

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY AT 2.00 PM**

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Present: Mr V Astling OBE - Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

Joe Kelly	-	Acting Managing Director
Steve Hill	-	Head of Planning and Transportation.
Jack Wilson	-	Head of Community and Environment
John Morris	-	Head of Corporate Affairs
Ben Hanley	-	Environment Manager

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr M Blamire-Brown & Mr J Bright	-	Representing the Secretary
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Balsall Parish Council	-	Cllr M Longfield
Barston Parish Council	-	Cllr D Read
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill Parish Council	-	Cllr J Williams
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr J Whorwood
Birmingham City Council	-	Mr G Tringham
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr M Byrne
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Cllr C Boxall
Consumers Association	-	Mr P Orton
Coventry City Council	-	Cllr B Kelsey
Dudley MBC	-	Cllr K Turner
Fordbridge Town Council	-	Cllr L Sorrell
Friends of Elmdon	-	Mr G Davison
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr C Bowen
Hampton in Arden Society	-	Mr D Morgan
Kingshurst Parish Council	-	Cllr B Mulready
Knowle Society	-	Mr J Rowley

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Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr G Sherratt
Passenger Representative	- Mrs R Tyler
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Sleigh
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr A Martin
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Mill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr P Kershaw
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr L Osborne
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Balsall Common Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr S Mills
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr R Hogg
Cityjet	- Mrs H Potts
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr J Alcock
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr T Crumpton
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Fennell
The Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed Cllr R Lloyd from Bickenhill Parish Council and Cllr L Sorrell from Fordbridge Town Council. The Chairman also informed Members this was the last meeting that Michael Blamire-Brown (Secretariat) would attend due to his forthcoming retirement as Solicitor to the Council, Solihull MBC. He thanked Michael on behalf of the group for his work and continued support to the Committee since Solihull MBC had taken over the role of Committee Secretariat.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN (2008 – 2010) AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (2008 – 2009)

Members were informed that Mr Viv Astling OBE had accepted an invitation from the Airport Company to continue his Chairmanship of the Consultative Committee for a further 2 year term up to 30 April 2010. The Committee was also invited to give nominations and elect a Vice-Chairman for 2008/2009. The Committee also thanked Mr J Stevens for his support and work as Vice-Chairman for previous years.

RESOLVED

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- (i) The Committee noted the appointment of Mr Viv Astling OBE as Chairman of the Committee for a further 2 year term (1 May 2008 to 30 April 2010)
- (ii) The Committee received nominations and elected Councillor Mike Longfield as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2008/2009.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 27th February 2008 were submitted.

RESOLVED

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

- (i) That the third paragraph of item 6 be corrected to read '(Mr P Orton) spoke with regard to ACI customer service statistics...'
- (ii) That the fourth paragraph of item 6 be corrected to read 'He explained further that the ACI rules relating to the use of these statistics *directed* that the Airport Company could not use the information to the detriment of any other airport.'
- (iii) That the minutes be corrected to show that Mr D Morgan from the Hampton in Arden Society had submitted his apologies for the previous meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2008

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period January to March 2008. 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 & Environment.
- Planning and Transportation.

Discussion Points

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Dudley MBC (Cllr K Turner) – complemented the Airport Company on their increased passenger loads per aircraft. He also made reference to page 21, where it informed Members that the West Midlands Metropolitan District Local Authorities had published a report that confirmed it was no longer their intention to introduce road charging or congestion charging in the West Midlands. Cllr Turner expressed concern that the Airport Company may regret this, especially if any expansion does take place, as there would be a greater need for public transport rather than private transport. The Airport Company noted Cllr Turner's comments and acknowledged the need to continue to improve the volume of passengers using public transport.

