
MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL, MIRANDA STREET, STRATFORD ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 9.00AM TO HEAR AND CONSIDER PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE A&P ASSOCIATION LOAN PROPOSAL

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors M McKay, V R Jones, R W Coplestone, P S Dalziel (*part meeting*), G W Boyde, W J Sandford, A K Harris, J M S Erwood and G M Webby.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Executive Administration Officer – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications and Administration Support Officer – Ms R Vanstone, 35 members of the public (throughout the day) and two members of the media (Stratford Press and Taranaki Daily News (*part meeting*)).

1. **WELCOME**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the District Mayor, the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, and the media. He read the full health and safety message to ensure members of the public were aware of procedures in the event of an emergency.

2. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Peter Dalziel and an apology from Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba was noted. It was noted Mrs Araba would be attending via audio visual link throughout the day when she was able.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the apologies be received.

BOYDE/WEBBY
Carried
P&S/20/174

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Mayor reminded Councillors to ensure they used their microphones to ensure the members of the public in the gallery were able to hear clearly.

It was reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting was to receive public feedback on the A&P Association Loan Proposal.

Councillors are asked to hear submissions with an open mind and to restrict their questions to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors are requested not to get into direct dialogue with the submitter as there is a tight timeframe scheduled for the day. Councillors may take notes whilst submitters are speaking.

It is noted that the decision of this Committee will be with regards to the level of support Council commits to the project and not the specific details within the association's project.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

The Deputy Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. **ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

The Attendance Schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FEEDBACK**

Pages 44-647

Attached were the 559 items of public feedback received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT each of the 559 items of public feedback to the Council's proposal to lend \$7,180,000 to the Stratford Agricultural and Pastoral Association, be received.
2. THAT each submitter be individually advised of the outcome of the deliberations, and notified that the minutes of this Policy & Services Committee Meeting, and the subsequent Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 24 November 2020, are available on Council's website.

McKAY/COPLESTONE

Carried
P&S/20/175

Recommended Reason

So that each items of feedback is formally acknowledged and the writer is provided with information on Council's decision making process.

7. **SPEAKERS TO COUNCIL**

D20/32360 Pages 7-10

61 members of the public requested to be heard in support of their feedback. It was noted that all comments supplied by submitters when withdrawing from speaking had been included in the agenda. An updated speaking schedule was tabled.

| Sub No# | NAME |
|---|----------------|
| 432 & 462 | Michelle Mair |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle has been a council member, secretary and judge for royal agricultural society. • She noted she was representing the Taranaki Horse and Pony All Breeds which was formed 17 years ago in an effort to promote different breeds and share the passion for the horses and ponies. • Training days and shows are currently held at the A&P Showgrounds with support coming from Taranaki, Hamilton, Wellington and Hastings. • The group uses these days to promote businesses who provide equestrian services and receive huge support from equestrian people from Taranaki and further afield. • The group supports Option 4 of this proposal as the project will be a major for everyone in Stratford and surrounding districts. It will provide jobs and business opportunities that will be awesome for the community. • She acknowledged it was a short presentation but wanted to show support for the project. | |
| 453 & 548 | Sharon Stevens |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She noted her father in law was part of the group that walked into a paddock of scrub and had the vision to do something great which is now Pukeiti. • She had been the PA to the General Manager in New Plymouth District Council at the time where walkways and the aquatic centre were developed. There had been some views that these were negatives but some people had the passion and vision to continue. • This will make Stratford a destination. People will come here for the driver training, motor sport and equestrian facilities. • The economic benefits for Stratford will be huge. • There is huge positive feedback from the equestrian community. • The indoor facility in Hawera is a great facility but it is not always available for bookings. An indoor arena is needed for rain but also for sun as shows are held over Summer. The arena cannot be used all through November because it is booked up. • She noted a second arena will not detract from Hawera but compliment and benefit it. • She congratulated Council for taking this proposal seriously and giving the project a chance to happen. • She noted she was a member of the A&P Association steering committee and that she had asked the hard questions. A lot of experts have been involved and the passion and the vision within the group adds belief that this can work. It is a great team. • This will be great for Stratford, great for Taranaki and great for the relevant activities. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted the facility would be used every day. Weekdays would see pony club activities and fitness and training ability. Weekends would be shows. There were over 1000 horses in Taranaki that could potentially use the facility. • She noted she was currently away every second weekend. This is an extremely popular sport. She has received a lot of positive feedback from people regarding the project and she acknowledged the struggles in booking the Hawera facility. • She noted the Hawera facility was used for other purposes which required flooring to be changed and this did not suit the horses when the fresh flooring was laid. | |

- It was clarified that on a multiple day event attendees do camp so yards and stabling are important. There can be two people per horse so you do need the facilities to encourage those to stay. There are other events that are single day events.
- She confirmed she felt the motorsport being to the north of the property and equine being in the south there will be an appropriate amount of buffering. She noted the noise did not upset the horses at Hampton Downs and they were very close together.
- She noted the move to the north of the property would also assist with the residents issues with sound.
- She confirmed she saw a big opportunity for school programmes. Other schools were targeted by equine families for the ability to take their horses. There is a fabulous set up in Marton and Cambridge.
- She noted she did not know if horses will remain at the New Plymouth racecourse if the multi sports hub was created, however this was still up for debate and nothing had been confirmed. She did state that if this proposal went ahead it would give clubs and users security knowing it was owned by the A&P Association and would encourage the opportunity to put money into infrastructure.

546 & 428 | Ian Oliver

Points noted in discussion:

- Mr Oliver noted he had undertaken a lot of work in Feilding and worked very close to Mansfield and noted it was astounding how much it was used. There is always something happening particularly Thursday – Sunday. He thought this must be of huge benefit for the town.
- It would be fantastic to get this in Stratford.
- He noted his concern regarding increased traffic. He noted that it had been discussed years ago to extend Esk Road to Flint Road to use that for heavy traffic but had not proceeded as the intersection did not provide the distance for a truck between the intersection and the railway.
- He suggested the volume of traffic could warrant a road put through to Oberon or Ariel Street so traffic could go towards the round-a-bouts and then back onto the main road.
- Some motorsports can have 5000-6000 spectators in attendance. He noted stockcars being generally at night resulted in less traffic and no trains running. Trying to get onto the main road between 3pm and 5.30pm is very hard.
- He noted all other drag racing strips were miles away from towns, animals and everyone else. The noise produced is 3x that of stockcars and can be similar to a jet aeroplane. He did not think a resource consent for a drag strip would be obtained.
- He summarised that safety on the road, who would build a new road (Council or the association) and viability of the project if drag racing was omitted needs to be addressed.

