

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 2.30 PM**

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Present: Mr V Astling OBE - Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

Joe Kelly	- Executive Director and Company Secretary
Steve Hill	- Head of Planning and Transportation
Ben Hanley	- Environment Manager
Jack Wilson	- Head of Environmental Projects

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	- Representing the ACC Secretariat
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Barston Parish Council	- Cllr D Read
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Longfield
Balsall Common Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Berkswell Parish Council	- Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr P Wood
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr J Williams
Birmingham City Council	- Mr G Tringham
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr R Hogg
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	- Mrs I Shaw
Coventry City Council	- Cllr B Kelsey
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr L Sorrell
Friends of Elmdon	- Mr L Goodyear
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	- Cllr C Bowen
Hampton Society	- Mr D Morgan
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr B Mulready
Knowle Society	- Mr J Rowley
Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr G Sherratt
Passengers Representative	- Mrs R Tyler

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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Smith's Wood Parish Council	-	Cllr F Churchill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr A Martin
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Mr L Osborne
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Mrs B Hill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Mr P Kershaw
Wolverhampton City Council	-	Cllr P Wilson

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Birmingham International Airport Ltd	-	Mr P Kehoe
Birmingham International Airport Ltd	-	Mr J Morris
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr J Whorwood
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr M Byrne
Citijet	-	Mrs H Potts
Consumers Association	-	Mr P Orton
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Cllr K Turner
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	-	Mrs D Fennell
Warwick District Council	-	Cllr G Guest
The Wychwood Club	-	Mr G Heaps

**1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman and the Committee welcomed Cllr Irma Shaw (Chelmsley Wood Town Council) to her first meeting.

Representatives of Luton Airport were also in attendance to observe the work of the Consultative Committee.

Joe Kelly of the Airport Company advised the Committee that the Emirates Airbus A380 was currently on-stand at BHX. The aircraft was due to depart during the course of the afternoon and it was suggested that the Committee may wish to adjourn to watch its departure. The Committee agreed.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were submitted.

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**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes be confirmed as a correct record subject to:

- (i) Resolution (ii) of Item 10, Airspace Change Process Update to read "That an additional ...."; and
- (ii) The Airport Company clarifying that with regard to Item 5, Airport Activities Report, the discussion regarding the policing of traffic during peak periods referred to the introduction of the decriminalisation of parking. The Airport Company added that there was currently no DoP within the Airport site, although it had now been introduced elsewhere in Solihull.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

There were no matters arising.

**4. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2009**

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period April to June 2009. 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.
- Community and Environment.
- Planning and Transportation.

**Discussion Points**

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to the Operations section of the report and drew the Committee's attention to the new "Faro" gates for Immigration Control. Cllr Longfield alerted the Committee to the fact that he had become aware of a complaint made by an American traveller who had wait 1.5 hours to go through immigration control. The Airport Company asked Cllr Longfield for details of the individual so that the issue could be investigated.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – recalled his own experiences of passport control and stated that in his view, the operational practices needed to be streamlined. The Airport Company stated that they would take into account the comments made and see if the queuing layout could be revised to make it more efficient.

North Warwickshire Borough Council (Cllr G Sherratt) – referred to the Iris Recognition System and expressed concerns that, from his own experience, the system hadn't been working.

The Hampton Society (Mr D Morgan) – asked why the proposed runway extension was needed in view of the fact that the Airbus A380 was currently at the Airport. It was explained

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that a 3000m runway would give the aircraft its maximum flying time of 14 hours with a full payload of fuel, cargo and passengers.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2009**

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period April to June 2009. The report, which set out the following key headings, was taken as read:-

- Noise Control.
- Air Traffic.
- Air Quality.
- Complaints.
- Community Schemes.
- Surface Water.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

**Discussion Points**

The Knowle Society (Mr J Rowley) – stated that he had been made aware (unusually) of some complaints concerning early morning flights. He asked the Airport Company if there was any information which would justify them. The Airport Company explained that complaints were received from time to time from Knowle regarding track keeping, but generally, there was no evidence of aircraft not keeping to track, nor was there any changes in flight patterns to report.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – referred to Section 1.5.2 of the report, Engine Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period, and asked the reason for the higher reported variances over the last two quarters. The Airport Company explained that this could be attributable to a number of factors which would be difficult to ascertain. The Committee were advise that any further notable variances would be monitored and reported back if need be.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – spoke with regard to the Noise Preferential Routes (1.5km either side of the centre line) and stated that he would expect some sort of “funnelling”. The Airport Company explained the logic of NPR’s and stated that most departing aircraft usually turned at two nautical miles so a funnel would not go that far out in any event.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – referred to Section 6.3 of the report (Significant Incidents) and asked when the reported incident had happened. The Airport Company did not have this information to hand at the meeting and undertook to provide it outside of the meeting\*.

*[\*post meeting note – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009]*

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – spoke with regard to Section 7 (Recycled Waste) and asked if and when the Airport Company were going to begin recycling plastics. The Airport Company undertook to provide a note back to the next meeting with regard to this\*.

