

GATWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 3rd February, 2005.

Present:

Mr. P.W. Bryant (Chairman)

Mr. G. Blundell-Pound	-	International Air Carriers' Association
Mr. J.T. Brock	-	Burstow Parish Council
Mr. S. Buck	-	ABTA
Mrs. H. Clack (Substitute)	-	Surrey County Council
Mr. D.G. Dewdney	-	West Sussex County Council
Mr. P. Hall	-	Passenger Representative
Mrs. K. Hammond	-	Surrey County Council
Mr. C. Hersey	-	Mid Sussex District Council
Mr. M. Hudson (Substitute)	-	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. J. Kendall	-	Horley Town Council
Mr. G. Larcombe	-	Horley and District Chamber of Commerce
Mr. J. McCall	-	Environmental and Amenities Groups
Mr. D. Murdoch	-	Crawley Borough Council
Mrs. M. Myland	-	Tandridge District Council
Lt. Col. Pemberton	-	West Sussex County Council
Mrs. D. Ross-Tomlin	-	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Mrs. C. Salmon (Substitute)	-	Mole Valley District Council
Mrs. H. Sewill	-	Charlwood Parish Council
Mr. J. Taylor	-	CADIA
Mr. R. Thomas	-	East Sussex County Council
Mr. J. Woodward-Nutt	-	Consumers' Association

Also present:

Mr. P. Griffiths - Managing Director, BAA Gatwick
Mrs. C. Nicholls - Communications Director, BAA Gatwick
Mr. T. Lockwood - Director of Planning and Environment, BAA Gatwick
Mr. T. Hardy - General Manager, Airside, BAA Gatwick
Mr. P. Grindrod - Department for Transport
Mr. M. Kendall - Honorary Secretary
Mrs. P. Street - Assistant Honorary Secretary
Mrs. R. Howell - Technical Adviser

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs. E. Kitchen, Mr. C.C. Lloyd, Mr. N. Maltby, Mr. J. Macdonald and Dr. P. Ellis.

MRS. E. SAMPSON

80. The Committee held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mrs. E. Sampson who sadly died the previous weekend. Mrs. Sampson had represented Surrey County Council on the Consultative Committee for eight years.

MR. P. HALL

81. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Peter Hall to the Committee who had replaced Mr. George Pixley as Passenger Representative.

MINUTES

82. Resolved - That, subject to the inclusion of Mr. Larcombe in the list of attendance, the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October, 2004, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

General Purposes Sub-Committee

83. Resolved - That the draft minutes of the General Purposes Sub-Committee held on 13th January, 2005, be received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).

AIRPORT COMMENTARY

84. Mr. Griffiths introduced his first commentary as Managing Director of Gatwick Airport (copy attached to the signed minutes). He confirmed BAA Gatwick's commitment to continue to create opportunities to work together with stakeholders to ensure local issues were taken into account as the airport business moved forward. He would continue to build on the partnership approach adopted through the Sustainable Development Strategy work and he looked forward to continuing a long and productive relationship with the Consultative Committee.

85. Members noted that BAA Gatwick was historically an infrastructure provider but that emphasis had changed over recent years and the company was now committed to a partnership approach with all airlines and the Gatwick community and with a particular focus on customer service. Accordingly, Gatwick's Capital Investment Programme focused on an extensive programme of renovation and upgrading of facilities across the whole airport.

86. BAA Gatwick's role in handling travellers returning from the tsunami disaster area was noted and members praised the work of all the staff and different agencies involved.

87. Reference was made to Gatwick's traffic performance for the twelve months to the end of December 2004. The Committee noted that despite the growth in passenger numbers, cargo and mail movements had declined. Members welcomed the inclusion of the additional figures and asked if the information could be given on a regular basis.

88. The Committee was concerned about the closure of multi-storey car park 3, while the refurbishment works were carried out, and the impact this would have on demand at peak times. Members enquired whether contingency plans had been put in place to manage the overflow from the short stay car parks. Mr. Griffiths advised that multi-storey car park 3 would be closed for approximately one year and it had already been recognised that there would be problems in meeting peak season demand. Work on contingency overflow car parking was already being considered.

DELIVERING THE AIR TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER BAA PLC - "ONE YEAR ON"

89. The Committee received and noted a publication issued by BAA plc entitled "One Year On" setting out the progress made by BAA plc in delivering the requirements of the Air Transport White Paper at its UK airports (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairman advised that the General Purposes Sub-Committee had welcomed the publication and had suggested to BAA plc that a regular annual statement of this kind be continued in the future. The Committee endorsed this view.

MASTER PLANNING AND SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Airport Master Plan

90. The Committee received a report by BAA Gatwick updating members on the progress made on the preparation of the Airport Master Plan (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Lockwood advised that BAA Gatwick hoped to publish the outline Master Plan for consultation at the end of February 2005 but publication depended on the outcome of the Judicial Reviews of the White Paper. The consultation period on the Master Plan would however run until 31st May, 2005. Mr. Lockwood confirmed that BAA Gatwick would maintain a regular dialogue with key stakeholders following the close of

the consultation process on changes to the Master Plan prior to it being issued in early 2006. It was the intention that the full Master Plan would supersede the current Sustainable Development Strategy, with the existing commitments being retained in a companion document to the Plan. A regular report providing an update on progress would be made to the Consultative Committee.