423 | Isaac Hayward

Points noted in discussion:

- He noted he was providing perspective from a pony club outside of the District.
- The Eltham Pony Club would look at utilising the equine facilities right through winter. They are one of the largest pony clubs in Taranaki with 50 members having risen from 38 within two years.
- The project could be massive for equine users. He noted that a similar project had been attempted in Feilding but equine had lost out to the stockcars.
- He noted the Hawera arena was not as accessible as they would like and there are a lot of kids that need to do indoor as well as outdoor work.
- This group would look at utilising this area for Taranaki area rallies, coaching through the Stratford facility, and two or three other events per year.
- This proposal could put Stratford on the map.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified the group did not use the Hawera facility at all as booking the facility was so difficult. He noted the issue with an indoor arena for multiple uses meant some top riders wouldn't bring their horses in there now the track had been misused.
- This would allow the club to run 12 months of the year. Currently they are pushed for space at their current location and therefore would look at utilising Stratford more frequently.
- He noted there were professional coaches in Taranaki that are used by the club as well as coaching being undertaken by volunteers who are trained coaches. Coaching clinics would utilise all of the area and being centrally located would enable people from all the pony clubs to attend and bring these clubs together.
- It was clarified the Taranaki Area Pony Club was the main organisation with the individual groups working underneath this. The equestrian community work separately from each other and a lot of them are completely standalone. There are 12 different pony clubs in Taranaki.

411 Tony Uhlenberg

Points noted in discussion:

- He noted he was attending to promote the youth elements of speedway.
- He noted his special needs son had inherited a car from his cousin which he then learned to drive in and ended up competing at speedway where he has progressed through the ranks.
- Through this he gained his drivers license that then gained him employment. He felt a lot of kids in the community could benefit from better facilities. He emphasised the influence gaining his drivers license had on his son gaining employment.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- He clarified there were other youth grades around but not in every province. There have been about 40 kids in the youth class year in year out with a lot that travel to Stratford from other provinces. Every year there are 10-12 that move into the next avenue of the sport.

501 John Rae

Points noted in discussion:

- The work undertaken by the A&P Association is visionary and by supporting the project Council is visionary as well.
- AmeriCARna is now iconic with Taranaki and over four days \$2.2 - \$2.5 million is generated for the region. He noted his appreciation that Stratford hosts one of those visits.
- He had initially thought Cromwell was an odd choice for a motorsport venue but the infrastructure that has come with the facility is nothing short of incredible. Accommodation, workshops etc. It clearly shows if you have the vision you can achieve these things.
- He noted that 20 years ago one would not have needed a license for driving a forklift or helmets on quad bikes. The driver training will allow all levelsof training. He noted he had sent his daughters out of the region for proper driving school.
- This opportunity will create something unique in this country. It won't be easy and funding will be hard to acquire but day one is secure the land.
- He noted the business model shows the association can service the loan through farming the land. The support from Council for the loan will mean planning can start.
- He noted the concerns raised regarding noise from drag racing can be mitigated with good plantings and the drag strip will be able to be used for a number of things. He suggested it could be used for parking horse floats or providing the pistol club a new location and that a second jet sprint track could be build.

- He noted speedway would need to come first given its strong connection to Stratford but the next step would be what to build that could generate revenue and he noted the options were endless.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted the drag racing is over very quickly but Mr Rae could not confirm the decibel rating.

504, 540, Jonothan Keegan
203

Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted he had missed the public meeting but felt there seemed to be a few gaps in the proposal. After loaning the money for the Lilley block where would the remainder come for the Gilbert block?
- He noted he had had a lot of involvement with stock cars and was in full support that this was a good move for them and would allow for more meetings in a year. He noted he currently holds a steward license for ATV racing and that his two sons were currently top of ATV racing in New Zealand. So he supported motor sports.
- As the boundary will back onto his farm he was concerned about the noise. During the fireworks night heifers grazing crashed through fences. He was about to go help another neighbour with a bull who had gotten injured due to the fireworks. He questioned how the noise from a drag strip would be mitigated.
- He clarified that as dairy heifers these changed every year and therefore it was not a case of getting stock used to the noise.
- He questioned the 220KV power line that goes straight through where the drag strip is proposed. He noted a plane would not be able to land through these either if the strip doubled as an airstrip.
- Mr Rae clarified that in Indianapolis trees dulled the noise dramatically from the drag strip.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted that the power lines were quite low at some points. If the dirt track was created, jumping motorbikes could be an issue under these.
- It was noted that the plans were just a concept at this point.

221 Mike and Helen Cameron

Points noted in discussion:

- Mr and Mrs Cameron are gravel rally drivers.
- Mr Cameron thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and saw the whole plan as a very forward venture. There is not more land being created and this gives the opportunity to have a venue in the heart of Taranaki that will be very well used.
- He noted the 559 submissions shows there is a bit of passion for this.
- He noted he had been part of the starting committee for the Stratford Sprints which had just completed 30 years of racing in Stratford. This shows the council is proactive and knows what the people want.
- He noted there were so many variations of motorsport but he noted he supported the youth driving facility as the main point. He noted Mansfield would operate seven days a week with this if they could. There is nothing available between Hampton Downs and Feilding. There are a lot of young people to come through and the death notices in the newspaper from road accidents show you need skill and the only way to get this is by learning. This would also allow for forklifts and tractors as they are starting to be required now.
- Mrs Cameron noted the planned layout was much better than Mansfield. She noted she was part of Women in Motorsport NZ and a Motorsport NZ volunteer which meant she

was often travelling to Manawatu for events and having to stay there, this would mean people would come here to our motels instead. She noted it takes 150 people to run an event in Mansfield.

- Being in the heart of Taranaki and with a blank canvas gives such an opportunity to create and ensure all facets are conducive and are happy with where they are placed. She noted the covered horse stadium is too close at Mansfield and already this proposal has had the forethought to have them on the road side and the motorsport further to the north. She noted stone bruises create many weeks of downtime and horrendous costs for horse owners and that a special facility for the horses was the way to go given the land would be available.
- She noted that the power lines questioned by the previous submitter can be buried.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted they did not think this proposal would become a threat to Mansfield. It was noted that they had said if Taranaki could take 3 days of driver training off them it would significantly help them.
- It was clarified it was approximately 350m between the horse facility and motorsport at Mansfield. The vision is to move further away than that and it gives the opportunity for tree planting with a blank canvas.
- They noted most of the motorsports were around 95 decibels and that their farm was on the railway line and stock do get used to the noise.
- They noted this could be the last chance to get something like this with the land available where it is.
- The District Mayor noted the Stratford Street Sprints were very popular. He noted he had looked at Mansfield's website and there were events every weekend in November, December and January. It was clarified that these events ranged in scale and required volunteers. A day event compared to an international race meeting which required being away for five days with travel, training, test runs and the competitive racing. It was noted the cart event (2k Cup) gave the opportunity to win to buy a cheap vehicle and was a cheap entry level event. There was the opportunity to do this here and would mean accommodation would be required to man these events as well as competitors.
- She noted last month Mansfield hosted Truck Racing for the first time in 12 years and the crowds were bigger than for international racing with people coming from all over New Zealand. Entry was only \$10 which meant families could attend with high prices people shy away. It was also noted there were 5000 people that attended the Auckland event this past weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.55am and reconvened at 10.25am.