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Guest) - described previous traffic problems he had experienced at the Airport, where it took him 10 minutes to enter the site and 30 minutes to leave. He also stated that, in his view, some of the parking facilities were poor and expressed concern this would be bad for the forthcoming summer season. The Airport Company apologised for this and explained that work was currently being undertaken in the former Short Stay Car Park to increase the number of lanes and revise the layout for Rapid Drop-Off, to replace the set down capacity in front of the Passenger Terminals. They emphasised that they would monitor the situation over the summer season and consider any improvements as appropriate. The Airport Company also requested that Members inform them if they did have any bad experiences when using the Airport.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – noted that many passengers who used the former Short Stay Car Park were unaware of the £1 charge for a ticket. He explained this created problems when passengers tried to leave and stated there was a need for more signage on the ticket machines. The Airport Company detailed their intentions to look at signage.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – PROGRESS REPORT

The Airport Company presented its fifth report seeking to update Members on the progress made thus far regarding the proposed Runway Extension.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – AIRSPACE CHANGE PROCESS

The Airport Company presented a report on proposed Airspace Changes associated with the proposed Runway Extension. The Airport Company explained that the proposed Runway Extension would mean that the runway would be extended by 405m to the south-east. This proposal would require a change to the departure flight paths as they commenced at the extended end of the runway. This proposal would also result in a repositioned landing threshold that would change the height of arriving flight paths from the south-east. The Airport Company informed Members that they had had initial meetings with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), who confirmed that these changes were regarded as airspace changes and, as a consequence, a public consultation process had to be undertaken, in line with CAP (Civil Aviation Publication) 725 on Airspace Changes.

The Airport Company explained the need to establish a Focus Group as part of the process, which would review the details of the consultation. They detailed how membership of the Focus Group should ideally come from the Airport Consultative Committee. It was also noted that the Focus Group should be made up of the Members most affected by the potential changes.

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Members were informed that a potential way forward was a Focus Group based on relevant members of the Environment Monitoring Working Group, ensuring representation from the geographic areas affected by the changes to the flight paths. Other interested parties could also be invited to join the Focus Group. The Airport Company also explained that they were required by the CAA to demonstrate that the public consultation was conducted properly. As a consequence, they were proposing a very extensive consultation process, over a twelve week period. The Committee was asked to consider the proposals for a Focus group and decide on appropriate membership and chairmanship. The Focus Group may have to meet on a number of occasions, in advance of public consultation process.

Following discussion, Membership of the Focus Group was agreed as follows:

Air Transport/Airport-related

National Air Traffic Services (2 Members)

Birmingham International Airport Limited

Local Authorities

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Town and Parish Councils

Balsall Parish Council

Barston Parish Council

Berkswell Parish Council

Bickenhill Parish Council

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Residents' Associations

Balsall Common Residents' Association

Catherine-de-Barnes Residents' Association

Hampton-in-Arden Society

Knowle Society

Marston Green Residents' Association

Wychwood Club

Others

MPs for Meriden and Solihull

Solihull MBC – Officer Representative

The Members also proposed that Mr Viv Astling OBE act as Chairman for the Focus Group.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the membership of the focus group consist of the groups as detailed above; and
- (iii) That Mr Viv Astling OBE be elected chairman of the focus group.

8. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Mrs R Tyler, Passenger representative gave a presentation detailing the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) study for the proposed Runway Extension. She noted that an independent HIA Steering Group had been established to oversee the HIA study and she detailed the terms of reference of the Steering Group. She also explained how five companies had been invited to tender for the study, with four responding and IMPACT from Liverpool University selected to undertake the HIA.

Mrs R Tyler explained how the Steering Group had issues with the clarity of the report from IMPACT and also concerns about the conclusions and recommendations, which were very academic. A further issue was that the study went beyond its terms of reference and did not focus upon the difference circumstances that may emerge with or without the proposed Runway Extension.

Mrs R Tyler also detailed that, whilst the Steering Group had reservations about the study, they had decided it should still be submitted to the Airport Consultative Committee for consideration. She also noted that there was no standard template as to how HIAs should be completed and she emphasised that HIA studies were very new and, at present, very academic.

