

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission:

I am wrting my submission for council to consider implementing a heritage order on the building known as the ODEON THEATRE 210 Tuam Street with the outcome of securing immediate ownership in the medium term. This would facilitate a constructive, cohesive effort along with interest groups to invest in what the building was always intended for ie; a place of entertainment and home for many theatre groups.

Sadly Christchurch has no recognised cinema of value equal to Dunedin's REGENT, Wellington's EMBASSY, Auckland's CIVIC, Palmerston North's REGENT all outstanding examples of Cinema/ Theatre Heritage, all eschew many gala festivals both live and film.

Given that council has invested a lot of time and effort to upgrade the High street precinct, i feel that purchase of the Odeon would cement this evolving area into the next mileu as well as taking the responsibility seriously of valuing heritage.

Current owners seem oblivious to it's potential and are evasive at this jucture. They have applied for consent for demolition ignoring all possible avenues re rentention. The Odeon has impressive social and cultural history in it's 130 year old history. Current state of the theatre remains good despite it's age although any term of neglect and maintenance will impact it's health. I implore council consider invoking a heritage order on this site and securing it's future for the use of mant interest groups ie

CHRISTCHURCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SHOW-BIZ CANTERBURY
CHRISTCHURCH ARTS FESTIVAL
MUSIC GROUPS
TERTIARY GROUPS
CONFERENCES.

Under the umbrella of a trust appointed ratified by council there is a case for buy-back transferring ownership eventually to a charitable body. The template for this journey is mirrored in many parts of the world where theatres have revitiised locale and investment by serving as the beacon of the district. I would only be too happy to discuss this more fully in person should that opportunity arise.

Regards,
Nick Paris.