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| 269 | Mark Masters |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This project is the shot in the arm that Stratford is in need of as it is stagnated and has seen a demise in industry over time and lags behind other towns of similar size for its GDP.• He felt there was very little reason for school leavers to stay here.• He noted he had been impressed with the previous speakers, in particular the race track organisers.• He noted he had been hesitant in the involvement of Stratford District Council in this project which was outside of its core business. But noted Council would not own the land and would not be involved – and agreed it shouldn't be.• As a facilitator for funding at a very low interest rate Council would make sure this proposal gets past the starting gate. Without this help a once in a lifetime opportunity of purchasing adjoining land would be lost. The association has assured us that the loan can be serviced and with an all time low interest rate environment it should be a simple task.• All the assets plus land as security against the loan means minimal risk for Council and the opportunity has to be seized for the community's future. | |
| 261 | Kim Sharpe, Chris Uhlenberg & Peter Kuriger |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <p>Peter Kuriger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has been involved with speedway for most of his life and Taranaki stock cars was one of his babies. His goal is that speedway will be here for his grandchildren and a part of this proposal will mean this will be the case.• Taranaki Stock Car Club has a good relationship with the A&P Association for in excess of 50 years.• The stock car club took a venue that was a show ground and turned it into a fully fledged speedway arena. There have been ups and downs with the association but both clubs have always been able to work forward through problems which has allowed them to create the venue that is there.• One of the issues with speedway is it keeps growing nationally and regionally. Last year it grew nationally by 11% and this year it is anticipated that growth here is way in excess of that going by the first two meetings. We are fortunate to be one of the largest competitor bases in the country second only to Palmerston North.• The sport is family orientated and they have done a good job creating the youth sections and sections for younger children as well to be a part of the club. The youth section was created by this club and is now nationwide.• Stratford Speedway is an advancing organisation and is always looking to the future but are struggling with ageing infrastructure and having outgrown the club rooms.• He questioned where else in New Zealand could you find 100ha of land north of the town which is basically just incumbent with farm buildings. You would not find a piece of land that big to develop into the facilities required. Our goal is to support their venture to achieve this with the proposal making the future very promising. The land would also retain the buffer between the club and the town.• He noted the club was the first one to do electronic lap scoring and the first in New Zealand for TV compatible lighting.• He noted he believed the A&P Association had the ability to do this project. <p>Kim Sharpe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The A&P Association and the Taranaki Stock Car Club have a really strong solid relationship.• It is a family sport and has families that have been involved for generations. History is just as important as the future. | |

- The club has the second highest membership in New Zealand and the better facilities will make it the highest. The club is strong but it will allow it to be the strongest.
- Currently it is not suitable to meet spectators needs. The ability to presell tickets will mean people don't have to sit for hours to secure the best seats. The clubrooms are not very inviting and the social aspect of the club has been impacted due to this.
- She noted spectators were up 25.5% from last season. This is the best regularly run event in Taranaki and the track and summer brings a huge amount of people – the improvements would see spectators and visitors grow and give the ability to run different events.
- Council has a vision and is future thinking. If the vote is yes for the loan then the stock car club will work positively with the A&P Association and other motor sport codes to make the project a huge success for all involved.
- Noise is an issue and garages will be provided to get those working on cars out of the township.

Chris Uhlenberg

- Has been involved with the club as a volunteer race car driver from 1985-2008, has had two stints on the committee and is the current vice president.
- He noted the proposal is valuable to the community and to the province and is viable.
- It is time for the track to be upgraded and moving the noise away from town to reduce the effect it has on residents. The land option to the north is the logical place and would not impose on anyone in the area.
- Up to three generations have come through the track through the youth class.
- Last few years it has seen the highest number of competitors and that only counts the participants and not the club members.
- It is a viable project for the whole of Taranaki.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted the current facilities did not allow for garages, however it was identified by the club that there was a need for this now due to residents submissions through this proposal. They are now discussion what can be done to address this to alleviate the problem for residents. The new facility will allow for this easily.
- It was noted that there was no official economic impact provided from speedway although they had been in communication with key companies in the past to try and get that information. They are now back in contact with Venture Taranaki to work towards getting that information.
- It was noted that the next step following the purchase of the land would be provisional plans, drawings and then an application for a resource consent. There have not been discussions with the Association yet if the club would continue to lease the land or become part owners as the key emphasis at the moment is to get the land so the work can be done in the future. They noted there is a lot of resources within the club both financially and for resources and there would be no problem creating the new venue.

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| 530 | Dana Haszard |
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Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted Ms Haszard had had a lifetime involvement with equestrian through pony clubs, instructor, parent, Riding for the Disabled, Taranaki Hunt, Trekking and has focussed on dressage and race horses in the later times. This gave her a reasonable idea of the expanse of the equestrian movement.
- She noted a trend observed with over four decades in the sport was clubs having to vacate their grounds and move. This causes a flow on effect on membership, activities and morale.
- The Stratford Park project is unprecedented – a centrally located farm park that will allow to meet, run rallies, provide a safe place to ride – this is exciting for equestrian and will cause a sigh of relief that at last someone is taking the steps to address

equestrian needs. There will be much shared grounds in terms of needs from various groups ranging through competitions, recreational use and training needs and a widespread need for an indoor arena and grassed area.

- Work is being completed on creating a network of facilities (bridle tracks) and this is welcomed but only addresses a small part of identified needs. Existing pony clubs need to be recognised that these facilities could be used for training needs and this project offers an exciting and practical opportunity being centrally located and with the ability to grow and expand the vision for the future. This is exciting for the individuals, competitors, trainers and educators. It will bring people together and establish seven day use of the park.
- Equestrian encroachment of urban land discourages infrastructure and alternative venues are required to be hired or numbers of events run are restricted. This has Taranaki wide potential to ensure the viability of equestrian in the future.
- There are three major disciplines here for eventing – show jumping, show hunting and dressage. Adult riding clubs are becoming increasingly popular and there are seven pony clubs – some with branches within the clubs, western riding, hunt and trek, working groups, breed societies and specialised in show. To accommodate these groups makes economic and practical sense providing opportunities and support for both young and old. People will be attracted to come to a multi equestrian park.
- She thanked Council for looking at what is possible for equestrian and noted the Stratford community deserved every advantage it received.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that she did use the Hawera indoor arena for dressage and they are run as two day championship nationals. In winter because of the ground surface every event is run over two days as there are eight different to run and are split between high and low grades. If there was an all weather surface this could be used and the event could be run over one day – in spite of rain. There have been talks about this happening but nothing has developed. It has become the hub for dressage but it wasn't the case a few years ago when the Waitara pony club was used more often.
- It was clarified that if this development proceeded dressage would still go ahead in Hawera but that this project was beyond anything she could imagine going on the Hawera property and would ask why stop all the other advantages that can improve facilities and address the needs of the population where the majority of the horses are. This would be for both general and competition use.