The Airport Company explained that, due to the concerns raised by the Steering Group, they had commissioned an Independent Peer Review of IMPACT's HIA, by the RPS Group, a major planning and environmental consultancy group. The Airport Company also provided, Members with a copy of the letter produced by the Acting Manager Director, setting out his concerns with the HIA study by IMPACT. The Airport Company explained that they had concerns particularly with the Executive Summary, which, in their view, contained academic language and focused predominantly on the negative impacts of the proposed Runway Extension. The Airport Company also expressed concern that the study went beyond its remit, which was to look at the positives and negatives of the proposed Runway Extension and establish potential mitigating measures. It was also noted that the Steering Group went back to IMPACT and requested a revised Executive Summary and conclusions, however they were unwilling to do this.

The Airport Company drew Members attention to the summary and conclusions produced by the Peer Review (by RPS) and noted these were broadly similar to the conclusions drawn by IMPACT, but with different language. They stated that the Peer Review had produced a good clear conclusion, with less academic language and was more balanced. It was also noted that IMPACT had recommended establishing a health forum for the Airport, potentially reporting through the Airport Consultative Committee, in order to guide decision making.

Discussion Points

Staffordshire County Council (Cllr R Smith) – stated that he anticipated noise around the Airport would increase with or without the proposed Runway Extension and, as a consequence, so would complaints. He explained this would be due to the continuing increases in traffic. The Airport Company detailed how the report produced by the RPS Group included anticipated traffic figures with or without the proposed Runway Extension and they explained this information would be submitted to Solihull MBC for consideration.

Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) – expressed concern that the Steering Group had only commissioned one report and queried whether IMPACT would be credited for the report produced. Mrs R Tyler explained that whilst the Steering Group had only commissioned one report, they were not happy with the conclusions drawn and had requested amendments and clarification. She detailed how IMPACT were not willing to do this and, as a consequence, the Airport Company commissioned a further report, in order to provide comprehensible conclusions. Mr Orton queried whether the Airport Company should pay for the initial report and expressed reservations whether the production of further reports was delaying determination of the Planning Application and potential revenue from the proposed Runway

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Extension. The Airport Company confirmed it should not cause a delay to the determination of the Planning Application for the proposed Runway Extension.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – stated that he did not have confidence in the information being put forward and expressed disappointment at the way the process had been handled. He expressed concern that misconceptions may arise as a result.

Friends of Elmdon (Mr G Davison) – detailed the previous experience he had of independent peer reviews and explained that, on occasions, they could be very critical. He noted that when you request someone to review proposed changes, they will be critical of certain elements and he emphasised this should not be dismissed. The Airport Company responded and emphasised that the Steering Group was independent and had had a very difficult task in responding to and drawing conclusions from the initial report. They also noted that they had not received a response from IMPACT to the letter from the Acting Managing Director. The Airport Company acknowledged that independent peer reviews could be critical and emphasised that the IMPACT report was not being dismissed. Instead, they were trying to capture the positives from both reports, as well as implement any suggested measures to mitigate the negative effects of the proposed Runway Extension.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – queried the independence as the study had gone beyond the Steering Group. The Chairman, Mr V Astling, responded, explaining that due to the reservations with the initial report, a broader range of reviews had been required. The Airport Company also clarified that the initial report had been produced by IMPACT for the Steering Group. The further report had been commissioned by the Airport Company, in order to make the conclusions more understandable. The Airport Company explained that both reports, along with a covering letter from the Acting Managing Director, would be submitted to Solihull MBC. Mr Stevens stated that he did not support the reports being submitted.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – requested clarification whether ACC were being asked to recommend the reports being submitted to Solihull MBC, or to acknowledge them. The Airport Company confirmed that ACC was being asked to acknowledge the reports. Cllr Longfield asked whether Mrs R Tyler was happy with the reports being submitted to Solihull MBC. Mrs R Tyler explained that she was happy with both reports being submitted, along with the covering letter from the Airport Company. She expressed her disappointment that IMPACT had not produced a clear, comprehensible report, however she felt this was the only way forward. Cllr Longfield stated that he was happy to acknowledge both reports and supported them being submitted to Solihull MBC.

