

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2005 AT 2.30PM**

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Present: Mr V Astling – Chairman.

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

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

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr M Blamire-Brown, Mr L Stevenson and Mr J Bright - Representing the Secretary

Balsall Common Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Longfield
Barston Parish Council	- Cllr D Read
Berkswell Parish Council	- Cllr D Hitchcock
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr P Southwick
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr J Williams
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr M Byrne
Birmingham City Council	- Mr G Tringham
Consumers Association	- Mr P Orton
Elms Farm Residents Association	- Mr L Thurstan
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr J Alcock
Friends of Elmdon	- Mr S Richmond
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	- Cllr P Adams
Hampton Society	- Mr A Minton
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Mr B Mulready
Knowle Society	- Mr J Rowley

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Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr B Moss
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Ms D Fennell
Solihull MBC	- Cllr R Sleigh
Solihull MBC – Airport Monitoring	- Mr P Kershaw
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of:

Birmingham Airways Regional	- Mr P Gaiger
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr J Whorwood
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr R Hogg
Coventry City Council	- Cllr N Lee
Dudley MBC	- Cllr K Turner
Mirfield Housing Liaison Board	- Mr A Middleton
Poolway Housing Liaison Board	- Mr L Jackson
Solihull MBC	- Cllr J Hawkswood
Solihull MBC -Planning Services	- Mr L Osbourne
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr K Browne

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 27 July 2005, were submitted.

RESOLVED

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That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2005, be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Attendance list – Cllr Sleight to be recorded as having represented Solihull MBC, rather than Bickenhill Parish Council.
- Item 6 - Environment Monitoring Working Group – that the date of the meeting in the first paragraph read “6 July 2005”.
- Item 5 – Environment Monitoring Working Group & Item 6 - Environment Monitoring Working Group – that the following paragraph be deemed as being recorded as part of the debate for those items:-

“2005 Review of Night Flying Policy

The Airport Company presented their report which was based upon the requirement to continue the provisions in existence at 31st October 2005, until such time as the Airport Company and the Council mutually agree any extension or revision.

These general principles had been previously discussed and endorsed by the EMWG, but as the Chairman's report had made clear the document in its present form and detail had not been previously circulated. One of the additions requested by EMWG and subsequently included in the report, was up to date information on the short term forecasting of Passenger and ATM numbers in order to address concerns with under utilisation of Quota Count and ATM's. This would also allow the short term potential (pre Master Plan) for increases in night flying to be assessed. The Airport Company's report contained a 5 year forecast table which was found to contain an error for year "2004", whereby actuals were used resulting in "TOTAL MOVEMENTS" being shown not "AIR TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS".

The revised 2004 line now reads 8,870,423 passenger and 109,914 ATM's.

The error was communicated to Solihull MBC in time for the meeting of the Airport Working Party on 28 July 2005 and subsequently the revised and extended policy has been approved by the Local Authority Planning and Regulation Committee.

The Airport Company's proposals were otherwise noted.”

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- Item 5 – Environment Monitoring Report – April to June 2005 - that the word “potentially” be deleted from the first paragraph under the heading “Discussion Points”.
- Item 7 – Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group - that the last sentence of the first paragraph be deleted.
- Item 7– Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group – that the word “That” be added to the beginning of the Resolution.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Minute 11 – Any Other Business

The Consumers Association - (Mr P Orton) referred to an issue raised at the previous meeting regarding the “Marketing Expenditure of Birmingham International Airport” and sought further information on this subject. The Airport Company stated that they had no direct access to information regarding the expenditure incurred by individual airlines. Furthermore, the Airport Company explained that they were unable to discuss their own position on marketing as this was considered to be commercially sensitive.

RESOLVED

That the comments arising from the Minutes of the last meeting be noted.

AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – JULY 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2005

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities Report for the period July to September 2005. The contents of the report on the following topics were taken as read.

- Passengers
- Cargo
- Aircraft Movements
- Flight Punctuality Statistics
- Market Development – Aviation
- Market Development – Commercial
- Customer Services
- Operations
- Airport Development
- Planning Environment & Transportation
- Community Affairs

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In presenting the report, the Airport Company also circulated a letter to the Committee entitled "Improved short-term communication with local communities." The letter emphasised that the work involving the runway resurfacing and problems with the Instrument Landing System (ILS) had highlighted a gap in the communication arrangements with local communities and residents, particularly when 'short notice' alterations had taken place. The Airport Company stated they were committed to improve communications with local people and their representatives and detailed a number of forthcoming initiatives to support this.

Discussion Points

Berkswell Parish Council - (Councillor Hitchcock) queried a recent news report in the Coventry Observer which had stated that the owners of Birmingham International Airport were interested in purchasing the Coventry Airport site. The Airport Company stated they were unable to respond to the news report as it was, in their view, simply newspaper speculation.

