

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2006 AT 2.30 PM**

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Present: Mr V Astling OBE - Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

- Mr R Heard - Managing Director.
- Mr S Hill - Head of Planning, Environment and Transportation.
- Mr J Morris - Head of Corporate Affairs.
- Mr J Wilson - General Manager, Operational Planning.

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

- Mr M Blamire-Brown & Mr L Stevenson - Representing the Secretary.

- Balsall Parish Council - Cllr M Longfield
- Balsall Common Residents Assoc - Mr D Ellis
- Berkswell Parish Council - Cllr D Hitchcock
- Bickenhill Parish Council - Cllr P Southwick
- Bickenhill Parish Council - Cllr D Williams
- Birmingham City Council - Cllr J Whorwood
- Birmingham City Council - Cllr M Byrne
- Birmingham City Council - Mr G Tringham
- Catherine de Barnes Residents Association - Mr R Hogg
- Consumers Association - Mr P Orton
- Fordbridge Town Council - Mr J Alcock
- Friends of Elmdon - Mr S Richmond
- Kingshurst Parish Council - Cllr B Mulready
- Knowle Society - Mr J Rowley
- Marston Green Residents Association - Mr J Stevens
- NATS - Mr R Moon
- Sandwell MBC - Cllr Dr T Crumpton
- Sheldon Residents Association - Mrs M Kennett
- Solihull MBC - Mrs B Hill

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Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Fennell
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr K Browne
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

British Airways Connect Ltd	- Mr K Ilsley
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	- Cllr A Harper
Dudley MBC	- Cllr K Turner
Elms Farm Residents Association	- Mr L Thurstan
Mirfield Housing Liaison Board	- Mr A Middleton
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr B Moss
Poolway Housing Liaison Board	- Mr L Jackson
Solihull MBC	- Cllr J Hawkswood
Solihull MBC	- Cllr Sleigh
Solihull MBC Planning Services	- Mr L Osborne

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee welcomed Cllr K Browne, Warwickshire County Council to the meeting.

2. MINUTES – 26 OCTOBER 2005 AND 1 FEBRUARY 2006, AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 26 October 2005 and 1 February 2006, were submitted.

The Airport Company - referred to the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2006, and updated the Committee in relation to the proposed Metro Link to the Airport/NEC from Birmingham City Centre. Following an update from Centro, the Committee were advised that the link was likely to open in 2016 and would be twin-tracked.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2005, be confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the following points under:-
 - Airport Activities Report – July 2005 to September 2005, on the 9th line of the final paragraph, the words “height of the ” be added before the word “hotel”.
 - Environment Monitoring Report - July 2005 to September 2005, in the first paragraph under “Discussion Points” the words “and the year ahead” be added after the words “(for October)”.
- (ii) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2006, be confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of

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the following points in the pre-amble under "Discussion Points":-

- General – 14th paragraph, to reflect that "one property" had lost £100.000 in value.
- Surface Access – 7th paragraph, to correct a typographical error in the 2nd sentence to now read "...on a single or double track."
- Surface Access – 8th paragraph, to reflect that Cllr Byrne did not refer to "problems" with off-site car parking, instead that the locations of off-site car parking should be carefully considered.
- Environment – 1st paragraph, to reflect concerns regarding the under utilisation of the quota count in the night flying policy.
- Environment – 5th paragraph, to reflect that the Airport Company had undertaken to consider the inclusion of noise bunds.
- Compensation – 3rd paragraph, to reflect the perceived change in business circumstances since the approval of the original "Vision 2005 Master Plan" in respect of the existing main runway.

3. DRAFT MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION – CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESPONSE

Following the ACC's consideration of its response to the Draft Master Plan Consultation on 1 February 2006, the Secretary referred the Committee to a copy of a draft response and invited the Committee to approve the document prior to it being forwarded to the Airport Company.