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| 552 | Bryce Barnett | 10.45am |
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Points noted in discussion:

- He congratulated the senior executives and the Councillors for taking a lead role and being brave in putting such a recommendation together. He fully supported the proposal.
- He noted he was involved in property development and investment in both New Zealand and Australia and problems he often sees is how to keep small cities alive and Stratford is doing it!
- Growth is not offering free car parking it is being big and brave and going outside of the comfort zone.
- Cromwell Park was a big vision.
- He noted the trustees behind this have the ability and despite the reputational risk they want to back this project!
- He has looked at the economics and does see the project progressing nicely.
- He noted the presentations from the groups had been excellent.
- He noted Council would not be able to please everyone but the fact they had had the courage to make the recommendation needed to be acknowledged.
- All the groups that could participate to make it successful need to be well thought out and each group may need to compromise to make this work.

- He noted that Hawera as the equestrian hub was not different to Taranaki having 18 golf courses and questioned if in 10 years they will still exist? They all suffer because they think they are more important than the others.
- It is very important the Association is looking at the multi-generational approach. He noted his appointment as the chair of the Te Karaka Trust and that the change in focus will be multi-generational. We need to retain the people we have here, bring back the ones that have left and attract those who will think it is a great place to live.
- Corporate functions will be possible with this complex and will bring groups from Auckland and Wellington to participate in these.
- The vibrancy of the CBD will completely change and the local community will see new motels built followed by a resurgence in the town.
- He noted his support and stated King Lear could not shake a spear at this one!

Councillor Dalziel joined the meeting at 11.00am.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that further opportunities for Stratford could include truck driver training to give those businesses within Taranaki an opportunity to have their driver training here rather than sending away – he noted Symmonds, Hookers, Fonterra as examples. The facilities would bring other businesses with it – auto electricians, mechanics etc. More accommodation would be absolutely essential and the big influence on food would see existing businesses afford to do their buildings up. The recent success of the subdivision show Council are leaders for a small town and this will just lead to more opportunities. Success breeds success. Capital always follows a good project. It won't happen overnight but it will happen.
- It was noted private investment would be required but felt that those people who will operate from there will put the capital there. Got to start with the right base of infrastructure with no one being more important than the other. Everyone will have a role to play to all compliment each other. Big capital will mean some sort of entertainment centre will be required. This is the beginning of the journey and he reemphasised capital will always follow a good project, with something like this equity funding does follow.
- It was clarified that Mr Barnett did think Council should not be part of the governance team but believes there is a more active role to play to help with conflicts and compromises and Council will have to play this role for the long game.

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| 543 | Craig Nielsen |
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Points noted in discussion:

- Is a proud and passionate supporter of community opportunity and cars and motorsports have been a big part of his life.
- He noted he was raised in a ball sport family and felt this was well catered for in Taranaki. He had always wanted to participate in motorsport for which there are lots of participants but no locations other than speedway, go karting and motorcross. The majority of motorsport is undertaken on closed roads which is becoming increasingly harder with increased safety requirements.
- Racers travel to Masterton or Auckland. What a commercial opportunity for Council to welcome national and international visitors while providing a place to learn to drive, drag race and circuit race. Surely this will help with road safety as well.
- He noted this offered the potential to grow and foster future New Zealand level drivers.
- The local mechanics will have work from this.
- The vision is bold and a once in the lifetime and could be the most significant development in Stratford and Taranaki.
- There has been talk about realising some sort of motorsport facility in the region before but the possibility to combine sports is innovative.
- He noted the events and tourism potential and stated Make Stratford Great.

- He encouraged Council to press on and support the purchase of the first parcel of land.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.14am and reconvened at 11.40am.

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| 146 | John Lincoln |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has lived in Taranaki for 10 years and has come from Tikorangi from work to speak today. • He noted that any time investment is made in land can't be wrong and should be an underlying thought for this decision. He did not know of anyone who has brought land or a house and lost money. • By investing in his project the mana of Stratford will be raised and will be a major showground in an area dominated by New Plymouth bringing with it investment from outside areas such as an equestrian medical centre for horses because it is a long way away at the moment. • Any sort of motor sport brings in extra investment, jobs, opportunities, people staying and yes heightened traffic but Stratford is on a state highway. • He noted the railway was noisy but it was possible to sort these things out one way or another. • He noted the District signage stating Stratford is in the heart of Taranaki and felt this gave the opportunity to be at the heart of Taranaki. • He felt the drag strip would compliment the AmeriCARna event and would give another reason to stay in the area. • Classic motorcycle racing would be very well supported with a lot of racers in Taranaki and the Central North Island who would travel. • There would be lots of opportunity to make money out of accommodation, food and drink and would raise the game creating a place to go to instead of to go through. | |
| 186 | Philip Macey |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted the project was significant, ballsy and visionary and would be multigenerational. • He noted his horse racing and motorsport background and is an accountant. • He noted it would be important to minimise the risk by good management involving a lot of people along the way and likened it to buying a yearling race horse supported by vets, trainers and a good jockey to fulfil its potential. • There is a core group of people involved in his project but a professional project planner would be used when the spade went in the ground. The first step would be buy the land. They know what they are going to build. • He noted the reputational risk involved in putting themselves on the line. The numbers involved have included advice from independent consultants and farmers and has put his name to the budget to show his belief and confidence that this will work. • There is a big job in sourcing funding for the infrastructure but there is a good team to help achieve this. This team has grown significantly and did include the Council who if it lends the money becomes involved in the project. • He noted he had been involved in the proposal in the North of Taranaki and there had been no Council support, no land and nothing to line up to give the assurance it could work. With Council support the first step can be taken which is the riskiest but the most important step. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget to fund the infrastructure while repaying clumps of the loan was questioned. He noted there were numerous options for funding of the racetrack/circuit but it was | |

tricky to put a 20 year budget and he could not predict how the whole project will be funded however there is a lot of interest and government grants available. He noted the key point was it needed to get started somewhere. There were a lot of people within speedway that have experience and the business to provide a collaborative effort to raise the money. What could generate revenue had been looked into and as farmland it will be able to. No soil has been turned so each step needs to be taken as it comes and make sure that step is sustainable at that point, it doesn't matter if speedway is done first and the rest takes five years as long as it is sustainable. This project gives the ability to spread out as much as is needed or to bring forward if able.

- It was felt that a 30 year plan put the project at risk and felt it needed to happen within 5-10 years so people can see what is going on and get invested financially and emotionally. Mr Macey noted this comment and stated that was why the work undertaken over the past two years is only now being released to the public as they were careful not to do so too soon. He noted they wanted to get the speedway through as fast as possible but he emphasised the need to ensure it was sustainable. This was about creating something that can fund itself.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.53am and reconvened at 12.30pm.

