

**BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 2.00 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.
John Morris - Head of Corporate Affairs.

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr M Blamire-Brown - Representing the Secretary.
& Mr J Bright

Balsall Parish Council - Cllr M Longfield
Balsall Common Residents Assoc - Mr D Ellis
Birmingham City Council - Mr G Tringham
Catherine de Barnes Residents Assoc - Mr C Boxall
Consumers Association - Mr P Orton
Coventry City Council - Cllr B Kelsey
Friends of Elmdon - Mr G Davison
Hampton in Arden Parish Council - Cllr C Bowen
Hampton Society - Mr P Adams
Kingshurst Parish Council - Cllr B Mulready
Knowle Society - Mr J Rowley
Marston Green Residents Association - Mr J Stevens
North Warwickshire Borough Council - Cllr G Sherratt
Passenger Representative - Mrs R Tyler
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council - Cllr Dr T Crumpton
Smith's Wood Parish Council - Cllr F Churchill
Solihull Chamber of Commerce - Mrs D Fennell
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - Mrs B Hill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - Mr P Kershaw
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - Cllr A Martin

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Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr R Smith
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Guest

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Bickenhill Parish Council	- Cllr J Williams
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr J Whorwood
Fordbridge Town Council	- Cllr J Alcock
Sheldon Residents Assoc	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr R Sleigh
The Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee welcomed Councillor B Kelsey from Coventry City Council to the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2007/2008

The Committee considered nominations for Vice-Chairman for 2007/2008.

RESOLVED

That Mr J Stevens be confirmed as Vice-Chairman for 2007/2008.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 23 May 2007 were submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2007, be confirmed as a correct record, with the following amendments:

That Item 5 – Environmental Monitoring Report – January to March 2007 – paragraph three should be amended to read:

‘Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr C Boxall) asked for clarification on the difference between Runway 33 and Runway 15. The Airport Company explained that these refer to the alignments for the runway and are related to their compass bearings.’

That Item 4 – Airport Activities Report – January to March 2007 – paragraph four should be amended to read:

‘That Airport Company advised that they were mostly located with Birmingham, towards the north of the Airport site, although some were located just south of the A45 Coventry Road.’

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Stevens) highlighted Minutes 10 and 11 – Biennial Review of the Night Flying Policy 2007 and Biennial Review Ground Running in the Morning Shoulder Period 2007 – and queried the current status of these two items in relation to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and its Airport Working Party. The Airport

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Company confirmed that the items would be considered by the Airport Working Party at its next meeting on 13th September 2007.

Mr Stevens also made reference to Minute 12 – Progress Report on Engine Ground Running at Idle Setting during the Night Period – and noted that at this stage no findings had been reported to the Environmental Monitoring Working Group.

The Airport Company explained that they had been working with an independent company – Bureau Veritas – to study the issue and were still in the process of producing the report. They confirmed that once the report was completed it would be presented to the EMWG and then to the ACC.

RESOLVED

That the update arising from the last meeting be noted and welcomed.

5. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2007

The Airport Company presented their Airport Activities report for the period April to June 2007. The contents of the report, on the following topics, were taken as read. The Airport Company also explained that Coventry Airport had appealed to the High Court regarding the decision to refuse Planning Permission for the new Passenger Terminal at Coventry Airport. The Airport Company noted that if the appeal was successful, the High Court would not change the decision, but could re-open the public inquiry.

- 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 Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) spoke with regard to Section 9.2 – Passenger Terminal Security Search Area Developments – and noted that a review of the search areas in both Passenger Terminals had been conducted and new facilities had been developed to increase capacity. Councillor Longfield questioned whether these changes had been implemented as a result of the ITV documentary ‘Terror in the Skies’ which highlighted alleged security lapses at the Airport. The Airport Company explained that the changes had already been implemented in May, prior to the television programme being aired. Councillor Longfield queried when the contract for the Airline Company identified in the television programme was up for renewal. The Airport Company detailed that ICTS was on a five year contract. They also noted there had been a change of management within the Company.

Warwick District Council (Councillor G Guest) questioned the role and conduct of the security guards in implementing the new security arrangements at the Airport. The Airport Company stated if any issues arose regarding the implementation of the security arrangements, they would follow it up with the security guards where necessary. They noted that if it was a training issue, they would re-look at the training programme in order to address any problems.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Councillor K Turner) detailed how he had recently travelled at Birmingham International Airport and had experienced no security problems. The Councillor emphasised it was very easy for the media to focus on an issue and take it out of context. He explained that he had heard no comments regarding the ITV programme from fellow passengers when travelling at the Airport, nor had he heard any comments from his local residents.