Birmingham City Council (Cllr M Byrne) – queried whether HIA studies had been produced for other airports and queried whether they are beneficial. The Airport Company explained that HIAs were relatively new, but confirmed they had been produced for other airports.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the reports and a covering letter, by the Acting Managing Director be noted.

9. CIVIL AVIATION ACT 2006 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POWERS

Mr P Kershaw from Solihull MBC gave a presentation that detailed how the Civil Aviation Act 2006 enables operators of a licensed aerodrome to fix charges in terms of environmental issues. He set out the purposes for which such charges could be made, which included encouraging quieter aircraft and lowering emissions. The existing controls at Birmingham International Airport were also detailed, where the Airport Company applied a balance of charge regimes, limits and controls, as well as programmes and initiatives such as noise and track monitoring. He also explained Birmingham International Airport's current position

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through the Section 106 Agreement obligations and voluntary measures, where it had already implemented environmental programmes as detailed within the Act.

Following the presentation, Mr P Kershaw recommended the following responses to the Department for Transport:

1. Existing environmental programmes at Birmingham International Airport represented good/best practice.
2. Section 106 Agreement Obligations and ACC scrutiny ensures existing programmes are as effective as possible.
3. Additional penalties are not required, as existing measures are succeeding.
4. Existing arrangements are working satisfactory and should continue.
5. That the arrangements may need reviewing, subject to determination of the planning application for the proposed Runway Extension.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – noted the references made to vibration within the report and queried whether this was significant. Mr P Kershaw responded, explaining that, under existing legislation, noise and vibration were perceived to be the same. He acknowledged that the terms may have different connotations; however he emphasised, in legal terms, they were perceived as the same. Mr Stevens also queried whether the Act would lead to any extension of the Section 106 Agreement. The Airport Company confirmed that the majority of issues in the Act were covered by the existing Section 106 Agreement. They stated that any remaining issues could be addressed in future planning applications, as appropriate.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2008

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring Report for the period January to March 2008. The report was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – queried the figures that stated passenger numbers had increased, whilst aircraft movements had declined. The Airport Company explained that Flybe were operating more services (as opposed to BA) with smaller aircraft. However, Ryanair's expansion of services would result in an increase in passenger throughput and aircraft movements.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Committee were invited to receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2008. The minutes were taken as read.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE – COOL EARTH

The Airport Company presented a report informing the Committee that it had invested £20,000 to protect 180 acres of endangered rainforest in Brazil, locking up nearly 50,000 tonnes of CO₂. The Airport Company detailed that to make this happen, they had teamed up with Cool Earth, a charity that protects endangered rainforest from deforestation.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

13. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2008, together with his report. The Minutes and Report were taken as read.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – detailed how he had viewed the equipment purchased by the Airport Company to manage snow and ice clearance. He explained that he was happy with the equipment, but had queried how the Airport Company ensured that it had enough resources to mobilise the equipment at short notice. The Airport Company explained how they continually monitor weather conditions and had procedures in place to call out staff at short notice. They also have contractors available, who can be also be called out, depending on the severity of the weather.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and minutes be noted.

14. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEWS

The Committee was invited to undertake its annual membership review for 2006/2007, including that of the Committee's two Working Groups. The report together with its appendices was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr R Lloyd) – queried whether Berkswell Parish Council should be included within the membership of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – explained that Mr A Minton had taken on Chairmanship of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group and would be happy to continue.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the Membership of the Committee be endorsed for a further twelve months and that it be reviewed again collectively in 2009;
- (iii) That Berkswell Parish Council be enlisted as members of the Environment Monitoring Working Group;
- (iv) That the Membership of the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMWG) and the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working (PSSTWG) be endorsed;

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- (v) That Mr A Minton be appointed Chairman for the Environmental Monitoring Working Group.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on Wednesday, 3 September 2008 and Wednesday 26 November 2008.