RESOLVED

That the Airport Consultative Committee's response to the Draft Master Plan Consultation be agreed and forwarded to the Airport Company, subject to the inclusion/clarification of the following points:-

- Surface Access – to reflect the commitment needed from the Highways Agency and the need for the early provision and funding of the Metro Link to the Airport site, together with the need for a stronger focus on public transport reliability and customer-orientated services. The response should also reflect the issues regarding off-site parking facilities.
- Environmental – to reflect the fact that the Committee recognises the general impact on the wider area and not just Bickenhill and to widen the detail of the response to include the need to replace any lost Public Open Space. The response should also stipulate the need to see a greater regard to the Night Flying Policy and the need to have, in place, a formal mechanism to secure the continual monitoring of the Health Impact Assessment.
- Compensation – to reflect that the Committee still finds the current proposals for compensation unacceptable.

[post-meeting note – the ACC's formal response to the Draft Master Plan Consultation was sent to the Airport Company on 15th

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March 2006. The issues highlighted regarding surface access have also been communicated to the Highways Agency.]

4. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2005

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period October to December 2005. The contents of the report, on the following topics, were taken as read.

- Passenger, Cargo and Aircraft Movements.
- Flight Punctuality Statistics.
- Market Development – Aviation and Commercial.
- Customer Services.
- Operations.
- Airport Development.
- Planning, Environment and Transportation.
- Community Affairs.

Discussion Points

The Airport Company – in introducing the report, updated the Committee with regard to the recent Mahan Air Airbus incident which had, reportedly, flown (on approach) at 600ft instead of 1800ft above Honiley. Upon landing at Birmingham, the aircraft had been impounded and its flight data recorders seized and a full investigation was now underway to determine the cause of the incident. With regard to the details of the incident, the Committee were advised that NATS had identified the incorrect flight path of the aircraft on secondary radar and had immediately alerted the pilot. The Airport Company also advised the Committee that at the time of the incident, the BIA Instrument Landing System (ILS) had been switched off due to scheduled maintenance works to the main runway, although they were of the view that this had not been a contributory factor to the incorrect approach of the aircraft. It was noted that a further report on this matter would be reported to the ACC once the results of the investigation were known.

Balsall Common Residents Assoc (Mr D Ellis) – expressed his concerns at the incident and asked whether or not the Airport Company had made any projections as to what would have happened if the incorrect approach of the aircraft had been maintained. The Airport Company stated that they had not as it was dangerous to predict “what-if’s” for this type of incident. They were eagerly awaiting the findings of the investigation which would be very full and thorough and conducted by the Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

NATS (Mr R Moon) – stated that the altitude of the aircraft had fallen to 600ft and it then immediately began to “power-up” and climb to its correct height.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – asked the Airport Company as to whether or not taxi marshals were yet in place and was advised that they were.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – spoke with regard to Section 1 - Passengers, and stated that with regard to “passengers per aircraft” and “load factors”, he would like to see further clarification in respect of the “average load factor” by percentage. The Airport Company explained the commercial differences with the reported figures insofar as the actual number of seats sold on an aircraft, with that of the actual number of passengers that turned up for the flight. The Committee were advised that this scenario was particularly relevant to budget airlines. Mr Stevens also recalled a recent noise complaint which involved a Boeing 767 aircraft. The Airport Company provided further details of this complaint and advised that this aircraft was at 84% of its maximum take-off weight. It was further stated to the Committee that load factors were reported as an average and that charter flights aimed to get as close to a 100% load factor as they could. Mr Stevens also expressed his concerns with regard to the use of what he described as “heavy aircraft” which, in his view, had a detrimental effect on the local community by causing, for example, vibrations to windows.

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RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

5. ENVIRONMENT MONITORING REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2005

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period October to December 2005. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – drew the Committees attention to Section 2 of the report, Night Flying Policy and questioned if the Annual Limit of ATMs for the period “Oct 2006 to 2007 etc” was correct. The Airport Company corrected the dates in the report to read “2005 to 2006”. Mr Stevens also sought comments from the Airport Company on the unused Quota Count (QC) and night-time movement trends since 1999. It was suggested by the Airport Company that Mr Stevens could be given information on ATM’s outside the meeting.

