HISTORIC PLACES
MID CANTERBURY
*The Voice of Heritage*

Mr Hamish Riach,
Chief Executive,
Ashburton District Council,
P O Box 94,
Ashburton 7740,

*<sent via email>*

30 January 2022

Tēnā koe Hamish,

Re: Balmoral Community Hall, Cameron St - LGOIMA official information request

Historic Places Mid Canterbury are aware that council have been discussing the future of Balmoral Hall (located at 244 Cameron St, Ashburton), and whether it should be retained as a council asset, or be disposed of.

We understand that council are considering reversing a previous *Annual Plan* commitment to retain and maintain Balmoral Hall (for which $484,000 had been previously been allocated) and are now looking at selling the property, with expected repair costs having escalated to approximately $1.3mil (as published in *The Guardian* on 23 January, 2024).

Please provide us with all information held relating to Balmoral Hall's potential retention or disposal.

In particular, we are seeking information pertaining to council's assessment on whether to retain or dispose of Balmoral Hall, including all costings and reports produced by external agents, on behalf of council.

Please also provide us with a written 'statement of reasons' as to why council has decided to dispose of this asset (if indeed this is the case), including an analysis of all other options that were considered.

Historic Places Mid Canterbury consider Balmoral Hall to have significant heritage and community/social value and we consider it a strong candidate for inclusion in the council's *Schedule of Heritage Items*. We believe there is significant public interest in the future status of this public building and are concerned that any decision to dispose of the Hall will result in the loss of these heritage values and the loss of a well-used and well-loved community facility.

If you require any further information or clarification about this request, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I confirm that we are happy to receive the information requested as electronic copy.

Nāku iti noa, nā,



Nigel Gilkison

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Chair, Historic Places Mid Canterbury

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