

## 5. NAMING STEWART PLAZA - CITY MALL

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment DDI 941-8608
<b>Officers responsible:</b>	Transport & Greenspace Manager Asset and Network Planning Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to formally adopt the name The Stewart Plaza for the triangle of land on the corner of High, Colombo, and Hereford Streets as part of City Mall (refer **attached** map) but also the site of the former Stewart Fountain and held under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Officers are recommending that the Council approve the naming of the area of City Mall on the corner of High, Hereford and Colombo Streets as Stewart Plaza.
3. The land with an address of 291F High Street is held under the City Plan as Conservation 2 Zone for Garden and Heritage Parks and under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.
4. Following the City Mall redevelopment consultation process, the Christchurch City Council approached the Stewart Family seeking agreement to dedicate and name the area formerly occupied by the Stewart Fountain as 'Stewart Plaza'. At this entry to City Mall the newly erected sculpture Flour Power, by Regan Gentry, is the first new public sculpture to be commissioned by the Christchurch City Council's Public Art Advisory Group. Funding for the work has been made available from the Council's Public Art Fund and a substantial donation from Adrienne, Lady Stewart and the Estate of the late Sir Robertson Stewart.
5. The Council as the administering body for the reserve can agree to name the reserve as agreed by the Stewart family given the long history of involvement with the site. This bequest comes with the additional understanding that the sculpture will be placed there permanently and the area should be officially designated and known in perpetuity as the Stewart Plaza.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no financial implications of naming this section of the City Mall and the corner reserve held under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.

### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

7. The recommendations will have minimal impact upon the 2008/09 plan or the 2006-2016 LTCCP budgets.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. The land in question on the corner of Colombo and High Streets is held under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971 and amended in 1974. It is covered under the Act by parcels described in Schedule 3, and covered by Section 7 hereby declared the land to be vested as reserve for the use of the inhabitants of City of Christchurch for the purposes of lawns, ornamental gardens and ornamental buildings. This Act came into force before the Reserves Act 1977 but for avoidance of doubt this site was held and administered as public reserve under the provisions of the previous Reserves and Domains Act 1953 and these provisions was replaced by the Reserves Act 1977.
9. There is an existing Council Policy (1993) for the naming of reserves where proposed names shall be approved by resolution of Council and for existing reserves where named through common usage these names shall be retained. The name for this site was always known as the 'Stewart Fountain' by the general public in Christchurch and that perception remains very strong on this reserve site.

### Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. Yes – see above.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

11. Provide and manage garden and heritage parks throughout the city and provide amenity values, areas for recreation, garden environments, and green corridors that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and garden city image.
12. The naming of this existing reserve does not trigger an Activity Management Plan level of service although the Naming of Parks and Reserves Policy 1993 states that all reserves vested in or under the control of the City Council shall be given an appropriate name.

### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

13. Yes – see above.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

14. The LTCCP's strong communities, healthy environment, and liveable city strategic directions section prioritises: providing a variety of safe, accessible and welcoming local parks, open spaces and waterways; providing street landscapes and open spaces that enhance the character of the city; and protecting and enhancing significant areas are accessible, safe, welcoming and enjoyable to use; working with partners to reduce crime, help people avoid injury and help people feel safer.
15. By providing and supporting a range of arts, festivals and events; and protecting and promoting the heritage character and history of the city. The provision of art and features within the city through private contributions improves the public spaces further. By approving this application the Council will support and add to the range of experiences people are able to enjoy and experience, within the inner city.

### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

16. Yes –see above.

## **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

17. Public consultation is not required under Reserves Act 1977 or under the Council Policy adopted on 27 July 1993. This is a metropolitan reserve under this policy and accordingly is reported to the Council for approval.

## **CONCLUSION**

18. As part of the City Mall revitalisation project it was decided by the Council that new seating and a signatory public art piece should replace the Stewart Fountain. Key features of the design of the project identified by the project team included the creation of a new Stewart Plaza. During the consultation process between the Council and the general public it was agreed that any sculpture in this area should be a vertical structure. As part of this consultation process Christchurch City Council also approached the Stewart Family seeking agreement to dedicate and name the area 'Stewart Plaza'.
19. Sir Robertson Stewart died on 13 August 2007 and before his passing he created a bequest providing part funding for the proposed sculpture on the site where the Stewart Fountain was. The site has long been known locally as the Stewart Fountain site and officially naming the reserve The Stewart Plaza is entirely appropriate.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended:

- (a) That that the area of the former Stewart Fountain be officially designated and known in perpetuity as: The Stewart Plaza.
- (b) It is also a recommendation and a requirement of the bequest that a suitable plaque identifying the Stewart family contribution be placed at the foot or alongside the sculpture.

