

COUNCIL 22. 3. 2012

13. EVENTS VENUE HUB TO TEMPORARILY PROVIDE SPACE FOR EVENTS AND PERFORMING ARTS

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the two Geo-Domes, that have been part of the Christchurch Events Village in Hagley Park, to remain in place and operational through to October 31, 2012.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The location of temporary venues on Hagley Park for the Christchurch Events Village, through to 31 March 2012, was approved by the Council on 26 May 2011, culminating in a warrant being drafted and signed by the Chief Executive Officer under section 5(c) of the "Canterbury Earthquake (Reserves Legislation) Order 2011"
3. The Christchurch Events Village was then set up in June 2011 to provide events and performing arts venues at a time when there was a venue shortage and the events industry was in danger of losing capacity if we could not get our programme back up and running.
4. The Village has been well used with over 100 event days since June 2011. With major events such as the Rugby World Cup Fan Zone and World Buskers Festivals moving to Hagley Park to utilise the Christchurch Events Village infrastructure, an estimated 600,000 people have attended events in the site of the Christchurch Events Village over the last 9 months.
5. The continuation of a reduced-size Christchurch Events Village would provide a venue that is central, safe and accessible. With access to Cathedral Square, Victoria Square and other event spaces unlikely for some time, the Christchurch Events Village would continue to provide a base for important events such as KidsFest and New Zealand Ice Fest in 2012.
6. There is continuing demand for the venues in the Event Village, both from events and performances independent of the Council and from Council funded events.
7. Pacific Domes and Event Base, the suppliers of the Geo-Domes, have verbally confirmed their intention to gift the Geo-Domes to Christchurch. This significantly reduces operating costs and makes the continuation of the Events Village, on a reduced scale that includes the two Geo-Domes, a financially feasible option

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Currently the 2011/12 budgets for the Christchurch Events Village are not fully spent, the balance is available to cover operational costs for the Geo-Domes through to 30 June 2012. Budget of \$90,000 to cover operating costs from 1 July to 31 October will be put forward in the 2012/13 Annual Plan.

DO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS REPORT ALIGN WITH 2009-19 LTCCPP BUDGETS?

9. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. The Council is able under section 5(c) of the Canterbury Earthquake (Reserves Legislation) Order No. 2 2011 :

Use a reserve or erect a structure on a reserve for any purpose not described in paragraphs (a) and (b), if the use or structure is necessary in the opinion of the council or the chief executive of the council to respond in a timely manner to any circumstances resulting from the Canterbury Earthquake.

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11. The Council granted permission for the village through until 31 March 2012. The Council by resolution under the Order can extend this permission until the requested date 31 October 2012, if it considers this is necessary to continue to respond to circumstances resulting from the earthquake.
12. Under section 7 (3) of the Order, before the Council exercises it's powers under the Order it must make reasonable endeavours to give notice to a person or body whose rights and obligations in respect of the reserve will be affected or overridden by the council's exercise of it's powers under the order.

*Subsection (1) In this clause, **rights and obligations** (under the above clause), means rights and obligations under or in relation to an easement, a lease, a licence, a covenant, or other legal permission.*

13. There is no such person or body whose rights are going to be overridden by the granting this extension to the time that the reduced entertainment village can remain on North Hagley Park
14. The Council by virtue of sections 6 (1)(a) and (b) of the Order is not required to undertake any public consultation about it's intention to extend the occupation under the order, although this occupation is in alignment with the purpose for which this area of North Hagley Park is set aside for under the Hagley Park Management Plan 2008, that being an entertainment zone.
15. The Council must however take all reasonable steps to protect the integrity of the park, (section 6(2)(a) of the Order), and reinstate the reserve as closely as possible to its prior condition after the occupation under the Order has finished. This is a requirement that is set out in the warrant of occupation.
16. Under the Order in Council (OiC) (Canterbury Earthquake (Resource Management Act Permitted Activities) Order 2011, there is a new streamlined process for temporary "accommodation" as a result of earthquake displacement. The events hub is to provide space for event activity that would have used central city locations if they were available.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

17. Aligns with page 52, 53 of the LTCCP, Events and Festivals levels of service to provide a year round programme of events and to support festivals run by other organisations.

Alignment with Strategies

18. Events Strategy 2007-17

Goal 1 – A vibrant calendar of events that enhance Christchurch as a place to live and visit.

Goal 5 – Strong partnerships drive increasing investment in Christchurch events. Within Christchurch there is opportunity for a more coordinated events response to event opportunities. Council is in a position to provide leadership across venues, support services, marketing and funding agencies so that we have a collective city response to event opportunities.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. Key stakeholders within the events and performing arts industries were consulted in the original proposal for the Christchurch Events Village. There has been continuing demand for the use of the venues. The period from 1 July to 31 October is contingent on funding being obtained to cover operating costs.

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BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

20. A temporary events and performing arts space with marquee structures has been operational in the events space of Hagley Park since May 2011. Promoted as the Christchurch Events Village, it has been a venue for event activity, including Canterbury Celebration Theatre, Rugby World Cup 2011 Fan Zone, World Buskers Festival, Fly My Pretties, Comedy Convoy, Christchurch Arts Festival, Coast to Coast registration, KidsFest, corporate and community groups and displays.
21. The Christchurch Events Village has provided a central, safe and accessible location for the people of Christchurch to engage in event activity Events staged in this area of Hagley Park since May have attracted over 600,000 attendees.
22. The Council's inflatable Dome, which was placed on the northern side of the main cycle path that runs from the Armagh St Bridge through Hagley Park, was removed prior to ASB Classical Sparks on 5 February.
23. The two Geo-Domes which are located on the southern side of the cycle path remain in place and continue to provide a venue for events and performing arts. There is demand for these venues and the Hagley Park events area to continue as an Events Village, given that central city performance and events venues are still out of action.
24. For the operation of the Events Village from May 2011-March 2012, we hired the Geo-Domes from Event Base, the New Zealand based partner for Pacific Domes, Oregon, USA. Event Base has advised that at the completion of the current hire period for the Event Village, Pacific Domes will gift the two Geo-Domes to Christchurch so they can remain in the city and be used through the transitional phase of the Central City rebuild.
25. The gifting of the Geo-Domes means a substantial reduction in operating costs. Security and electrical costs are the remaining major costs in keeping the venues operational. Operational costs for the two Geo-Domes are estimated at \$22,000 per month.
26. The current operational budget for the Christchurch Events Village can cover operational costs through to 30 June.
27. Under this proposal the site of the Christchurch Events Village will be of a reduced size, on the south of the cycle path. (See attachment.) This area is in good condition and can continue to cope with event activity through this period.
28. The events area of the park, north of the cycle path, where the Rugby World Cup Fan Zone, Coca Cola Christmas in the park and ASB Classical Sparks have been held, is very worn and in need of recovery. It is planned to leave this area free of event activity upon completion of the Ellerslie International Flower Show (mid-march) through to Coca Cola Christmas in the Park (late November) to allow remedial work to take undertaken.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (a) The Council approve pursuant to section 5(c) of the Canterbury Earthquake (Reserves Legislation) Order No. 2 2012 that a 'reduced-size' Christchurch Events Village with two Geo-Domes, be sited in the Events Triangle area of North Hagley Park, through to 31 October 2012.
- (b) That the appropriate sections of the warrant of occupation be altered accordingly.
- (c) That appropriate recognition be extended to Event Base and Pacific Domes to thank them for gifting the two Geo-Domes to Christchurch City to be used through the transitional phase for events and performances, while the central city reopens.