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Staffordshire County Council (Councillor R Smith) made reference to item 6.1 – New concessionaires opened during the period under review – and expressed concern that passengers would have to pay inflated prices. The Airport Company explained that they tried to attract High Street brands to open concessionaires and noted that as part of the contractual agreements they asked that the companies did not deviate from their High Street prices. The Airport Company's Commercial Team also conduct surveys on price comparisons.

Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) – highlighted Item 3 – Aircraft Movements – and queried why the volume of air cargo movements had fallen in comparison with the same period of the previous year. Mr Orton also noted Item 4 – Flight Punctuality Statistics – and expressed concern at the volume of Charter flights experiencing delays in relation to Scheduled flights. With regards to Aircraft Movements, the Airport Company explained that they were not promoting Cargo flights, per se, due to the potential impacts on the Night Flying Policy.

In relation to the punctuality of Charter flights, the Airport Company detailed that the majority of such flights went through Terminal 1 and they emphasised that the statistics were broadly similar with Scheduled flights. They explained that flight punctuality was an issue they were continuing to work on with the handling agents. Mr Orton stated it would be beneficial to have a breakdown of aircraft punctuality per airline. The Airport Company expressed concern at the way the statistics would be presented, especially in cases where flights were delayed for an hour or more; however they emphasised they would be happy to look at the issue.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Councillor K Turner) – queried Item 1 regarding passenger movements and expressed concern that the volume of total passengers were lower compared with the same period of the previous year. Councillor Turner questioned whether the Airport was on target in terms of passenger numbers for the Master Plan. Mr J Stevens (Marston Green Residents Association) also made reference to Item 1 and expressed concern at the loss of passengers – he emphasised that aircraft movements were important as they impacted upon the Night Flying Policy. He noted that the Committee had no forecasts for future passenger numbers and queried how the figures related to the Masterplan and future developments. Mr Stevens emphasised that the figures were causing concern.

The Airport Company noted that they had been hoping to bring forward the details of the Masterplan to the ACC, however they had been unable to due to negotiations over the current sale of the Aer Rianta and Macquarie shares. The Airport Company stated that they wished to arrange a special meeting with the members, to present an Interim Statement regarding the Masterplan, and address members concerns regarding passenger numbers and land use.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

[post meeting note - "Air freight tonnage at 832 tonnes, for June 2007, was 249 tonnes lower than the prior year (1,081 tonnes) due to lower tonnage being carried to/from Asia."]

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2007

The Airport Company presented their Environment Monitoring Report for the period April to June 2007. The report, together with the Supporting Information Pack, were taken as read. When presenting the report, the Airport Company highlighted that the number of complaints received regarding Engine Ground Running (EGR) at night had increased. They explained that an EGR at Idle Trial at the night time had been scheduled for this period and local residents had been petitioned regarding this, however, the Airport Company noted that the trial had been cancelled and had not taken place.

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Warwick District Council (Councillor G Guest) – highlighted Item 1.2 – Track Keeping Performance – and expressed concern that aircraft on the Warwick to Leamington flight path appeared to vary considerably from hour to hour. The Airport Company detailed that they did conduct a geographical analysis and could provide a breakdown. The Councillor queried whether the new system – Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) – would have any impact upon this. The Airport Company explained that CDA focused more upon noise and emissions rather than track keeping. Mr Ellis from the Balsall Residents Association questioned whether this would have any effect on his local area. The Airport Company explained that, due to technical reasons, CDA would only help on flight paths further away from the Airport, and would not have a significant impact upon Balsall Common, due to its proximity to the Airport. The Airport Company stated they would be happy to conduct a presentation on the CDA at a future meeting with a smaller agenda, as well as providing information on Webtrak and how individuals could use it.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Councillor K Turner) – noted Item 7 – Waste – and queried why the volume of recycled waste was at a lower level than the previous year, especially in terms of paper. The Airport Company explained that they had brought in a new company – Easywaste – and were aware that the recycling figures were down. They emphasised they were monitoring the situation and wished to improve on their recycling performance from the previous years. Councillor A Martin from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council questioned whether the Airport Company was putting their suppliers under any pressure to reduce packaging.

