

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 AT 2.30 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.

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr M Blamire-Brown - Representing the Secretary.  
& Mr L Stevenson

Airline Representative - Cityjet	- Mrs H Potts
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Longfield
Balsall Common Residents Assoc	- Mr D Ellis
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr J Williams
Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr S Mills
Birmingham City Council	- Mr G Tringham
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	- Cllr J Smith
Catherine de Barnes Residents Assoc	- Mr R Hogg
Consumers Association	- Mr P Orton
Coventry City Council	- Cllr B Kelsey
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr J Alcock
Friends of Elmdon	- Mr G Davison
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	- Cllr C Bowen
Hampton Society	- Mr D Morgan
Hampton Society	- Mr A Minton
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr B Mulready
Knowle Society	- Mr J Rowley
Marston Green Residents Association	- Mr J Stevens
NATS	- Mr A Burke

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NATS	- Mr K Kent
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr G Sherratt
Passenger Representative	- Mrs R Tyler
Solihull Chamber of Commerce	- Mr R Holt
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Hill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr P Kershaw
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr A Martin
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest
The Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Birmingham City Council	- Cllr J Whorwood
Birmingham International Airport Ltd	- Mr J Morris
Chestnuts Neighbourhood Forum	- Mr S S Degun
Dudley MBC	- Cllr K Turner
Mirfield Housing Liaison Board	- Mr A Middleton
NATS	- Mr P Templeman
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Sheldon Residents Assoc	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Sleigh
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mr L Osbourne

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee welcomed Mrs H Potts, Cityjet; Mr D Morgan, Hampton Society and Cllr J Smith, Castle Bromwich Parish Council to their first meeting.

## 2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 4 September 2007 were submitted.

### RESOLVED

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

- **ITEM 5 – AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2007. Discussion Points** - Balsall Parish Council

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(Councillor M Longfield), 8<sup>th</sup> line to read “ .....contract for the Security Company identified in the .....”

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

There were no matters arising.

**4. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2007**

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period July to September 2007. In presenting the report, the Acting Managing Director drew the Committees attention to an error in the report under Section 4, Flight Punctuality Statistics. He undertook to provide the correct information to the next meeting in relation to the July to September 2007 figures for “delay averages for Terminal 1 Charter Flights”. The remaining 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**

Balsall Common Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) expressed concern with regard to there being no apparent facilities to drop off passengers at BHX. Manchester Airport was cited as an example where there was such provision. The Acting Managing Director recapped the security services guidance for the operation of BHX. He emphasised that the physical geography and layout differed from airport to airport and that had to be a conscious consideration in terms of airport security. Faber Maunsell had been appointed as consultants to review traffic movements at BHX and their recommendations were awaited.

Balsall Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) spoke with regard to the rapid drop off/pick up car park, more specifically the £1 fee for the use of the facility. Councillor Longfield requested that the Airport Company should consider the feasibility of continuing these arrangements on a permanent basis. The Acting Managing Director stated that this issue would be picked up in a future report to the Committee.

Solihull MBC (Councillor A Martin) suggested the use of Variable Message Signing (VMS) for flight arrivals on the approaches to the Airport. The Airport Company stated that care was needed in terms of what had been suggested as displaying flight information on the public highway could present road safety concerns in terms of driver distraction.

The Airport Company in presenting the report, emphasised the details of the forthcoming taxiway rehabilitation project (Para 9.1 of the report).

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) sought further information on the taxiway works in terms of what the works actually entailed and where they were located on the airfield.

Warwick District Council (Councillor G Guest) spoke with regard to the Terminal 1 International Pier Replacement and sought further information on the project. The Acting

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Managing Director explained that the works would commence in June 2008 and would be completed in December 2009 following an 18 month construction programme.

Balsall Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) advised the Airport Company that he had noticed that there were some cracked tiles in Terminal 1. The Airport Company explained that there were some outstanding remedial works to be done. These would be carried out over the Winter period when Terminal 1 was expected to be quieter.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2007**

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring Report for the period July to September 2007. The report, together with the Supporting Information Pack, was taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) spoke with regard to Section 1.2 of the report relating to Track Keeping Performance. He questioned whether or not the figures presented included off track flying for safety reasons. He also felt that a target of 95% was too easy to meet and should be revised. The Airport Company explained that the target could be reviewed and could be strengthened in a revised Section 106 Agreement.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) agreed with Mr Hogg's sentiments with regard to the need to make the 95% target tougher.

Balsall Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) stated that in his view, the Airport Company needed to present better information on off-track aircraft. For example, what were the reasons, if any, for doing so. The Airport Company explained that EMWG could look at this issue in more detail at a future meeting.

The Airport Company highlighted Section 4.1 of the report which related to trends in reported events. The figures for 2007 included 738 complaints reported by one individual in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2007. The Airport Company stated that they planned to put noise monitoring equipment into the household concerned to attempt to resolve the issues which had been forthcoming.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) spoke with regard to Section 7 of the report which related to Waste. He asked if there were any plans to include plastics in the items currently recycled. The Airport Company undertook to check and advise on the issue which had been raised.