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| 534 | Mike Procter |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Procter noted he had not affiliation with equestrian or motorsport. He was a resident and a ratepayer in Stratford.• He noted Stratford needed to diversify and expand its population and the proposal presented had the potential for that.• He noted he had not seen presented in the public domain how these benefits claim to produce 200 jobs and the associated financial benefits. He hoped the business plan contained an economic report.• He noted over 500 submissions were received with 400 in favour and noted it was good to see people were interested. He hoped Council would ask how many of these had come from ratepayers and residents from Stratford as it was noted they had come from all over New Zealand with a large proportion being from the motorsport community.• He noted it was good to hear from equestrian representatives earlier today as none had spoken at the public presentation and felt it was disappointing no one from the A&P Association had spoken.• He felt it was clear that from the speakers and submissions the project is first and foremost about motorsport – not the A&P Association or equestrian.• He questioned what had happened to the Future of Broadway project? And noted the development of Prospero Place had been put on hold indefinitely after Council had devoted itself to those developers in assuring the ANZ building would be demolished. He note that development had been funded by a private developer and the Stratford Park is funded by volunteers who are passionate but it is only a sideline to their livelihood. He noted his concern that Council would have to pick up the pieces to carry it through for the next 10-20 years.• He noted the loan repayment would be over a 40-45 year term which was a very long period of time and any adverse effects could happen during it.• The A&P Association has one three day event annually and nothing stated in the presentation that this could change. Motorsport could put on 100 events a year as opposed to its current 17-18 but that would mean two a week with the noise that was experienced this past Saturday with the last race at 10.45pm.• He noted his awareness of burning fossil fuels and the impact on health and the health of the planet and felt it was astonishing that people would continue to promote anything that uses fossil fuels. Motorsport burning of fossil fuels is as an indulgence and not a necessity.• He felt the decision was being rushed and queried the urgency for the vendor to sell the land.• At the moment he did not support the project and option 4. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was clarified the additional information he felt should be public included how much income Council gets from the A&P Association or speedway and noted his concern speedway was unable to answer how much revenue it brings to Stratford. They should have some idea how much is being put into the community or paying every year to Council. If it all turns to custard then it can be turned back to farming, if it's a good deal then yes agree with that purchase but where is it going to be funded from and are ratepayers going to have to pick this up. He noted with the changes proposed with the 3 waters Council would be getting smaller and smaller. He noted the points in his submission regarding fossil fuels and combustion engines coming to an end and in 10-20 years they will disappear. Electric vehicles are the future and noted that the noise would disappear with these. He noted the noise issues would be dealt with at the resource consent time. He clarified his two objections were the very little financial information provided to the public and the noise and pollution issues. | |

With speakers to submissions failing to attend Councillors were given the opportunity to discuss specific submissions heard so far.

Points noted in discussion:

- The Director – Environmental Services noted that the noise would unlikely comply with the District Plan noise provision and would be addressed as part of any application for a resource consent along with measures that can be taken to mitigate that noise. It is unknown what form the process for this consent would take but it was likely there would be public participation, affected party engagement and an environmental commissioner for the decision.
- Mr Sutherland noted it was almost certain it would require a consent if it was to be built in its current location and whether it would be granted or not would come down to how much noise was produced and what mitigations were able to be put in place. There were predictive computer models that take the noise generating components of an activity and compare it to the topography and weather in the area.
- Councillor Erwood noted at Western Springs in Auckland it was 85 decibels at the fence. Most stockcars are limited to 95 decibels. Drag strips are 141 decibels and top cars are estimated at 150 decibels. Damage to ears occurs at 140 decibels.
- It was noted the Power Station was an obvious comparison for high decibel readings. The off road track is not covered in the District Plan but does have a resource consent. It was clarified that noise from aircraft and flights are not controlled by the District Plan – they are for taxiing but not flying.
- It was noted there had been very minimal complaints received about the noise from stock cars with the exception of the fireworks evening as they are just generally accepted by Stratford. This could change with new residents.
- It was clarified that the additional information requested by the Audit and Risk committee would be circulated to Councillors as soon as it was available. This would be included in the Extraordinary Agenda for receipt by Council and it was at that point Council would be required to decide if the information is satisfactory to proceed. That will then be followed by receipt and adoption of the resolutions within the minutes from this hearing. The Full Council would then have the ability to amend or discard any recommendation made by the Policy and Services Committee if the information raised concerns. It was noted a deputation had been received by members of the A&P Association to formally speak to Council prior to receipt of the requested information. This would allow the opportunity for questions to be asked regarding this.
- It was noted there had been an absence of equestrian comments prior to the submission process and there are now a number of codes specifically endorsing this proposal which has been reinforced by verbal submissions today. The common issue is access to the existing indoor arena and the view today there is ample room for further equestrian facilities within the region.
- It was clarified the Taranaki Regional Sports Facility Strategy was established three to four years ago as there was a desire by a funder to avoid duplication throughout the region and at what level services were provided for locally. It was an attempt to coordinate what was built and where. Centres of excellences were developed to avoid duplication and ensure grass roots facilities were everywhere. The minority of funders take guidance from this, but all of them look at it. Stratford is meant to be the centre of hockey but is currently watching hockey go to New Plymouth. Stratford is looking to become stronger in equestrian services so it is a similar process. In principle it is worthwhile.
- Equestrian submitters had all stated their facilities were not up to scratch and this was holding the sport back. It was noted that Hawera was noted within the strategy as the hub but that there was allowance for a multilevel equestrian park was to be created north of the region closer to the population base. The District Mayor noted that Stratford was further north than Hawera with 69% of the horses based in the northern part of the region.
- It was noted that electric cars were the way of the future which would be quieter and faster. There is starting to be an electric class for the circuit and rally cars.

- It was noted it was impressive how many submissions had been received from young people who were really concerned around the future of this project.
- It was noted that driver training was an important part of this project and this had been emphasised during the submissions. The AA is very keen to see a facility developed in this area and made their support known verbally. Road safety would improve with better drivers, the ability to upskill young people and encourage professional driving would be a bonus. Future compliance for other motor vehicles could be covered here as well.
- The concerns raised regarding the intersection at Flint Road were noted. Changes to the roading structure could be included as part of a resource consent process with the cost falling on the applicant or it could be a NZTA cost or Council cost. The racecourse was actively used on the show weekend and could provide an opportunity to formalise ownership and maintenance of that road. There could be a number of opportunities to facilitate multiple access points. It was noted that the Flint Road intersection has been highlighted in the safety study done by NZTA between Hawera and New Plymouth as a dangerous intersection. Any increase in traffic would accelerate the need to improve this piece of road where there has been a number of accidents. It was noted for major events the organisers do use traffic management which works well.
- It was noted there were 40 competitors in the youth class for stockcars. Stock cars does offer a lot and does a lot for Stratford and is not a club that comes to ask for things.
- Concern was noted that the business case and financial plan would not be revealing as far as the open financial viability of this project. The final decision will be taken with a huge leap of faith. The Director – Corporate services noted she had received a draft last week and made suggestions based on her knowledge of what Council had requested to see. It needs to be clear, transparent and make sense with supporting numbers behind it. There will be a further risk analysis within the cover report.

