

Chatham Airport Commission

**Aircraft Height Over Homes
During Landing Approach**

**Fact Sheet – Short Version
February 2020**

Aircraft Height Over Homes During Landing Approach

This has been an often-asked question of the Airport Commission:

Please explain how an airport approach with a 300-foot minimum ceiling will cause aircraft to fly at the same height over homes as an approach with a 600-foot minimum ceiling?

Regardless of minimum ceiling encountered during a plane's landing approach at CQX (or any airport), its height above the ground and anything on the ground remains the same. An aircraft will not be flying any lower than they do today when they are approaching to land with the proposed straight-in approaches discussed in the AMPU.

Regardless of what altitude at which an aircraft starts, it must touch the ground in order to land. As it approaches the field, it is at a lower and lower altitude until it touches the ground. There is nothing in the AMPU about the present circling or the proposed straight-in approaches that alters the altitudes at which an aircraft flies as it gets close (within a mile or so) to the runway when it is lined up for landing. All fixed wing aircraft follow the same path in the air just before landing. The proposed straight-in LPV approaches will not change that.

For a more detailed explanation, [click here](#).