*[\*post meeting note - The Airport Company currently provides recycling facilities for employees, passengers and other organisations operating on the airport site. This includes*

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*facilities for plastics, wood and metal, where recyclables are collected at the Waste Management Centre and sent for recycling when sufficient volumes are amassed. The Airport Company will provide recycling data, for these materials, as part of the Environment Monitoring Report.]*

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP**

The Committee was invited to receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The Minutes and Chairman's report, presented by Mr D Ellis, were taken as read. In presenting the minutes, Mr Ellis highlighted the Groups concerns regarding the apparent lack of progress with regard to CAP725 and the Airspace Change Focus Group. The Airport Company responded to those concerns and, in addition, advised the Committee that a final decision from the Director of Airspace would not be expected until 2012.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – shared the same concerns on the apparent lack of progress of CAP725. The Airport Company added that the timescales were still in line with that as reported to the Committee in May. However, the approval of the Section 106 agreement was expected later this month which was later than expected. The CPO's were the next process to undertake together with the final design of the runway/infrastructure and the subsequent tendering process. The build programme was still envisaged to be from Spring 2011 to Spring 2013.

Chelmsley Wood Town Council (Cllr Mrs I Shaw) – spoke with regard to the Night Flying Policy and asked as to why the review of the Policy was biennial and not annual. The Airport Company reiterated the obligations from the existing Section 106 Agreement.

Fordbridge Town Council (Cllr L Sorrell) – enquired as to where the noise monitoring stations were located. The Airport Company explained their locations and also reminded the Committee of the supporting information pack that had been previously circulated which gave specific details for environmental issues such as this.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

**7. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**

The Vice-Chairman of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group, Mrs R Tyler, invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, together with her report. The Minutes and report were taken as read. In presenting her report, she asked for the Groups appreciation of Stephen Holt to be recorded, who had recently left the Airport Company.

**Discussion Points**

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr P Wilson) – referred to the rail services element of the Minute's appendices and asked if anything further was known with regard to the Wrexham and Shropshire service to London Marylebone and the review of High Speed Rail for the UK. The Airport Company updated the Committee on both issues.

**RESOLVED**

(i) That the contents of the report and Minutes be noted; and

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- (ii) That the Group record their appreciation to Stephen Holt for his support and involvement in the PSSTWG.

**8. BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE NIGHT FLYING POLICY 2009**

The Airport Company presented the above report and, in doing so, advised the Committee that under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, the final biennial review of the Night Flying Policy was required to take place by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009, The report, which outlined the options and issues of the latest Review, was taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – pointed out that EMWG on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 had made observations in relation to the Night Flying Policy and sought reassurances that those comments would be included. The Airport Company confirmed that EMWG's comments had been taken into account.

The Knowle Society (J Rowley) – asked questions with regard to the retention of the Annual Noise Quota Count of 4000 and the retention of the Quota Count value of 8 or more. The Airport Company responded to the issues highlighted.

Balsall Common Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – asked if it was worth noting in the Review that military aircraft can qualify for an exemption from the Night Noise Violation of 87dB(A). The Airport Company agreed.

Bickenhill Parish Council (Cllr P Wood) – asked the Airport Company if they could provide the actual noise values for the 0.25 noise quota band. The Airport Company agreed to provide this information outside of the meeting\*.

*[\*post meeting note –The 0.25 noise quota band is 84 – 86.9 EPNdB.]*

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That the Committee supports the Airport Company's proposal for the 2009 Review of the Night Flying Policy.

**9. BIENNIAL REVIEW OF ENGINE GROUND RUNNING IN THE MORNING SHOULDER PERIOD 2009**

The Airport Company presented the above report and drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the next Review of Engine Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period was due in 2009, and was based upon the requirements of the current Section 106 Agreement. The report, a submitted, was taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – highlighted the fact that EMWG had considered the Engine Ground Running Policy Review on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and had noted the contents of the report. He asked if there was any merit in revisiting the reported calculations. The Airport Company explained that they considered that the methodology was still current in the context of the 79dB LAeq, T. However, the Airport Company recognised that this was a sensitive issue and that there may be some scope for the methodology to be reviewed in due course.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and

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- (ii) That the Committee supports the Airport Company's proposal for the 2009 Review of Engine Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

During the course of the meeting, the Airport Company circulated an update on the Airspace Change Process. The update took the form of a letter that had been sent to the Airspace Change Process Focus Group on 28 August 2009. In reference to the update, Cllr M Longfield sought reassurances that the Group's membership represented the most appropriate areas. The Airport Company confirmed that it did.

Birmingham City Council (Mr G Tringham) - noted that the Airspace Change Process Focus Group contained no representation from Birmingham groups because the proposed changes would not impact on Birmingham. It was noted that the altitude ceiling might now be raised from 3000 feet to 4000 feet. Whilst it was thought that this change would still cause no impact on Birmingham, the Committee were asked to agree that should the Airspace Change Focus Group identify possible implications for Birmingham residents, then they could invite additional representatives from Birmingham onto their group.

Passengers Representative (Mrs R Tyler) - thanked the Airport Company for their involvement in the Rotary Convention during the Summer.

Bickenhill Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) - asked for further information and reassurances on a specific issue – the containment of fibrous materials. The Airport Company undertook to clarify their incident procedures.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That additional representatives from Birmingham be invited onto the Airspace Change Process Focus Group if the Group identifies possible implications for Birmingham residents.

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held on 25 November 2009.

**RESOLVED**

- That the contents of the report be noted.