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| 468 | Diana Wynyard | 1.25pm |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her strong connection with Stratford was noted, her husband is Richard Masters and the Masters family has been involved with the Stratford community for 2 centuries. • She noted she was very interested in this proposal and when walking her Labradors she had noted the privilege in having green space available but questioned how long it would be available. She noted the green space was the heart of New York with Central Park and in New Plymouth with Pukekura Park. • The vision of people like Council who allow these things to happen is important to ensure we retain them. • She noted the New Plymouth and Districts Riding Club had been set up for those interested in riding and low level competition and gives the chance to have a go at different things. The philosophy of the riding clubs is involvement and they are very community based. • Every year the New Zealand Riding Club have a competition where teams of six come from all over the North Island and participate in a range of riding activities. Teams work together and the criteria for success is helping and supporting your team. The new equestrian proposal would be ideal for a competition like this as currently in Taranaki equestrian is squashed and restricted to a couple of locations. Activities include cross country, showing, fun activities and a lot of socialisation which puts money into the community. • She noted her support for the development of the equestrian facility and the preservation of green space which is more valuable and the most important thing a community can have. She noted it was amazing one of the smallest Councils in New Zealand was taking on such a fantastic project. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was clarified the group had about 90 members and the cost was \$20 per year which made it very affordable to join. | | |

The meeting was adjourned at 1.33pm and reconvened at 2.10pm.

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| 51 | Callum Neeson |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted Mr Neeson lived in Stratford and competed in the New Zealand drift series.• He is heavily involved in motorsports and organises drift events in Taupo.• He noted he has seen what these events can do for towns – bringing 500-1000 people in for test days and thousands of people in for competition days. It is the fastest growing sports at the moment but he has to travel three hours to make them happen.• He noted these events encouraged people not to do these things on the road which is a benefit. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was clarified there were only three tracks for test days. There were approximately 40-50 participants for test days, driver training and competitions. A three day event brings a lot of people.• It was clarified the track would support all sorts of motorsport events and wouldn't require a different track for different disciplines.• It was noted that there was work being undertaken on electric drift cars however further work was required around the batteries being a contact sport and needing them to be safely contained.• It was noted Taupo Motor Sport Park had strict rules and regulations around noise and 90 decibels was what it ran out at the moment and this is tested. | |
| 46 | Kirsten Hopkins |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She noted she was an adult member of the Eltham Pony Club.• She noted there was an estimated 80,000 horses in New Zealand and an estimated 40,000 race horses.• This would be an excellent proposal for the Stratford District and noted that she believed the jobs that would be created would be more than anticipated and have a knock over effect into hospitality and accommodation.• This could become the national equine facility and could host Horse of the Year competitions and bring massive income to the area.• She noted the sport horse industry contributed \$1 billion to the economy.• She noted she had a business idea she was looking to begin in Stratford that would definitely be benefited by this. This was an equine related business.• It would be supported by local horse owners who would be grateful for these types of facilities. | |
| 531 | Ross Soffe |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He noted he had been a member of the A&P Association for 25 years and a ratepayer in the Stratford District for eight years.• He noted it was great being able to contemplate this project that was much bigger than any of them had imagined.• The A&P Show has continued to grow including the demand for parking. If access wasn't supplied by neighbours it would be a major issue.• More and more businesses want to be involved and they are bursting at the seams.• The event is very expensive to run and more room is required to bring more income stream in from others using the facilities.• Through endless meetings, studies and a good steering committee this idea has grown and he thanked Council and the Mayor for the support and ongoing encouragement | |

they have given. He thanked Neil McDonald, the steering committee and the consultants who have gotten them to this stage and continue to help grow the concept.

- He understood it was a huge leap of faith to lend money. The A&P had the most to lose but felt it would be good gains for everyone.
- The A&P has run this way for over 100 years and the stock cars for over 50 years.
- There will be endless opportunities for business, accommodation, equine and employment opportunities and as a last resort it will provide a subdivision option.
- This is a great opportunity but can only go ahead if the land is secured.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was noted Mr Soffe saw the benefits to the A&P Association would be the ability to run the show bigger and better. There were also additional ideas that existing land could be used for that would be related to the show including expansion of the campervan area as users were complimentary of the facilities. They saw the ability to improve other organisations with equine activities which would help with income stream.

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| 481 | Allan Chesswas |
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Points noted in discussion:

- Mr Chesswas noted he had worked with the Stratford District Council in the past as the Environmental Planner and managed the process for the 2006-2008 District Plan.
- He was encouraged by the proposal and thought it was a fantastic opportunity for this town it complimented Council's track record for being visionary and positive.
- The project was a good fit with the priorities around economic development and identity.
- He noted land was excellent security but it should be considered how it feeds into the town centre and the way it operates in relation to traffic.
- The bypass issue has been raised before with differing ideas. He thought an arterial highway would benefit the town in the long term. The topography and landscape of the town would mean the town centre will always be where it is but the extended flow of traffic will continue to become more and more of an issue.
- An arterial road needs to be considered in terms of this land. He suggested coming over the bridge into town and heading down to golf course and coming out at sale yards and continuing out of town past the High School could be an attractive option for those not wanting to stop in town but being longer would still offer incentive to continue and stop in town.
- As the land is acquired and transacted these issues should be flagged and thought about including part Council ownership of the land to form a partnership for future subdivision or development of roads. Given the 40-50 year time frame plans for an arterial road should be put in place now.

The meeting adjourned at 2.33pm and reconvened at 3.17pm.

The Taranaki Daily News reporter joined the meeting at 3.17pm.

