

Title: Makaraka Cemetery – Uplifting of Headstones Update
Section: Liveable Communities
Prepared by: Martin Weaver (Cemeteries Leader)
Meeting Date: 10 October 2018

Legal Financial Significance = low

Report to COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES Committee for decision

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to determine the level of response Council may provide, via the request from The Friends of Makaraka Cemetery and Heritage Places Tairāwhiti for further resourcing and/or funding in relation to phase two of the Uplifting Headstone Project.

Community groups have reconciled on a preferred outcome for phase two, this is for all headstones to be relocated to their original plot locations, with minor repairs and allowances to erect if structurally stable. Three quotations have been provided by the Friends of the Makaraka Cemetery, ranging from \$35,000 to \$67,000.

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **low** significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community Development & Services Committee:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.**
- 2. Agrees to adopt one of the four options identified as per Options Table 1.**

Authorised by:



Keita Kohere
Director Transformation & Relationships



Andrew White
Director Liveable Communities

Keywords: makaraka cemetery, friends of makaraka cemetery, uplifting of headstone, lotteries commission,

BACKGROUND

1. In 1982, 88 headstones and pieces of headstones from the Makaraka Cemetery were buried in a trench to preserve them from further loss or damage by vandals. This was by request of the regional committee of the Historic Places Trust and carried out by the Cook County Council.
2. Report 18-109 Makaraka Cemetery – Uplifting of Headstones Project Update (**Appendix 1**) provides a concise history of the project up its published date.
3. On 30 April 2018 the excavation and uplifting of the headstones began and was completed on 2 May. 88 headstones and numerous smaller pieces were successfully unearthed by Council staff, supported by Currie Construction.
4. A formal agreement between Gisborne District Council and the Friends of Makaraka has been agreed and the headstones have been placed in a temporary storage facility in the adjacent paddock at Makaraka Cemetery.
5. Previously, the groups had considered a number of options for the headstones after they were uplifted. This included an option for the construction of a memorial wall that would be partially funded by Council and \$20k was allocated as part of the 2012/13 Annual Plan. However, due to timeframes this funding was not utilised and has lapsed. No further funding for this project has been allocated in the current Long Term Plan.
6. The groups have reconciled their preferred outcome to have all headstones relocated to their original plot locations with minor works to facilitate erection if structurally sound to do so. Any further and more detailed repair work will not be funded by this project.
7. Depending upon the condition of the individual headstones and the material they are made of, they may take between 9 and 12 months to fully adapt to being out of the ground. After this, a full assessment of repair can take place. Granite headstones are more resilient and to date one headstone has been relocated to its plot location.
8. Of the 88 headstones retrieved 36 are granite and 52 are marble.
9. To date, 13 headstones have/will be repaired and relocated at the cost to the descendants.
10. Two headstones remain unclaimed by descendants at the time of this report.
11. Estimates of the cost for the repair and relocation of the headstones ranges between \$35k and \$67k. Three quotations have been received by the Friends of Makaraka.
12. Third party funding via charitable organisations such as Lotto and assistance from Eastland Community Trust for a research project are being sought by the community groups. The Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund criteria for funding requires the headstone to be 'significant' to residents. Research is currently ongoing to establish how many of the headstones meet the criteria. It should be noted that 1/3rd of the funding would need to be provided by Council.

DISCUSSION and OPTIONS

13. The following table identifies the options available to Council. As the landowner, Council has a vested interest in the delivery of this project going forward.

Options Table One

Options	Scope	Pros	Cons
Option – Do Nothing	Council recognises its contributions and considers the project closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council has recognised and fulfilled its obligation as per 2015-25 Long Term Plan. - No funds allocated to support the project further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reputational risk to Council that we do not recognise the value in the completion of the project. - Potential for the project to lose traction without Council support. - Not a formal project under the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.
Option Two – Staff Resource	GDC to provide staff support for technical advice around funding and cemetery related process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council staff allocation will provide adequate level of support for the project. - No financial contribution required by Council. - Consistent with the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan Action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not a formal project under the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.
Option Three – Staff Resource and 1/3 rd Funding	GDC to provide staff support for technical advice around funding and cemetery related process. GDC to also fund 1/3 rd of any funding application based on three quotes received.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces the reputational risk on Council's behalf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently no budget allocated for the project. - Currently no certainty on total project cost. - Not a formal project under the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.
Option Four – GDC Managed	GDC to manage the project as a Council project. Fully resource and fund the project to the required level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project delivery managed in a systematic manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently no budget. - Not a formal project under the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan allocated for the project. - No certainty that Council will deliver.

ASSESSMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria	This Report	The Process Overall
The effects on all or a large part of the Gisborne district	Low	Low
The effects on individuals or specific communities	Medium	Medium
The level or history of public interest in the matter or issue	Medium	Medium
Inconsistency with Council's current strategy and policy	Low	Low
Impacts on Council's delivery of its Financial Strategy and Long Term Plan.	Low	Low

14. The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of **low** significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15. This project has been driven by community groups and regular meetings with Council staff continues.

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial/Budget

16. The friends of the Makaraka Cemetery group have received three quotations ranging between \$35,000 - \$67,000.

Legal

17. There are no known legal implications.

POLICY and PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

18. No known policy or planning implications.

RISKS

Reputational Risk

19. There is a reputational risk to Council if Option A is adopted. As Council is the landowner, there is a vested interested in the delivery of this project.

Financial Risk

20. There is currently no budget allocated in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan to provide any financial contribution towards the project.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report 18-109 Makaraka Cemetery – Uplifting of Headstones Project Update