Balsall Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) also spoke with regard to the recent snowfalls which had caused apparent problems. The Airport Company explained that the snow had not been forecast and had resulted in a number of aircraft being diverted from BHX during the 1.5 hours that the Airport was closed for on the Sunday evening in question. Subsequently, a number of aircraft were diverted into BHX once it reopened due to snow causing problems at other locations. The Airport Company undertook to report fully at the next meeting on the issues raised together with the outcome of the review of airfield snow procedures.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman of the Environmental Monitoring Working Group invited the Committee to receive both the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2007, together with his report. The Minutes and Report were taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Chairman of EMWG (Mr J Stevens) in presenting his report, referred to the Working Groups consideration of the Review of Idle Engine Ground Running at Night Study and invited the Committee to endorse the Airport Company's proposal for submission to Solihull MBC.

Birmingham City Council (Mr G Tringham) expressed concerns with regard to the apparent delay in the publication of the final report of the AAIB in respect of the February 2006, Mahan Air incident on approach to BHX. He suggested that the Committee should write to the AAIB to express their anxiety over this issue.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted;
- (ii) That the Review of Idle Engine Ground Running at Night Study be submitted to Solihull MBC for consideration; and
- (iii) That the Secretary write to the AAIB to raise the Committee's concern at the length of time it had taken the AAIB to report on the February 2006, Mahan Air incident.

**7. PRESENTATION BY NATS – CONTINUOUS DECENT APPROACH**

The Committee welcomed Andrew Burke and Keith Kent from NATS who gave the Committee a detailed presentation on the Continuous Decent Approach (CDA) concept for arriving aircraft. The benefits of CDA were stated as fuel savings for operators, reduced environmental impact and a higher likelihood for Airports to meet environmental targets.

The Airport Company explained that CDA was now included in the recently published Airport Master Plan. The key to the success of CDA was cited as ongoing education and training for both air traffic controllers and the aircraft operators themselves.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the presentation be noted; and
- (ii) That a copy of the CDA presentation be circulated with the Minutes from this meeting.

**8. IDLE ENGINE GROUND RUNNING AT NIGHT STUDY**

The Airport Company presented a detailed report in relation to Idle Engine Ground Running at Night Study. The report, as submitted, was taken as read. The report concluded with the following recommendations:

- For propeller aircraft, idle engine ground running during the night period should be permitted on stands 1-45;
- For small to medium sized aircraft, the same activity should be permitted on stands 1-76; and
- For large aircraft, the same activity should be permitted on stands 1-45.

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Following consideration by the Committee, the Airport Company proposed to report the changes to the Council's Airport Working Party for consideration.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the Committee endorse the study findings in respect of Idle Engine Ground Running at Night and that they be submitted to Solihull MBC for consideration.

**9. 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 30 October 2007, together with his report. The Minutes and Report were taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

There were no discussion points arising.

**RESOLVED**

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

**8. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Airport Company presented a third report updating Members on the progress made thus far regarding the proposed runway extension. The report, as submitted, was taken as read.

**Discussion Points**

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) expressed some concerns about the Stakeholder Workshop for the Runway Extension Health Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted by Liverpool University. No documentation had been provided at the meeting and it was unclear from his point of view, what the community representatives were being asked to do at the workshop.

The Airport Company responded that part of the HIA process was to engage with the community to record their perception of health impacts of the runway extension development. The workshop or community representatives were not being asked to endorse the HIA. It was also suggested that Liverpool University could do a summary report for the next ACC meeting. The HIA did not form part of the planning process but would be available during the 16 week consultation period for the planning application.

The Chairman explained that he expected to see a first draft of the HIA in the coming days in terms of his involvement with the Steering Group.

In terms of the Master Plan, the Airport Company announced that this would be launched tomorrow, 29 November 2007. Similarly, the Airport's Surface Access Strategy would be launched at the same time. Both documents would be available to [www.bhx.co.uk](http://www.bhx.co.uk) and dispatched to Committee Members over the course of the next few days.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr R Hogg) expressed concern that his perception was that the majority of the Catherine de Barnes area did not know of the Airport Company's Master Plan public exhibitions that had taken place. He stated that the Airport Company needed to use the Committee representatives to help with local publicity.

Friends of Elmdon (Mr G Davison) stated that he had never received one of the 135,000 newsletters which had been distributed on behalf of the Airport. This issue was echoed by a

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number of Committee Members. The Airport Company were concerned to hear this and undertook to raise this matter with their distributors and to provide further details to the Committee on how the distribution was undertaken.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) asked if the CAA would be consulted on the planning application. He was advised by the Airport Company that the CAA would be consulted as a statutory consultee by the Local Planning Authority.

**RESOLVED**

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

**9. JOHN STEVENS – CHAIRMAN OF EMWG**

The Committee were advised that John Stevens, Marston Green Residents Association, had stood down after 18 years as Chairman of the Environment Monitoring Working Group. The Acting Managing Director of the Airport Company paid tribute to Mr Stevens and presented him with a small gift. The Chairman and the Committee echoed the sentiments paid to Mr Stevens by the Airport Company.

The Committee also endorsed the appointment of Mr A Minton to continue with the Chairmanship of the EMWG until the next ACC AGM.

**10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 at 2.30pm.