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| 556 | Jeff Dobson |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He noted he expressed his support that of his business, and outlined his involvement and commitment to training and apprenticeships, mentoring and having been involved in all facets of motorsport from 6 year old karting to chairman of the kart sports New Zealand and the success of the speedway.• Sponsorship and marketing and involvement in all facets and what it brings back to the community is hard to quantify. Having been involved and knowing we are going to have a facility like this means generations can be involved.• He noted use of the term motor sport but clarified that this did not exclude non-motor sport people – any one can grab a warranted car and a helmet and do laps or have lessons. Anyone who holds a simple license can be involved and that is very positive. | |
| 539 | South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon & Marianne Archibald |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Taranaki District Council see the proposal to lend money to the A&P Association to allow for expansion is a great idea.• They are supportive and excited for most of the proposal and the motorsport centre will be an asset for Stratford and all of the region.• They are very much against any form of equine centre to be here in Stratford. There is an inside arena at the Egmont A&P grounds which was identified under the Taranaki Regional Sports Facility Strategy as the equestrian hub for Taranaki. It can house 200 horses under cover and another 100 outside of that with a further 100 if the indoor arena is not being used.• We are small districts in New Zealand and are used to fighting for what we can get but its important to recognise existing regional strategies that were adopted by Council and note that together we are Taranaki – like no other. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that the strategy provided for local equestrian facilities. The submitters felt what was proposed was more than that and with the bones of a really good facility in South Taranaki this development would be detrimental. They would not want a competing regional facility.• It was questioned if there could be two complimentary facilities? The submitters noted that this would require a lot of consultation with South Taranaki to ensure the facilities were not competing. It was noted the Districts needed to work together to support each other in specific areas, and the region. They confirmed there was potential to work together but it would also need to be done closely with the facility.• It was noted there had been several equine related submissions heard by the committee today and questioned if there was room for expansion in South Taranaki. It was confirmed a proposal was drawn up in 2015 to expand to an outdoor weather arena but was pushed aside in 2018 due to dust issues. A material has since been used in Taupo which does not create dust and could be a solution to the halted expansion. There were a lot of organisations being turned away due to the bookings in the indoor facility.• It was noted that any form of cooperation would need to be talked through with the equestrian people. From South Taranaki District Council and the Egmont A&P Association's view they would like to see all facilities retained in South Taranaki with the expansion being able to accommodate the requested usage. There were quite a number of national and international events that the expansion would give the capacity to host.• It was noted submitters today had highlighted the difficulty of booking and able to get into the facility as it was well utilised and their areas suffered because of that. It was clarified a time frame for the expansion could not be given as it was the Egmont A&P Association rather than the South Taranaki District Council, but discussions had been held with them and they were not turned away when requesting funding. That facility | |

and the showgrounds return a lot to the South Taranaki District. It would be their call at the end of the day.

- It was noted that many equestrian people were at a show in Taupo today so were unable to attend this hearing.
- It was noted there seemed to be an issue with bookings and sharing the bookings for use outside of equestrian. It was felt if it was a regional hub then it should be specific to equestrian. The submitters noted that there was an interest to help the A&P Association with the number of bookings but noted that they travelled here for their motorsports but this was also available to South Taranaki residents in Whanganui.
- It was clarified that a lot of South Taranaki residents used the equestrian facility but there was also a number came from the north for events. There are all sorts of equine events run through the arena and horses from all over.
- The District Mayor noted the provision in the Regional Sports Facility Strategy for a second equine facility in the region nearing the larger population base but non specific which indicates there was the opportunity for two facilities in the region. He did not feel that being North or Centrally located made much difference. He saw it as a smaller facility for every use and weekend events that would compliment the equine hub in South Taranaki. It was clarified that the second equine facility allowed for was of local level and not a regional level.
- The submitter questioned the accuracy of the numbers of horses within the proposal noting it stated there was one horse in Whanganui.

554

Mike Carr & Zanta Jones

Points noted in discussion:

- It was noted this submission was provided on behalf of Sport Taranaki in its role implementing the regional strategy.
- They noted it was difficult to separate the specifics of the projects from deciding if Council will fund the loan. It was felt the acquisition of the land is very much driven by the specifics and Council should very much be involved.
- Support was given for Option 4 giving the opportunity for the loan to be at a much lower interest rate than the association could achieve on its own and it would have no impact on ratepayers.
- It was felt that the most important parcel of land for purchase is the area along SH3 between the showgrounds and the township to protect the barrier.
- High consideration needs to be given to protect the future of speedway in Stratford and Sport Taranaki can provide support and resources to the project and to help with governance models and collaboration. It can help provide input into the refinement of the master plan and a detailed design in terms of functionality and multi use that will be responsive to the needs and future needs.
- The level of involvement in such a significant project is to ensure no long term impact on rate payers.
- He complimented Neil McDonald and the committee for their vision and to Council for supporting its progression.
- Flint Road can be a hub or a community and sporting facility.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- It was clarified that the Taranaki Regional Council was still not a member of the Regional Sports Facility Strategy.
- It was noted the strategy was about the facilities and not the events and has as much teeth as the stakeholders are willing to put in being the three District Councils, Venture Taranaki, Funders and Sport Taranaki.
- The submitters noted they supported Hawera in being the identified regional hub of equestrian and that the needs for facilities and a training facility would be in North Taranaki where the majority of the riders are situated and that their evidence shows the majority of riders are in New Plymouth. Ms Jones noted they were working with

equestrian networks on a facilities network plan for the region to understand what there is in public facilities and private, how they are spread, who utilises them and where the gaps are. This will identify where the priorities are.

- It was noted there was a body of work undertaken to complete the strategy undertaken with 36 different sporting codes to ascertain what currently exists and what has support from national bodies. Ms Jones did not support a second regional facility noting it would cause white elephants and taking events away from neighbouring facilities rendering them not fit for purpose. The key aspects of the strategy was to identify needs and not wants.
- It was noted that submitters during the day had stated the Hawera facility was not available when needed and used for other purposes not equine related. Ms Jones confirmed there were some operational concerns around access and safety and that Sport Taranaki would be keen to support some improvements to ensure it can be used as a regional hub. She noted Council needed to be realistic about the level of use stating there was a total of 61 events with many of those having under 30 participants which questions the scale that is needed to the majority of these facilities. The current master plan is around every sport or user group having their own space with the next phase being more emphasis on shared activity and more hubbing happening as this is where the real value can be seen.
- It was questioned if a second facility would be detrimental or positive? Ms Jones clarified it was about finding the right fit for the community – entry level training facility is what is currently there and could be improved but a regional or national facility would struggle with evidence to support that. The needs of the equestrian community need to be drilled down and work out what is feasible for this community. She noted if the proposal thought a regional level facility would benefit North Taranaki it needed to be realistic about how many would drive 40 minutes with a trailer on. There are many benefits for equestrian with hubbing and we are already seeing those through shared facilities on sites and these facilities can be improved without taking it to a regional facility level.
- It was noted Stratford had been deemed as the regional facility for hockey but Sport Taranaki are promoting New Plymouth for the second turf. Ms Jones noted this was because of the need and growth in New Plymouth. It was noted that this had been the same argument heard by Council from equestrian representatives today as well as noting support for a central location.
- Concern was noted by the submitters that they did not want to see a regional facility that is being handed back to Council in 20 years as it is not being utilised.
- It was noted that the notion equestrians would not travel 40 minutes to Stratford was debatable if they were expected to travel further to Hawera. Stratford is seen as central and accessible for North, South, East and West. This was supported by attendance at the Dave Dobbyn concert filling three nights and people from all over Taranaki.
- Ms Jones noted that travel to a regional level hub would not be undertaken weekly – this is for regional events. They don't travel to Hawera for weekly training and felt that what is currently there could be complimented to fill the gaps identified. Mr Carr noted he was there to support and wanting to ensure that 'fit for scale and purpose' was at the forefront of the decision making to ensure it is a thriving community appropriately sized for its purpose.
- Ms Jones noted they may not support a regional facility for equestrian but they did really support the motorsport regional centre being here and appreciate this would take off across the region.
- It was noted that Sport Taranaki should want to foster and grow all sports – particularly participation and Councilors felt a proposal for a multi facet facility would do this.
- It was clarified Sport Taranaki did not support declining the loan proposal based on the equestrian plans. They support option 4 and there are great merits with this project. They suggest Council gets more involved with the planning for this project so it is as good as it can be in terms of funding and implementation.