The Airport Company stated they were not aware of putting suppliers under pressure, but would emphasise this point at meetings with concessionaires and suppliers. They noted some recycling sites had been contaminated, in particular paper recycling sites, and explained this had affected the statistics. The Airport Company also highlighted that a new recycling facility had been constructed by the Airport Company at the Elmdon site and managed by EasyWaste – these are ‘state of the art’ recycling facilities. The members questioned whether the Airport Company could look at what the previous recycling Contractors did and adopt any beneficial practises. The Airport Company emphasised that the new Contractors were simply settling in and establishing new ways of working. They also noted that they were due to introduce better recycling facilities at Terminal 1 when the Service Yard project had been completed.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. 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 25 July 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 to the ACC, drew the Committee’s attention to the discussion that took place at the Working Group meeting regarding concerns that there had been notable increases in engine ground running over the last three quarters, resulting in a calculated noise level in the Morning Shoulder period very close to the 79 dB(A) limit. The Chairman also highlighted that the Airport Company had received an extraordinary number of multiple concerns in the Community Complaints Section, relating to Off Track and Night-Time Ground Noise. He emphasised that the EMWG supported the Airport Company’s policy of responding to multiple complaints as before.

The Chairman also made reference to a presentation the Group received regarding the introduction of Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) at a number of other UK airports. He provided an explanation of the new system and detailed its advantages, which included cutting noise down, less fuel consumption as well as less wear and tear on the aircraft. The Chairman also welcomed the Airport Company’s proposal to conduct a presentation on CDA at a future meeting.

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RESOLVED

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

8. 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 24th July 2007, together with his Report. The Minutes and Report were taken as read.

Discussion Points

Chairman of PSSTWG (Councillor M Longfield) – in presenting his report to the ACC, noted that the Working Group had looked at the issue of Airport security, following the documentary by Trevor MacDonald on ITV. The Chairman explained that the Airport Company had been very accommodating, with the General Manager for Aviation Security attending the meeting. It was detailed that the Manager had assured members concerns, by explaining that experienced security supervisors had been tasked to monitor and audit security systems.

The Chairman emphasised that the Working Group had been satisfied that the security issues raised by the ITV documentary had been addressed.

Warwick District Council (Councillor G Guest) – noted the impact of the new security measures and queried whether the Airport Company had employees going round the passenger terminals advising passengers of the items they were entitled to take on flights. The Airport Company explained that they had members of staff located within the passenger terminals who advised on this issue. They also emphasised that the shops within the passenger terminals reminded customer of the new restrictions when they purchased drinks.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (Councillor K Turner) – highlighted the £1 charge the Airport Company had introduced at its short-stay rapid drop off point and queried whether the Airport was considering moving the drop off point to the long-stay car park. The Airport Company emphasised that they were aiming to introduce a system that was fair and ensured proper traffic management. They explained that they were looking at introducing a long-term solution to the issue of drop off points following the attack at Glasgow Airport and emphasised that the current facilities at the Airport were not designed for such circumstances.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Minutes and report be noted.

8. PROPOSED RUNWAY EXTENSION – PROGRESS REPORT

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

Discussion Points

Balsall Common Parish Council (Councillor M Longfield) – queried whether it was a possibility that the potential new shareholders may not be supportive of the proposed runway extension. The Airport Company explained that the new shareholders had submitted a bid, which outlined their support for the runway extension. The Airport Company emphasised that the new shareholders viewed the investment as a long term commitment.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

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9. VACANCY FOR COMMUNITY TRUST FUND TRUSTEE

Members were informed that Councillor Don Hitchcock had resigned from the Airport Consultative Committee and this had created a vacancy for a Community Trust Fund Trustee.

They requested that Councillor Hitchcock be sent a letter thanking him for his work. Members of the Committee considered nominations for the vacancy.

RESOLVED

That Mr Paul Orton be nominated for the Community Trust Fund Trustee vacancy.

10. SECTION 106 PLANNING AGREEMENT – EIGHT ANNUAL REPORT

Solihull MBC's Eighth Annual Report on the Section 106 Planning Agreement was presented to the ACC.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

11. AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

The Secretariat presented a report on the annual review of membership for ACC. It was noted that during 2006/2007, Castle Bromwich Parish Council had requested to be included in the membership of the ACC and this request was put to the Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED

The Airport Consultative Committee:

- (i) Reviewed the Membership of the ACC for 2007/2008;
- (ii) Accepted the request of Castle Bromwich Parish Council to join the Membership of the ACC; and
- (iii) Agreed that the Membership of the ACC and that of the two Working Groups be reviewed again at the ACC AGM in 2008.

12. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE UK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the ACC presented his report of the recent Annual Meeting of the Liaison Group of the UK Airport Consultative Committees, which took place at Stansted Airport on 13th and 14th June 2007.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and minutes be noted.

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that a special meeting be held on Wednesday, 26th September at 10.00am at Diamond House, for the Airport Company to present an Interim statement on the current status of the Masterplan.