**Important notice to all Taranaki equestrians**

**Stratford Park Project**

Following the offer last year from the Stratford A & P Association to include equestrian interests in the development of a combined facility on land neighbouring the showgrounds, progress has been on going.

The steering committee has been developing the concept for the equestrian component, through the stages of workshops, communication and feedback from the many equestrian groups in the province. This has enabled the development of a vision which reflects the diversity of the equestrian community. A place to go for all be it recreational or competition and much in between.

This process was helped significantly by those groups which provided data for the feasibility study. Thank you for your input.

The evidence from the feasibility study suggests that the vision of such a home base for equestrians is both welcome and needed. Obtaining the land is the start: The foundation on which to build. As this is an absolutely unprecedented opportunity for the equestrian community of Taranaki you are strongly urged to provide your feedback to this proposal.

For the initial land purchase the Stratford A&P Assn has put a proposal to the Stratford District Council. The Council has started a public consultation process to gauge public opinion on the various options the council could select to for the whole project.

The land allocated in the plan to equestrian is on the South side of Flint Road and bordering SH3. This is a long term project so you are asked to think what this opportunity of specifically allocated land, to develop over time, would mean to our equestrian community, both now and for many succeeding generations.

Note the detail about an information evening on 22 October at 7pm at the Stratford War Memorial Hall.

**Stratford A&P Association’s Proposal to the Stratford District Council.**

The proposal is for Council support to enable the purchase of land surrounding the Association’s current location.

Before making a final decision on which of five options to select, The Stratford District Council requires **community feedback** on the Stratford A&P Association’s proposal.

You will notice that:

* Council has indicated its preferred option.

And

* Among the five is an option to do nothing

**Learn more about the vision and progress to date by attending the public meeting**

**on**

**Thursday 22 October**

**7 pm**

**Stratford War Memorial Hall**

**Have your say by providing your feedback on the proposal**

 **by**

**4.30 pm**

**Thursday 5 November 2020**

**(Include Stratford Park Project in the subject line)**

The attached flyer provides information about the proposal

Alternatively you can visit the Stratford District Council website:  <https://www.stratford.govt.nz/>

On the right hand side of the page is a blue tab that says **‘Have your Say’**

Suggest you down load the Have Your Say document to get the full colour layout.

For feedback instructions, go to the final part of the Have Your Say document for the options:

: (i) emailing your feedback

 (ii) sending by post

 (iii) filling out an online form .

If you wish to make a verbal submission you may ask for that option in your written submission.

For further enquiries about this process you are welcome to contact Dana Haszard dana.haszard@xtra.co.nz or Sharon Stevens sharonstevens@outlook.co.nz

**For all those who see this proposal as providing a bright future for equestrian sport and leisure, please realise the value of each and every positive individual response and ‘Have Your Say’**

We hope to see the community well represented at the information meeting on Thursday 22 October

Sharon Stevens and Dana Haszard

(For the Stratford Park Project Steering Committee)