

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2005 AT 2.30 PM**

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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 and Development
Mr J Morris	-	Head of Corporate Affairs
Mr J Wilson	-	General Manager, Operational Planning

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr M Blamire-Brown & Mr L Stevenson	-	Representing the Secretary
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Balsall Parish Council	-	Cllr M Longfield
Barston Parish Council	-	Mr D Read
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr D Hitchcock
Bickenhill Parish Council	-	Cllr P Southwick
Bickenhill Parish Council	-	Cllr R Sleigh
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr J Whorwood
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr M Byrne
Birmingham City Council	-	Mr G Tringham
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	-	Mr R Hogg
Coventry City Council	-	Cllr N Lee
Dudley MBC	-	Cllr K Turner
Fordbridge Town Council	-	Mr J Alcock
Friends of Elmdon	-	Mr S Richmond
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr R Chapman
Hampton Society	-	Mr A Minton
Knowle Society	-	Mr J Rowley
North Warwickshire Borough Council	-	Councillor B Moss
Sheldon Residents Association	-	Mr V Yeomans
Smiths Wood Parish Council	-	Cllr F W Churchill
Solihull MBC	-	Mr M Hooker

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Solihull MBC	- Cllr A Martin
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Farley
Solihull MBC	- Mr L Osborne

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Birmingham Chamber of Industry of Commerce	- Mrs E Longman
Consumers Association	- Mr G Weil
Elms Farm Residents Association	- Mr L Thurstan
Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
Mirfield Housing Liaison Board	- Mr A Middleton
Poolway Housing Liaison Board	- Mr L Jackson
Solihull MBC	- Cllr J Hawkswood
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr L Forsyth
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 26 January 2005, were submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2005, be confirmed as a correct record subject to Mr R Chapman being recorded as Cllr R Chapman.

2. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2005

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

- Passenger, Cargo and Aircraft Movements.
- Flight Punctuality Statistics.
- Airport, Services and Commercial Development.
- Customer Services.
- Operations.
- Airport Development.
- Planning and Transportation.
- Community Relations Issues.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council – referred to Section 4 of the report and sought information from the Airport Company as to what the high punctuality figures were attributable too. The Airport

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Company explained that the Airport had not grown as predicted and there had been less pressure on Air Traffic Control.

Berkswell Parish Council – referred to Section 11 of the report and recalled a recent meeting of the Community Trust Fund. An update on the business of that meeting was given insofar as the most recent donations which had been made from the Fund.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That an update on the recent activities of the Community Trust Fund form part of the regular business of the ACC.

3. ENVIRONMENT MONITORING REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2005

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period January to March 2005. The report, as submitted, was taken as read. In presenting the report, the Airport Company drew Members attention to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and explained that the quarterly Environment Monitoring report would be published on www.bhx.co.uk in accordance with the spirit of the Regulations to make environmental information gathered after 1st January 2005 more widely available to organisations and individuals. An update on ANOMS8 was also given which had passed its 60 day test during February.

Discussion Points

Bickenhill Parish Council – spoke with regard to Section 1 of the report and sought further information on the issue whereby Britannia Airways had contested two night noise violations for 2004. The Airport Company were asked to advise the Committee as to their policy for noise level violations for arriving aircraft. It was reported that each incident was assessed on its own merits and one example of a noise level violation fine that had been waived for arriving aircraft was that the aircraft in question may have used more engine power to ensure a safe landing due to weather conditions. There was a firm emphasis from the Airport Company that all violations were investigated and assessed separately.

The Chairman - sought information as to whether the Airport Company had a Carbon Free Index. The Airport Company stated that they had not, although this was something they could look at having regard to the difficulties in measuring such statistics on a quarterly basis.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) To note that the quarterly Environment Monitoring report would be published on www.bhx.co.uk in accordance with the spirit of the Regulations to make environmental information gathered after 1st January 2005 more widely available to organisations and individuals; and
- (iii) To agreed that the same information be published on the Consultative Committee's web-site (once launched).

4. 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 6 April 2005, together with his report. The minutes and report were taken as read with no subsequent discussions or comments.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the minutes and report be noted.

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5. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Sub-Committee invited the Committee to receive both the minutes of the meeting held 5 April 2005, together with his report. The minutes and report were taken as read with no subsequent discussions or comments.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the minutes and report be noted.

6. MASTERPLAN PLAN REVIEW – UPDATE

The Airport Company gave a verbal update with regard to the Airport Masterplan Review. The information considered by the Committee was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Hampton in Arden Parish Council - stated that an update was needed on the publication of study reports with specific regard to timescales.

Balsall Parish Council – sought details of the financial logistics of the Masterplan Review. The Airport Company stated that there were many financial issues to consider to make the Review process work.

Hampton Society – questioned as to whether the Masterplan Review would be supported entirely by Airport Company finances. The Committee were advised that the Review would be financed by the Airport Company although there would be some regional assistance.

The Chairman – requested that details of the latest developments/position statement be reported to the next (or a special) meeting of the ACC before the Masterplan issues are publicised more widely.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That a further update report be submitted to the Committee in July 2005.

7. REVIEW OF NIGHT FLYING POLICY 2005

The Airport Company submitted a detailed report which informed the Committee that under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement – Schedule 5 (Night Flying), Paragraph 3, the next biennial review of the Night Flying Policy should take place by 26 October 2005. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

The Hampton in Arden Society - reiterated the view of the Environment Monitoring Working Group that the Night Flying Policy, to date, had produced improvements since 1996 although tighter controls were considered possible with under-utilisation of quota and ATM's remaining an issue causing uncertainty in the local community. The Night Flying Policy review would need to adopt an extension of the existing, all as provided for in the provisions of the Section 106 Agreement, subject to a mutually agreed time extension of two years (October 2007) and detailed passenger ATM forecasts for the next three to five years. Any further Night Flying Policy review, if agreed at October 2007 or as part of the Master Plan review process or future planning application, should consider and address the uncertainties associated with the under utilisation of quota count and night time ATMS's by justification through detailed forecasting and/or retrospective capping.