Balsall Common Residents Association - (Mr D Ellis) questioned a generic letter which had been sent to local residents regarding a forthcoming public meeting for the Airport Master Plan Consultation in November. Mr Ellis queried why local representatives who regularly attended the Consultative Committee had not received notification of this meeting, especially as the Committee representative were expected to respond to queries from members of the local community. Mr Ellis also questioned why the Airport Company chose not use other media such as radio, television or the internet to communicate this. The Airport Company stated that they recognised the importance of establishing communication links with local representatives in order to notify them of such issues and stated that they were happy to look at better forms of communication. However, they did reiterate that it was dangerous to rely on the media to communicate such issues due to lack of control.

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr J Stevens) highlighted that the Airport Company should not underestimate the support which Members of the Consultative Committee could offer insofar as a communication vehicle and he reiterated the recent runway resurfacing works and problems with the Instrument Landing System which had previously been raised. Mr Stevens stated that this was an excellent opportunity for the Airport Company to re-establish the communication links and good-will that had been evident in the past. The Airport Company emphasised that they recognised the magnitude of the issues which had been raised and stated that they would work to resolve it through establishing better and more effective communication links with both the Committee and the local community.

Balsall Parish Council - (Councillor Longfield) reiterated what had been said previously and emphasised that the local community representatives on the Committee should be some of the first to be made aware of any notifications and communications as they could be likely to receive a significant volume of queries from the public.

Solihull MBC - (Councillor Sleight) stated that the Airport Company needed to re-establish good communication links with the public for when issues and problems arose in order to avert difficulties with the local community. He recalled that the NEC had a system in place for communicating with the local community and suggested that this could potentially be used as a model. It was considered that recent events should be taken as an opportunity to review communications practices and policies.

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Berkswell Parish Council - (Councillor Hitchcock) spoke with regard to Item 11 – Community Affairs, and stated that the Airport Company should make greater reference to Community Trust Fund (CTF) work and successes in these reports. Councillor Hitchcock explained that he Chaired the Community Trust Fund and that the Group made a considerable contribution to the local community. Further funding was also requested in order to ensure that the work of the Trust Fund could continue. The Airport Company stated that in addition to the Fund, the Company had made other significant donations and gave examples such as the Tsunami appeal and the victims of the Pakistani earthquake. With regard to the request to include this type of information (CTF) in this report, the Airport Company explained that there was insufficient time to report the “most recent” work of the Community Trust Fund due to the timing of their meetings with the publication of the Airport Activities report.

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr J Stevens) raised issues with regard to total passengers, ATM's and runway utilisation. He was of the view that the ratio of passengers per ATM needed to be recorded which would give the Committee an opportunity to develop a feel for what is happening, such as at present with traffic patterns. Mr Stevens also referred to the aspect of the report which detailed the Coventry Airport Public Inquiry and sought further information with regard to the Airport Company's position at the Inquiry and the documentation that they would produce. He also questioned the Budget Hotel proposals referred to under Item 10.1 of the report. Mr Stevens explained that only one reference was made to the proposed hotel in the report and he stated that further information should be produced regarding the height of the hotel (especially in relation to other buildings in the area), any signs that may be put up, as well as any landscaping proposals. The Airport Company stated that they were happy to produce further information regarding the proposed hotel and were willing to supply this to Bickenhill Parish Council and Marston Green Residents Association if they wished to contact the Airport Company directly.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That the proposed efforts of the Airport Company to re-establish good communication links with ACC representatives and the local community, particularly for when “short notice” alterations to operations take place be supported by the Committee.

ENVIRONMENT MONITORING REPORT – JULY 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2005

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring Report for the period July to September 2005. The Airport Company noted a correction to the first sentence of Item 2 – Night Flying Policy of which the date stated should have been 26th September 2005, and not 8th September 2003. Section 7 and 8 of the report was also circulated at the meeting relating to Surface Water Quality and Waste Recycled. It was also noted that ANOMS8 was due to be formally launched in January 2006. The report, as submitted, was then taken as read.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr J Stevens) referred to Item 2.1 – Night Quota Count Analysis and questioned whether the Airport Company had any further figures, as they were only reported up until September 2005. The Airport Company explained they would provide further figures (for October) when the information was available and were willing to

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circulate this information in a letter to Bickenhill Parish Council and Marston Green Residents Association.

Solihull MBC - (Councillor Sleigh) raised questions regarding Item 4 – Air Quality and stated that he believed that there was a consistent hot spot for poor air quality in Marston Green, namely at the end of the airfield in the vicinity of the railway station. Councillor Sleigh requested whether that area could be monitored for air quality and the Airport Company stated that they were happy to take this into consideration for the future, but emphasised that there could be health and safety issues for staff, plus difficulties locating monitoring equipment at that part of the airfield. The Airport Company would maintain a dialogue with Bickenhill Parish Council and Marston Green Residents Association regarding this issue to agree some form of monitoring.

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr J Stevens) highlighted Item 5 – Complaints Relating to Aircraft Activity, and stated that the increase in complaints (61% overall – 22% increase) recorded by the Airport Company must raise concerns. The Airport Company acknowledged this. However, they did emphasise that complaints could rise simply because of the increased profile of the Airport in the local press and media in the lead up to the publication of the draft Master Plan. It was also noted that increased complaints made to Birmingham could have also been generated by operations at Coventry and the recent runway resurfacing works at BIA.

