

Monday 10th December 2018

The Dunsfold Airfield History Society has been asked their position on the Wings Museum's planning application (WA/2016/1954) to build 10,000sqm of Museum on land to the South of Dunsfold Aerodrome, which was refused by Waverley Eastern Planning Committee on 5th December.

Press Statement

Dunsfold Airfield History Society support the decision of Waverley Borough Councillors, who almost unanimously agreed that this proposal was in the wrong place, and that the harm it posed to the countryside outweighed any benefits. We agree with them that the right place is clearly felt to be on the Dunsfold Airfield itself, which already has planning permission, with a better planned access, and tied into the Master Plan for the airfield.* We concur with Councillors that it would make no sense to have two museums in competition with one another. We are surprised to see that, to date, there is no formal agreement between Wings Museum and Dunsfold Park.

There are a number of key stakeholders in the proposition of a new museum, and it is too important to entrust to any one of them alone. We would strongly urge the different parties to get round the table to agree a consensus approach to addressing this opportunity,

Sarah Worthington

Director

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

www.dunsfoldairfield.org

web@dunsfoldairfield.org

Additional information for press:

We had previously objected to the proposal of the offsite 10,000 sq m hangar on the basis of its size and design in an open and inaccessible countryside location. We have been, and remain very supportive in principle of any proposal to develop a museum to continue to celebrate and preserve artefacts and memories of the airfield site, and see no problem of combining this with other collections such as the Wings Museum. But we feel strongly it would be a missed opportunity if it were not a single facility, of appropriate scale, located on the airfield site itself, and preferably in one of the existing structures that were built for aviation use.

*We agree with Councillors that local people's expectations of Local Plan policy SS7 (Dunsfold Aerodrome new settlement) has always been that the site owner would, quite appropriately, provide a suitable location *within* the aerodrome for a museum to reflect Dunsfold Park's history as an aviation centre.

There is an opportunity for a successful combined museum venture drawing on the aviation history associated with the aerodrome site. Included in such discussions should be; Trinity College Cambridge (Owners of Dunsfold Park), Dunsfold Airport Ltd. (Site Managers), Reg Day Museum (existing collection on site), Wings Museum, Waverley Borough Council, and local Parish Councils, among others. Dunsfold Airfield History Society would also be willing to play its part.