

Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2022 16:46

Subject: Ashburton Citizens Association - Submission to the Ashburton Airport Plan

Kia Ora ADC,

RE: Submission to the draft Ashburton Airport Development Plan 2022-2052

(1) Do you support the goals in the Ashburton Airport Development Plan?

- **Ashburton Airport is enabled to become more financially independent**
- **Ashburton Airport is sustainably managed to support increased use of the facility over the next 30 years**
- **More people are attracted to Ashburton Airport for activities that support the vibrancy and viability of the facility**
- **Ashburton Airport is sustainably managed to support increased use of the facility over the next 30 years**

Ashburton Citizens Association wholeheartedly support each and every one of the four goals listed and respectfully wish to see a couple of additional goals added.

- ➔ As the Ashburton Airport is an important component for Civil Defence and AF8 responses – would like to see the goal of **Ashburton Airport is well maintained and prepared for Civil Defence events** – or as Lee Child best put it “Hope for the best, plan for the worst” – which in Civil Defence terms would be all bridges are knocked out and Ashburton District becomes an island (or two islands) – the Airport is of paramount importance for connectivity.
- ➔ To avoid hindering future growth, to enhance and service future expansion, request that Ashburton District Council investigate the acquisition of neighbouring properties to (a) provide a connection between the Ashburton Airport and the North East Industrial Park and (b) reduce risk of housing for potential flight paths. **Ashburton Airport develops longer term plan (31 to 100 year plan), with focus on future needs, expansion and the possibility of landing heavier planes.** This would include some clarity around Speedway, being leases since the 1970’s there is no mention in the plan of future projects or beyond 2050 – nor what development is intended in future – if any.

(2) In 2021/22, the total budget for Ashburton Airport was \$ 152,023, of which almost 61% (\$92,558) was funded from rates. Which level of rates funding would you support us working towards?

you support the goals in the Ashburton Airport Development Plan?

Ashburton Citizens Association understand the logic and past need to rate fund Ashburton Airport 60% rates funding

Going forward, with some significant and positive opportunities in the very near future, Ashburton Citizens Association request a ratcheting down of 5% every Long Term Plan, until in 12 long term plans (i.e. 36 years), the Airport should not be rates funded at all and in fact become User Pays – hopefully moving to a profitable enterprise.

Ashburton Citizens Association. **YES** – we would like to speak to our submission (In Person)

(3) Referring to the map on page 6 of the consultation document, do you agree with.

YES – Providing more space for recreational hangars?

NO – The location proposed for the commercial hangar precinct?

suggested site will obstruct roadside viewing – encourage ADC to acquire neighbouring land – placing commercial hangar on new land

NO – The location proposed for the new recreational hangar precinct?

suggested site is boxing in runways – suggest acquiring neighbouring land – placing recreational hangars on new land

YES – Providing a hangar homes precinct?

YES – Providing a dedicated commercial hangar precinct?

NO – The location of the hangar homes precinct

suggested site is boxing in runways – suggest acquiring neighbouring land – placing recreational hangars on new land

(4) Referring to the hangar homes proposal on page 8 of the consultation document, what is your preferred density of hangar homes?

NO – No Hangar Homes

NO – Up to 14 hangar homes (medium density)

NO – Up to 10 hangar homes (low density)

YES – Up to 20 hangar homes (high density) - Ashburton Citizens Association would like to see a tidy, consistent and high standard hangar home, there seems to be a very broad range of styles available. Also, it is noted that there is an onsite, live in manager at Ocean Farm, we suggest that model works well for immediate responses when required and as a deterrent to inappropriate behaviour. If there are up to 20 hangar homes, and the Airport move towards a self funding / profitable model, perhaps an Airport Manager living onsite would provide additional security, accuracy on landing fees, improved Health and Safety and greater indepth / inhouse knowledge on Airport knowledge.

(5) Do you have any other comments or feedback about this draft Plan?

The Ashburton Citizens Association congratulate Ashburton District Council on the pre consultation / early engagement with airport users and neighbours – this is essential and appreciated.

In observing Council for some years, it is curious to see this consultation period occurring very close to the election process. Do not recall ever seeing this happen in the past. If hearings are scheduled for 14th September, assume that plan will be adopted virtually the same day, leaving little time post verbal submissions for any alterations. Alternatively, it may be adopted next term of Council. It seems to be a double edged sword. While it could be argued this is efficient use of time by staff, preparing a Plan with one term of Council and adopting it by another seems to be fraught, particularly when it is known that at least 40% of Council are retiring and there may well be others, who unbeknown to themselves, will not be returning. Meaning that 40% of those familiar / approving with the plan are gone at adoption. Ashburton Citizens Association respectfully request that Ashburton District Council confine the full consultation process to just one term of Council.

While it is noted that Landing Fees have increased for the 22.23 Annual Plan and a newly introduced “Failure to Pay Fee” of (\$40 first time and \$ 100 second time), curious as to how Council intend to capture and enforce infringements at an “unmanned airport”? As the Airport usage increases, ACA request that ADC to install motion activated cameras able to capture landings. As it progress even further toward becoming a profitable operation, ACA request that an Airport Manager living on site be considered.

Page 23 - Costings - states that \$10,000 was received from landing fees in the 2021/22 year.

If that was \$10,000 even at \$10 per landing (600 to 1,500kg planes) – that is just 1,000 landings = 2.74 landings per day

If however, it is \$10,000 at \$8 per landing (Up to 600 kgs microlight) – that is 1,250 landings = 3.42 landings per day

Both seem incredibly low in comparison to the number of aircraft observed by ACA members.

While ruminating over this submission, there has been several occasions, where low flying planes can be heard overhead – in a short space of time belying – 3 landings per day.

Page 24 - Timeline – of the Thirty year plan – all three projects are planned for first three years, then nothing for 27 years. No mention of Speedway – do they have any development plans?

Timeline – as Ashburton Citizens Association have previously submitted, we would like to see public toilets and designated approved mobile shop locations identified on the plan. Have been at the airport when (a) Sky Divers are falling (b) planes are landing (c) Airport Open to the Public events are happening and (d) speedway is on - - are all occurring concurrently. This causes issues with traffic flow (page 18) / lack of public toilets / ad hoc mobile shop placement.

We note that CAA regulation PART 91 – requires aircraft to be 1,000 feet above townships, unless landing. This is difficult to measure and monitor and enforce. It has been noted by current and past Ashburton Citizens Association members that aircraft often seem lower than 1,000 feet – request that the plan state how this is monitored and by whom. How and to whom - do Joe and Jane Citizen report potential CAA regulation PART 91 breaches.

With the Ashburton Aviation Museum recently receiving the Excellence in Tourism Award at the ANZ Business Awards, could ADC request that the Ashburton Airport, which houses Ashburton Aviation Museum and shortly a skydiving business, would be a suitable recipient for Tourism Infrastructure Funding for – public toilets, car parks, footpaths, waste disposal, water treatment facilities, picnic areas and freedom camping sites - however, this does provide the Ashburton Citizens Association the opportunity to again to ask on the status of Public Toilets on the East Side of Ashburton.

Submitter Bruce Sim has asked to be kept informed – Ashburton Citizens Association request the Council lift their gaze a little higher and look well into the future to expand the size, scope and operation of the Ashburton Airport.

We respectfully request, that Ashburton District Council standardise the submission closing times. As we prepare this submission, which ends Tuesday 30th August at 5.00pm, we look back on others that have closed Thursday 5.00pm, Friday 5.00pm and Sunday 5.00pm.

In closing the Ashburton Citizens Association wish to thank the Ashburton District Council for the opportunity to submit and speak to this submission.