

1. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

WIGRAM AIRFIELD FUTURE

Mr Chris Rudge spoke to his proposal to retain part of Wigram Aerodrome as a national heritage site/city park.

His presentation covered:

- The history of Sockburn (Wigram) Aerodrome since 1902 when Henry Wigram became Mayor of Christchurch, to its closure as an airforce base and subsequent sale.
- Current businesses using Wigram.
- Current recreation users.
- Other activities/uses.
- Potential uses.
- Reasons why Wigram should be retained as open space.
- Who supported the proposal
- Proposed Wigram park.

Mr Rudge stated that it seemed appropriate that part of the former aerodrome and some key buildings should be retained, as an active aerodrome in perpetuity given:

- The aerodrome's heritage values.
- Its current use for tourist/recreational activity and events.
- Its potential as a city park
- Its importance as a flood water retention area for the Heathcote River catchment.

He also suggested that areas not required for limited aviation use could be developed for other open space use, as was the case with those Christchurch pioneers who had the foresight to set aside Hagley Park.

He concluded his presentation by stating that Wigram Aerodrome was New Zealand's first and most historic aerodrome and that, following the example set by other countries in preserving their aviation history, New Zealand must preserve Wigram as a heritage site of national importance. If this was not acted upon now, the site would be lost forever.

Recommendation: That a Council seminar be held on site with the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board, to discuss the issues raised by Mr Rudge in his presentation.