

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Press Statement

The Dunsfold Airfield History Society has been asked its position on the Wings Museum's planning application to build 10,000sqm of Museum on land to the South of Dunsfold Aerodrome (WA/2016/1954).

We object to the proposal. Whilst we would be very supportive in principle of a proposal to develop a small museum to continue to celebrate and preserve artefacts and memories of the airfield site, we feel it would be a missed opportunity if it were not located on the airfield site itself, and preferably in one of the existing structures that were built for aviation use. We would not wish to see the unnecessary destruction of rural countryside off-site, when such an opportunity exists within the airfield itself.

Our Society and the Reg Day Museum, currently housed on the aerodrome, have collectively the biggest archive and collection of artefacts directly connected with Dunsfold Aerodrome. However if combined we doubt it would occupy more than 150sqm of museum space. The Wings Museum Trust do not have any archive or artefacts connected with Dunsfold and so we are bemused at their proposal for 4000sqm of Museum space to tell the Story of Dunsfold. Likewise they appear to have no airframes for display that have a connection with the history of Dunsfold. So a proposal to build 10,000sqm of Museum space on a greenfield site seems completely out of scale with the tangible needs for a Museum - especially off the airfield.

The proposed huge museum has no relevance to Dunsfold's history and will detract and confuse visitors as to the heritage of our local area. The Wings Museum, currently located, at Balcombe has miscellaneous aviation artefacts which have been collected from various crash sites unrelated to Dunsfold and as such the proposed facility could be located anywhere

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For and on behalf of; Dunsfold Airfield History Society Ltd.

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