

MEETING BETWEEN REPERTORY THEATRE REPRESENTATIVES and WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

5 October 2022, 4.00pm at Whanganui District Council Offices

ATTENDEES:

Beverley Pearce	Repertory Theatre
Ann and Don Paynter	Repertory Theatre
Lynda Sammons	Repertory Theatre
Mark Morton	Repertory Theatre
Sarah O'Hagan	Whanganui District Council – General Manager Property & Open Spaces
Rosemary Fletcher	Whanganui District Council – Projects Director
Ian Rae	Whanganui District Council – Project Manager
Sandra Woodhead	Whanganui District Council – Property Operations Manager

APOLOGIES:

Kerry Repertory Theatre

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the meeting, was to update the Repertory Theatre representatives on the current status of the Theatre Site at 4 Ridgway Street.

There are two key issues impacting on the site at 4 Ridgway Street, namely stabilising of the subsiding adjacent embankment in Queens Park, and the existing building on the site, which does not currently meet NZ building standards.

Introductions were made by all attendees.

The Whanganui District Council (WDC) officers welcomed the representatives of the Repertory Theatre group (the representatives) and discussed the purpose of the meeting.

WDC tabled and discussed the attached documents:

- Recurring agenda for ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Project Paper describing the issues and next steps
- Project Timeline.

WDC officers specifically noted the following key points from the papers discussed:

1. The design of the retaining stabilisation would be treated as a separate funded piece of work through the Pukenuamu Queens Park landscaping project. The plan includes design approval through Council in March/April of 2023 and the use of the ring-fenced WDC annual plan funding would occur prior to the end of June 2023 to stabilise the bank.
2. The WDC long term plan does not currently include funding for the restoration of the theatre building.

3. Before committing funding in the long term plan a business case needed to be prepared based on comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement in relation to the use of the site at 4 Ridgway Street. The consultation would include being open to all potential options including the potential conservation of the building. All key stakeholders outlined in the project paper would be engaged in the process along with the community.
4. WDC officers noted that the land was Crown owned reserve designated for municipal buildings and that this designation needed to be considered in any future plans.
5. WDC confirmed that the lease arrangements for the Repertory Theatre would continue throughout this process.
6. WDC confirmed that as key stakeholders the representatives of the Repertory Theatre would be informed of progress against the project timeline through the project manager Ian Rae and would remain central to process.
7. The project timeline showing engagement and business case development was tabled and discussed.

Repertory Theatre representatives noted the following:

1. Disappointment with the speed of progress to date which was acknowledged by WDC officers.
2. Noted that the discussion represented the start of a defined process that would lead to an outcome in relation to the future of the theatre building.
3. Described and offered to share the business planning being undertaken to generate revenue and potentially provide future funding for the conservation of the building, which was their preferred outcome.

Actions

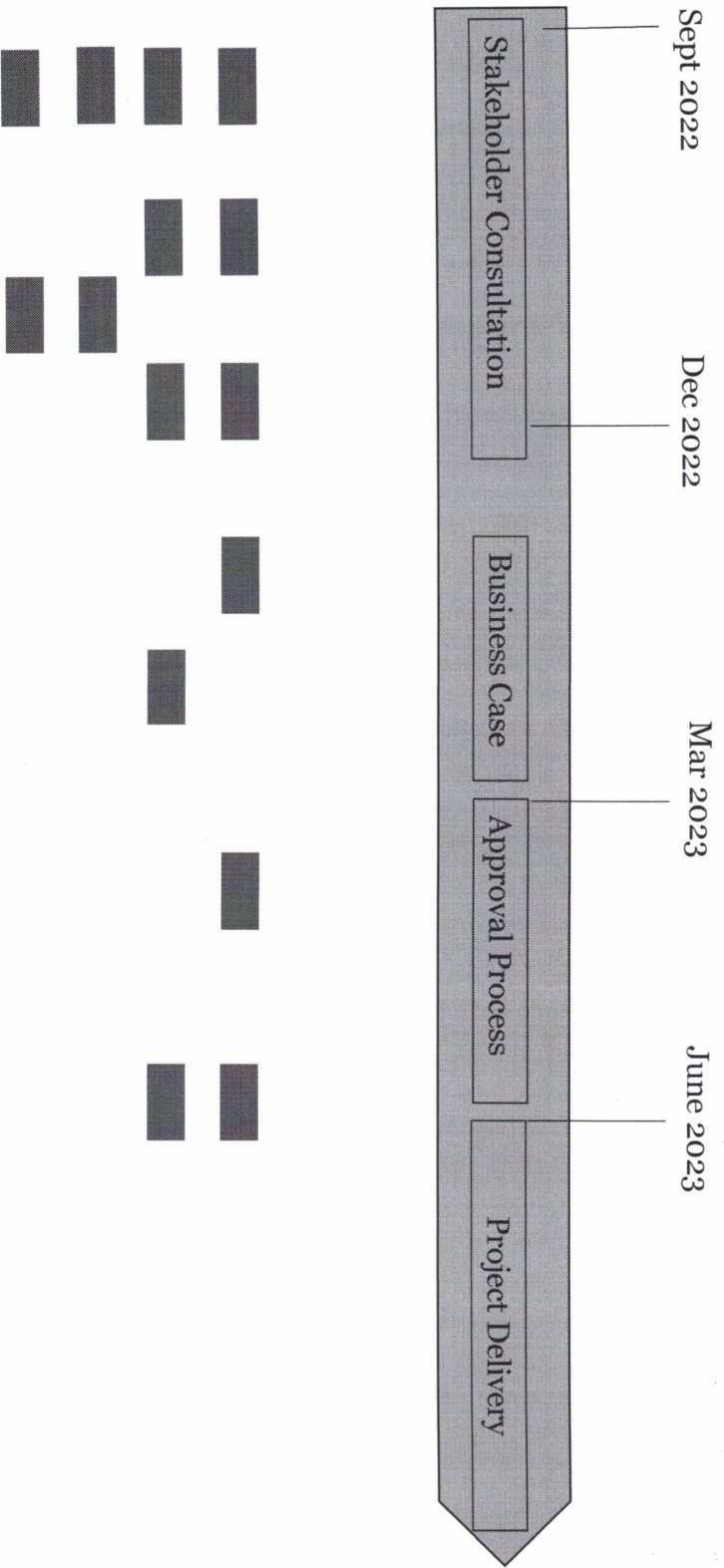
Ian Rae to distribute minutes along with soft copies of the all papers tabled at the meeting.

Ian Rae to make contact with representatives to ensure the frequency of meeting and dates for next meeting were confirmed.

Sandra Woodhead would document and discuss the maintenance of the building as a separate issue.

Sandra Woodhead would ensure that Repertory Theatre representatives were included as stakeholders for the Pukenuamu Queens Park landscape design discussions.

Repertory Theatre Project Plan



Engagement

Theatre Trustees

Tupoho

Performing Arts Representatives

Parks & Facilities