Balsall Parish Council - (Councillor Longfield) asked what percentage of the complaints could be regarded as valid. The Airport Company emphasised that if members of the public and customers perceived that an issue warranted a complaint, than it must be treated as such. The Airport Company did not validate complaints.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted and endorsed.

REVIEW OF ENGINE GROUND RUNNING IN THE MORNING SHOULDER PERIOD

The Airport Company submitted a report in relation to the Review of Engine Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr J Stevens) made reference to Table 4, entitled "Incidence of Full Power Engine Ground Running (EGR) in the Morning Shoulder Period" and noted that the number of EGR's as recorded in the table since 2001 indicated an improvement. However, Mr Stevens emphasised that this did not take into account variances for busy periods and questioned whether the reported statistics could be broken down further to account for this. Additional information was also requested regarding the process for EGR (idle and full power) and the Airport Company responded stating that the monitoring and enforceability of the process for each were quite distinct.

Bickenhill Parish Council - (Councillor Southwick) queried whether or not it was possible to contact the duty manager at night if any issues arose, i.e. after 11pm. The Airport Company confirmed that it was possible to contact the duty manager, on the same telephone number, at any time.

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RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted and endorsed; and
- (ii) That the Review of Engine Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period be referred to the Local Planning Authority for consideration.

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 5th October 2005, together with his report. The Minutes and report, as submitted, were taken as read.

In considering the Chairman's report, the Chairman of the Working Group sought the Committee's views on the continuation of a written report from himself.

Discussion Points

Marston Green Residents Association - (Mr Stevens) highlighted the issue of air traffic and the problems experienced with the Instrument Landing System (ILS). Mr Stevens stated that local representatives and local residents contacted the Airport Company on the Thursday and Friday when the issue arose; however, no response was received from the Airport Company until the following Monday. Mr Stevens emphasised that a quicker response was required in order to alleviate the concerns of local residents.

Balsall Common Residents Association - (Mr D Ellis) also highlighted that members of the public had contacted the Airport Company helpline on the Saturday regarding the problem and they did not receive a response until the following Monday. The Airport Company explained that the issues with the ILS had not been experienced before, nor had they been anticipated. The Airport Company also stated that the helpline was not physically manned on Saturday's so the Airport Company was, therefore, unable to respond to the complaints until the following Monday.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted;
- (ii) That the continuation of a written report from the Chairman of the Working Group be agreed; and
- (iii) That, as noted earlier in the meeting, the proposed efforts of the Airport Company to re-establish good communication links with ACC representatives and the local community, particularly for when "short notice" alterations to operations take place be supported by the Committee.

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 4th October 2005, together with his verbal report. The Minutes and report were taken as read/presented.

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The Chairman of the Working Group, Councillor Longfield, made reference in particular to Item 6 of the Minutes, and expressed the Group's concerns that the resources of Customs and Immigration at Birmingham Airport may have been weakened by the need to service Coventry Airport as well.

Discussion Points

Birmingham City Council - (Councillor M Byrne) made reference to Item 9b, where it was noted that the Group's Tuesday afternoon meeting slot clashed with Full Council meetings for Birmingham City Council, and she explained it meant she was unable to attend. She asked whether or not the Group would consider rearranging their "first Tuesday of the month" slot. Councillor Longfield stated that the Group had considered changing the time of the meeting, but too many representatives were committed to that specific time. The Airport Company suggested that an officer from Birmingham City Council could attend the Working Group on the Councillors' behalf in order to overcome this concern.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the Minutes and verbal report be noted;
- (ii) That the Airport Company investigate the feasibility of an Officer from Birmingham City Council being invited to attend meetings of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group.

MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Airport Company gave a detailed Powerpoint presentation which informed the Committee of the forthcoming publication of the draft Airport Master Plan. The Committee noted that, at this stage, the contents of the presentation was confidential. In considering the presentation, the Committee noted that they would be formally consulted on the contents of the draft Master Plan and would, therefore, need to meet to consider making a formal response by 31 March 2006.

The Chairman suggested that, due to the level of interest regarding the draft Master Plan, the ACC response to the consultation could be the sole topic of discussion for the next meeting (1st February 2006), with an additional meeting being arranged thereafter for the usual business items. The Committee accepted this suggested arrangement.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council - (Councillor Longfield) questioned how "permanent" the proposals were regarding those detailed in the draft Master Plan presentation. The Airport Company stated that all proposals were subject to public consultation and that any issues raised by the public would be taken into consideration by the Airport Company. Nothing at this time was set in tablets of stone.

RESOLVED

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

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- (ii) That the draft Master Plan be the sole topic of discussion at the next meeting, on 1st February 2006, with a further additional meeting to be arranged for the usual business items.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee agreed that, due to lack of time, the supplementary item “Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum – Request for Membership” be discussed at the next Committee meeting for usual items.

RESOLVED

That the supplementary report - “Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum – Request for Membership” be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee for usual business items.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 1st February 2005 at 2.30pm at Diamond House.