



Media Release

Wednesday 17 December 2014

Sheffield Hall reopens

Sheffield Hall has reopened to the public.

An engineering report on the hall, commissioned by the Sheffield Hall Committee, has now been received and reviewed by Council.

“The report has identified that the main body of the hall can be reopened with the foyer area being closed off,” says Selwyn District Council’s Earthquake Resilience Manager Douglas Marshall.

The hall will be able to accessed from a side door rather than the main entrance.

The report has identified that there is a risk that the blockwork at the front of the hall façade could fall if an earthquake occurred. The façade is more likely fall outwards as it is supported by the roof on the inside. This foyer area has been closed off and the main entrance will be locked. A fence has also been erected at the front of the hall around the façade.

Sheffield Hall Committee Chair Val McKenzie says the community is thrilled and very relieved that the hall is able to reopen.

“It’s been a difficult time for people in Sheffield and we would like to congratulate the community for showing patience while the hall closure occurred.”

The hall was closed in mid-September following a detailed engineering assessment which recommended the facility be closed.

Mr Marshall says the second engineering report has provided useful additional information on the state of the hall including further assessment of the likely performance of the timber framing which supports the main body of the hall, and information from the original builder of the masonry entrance area and foyer which was added in 1952.

“The report has also identified a number of useful options to strengthen the hall that will need to be considered. The Council and the Hall Committee will be reviewing these options in the future,” he says.

Hall bookings can be made by contacting Michelle Webster on 03 318 3063.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
Phone 03 347 2807
allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz