

11. QEII PARK ICE STADIUM TRUST

Officer responsible Community and Recreation Manager	Author Peter Walls - Assets and Business Adviser, DDI 941-8777
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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with details of the consultation process in respect to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust proposal and to seek Council support for the leasing of an area of land for this purpose to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust.

The report is to be considered by the Community and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 18 February 2004.

BACKGROUND

At the July 2003 Council meeting the following resolutions were adopted in respect to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust proposal:

- “1. That the Council confirm that it is willing to consider providing land adjacent to QEII for an Ice Sports Stadium as proposed by the QEII Ice Stadium Trust.*
- 2. That the Leisure Manager assist the QEII Ice Stadium Trust with developing the details of this proposal.*
- 3. That the proposal be further investigated and reported to the Community and Leisure Committee and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board in October 2003 for a decision whether to proceed to consultation or to abandon the project.*
- 4. That priority be given to the preparation of a long-term concept plan and policies for the future development of QEII Park (beyond the Ice Rink and Hydroslide).”*

Following the above recommendations a report was prepared for the October round of meetings and the following recommendations were adopted by the Council on 23 October 2003:

- “1. That the QEII Ice Stadium Trust proposal be publicised via a consultation process to obtain community comment.*
- 2. That the outcomes from the consultation be reported back to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board and the Community and Leisure Committee.”*

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

The proposal to lease to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust approximately 2,835m² of land adjacent to the existing pool buildings on QEII Park for a term of 35 years was advertised in the Public Notices in The Press on 22 and 29 November 2003 and in the Christchurch Star on 19 and 26 November 2003. In addition to this the information on the proposal was included in the Council's "Have Your Say" website and copies of the proposal were also sent to the following organisations:

- Ascot Freeville Residents' Group.
- Parklands Residents' Association.
- North New Brighton Residents' Association.
- Northshore Residents' Association.
- Queenspark Residents' Association.
- Alpine Ice Arena.
- Canterbury Alpine Ice Skating Club.
- Centaurus Ice Skating Club.
- Canterbury Ice Hockey Association.

The information that was circulated included a brief statement about the proposal and asked for comments or submissions in respect to this proposal.

Submissions closed with the Council on Friday 12 December 2003.

CONSULTATION RESULTS

As a result of this consultation process, a total of 75 submissions were received of which 72 were in support of the proposal and three submissions questioned the viability of the proposed ice rink. These three submissions were from people associated with the operation of the existing ice arena. Most of the submissions in support of the proposal were from ice sports members who find difficulty in getting enough ice time at an appropriate time for meeting their training requirements.

DISCUSSION

From the information available it is apparent that there is sufficient demand for additional ice facilities to meet current needs. However, the size and nature of any new ice facility should complement the existing ice arena and not result in a scenario in the future where the present ice arena is forced to close because the proposed new facility has captured the market.

The viability of a second ice rink in Christchurch is not seen as an issue that needs addressing at this time with the focus of the request from the QEII Ice Stadium Trust being on gaining approval for the leasing of land for the proposed facility next to QEII. The confirmation of the availability of land adjacent to the buildings at QEII Park will allow the Trust to seek financial support for the construction of the rink with some certainty as to tenure of a suitable site.

If in the future the Trust was to approach the Council for financial support then it would seem appropriate to address the issue of the viability and nature of a second rink at that time.

The provision of an ice arena was considered in the Recreation and Sport Facility Strategy and was included in the medium priority grouping.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the Community and Leisure Committee:

1. That the Council confirm the availability of land adjacent to the existing buildings on QEII Park for the development of an ice facility.
2. That the Council agree to lease this land to the QEII Ice Stadium Trust for a term of 35 years.
3. That should the Council be approached for financial support for this proposal then a further report to the Community and Leisure Committee should be prepared to clarify the size and nature of the provision of two complementary ice arenas in Christchurch.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the abovementioned recommendations 1 and 2 be adopted.
 2. That a further report be prepared immediately to clarify the size and nature of the provision of two complementary ice arenas in Christchurch.
 3. That should a proposal for constructing the facility be presented to the Council, a report on its recreational value for youth and individuals in Burwood/Pegasus be presented to the Board.