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| 302 | Renee Berger |
| <p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She noted she was attending in support of the proposal.• It was noted she had recently started the Taranaki Equestrian Working group which was European form of equestrian that combined dressage with cowboy style challenges.• She noted one thing that hinders this is having a place that the group can base itself to represent Taranaki. There was an international competition proposed to be brought over from Australia but had been postponed due to COVID-19.• She noted she lived in Stratford but members were from all over Taranaki. Stratford is found to be the most central location with Hawera not being central for those in Eltham, Urenui or Oakura who find it too far to travel to. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that the group had tried to use Hawera but the availability made it difficult.• It was clarified the group occupancy for a facility would be dependent as it is seasonal but an indoor arena would change that. They currently use her paddocks but have had to stop as it was turning into a pond. They are currently only working as groups of three due to COVID-19 and to be able to manage the floats and trucks on the lifestyle block. They meet every couple of weeks and bring trainers over as well. | |

8. **DECISION REPORT – HEARING, CONSIDERATION AND DELIBERATION OF FEEDBACK TO A&P ASSOCIATION LOAN PROPOSAL**

D20/31704 Pages 11-647

Discussion

Council needs to consider public feedback to the A&P Association Loan Proposal as part of the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/McKAY
Carried
P&S/20/176

2. THAT, in alignment with **Option 4**, the Council’s proposal to lend \$7,180,000 to the Stratford Agricultural and Pastoral Association be approved, subject to the following conditions:

- i. Receipt of a ~~satisfactory~~ business case by the A&P Association to the satisfaction of Elected Members,
- ii. Receipt of an ~~satisfactory~~ independent market valuations,
- iii. ~~Any other information as required by this Committee.~~

Such information, as deemed necessary for the above decision, shall be provided within the agenda for the extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 24 November 2020.

SANDFORD/JONES
Division
For 10
Against 1
Carried
P&S/20/177

OR

~~THAT the Council does not proceed with the proposal to lend \$7,180,000 to the Stratford Agricultural and Pastoral Association (“A&P Association”), and instead withdraws full Council support for the project, or alternatively offers support for the project in some other way.~~

Recommended Reason

For the Committee to gain an understanding of the public opinion regarding the proposal and subsequently decide whether to make a recommendation to Council to proceed with the loan of \$7,180,000 to the A&P Association.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor Dalziel noted his surprise that a decision would be made today. He thought no decision would be made until the business case and second valuation had been received as requested. He felt the community feedback could be taken on board. It was noted that this was formality that the Policy and Services Committee was delegated the authority to hear community feedback and recommend a decision to the full Council meeting which had been scheduled as an Extraordinary on Tuesday 24 November. At that meeting the additional information would be received by Council and it would be at that point they would deem if the information was satisfactory prior to adopting the resolutions put forward by this Committee. The concerns and requests made by the Audit and Risk Committee have been summarised within the resolution put to this Committee today. Through the amalgamation of the additional information supplied and the public feedback Council could then make an informed decision before adopting the resolutions as recommended by the Policy and Services Committee.
- The District Mayor noted the need for a debate and giving recognition to the 600 people who had submitted to the proposal. Will Council support this project and if so is it willing to borrow almost \$7.2 million. Why did the association not go through a normal lending process via a bank? He noted Council's role in this was the accessibility to access substantially less interest rates and onlend the funds to give the project much more credibility and opportunity to succeed which was reiterated to him by the submissions received. The submitters have said if Council doesn't provide the loan then it would be much harder for the project to proceed and an opportunity may have been lost. The benefits include job creation which is extremely important to Council, economic growth and development, the identity it would give Stratford and Taranaki, the enablement of future developments, the sporting component and the driver training component were all important points to note. These were all factors a bank wouldn't consider as they would simply look at security and the ability to repay. Council does have a role to play and has gone through the process with community engagement, a public meeting and receiving a large amount of supportive feedback. A lot of codes are affected by this. He was willing to support this going to the next stage but particularly noting the receipt of a business case being to the satisfaction of Elected Members.
- Councillor Sandford noted there was still a lot of think about and information still to come. He felt the debate would occur at the next meeting. He could not believe the amount of feedback received and felt this was the most exciting item over the Council table in his 25 years.
- Councillor Boyde agreed and noted the job was to decide if Council would or would not lend the money and he felt he was still waiting on two fundamental items being the business case and the valuation. He would hold his debate until these items were received.
- Councillor Coplestone agreed the business ratification was needed but noted that should the project not proceed then Council would then have the land and there are other options that could be done with that if failure did occur. He noted the amount of young people that had responded with feedback and felt as they would take over the reins soon it was a good show of enthusiasm that would continue in the future. He had also received a lot of feedback from farmers in support of the project.
- Councillor Dalziel agreed that it was a fantastic opportunity but moved an amendment to the resolution to state "endorse" rather than "approve". He stated a bank would not lend without the satisfactory information and as Council as not a bank it should be more prudent and cautious.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the word "approved" be amended to "endorse" in the resolution.

DALZIEL/ERWOOD
Withdrawn

- The amendment was withdrawn with further clarification given that the full Council meeting could overturn the decision recommended by this committee. A recommendation by this Committee was required for Council to adopt. Alternatively a different type of report would be required for the Council meeting if there was no recommendation from this Committee. It was noted that Stratford was in a unique situation that its full Council sat on the Policy and Services Committee. The approval was condition upon the additional information being received and being deemed satisfactory by Council.
- Councillor Erwood noted he supported what was in front of them and what other Councillors had said. He felt it was fantastic that 84.98% were in support of Option 4. Words he felt were highlighted by the speakers today were innovative and futuristic. Negative words were that this town needs reinvigorating. This will create jobs and economic development for the area and if it does fail there are other options for the land. He supported lending the funds.
- Councillor McKay noted her enjoyment through this process. She had been inspired by the speakers today and felt uplifted by the energy in the room. She noted one point that had been clear was generations older than her talking about the importance for our youth of our region through driver training and getting jobs and she had taken this really seriously that this is not a short term view but a really long term one – multigenerational. She wants to see the business case but supported this recommendation going to Council.

A division was called:

Those voting for the motion were Councillors: Boyde, Coplestone, Erwood, Harris, Jones, McKay, Sandford, Webby, the Deputy Mayor and the District Mayor.

Councillor Dalziel voted against the motion.

The meeting closed at 4.31pm.

A L Jamieson
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 24th day of November 2020.

N C Volzke
DISTRICT MAYOR