

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2009 AT 2.30 PM**

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(ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

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 Secretariat
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Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Longfield
Berkswell Parish Council	- Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr P Wood
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr R Hogg
Citijet	- Mrs H Potts
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr K Turner
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr L Sorrell
Friends of Elmdon	- Mr L Goodyear
Hampton Society	- Mr D Morgan
Knowle Society	- Mr J Rowley
Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr G Sherratt
Passenger Representative	- Mrs R Tyler
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Smith's Wood Parish Council	- Cllr F Churchill
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Fennell
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr A Martin

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Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr L Osborne
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Hill
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr M Heatley
Wolverhampton City Council	- Cllr P Wilson

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Balsall Common Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr J Williams
Birmingham International Airport Ltd	- Mr P Kehoe
Birmingham International Airport Ltd	- Mr J Morris
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr J Whorwood
Birmingham City Council	- Mr G Tringham
Coventry City Council	- Cllr B Kelsey
Friends of Elmdon	- Mr G Davison
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	- Cllr C Bowen
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Sleigh
The Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman and the Committee welcomed Mr L Goodyear (substitute member for Friends of Elmdon) and Cllr P Wood (new member for Bickenhill Parish Council) to their first meetings.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2009/2010

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2009/2010.

RESOLVED

That Cllr M Longfield be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2009/2010.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 25th February 2009 were submitted.

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RESOLVED

That the Minutes be confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Mr D Morgan, The Hampton Society, as having tendered his apologies for that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising.

5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2009

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period January to March 2009. In presenting the report, the Airport Company gave a verbal update on the current progress of Project Blue which focused on a review of the staffing for the administration and support services for the Airport Company. The project was being carried out in two phases, with the second phase coming later in the year.

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) – spoke with regard to the policing of traffic during peak periods and asked if any more resources were available to alleviate the perceived problems of waiting and congestion. The Airport Company explained that since the introduction of decriminalisation of parking, this had consequential effects on the way police resources had been distributed on the road system. There was now an ongoing dialogue with Solihull MBC to explore decriminalised parking enforcement measures along the Airport's road network, although in the interim, PCSO's were now being utilised as much as possible.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – observed that the cumulative economic reporting figures for passengers, cargo and aircraft movements was at a low point for the period January to March 2009 in comparison with the same period of the previous year.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr K Turner) – commented generally on economic growth and the effects of the recession on planned Airport projects. The Airport Company explained that they expected and total period of two years of flat growth with a period of approximately eighteen months of that remaining. An overall recap was also given in terms of the Airport Company's 2030 targets and commitments.

The Airport Company – gave Members an update on the ANITA project (Airport NEC Integrated Transport Access), an £11M regionally funded scheme (capital works) to improve public transport to Birmingham International Airport, the NEC and the surrounding area. The

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Committee were advised that the Airport, the NEC and Travel West Midlands had committed to the schemes overall revenue contributions.

Bickenhill Parish Council (Cllr P Wood) – referred to the report at Section 4, Flight Punctuality Statistics, and sought clarification of the figures as included for ATM's for T1 and T2. Following the meeting, the Airport Company confirmed to the ACC Secretariat that the Total ATM figure for T1 and T2 for the period January to March 2009 was 21915.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr P Wilson) – commented generally on the report in terms of transport policy for rail access to the Airport and the NEC

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2009

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period January to March 2009. The Committee's attention was drawn to the track keeping performance figures for the 1st quarter of 2009, namely 99% on-track (4% above target).

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 Hampton Society (Mr D Morgan) – spoke generally with regard to the Night Flying Policy and gained an explanation from the Airport Company with regard to night air transport movements and quota count analysis as contained within the report.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – commented on Section 6 of the report relating to Surface Water and asked for further information regarding the reported figures for the 1st quarter of 2009 for the de-icing of aircraft and pavements. The Airport Company explained that the high usage of de-icing granules and liquids had been obviously attributable to the cold weather and snowfalls. The Committee were given reassurances of the safeguards that were in place to protect local watercourses from pollutants and how those pollutants were dealt with. The Airport Company reiterated the impact of one of the most difficult winter periods that the Airport Company had experienced for many years.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – addressed the report at Section 7, Waste (recycled) as asked how Birmingham compared with other airports such as Manchester in terms of recycling performance. The Airport Company agreed to investigate this point further and possibly work towards including such comparable information in future reports to the Committee on this subject.

Fordbridge Town Council (Cllr L Sorrell) – spoke with regard to Section 6, Surface Water, and asked if the proposed runway extension would put any additional pressure on water courses. The Airport Company explained that mitigation measures to address this point had been included as part of the planning application.

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RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Committee was invited to receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2009. The Minutes and Chairman's report were taken as read without comment or discussion.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

8. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group, Cllr M Longfield, invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2009, together with his report.

The Minutes and report were taken as read.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to instances of complaints that he had become aware of in relation to the new charges for the use of baggage trolleys. The Airport Company explained that this was a relatively new initiative (on a 5 year contract) and they would have to wait and see how it settled down and access the level of complaints if necessary.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr A Martin) – also spoke about his concerns at the new arrangements for baggage trolleys together with the set down arrangements for passengers in general.

