tuesday 6 May which will include the election of Officers (for a 3 year term) and, it is envisaged, further discussion by residents on the Hall's future.

**Recommendation:** That the Hall be retained at its current location and that residents be advised of the Hall Committee's AGM and encouraged to attend.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.