

Awatere Pony Club

Submission to the Long Term Plan

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Purpose

This submission seeks to outline to the Marlborough District Council (MDC) a case for further development at the Flaxbourne Domain. The report aims to state the tangible costs for the project as well as the benefits of the development. The costs of the project are for the infrastructure and maintenance. The benefits include the recreational resource of the area for residents and other interested parties.

Strategic Case

The Awatere Pony Club is one of the 3 branches of the Marlborough Pony Club. Rallies are held every second Sunday of the month at Ward Domain. This is a small but vibrant pony club with a passionate Committee striving to provide better facilities for the Club and the local riders in the District.

Funding is being sought to develop an all weather arena at Ward Domain to improve and increase the Pony Club events and activities. An all weather arena would enable events to be held all year regardless of the weather and it would be safer for the horses to jump if it is wet or particularly dry and hard.

1. Location

The Ward Domain is located in Ward with access off State Highway 1. It is a historic domain used for cricket and tennis and the annual Flaxbourne A and P Show. The Domain has toilets, horse yards and a large multi-purpose shed which was built following the Seddon earthquakes.

The preferred location for an all weather arena is in the in the south eastern corner of the Ward Domain (see aerial map and photo below). This location would not interfere with any other activities.





The above photo is of the south eastern corner where it is proposed to locate an all weather arena.

2. Size

An arena size of 50 metres by 70 metres would be most desirable. This size would be large enough for show jumping and to have two dressage arenas side by side. A 50 metre by 70 metre arena is the size that they have at Motueka Rough Island.

3. Riders

The Awatere Pony Club currently has 30 to 35 active members and riders (including junior, senior and parents). There are another 40 to 50 riders from the Awatere Valley, Seddon, Ward, East Coast to Kaikoura area who could also use an all weather arena.

Catherine Ford has recently held several clinics at the Ward Domain.

In December 2021 Awatere Pony Club are holding Abel Tasman Trophy at the Ward Domain with 90 to 100 riders expected to attend.

4. Other users

Other users of an all weather arena would be the Flaxbourne A and P Association for the annual show, locals, groups or individuals wanting to run clinics.

Having an all weather arena at Ward Domain would potentially increase the suitability of running clinics all year round and mean that more events could be held there.

The Case for Change

Investment Objective One	Capital Expenditure – Installation of an all weather arena including ground work and fencing
Existing Arrangements	<i>There is no safe nonslip/cushioned area within the Flaxbourne domain to be able to hold Pony Club rallies, events and or clinic's all year round. The grounds are unable to be used safely during winter due to the risk of horse slipping and falling and again in the summer where the ground becomes unusable due to the risk on impact/concussion injuries.</i>
Business Needs	<i>The Flaxbourne Domain needs an area available to regular equine user's that provides safe all year-round availability for use. This will enable regular clinics by qualified instructors to be held within the Flaxbourne area without the need to travel 60km for the closest all-weather arena that is already being over utilised by various groups making books very difficult. 30 Pony Club riders use this area twice monthly as a standard. The Flaxbourne A&P are also regular users and would benefit in the advancement of having an all-weather arena. The arena has the possibility of allowing Flaxbourne residents to hold various game days and community event for families throughout the region on a surface that remains usable in any weather.</i>
Potential Scope	<i>The groundwork and installation of a 70x50 arena is essential to the finished goal of this project. Awatere pony Club would like to fence the arena adding to the safety and maintenance of the area.</i>
Potential Benefits	<i>The potential benefits are increased community input into local riders and their future endeavours within a safe environment that allows continued growth for following generations future equestrians. The ability to host overseas and qualified instructors at the Flaxbourne domain helping make Ward a destination town for many.</i>
Potential Risks	<i>The potential risks are vandalism, fire and EQ damage.</i>
Constraints and Dependencies	<i>The development must proceed to a high level due to the want of this to be available for multiple future generations to come and the high use it will receive.</i>

Investment Objective Two	Operating expenditure
Existing Arrangements	The Flaxbourne domain is currently managed by the Flaxbourne Settlers association supported by the MDC in maintaining the area.
Business Needs	To keep the area free of weeds and stock.
Potential Scope	To enlarge the area for more uses within the community and the addition of yards in support of the A&P annual show.
Potential Benefits	A well-maintained arena with safe fencing would allow local equestrians to improve their skills and achieve set goals within their chosen sport.
Potential Risks	That if insufficient weed control is undertaken the weeds will overrun and damage the area. Fencing is essential in keeping the area damage free from stock grazed within the domain.
Constraints and Dependencies	The arena depends highly on local equestrian support in the maintenance and upkeep of the area proposed.

Economic Case

We have had Quotes for the completion of the arena

McCullam Cartage/Earthworks and Hamish Lott Contracting combined quote of \$105,900 + Gst

Richardson Brothers \$137,600 + Gst

Also have an estimate of \$10,000+ Gst for labour and Materials to install fencing on completion of arena install.

Identify Short-listed Options

Within the potential scope of this proposal, the following long-list options for providing the identified services were identified by key stakeholders:

- Option one: status quo or do nothing
- Option two: Provide 50% (\$55,000 +) of the funding needed leaving Awatere Pony Club to source the remainder from outside investors.
- Option three: Provide 75% (\$80,000 +) of the funding needed leaving Awatere Pony Club to source the remainder from outside investors.
- Option four: Provide 100% of the funding required with Awatere Pony providing all ongoing maintenance and completion of fencing for stock control.

The preferred option is Option 3, because this will allow the project to be completed Year end 2022

The other short-listed options were rejected because of the above reason.

Commercial Case

The procurement strategy:

Is to provide funding This is for the provision of services under a fixed contract.

The required services are too complete groundwork and all-weather installation.

Management Case

In the event that this investment proposal receives formal approval, internal MDC processes

the funding. Of those remaining Awatere Pony Club will manage the contract for the installation of the arena and fencing, the resource consent requirements

and continue to manage the daily operations and maintenance of the arena.

The relevant project management and governance arrangements for Awatere pony Club are; The committee which is made up of representatives of its financial members. Flaxbourne settlers Association and Flaxbourne A&P representatives.

The strategy, framework and plan for managing the proposal and to deal with any changes or risks that arise will be resolved by a select committee of the above community groups.

A post implementation review is planned at the end of the project. Data collection on arena usage will be undertaken.

Next Steps

This business case seeks formal approval from Marlborough District Council to approach the market for services and progress the implementation of the preferred option three