

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 2.30 PM**

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Present: Mr Viv Astling OBE (Chairman).

In attendance from Birmingham International Airport Ltd:

Mr J Kelly - Acting Managing Director.  
Mr J Wilson - Head of Community & Environment.  
Mr S Hill - Head of Planning & Transportation.

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson - Representing the Secretary.

Balsall Common Residents Association - Mr D Ellis  
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  
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association - Mr R Hogg  
Consumers Association - Mr P Orton  
Coventry City Council - Cllr N Lee  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council - Cllr K Turner  
Kingshurst Parish Council - Cllr B Mulready  
Fordbridge Town Council - Mr J Alcock  
Friends of Elmdon - Mr G A Davison  
Hampton in Arden Parish Council - Cllr P Adams  
Hampton Society - Mr A Minton  
Knowle Society - Mr J Rowley  
Marston Green Residents Association - Mr J Stevens  
NATS - Mr K Kent  
North Warwickshire Borough Council - Cllr B Moss  
Passenger Representative - Mrs R Tyler

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Sandwell MBC	- Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mrs D Fennell
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr L Osbourne
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Hill
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

BA Connect Ltd	- Mr K Ilsley
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Longfield
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr J Whorwood
Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum	- Mr S S Degun
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	- Cllr A Harper
Mirfield Housing Liaison Board	- Mr A Middleton
Secretariat	- Mr M Blamire Brown
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull MBC	- Cllr R Sleigh
Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr M Heatley
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest

**1. RICHARD HEARD**

Following a tribute from the Chairman and the Committee, Members stood and observed a minutes silence in memory of Richard Heard, the Airport Company Managing Director who had sadly passed away on 18 January 2007.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Committee welcomed Mr Joe Kelly, Acting Managing Director of the Airport Company to his first meeting of the ACC.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 25 October 2006 were submitted.

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2006, be confirmed as a correct record.

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**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

**5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2006**

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period October to December 2006. The contents of the report, on the following topics detailed below, were taken as read:

- Passenger, Cargo and Aircraft Movements.
- Flight Punctuality Statistics.
- Market Development – Aviation and Commercial.
- Customer Services.
- Operations.
- Airport Development.
- Planning, Environment and Transportation.
- Community Affairs.

**Discussion Points**

The Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) referred to “Market Development – Aviation” and sought confirmation that the Turkmenistan Airlines BHX connection to Ahmedabad from Ashkhabad was the only new route for the reporting period. The Airport Company confirmed that this was the case. Further information was also given to the Committee with regard to “Flywho” together with the recent discussions which had taken place between that operator and the Airport Company.

The Airport Company shared the Committee’s disappointment with the low number of recent market developments and stated that they were in discussions with the airline operators in an attempt to address the situation, Noting that the task in hand was challenging, the Committee were advised that incentives were in place which would hopefully yield new destinations in 2007.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) spoke with regard to “Operations” and sought further information with regard to the BHX Fire and Rescue Joint Venture. The Airport Company explained that the Venture had come about following the reorganisation of two airfield operations departments. There were no proposals to relocate any facilities and the Venture sought to bring in more expertise and more effective management practices.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2006**

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring report for the period October to December 2006. The report, as submitted, was then taken as read. In addition to the report, the Annual Complaints Analysis 2006 was circulated at the meeting. The Committee welcomed the new reporting format.

**Discussion Points**

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Cllr K Turner) welcomed the contents and format of the report and enquired as to whether or not any analysis had been done to evaluate the effects of the ILS being out of use in 2005. The Airport Company drew the Committees

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attention to the “annual concern trends” which highlighted an obvious increase in reports of off-track flying during 2005.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr D Hitchcock) stated that there seemed to be a vast increase in oily deposits in Berkswell and sought comments from the Airport Company on this. The Airport Company gave the view that past analysis of oily deposits linked to airport activity had proved negative and that the increase in deposited material was very unlikely to be caused by aviation. The Airport Company suggested that Cllr Hitchcock should report specific examples to either the Airport Company or the Airport Monitoring Officer for further investigation. The Airport Monitoring Officer, Mrs B Hill, recalled instances of “red algae” being found and stated that the deposits which Cllr Hitchcock had raised could be attributable to similar plant life.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group (EMWG) invited the Committee to receive both the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2007, together with his report which was circulated at the meeting. In presenting his report, he congratulated the Airport Company on the new reporting format of the Environment Monitoring Report and its supporting documents.

**Discussion Points**

There were no matters arising from the report.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the minutes and report be noted.

**8. PASSENGER SERVICES AND SURFACE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Group, the Committees attention was drawn to the last meeting of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group and Members were invited to receive both the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2007, together with the Chairman’s report. The minutes and report as submitted, were taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) spoke with regard to “Airport Approach Roads Congestion” and supported the concerns that PSSTWG had highlighted. He enquired as to whether or not any progress had been made in raising these concerns with the Airport Police. The Airport Company advised that this issue was being discussed at national level and therefore needed a sensitive approach with the local Police in light of that ongoing dialogue. The Airport Company advised that they were looking at both short and long term solutions in light of the concerns which had been highlighted. Mr Stevens asked the Airport Company to use their best endeavours to manage the site traffic.

