

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT 2.30 PM**

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Present: Mr V Astling OBE - Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

Paul Kehoe	-	Chief Executive Officer
Joe Kelly	-	Executive Director and Company Secretary
Steve Hill	-	Head of Planning and Transportation
John Morris	-	Head of Corporate Affairs
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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ABTA	-	Mr C Eftichiou
Balsall Common Residents Association	-	Mr D Ellis
Balsall Parish Council	-	Cllr M Longfield
Barston Parish Council	-	Cllr D Read
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill Parish Council	-	Cllr S Mills
Bickenhill Parish Council	-	Cllr J Williams
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr J Whorwood
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Mr R Hogg
Citijet	-	Mrs H Potts
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
Kingshurst Parish Council	-	Cllr B Mulready

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Knowle Society	- Mr J Rowley
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
Smith's Wood Parish Council	- Cllr F Churchill
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Fennell
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr A Martin
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr L Osborne
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr P Kershaw
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R N Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr M Heatley
The Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Birmingham City Council	- Mr G Tringham
Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum	- Mr S S Degun
Hampton Society (and Chairman of EMWG)	- Mr A Minton
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Sleigh
Wolverhampton City Council	- Cllr P Wilson

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman and the Committee welcomed the return of Mr Eftichiou (ABTA) to the Committee.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 26th November 2009 were submitted.

Discussion Points

Warwick District Council (Cllr G Guest) – referred to Item 5 – Environmental Monitoring Working Group and sought further details regarding the complaints history as reported from an individual living in Warwick. The Airport Company stated that they were unable to disclose any personal details at the meeting although they would contact the complainant and advise them to contact Warwick District Council if they wished to seek any additional representation.

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

1. Item 4 – Environmental Monitoring Report – July to September 2008 – Dudley MBC comments to read “.....were discovered to be above the noise”.
2. Item 8 – Any Other Business – change “KAP” to read “CAP” at each reference.

3. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2008

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period October to December 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 and Environment.
- Planning and Transportation.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – spoke with regard to the five recent instances of inclement weather and stated that he had been very impressed by the Airport’s snow and ice equipment when he had seen a demonstration last year. The Airport Company advised the Committee of the operational logistics for snowfall clearances and added that complimentary feedback had been received from the Emirates airline on excellent operational performance of the Airport during the recent bad weather.

Warwickshire County Council (Cllr M Heatley) – spoke with regard to transport and infrastructure issues and learnt from the Airport Company that pleasing progress was being made with the public transport modal share although the Airport Company felt that modal share figures could be better. They Airport Company stated that they were keen on promoting the train as a mode of transport to and from the Airport site together with making the optimum use of IT to improve services.

Dudley MBC (Cllr K Turner) – stated that the comments made by the Airport Company in relation to modal share were encouraging. However, Cllr Turner raised concerns at some potential future initiatives such as off-site check-ins.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2008

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period October to December 2008. The report, which set out the following key headings, was taken as read:-

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

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to the report at Section 5 – Community Schemes and sought clarification of the nature of the works attributable to the Sound Insulation Scheme. The Airport Company explained that the most popular choice by qualifying residents was high specification double glazing.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) – spoke with regard to the same element of the report and stated that EMWG should become more involved in the Sound Insulation Scheme. It was agreed that EMWG would receive a report on the Scheme at their next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That a report be submitted to EMWG at its next meeting in respect of the Sound Insulation Scheme.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Committee was invited to receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2009. The Minutes and Chairman's report were taken as read.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

6. 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 27th January 2009, together with his report. The Minutes and report were taken as read.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – referred to the topic of airport security and asked if the anti-terrorist officers at the airport were being funded centrally and not funded by the Airport. The Airport Company explained that it was the case that such officers were paid for by Central Government.

The Airport Company updated the report in terms of the Public Transport Modal Share figures within appendices. The revised figures were as follows:

Full Year 2008 Public Transport Modal Shares

- Passenger – 24.3% (compared with 20.4% in 2007)
- Employees – 23.0% (compared with 23.6% in 2007)

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The Chairman sought an update from the Airport Company with regard to the new “set-down” arrangements. The Airport Company explained the arrangements (times and pricings) that were in place for the drop-and-go facility at the front of the terminal buildings.

Dudley MBC (Cllr K Turner) – stated that he had experienced some problems, personally, when using the Airport. He explained that he had difficulty in locating a wheelchair for a disabled passenger and requested that the information that is made available for disabled travellers be reviewed. The Airport Company explained that there is a publicised pre-notification procedure for passengers with reduced mobility. £1M annually was spent by the Airport Company on facilities for disabled passengers.

The Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) - spoke with regard to charging for the drop and go facility and emphasised the importance of good communication and public information for such facilities.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and Minutes be noted.

7. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – PROGRESS REPORT

The Airport Company presented its latest report seeking to update the Committee on the progress made thus far regarding the proposed Runway Extension. Specific emphasis in this report was made towards Planning Process Issues.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr M Longfield) – reiterated concerns with regard to the consultation process that had been carried out by Solihull MBC as part of the determination of the planning application. Cllr Longfield felt that open dialogues with Parish Councils etc over planning conditions and the contents of the Section 106 Agreement could have been more timely and proactive.

Solihull MBC (Mr L Osborne) – updated the Committee in relation to the Council’s position and stated that there was an open offer to meet with Council Officers to discuss the issues highlighted on this and previous occasions. A formal request had been received from Berkswell Parish Council and had been responded to.

The Knowle Society (Mr J Rowley), Balsall Common Residents Association (Mr D Ellis), and Berkswell Parish Council (Councillor Mr R Lloyd) – all expressed their disappointment with the current position and felt that there was now little time to undertake a meaningful and timely dialogue with the Local Planning Authority. Cllr Lloyd was of the view that an offer of a meeting between Berkswell Parish Council and the Local Planning Authority had only come about following a complaint by the Parish Council to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC.

The Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) - stated that in his view, the issues being raised were not of concern to the ACC and should be raised elsewhere.

The Chairman - stated that there was an emerging perception highlighted by a number of Members of the Committee that the Local Planning Authority consultation processes were possibly not working as efficiently as may have been expected by some.

The Airport Company – explained the work that had been done since the Planning Sub-Committee in December 2008 in terms of the Section 106 Agreement and the changes to it that had been made to address known concerns.

Dudley MBC (Cllr K Turner) – clarified the timescales in which the Local Planning Authority would consider the above matters and was advised that the 31st March 2009 was the date when the outstanding issues would be considered again and potentially, when planning

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approval might be given. Cllr Turner also commented on land acquisition and compulsory purchase issues.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr C Bowen) – questioned aspects of the Airspace Change Process in terms of the target date for the completion of the review.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr A Martin) – spoke with regard to the 3rd runway at Heathrow and asked if it would affect the proposals at Birmingham International Airport. The Airport Company explained that Birmingham needed an extended runway to facilitate flights for new long haul destinations. The 3rd runway at Heathrow was not perceived to be detrimental to operations at Birmingham.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 May 2009 with subsequent meetings being held on 9 September 2009 and 25 November 2009.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.