Further amendments to the report were also noted at this stage with regard to Section 7.2 (De-Icing Agent Usage). The Committee were advised that the November 2005 figures in relation to “De-icing Agent Usage on Aircraft (Litres)” should read 122,347 and not 120,364 and that the foot-note should read “.....The 100% figures shown above are included in monthly totals.”

Balsall Common Residents Assoc (Mr D Ellis) – congratulated the Airport Company on the way in which they had communicated the recent Mahan Air Airbus incident to Members of the Committee. Mr Ellis emphasised the importance of having strong lines of communication for such situations to ensure that the Committee Members were able to deal with enquiries from the sectors of the community which they represented.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to Section 5, Complaints Relating to Aircraft Activity and highlighted high numbers in the break-down for the October statistics as detailed within the report.

The Airport Company – took the opportunity to formally advise the Committee of the partial demolition of the short pier. It was reported that the works, which would involve the dismantling of the structure, would take place during the night. The works were described as relatively low-key and little or no disturbance to neighbouring properties was envisaged. The Committee noted this information.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. ENVIRONMENT MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Environment Monitoring Working Group invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2006, together with his verbal report. The Minutes were taken as read with no subsequent discussions or comments.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

7. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Sub-Committee invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held 10 January 2006, together with his report. The Minutes and report were taken as read.

Discussion Points

Chairman of PSSTWG (Cllr M Longfield) - in presenting the Minutes to the ACC, he drew the Committees attention to concerns that had been raised at the Working Group meeting held

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on 4th October 2005 regarding the UK Immigration Service and, in particular, the perceived dilution of service at Birmingham by the need to service Coventry Airport as well. The Chairman of the Working Group sought the support of the Committee to make representations to the UK Immigration Service to that effect.

The Airport Company – updated the Committee on the current position since October last year and stated that they would welcome any support that the ACC could give insofar as making representations to UK Immigration Service for the need to have high levels of customer service at Birmingham.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – asked for clarification as to where the concerns had originally arose from. He was advised that PSSTWG had received a presentation at their meeting in October 2005 from the Chief Immigration Officer, Mr Paul McMorro which had highlighted the issue. The Airport Company advised that, subsequently, queues were now being experienced at the immigration services desks which was, quite obviously, a resource issue.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted; and
- (ii) That the Secretary be requested to write to the UK Immigration Service to make representation as detailed above.

[post meeting note – the Secretary wrote to the UK Immigration Service on 13th March 2006.]

8. CHESTNUTS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary submitted a report regarding a request for Membership to the ACC that had been made by the Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum. The report, which had been deferred from an earlier meeting, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Sheldon Residents Association (Mrs M Kennett) – stated that the residents that the Forum represented could easily be represented by the Sheldon Residents Association.

The Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) – expressed concerns at the present size of the Committee and was of the view that if the Committee were to admit new Members, then those new Members should represent aircraft operators.

Birmingham City Council (Cllr M Byrne) – recalled the existence of another residents forum which represented Tile Cross who may, at some point in the future, ask to join the ACC as well.

RESOLVED

That the request from Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum for membership to the ACC be approved and they be now invited to nominate one Member of their Forum to the Committee.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 26th April 2006 at 2.30pm at Diamond House.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Airport Company - informed the Committee that Karen Butt, the Aviation Minister had resigned and that no announcement had been made, as yet, as to a replacement.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr D Hitchcock) – stated that he wished to see more detailed reporting of the work of the Community Trust Fund (CTF). The Airport Monitoring Officer

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(Mrs B Hill), whilst noting that the CTF only met twice a year, stated that a full account of their work was published in the Annual Monitoring Report. The Committee noted this and took no further action.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.