The Hampton Society (Mr A Minton) asked if the Airport Company could develop a code of practice with the Police without appearing to be too “heavy handed”. The Airport Company stated that this was a sensitive issue to tackle to noted all concerns which had been raised.

Passenger Representative (Mrs R Tyler) gave reassurances that the issue would not be forgotten.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the minutes and report be noted.

**9. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION**

The Airport Company gave a verbal report with regard to the proposed runway extension. They explained that BIA were currently preparing a planning application for a proposed runway extension in the spirit of the emerging Masterplan. The application proposed an extension of the main runway to a length of 3000m, the realignment of the A45 Coventry Road and construction of a tunnel which, in addition to routing the A45, would make provision for Midland Metro and a rapid public transport route. The application would also seek consent for a new air traffic control tower, revisions to the fuel farm and consequential taxiway variations.

The Committee were advised that preparatory work was underway and consultants had been engaged by the Airport Company to develop the proposals. An application was likely to be submitted to Solihull MBC in the summer. A full written report on progress would also be submitted to the next meeting.

**Discussion Points**

The Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) recalled the recent press speculation with regard to the possibility of two major shareholders selling their shares in the Airport Company. He asked if such an occurrence would affect the emerging proposals. The Airport Company explained that they would be hopeful that new investors would share the same future vision for the Airport.

Dudley MBC (Cllr K Turner) stated that Dudley MBC would unanimously support the runway extension proposals.

Friends of Elmdon (Mr G A Davison) asked the Airport Company for a view on whether or not the proposals would have an effect on the timeline for a future second runway, in the context of his concerns over housing blight. The Airport Company explained that further information with regard to this issue would be addressed at the next meeting.

Berkswell Parish Council (Cllr D Hitchcock) stated that further information was needed about replacement planting in the context of an assessment of the impact of the proposals on the environment. The Airport Company drew the Committees attention to the anticipated "2 for 1" replacement together with information regarding areas of ecological importance.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) asked the Airport Company if there was any latest information regarding the Coventry Airport Inquiry and if a date when the decision would be announced was known. The Airport Company explained the reporting process as they understood it to be. The Inspector would produce his report in January/February 2007 and it would then be passed to the Secretary of State prior to a decision being made public at a later date.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting.

**10. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION**

The Airport Company reported that they had recently announced that studies were being undertaken in preparation for the submission of a Planning Application for an extension of the main runway. The Airport Company's introductory report, as submitted was taken as read.

The Airport Company considered that it was appropriate to submit a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in support of the application and the Solihull NHS Care Trust had recommended that a Steering Group be set up that would manage the HIA on an independent basis. Good governance suggested that the Group should be independently

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chaired and supported by a membership that was representative of a broad range of stakeholders. The Airport Company stated that they intended to have an open line of communication with the Group.

The Committee were invited to nominate one Member to join the HIA Steering Group.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the appointment of Mr Viv Astling OBE as Independent Chairman of the Health Impact Assessment Steering Group be noted; and,
- (ii) That Rosemary Tyler be nominated as the Airport Consultative Committee representative on the Health Impact Assessment Steering Group.

**11. BIENNIAL NOISE CONTOURS**

The Airport Company submitted a detailed report which advised the Committee that the Airport Company undertook a review of its noise contours every two years, with new noise contours being produced.

The report highlighted that for the 2006 noise contours, the contours had been created using actual air traffic movement data which brought the Airport Company in line with other UK airports which all presently produced their noise contours using actual data. The report, as submitted, was taken as read. In addition to the report, the Airport Company circulated a copy of the Standard Instrument Departure Routes and Noise Preferential Routes map.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) sought clarification on how base line information was calculated when changing from "forecasts" to "actual". The Airport Company explained the methodology behind the data and highlighted the point that the reported figures which were towards the higher end of the dB(A)LAeq contour level were likely to be attributable to military flights.

**RESOLVED**

That the content of the report be noted.

**12. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION - PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Airport Company advised the Committee that Sustainable Aviation had been launched in June 2005 and had recently published its first progress report in December 2006 which outlined the industry's strategy, commitments and goals for the long term sustainable development of the aviation industry.

It had been agreed by the signatory companies to publish a report every two years, measuring progress towards the goals. The Airport Company's introductory report, as submitted, was taken as read. Copies of the Sustainable Aviation Progress Report 2006 were also circulated.

**Discussion Points**

The Chairman explained that the Committee would have an opportunity at the next meeting to review this piece of work in more detail.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

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**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Suggested Amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference

The Airport Company suggested that the Head of Planning and Transportation should be deleted from the formal composition of the Environment Monitoring Working Group, and further suggested that the holder of that post could attend those meetings on an ad-hoc basis as and when required.

The Airport Company also suggested that the Market Development Manager should be deleted from the composition of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group, but could attend those meetings by invitation of the Group.

Members of EMWG felt that there was some merit in having Head of Planning and Transportation in attendance at their meetings and therefore recommend that the Committee did not alter the Terms of Reference of that Group. The Committee raised no objections to the suggested amendments to the composition of the PSSTWG.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the composition of the Passenger Services and Surface Transport Working Group be varied by way of the deletion of the Airport Company Market Development Manager from the composition of that Group; and
- (ii) That the Head of Planning and Transportation remain in the composition of the Environment Monitoring Working Group.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 at 2.30pm at Diamond House.