91. The Chairman advised members that a seminar on the Master Plan would be held for members of the Consultative Committee on 21st April, 2005 in the morning prior to the meeting of the Consultative Committee in the afternoon. Members were asked to make a note of the event in their diary.

BAA Consultations on Schemes to Protect Property Values and in Relation to Noise

92. Mr. Lockwood informed the Committee that due to a High Court challenge by Takeley Parish Council and homeowners around Stansted relating to BAA's Stansted Blight Scheme, it was possible that the final schemes for both Heathrow and Gatwick might be postponed until the outcome of the challenge was known. In the meantime, BAA's independent consultants were analysing all the responses received to the consultations and would submit their report to BAA plc for consideration shortly. Members were anxious that they had the opportunity to receive a summary of response analysis so that they were aware of the issues that had been raised by respondents. BAA Gatwick confirmed that a paper summarising the issues raised by respondents and BAA Plc's response would be made to a future meeting of the Committee.

BAA GATWICK'S TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2004-2012

93. The Committee noted that BAA Gatwick had now published its Transport Strategy covering the period 2004-2012 and was available on the BAA plc website. The Chairman emphasised the importance of the airport's Transport Strategy in that the future growth and success of Gatwick was highly dependent on delivering surface access policies and initiatives.

GATWICK EXPRESS

94. The Committee noted the SRA's response to its comments on the Brighton Main Line RUS consultation (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Griffiths updated the Committee on the current position regarding the future of the Gatwick Express service following the SRA's consultation. BAA was most disappointed that following the initial stakeholder discussions with the SRA prior to the publication of the consultation, no changes had been made to the proposals for the Gatwick Express despite BAA Gatwick's suggestions on ways in which the dedicated service could be retained. Mr. Griffiths added that as BAA's voice had not been heard by the SRA, BAA Gatwick decided to launch a comprehensive public campaign to save the Gatwick Express. Launching the campaign had resulted in some engagement with the SRA and the Government.

95. Mr. Griffiths outlined the four options that BAA Gatwick had put forward to the SRA which would improve commuter services without serious damage to the Gatwick Express service. The options included the re-balancing of fare structures between Southern services and the Gatwick Express service; to allow trains to continue to Three Bridges to ease congestion on the line at Gatwick; to make better use of the Gatwick Express capacity by introducing a stop between London Victoria and Gatwick Station; and the selective use of the slow line in peak periods. The Committee expressed its disappointment that as yet none of the options put forward by BAA Gatwick had been seriously considered by the SRA. Mr. Griffiths emphasised that if the SRA proceeded with the published proposal, the change would be made on a permanent basis and it was very unlikely that a dedicated rail service could be reintroduced at a future date. BAA Gatwick was therefore actively encouraging users of the Gatwick Express to make their views known to the SRA.

96. The Committee noted the conclusions of an independent safety audit of the proposed changes at Gatwick station, which had been commissioned by BAA. Members

had serious concerns about rail passenger safety at Gatwick arising from use of Platforms 5 and 6 for the proposed express services. It was of utmost importance therefore that the SRA did not ignore the issues and addressed them before a final decision was made.

97. The majority of the Committee strongly supported BAA Gatwick's campaign to save the dedicated Gatwick Express service and urged all parties to continue to negotiate on a way forward which was acceptable to all stakeholders. In this respect, the representatives from West Sussex and Surrey County Councils offered to facilitate a meeting between the SRA and BAA Gatwick in order to take the matter forward. The Committee also urged the SRA to give serious consideration to the options put forward by BAA Gatwick.

98. Some members also expressed concern about the way in which the consultation was being conducted by the SRA and felt that it had been mis-aimed and, more importantly, gave the impression that the decision had already been made to re-structure the Gatwick Express service. Members felt that BAA Gatwick should consider the option of referring the consultation process to the High Court. Mr. Griffiths advised that seeking a Judicial Review was something that BAA plc would need to consider and welcomed the suggestion by the Consultative Committee that this was possible way forward.

GATWICK AIRPORT ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

99. The Committee considered a report by the Technical Adviser summarising the outcome of the Monitoring Report verification process (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairman congratulated BAA Gatwick, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council on the production of the report and echoed the positive points made by the independent consultant, Casella Stanger, on the progress that had been achieved over the past four years. Members noted those commitments that were not on track to be achieved by the timescale stipulated in the Sustainable Development Strategy and those that were neither on track nor behind schedule.

100. Mrs. Hammond, who was also one of the trustees of the Community Trust, referred to Commitment CS1 - Establish Community Trust Fund - and its relationship with Commitment AN7 - Review of the Charging Structure for Noise Fines. She was disappointed that the review of the charging structure for noise supplements had been delayed and noted that the review would not take place until after the DfT had announced the next night flights regime. One of the sources of income for the Community Trust was from noise fines and, although this was only a small contribution to the Trust Fund, it was most disappointing that the level of fines had not been reviewed as originally thought. Members were concerned that BAA Gatwick had not given the review of the charging structure a high priority during the year and also commented that although the number of noise infringements was very few the disturbance caused to local communities was significant. The Committee urged BAA Gatwick to progress the review of the charging structure during 2005 so that any new fines could be introduced at the earliest possible time.

