

STAFF REPORT

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the Community Services Committee

FROM: Manager Community Services

DATE: 2 May 2005

SUBJECT: Collingwood Museum/Aorere Centre

PURPOSE

To provide further information relating to the report included in the Community Services Meeting agenda (pages 19-26) as a result of meetings with the two groups on Friday 29 April 2005.

BACKGROUND

Cr Riley and I met with Sarah Chapman and Merrill Coke to discuss in more detail the proposal included in the agenda.

Attached are two papers provided by the advocates of the Aorere Centre:

1 **Strong local support for Collingwood Heritage**

This paper details what has happened to date and leads through to the proposed Aorere Centre and Council's commitment.

2 **Aorere Centre – What will it be like?**

This paper details what the Aorere Centre will be and what it will provide for the visitors to Collingwood.

On Friday evening Cr Riley and I met with the Collingwood Museum Society at the Rockville Museum where we briefly outlined the above proposal.

This proved to be a very good meeting with Society members giving their individual thoughts on the proposal of an Aorere Centre. At the same meeting we discussed the need for the Society to prepare a long-term plan to fit into the Council's LTCCP. They had already commenced this and showed us a list of proposed capital expenditure items and costs which they planned to complete over the next 10 years.

After discussing this list with them they agreed to prioritise it and indicate a timeframe for each item as well as breaking down the total cost to how each item would be funded eg their funds, funding applications and expected Council contribution.

With regard to the Aorere Centre proposal, the following are some of the comments made at the meeting:

- The Society wish to retain control of both the Rockville and Collingwood Museums.
- The Collingwood Museum is basically still as it was originally built and any extension would detract from this.
- Any extension would reduce the limited open space area next to the museum.
- Any linkage from the existing museum to the proposed Aorere Centre would reduce the available display area.
- The existing building requires considerable maintenance and therefore funds should be used for this first.
- Is there another site more suitable in Collingwood for the Aorere Centre?

During the meeting we discussed these points without reaching any conclusions and it was left that we would convey the views of the Society members to the meeting along with the proposal for the Aorere Centre.

DISCUSSION

Having listened to the proposers of the Aorere Centre and also read their attached papers, the idea appears to have a lot of merit and would provide a unique experience for visitors to Collingwood. The following are points that Councillors may wish to consider when discussing this issue along with my comments on some of the points:

- 1 The impact any addition to the existing building will have on the neighbouring open space and children's play area. As can be seen from the plans the actual proposed extension does not impinge onto the play area but does extend to the edge of it. Because of the lean-to building extension the shading of the play area will be minimal.
- 2 Should an extension be allowed onto an historic building? This is a difficult question to answer and maybe best left to the discretion of the NZ Historic Places Trust as they would need to provide approval for any work carried out on the building.
- 3 Is there a need for an Aorere Centre and will it meet the expectations of visitors to Collingwood?

- 4 Is Council prepared to make a financial commitment of \$2,000.00 pa for the first five years? This could be funded from the Local Museums fund.
- 5 Is there another location in Collingwood where the proposed Centre could be located? Any alternative location would need to be close to the town centre and because of its connection with the history of the area it should perhaps be as close as possible to the museum. There would probably be cost implications with this.
- 6 Would the proposed Aorere Centre enhance the existing Collingwood Museum?

OPTIONS

Having considered the information provided and comments from both the Museum Society and those proposing the Aorere Centre, the following are the possible options available to the Committee:

- 1 Decline the request to add the Aorere Centre to the Collingwood Museum.
- 2 Decline as in (1) above but assist in finding an alternative site for the Aorere Centre.
- 3 Agree to the extension to the Collingwood Museum for the Aorere Centre subject to the approval of the NZ Historic Places Trust to the extension to an Historic Building.

RECOMMENDATION

That after discussing the various reports and the verbal update that Cr Riley will be able to give at the meeting, consideration be given to the proposal to add the Aorere Centre to the Collingwood Museum.

L L Kennedy
Manager Community Services