Bickenhill Parish Council - sought clarification of a biennial review in two years and were of the view that further reviews should take place every two years thereafter October 2007. The Parish Council sought assurances as to what commitments would be in place for the Airport Company to do this, if accepted, once the existing Section 106 Agreement had expired. It was perceived that a Night Flying Policy was a "driver" for environmental improvements.

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The Airport Company - supported the principle of ongoing biennial reviews of the Night Flying Policy, subject to the approval of the Airport Company's Board of Directors either under a Section 106 Agreement (if applicable) or whatever equivalent mechanism was to be in place at such a time in the future.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council - were of the view that the current quota count had been under utilised and recalled details from Manchester Airport. The Airport Company advised that noise violation levels at Manchester were 85 dB(A) or more (excluding arriving aircraft) whereas noise violation levels at Birmingham were 87 d(B)A or more and included arriving aircraft.

Dudley MBC - stated that it was important for the Airport Company to recognise the importance of the civil aviation structure in the context of future night flying policies.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association - supported the views given at the meeting and stressed the importance of anything that could be done to improve environmental matters.

The Chairman - summarised the main points which had arisen from the debate which was that there was support for further and ongoing biennial reviews and that any unused quota count headroom should be reduced incrementally with a view to improving future environmental conditions.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report detailing the Airport Company's proposals for the Review of the Night Flying Policy be noted;
- (ii) That the Airport Company and Solihull MBC be urged to mutually agree that any agreement effective from October 2005 should be time limited to a further review in October 2007 and then every two years thereafter by whatever comparable means are in place at that time;
- (iii) That detailed passenger and ATM forecasts be given as part of the review for the next two to three year period with equivalent information being given at future reviews (if subsequently agreed);
- (iv) That any further Night Flying Policy review, if agreed at October 2007 and future biennial dates thereafter or as part of the Master Plan review process or future planning application, should consider and address the uncertainties associated with the under utilisation of quota count and night time ATMS's by justification through detailed forecasting and/or retrospective capping. (The Committee wished to see unused quota count headroom being reduced incrementally through each review period for the purpose of improving environmental conditions).

8. MEMBERSHIP OF AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Airport Company submitted a report regarding the Membership of the ACC following the deferral of a report at the January 2005 meeting which sought consideration of a request for Membership from BANG. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Hampton in Arden Parish Council - were of the view that the current membership already represented elements of the local community and that the inclusion of pressure groups would give a duplication of membership. A view was given that lobby groups needed to prove that the areas of the community which they represented were not represented already and that they were being disenfranchised by groups having membership already. Concerns were also expressed that the inclusion of pressure groups would have a detrimental effect on any future consultation processes. The Parish Council were of the view that the request

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for membership should be refused and that any further requests for membership should only be considered as an AGM agenda item.

Balsall Parish Council – were of the view that they would raise no objections to the inclusion of such groups within the membership of ACC.

North Warwickshire Borough Council – expressed the view that they would be concerned that some of the “informality” of the debates at ACC would be lost if such groups were included, and questioned as to whether or not they were bound by any Code of Conduct.

Bickenhill Parish Council – stated that pressure groups usually had single items of concern and that there was a perception that they would not contribute to the work of the ACC as a whole. To support this, the Parish Council also expressed concern that some of the substitute members of ACC had limited knowledge of regular ACC issues which could be seen as being detrimental to the quality of debate. However, the Parish Council did acknowledge that BANG were supported by local people.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association – stated that they had no real concerns with regard to allowing membership to ACC from such groups.

Berkswell Parish Council – stated that such groups needed to be accountable and that they were unsure as to what such organisations could bring to ACC.

Friends of Elmdon - were of the view that they would raise no objections to the inclusion of such groups within the membership of ACC and stated that their experience of BANG had been positive.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the request from BANG for membership to the ACC be refused; and
- (ii) That any further requests for membership should only be considered as an AGM agenda item.

9. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

The Secretary submitted a report regarding “Publication of Information” following a request for such at the meeting held in January 2005. A recommendation was given that Option 2 should be adopted as a future practice for the publication of information. Feedback was also sought of the publication of information on the ACC web-site which was due to be live in the very near future. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

Discussion Points

Balsall Parish Council – supported the publication of ACC information on its web-site but did not support meetings of ACC being open to the press and public.

Bickenhill Parish Council – stated that the Committee needed to review the way that information was recorded and suggested that the minutes should reflect the views of bodies and organisations and should not name individual members if they are to become more widely available, i.e. accessible on the ACC web-site. The Parish Council raised no objection to the publication of agendas and minutes on the ACC web-site.

Dudley MBC – did not support public involvement in ACC meetings and stated that care needed to be taken with regard to what information was published.

Hampton Society – supported the publication of minutes on the forthcoming ACC web-site.

Berkswell Parish Council – stated that the ACC web-site should be publicised once live.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That Option 2 be supported as a future practice for the publication of ACC information with the exclusion of the

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suggested press and public admittance to meetings from that option;

- (iii) That agendas and minutes be published on the forthcoming ACC website; and
- (iv) That future ACC minutes reflect the views of bodies and organisations only and not individuals.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting (2005 AGM) would be held on Wednesday, 27th July 2005 at 2.30pm at Diamond House.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items of business from the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.