101. The Committee commented on the excellent work being undertaken by the Gatwick Airport Community Trust and it was highlighted that the demand for grants was substantially more than the level of funding received by the Trust. The Committee, therefore, asked BAA Gatwick to consider the possibility of reviewing the amount it currently contributed towards the trust fund. The Chairman asked Mr. Griffiths to discuss the future funding of the trust fund with the Chairman of the Community Trust and to report back to the Committee.

102. Reference was also made to the two air quality commitments which were not on track to be achieved by the timescales stipulated in the Sustainable Development Strategy. Mrs. Ross-Tomlin asked how BAA Gatwick was intending to address both issues. It was agreed that a written response would be sent to Reigate and Banstead

Borough Council. A copy of the response would be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

103. Resolved - That:-

- (1) The Consultative Committee noted the outcome of the monitoring process and urged BAA Gatwick, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council to take forward the measures recommended by Casella Stanger.
- (2) West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council be asked to keep the Consultative Committee informed of the outcome of their discussions with BAA Gatwick on the identified areas of concern set out in paragraph 4.3 of the Technical Adviser's Report.

PASSENGER SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

104. The Chairman of the Passenger Services Sub-Committee presented his report of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 9th December, 2004 (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Hall was pleased to report that the Sub-Committee had engaged positively with the airport on the asset improvement programme. He also reported that the Sub-Committee had been given the opportunity to input to the development of Pier 3 segregation and was currently inputting to the development plans for Pier 6 and the arrivals extension in the South Terminal.

105. During the discussion, BAA Gatwick's attention was drawn to the signage arrangements in both terminals for directing people to the hotel's courtesy coaches, which was virtually non-existent in both terminals. Mr. Hall confirmed that this was an issue that the Sub-Committee would consider.

DfT CONSULTATION ON NIGHT FLYING RESTRICTIONS AT HEATHROW, GATWICK AND STANSTED AIRPORTS - STAGE 2

106. The Assistant Honorary Secretary reported that the publication of Stage 2 of the Consultation had been delayed because of a challenge in the High Court by Richmond and Wandsworth Councils and that the case had been heard on 14th December, 2004. The basis of the challenge was on the DfT's interpretation of the noise classification of aircraft which was different to the actual operational noise from aircraft. The matter had been settled by Court Order in which the interpretation was to be agreed between the two parties. In the meantime, the DfT was continuing with the preparation of the Stage 2 consultation. Mr. Grindrod, DfT, confirmed that the Department was working to a tight deadline but it hoped to publish the consultation document shortly.

FLIGHT EVALUATION UNIT COMMENTARY

107. The Committee considered the commentary by the Flight Evaluation Unit on the work of the Unit, headline statistics and the key points arising from the Noise and Track Monitoring Working Group (NATMAG) meeting on 13th December, 2004 (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairman highlighted to the meeting that the movements limits and quota usage for the summer period had returned to the level experienced prior to 2001.

108. Reference was made to the noise complaints analysis and it was queried why there were a significant number events compared to callers from the East Grinstead area. Mr. Lockwood advised the Committee that almost all of those events had been reported by a single caller. Both NATMAG and the General Purposes Sub-Committee had been informed of the nature of the complaints and of the action being taken.

GROUND NOISE

Ground Noise Committee

109. The Committee received and noted the minutes of the meeting of the Ground Noise Committee held on 13th December, 2004 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Ground Run Pen

110. The Committee considered a report by BAA Gatwick on the current position regarding the planning application for the ground run pen (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Committee noted that whilst BAA Gatwick remained committed to finding the optimum solution for the ground run pen, there were problems associated with all three options that had been identified, including the site on the south side of the runway. There was also a prospect that, in the longer term, all aircraft maintenance would ultimately need to be undertaken to the north of the runway, meaning that a southern ground run pen site would become less appropriate for airlines' needs. Members highlighted the importance of keeping the affected district/borough and parish councils, as well as the Committee, informed of developments and of the need for an early decision. All parties needed to be fully appraised of the benefits and disbenefits of each of the possible sites. It was agreed, therefore, that BAA Gatwick would produce an analysis of the issues, benefits and disbenefits for each of the sites for consideration at a meeting with stakeholders.

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING'S REPORT

111. The report from Crawley Borough Council's Director for Environment and Housing on planning applications determined in respect of Gatwick Airport since the date of the last meeting was received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

112. The Committee noted the dates of the next meetings of the Consultative Committee as follows:-

Passenger Services Sub-Committee - Thursday, 24th February, 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

General Purposes Sub-Committee - Thursday, 24th March, 2005 at 10.00 a.m.
(Provisional) - Thursday, 14th April, 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

Consultative Committee - Thursday, 21st April, 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

Note: A Seminar on the Airport Master Plan will be held on Thursday, 21st April, 2005 at 10.00 a.m for all members of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN