

Date: Thursday 16 June 2022
Time: 10.00am
Meeting Room: This meeting will proceed via MS Teams and either a recording or a written summary will be uploaded to the Auckland Council website.
Venue:

Puketāpapa Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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PRESENTATION NOTES TO PUKETAPAPA LOCAL BOARD
16 JUNE 2022

1. I am the Patron of No 3 (Auckland City) Squadron Air Training Corps
2. The Squadron also has the patronage of Auckland Council represented by a Charter that grants the privilege of using 'Auckland City' in its title.
3. The Squadron is one of two (Nos 3 and 19) occupying ideal facilities for the past 20 years on a site within the former boundaries of Carrington Unitec. They have helped mould the lives of thousands of good citizens over the past 80 years.
4. Up to 200 families are involved with the two squadrons and their cadet compliments.
5. After the sale of Unitec land to the government 3 years ago for a housing development there was an informal expectation that the facilities might remain in place as a valuable community facility, also able to be used by a variety of local resident groups. Otherwise, that the lease could be extended, if only in increments, until the delayed development got under way.
6. About six months ago some work began on part of the larger site and the supporting Trust attempted to get some certainty of tenure for forward planning.
7. A well-formed proposal was made to the local MP and to the Minister for Housing and Development seeking a meeting. The local office of the Ministry was kept informed of our actions and intentions and a representative of that office expressed appreciation for that consideration. Unfortunately, neither the local MP nor the Minister of Housing and Development were willing to engage in any way and several months passed with no real progress.
8. During that time Ward Councillors of Albert-Eden-Puketapapa and Whau Wards were apprised of our predicament and all expressed empathy and, in principle, a supportive attitude towards the problem the youth training units faced.
9. We have recently been informed by a spokesman for the Iwi authority that is planning the new housing development, not to expect a renewal or extension of our ground lease. The current lease expires on 1 October this year and the new, alarming, situation is that the buildings are to be removed by that that time as well.
10. As a consequence of this new housing policy these exceptional units that have served legions of our youth for so many years will soon have no home base - unless we can secure temporary facilities while locating a new site for the Squadrons' buildings.
11. The present site is approximately 2100m² but a minimum of 35m x 30m is needed for the buildings, plus parade ground/carparking space.

12. The Squadrons and their support committees of parents have been actively searching for potential open areas that might suit, and in seeking opportunities for cooperating with several schools in the Ward, local churches, Scout groups, two RSAs, MOTAT, the Army at Arch Hill and two community halls, and have registered their need with the Leasing team at Auckland Council.
13. My representation to you as local board members has a twofold purpose:
- To apprise you of the situation and to inspire your assistance to find a suitable site for a new permanent home for the squadrons within the Ward boundaries, and
 - to facilitate the use of the **Fickling Centre** as a temporary home for No. 3 Squadron ATC on **Wednesday evenings from 6pm** for a special rental that recognises the long-established patronage of the Auckland Council.
14. The Squadron's budget for rental of its existing premises is **\$490** per month.
15. Its operating income is from activity fees from cadets, funds raised by the volunteer parents' committee work throughout the year such as raffles and weekend BBQs, some donations and a much-appreciated council grant towards the annual rental. All the officers, leaders and supporters are volunteers. They give their time freely for over 5000 hours every year.
16. Please consider this plea with empathy for the welfare of the cadets and the ongoing service that the Air Training Corps provides to the youth of our Ward.

Gordon Ragg AFC JP
Patron, No. 3 (Auckland City) Squadron ATC

Wording of the City of Auckland Youth Charter

**The City of Auckland
is sensible of the honourable record
of the No. 3 Squadron Air Training Corps
and wishes to recognise its years of service
to the young citizens of Auckland
by conferring on the Squadron
authority to henceforth bear the title**

No.3 (Auckland City) Squadron Air Training Corps