Passenger Representative (Mrs R Tyler) – highlighted the fact that under the new contract, the baggage trolleys had been reduced in number from 2000 down to 500. It was suggested that the PSSTWG should have an update at their next meeting in relation to the contract and how it was being received by passengers. The Airport Company agreed that a report covering "customer issues" could be taken to PSSTWG for consideration.

Chairman – asked for clarification from the Airport Company as to why the arrangements for baggage trolleys had changed so that Members of the Committee could share that information if asked. The Airport Company explained that the award of a new contract was to mitigate against the future financial security of the Company. The initiative was seen as an opportunity to reduce costs and create new opportunities to re-invest into the Airport elsewhere.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr P Wilson) – asked the Airport Company to consider the feasibility of issuing a press release regarding the new arrangements for baggage trolleys in light of the concerns raised at the meeting.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to the recently introduced short stay car parking arrangements for the passenger drop-off facilities and stated that although he had received a number of comments that the £1 charge was unreasonable, personally he felt that this was a fair tariff which represented good value for money and discouraged inappropriate use of the appointed car park.

The Airport Company – highlighted a potential issue of concern that might be aired in the local press and media which related to airport taxi operations. The Committee were advised of the proposed details for future taxi operations at the Airport.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and Minutes be noted.

9. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – PROGRESS REPORT

The Airport Company presented its latest report seeking to update the Committee on the progress made thus far towards the proposed Runway Extension.

In presenting the report, the Airport Company advised the Committee that the Government Office for the West Midlands had announced on 6th May 2009 that they did not intend to intervene in the proposed runway extension planning application process. In terms of further progress, Members were advised that legal matters were now being finalised and that the planning process should be completed by the summer. Further updates would, from hereon in, be included within the standing agenda item which focused on Airport Activities.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) and Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – reiterated concerns that had been raised at earlier meetings in that they hoped to see plentiful replacement tree planting as part of the planning approvals. The Airport Company explained that undertakings regarding tree planting had been given throughout the planning process and that the Airport Company would gladly honour those commitments.

Friends of Elmdon (Mr L Goodyear) – questioned whether or not the proposals would necessitate the relocation of the engine ground running facility on the airfield. The Airport Company explained that there was a commitment in the Section 106 Agreement to commission a study to look at a dedicated testing facility. The Committee were reassured that the Airport Company were aware of local concerns although this issue would be considered as a completely separate topic from the proposals for the runway extension. It was emphasised to the Committee that regardless of the runway length, provision would need to be made within the airfield for aircraft maintenance purposes.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

10. AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS UPDATE

The Airport Company reported the latest position regarding the Airspace Change Process. The Committee had agreed, on an earlier occasion, to form a Focus Group which had now met on two occasions. The first meeting had concentrated on agreeing the Terms of Reference for the Group and the second meeting had considered proposals on additional airspace options that had been drawn up by NATS.

In presenting the report, the Committee's attention was drawn to Solihull MBC's Planning Committee request that there should be greater representation on the Focus Group. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – enquired as to why a greater representation on the Focus Group had been requested. It was explained that the reasoning behind the request was to ensure that affected wards were adequately covered in terms of representation.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – stated his agreement in principle to the request made by Solihull MBC.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – stated that he had some concerns that the process was taking far too long. In light of his comments, the Airport Company reiterated the overall vision of the project and gave an update on the progress made so far.

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Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – highlighted the fact that the information on this issue needs to be readily available at an early stage to allow sufficient time for debate. He stated that airspace change was a significant issue that will affect local communities.

The Airport Company – accepted the comments made by the Committee on the report and explained that the project was largely waiting for certainty on the planning application which, very recently, had now been gained.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That an additional representative on the Airspace Change Process Focus Group be sought from Solihull MBC.

11. DFT CONSULTATION – REFORMING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ECONOMIC REGULATION OF UK AIRPORTS

The Committee was advised of a recent DfT consultation which sought views on the UK Government's proposals to update and change the framework for the economic regulation of the UK airports sector. The consultation executive summary formed part of the Committee's agenda and was considered as submitted with the advice and support of the Committee's passenger representative, Mrs R Tyler, who gave a detailed overview of the paper.

Discussion Points

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr P Wilson) – suggested that in view of Mrs Tyler's knowledge and interest in the consultation paper, the most effective way forward might be for Mrs Tyler to formulate a response on the Committee's behalf.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) – agreed that this was the most sensible way forward, in that Mrs Tyler was best placed to formulate a draft response to the paper given the interests that she represented on the Committee.

The Chairman – suggested that both Mrs Tyler, the Committee's passenger representative and Cllr Mr Longfield, the Committee's PSSTWG Chairman should be empowered to pursue this piece of work on behalf of the Committee.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – agreed with the proposals put forward and endorsed the work that Mrs Tyler had done on this topic so far.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That Mrs R Tyler and Cllr M Longfield be invited to formulate a response to the consultation paper on the Committee's behalf.

12. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

The Committee was invited to consider its annual membership review. The report and supporting information, as submitted, was taken as read.

RESOLVED

That the membership of the ACC for 2009/2010 be endorsed as presented within the report.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Airport Company advised the Committee that a meeting of the Air Transport Users Council would take place at the Airport in July 2009. Further information on the outcome of this event would be given at the next meeting of the Committee in September.

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RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on 9 September 2009 and 25 November 2009.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.