## **BACKGROUND**

20. In 1966 Mr Robertson H Stewart, well-known industrialist and then City Councillor, offered £5,000 for the design and construction of a fountain on the corner of Hereford, Colombo and High Streets. By 1970 a final design had been approved and Mr Stewart had increased his funding to \$14,000. The donation of the fountain on this spot was one of his first contributions to Christchurch.
21. The fountain was designed by Laurie Karasek, a lecturer in sculpture and design at the School of Fine Arts. It featured a stainless steel wall on four levels which had water flowing down it, a pool and several jets of water. By 1978 the fountain needed to be dismantled and cleaned to enable it to keep working and in 1981 the Christchurch City Council decided that it would become a feature of the new 'City Mall'.
22. It took until 1982 for repairs to be undertaken, at which point Sir Robertson Stewart, as he was by then, provided \$7,000 for the works. In 1987 the Council decided the fountain needed redesigning, to provide a water jet and to try and mitigate some of the ongoing maintenance issues. This happened in 1988 but by 1993 the Council had decided that the structure needed to be replaced due to ongoing problems with maintenance.
23. A further contribution of \$220,000 was provided by Sir Robertson Stewart to commission the new fountain. The replacement fountain was always known as the 'Stewart Fountain' by the general public in Christchurch and that perception remains very strong on this reserve site. The replacement fountain was demolished towards the end of 2007 as part of the new City Mall redevelopment.

## **New Sculpture Commissioned**

24. As part of the City Mall revitalisation project it was decided by the Council that new seating and a signatory public art piece should replace the Stewart Fountain. Key features of the design of the project identified by the project team included the creation of a new Stewart Plaza. During the consultation process between the Council and the general public it was agreed that any sculpture in this area should be a vertical structure. As part of this consultation process Christchurch City Council also approached the Stewart Family seeking agreement to dedicate and name the area 'Stewart Plaza'.
25. The new sculpture for this site "Flour Power" was unveiled on 18 September 2008 as part of the SCAPE Christchurch Biennial of Art in Public Space. The new work has been designed specifically for the site and has a very definite Christchurch and Canterbury flavour.
26. Sir Robertson Stewart died on 13 August 2007 and before his passing he created a bequest providing part funding for the proposed sculpture on the site where the Stewart Fountain was. This bequest comes with the additional understanding that the sculpture will be placed there permanently and the area should be officially designated and known in perpetuity as the Stewart Plaza. It is also a requirement that a suitable plaque identifying the Stewart family contribution be placed at the foot or alongside the sculpture.

## **THE OBJECTIVES**

27. The aim of the proposal is to permanently recognise the contribution of the Stewart family to the city of Christchurch and this site is the optimum site for such recognition, as it already has such a well known connection to the family in the minds of the people of Christchurch.

## **THE OPTIONS**

28. Option 1: Approve the naming of the land with an address of 291F High Street is held under the City Plan as Conservation 2 Zone for Garden and Heritage Parks and under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.
29. Option 2: Not approve the naming.

**PREFERRED OPTION**

30. Option 1.

**Option 1: To formally adopt the name Stewart Plaza for the triangle of land on the corner of High, Colombo, and Hereford Streets as part of City Mall but also the site of the former Stewart Fountain and held under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971.**

	<b>Benefits (current and future)</b>	<b>Costs (current and future)</b>
<b>Social</b>	Providing a variety of recreational opportunities that are accessible, safe, welcoming and enjoyable to use as well as providing areas for social interaction.	Nil.
<b>Cultural</b>	Providing artworks and areas that create pleasant settings and conserve the heritage features of the city.	Nil. Ongoing maintenance of the sculpture which will be less than the fountain.
<b>Environmental</b>	Strengthening the Garden City image through providing well designed parks that enhance the natural character and visual amenity of the city.	Nil. Ongoing maintenance of the City Mall space which should be less than current due to higher fountain maintenance costs.
<b>Economic</b>	Providing parks to maintain the Garden City image, attracting business and tourism. Provision of private bequest artworks to enhance the city.	City Mall upgrade costs are included in the LTCCP 2006/16 and the ongoing maintenance costs should not be greater.

**Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:**

See report.

**Consistency with existing Council policies:**

See report.

**Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:**

**Other relevant matters:**